

Kew Historical Society Inc

Founded 1958  Incorporated 1987

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

No. A0010789W
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President:
Mr. Raymond Vaughan-Smith

NEWSLETTER NO. 65
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Secretary:
Miss Betty Huston

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends,

It gives me much pleasure to work with you all. I wish you a happy, healthy and rewarding New Year — already nearly a month into the New Year — and, depending on your viewpoint, New Century and New Millennium!

The past financial year has been a happy and successful one for the Society, with a combination of major events and monthly meetings at which we have had a number of interesting guest speakers.

There were two outstanding events in the past year. First of all there was the **Kew Festival with our Heritage Display and Bus Tour of historic Kew**. The Heritage Display, set up and held in the Phyllis Hore Room on the 13th. and 14th. March, showed aspects of Kew history and the way of life of past generations. We are very grateful to Dorothy, Dione and all the other Society members who contributed to this wonderful display.

Then, on 15th. August the **Kew Historical Society Fair** was held in the Phyllis Hore Room, with a number of stalls including Bric a Brac, Greenery, Gourmet Preserves, Music, Pre-loved Clothing, Face Painting etc. A great deal of preparation was put into the Fair, with contributions both from members and from friends. The Fair was a tremendous success, and it was quite amazing to

see how much interest people showed in all the stalls, perhaps in particular the Plant Stall. Some idea of the success can be judged from the grand total takings of \$1260.50.

Last year's **End of Year Party** was a happy and successful one, with Bill Reeve doing a wonderful job as Santa Claus, and all of the members contributing to a well stocked table, and some entertainment by a small group.

During the past financial year we had a number of **interesting speakers**. These included Councillor Loreto Davey, Mayor of Boroondara, who also spoke at the 1999 AGM on 13th. October 1999. Earlier in the year, Margaret Schofield spoke of her life as a concert pianist. Betty Huston, our Secretary, spoke on her life interests and travels. Dorothy Benyei and Ken Sillcock gave an interesting talk on The Streets of Kew and the origins of many of the street names. In August we had a **Members' Night** which turned out to be most colourful and varied as the members spoke of some of their most vivid memories and experiences. In September we had a talk on D'Estaville, an early Kew home, and in November an interesting talk by Joanne Anderson on Dresses through the Ages, illustrating many examples.

During the past year the Society has either dealt with or been involved with several matters of importance. These were:

(1) The return of Kew art works to the Kew Library.

Jill O'Brien was our representative on the Committee which handled this matter and brought it to a successful conclusion. I thank Jill for all her good work.

(2) Interpretive signage along the Anniversary Trail – Outer Circle Railway.

The old Outer Circle Railway is of tremendous historic interest, running as it did from Oakleigh to Fairfield. Some parts are still in use. Others are abandoned and are now parkland. The Interpretive Signage Project was begun early this year. I received a letter from Fran Jackson, Senior Landscape Architect of Boroondara Council at the beginning of the year inviting me to attend a meeting on February 1st. to discuss the project. Unfortunately I was not able to attend that meeting. The project brief, under the guidance of the City of Boroondara and funded by Parks Victoria, was to design interpretive signage for installation along the Outer Circle Railway Anniversary Trail at various points of interest.

On 12th. October 1999 I rang Boroondara Council and spoke to Miss Melinda Knapp, one of the people in charge of the project, to find out how it was going. She told me that the project has now been successfully completed, having been finished only the previous week. The next day Melinda posted to me a copy of the plan of the sites and a copy of the signage. I would like to thank her for being so prompt in sending me this material, which will be placed in the Society's Archive files.

(3) Boroondara Cultural Development Project.

We applied for a Cultural Grant in connection with the overall aim to promote a greater understanding and knowledge of culture and heritage in the Kew community. As yet we have not received a reply to our application.

(4) Letter from the Society to the Premier of Victoria, the Rt. Hon. J. Kennett, expressing our great interest in the Kew Police Station and Kew Magistrate's Court Build-

ings. We suggested that the Police Headquarters Building would make a fine Local History Museum and Community Information Centre, and that the Old Magistrate's Court would serve as a much needed community meeting place. The letter then went on to elaborate on this theme. As yet we have not received a reply.

Thanks.

I would like to extend, on behalf of the Society members, a warm vote of thanks to all the Office Bearers and Committee members for all their fine work. To Miss Lex Allen, former Secretary, who continued as Assistant Secretary and Public Officer, and to Miss Betty Huston, our Secretary for the past year, our great appreciation for preparing the Agenda and recording the Minutes for each meeting.

Dr. Laszlo Benyei returned to his old position of Treasurer, replacing Mrs. Audrey Martinelli, who did a wonderful job as Treasurer for the previous two years.

