

# Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

NEWSLETTER No. 77

JANUARY 2005

## FORMER KEW FIRE STATION

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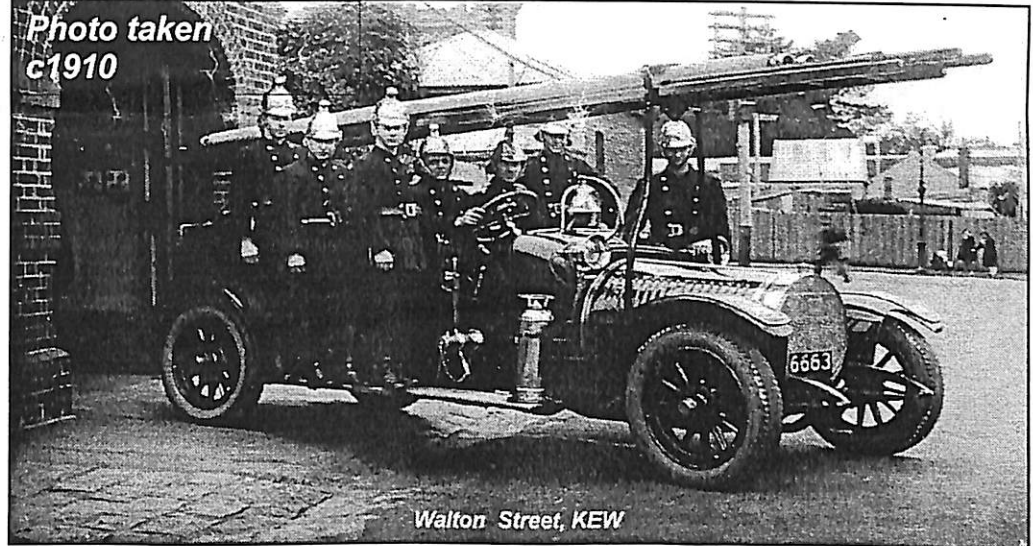
*Still serving the  
community, families,  
schools, students,  
historians and  
other researchers*

*Est. 1958*

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Photo taken  
c1910



Walton Street, KEW

## ~ STOP PRESS ~

Our first meeting for 2005 will take the form of an outing to visit the "COSTUME COLLECTION" at Bulleen.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL TAKE THE PLACE  
OF OUR NORMAL FEBRUARY MEETING*

The proprietor Mrs. Loel Thomson will give a talk describing the collection which she has gathered over a period of many years.

Mrs. Thomson is most generously allowing the Kew Historical Society to use this event as a fund raiser and there will be a \$5 admission fee per person which will be donated to the Kew Historical Society.

The collection covers items from 1770's to 1990's, collected for over 20 years, this is the most impressive collection of ladies costumes, fabric, lace, jewellery, clothing, shoes, bags, hats and a lot more, set in a magnificent room, and tastefully displayed.

### THIS OUTING IS AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

Please note there is the need to climb a staircase to the first floor to view the collection.

We will travel individually by car and meet at 7:45 outside the venue. Please arrange a lift with another member if you require transport.

**DATE:** 7:45pm Wednesday 9th February  
**VENUE:** 39 Greenaway St  
BULLEEN 3105 Melway 32 D6  
off street parking available



## NEWS FROM VILLA ALBA

**TWILIGHT JAZZ AT VILLA ALBA**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 5th 6pm - 9pm**

Come along and bring your picnic tea and seating to enjoy this special event which will take place on the lawn at Villa Alba. Enjoy the great music of the '30s and '40s as presented by

**"THE SWEET LOWDOWNS"** [www.sweetlowdowns.com.au](http://www.sweetlowdowns.com.au)

A quartet of fine musicians, originally from Canberra

Enquiries - Diana Allen at Jazz Australia Ph:

Pay at the gate      \$15 per person      Children under 18 are free



**OPEN DAYS at VILLA ALBA**

are held on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of every month from 1pm to 4pm

