

# Kew Historical Society Inc

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

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

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 175, Kew Vic 3101.  
NEWSLETTER No. 67.  
November 2000.

President:  
Miss Lisa D'Acri

Secretary  
Miss Betty Huston

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, OCTOBER

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 during the past year. First of all, there was the Kew Festival with our Heritage Display and Bus Tour of historic Kew. This was held on 18th., 19th. and 20th. March. There was a great deal of work involved, both in the setting up of the display and in running it. It was a real team effort. A special word of thanks and congratulations to Graeme Lindsay and his son in setting up an early verandah and kitchen, which created a tremendous amount of interest. We are also very grateful to Dorothy Benyei, Dione McIntyre and all the other Society members who contributed to this wonderful display.

The two tour buses were both well filled, and this part of the Festival was a marked success.

This year it was decided to extend the Heritage Display on to the Monday, with a special hands-on presentation of activities for school children. These activities included making damper, spinning wool, making butter, patchwork quilting, using old tools, writing with chalk, steel nibs and quills. Four schools took part - Peel Street Primary, East Kew Primary, Sacred Heart School and St. Anne's School. We are very grateful to those members who helped with these activities.

The second outstanding event was the Kew Historical Society Fair held in the Phyllis Hore Room on Sunday, 20th. August. The Fair was a tremendous success. There were several stalls - Bric-a-Brac, Plants and Greenery, Gourmet Preserves, White Elephant, Music, Toys, Pre-loved Clothing and so on. All the stalls did very well. Afternoon tea was served at \$2.00 for a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits. This made \$94.00, which was a very good effort.

The grand total, including both money taken at the various stalls and donations, \$1311.00, which was a wonderful result.

A good deal of preparation was put into the Fair, with contributions both from members and friends. I would like to give a special vote of thanks to all those who helped in setting up the room and the various stalls and then all those who manned the stalls on the day itself.

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

During the past year we have had a number of interesting speakers. These included Councillor Loreto Davey, Mayor of Boroondara, who spoke also at the previous AGM on 15th. October 1999. Ms. Robin Scott, Archivist of Methodist Ladies College, spoke on the history of MLC. Dr. David Pitt gave an interesting account of "My early days in Kew," which included his

school and university years, his years in medical practice and paediatrics, and at Kew Cottages. Copies of his book, "My Love of Children - My Life and Medical Career" were available for sale after the meeting. The August meeting was Members' Night, at which members gave interesting accounts of their memories of the 1956 Olympic Games.

At the September meeting the speaker was Mr. Jim Armstrong, who spoke on "The Treatment of Women Prisoners in Victorian Prisons in the 19th. Century". In spite of what could have been a rather depressing subject, the speaker made it interesting and well informed.

During the past year the Society has been involved with several matters of importance. These have included the following:

1. 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 - Camberwell to Alamein - are still in use. Other parts, abandoned, are now park land, walking tracks etc. The Interpretive Signage Project was begun early last year. 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 Shared Path of the Outer Circle Anniversary Trail at various points of interest. The project was completed in October 1999, and Ms. Melinda Knapp, one of the people in charge of the project, sent me a copy of the plan of the sites, together with a copy of the signage. On about 4th. February 2000 I wrote a letter of thanks and appreciation to Melinda for her most interesting and valuable material. This has now been placed in the Kew Historical Society Archives.

2. Citizenship Ceremony in the Hawthorn Town Hall on 26th. September. Two representatives from Kew Historical Society were invited by

Boroondara Council to attend, these being your President and his wife, Rosemary. The ceremony was a most interesting one, with the new citizens - about 140 in all - being taken in groups of about 20, all in turn having their names read out and swearing to uphold the laws and institutions of their new country. Each was presented with a certificate of citizenship and a small native plant growing in a pot. We thought that this was a very nice touch. Speeches were made by the Mayor of Boroondara, Councillor Chris. Pattas, and by Mr. Andrew McIntosh, M.P. for Kew. Before the start of the ceremony the Kew Citizens' Band played several pieces. After the ceremony, refreshments were served in the foyer.

Thanks.

I would like to extend on behalf of the Society members a warm vote of thanks to all Office Bearers and Committee members for all their fine work: to Mrs. Dione McIntyre and Mr. Graeme Lindsay, our Vice Presidents, and to our Secretary, Miss Betty Huston, Betty has done a sterling job in preparing the agenda and recording the minutes for each meeting.

