

# Kew Historical Society Inc

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

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

**Mailing address: P.O. Box 175, Kew Vic 3101**

Mr. Raymond Vaughan Smith

Miss Betty Huston

**NEWSLETTER NO. 63.**

January 1999

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Here we are at the start of another New Year, and indeed a momentous one, as it is generally thought to be the last year of the 20th. Century (think again !). It gives me much pleasure to wish you all a happy, healthy and rewarding New Year.

The time since the Annual General Meeting in October has been happy and successful. Several changes to the Committee were made at that meeting. Mr. Graeme Lindsay was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents, replacing Ken Sillcock, and so joins Mrs. Dione McIntyre, who continues in that position.

Miss Betty Huston was elected Secretary, to replace Miss Lex Allen, who is now Assistant Secretary and Public Officer. I would like to give special thanks to Lex for all her wonderful work over the years as Secretary, and I wish Betty every success in the position.

Dr. Laszlo Benyei has returned his old position as Treasurer, replacing Mrs. Audrey Martinelli, who has been a wonderful Treasurer for the past two years. We welcome Laszlo back, and thank Audrey for all her work in recent times.

Mrs. Dorothy Benyei continues as Archivist. I thank Dorothy very warmly for all her years of wonderful work in this position. I just don't know where the Kew Historical Society would be without our Dorothy.

Miss Joan Simms continues as a member of the Committee. The other position on the Committee was designated Junior Committee Member, to which Miss Lisa D'Acri was elected.

Mr. Ken Sillcock continues as Newsletter and Publications Editor. We are greatly indebted to Ken for all his wonderful work in this position.

Mrs. Jill O'Brien was elected to the position of Consultant to the Society. We thank Jill for all her work for the Society, and wish her well in this new position.

Mr. Max Sartori was re-appointed as Honorary Auditor. We thank Max and express appreciation for his work over the years.

I thank Miss Marian Blatchley for all her work as a former Committee member and also for her good work in charge of suppers, a role now shared by several members.

Finally, I thank my wife Rosemary, who continues her work on Kew property no-



**BOROONDARA CEMETERY GATES** (before 1895). Our Historic Tours usually include a guided visit to some of the noteworthy monuments in this place so full of history

tices, as previously stated..

Since our September issue we have enjoyed some interesting events, beginning with the Mayor of Boroondara, Councillor Loreto Davey, who gave us a most enjoyable talk on her life both as a Councillor and in her home life, at the Annual General Meeting.

Members' Night in November had two themes, "Years of the Great Depression", and "Something I'll Never Forget". Various members spoke on one or both of these topics, and it was a wonderful night. Some most amazing incidents were recalled.

The Christmas Party on December 9th. was a great success, with one of our members, Mr. Bill Reeve doing a wonderful job as Santa Claus, and all of the members contributing to a well stocked table. Rosemary and Dione were responsible for the very at-

tractive decorations.

A real highlight of the evening was a small group which played a number of old time Jazz standards. We had Dione on the clarinet, Laszlo on the piano, our good friend Bill on the trombone, Dorothy on the washboard and Ken on the cornet. It was great. I had no idea that we had so much hidden talent in the Society!

Another "activity" which went on quietly in the background was the construction of shelving in our Archive Room. This superb work was done by Mr. Graeme Lindsay, whom I thank very much on behalf of all the members.

The committee met early in January, and has drawn up an interesting program of speakers and events for the coming year.

With my best wishes,

**Raymond Vaughan Smith**

## THE COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the Committee for 1998-99:

President	Mr. Raymond Vaughan Smith
Vice-President	Mrs. Dione McIntyre
Vice-President	Mr. Graeme Lindsay
Secretary	Miss Betty Huston
Assistant Secretary and Public Officer	Miss Lex Allen
Treasurer	Dr. Laszlo Benyei
Archivist	Mrs. Dorothy Benyei
Consultant	Mrs. Jill O'Brien
Publications Editor	Mr. Ken Sillcock
Committee Member	Miss Joan Simms
Junior Committee Member	Miss Lisa D'Acri

## THE COMBINED MEETING

For the past two years we have hosted the Public Meeting of the Boroondara Historical Societies Association, and provided the supper for that meeting, in the Phyllis Hore Room. Last year we were there again the next night for our own April meeting. This year we are devoting one of our own

meeting nights, on our regular night, to the Combined meeting, at which there are always interesting speakers. You will not, therefore, have to come on two successive nights or twice in the one week. And, of course, we will be called upon to provide only one supper that week.