Mrs. Dorothy Benyei continues as our Archivist. I just don't know where the Society would be without Dorothy.

Mr. Graeme Lindsay and Mrs Dione McIntyre were elected Vice-Presidents at the last AGM. We thank them both for all their work in these roles, and to Graeme also for all his wonderful work in putting up shelves in the Archive Room.

Mr. Ken Sillcock continues as Newsletter and Publications Editor. We thank him for his sterling work in these roles.

Miss Joan Simms continued on as a Committee member, and a new position of Junior Committee Member was filled by Miss Lisa D'Acri. Mrs. Jill O'Brien is our Consultant, and we thank her for all her good work.

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

Our thanks also go to Miss Marion Blatchley for her work as a former Council member and in charge of Suppers for many years, a role now shared by several members.

Finally, I thank my wife, Rosemary, for her quiet work in the background filing Kew property notices — a continuing and often laborious task.

Raymond Vaughan-Smith

KEW FESTIVAL 18th., 19th., 20th. March 2000.

HISTORIC DISPLAY

Again we have been asked to stage a display from our historic collection. This will be set up in the Phyllis Hore Room on Friday, 17th. It will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 18th. and 19th., and on Monday, March 20th., when groups of school children will attend for "hands on" activities from the past. We will have a butter churn, a spinning wheel and a carding machine, and we hope members will help with other activities. **People on duty are required for each day. Please offer your assistance.**

A staffing roster will be arranged at the February meeting.

THE (FREE) HISTORIC TOUR

On the Sunday, 19th. We will organise and conduct two free bus tours by courtesy of Boroondara Council. One tour will cover Boroondara Cemetery, and the other will visit selected Yarra Bend sites. To ensure a seat in the bus, **prior booking is essential, by phone to**

Those who have booked should be ready to board the buses outside the Phyllis Hore Room at 1.45 pm. for a 2 pm departure. Buses will return about 4.30 pm.

COMBINED MEETING

A Combined Meeting of the Canterbury, Camberwell, Hawthorn, Kew and Surrey Hills Historical Societies will be held in the Phyllis Hore Room at 8 pm on 12th. April.

The Guest speaker will be Mr. Peter Lovell, Conservation Consultant. **As hosts, we hope for a good attendance, and please bring some supper..**

OUR FAIR, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, August 20th., 1 pm — 5 pm.

Last August our Fair raised \$1,260.00. Next August, as above, we plan to hold another fair on the same afternoon that Friends of Kew Library holds its book sale. So please start growing plants, making pre-

serves, putting aside pre-loved clothing and bric-a-brac and items for a White Elephant Stall. We need more advertising, and would welcome any ideas on how this might be done.

THE COMMITTEE

The following were elected to the Committee for 1999-2000.:

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

2000 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	9	Dr. Veronica Condon: "Geoffrey Syme and his school days at Kew High School in the 1880's.
Wed	Mar	8	Mrs. Rosa Storelli, Principal of M. L. C. : "History of M. L. C."
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon	Mar	17 18 19 20	Display in conjunction with Kew Festival in the Phyllis Hore Room,. Setting up Display Mar. 17. Display open on Mar. 18,19, 20. Details on p. 3.
Sun	Mar	19	Historic BusTour of Kew. Free of charge, but booking essential, to
Wed	Apr	12	.Public meeting of Combined Boroondara Historical Societies Association. Speaker, Mr. Peter Lovell, Conservation Consultant.
Wed	May	10	Mr. J. Campbell B. Penfold , of 58 Charles St., Kew (to be confirmed) : "Joining Two Residences Together".
Wed	Jun	14	Mr. Eric Flynn: "History of Friends of Kew Library".
Wed	Jul	12	Dr. David Pitt: "My Long Life in Kew".
Wed	Aug	9	Members' Night.
Sun	Aug	20	Kew Historical Society Fair in Phyllis Hore Room, 1.00 pm. to 5.00 pm. See details on page 3.
Wed	Sep	13	Mr. Bill Irwin: "Undirected Lives".
Wed	Oct	11	Annual General Meeting. Guest Speaker: The Mayor of Boroondara.
Wed	Nov	8	Alison Goding: "Secrets, Myths and Facts — Re-searching Matthew Bowden, 1779 – 1814."
Wed	Dec	13	Christmas Party. Details in next issue.

CONGRATULATIONS LISA

We all warmly congratulate our Committee member, Lisa D'Acri on successful completion of her studies for the degree of Bachelor of Social Work at RMIT. The degree conferring ceremony will take place next April .

We all wish her many years of happy and satisfying work in her chosen career.