

Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

NEWSLETTER No. 79

SEPTEMBER 2005

A Spring Letter from the President

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

Est. 1958

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Dear Members

As we approach another Annual General Meeting, I would like to thank all those who have given their precious time to take part in our activities and helped to carry out the various duties which have enabled the Society to operate successfully for yet another year.

Attendances during the winter months have been most gratifying and we have welcomed several new members to our meetings.

This year the Committee has been divided up and given individual responsibilities, with the result that more people have become involved in dealing with the day to day operation of the Society. This has gone a long way to prevent the tasks of administration falling on the shoulders of a few.

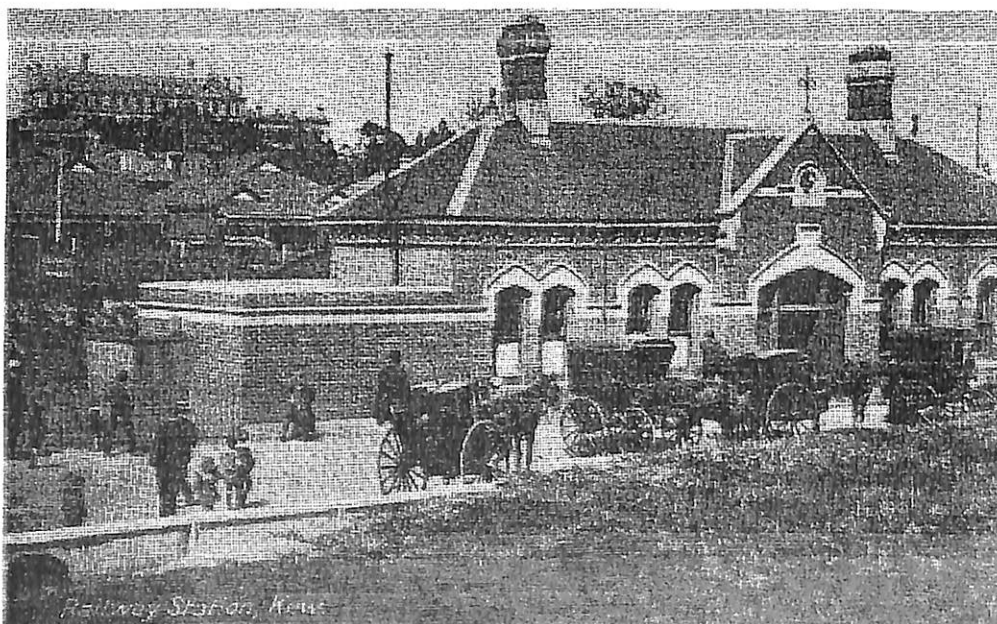
Time seems to be the main problem today and we all need time out in order to be able to continue with our daily responsibilities. By spreading the work the task of administration becomes equitable and rewarding.

Now that the air conditioning is restored, we are presently rationalising the use of available space in the archives room to incorporate an area for computers. This will enable us to proceed with the digitisation of our records, updating of tour guides, and setting up of newsletters and other material pertaining to the history of Kew.

We thank all of you who have so willingly played a part in all our activities this year and assisted with the planning of a full and entertaining programme for the coming months.

Yours most sincerely,

Dione McIntyre.



Kew Station c.1900

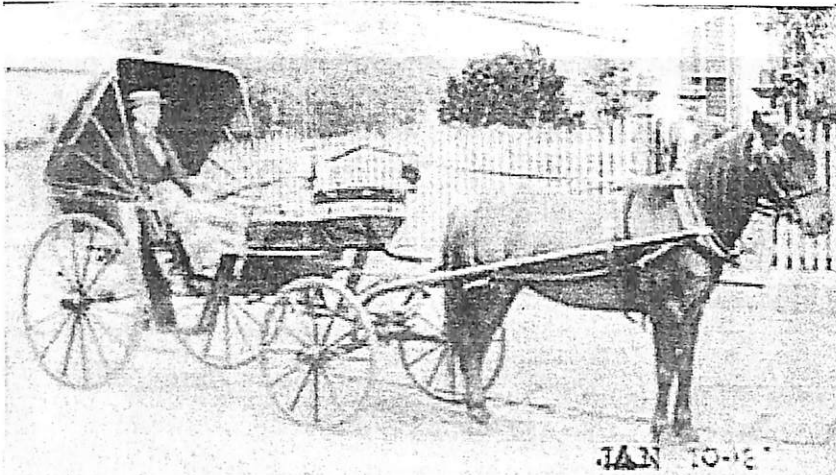
The line from Hawthorn closed and the overhead equipment and station buildings were demolished in 1959.

