

# 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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July 2000

SPECIAL ISSUE  
ANNOUNCING TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS

THE FAIR IN AUGUST

THE A. G. M. IN OCTOBER

HEIGH HO COME TO THE FAIR

On SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
**20th. AUGUST**  
1 PM TO 5 PM, in the  
**PHYLLIS HORE ROOM,**  
**KEW LIBRARY BUILDING**

**STALLS INCLUDE** \*Bric a Brac\* \*Greenery (pot plants etc.)\* \*Gourmet pre-serves\* \*White Elephant\* \*Music\* \*Pre-loved clothing\* \*Face painting\* \*Tea and biscuits\*. etc. etc.

**SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

so

be there, and bring all your friends

Please, members, we need any of the above items to sell. Goods may be brought to the August 9th. Meeting, or collection can be arranged by phone to or

**IMPORTANT: See note overleaf re restrictions on types of food goods.**

**THE FAIR (continued):**

In accordance with the Food Act 1984, Boroondara City Council has issued guidelines for selling food to the public.

**Jams and preserves** must be labeled with the name of an organization selling (Kew Historical Society), initials of the person preparing the food, list of ingredients, and date the food was prepared. We hope this will not deter you from preserving (and persevering!)

**Cakes and biscuits** require all the above information **plus the following:**

**All cakes** must be **wrapped**, and **ingredients which may cause allergies** (e.g. nuts), and **raw ingredients containing preservatives** (e.g. apricots) **must be listed.**

**We feel that we cannot handle or sell cream cakes, custard tarts etc., as further conditions such as holding temperatures at every stage apply to them.**

**WANTED : A LARGE HAND BELL FOR OUR TOWN CRIER**

Our Town Crier certainly "brings them in" (or rings them in) to our Fair, so we should give him the right tool to do the job. **Can anyone please lend or give us a HAND BELL big enough to stretch his bulging bicep muscles?**

Already we have decked him out in fitting garb for his large frame, thanks to the genius of our working group of good scroungers who have transformed odd garments into sartorial splendour (yes, well fitting) for such an important official of our royal city.

**OUR END OF YEAR PARTY**

Our end of year party will be held at 7.00 pm. on Wednesday, 13th. December in our usual meeting place, the Phyllis Hore Room. Again it will take the form of a Shared 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 labeled gift** (about \$2), **men** to bring one for a man, and **ladies** to bring one for a lady.

And who knows what else might happen — you never know — Christmas carols, anything. All good fun !

**CURRENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

Due now

**Annual Subscription:**

Ordinary member	\$10.00
Family membership	\$12.00
Student member	\$ 2.00

**Life Subscription:**

\$50.00

**Note:** Some local schools have taken Life Memberships. This enables them to receive our Newsletter, and to send teachers or students to meetings of interest to them.

From time to time we provide special day-time programs for an entire school class, and can do so by special arrangement..

**BRAIN TEASER— WHY DID THE SWANS CHANGE COLOUR ?**

In countries where there were no convicts, the swans are all white. At the Swan River, WA, where there were convicts, the swans are black. On our three day trip from Dublin to Cork, birthplace of some convicts, our driver often reminded us that we would see rose coloured swans at Cork. "There are the rose coloured swans", he said on arrival. There were swans, but our "conviction" was that they all looked white. Can you explain that ?

*Our member, Stuart West, has presented to the Kew Historical Society a collection of his original poetry, for which we thank him sincerely. We are at present considering ways and means to publish at least some of them in a booklet. Something of a philosopher, he wrote this in 1999 as part of a longer poem:*

As you sow, so shall you reap, The proverb says it clear; You must give that you may keep, You must hold this dear.	This is the way to play the game, It is indeed a must.  Do I hear a note of discord Or a cynical remark? Does my theory strike a chord, Or does it seem a lark?	Be a friend to make a friend. Give hope, and hope returns. Help others, too, to make amend Humanity surely learns.
You give respect to get respect, Love given is returned' You may not take this as correct, But in life this is learned.	A second chance deserves the same. Who never made a blue? Surely 'tis part of the game; Give every man his due.	And so, with many other things, We must give to get. Accept the good things that life brings, And do not fuss or fret.
Generosity begets the same, And trust begets like trust;		

