

Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

NEWSLETTER No. 85

SEPTEMBER 2007

Postal Address
P.O. Box 175
Kew Vic 3101
No. A0010789W
ABN 97 824 690 237

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

Mystery Walks	1
Memo from our President	2
Kew Festival	2
Committee 2006-7	3
Book Sales	3
Citizen of the Year	3
Villa Alba Museum	3
Calendar of Events	4
Membership Fees	4
New Members	4
Recent Acquisitions	4
Current Window	4

'Court House Happenings'



On 27th of August, with very short notice, we showed over 80 grade 3 and 4 students plus teachers and helpers from Sacred Heart Primary School in two groups through the Court House. To make it more interesting we presented two playettes depicting the Kew Magistrate's Court in the 1880's - one involved shoplifting, the other the theft of flowers from the Cemetery.

Our actors, in full costume (from our collection), were:

Wendy Baden-Powell, Ray Boothroyd, Les Littlechild, Margaret Robinson, Philip Slobom and Rosemary Smart. Their performance was excellent and the children and teachers were delighted.

Up coming Events at the Court House

Please phone to confirm dates and times

Bookings essential - ph 9836 6589 or 0407 548 116

October Sunday 7th Mystery Walk - 2pm & 3.30pm

'The Court House Unlocks its Doors'

-\$10 incl. Tea/Coffee cake - Assemble at the adjacent QPO Bar & Bistro 10 mins. prior

Friday 12th "Trial by Jury" & highlights from "Ruddigore" - 8pm

Saturday 13th Savoy Opera Company Tickets \$10/\$15

Tuesday 16th Studley Ward Meeting - Cr Phillip Healey 9.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday 28th Concert - Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club 20 pc Band with Judy Turner - 2pm.

Get happy with Fiddles, Viola, Harp, Double Bass, Piano, Ukelele, Saxes, Clarinet, Guitar with Songs Foot tapping for all Ages. Fundraiser \$20

November Sunday 4th Mystery Walk - 2pm & 3.30pm

'The Court House Unlocks its Doors'

-\$10 incl. Tea/Coffee cake - Assemble at the adjacent QPO Bar & Bistro 10 mins. prior

Sunday 25th Concert - Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club - 7 pc Home Band with Judy Turner - "New Dogs Old Tricks" - 2pm.

Get happy with Fiddles, Viola, Harp, Double Bass, Piano, Ukelele, Saxes, Clarinet, Guitar with Songs Foot tapping for all Ages. Fundraiser \$20

Wednesday 28th Performance National Playright Competition 2007 and Awards Presentation by Cr Phillip Healey - 7.30pm.

December Sunday 2nd Mystery Walk - 2pm & 3.30pm

'The Court House Unlocks its Doors'

-\$10 incl. Tea/Coffee cake - Assemble at the adjacent QPO Bar & Bistro 10 mins. prior

Saturday 8th Christmas in the Court House - Melbourne 20 pc Scottish Fiddle Club With Special Christmas Bagpipes and Judy Turner - 8pm. Foot tapping for all Ages Fundraiser \$20

A piece from the PRESIDENT

Members of the Committee have spent many hours this year promoting the cause of the Kew Court House Restoration Appeal campaign

At a recent function held in the Court House special guests were invited to witness a presentation by the Former Chief Justice of Victoria, Prof. Hon. John Phillips AC presenting "An Irish Tragedy", (the saga of Ned Kelly)

The following poem was read as part of a speech by Peter McIntyre which followed the presentation, in which he described the Restoration Campaign and appealed for those present to become Sponsors of the Appeal.

The poem sums up the background of the campaign, and the vital part played by the Kew Historical Society in initiating the Appeal: -

An Ode to the Old Kew Court House

By Dione McIntyre

This handsome pile of masonry
Of brickwork, red as scoria
Has stood upon this island site
Since days of Queen Victoria

It's witnessed many passing years
Of poverty and passion,
Of two World Wars, and hopes and fears
And ever-changing fashion.

Relentlessly the changes came,
The Court was first to go
The Postal Hall became too small
And cracks began to show.

The pigeons moved into the roof,
Policeman, they did stay,
A quiet descended on the site -
The people stayed away.

A chemist bought the Old P.O.
Lattés replaced the mail
And then to everyone's dismay
The Court House was 'For Sale'.

"They also want to buy the Court,
And all the rest, as well!",
A drive-through bottle shop was thought
Far better than a cell.

