

Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

NEWSLETTER No. 81

JUNE 2006

Postal Address:
P.O. Box 175
Kew Vic 3101
No. A0010789W
ABN 97 824 890 237

President:

Mrs. Dione McIntyre
Ph:
Email:

Secretary:

Mrs. Thea Sartori
Ph:
Fax:
Email:

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

Est. 1958

CONTENTS

Save Kew Court House	1
A Letter from the President	2
Book Sale Review	2
Laszlo Benyei	3
Court House Area History	3
Calendar of Events	4
Current Window	4
Recent Acquisitions	4
Membership Fees	4



SAVE KEW COURT HOUSE

STOP STATE GOVERNMENT SALE OF LOCAL LANDMARK

Kew has lost too many public assets.

for example. the Civic Centre, Kew & East Kew Bowling Clubs, Kew Cottages

It's time to stop the sale of community assets.

We need heritage to pass on to future generations.

The Kew area needs a cultural centre for exhibitions, amateur theatre and community meetings.

The centrally located Court House precinct would be ideal for this purpose.

The Kew Historical Society has organized a Rally to save the Court House:

Rally: Saturday 24 June at 11am

In front of Court House (Melway45 C6)

Speakers to include:- Philip Brady, Cr. Phillip Healey,
Prof. Peter McIntyre.

Please come, bring friends too

For further information see : www.kewcourthouse.com
or phone or

A Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

This year took a flying start with the Commonwealth Games, closely followed by our first Book Sale. Since then we have progressed steadily towards the activities of the Kew Festival, and are currently working to save the old Kew Police Station and Court House from being sold at auction, which you have no doubt read about in your local newspapers.

Mid-year is upon us and there is plenty more to come.

We have missed some familiar faces at our meetings. Yvonne Knight, Rona Jenkins, Clarrie Thompson, Betty Morgan and Agatha Grey-Wilson having been such regular members over many years are not attending so often, but we are pleased that there have been some new recruits in our ranks, and so our prospects for the future are looking good..

Graeme Lindsay and his helpers have reorganised our limited archival space to make full use of every corner, and we now have made a clearing in which to set up computer equipment and begin the digitisation programme. We need volunteers to be trained to help with this project. It is an opportunity to learn and/or assist with this work, so please let us know if you are able to take part.

Jocelyn Clarke has begun assisting Dorothy in the archival department, Margaret is using her librarian skills to help Kym organise the Book Sales and also to edit the newsletter, and we are also grateful for the help given by Les, Trevor, Brad, Rodney, Sue, Ray and all of the hardworking committee, and for the assistance of Gwenda Ford and Pat McNamara, ex FOKL, for directing and helping at our first two Book Sales.

Our one great sadness has been the recent loss of our dear friend Laszlo Benyei. Laszlo and Dorothy have been the stalwarts of our Society for many years. Many of our members attended Laszlo's Memorial Service, and we all send our condolences to Dorothy and her family.

Laszlo was a most efficient Treasurer, and will be a hard act to follow.

Yours sincerely

Dione McIntyre

BOOK SALE REVIEW

Book Sale Sunday 19th February -

For the first Book Sale we had the Phyllis Hore room booked for a Saturday start at 1 pm. We used all the tables available and finished setting up after 5 pm. The help given by ex Friends of Kew Library in arranging and pricing, especially of hardback non-fiction books, was much appreciated. Many thanks to all who helped for a wonderful effort on both days. The Book Sale raised \$1500, which meant \$750 each for Kew library and KHS

Book Sale Sunday 21st May -

Setting up started at 6 pm Saturday, and finished after 9 pm. There were more books than last time so boxes of books were also placed under the tables.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in setting up, selling and dismantling at our Book Sale. It was a Herculean effort and you will be pleased to know that takings amounted to \$1,000 shared equally with the library.



BOOK SALE

SUNDAY 19th AUGUST

Setting up starts 9 am Sunday

SALE starts at 1 pm & stops at 4pm

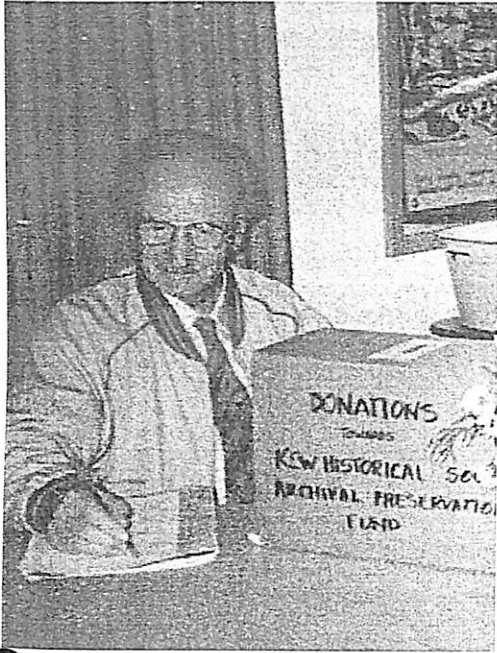
Clearing up starts 4 pm

Helpers are needed all day,
Especially before and after sale

Please put this date in your diary
and come

All help appreciated

Dr Laszlo Benyei A.M., 26th June 1920 - 22nd May 2006



It is with great sadness that the members of the Kew Historical Society record the death of our friend and dear fellow member. Laszlo was President for 3 years from October 1990 to October 1993 but his long-time contribution has been as Honorary Treasurer, where his careful management of the finances of the organisation were carried out quietly with simple precision. He will be much missed by us all.