OLD KEW RESIDENTS

(continued from June Newsletter)

The wedding was at St. John's Heidelberg with the bride's uncle Arthur Pickering to conduct the service. Another clergyman uncle, Pastor Max. von Schramm, presented them with a Bible which he had inscribed. He was the husband of Kate Pickering, a daughter of Joseph Pickering. Fred Hand married Rose's sister Emily.

Maximillian von Schramm came to Victoria from Silesia during the gold rush period and became a teacher at Doncaster. He could speak six languages, Melbourne University, which began in 1853. often sent students to him for studies in the classics. In 1876, he was ordained as a Lutheran minister, and was the first resident pastor of Doncaster. The blue-stone cottage in which the von Schramm family lived at Doncaster Road where the Municipal Offices now stand, was moved to Victoria Road where it is open to the public and classified by the National Trust. As a child, my mother Florence, a daughter of Rose and Richard, used to be taken to visit her great-aunt Kate von Schramm in the little cottage.



Florence and her brother and sisters loved to visit their grand parents in Kew. When their father brought them by horse and buggy, they had to walk up the last steep hill of Glenferrie Road because it was too steep for the horse. Arthur, the youngest child, found it hard work too. Their mother usually took them once a month on a Saturday. They walked two miles to Sandringham station, then travelled by train to Richmond where they changed trains to Hawthorn. Here they would climb aboard a train on the single-line through Barker station (where a motel

stands now) to Kew station (where the Road Transport Authority buildings are today). Kew station was opened in 1887 and closed in the 1950s. Then they would walk up High Street to Pickering's shop.

Their uncle Fred Pickering had a barber's shop on the opposite side of High Street looking down Charles Street. The red brick building was made in 1890 and is still there today. In those days, there was a Chinese laundry and Underwood's bakery nearby. On the south-west corner of High and Charles Streets was a coffee palace. In later years, Fred sold the barber's shop and lived in the Highbury Grove. The old home on High Street where his parents had lived was rebuilt as a dairy in the early 1930s.

Another branch of the family had Kew connections. The Rev. Dr. John G. Paton came from Dumfries in Scotland to Melbourne in 1858 en route to the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), in the South Pacific, where he was a pioneer missionary. In later years, he lived for extended periods in Melbourne. Towards the end of the century, he rented the Presbyterian Manse in Highbury Grove Kew during the ministry of the Rev John Barnaby who was a bachelor. By 1900, he had purchased a home at 74 Princess Street Kew. There, in May 1900, his daughter Mary Ann (Min) was married to the Rev. John Gillan who was also a missionary in the islands. Their son John Whitecross Paton Gillan was born in the Princess Street home in 1903. He and his son John became third and fourth generation missionaries to Vanuatu. John Whitecross Paton Gillan married Florence Hand, and in their years of retirement, they lived in Kew, in the home which my sister and I now occupy.

Other members of the Paton family lived on Kew. The Rev Frank Paton, a son of John G. Paton, lived in Cotham Road on the corner of Kent Street (where Stillwell's garage is today). He became the first minister of the Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church in Bourke Road (near Cotham Road), which is called the Paton Memorial Church in his memory. John Whitecross Paton Gillan used to enjoy visits to his uncle's home while he was a boarder at Scotch College in East Melbourne. Frank's children all served with distinction in the ministry or as missionaries. George, the eldest, was a brilliant student at Scotch College. He became a Rhodes' Scholar, and later was Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting Of the Kew Historical Society Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 12th October 2005 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 2005
- (2) **Election of office bearers** for the year 2005/2006. 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. **Please contact Thea Sartori for Nomination forms**

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."

- (3) **Subscriptions** for the year 2005/2006 become due on 1st July 2005 and **are payable prior to the Annual General Meeting.**

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

The committee for 2004/2005 of elected and co-opted members was: Dione McIntyre - President; Jill O'Brien - Vice President & Villa Alba Museum Inc. rep.; Margaret Robinson - Vice President, Co-Editor of Publications, Newsletter Editor & B.H.S.A. rep.; Thea Sartori - Honorary Secretary; Kym Sullivan - Assistant Secretary; Lazlo Benyei - Honorary Treasurer & Public Officer; Dorothy Benyei - Archivist; Ken Silcock - Co-Editor of Publications & committee member; Tony Michael - Co-Editor of Publications, Digital Recording Officer & committee member; Lisa D'Acri - immediate past Vice President & committee member; Graeme Lindsay - committee member; Joan Sims - committee member; Rosemary Smart - committee member & B.H.S.A. rep.

