

Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

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NEWS ITEMS

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

Est. 1958

CONTENTS

News Items	1
Kew Junction	1
Old Kew Residents	2
News from Villa Alba	3
Memories	3
Vale Stewart West	3
Kew's Rialto Cinema	3
Kew Post Office	3
Calendar of Events	4
Current Window	4
Recent Acquisitions	4
Membership Fees	4

Our visit to **Mrs Loel Thompson's Costume Collection** in February was likened by some members to entering an Aladdin's Cave. The quality and extent of the collection and the settings in which the items were displayed amazed us all.

The **Kew Festival** was again a great success despite the inclement weather. We were awarded "Best Interpretation of a Theme" for our parade entry.

Our **current window** display is a tribute to the world acclaimed Kew musician the late Margaret Schofield showing some of her concert gowns. It has created great interest. These gowns have been kindly loaned by her family. We specially thank Graeme Lindsay for his innovative grand piano. (photo of window p.4)

Dr Ralph Newmark gave a most interesting talk on the **Outer Circle Railway** in March, with visual presentation provided by Tony Michael. At short notice in April, Tony Michael gave a video presentation on the **History of Photography**.

Our visit to **Monnington** in May, at the kind invitation of our members Mr Tom Egan and Dr Lyn Hempill, gave us insight into the work involved in restoring a 19th century home which had for many years been a school for the deaf.

Professor Peter McIntyre, the society's Honorary Architect, gave a fine presentation in June on **26 Notable Houses in Kew**. Tony Michael provided interesting slides of each house mentioned in the talk. Members will be pleased to hear that Graeme and his helpers have made good progress with the modification of the loft space at the **archive room**. This will provide storage for non-combustible articles from our collection. The new cardboard storage boxes have now been installed and make the tasks of accessioning & retrieval much easier.

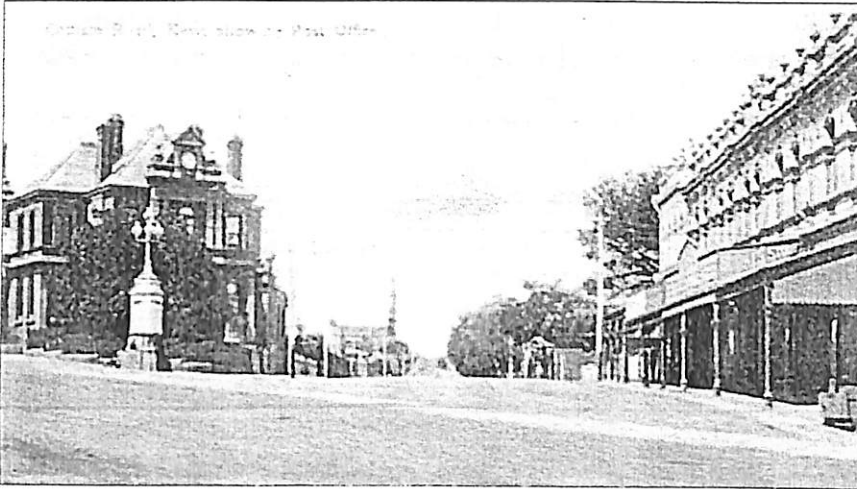


View from the Kew Junction, looking up High Street to Post Office- Some of the buildings on the left are still in place but very little remains on the right hand side today because of road widening. The tram lines can be seen in the road.

OLD KEW RESIDENTS

My great-grandfather, Charles Pickering, came to live in Kew in 1869. When he married Sarah Rose Knee they built their first house on the corner of Doncaster and Blackburn Roads where the East Doncaster Library now stands. They moved to Kew to manage a restaurant where Kew's Restaurant is today near the corner of High Street and Highbury Grove. Then they moved further along High Street to open a gift-boutique. There was a wood yard on the corner of Highbury Grove, then came Pickering's' garden, and next door again was the shop. Behind their shop was their house, the stables, and a beautiful fernery nearly as big as the house. There was another block facing Highbury Grove, and the backyards met in an inverted L shape around the wood yard.