On Saturday, 3rd June, a very moving Ecumenical Service was held at St Luke's Hungarian Reformed Church to celebrate Laszlo's life. Representatives of many churches affiliated with the Resettlement Department of the World Council of Churches and the Victorian Inter Church Immigration Committee gave their personal recollections of their respect and affection for Laszlo and their pleasure in working with him in the enormous task of new-arrival resettlement. This was his life and his passion, and he was personally involved in the "migration and resettlement of 80,000 refugees and other migrants in need".

In retirement, Laszlo could enjoy more regularly his love of music, and particularly church organ playing, which he first commenced as a fourteen-year-old boy in Hungary.

Dorothy and Laszlo Benyei celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary last year with sons Jamie and Jonathan, daughters-in-law Begona and Christine and grand-daughters Petra and Andrea. We extend our very sincere sympathy to Dorothy and the family.

KEW COURT HOUSE AREA HISTORY

The first land sales for Kew took place in the 1840's but it was not until 1851 that on the 16th of October Crown portion 86 was sold to Samuel Watts, Crown portion 86 was the triangular block of land extending from the Cotham Road, High Street intersection up High Street to the cemetery then south to Cotham Road.

In 1852 Samuel Watts sold this land to James Verin Morgan, John Quick, Samuel Derrick and William Derrick for £15 an acre. They divided the land between them, and William Derrick was allocated the first section. The next owner of the land appears to be William's son-in-law, James Bevan who, on a subdivision map prepared for an auction on 22 June 1872, is shown as owning the triangular piece of land from the corner to just past the site of present day Fred Young's.

The first mention of the present court house building is made in 1888 when it is recorded that;

"The fine block of public buildings erected in 1888, at a cost of £10,000, comprises the post office, facing the junction of High Street and Cotham Road; the court house, opposite Walpole Street; with the police station adjoining.

Barnard, F G A The Jubilee History of Kew, p. 64

On 16th October, 1851:—			
Portion.	Acres.	Purchaser.	per acre.
86	113	F. Fenwick and Edw. Bell	182/-
87	74	C. J. Whyte	123/-
88	81½	Peter Davis	84/-
89	110	Edw. Dumaresq	65/-
90	145½	Chas. Vaughan	61/-
91	146	Peel and Motherwell	69/-
92	84¼	C. Vaughan	71/-
93	32	S. Watts	125/-
94	122	N. A. Fenwick	86/-
95	196	Cath. Cowell	80/-
96	193	G. Annand	92/-
97	35½	W. Oswin	162/-
98	89½	Edw. Glynn	106/-

The positions of the various blocks are clearly indicated on the accompanying map of the Borough.

With the passing of time, the Post Office, Court House and Police Station buildings failed to meet modern requirements.

The Post Office was sold by the Commonwealth and is now a restaurant, bar and bistro.

At present the future of the Court House and Police Station complex is of vital concern to us all.

2005 CALENDAR**Wednesday 8pm**

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

July 12th	Mrs. Judy Goodes ,first secretary in 1958, - the beginnings of the KHS
August 9th	Members Night "Memories of getting to school"
September 13th	A Kew Business Person -
October 11th	Annual General Meeting - Andrew McIntosh MLA, Member for Kew
November 8th	A Kew School - to be confirmed .
December 13th	Christmas Party Note: 7pm start

A Reminder that
MEMBERSHIP FEES
for 2006-2007
fall due on
1ST July 2006

The fees are

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

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm
welcome to the following
new member

- Ms. Pamela Richardson

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We always appreciate your contributions to our collection of memorabilia

- A leather upholstered couch and various household items including tins, jars, dippers, bottles, buckets wooden box, garden tools and a tin trunk, kitchen implements including a mincer, , a folding sleeve board, 2 hats, 3 vases, cane basket, 3 plastic table cloths (to be used for fairs etc)) and some beads from Miss Phyllis Knight
- A large collection of clothing from Thea Sartori
- One aerial photograph and two enlarged photographs of East Kew , near Burke Road and Cotham Road, enclosed in glazed frames, from Mr. Alan Wilson
- A buggy basket, wedding photograph, pair of cane sleeve protectors, lifebuoy souvenir from RMS"CHINA", and 3 lace collars from Mrs. Elizabeth Angel.
- Singer sewing machine and Royal Doulton dinner ware from the Dodds family.
- A small empty First Aid box which is in the process of being re-stocked with relevant items such as band aids, tweezers, gauze and antiseptic to cater for minor injuries

CURRENT WINDOW -