

# 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:

Mr. Raymond Vaughan-Smith

Hon. Secretary:

Miss Lex Allen

January 1998

NEWSLETTER NO. 61.

## *President's Letter*

Dear Friends,

It gives me much pleasure to write to you as your new President for 1998 and to wish you all a happy, healthy and rewarding New Year. The past year has been a happy and successful one, except for one sad event, the passing of Helen Reeve.

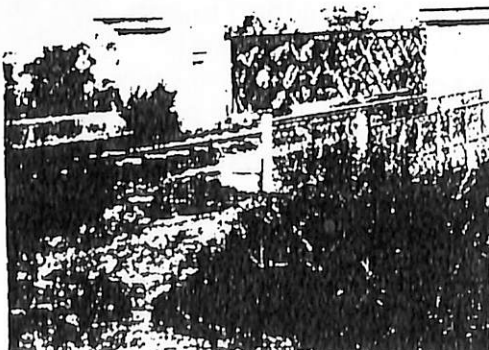
Following the Annual General Meeting in October there were several changes to the Committee. I express on your behalf our warm thanks and appreciation to Dione McIntyre for the wonderful work which she has done during the past two years as your President, and will continue to do as one of the two Vice-Presidents. Thanks are due also to Morris Watson for long service on the Committee and as President and Vice-President.. Ken Sillcock is the other Vice-President as well as Editor of the Newsletter and other publications. Lex Allen is again Secretary, and Audrey Martinelli continues as Treas-

urer, Dorothy Benyei, as Archivist, and Marian Blatchley is again in charge of suppers. I thank all Committee members for their good work and help during the year, and also my wife, Rosemary, who, although not a Committee member, has done so much quiet work in the background, collecting and filing Kew property notices.

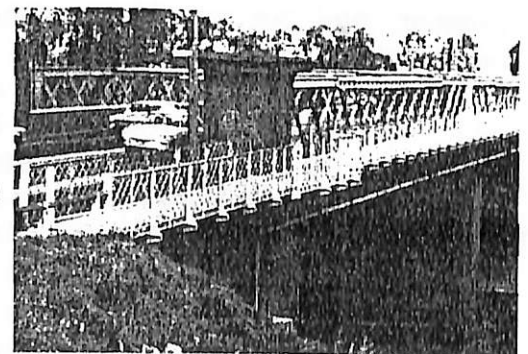
During the past year we had a number of interesting speakers. Amongst them was the Mayor, Cr. Keith Walter and then, at the November meeting, landscape gardener, author and T.V. personality John Patrick gave us a wonderful talk, illustrated with slides, on "Restoration of Old Gardens".

At the Members' Night in August a number of members gave us fascinating accounts of their ancestors, hobbies and so on.

Finally, our end of year party held on 10th. December was a great success, with all members contributing to a well stocked table.



Re-surfaced and re-opened recently:  
Chandler Highway bridge (right)  
Formerly Outer Circle railway bridge (left)  
over Yarra River



Dorothy "stood in" admirably for Santa Claus and handed out small gifts to all. An interesting program of speakers and

events has been prepared (see page 4). With my best wishes,

Raymond Vaughan-Smith.

## KEW FESTIVAL HERITAGE DISPLAY AND BUS TOUR OF HISTORIC KEW

Again we are mounting our "Heritage" display at Kew Festival time. the display will be set up in the Phyllis Hore Room to depict some aspects of Kew history and the way of life of past generations. It will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 14th. and 15th.

The display **must be staffed** by several attendants at all times, so **would members please volunteer for duty at times most convenient to them.** A staffing roster will be

arranged at the February meeting and finalised at the March meeting.

### THE (FREE) HISTORIC TOUR

The bus tour, with commentary, will visit a number of sites of historic interest in Kew. There is **no charge** for the tour, which is provided under the auspices of Kew Festival Committee and the Boroondara Council. To ensure a seat in the bus, **prior booking is essential, by phone to**

## THE COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the Committee for 1987-88

President  
Vice-President  
Vice-President & Publications Editor  
Secretary and Public Officer  
Assistant Secretary  
Treasurer  
Archivist  
Consultant  
Other members of Committee

Mr. Raymond Vaughan-Smith  
Mrs. Dione McIntyre  
Mr. Ken Sillcock  
Miss Lex Allen  
To be announced.  
Mrs. Audrey Martinelli  
Mrs. Dorothy Benyei  
Mrs. Jill O'Brien  
Miss Marian Blatchley and  
Miss Joan Simms

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1997 has been a relatively stable year compared with the unsettling circumstances which we experienced following the period of council amalgamation.

The programme of guest speakers proved popular, and our monthly meetings have been well attended.

The Secretary's chair has been vacant all year. Our Assistant Secretary, Lex Allen has arranged and minuted each meeting, has also created window displays, most notably the 1940's window, which created a great deal of interest, and arranged our annual Cup Day bus trip to Ashcombe Maze, which sadly proved to be our final trip with the late

Alan Pollard our regular driver and friend for many years.

The year started well when Raymond Vaughan-Smith lectured to us on Systematic Botany, his life's work. It made us wonder just what other hidden talents lay, as yet untapped, right in our midst.

The following speakers were:-Tim Warmington of Tim's Bookshop; Dr. Pick from the East Kew Clinic, who spoke about the History and Future of Medicine; The Retiring Principal of Xavier College, in May; Stuart Douglas of RHSV, who outlined his theory of the actual location of John Batman's Treaty site, and

Mr. Frank Elliott of St. Paul's East Kew, in July.