Dr. Laszlo Benyei has been our Public Officer and Treasurer, and Mrs. Dorothy Benyei our Archivist - a position she has held for many years. I just don't know where the Society would be without Dorothy.

Mrs. Jill O'Brien has been our Consultant, and Mr. Ken Silcock our Publications Editor. We thank Ken for all his wonderful work in this role. Miss Joan Simms and Miss Lisa D'Acri have been Committee members during the year, and we thank them for their work in this position.

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

**Raymond Vaughan-Smith  
President.**

**VALE:** The Rev. M. Watson. We record with sadness the passing of a Past President on 7th. October, and extend our sympathy to Muriel and their family.

**END OF YEAR PARTY, WEDNESDAY, 13th. DECEMBER at 7.00 pm.  
PHYLLIS HORE ROOM.**

Again there will be a shared evening meal, for which we ask that those with family names beginning with A to L bring something sweet and those M to Z something savoury. Santa Claus asks that we each bring

a small wrapped, labelled gift (\$2 to \$3), ladies to bring one for a lady and men one for a man. There could be a surprise item or two also, we understand.



## KEW POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE

"The Kew Police Station and Kew Magistrates Court Buildings are important landmarks which, together with the Old Kew Post Office and World War 1 Monument, form the local point of entry to the City of Boroondara via High Street, Kew.

The Police Headquarters Building would make a fine Local History Museum and Community Information Centre, perhaps in conjunction with the Boroondara City Council, and the Old Magistrates Court a much needed community meeting place.

There has been some speculation about the future of these historical buildings, and members of the Kew Historical Society Inc. would be most interested, together with the other members of the Association of Boroondara Historical Societies, in setting up and manning a Local History Museum there".

We are most concerned about the future of these buildings, and will keep members informed of any new developments. The Committee has agreed that at our first meeting in 2001 ((Wednesday, 14th. February) the speaker, Mr. Philip Slobom, will be asked to lead a discussion on this subject.

**We would urge all members to attend, and to encourage other local people to join us at this or any other of our meetings.**

### BRAIN TEASER

#### The last word

A ship's captain, on a foggy night, saw a light dead ahead. This conversation followed:

"Collision course. Alter course 20 degrees port."

"You alter course 20 degrees starboard."

"I am the captain. Alter course 20 degrees port."

"I am an Able Seaman. Alter course 20 degrees starboard."

"I am a U.S. battleship. Alter course 20 degrees port."

"I am a - - - - - . Alter course 20 degrees starboard."

The captain meekly and hurriedly obeyed.

What was the Able Seaman's word that quickly changed the captain's attitude ?

**Answer on page 4.**

## OUR COMMITTEE FOR 2000 - 2001

President	Miss Lisa D'Acri
Vice Presidents	Mrs. Dione McIntyre Mr. Raymond Vaughan Smith
Secretary	Miss Betty Huston
Treasurer	Dr. Laszlo Benyei
Archivist	Mrs. Dorothy Benyei
Consultant	Mrs. Jill O'Brien
Editor of Publications	Mr. Ken Sillcock
Members of Committee	Mr. Graham Lindsay Miss Joan Simms Mrs. Rosemary Vaughan-Smith Mrs. Rosemary Smart

The above members were elected at the Annual General Meeting in October..

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**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

These remain the same, owing to our successful fair, to M.P. Mr. Andrew McIntosh, who has kindly offered to print off our Newsletter, and to Boroondara Council who will waive the \$20 fee for the use of the Phyllis Hore room for our monthly meetings.

We urge families to participate in our activities, particularly as we are now catering for younger people through the special days for local schools in conjunction with the Kew Festival.

Current fees are:

Individual	\$10 per annum	
Family	\$12 per annum	Life membership \$50
Student	\$2 per annum	

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**ANSWER TO BRAIN TEASER**

Don't reach for your glasses. Use lateral thinking !

Lighthouse

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NEW MEMBERS:

During the past year we have warmly welcomed the following new Members:

Mrs Kath Gervasoni and Miss Clare Gervasoni  
Mr Philip Slobom  
Cr. Judith Voce  
Ms Judith Watson and Family.