**Admission:** Family \$15    Adults \$7      Concession \$5      Children under 12 free

**Villa Alba Museum Inc.** ~ 44 Walmer Street, Kew

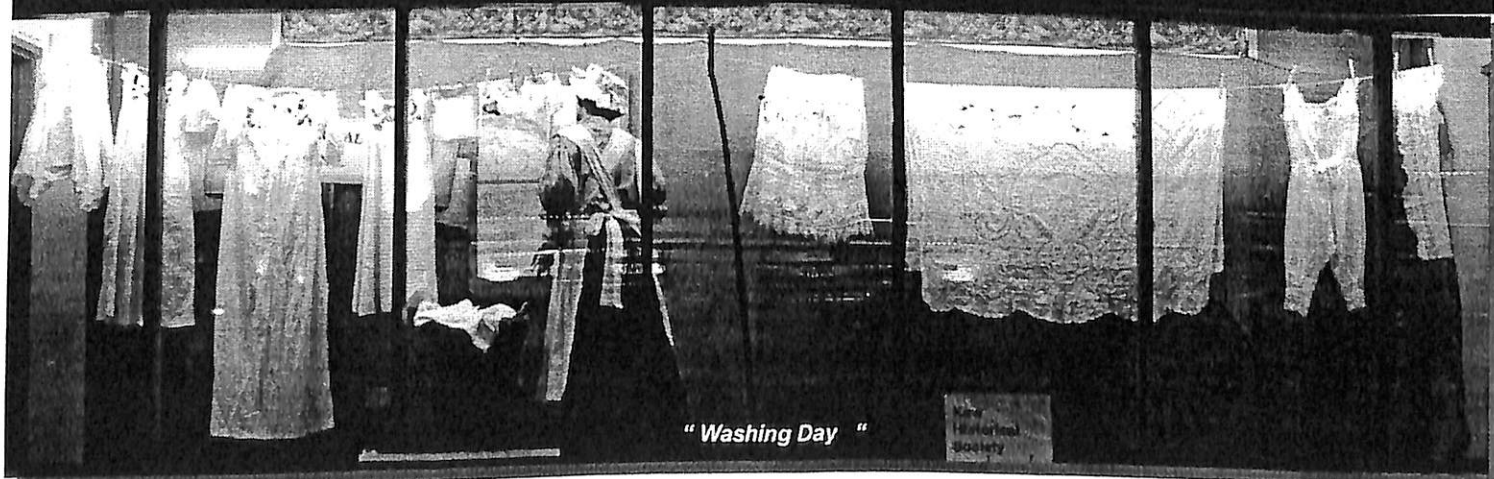
**For further information** [www.villaalbamuseum.org](http://www.villaalbamuseum.org)

**OFFICE BEARERS**

**2004 - 5**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Dione McIntyre	<b>ARCHIVIST</b>	Dorothy Benyei
<b>VICE-PRESIDENTS</b>	Jill O'Brien Margaret Robinson	<b>HON. ARCHITECT</b>	Peter McIntyre
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Thea Sartori	<b>CO-EDITORS PUBLICATIONS</b>	Tony Michael Margaret Robinson Ken Sillcock
<b>MINUTE SECRETARY</b>	Kym Sullivan	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Joan Simms Graeme Lindsay Rosemary Smart Lisa D'Acri
<b>TREASURER</b>	Lazlo Benyei		
<b>PUBLIC OFFICER</b>	Lazlo Benyei		

**DECEMBER WINDOW DISPLAY**



Our Display window is located at the south end of the Kew library.

The February Display will feature garments worn by Margaret Schofield during her long career as a concert pianist.

'Design & dressing of window' by Dione McIntyre & Dorothy Benyei

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although disappointed by the lack of response in our efforts to acquire the use of the unoccupied Kew Court House, in all other respects 2004 has been a successful and productive year for the Society.

We have supported the successful Heritage Listings of the Kew World War 1 Memorial and heritage buildings on the Kew Cottages site, and been relieved when the former Kew Presbyterian Church was purchased by the Chinese Baptist Church, after fearing for the future of this important Kew landmark.

Several of our members were listed among Boroondara's 150 most significant people. We have welcomed new members and regretted the inability of some older members to take part in our activities.

Recent flooding in the Local History section of the Kew Library has made us aware of the importance of the digitisation of our records.

Although our archive is in a raised section of the building and was not affected, there is a heightened awareness of the need for everything to be recorded and protected for the future.

We are still awaiting the Council's decision to provide adequate ventilation in the Archive room, as it is not possible for us to work there. Our application for a mezzanine to be constructed over the stage area has been deferred by Council. This could have effectively doubled the society's storage and working space.

We have had some very good speakers.

Highlights have been Peter Lynch of Parks Victoria, whose subject was "Studley Park", John Lancaster with a vast knowledge of "The Great Exhibitions", our own Ray Boothroyd, who entertained us with details of his work as a guide at Scienceworks, and new member Brad Miles who at short notice provided a spectacular display of Scouting memorabilia.

The Kew Festival Display included material from the MLC archives as well as our own collection. A contingent of members in historic costumes took part in the Street Parade, Bus and Cemetery Tours were conducted, and members provided a special session for local school children who attended on the Monday. We thank all those talented people who played apart in these activities.