Members' Night in August looked at Members' Family History, and many fascinating stories were told, and last month Chris Hawthorn told us about the artistic work of her late husband, Peter Hawthorn, with samples of his meticulous drawings of native animals.

We have been represented on the Boroondara Historical Societies' Association by Dorothy Benyei and Dione McIntyre throughout the year, and hosted a successful joint meeting of the societies during Heritage Week entitled "Heritage in Boroondara", at which many of our members were present. The next joint meeting is to take place in the Phyllis Hore Room on Tuesday 18th. November at 8 pm., when the subject will be on the Future of Cemeteries, and we hope that you will all attend. Our Annual Heritage Display and Historical Bus Trip was held to coincide with the Kew Festival this year. This attracted many more visitors than previously when held in Heritage Week. In fact a second bus was needed to satisfy public demand.

Sue Leong has been appointed representative of the Kew Historical Society Inc. on the Villa Alba Preservation Committee Inc. at it's Annual General Meeting, in April. Sue will be keeping us informed of all future events at Villa Alba. The next open days are to be held on the weekend 11th. and 12th. of October 1997.

We deeply regretted the loss of Helen Reeve in August, and joined with Bill and their family at a memorial service at Holy Trinity, Kew. Helen was an active member of our Society for many years, and we all miss her.

We have been pleased to welcome several new members, and miss those who through illness or infirmity are no longer able to take part in our activities. There is a need to attract some younger adult and student members to the Society.

This should be borne in mind by the incoming Committee whilst planning activities for next year's programme.

We thank all the members of the Committee for their many tasks well done.

Thank you from us all.

Finally, thank you the members for your participation and interest in all our activities throughout the year. We have just completed our thirty-ninth year. The new Committee which we appoint tonight will be steering the Society into it's Fortieth year.

We hope to make it one of the best.

**Dione McIntyre, Retiring President.**

### OUR MISSING HISTORIC LETTERS

Grand-children these days don't write letters. They send drawings by fax, or E-mail."

How would past historians have fared without the Letters of Samuel Pepys, so revealing of life in his times, letters of Governor La Trobe, "Letters from Victorian Pioneers" and, so many others?

The value of letters to the historian lies in the very fact that their writers never intended them for publication. They described what they saw and experienced, and said what they felt. They did not strive for effect which so often distorts the works of professional journalists.

It is perhaps time to change the thrust of early schooling to teach students how to edit and re-write their own work, especially now that word processing programs have made revision so easy. So much that is written by students is done in a hurry and is never given a second chance. We even went through an awful phase in which almost unintelligible efforts were pronounced to be "creative". Early in this century we got no credit for obscurity of expression!

Today's history will be distorted indeed if its historians are forced to rely solely on news, including pictures, determined by the profit motive. — Ed.

We members serve the Society without thought of praise, but our works then boomerang in the form of thanks - which is pleasant. But in their reports, both Raymond and Dione thanked the same people for the same reasons. We had to edit out some of the thanks to make room for other pieces in the 4-page jigsaw puzzle.

# 1998 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, especially students.

Wed	Feb	11	Mystery Night. Meet at 7pm. at Alexandra Gardens rotunda, Cotham Rd. Kew (or in Phyllis Hore Room if wet weather).
Wed	Mar	11	Leo Blake. Kew Business Person. (Tuckerbag)
Sat & Sun	Mar	.14 & 15	Kew Festival "Heritage" Display in Phyllis Hore Room . 10.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m. both days
Sun	Mar	15	Free bus Tour of Historic Kew, with commentary, 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.. <b>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</b> , to
Wed	Apr	8	Ken Sillcock: Boarding School Life in the 1920's.
Wed	May	13	Speaker from Studley Park Association Inc.
Wed	Jun	10	Margaret Schofield O.A.M. Kew Musician
Wed	Jul	8	Lisa D'Accri: Writing Kew History
Wed	Aug	12	Members' Night. Topic: "Something I'll Never Forget".
Wed	Sep	9	Jill O'Brien, K.H.S. Past President, "Forty Years On".
Wed	Oct	14	<b>Annual General Meeting. Guest Speaker: the Mayor of Boroondara.</b>
Wed	Nov	11	To be announced in next Newsletter.
Wed	Dec	9	Christmas Party. Details in next Newsletter.

## COME IN, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

This year we hope teachers and students from Kew will join us and add their knowledge to ours.

We offer membership for students at a special rate of \$2.00 a year.

Some schools in Kew are already Life Members of our Society. We hope they will send representatives to our meetings.

We have made a good beginning. Lisa D'Accri, a student member, has agreed to address our July 8th. meeting.

## OUR SPIRITS SADDENED AND SODDEN

We were dismayed lately when water from a burst tank poured into our annex and again ruined the Manchester Unity honour board laboriously restored after earlier water damage, that time by rain through the roof.

## A LONG "HALL"

Our Santa stand-in said that Father Christmas had to meet the Council about the large

meeting room he had promised Kew. They wanted to know how big a block was needed, as the phone message had said that bringing it from the North Pole would make it a very long haul.

## NOBEL AMBITION

Santa had seen people standing in their paddocks for hours. They hoped to win a Nobel Prize, but had heard that you had to be out standing in your own field to be eligible

## "UPSTAIRS" HELP TO MAKE HISTORY.

Someone "upstairs" helped Leo Blake last year when he cleared out his liquor barn for demolition. After all the stock had been removed, heavy rain came down, and with it down went the roof of the barn. Next day the wreckers only had to pile the remains of the building into trucks and cart them away, leaving Leo free to build his new food and wine complex.