

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

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NEWSLETTER NO. 70.

President:

Miss Lisa D'Acri

February 2002

Secretary:

Miss Betty Huston

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back, friends.

It gives me great pleasure to be working with you all again this year. I wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As I reflected on the past financial year I am able to say that it has been a stable and successful one for the Society, which included the induction of new members. I, as the Society's president, have enjoyed being a part of all the activities.

The programme of guest speakers proved popular, as the monthly meetings have been well attended and lively discussions have evolved from various topics. The year began well when Phillip Slobom gave a discussion on the Kew Police Station building and Court House. The topic proved to be very stimulating and it made us wonder about the options available to the Society. Many other speakers presented at the meetings. They include: - Dorothy Benyei who shared her knowledge of the Boroondara Cemetery; Janis Oakley whose subject was "Contribution of Friendly Societies to the Health and Welfare"; Gwen McWilliam, a local historian; Dorothy Simpson outlined a history of Iron Houses; Durham Straughan - Director and member of the Steering Committee Kew East Financial Services Ltd.; John Marshall from the University of the Third Age, who gave us a discussion on the educational options available to older people; Mayor of Boroondara Councillor Meredith Butler, who spoke to the Society during October's Annual General Meeting; and Clare Gervasoni, who gave a discussion on

local history research including Ballarat.

Rosemary Smart also shared her memories of her past beloved home Turinville with the Society. I would like to thank her for sharing some very personal and fascinating stories.

There have been many exciting events during the year. Our Annual Heritage Display and Historical Bus Trip once again coincided with the Kew Festival. This was held on 17th, 18th, and 19th.. March. The special theme of the display was life at the time of Federation, 100 years ago. There was a great deal of work involved in both the setting up and running of the display, and I thank all who were able to contribute their time and effort to the display.

The Society was once again able to extend the Heritage Display to Monday to incorporate a special hands-on presentation of activities for local school children. The activities included damper making, mincing bread, darning material, using old tools, playing knuckles and writing with ink and quills. Special thanks goes to Graeme Lindsay who gave the children a fascinating and educational presentation on Federation.

The other memorable event during the year was the visit to the Heidelberg Court House. The Heidelberg Historical Society has acquired full access and responsibility of the Court House for their monthly meetings and the display of their historical items. We were given a brief account of how the Heidelberg Society petitioned and gained approval of the acquisition of the Court House. It cer-

tainly was a thought provoking visit and gave us an idea of how the Kew Police Station Building and Court House could be utilised by our Society. This is a topic that will continue to be addressed by our Society during this New Year.

The society's Annual Fair was held on Sunday 21st October in the Phyllis Hore Room. There were many fantastic stalls including Greenery, Bric a Brac and Gourmet Preserves. A great deal of effort went into the organising, setting up and running of the fair, I would like to thank all involved for their tremendous work. The fair raised over \$ 1000 for the Society.

The December Christmas Party was once again a wonderful success. All members contributed to the well-stocked tables, and participated in the carolling and activities. A thank you goes to our fabulous Santa, Bill

Reeve, for once again doing a marvellous job. Another thank you goes to Millicent Lindsay for organising and creating the quiz that kept all members entertained.

Finally, during our Annual General meeting no changes were made to the Office Bearers and Committee Members; therefore all positions remain the same for the year 2002. I would like to thank the Office Bearers and Committee Members for their dedication and hard work during the past year. Without their dedication and hard work the Society would be completely lost. It has been an absolute pleasure working with everyone and I have enjoyed every moment. A special thanks goes to my mother Serafina D'Acri for being a great support throughout the year.

Thank You All.

Lisa D'Acri.

Extracts from

SOME CONSEQUENCES OF LIVING IN KEW

By Ken Silcock

In that wonderful source of education, the playground of Yinnar State School, we learned a lot about the Collingwood football team because, like the Yinnar team, its colours were black and white.

By contrast, all we knew about Kew was that people with strange ideas lived there in a place called the Lunatic Asylum. Even when I was taken to visit my grandparents in Glenferrie and went with them to a church on the south side of Barkers Road, the only new information I got about Kew was that it contained another church in Highbury Grove, wherever that was.

In the school itself we learned a lot about 55 BC and 1066, and about Twofold Bay and Shark Bay, though I was never sure which bay was which, but never a clue about Kew.

That changed when I won a scholarship which made it possible for me to go to a boarding school, and my parents had to decide which school. After reading the reports given by headmasters at speech nights, which "The Argus" published in full, they short-listed two schools: Wesley College under L .A. Adamson and Trinity Grammar School under Frank Shann. The progressive attitude of Shann to education won the day – and gave me an extra year in sixth form within the four years of scholarship support. I have never once regretted the choice they

made which, in many ways, influenced my future.

By the end of first term it became clear that I could handle the higher form work. This was due, in part, to the system of teaching then in use, the Dalton Plan, in which formal classroom teaching was reduced and students were given work assignments on which they could work in any order they chose. It enabled me to spend the most time on the unfamiliar subjects.

As an outcome of my friendship with Ken Leslie, which began at Trinity in 1925 and still continues in 2002, and with his family, I have returned to Kew, to live there four times, separated by long intervals spent elsewhere. My first stay was for the four years at Trinity, but my links continued for two more years, which were spent by my brother at Trinity and my sister at MLC. After that, the Great Depression of the 1930's caused us to abandon further education. I moved back to Yinnar, then to Yarram, from which I joined the AIF, went with it to the Middle East and, on the way back, for a four month stay in Sri Lanka, then known as Ceylon.

