

Kew Historical Society Inc

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

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

No. A0010789W ABN 97 824 890 237

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 69.

President:
Miss Lisa D'Acri

August 2001

Secretary:
Miss Betty Huston

ANNOUNCING TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS IN OCTOBER
The AGM on Wednesday, 10th. Oct.
The Fair on Sunday, 21st. Oct.

NOTE: The Fair is NOT IN AUGUST as earlier planned. See note on page 4.

HEIGH HO COME TO THE FAIR

On SUNDAY AFTERNOON
21st. October
1 PM TO 5 PM, in the
**PHYLLIS HORE ROOM,
KEW LIBRARY BUILDING**

STALLS INCLUDE *Bric a Brac* *Greenery (pot plants etc.)* *Gourmet preserves* *Music* *Pre-loved clothing* *Face painting* *Tea and biscuits*. 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 September and October Meetings, or collection can be arranged by phone to _____ or _____

(IMPORTANT: Health Regulations place restrictions on types of food goods which may be sold in situations such as at our fair.)

And, members, we need all the volunteers we can get to be stall assistants and do the selling on the day, from 1 pm to 5 pm.

EXTRACTS FROM "Some memories of my life in Kew" By Muriel Clarice Thompson

I was a foundation member of the Kew Historical Society and have enjoyed the interesting meetings and fellowship over the years. The first meeting of the Society was at Councillor Dickinson's home in Cotham Road, on the corner of Edgevale Road, in 1958. My Great Grandfather, James Venn Morgan built the first house in Kew proper in 1852. An earlier house was built near the river. My Great Grandfather lived to one hundred years and five months, and was known as the "Father of Kew." I recall being at the celebration of his 100th. birthday held in his lovely old garden in Charles Street. I was eleven years old, and had a photo taken of the four generations. James Venn was one of the early founders of the Kew Congregational Church in Watpole Street in 1854. I have a photo of the early Deacons of the Church and the "ladies' bible class" that my aunt attended. Grandpa was a Deacon. The Church has since been demolished and Bodalla Nursing Home was built on the property.

My Grandmother was Celia Venn Morgan. She was born in 1852, the first white girl to be born in Kew. During her late teens she qualified as a teacher and taught at the first Primary School in Kew. I have a photo of the school class, with Grandma standing with the pupils. The school was situated in Peel Street and was on the property of the Congregational Church, which is now the back entrance to Bodalla Nursing Home.

I attended Kew Primary School in Pakington Street. I have memories of marching every Monday morning to the Kew Town

Hall, which was then in Walpole Street, to "Salute the Flag". That Hall has since been demolished and the Safeway supermarket now stands at that venue.

My secondary education was at the Melbourne Girls' High School in Spring Street, East Melbourne, which has also been demolished and in its place is now the headquarters of the Royal College of Surgeons. I travelled from Kew on a tram to Victoria Bridge, then changed to a cable tram.

I can recall the Kew Railway Station. The trains ran from the corner of Wellington and Denmark Streets to Barker Station, then to Hawthorn Station, where it connected with the Lilydale line and travelled to Flinders Street Station, Melbourne.

Another early icon of Kew was the "Recreation Hall" in the lower end of Wellington Street where many dances, and entertainment, etc. were held. When it was demolished, the Kew Bowling Club built its premises on the site.

I here have seen many changes across the road from my house. The Carnegies' home, "Southesk", was purchased by the Kew Council and operated as a kindergarten for three to five year olds until it was demolished to make way for a new Town Hall.

My son Derrick attended the kindergarten for two years. There were beautiful Italian murals on the ceilings in the two front rooms of "Southesk".

Personal memoirs such as Muriel's above, are valuable additions to our historical record. Please add yours if you haven't done so already. Oh yes, we know most people see writing as a dull chore or a terrifying prospect, but that's largely because they don't know how to start. Don't stare at a blank sheet, trying to dream up a brilliant heading and opening sentence. Start writing. Jot down notes of what you want to say, in any old order as you think of them. Then group your notes into five or so main topics, fill in any gaps, then expand the notes into paragraphs. Your item then almost writes itself. Try it..

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Kew Historical Society will be held on 10th. October 2001 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 2001.

(2) **Election of office bearers** for the year 2001/2002. 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 2001/2002 became due on 1st. July 2001 and are **payable prior to the Annual General Meeting.**

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

THE RETIRING COMMITTEE

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

All members of the retiring Committee are eligible for re-election to the same or other positions.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

We are delighted that our member, Stuart West, has prepared an entry in:

"THAT WAS THEN — THIS IS NOW"

The mounted photos will be on display at our August 8th. Meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome three new members to the Society : Mrs. Yvonne McMillan, Mr. Kim Sullivan and Mrs. Mary Endacott.

2001 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Monthly meetings will be held in the Phyllis Hore Room Civic Drive, Kew 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	Aug	8	Overview of Kew East Community Bank, by a member of the Steering Committee.
Wed	Sep	12	Speaker from University of the Third Age (U3A).
Wed	Oct	10	Annual General Meeting. Speaker: The Mayor of Boroondara
Sun	Oct	21	The Fair, 1 pm. to 5 pm. Details on front cover.
Wed	Nov	14	Claire Gervasoni, Historian: Local History Research, including Ballarat.
Wed	Dec	12	Christmas Party. See details below.

WHY DID WE CHANGE THE DATE OF THE FAIR ?

A FAIR question. We said it would be on August 19th. **A fair needs all hands and the cook on deck during selling hours.** Yes, "the cook" does offer refreshments to patrons so they can take the weight off their feet and put a bit on elsewhere. But some committee members have gone migratory. They will be back with the first flight or two of returning swallows, to give their needed help and their expertise in planning the fair..

OUR END OF YEAR PARTY

Our end of year party will be held at 7.00 pm. on Wednesday, 12th. 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 !

OUR MODEST

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual	\$10 pa
Family	\$12 pa
Student	\$2 pa
Life	\$50

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

We invite all interested people to join our Historical Society and enjoy our speakers and our discussions on local history in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Students are especially welcomed at a low annual subscription, and we are glad to help them if they need information for projects on local history.

We also welcome teachers of subjects such as history, human geography, and social sciences in local schools