"When things go a bit wrong my spouse gets quite historical". "Do you mean hysterical?"  
 "No, historical. He/she recites a long list of my alleged past misdeeds. It's frightening to learn that one person can do so much wrong in a single lifetime!"

## 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 13th. and 14th.

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.

#### 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**

#### SPECIAL

In this, **The International Year of the Older Person**, let us recall in Heritage Week and, indeed, throughout the year, citizens we remember who, in their 70's, 80's or 90's, still contributed to and enriched community life, drawing on their wealth of experience. Let us record those memories as a true part of our rich heritage from the past.

## BELIEF SYSTEMS AND HISTORY

Much of our history is created by the belief systems we hold. We all acquire "belief systems", many of them in our earliest years of life. A common one is that "our parents know best", which we are apt to extend to "all grown-ups know best". That becomes untenable later when we observe two or more adults voicing opposite views which clearly cannot all be right.

We can choose which belief systems we retain, and which ones we will change or discard. Widespread change of belief can alter the direction in which a nation will go, for good or ill. We have changed from the attitude early in this century that the earth and all its creatures were there for us to exploit as we chose. We now believe strongly in conservation and protection of our environ-

ment and preservation of our heritage. Also, we have discarded the belief expressed as late as the 1920's that, "you should get your education over before the age of 25 years, because after that you are too old to learn". In order to make healthy progress towards a better community life, as distinct from revolutionary changes which prove to be backward steps, we must be forever prepared to examine our belief systems, to retain and defend those which serve us well, and to discard or modify those which are inhibiting or harmful.

An important role of historical societies is to assess what we should keep and what we should discard, and to give a lead to the community and its decision making agencies in achieving the right balance.

## A LITTLE NONSENSE NOW AND THEN

### A BRAIN TEASER

To cut sign-writing costs, two businesses sharing a double-fronted shop had a single sign to describe both. What were the businesses, and what was their sign?

**Our answer:** A hairdresser and a lawyer used the sign, "Hairs cut and split here."

Now, please **give us your answers.**

Best answer wins a used ball-point pen!

### OUR STRANGE LANGUAGE

**Put into your own words:** "The king continued to press his suit: 'Give me your hand, O Princess, so we can put in place just laws, that our realms may prosper in peace.' "

**The answer:** "The king went on ironing his trousers. He said, "Princess, give me a hand with these jobs so we have time to put lawyers in their place and stop their in-fighting." "

## 1999 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 p.m. unless otherwise notified. Members are **free to invite guests** to the meetings, and **members of the public, especially students, are welcome.**

**NOTE:** Changes of program sometimes become necessary during the year. If this happens we do our utmost to ensure that the usual high standard is maintained..

Wed	Feb	10	Margaret Schofield Musician
Wed	<del>MAR</del> APRIL	<del>14</del> 15	Public meeting of Combined Boroondara Historical Societies Association
Sat & Sun	Mar	13 & 14	"Heritage" Display in the Phyllis Hore Room, in conjunction with Kew Festival. Details on page 3.
Sun	Mar	14	Historic Tour of Kew. Free of charge, but <b>booking essential, to</b>
Wed	<del>MARCH</del> APR	<del>10</del> 11	Lesleigh Bucci: "Customer Service".
Wed	May	12	Nigel Lewis, Conservation Architect "St. Heliers Project, Abbotsford."
Wed	Jun	9	Betty Huston Her Interests, Life and Travel.
Wed	Jul	14	Streets of Kew..
Wed	Aug	11	Members' Night.
Wed	Sep	8	.D'estaville: Early Kew home.
Wed	Oct	13	Annual General Meeting. Guest Speaker: the Mayor of Boroondara.
Wed	Nov	10	To be advised in next issue.
Wed	Dec	8	Christmas Party. Details in next issue.

### A CHALLENGE TO MEMBERS

The happiest members of a society such as ours, our Committee was told, are usually those who are able to do some of its work. It was suggested, therefore, that teams of two, three or four members should be appointed, and each team be given a specific task to do. A team could be asked to produce a short history of one noteworthy property, or of one estate. Another topic could be the history of Kew's transport on rails, that is, of Kew's railways and tramways. Much is known about the Hawthorn to Kew railway, the Outer Circle railway, the tram lines to

North Balwyn, Mont Albert and St. Kilda and the once proposed extension of the Kew railway to Doncaster, but there seems to be no consolidated account explaining the interactions between the systems. Are there any volunteer teams for these and other topics, or must we say, "I want three volunteers — you, you and you"?

Without too much effort, we can produce up to 100 copies of your report in an attractive booklet, thus assuring you of a permanent place in history. (We would have to engage a printer for larger numbers).