By that time Ken Leslie's parents had moved from Vermont to East Kew, where Ken's father was the Vicar of St. Paul's Anglican Parish. I was made welcome at the Vicarage whenever I had leave. A little later I transferred from the AIF to the RAAF as an out-

come of a visit by its recruiting unit to the army camp in the Seymour district.

I was destined to return to the Vicarage at East Kew about three years later, after training at various country RAAF stations in Victoria, serving on an operational squadron in England and returning home at the end of World War 2. I had the opportunity for full time University study to complete the remaining two years of my interrupted degree course. The Leslies suggested that I should live with them at the Vicarage instead of boarding somewhere else, which I was glad to do, so for a second time I was a full time resident of the City of Kew.

I took part in the church activities and got to know many of the parishioners, including Isobel Rochford, whom I married two years after I had completed my studies and returned to work in the Department of Agriculture from its Melbourne office. She, too, had been away from home on war service as a WRAN, so she could always claim that hers was the Senior Service!

For my third stay in Kew we bought a house in Victor Avenue and, among other things, resumed our connection with St. Paul's Church from which the Leslies had meanwhile retired. Isobel was pleased with the move, as she had always regarded East Kew as her home, and felt more settled there than in East Doncaster. And so my third period of a citizen of Kew

lasted about twenty years.

After our children had gone their ways and had their own homes it was time to move again from a two-storey house to one all on the one level which might be more manageable as we got older.

The house we bought was on Balwyn Road. By that time we both began to show some signs of heart problems but were far from inactive. But, after a year there our 38 years of marriage ended with Isobel's unexpected death at the end of 1988. I remained there for two years, and my connections with Kew seemed to be at an end except for occasional functions at Trinity Grammar School for its past students. But events proved otherwise when Tim and Fran, my son and daughter-in-law sought a home on which dual occupancy would be allowed. As it happened, we found such a place in Kew on which I was able to build my present unit at the rear of a long block. So, for a fourth time I have lived in Kew, so far for 12 years.

Life would have taken a different course if I had not won that Junior Government Scholarship, or if my parents had chosen to send me to Wesley College instead of Trinity Grammar School. I am well content with my experiences of living in Kew intermittently from 1925 to – so far - 2002.

THE FAIR

As reported by our President, the Fair last October was a great success, adding about \$1,000 to the Society's funds. Goods which remained unsold at the end of the day were donated to the Elderly Citizens' Opportunity Shop.

In 2002, instead of holding a fair,, we will have a Jam & Pickle Stall and Plant Stall at the Kew Festival Heritage Display in the Phyllis Hore Room. CAN YOU HELP ?

KEW FESTIVAL HERITAGE DISPLAY

Again we have been asked to stage an historic display in the Phyllis Hore Room as part of the Festival. It will be open from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, **March 16th., 17th., and 18th.** The Monday will be devoted specially to children, already invited, from four local primary schools to whom features of living in former times will be shown and demonstrated.

FREE HISTORIC BUS TOUR, Sunday, 17th. March

Courtesy of Boroondara City Council

Bookings are essential. Phone 9853 8758. and be there to board the buses at 1.45 pm for a 2 pm departure. This year both buses will include Studley Park and Yarra Bend Park in their tours

Plenty of helpers will be needed (a) To set up the display on Friday afternoon and evening, 15th. March. **(b)** To supervise and discuss the various sections of the display to visitors on Saturday and Sunday and to parties of school children on Monday, 18th. And **(c)** To dismantle and store the display items after 4.00 pm on the Monday.

Yes, keep those dates free. But we don't go this far: "In view of special events this week, all births, marriages and deaths will be postponed until next week"

2002 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	Feb	13	Snr. Sgt. Ron Sinclair: "The New Kew Police Station."
Wed	Mar	13	Members' Night.
Sat,	Mar	16	Heritage Week Display (3 days).
Sun		17	Free Historic Bus Tours of Kew
Mon		18	Visit of local schools to the display
Wed	Apr	10	To be advised..
Wed	Apr	17	Public meeting in the Hawthorn Library Meeting Room, hosted by Combined Committee of Boroondara Historical Associations. Details to be announced later.
Wed	May	8	Mr. Reg Rippon: "Update of Proposed High-rise Development at the Johnson Street Bridge"
Wed	Jun	12	Mrs. Jean Uhl: "How to be a Volunteer without really Trying—and Writing About It."
Wed	Jul	10	Speaker from Kew Business Association.
Wed	Aug	14	To be advised..
Wed	Sep	11	Mrs. Jessie Serle: "Restoring a Victorian Garden"
Wed	Oct	9	Annual General Meeting. Guest Speaker: The Mayor or Boroondara.
Wed	Nov	13	Travel: "Down the Amazon with Betty Huston".
Wed	Dec	11	End of year social. Details in later issue.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

OUR MODEST MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

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 and tertiary colleges.

DID YOU KNOW? In the 1930's hill farmers ate a lot of underground mutton. What was it ? Sheep meat very coarsely ground ? Meat buried (by dogs) to keep it fresh? Bush tucker ? Or what ?

AND THIS: Where was the inner terminus of the Outer Circle Railway first planned to be ?

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