### EXTRACTS FROM "MEMORIES OF KEW".

*Our late member, Alva Allen, dictated his "Memories of Kew" in 1986. Here are extracts from his story:*

"My forebears originally came from Barrington, near Cambridge in England, and one arrived here in 1849 and the others followed in 1853. We were originally market gardeners and we settled in Hawthorn, but came to Kew in 1865 and had market gardens down where the Kew Cemetery is along Parkhill Road. You will see a street there named

Barrington Avenue. That is where my grandparents came from. originally. But I have always said that to be born in Kew you were very lucky because I think Kew was the best suburb of Melbourne, and it still is, and I have seen many changes over the years - I suppose that applies to all of us everywhere - but Kew was such a handy place."

"Kew had some very highly educated people - or academics, they call them now - living in Kew. We have had more Prime Ministers than any other city in Australia.

"There was Billy Hughes. He lived in Cotham Road, Kew, between Belmont Avenue and Uvadale Grove. The house is still there. Billy Hughes used to ride round Kew on a horse with four white socks, and I can see him now sitting up on his horse, down through Parkhill Road, down through Adeney Avenue, and he used to go up through East Kew there, round the park - it was all rural in those days, not like it is now - and he would be riding up and down; no worries at all."

"Then we had the other Prime Ministers. Sir Robert Menzies - he lived at No. 10 Howard Street. He used to knock around Kew. His father and mother lived in Wellington Street in a house called "Lowan", and I can tell you a story about Sir Robert Menzies.

"I was helping to do a job for Mr. and Mrs. Menzies, his father and mother, and old Mr. Menzies was painting the bathroom, or doing up the bathroom, and I was an electrician and I had to go and do a bit of work down there. Mrs. Menzies said to me, 'Would you be very quiet? My son, Robert, has just come down from Canberra and he hasn't had much sleep.' I said, 'Yes, I'll be as quiet as I possibly can', which I was. Anyway, I was talking to his father about different things and who should appear in a big blue tartan dressing gown but Robert Menzies. He said, 'How do you do, young man', and all this sort of business. He was quite pleasant, quite good to talk to. Mrs. Menzies made morning tea. and I can honestly say that I'm one of the few

men in the world who has had morning tea with Sir Robert Menzies in the bathroom. He sat on the edge of the bath, I sat on one end of the bath and old man Mr. Menzies sat down by the door, and there we had morning tea. That happened in Wellington Street, Kew. I knew Sir Robert Menzies very well. I used to meet him sometimes on the tram. Every time I saw him going to the football - he would say, 'How do you do, young man. Do you think you'll win today?' I can remember one day when I was in town and a big Rolls Royce Commonwealth car pulled up. and Sir Robert got out (to speak to me)."

*This account then tells of two other resident Prime Ministers, Gough Whitlam and Joe Lyons, and recalls a lively encounter with the then Chief Justice, whose stern demand to be shown respect by young men ended when a surreptitious whack on his horse's rump caused his rapid departure.*

"You see, you lived in Kew, (so) you knew these people."

## 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.

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, Cr. Chris Pattas.
Wed	Nov	8	Alison Goding: "Secrets, Myths and Facts — Researching Matthew Bowden, 1779 – 1814."
Wed	Dec	13	Christmas Party. Details on page 2.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Historical Society will be held on 11th. October 2000 at 8 p.m. in the Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, Civic Drive, off Cotham Road, Kew. The business to be transacted at the meeting will be:

(1) **Reports** of office bearers for the year ending 30th. September 2000.

(2) **Election of office bearers** for the year 2000/2001. According to our Rules, approved under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, **all positions become vacant**, and any member wishing to nominate a member 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 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), with 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 2000/2001 became due on 1st. July 2000 and **are payable prior to the Annual General Meeting.**

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

**Please find enclosed a few copies of our advertising poster. We hope members will be willing to place these in letter boxes in their streets or in local shops.**

#### BRAIN TEASER ANSWER:

*To avoid premature disclosure, we had the type set somewhere up near the North Pole. The kindly printer ordered that the type be set upside down "so the people 'down under' can read it more easily."*

"Well, haven't you ever heard of white roses?"  
At Cork the driver shattered our stunned silence and said,