

KEW HISTORICAL SOC. INC.
P.O. BOX 175
KEW, VIC. 3101

Kew Historical Society Inc

Founded 1958 Incorporated 1987

Still serving the community, families, schools, students, historians and other researchers.

P.O. Box 175, Kew Vic 3101

President:
Mrs. Dione McIntyre

Hon. Secretary:
Miss Lex Allen

September 1996

NEWSLETTER NO. 58.

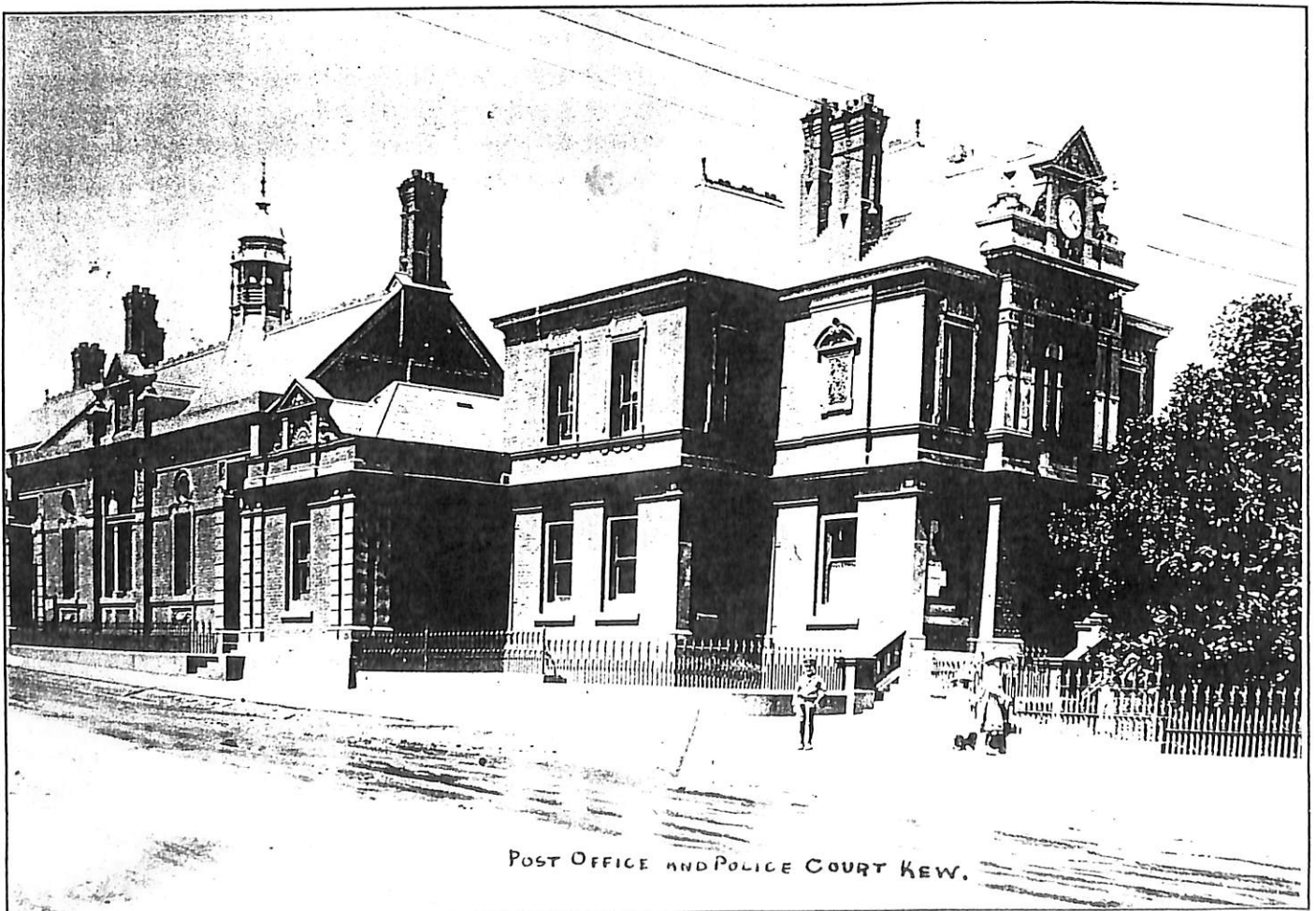
Dear Members,

It's been a mixed year so far.