The shop opened right onto the footpath. There was a little window between the house and the shop so that Rose Pickering could see when there were customers. She sold china and glassware, school needs, and various other goods like home grown rhubarb and Marchants lemonade. Her grand-daughter Elsie used to help in the shop. She had to walk to the Kew Post Office where there was a huge Morton Bay fig tree (where the War Memorial is today) to get £5 worth of stamps to sell in their shop. They received 5/- worth of half penny stamps as commission. On Saturday mornings the shop was particularly popular. On weekdays, bullock wagons coming from the forests of Warrandyte would find it hard to pull their load up the long hill beside the cemetery. When they reached the top, the bullocks would lie down to rest, and the drivers would go into the shop for a cup of coffee.



An old view of the Post Office with the Morton Bay fig

Afterwards they would go and shout at the bullocks to get them going again to the timber mills or the Fitzroy Wood Market.

Charles Pickering loved animals. People came from far and near with their sick animals, and he treated them at the back of his home. His home made linament with a secret recipe was very helpful in healing painful joints and limbs. He often drove in his jinker to visit relations at Doncaster and Templestowe. Once, when returning to Kew up the cemetery hill, the horse went to sleep and fell breaking his harness. He woke with a fright and bolted towards Kew Junction, leaving the jinker behind. Charles was tossed against the brick wall of the cemetery and people ran to rescue him. Then his frightened little grand-daughter Frances crawled from under the seat where she had been tucked up asleep for the journey home. Both she and her grandfather recovered from the accident.

Charles' elder brother Arthur was one of the founders of the Holy Trinity Church in Kew in 1856. He became a lay reader in 1858 and conducted services in the Peel Street school house before the church was built.

The Pickering family worshipped at Holy Trinity Church in High Street Kew. They were very musical. On Sunday evenings, they had early tea, then all went out to wait for the Salvation Army Band to pass their shop on the way to evening worship at the Citadel on the south-east corner of High and Charles Streets. Then they would go inside again and sing hymns around the piano with various musical instruments. (Today, one of the younger generation, John Pickering, is a world famous opera singer)

One of Charles' sons, also called Charles, worked at Jellis' Bakery in Studley park Road. One of his sisters, Edith Rose, learned millinery from Mrs Quick who had a hat shop at Kew Junction. Richard Morton Hand also worked at Jellis' Bakery He and Charles became friends. Richard and his brother Fred used to go with the young Pickerings to the Sons and Daughters of Temperance Meetings. Rose Pickering was an excellent pianist and played for dances and other musical occasions in Kew. Richard and Rose began courting while her father walked behind at a discreet distance in the approved fashion of those days. Most working men had holidays only at Christmas and Easter, so Richard and Rose were married at Easter 19 April 1897.

(to be continued)

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NEWS FROM VILLA ALBA

Our representative Jill O'Brien reports ever increasing attendances at their now monthly open days. Villa Alba Museum Inc. is open on the first Sunday of every month from 1pm to 4pm

MEMORIES

We remember the cheese of childhood,
And the bread we cut with a knife.
When the children helped with the housework,
And the men went to work, not the wife.

The cheese never needed an ice chest,
The bread was so crusty and hot,
The children were seldom unhappy,
And the wife was content with her lot.

We remember the milk from the billy,
With the yummy rich cream on the top,
Our dinner came hot from the oven,
And not from a fridge in a shop.

The kids were a lot more contented,
They didn't need money for "kicks",
Just a game with their mates in the paddock,
And sometimes the Saturday "flicks".

We remember the loo was the dunny,
And the pan man came in the night.
It wasn't the least bit funny,
Going out the back with no light.

The interesting things we discovered,
From newspapers cut into squares
That hung from a peg in the outhouse,
Gave us knowledge of world wide affairs.

We remember the slap on the backside,
And the taste of soap if we swore.
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of,
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do we think that all this bruised our ego?
Or our initiatives were quite destroyed?
We ate what was put on the table,
And our life was much better enjoyed.