Still life went on around it
And few expressed concern,
Then one by one the voices stirred
And wheels began to turn.

'Allow the coppers to remain,
A presence in our midst
For then we'll all feel safer
With the crime rate as it is'.

The cops moved out, and all was quiet
Their absence took its toll.
The epicentre of Old Kew
Had fallen in a hole

**The KHS took up the case -
"Our Heritage at stake.
Do something to protect it,
- Petitions to the State
and Local Politicians
Before it is too late."**

This precious island site of ours
Of Heritage to treasure
Must now be used for something else
Apart from drunken pleasure.

We need it for communal use
And owe it to the nation
"Protect the built environment"
- Adapt for for creation".

A Cultural Hub for all to use
- The whole of Boroondara
For Theatre and for Cultural Groups
On this side of the Yarra.

So, as we welcome you tonight
We have to raise two million
To make the building watertight
A cultural pavilion
(a place to hone your skill in)

So -

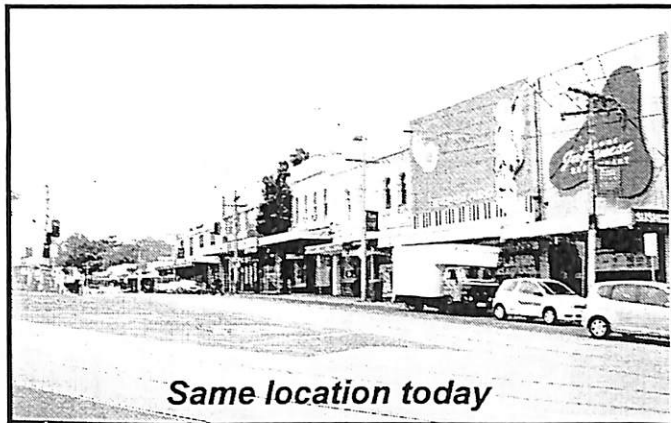
"Hear Ye!", "Hear Ye!" when we say: -

"Become a sponsor, Right away!"

TRAMS OF KEW



C. 1913 photo donated by May Donovan



Same location today

2007 photo by Tony Michael

Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust tram No. 20 sitting in Cotham Road Kew outside the rear of the Post Office at High Street. The Tram is about to depart for Deepdene; date of the photo is some time between the opening day of the 30th May 1913 and 24th February 1915 when the line was extended down to the Victoria Bridge cable tram Terminus, but on the Kew side of the Yarra River.

It is understood the date to be about 1915 as the Tram has gained its roof mounted Destination box but still sports its earlier apron mounted box.



Photo from Rod Atkins

The second photo is the opening in Cotham Road at Gellibrand Street and Cotham Rd. on 30th May 1913. We believe the final few meters of track to the Post Office were laid shortly after the official opening. This photo only came to light again this year. There is a lot of detail in this photo on what was a cold Melbourne day.

Source: Council of Tramway Museums of Australasia Inc., Executive Officer - Rod Atkins - Historic Tram fleet at the Hawthorn Tram Depot in Wallen Rd



**Founder Brother
Patrick G O'Neill**

50th GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF ST PAULS

On the 27th July 2007, St Pauls College (Villa Maria) at 6 Studley Park Road, (Cnr Fernhurst Gve) celebrated its 50th Golden Jubilee anniversary at the location in Kew.



Archbishop F Little & John De Bono

The mass was conducted by Archbishop Frank Little and the principle John De Bono and many pupils, past pupils and families were in attendance. Archbishop Little has had a long association with St Pauls over many years.

Articles this page Tony Michael



St Pauls in 1957

KEW COURT HOUSE CAMPAIGN

Story in images

Friday 23rd June 2006



1st Rally - Saturday 24th June 2006



2nd Rally - Saturday 17th August 2006



3rd Rally - Saturday 18th November 2006



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding

Saturday 15th September 2006



On Monday 2nd April 2007, the City of Boroondara signed the contract purchasing the former Kew Court House and Police Station from the State Government for the sum of \$825,000.00.

We will continue to raise funds for the restoration.

Photos this page Tony Michael

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting Of the Kew Historical Society Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 10th October 2007 at 8 p.m. in the Phyllis Hore Room, rear of 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 2007
- (2) **Election of office bearers** for the year 2007/2008.