On the one hand, we were deeply concerned about the future of our position within the Library complex, with building changes taking place all around us and with further changes mooted.

On the other, we have been able to enjoy the warm atmosphere of the refurbished Phyllis Hore Room, and the improved equipment has added to the comfort of our monthly meetings, which have been well attended all throughout a very soggy winter.

Our Guest Speakers throughout the year have been of exceptional standard, and we were particularly delighted with the outstanding slides of Birds taken by Marc Gottsch, the naturalist,



POST OFFICE AND POLICE COURT KEW.

and Stuart West's video which showed all our members projected upon the new silver screen.

We took part in the recent Review of Meeting Facilities in Kew. This was initiated by the City of Boroondara to assess the needs of all the various organisations of Kew in order to provide for their future requirements and to make the best use of all the existing meeting halls available to them..

Dorothy Benyei has continued to field requests from many folk seeking information from our archives for research projects, school assignments and family history research. She has also made available some items on loan for display in some appropriate cases, and further donations have been added to the collection.

In spite of our horror in losing their wonderful services, our constitution calls for the replacement of our Treasurer and Secretary at the coming Annual Meeting.

Here is an opportunity for two willing souls to come forth and take their places for the coming year.

There have not been many new faces this year so, with signs of Spring all around and everything bursting with new life, why not bring a friend along to our next meeting?

Until then,
Yours sincerely,
Dione McIntyre
PRESIDENT

OUR END OF YEAR PARTY

Our end of year party will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 11th. December in our usual meeting place, the Phyllis Hore Room. Again it will take the form of a Shared Light Evening Meal, to which everyone is welcome.

Members are asked to indicate, on lists at the October and November meetings, **what items of food they propose to contribute**, or to

ring this information on
or

Heating facilities for food are now available. Santa Claus asks that we all bring a small **wrapped and labelled gift**, (not over \$2), men to bring one for a man and ladies to bring one for a lady.

FROM OUR MINUTE BOOKS

September 1971

25 years ago.

Re Town hall, Walpole Street, Kew, recently sold and to be demolished. Mr. Marshall moved, Mrs. Marshall seconded, "That we write to the Kew council regarding photographs and items of historical interest, and also enquire re accommodation for our future meetings when the new building is completed".

October 1976 (AGM)

20 years ago.

The President urged that an effort be made to arouse interest of junior citizens by offering a Mrs. West Memorial Prize for some historic activity.

July 1982

A little over 15 years ago.

In response to a suggestion it was resolved that a letter be written to the Kew Council requesting consideration of providing a suitable repository for the Archives plus accommodation for research and general facilities.

February 1986 Slightly over 10 years ago.

Transfer of Archives to Auxiliary Room: The President advised that Councillor Jill O'Brien took up our cause, and the Archives were shifted on Friday, 28th. February 1986. They are now in the Auxiliary Room in the Municipal Offices.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Historical Society Inc. will be held on Wednesday, 9th. October 1996 at 8 p.m. in the Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, Cotham Road, Kew. The business to be transacted at this meeting will be:

Society or as ordinary members of the Committee:

(a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Society (as proposer and seconder), by the written consent of the candidate, which may be endorsed on the nomination form and,

(b) shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Society at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting." **Nomination forms are available from the Secretary.**

(3) **Subscriptions** for the year 1996/97 became due on 1st. July 1996 and are payable prior to the Annual General Meeting.

(4) **Any other business** of which prior notice has been given.

(1) **Reports** of office bearers for the year ending 30th. September 1996.

(2) **Election of office bearers** for the year 1996/97. According to our Rules, approved under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, all positions become vacant, and any member wishing to nominate for any position on the Committee should obtain a nomination form from the Secretary.

Rule 20 (1) states that, "Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the

FROM AN OLD LOCAL HISTORY

James Bonwick, author of "A Sketch of Boroondara" published in 1858, said this about Studley Park:

"The Park Reserve of Boroondara is situated rather to the north-west of the district, and is separated from Collingwood East by the waters of the Yarra. It contains nearly 150 acres. Fears of invasion of Government s

Surveyors were lately entertained. The Acting Governor, General Macarthur, pledged himself that no interference should be suffered with this most delightful suburban retreat. Upon a renewal of alarm about sales, the Government intimated last August that they had no intention to deprive the public of the full enjoyment thereof. This reserve extends eastward from Mr. Hodgson's land to the Punt, and southward from above the Falls to the Ferry of Upper Simpson's road.

