

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

Asst. Secretary:
Miss Lex Allen

January 1997

NEWSLETTER No. 59

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By now you will have begun the New Year and will be looking forward to a return to the year's regular activities refreshed, I hope, by the seasonal break.

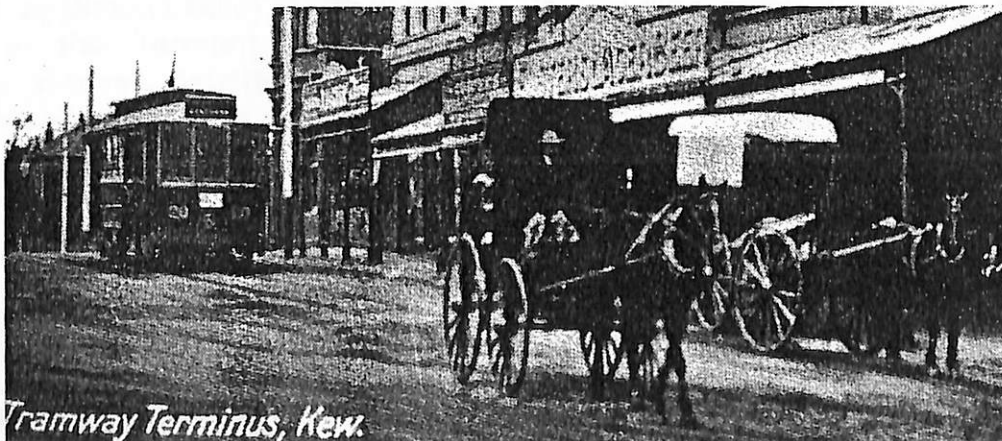
Following our Annual Meeting there were a couple of changes to your Committee. We welcome Audrey Martinelli as our new Treasurer. Laszlo Benyei has retired from office and has kindly assisted Audrey in the take over period. Thank you, Laszlo, for the outstanding way in which you have filled the role of Treasurer, and for your earlier role as President.

We are currently without a Secretary. Lex

Allen is our Assistant Secretary and will be taking the minutes of our monthly meetings, but we are hoping that one of you will come forth and fill the role of Secretary for this year. We guarantee that you will be helped in every possible way.

A varied program of speakers has been arranged for 1997, and meetings will be held in the Phyllis Hore Room at 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month as usual.

On Tuesday, 22nd April we will be holding a Combined Meeting of the Historical Societies of Boroondara in the Phyllis Hore Room to coincide with Heritage Week.



Tramway Terminus, Kew.

Please put this date (22nd April) in your diaries NOW, and make sure to be there, as this is a special occasion and the very first of its kind. Speakers will be Ms. Maggie Baron, Executive Officer, Heritage Council, and Ms. Judy Bethune, Secretary Planner, Boroon-dara Council. The starting time is 8.00 p.m.

The year's program promises to be another successful one, including our plans for the Kew Festival and for Heritage Week.. We will be holding our annual Cup Day bus trip. More details of this will be given in the next Newsletter.

Ken Sillcock will be concentrating this year on his role as Editor of the Newsletter and on upgrading the Historic Walks booklets, which are now out of date. We thank him for lending his expertise, and look forward to the results.

To Dorothy Benyei, our Archivist, we give special thanks. Thank you to all the members of the committee and others who have helped in different ways: Helen Reeve with her needle, Muriel Watson on the typewriter, Rosemary Vaughan-Smith who has collected and assembled newspaper cuttings each week for our records and assembled our recent bridal window, and Stuart West for his

video of our meetings.

In July we were pleased to announce that our Treasurer, Dr. Laszlo Benyei, had been honoured with the Paul Cullen Award for outstanding contributions to the welfare of refugees in the community. We congratulate Laszlo, and also thank him for his work as Treasurer.

We also thank Lex Allen for her most important work over the years as Secretary.

Thank you to all those of you who attend our meetings so regularly. We hope that some of the others will be able to get along this year. If transport is the problem, please let us know. as we may be able to arrange for you to be collected and be driven home after the meetings.

The Committee has discussed ways of encouraging younger members of the community to become interested in Kew's history. One recent window featured a diorama of work on local history by students of the East Kew Primary School, and we are planning an Annual Award to be presented to the student or a group of students who present the best work relating to the history of Kew. The Award will be named to honour one of our founding members.

Dione McIntyre, President.

THE COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the Committee for 1996-97

President

Vice-Presidents

Secretary

**Assistant Secretary and
Public Officer**

Treasurer

Archivist

Editor (ex officio)

Other members of Committee

Mrs. Dione McIntyre

Mr. Raymond Vaughan-Smith and

Rev. Morris Watson

To be appointed

Miss Lex Allen

Mrs. Audrey Martinelli

Mrs. Dorothy Benyei

Dr. Ken Sillcock

Miss Marian Blatchley and Miss Joan Sims

IS A SECRETARY'S JOB THAT EASY?

Some committee meetings (not ours) take hours, but only give minutes. After much talk a member will say, "I move to that effect", and in a flash the motion is carried with about ten

seconds.. The Secretary has to "second guess" the seconder and write down what the mover meant — or as much of it as the others are likely to remember by the next meeting.

OUR FESTIVAL "HERITAGE" DISPLAY AND TOUR

"From Cradle to Grave" Display, and the Bus Tour.