NEWS FROM VILLA ALBA MUSEUM INC.

Villa Alba 's monthly open days continue to be well attended and the gate takings are swelled by the sale of donated plants at the plant stall

.Villa Alba Museum Inc. is open on the first Sunday of every month from 1pm to 4pm

'OW COMMISSIONERS CATERED FOR KEW

'Ast 'eard 'ow the Ramsbottom family
 Were involved in a famous to do?
 'twere abaht the Kew train, through to Melbourne
 And from Melbourne, the through train to Kew.

Mr. Ramsbottom 'ad the assurance
 That when Guard, 'is whistle 'ad blew
 'e'd go right through from Kew into Melbourne
 Withaht any changing' to do.

It were this way: in Ramsbottom family
 'twere father 'oo won all the bread
 So mother and Albert would take it in turns
 To give 'im 'is breakfast in bed.

This routine were constant and reg'lar
 It satisfied all withaht doubt
 Till some 'igh minded chaps in the Railways
 A remarkable change brought abaht.

At quarter to eight by the wireless
 'e'd hurriedly put on 'is pants
 And do oop 'is boots in the kitchen
 While listenin' to Norman McCance

They were playin' at Ludo one Friday
 When one said, 'As we've nothin ' to do
 Let's inaugurate "Spirit of Progress" '
 So they did, 'twas from 'Awthorn to Kew.

Then 'e'd kiss ma, and run for the station
 And 'e knew, when 'e left the front gate
 That if only 'is right leg suspender stayed put
 'e'd reach station by 'arf past the eight.

Now this change mucked up Ramsbottom system
 It made father feel quite a blob
 For through 'havin' to change trains at 'Awthorn
 'e was one minute late for 'is job..

To find the outcome, go to pages 186-7. of "A History of KEW" by Dorothy Rogers

2005 CALENDAR

Wednesday 8pm

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

October 12th	Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker - Cr. Phillip Healey of Studley Ward
November 9th	Guest Speaker - Sylvia Griffith from the Melbourne Chinese Baptist Church, the new owners of the Historic former Kew Presbyterian Church
December 14th	Christmas Party Note: 7pm start - see below
1st meeting 2006 - 14th February	N.B. There is no meeting in January

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

- Ms Valerie Bourke
- Dr John Hood
- Mr. Colin Martin
- Ms Tanya Warms

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY is on Wednesday 14th December, at 7.00 pm in the Phyllis Hore Room. Please bring a plate of finger food, heating facilities available.

Santa Claus asks everyone (members and guests) to bring a small wrapped gift, (about\$3) labelled for man or lady accordingly. This will be an entertaining evening for all..

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We always appreciate your contributions to our collection of memorabilia

- 2 pairs men's leather shoes c. 1930's - from Marjorie Orr
- A Brown felt hat, a black fascinator, a blue hat, some blue flower pieces for hair and a string of blue beads - from Anne Howlett
- Wedding portrait of Kathleen Cook nee Carrucan, a floral parasol, a linen bustle skirt, a fairing's ornament, a linen & crochet table cloth, a cotton & crochet cushion cover, a camisole and an undergarment, a wooden darning board with clip, 2 silk handkerchiefs, 2 linen table clothes, a cotton pillow slip, and a spindle backed cane bottomed chair - from Celestine Cook
- A copy of Kew Bicentenary booklet, a copy of information sheet re Alan Sumner and the "Four Seasons" window in the Kew Library, compiled by Jill O'Brien, a copy of "A History of KEW" - from Margaret Bertuch
- Papers etc re St Hilary's Church, garden tools, newspaper cuttings etc - from Heather Martin
- Hair clippers in box, an inkwell set, 3 bike trouser clips, kitchen & laundry equipment, Kew City Council tie, scarves, lapel pins, spoons and badges; a pair of binoculars, a wedding photo and part of the wedding dress of her late mother Mrs. Peg Young - from Mrs. J. Tutt

In our last Newsletter, we acknowledged receiving, on loan from the University of Melbourne, plaques from "Mooroolbeek", but we failed to acknowledge that Tony Michael had initiated contact with Claudia Wright, made a couple of visits to the University of Melbourne in Carlton and finally collected them and delivered (them) to KHS. We regret this omission

CURRENT WINDOW "A CENTURY OF BRIDES"-