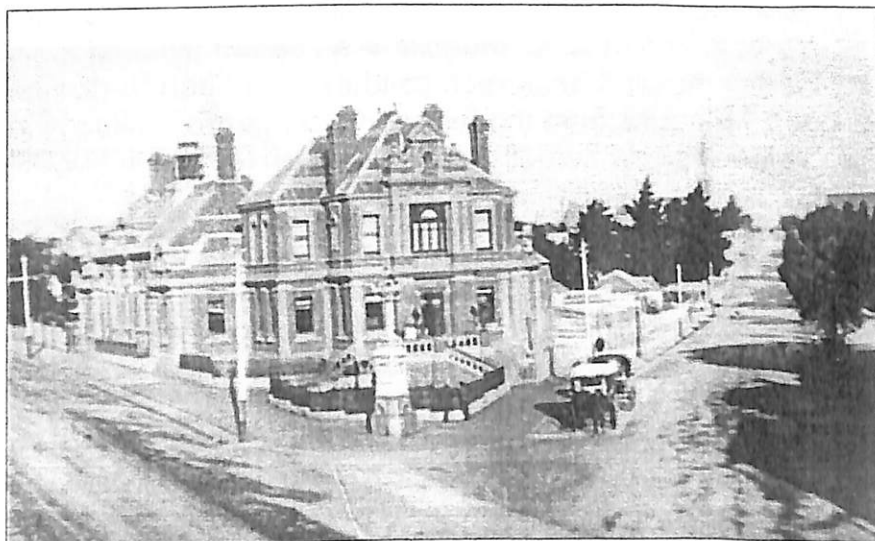
From: Heartbeat Wellington Newsletter with amendments

VALE

We record with sadness the death of Life Member **Stewart West**. Stewart was a faithful member of the society with a keen interest in all aspects of Kew. His late mother Mrs J West was our Honorary Secretary from 1965 to 1974, and Stewart inherited her love of history. It was he who first brought forward the idea of having a mezzanine floor in our Archive Room. It was he who produced photos for the Royal Historical Society "Then and Now" display. He it was, who for years, put out the chairs for our meetings, and his quiet quips and questions were always kind. He wrote beautiful poetry, some of which we hope to publish in future newsletters. Thank you Stewart for your friendship.



Do you have any memories of Kew's Rialto Cinema (see above)
Please share them with Gerry.
He wants to write an article detailing its history and layout.
Phone: 0407 741 871, leave your contact details & he will ring back.
Mr Gerry Kennedy, President & Archivist,
Cinema & Theatre Historical Society Inc.



Kew Post Office - this view is earlier than that on p. 2 as there is no Morton Bay fig tree. The Presbyterian church spire can be seen in the distance. There are tram lines in High St. but not in Cotham Rd. Does anyone know when the tram line was extended into and along Cotham Rd?

2005 CALENDAR

Wednesday 8pm

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

July 13th	Vin Doquille - "30 years at Spillers Pharmacy in Kew"
August 10th	Ian Rennick - Kew Golf Club
September 14th	Members night - Margaret Robinson
October 12th	Annual General Meeting - The Mayor of Boroondara
November 9th	Speaker to be confirmed
December 14th	Christmas Party Note: 7pm start

MEMBERSHIP FEES

2005-2006

DUE 1ST July 2005

- Individual \$15
- Family \$17
- Student \$5

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members

- Mrs. Sue Bakewell
- Dr Ralph Newmark
- Mr. & Mrs. M. Parkinson
- Dr David Pitt

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We always appreciate your contributions to our collection of memorabilia

- 1930's needle run lace wedding dress plus cap & a long dress with train from Elizabeth Angel
- Black skillet pan from Lois Butt
- Galvanized dipper, tins & plastic boxes, travelling trunk, hatbox, 2 cases, shoe bags & a long caftan from Betty Huston
- Xavier history donated via Margaret Robinson
- History of Kew Golf Club from Kew Library
- Police baton replica made and donated by Ray Boothroyd
- Bugle beads etc & 1920's lamp shades from Yvonne Stannard
- 5 cotton aprons, disposable underwear, gloves, pattern books & a swim suit belt from Prue McColl
- White sand shoes, waistcoat, "flower power" dress, school books & 2 photos in frames from Dione McIntyre
- 1970's preservation notes of 16 Princess St. & notes on Villa Alba from Jill O'Brien
- Shovel, cane cutter, reports from Woodbury College/ St Andrews College (Kew), posters, hairdryer & toilet case from Ann Ransom
- Collection of doilies, table runners, bolster & nightgown cases, black velvet & satin evening attire, length of white organza & a beaded evening top from Rosemary Vaughan-Smith
- Reefer jacket & snakeskin sandals from Thea Sartori

On Loan - Plaques from the former Kindergarten Training College in Madden Grove which included "Mooroolbeck", now demolished, have been loaned to our collection by Ms Charmain Wright of ACES

CURRENT WINDOW - A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET SCHOFIELD