"What charming little dells are scattered about it! How comfortably the Wattles shade where the straggling and nude branched Gums fail to screen from the summer's sun!And how, too, in suitable society, we do enjoy a ramble along its tortuous paths, or a lounge on its grassy, flowering banks, within sound of rippling waters, whose musical cadence blends with the choral songs of birds....."

"The Falls was a favourite place of Native Corrobory. Friendly tribes assembled at the full moon, and shook their limbs in unison to the tum-tum of swarthy charmers....."

:"The New Bridge opens to view at the end of Johnstone street. Few sketches would surpass in natural attractions that taken from the Reserve Hill, commanding a prospect of this bridge at the end of a most delightful turn of the river, with the grim head of Old Macedon in the distance, as if the Past were contemplating the Present....."

"Passing thence, round by the Studley Park Bridge, we enter upon one of the very gems of Boroondara, opposite the celebrated Walk of Willows. These most admired trees border the garden of the lately deceased eldest daughter of John Batman, the founder of the Port Phillip Settlement. Well shall we ever remember the stroll we had with that lady beneath that famous arch of foliage, listening to stories of the past, of her own Ben Lomond home, of her father's treaty with the Blacks, and of that father's last hours of suffering in Melbourne eighteen years ago.

Kew must safeguard the Park and the river valley of its north and west boundaries, a priceless heritage — Ed.

1996 CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Held in the Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library building, commencing at 8 p.m.

- Wed Oct 9 Annual General Meeting.** Guest Speaker: Councillor Geoff Hayes, Mayor of Boroondara. See notice on page 3.
- Wed Nov 13** Kew Artist Donald Cameron.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Tue Nov 5** Melbourne Cup Day bus tour. Details to be announced later.
- Wed Dec 11** Christmas Party. See note on Page 2 for details.

HISTORIC BOOK LAUNCHING IN KEW

"Tenants No More", by Phyl Frazer Simons

The launching of "Tenants No More" at Methodist Ladies' College, Kew, on 9th. May was historic in more senses than one.

The book itself is a valuable record of history which would otherwise have been lost. Its author, Phyl, spent her years prior to marriage in the family home in Hartington St. East Kew, and gained her secondary education at MLC.

The project began with discovery of a diary and letters some 100 years old in a tin trunk in a back yard shed. Only after a trip to Ireland was it possible to identify the writer of the diary as Samuel Clay of Gurteen, a Townland a little more than halfway from Dublin to Galway Bay. Clay, a Methodist, recorded his experiences as a member of a party which made a preaching tour to the north, following the route taken by John Wesley 25 years earlier.

The book then describes the system of land tenure at Gurteen and elsewhere, in which tenant farmers held small areas on long leases from, mainly, absentee landlords. It explains how the potato fungus disease ("Irish Blight") caused many of the tenants to migrate, first to Canada and USA, later to Australia seeking the means to pay their arrears in rent.

The letters are those written home by the migrants, including Clay's son and others from Gurteen, and some of those written to the migrants by family and friends describing the conditions in Ireland. These are reproduced unedited and in full, so are first hand accounts

of life in those times.

Finally, the book records the lives of Irish migrants in the Bendigo district and in Melbourne, giving a record of some who attained prominence in public affairs in Victoria.

About ten years ago, after Phyl had made eight trips to Ireland piecing together the history and making the many sketches of places and buildings which illustrate the book, further progress was halted by extensive injuries to her when another vehicle crashed into the rear of her car. The accident left her dependent on a walking frame but with a mind unimpaired and the will to complete the project undiminished. With the help of her brother Jim, she made a ninth trip to Ireland to complete her research, then she set about the long task of writing the book and seeing it through to publication. It is a worthy addition to the history of triumph over adversity, as well as a history of Methodism and of migration from Ireland.

Published by Prowling Tiger press. For enquiries ring 9427 9010 or 9387 4154.



WE FINALLY GOT THEM LINED UP!

We had almost lined up the shamrocks when the mouse grabbed the wrong Edit handles, making shamrocks like and :