According to our Rules approved under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981, **all positions become vacant.** The elected Committee positions are a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Minute Secretary, a Treasurer, a Public Officer, an Archivist, and two Committee Members.

Any member wishing to nominate a member for any position on the Committee should obtain a nomination form from the Secretary.

Please contact Dione McIntyre 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 2007/2008 become due on 1st July 2007 and are payable prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- (4) Any other business of which prior notice has been given

The committee for 2006/2007 of elected and co-opted members was:

Dione McIntyre - President;

Margaret Robinson - Vice President, Co-Editor of Publications, Newsletter Editor, B.H.S.A. rep.

Thea Sartori - Honorary Secretary; & Public Officer

Kym Sullivan - Minute Secretary (resigned 14 February 2007)

Jill O'Brien - Honorary Treasurer & Villa Alba Museum Inc. rep.;

Dorothy Benyei - Archivist;

Ken Sillcock - Co-Editor of Publications & committee member;

Tony Michael - Co-Editor of Publications, Digital Recording Officer & committee member;

Lisa D'Acri - immediate past President & committee member;

Graeme Lindsay - committee member & Kew Festival rep.;

Joan Simms - committee member & hospitality co-ordinator;

Rosemary Smart - committee member & B.H.S.A. rep.

BOOK SALE

SUNDAY 18th November

Setting up starts 1:30 pm Saturday

SALE starts at 1 pm & stops at 4pm

Clearing up starts 4 pm

Helpers are needed both days,
Especially before and after sale

Please put this date in your diary
All help appreciated



BOOK SALES

Our final big book sale for the year will be held on **SUNDAY 18th NOVEMBER**, 1pm to 4pm, in the Phyllis Hore Room .

This is the same day as the Trinity Grammar School Founder's Fair so there should be a lot of people in the area on that day, and we hope to move a lot of the backlog of books

Kym would appreciate hearing from you if you are able to assist with setting up on Saturday 18th November (from 1:30 pm) and/or assist on the day of the sale, particularly after 4pm. .

2007 CALENDAR**Wednesday 8pm**

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

October 10th	Annual General Meeting The Mayor Cr. Phillip Healey
November 14th	Mr. Charles Harkin - Boroondara Cemetery Trustee - Boroondara Cemetery
December 12th	Christmas Party Note: 7pm start
1st meeting 2008 - 13th February	N.B. There is no meeting in January

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY is on Wednesday 12th December, at 7.00 pm in the Phyllis Hore Room

Please bring a plate of finger food. Heating facilities are available. Santa Claus asks everyone (members and guests) to bring a small wrapped gift, (about \$3-\$5) labelled for man or lady accordingly. This will be an entertaining evening for all..

Our dear friend Bill Reeve is unable to act the role of Santa this year due to ill health We greatly appreciate his help over the past 16 years and send him our loving good wishes

A Reminder that
MEMBERSHIP FEES
for 2007-2008
fall due on
1ST July 2007

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

We invite all interested people to join our society and enjoy our speakers and discussions on local history in an atmosphere of warm friendship.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to our new member

- Terrell De Lacy

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Our sincere thanks for the following:

- recipe book, scarf, Certificate of Title and papers - Heather Martin
- St Paul's College Jubilee Booklet and DVD - Tony Michael
- 5 DVDs - Tony Michael - Interviews with May Donovan (2), Cr Martin Solomons, D J Young Andrew McIntosh
- Lavender Flowers - Dione McIntyre
- Books for book sale, Canvas Bed, brass sprayer - Kew Elderly Citizens
- Tea spoons - Margaret Robinson
- Certificate of Title 16 Davis Street, Kew - Helen D Harris
- Stage Coach Thermos flask with leather protective cover - Raie Brunette

WANTED—for storage of Archive articles - Pure Cotton (not synthetic) pillow cases and/or sheets. We are grateful to donors of the above in the past - We use a lot.

VILLA ALBA MUSEUM INC.

At our last meeting Jill O'Brien presented a resume of the history of Villa Alba and the part played by The Kew Historical Society in its establishment, dating from our letter of support to the Kew City Council in 1982.

Jill now wishes to retire from her role as our representative on the Villa Alba Museum Inc. Committee. Our President expressed our sincere thanks Jill for her dedicated service for these past 25 years.

Please Note Whilst the house of Villa Alba Museum Inc. is closed for repairs, the garden will be open on the first Sunday of each month and admission is free