Window displays have continued to attract interest and contributions to the archive, fund raising activities have been held and all our activities have been recorded by the camera of Tony Michael, including this year's episode of the Christmas Play held in December. We thank all who took part, particularly Ken Silcock for the script and sound effects and Graeme Lindsay for his outstanding set design.

We welcome Laszlo Benyei back as Treasurer and thank Betty Huston, our retired Secretary and thank all the stalwarts for their continued contributions. It is a great pleasure to be associated with such a wonderful group of people.

*Dione McIntyre*

January, 2005

## KEW FESTIVAL

4-13 MARCH 2005

As the Festival is being held earlier than usual this year, we will not be holding our usual 3 day display. Our participation will be as follows:-

**FRIDAY** 4th March 4pm

**SATURDAY** 5th March 10am-4pm

4pm  
11am

**SUNDAY** 6th March 2-4pm

2-4pm

Setup Historical Display in the Phyllis Hore Room

Display open

Dismantle Display

Participate in the Street Parade. We require members to march in the Street Parade. It is a lot of fun !! Can you assist? To volunteer, please contact our secretary Thea Sartori Ph:

Historical Bus Tour of Kew homes - meeting at 1:45pm

Bus leaves Civic Drive outside Phyllis Hore Room

Cemetery Tour - meet outside Boroondara Cemetery gates at 2pm

**NOTE:** Bookings required for both Sunday Tours

**CONTACT:** Dorothy Benyei

**GOURMET  
PRESERVES & PLANTS  
NEEDED FOR STALLS  
AS USUAL**

**KEW FESTIVAL** 4 - 13th March

[www.kewfestival.info](http://www.kewfestival.info)

**2005 CALENDAR****Wednesday 8pm**

We meet monthly in the Phyllis Hore Room on the second Wednesday of each month unless otherwise announced.

<b>February 9th</b>	The Costume Collection - Visit to Bulleen (see page 1 for details)
<b>March 9th</b>	The Outer Circle Railway - Ralph Newmark ✓
<b>April 13th</b>	The History of Photography - John Kees
<b>May 11th</b>	The Restoration of Monnington - Mr. Eager & Mrs. Lyn Hempill ✓
<b>June 8th</b>	Local Artist - - Speaker to be confirmed
<b>July 13th</b>	Vin Doquille ~ Spillers Pharmacy - "30 years in business in Kew"
<b>August 10th</b>	Ian Rennick - Kew Golf Club
<b>September 14th</b>	Members night - Margaret Robinson ✓
<b>October 10th</b>	Annual General Meeting - The Mayor of Boroondara
<b>November 9th</b>	Speaker to be confirmed
<b>December 14th</b>	Christmas Party <b>Note: 7pm start</b>

**NEW MEMBERS**

- Mrs. Virginia Kemp
- Ms. Mary Rose Stepp and family
- Ms. Pamela Naylor

**GIFTS & DONATIONS**

We always appreciate your contributions to our collection of memorabilia

- Betty Huston  
- Large cash box  
- Galvanised dipper
- Trinity Grammar School -  
3 volume History of  
Trinity Grammar School
- Joe Wormald - Kew  
History Book
- Marjorie Orr - Vintage  
Sandshoes
- Tony Michael  
2x DVD movies  
- Kew Festival - March  
2004  
- KHS Christmas play 2004

**VALE**

We record with sadness the passing of the following members

**IRENE STONES**, who joined in 1979, was actively involved as Assistant Secretary and later as Secretary. Her artistic flair, nurtured by Fred Agsmussen of Myer Christmas fame, contributed to our early displays. Her community involvement within Kew included Meals on Wheels, C.A.B., Ivan Wades Op-Shop and the Red Cross. She presented the society with our "Father Christmas" costume and a number of our models. She will be greatly missed.

**DYMPHNA COLEMAN**, who joined in 2001, led the Yarra Ramblers on walks of flora and historic interest. When her interests expanded to embrace the welfare of the Yarra and its environs, she initiated a weekly weed eradication and re-vegetation program on the Yarra River embankment and the Dickenson Reserve. In the 2003 Australia Honours she was awarded an OAM for her services to the community.

**PHYLLIS HEWITT**, who, with her late husband Frank, joined the Society in 1992.

**DIGITISATION OF RECORDS**

At a recent committee meeting, member Tony Michael outlined the reasons why the Society should begin digitising their archives of artefacts, photographs, texts and other materials as a way of preserving them and being able to share them for the future.

Ken Sillcock is very positive about the project and has contributed \$500 in support which was much appreciated. A sub-committee has been created and the project has commenced.

Soon we will be examining the establishment of our own website.

**EMAIL UPDATES**

Would you like to receive email updates in between newsletters?  
If so, contact the editorial team