This year we are mounting our "Heritage" display earlier to suit better the convenience of citizens visiting the area for the Kew Festival. The display will be set up in the Phyllis Hore Room, featuring mainly clothing, artefacts, maps and photos, which will depict some aspects of the way of life of past generations in Kew. It will be open from 10 00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday, and Sunday, March 15th. and 16th.

The display must be staffed by several attendants at all times. It would be appreciated if members would volunteer as staff at times most convenient to them. A staffing roster will be arranged at the February meeting and finalised at the March meeting..

THE HISTORIC TOUR

The bus tour will visit a number of sites of historic interest in Kew and a commentary will be given on the history of each., Part of the itinerary will be a short visit to the Boroondara Cemetery, in which the significance of some former citizens buried there and the story behind some of the notable monuments will be explained.

This tour could be of special interest to those who have recently come to live in Kew. The tour is open to all, (at no charge) but prior booking is essential, to ensure a seat in the bus, by phone to _____ or _____.

OUR PART IN HERITAGE WEEK.

This year, to mark Heritage Week, we will host a **Combined Meeting of the Historical Societies of Boroondara**, and in so doing we will be making history. As shown on our Calendar, this will be held in the Phyllis Hore

Room on **Tuesday, 22nd April at 8.00 p.m.** We need a good attendance of our own members to make this interesting evening a success and so to honour our heritage. See details on pages 2 and 4.

THE LESLIE CONNECTION

How did Bishop Ken Leslie come to be at our Christmas party?

He came as the guest of our Editor, continuing a friendship which began at Trinity Grammar School in 1925.

We have in our Archives a copy of his biography, written by his son ("The Bishop Who Walked" by Simon Leslie), a tale of many adventures in the Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Darwin parishes, the latter including service as an A.I.F. Padre during the raids by Japanese bombers. His career

continued at the Theological College at Morpeth, as founding Chaplain of the Timbertop branch of Geelong Grammar School, then for 22 years as Bishop of Bathurst.

Ken Leslie's links with Kew continued when his father, the Rev. Ernest Leslie was Vicar of St. Paul's Church, East Kew, from 1939 to 1945. We have a copy of the history of that church in our archives, and we will hear more about it in June, when its author, Frank Elliott, is to be our Guest Speaker.

MORE ABOUT J. BONWICK'S "A SKETCH OF BOROONDARA"

Do you recall Bonwick's lyrical account of the beauty of the Studley Park Reserve area which we quoted in part in our September 1996 issue? There is much more in his slim volume; for he wrote knowledgeably about the early history, some of the larger homes, the early

land sales, with details of the subdivisions and names of first owners of blocks, the development of churches and schools, and the geology of the area. These show him to have been a man of great learning, as befitted a teacher and school inspector of those days.

1997 CALENDAR of MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

MONTHLY MEETINGS will be held in the Phyllis Hore Room on the second Wednesday of the month, commencing at 8.00 p.m. unless otherwise notified. Members are free to invite guests to the meetings, and members of the public are welcome.

Wed	Feb. 12	Mr. Raymond Vaughan-Smith: "Systematic Botany"
Wed	Mar. 12	Mr. Tim Warmington: "Books".
Sat & Sun	Mar. 15 Mar. 16	Kew Festival "Heritage" Display in Phyllis Hore Room 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. both days.
Sun	Mar. 16	Bus Tour of Historical Kew, with commentary. 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. BOOKING ESSENTIAL, to or
Wed	Apr. 9	Dr. E. W. Pick: "Medicine - the Past and Future"
Tuesday	Apr. 22	Combined Meeting of the Historical Societies of Boroondara in the Phyllis Hore Room, 8.00 p.m., to coincide with Heritage Week. Speakers: Ms. Maggie Baron, Executive Officer, Heritage Council, and Ms. Judy Bethune, Secretary Planner, Boroondara Council. BE THERE IF POSSIBLE!!
Wed	May 14	"Xavier College".
Wed	Jun. 11	Mr. Frank Elliott: "The History of St. Paul's Anglican Church, East Kew."
Wed	Jul. 9	Dr. Stuart Duncan, member of Royal Historical Society of Victoria:: "John Batman's Journey to and from Mount Iramoo."
Wed	Aug. 13	Members' Night. Short talks on "My Ancestors and All That".
Wed	Sep. 10	Mr. John Patrick: "Restoring Old Gardens." (To be confirmed).
Wed	Oct. 8	Annual General Meeting. Guest Speaker: The Mayor of Boroondara.
Tuesday	Nov. 4	Melbourne Cup Day Outing. Destination, details (and Cup winner) to be decided.
Wed	Nov.12	"Postal Services".
Wed	Dec.10	End of Year Party, 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. In Phyllis Hore Room. More details in a later Newsletter.

SOME HOMEWORK FOR MEMBERS

1. That picture on the front page might have been taken as early as 1913. Where would that tram have gone when it departed from the Kew terminus ?
2. Why did the gas lamps have to be moved when that tram service was installed. Was it fear that electric sparks would ignite the gas? Don't answer, "Your gas is as good as mine".
3. In what ways did the Yarra River influence the pattern of development of Kew?
4. How did we come to have five roads meeting at Kew Junction and another road fork at the Post Office nearby. Was it the result of a Town Planner's nightmare?
5. What was the first name of the road from Hawthorn Bridge which now goes to Doncaster?