

Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958

This is No 87



Incorporated 1987

NEWSLETTER No. 87

JUNE 2008

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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

Est. 1958

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Dear members and friends,

Very soon the scaffolding will be going up around the Kew Court House and Police Station to mark the first major milestone in its restoration.

The State Government through Heritage Victoria has awarded a Grant of \$250,000 towards the restoration of the building, and this will enable work to proceed on total restoration of the roof.

This will extend the life of the buildings for many, many years to come. It is a great relief to us all and true cause for celebration.

Council officers, Councillors and Members of Parliament who have supported the project are to be thanked and congratulated.

We sowed the seed, but it was they who have brought this about.

The project has received recognition in two recent draft reports commissioned by the City of Boroondara.

The Kew Junction Draft Report recognises the buildings for their heritage value and as a potential Community Centre for the Arts, and the Draft Strategy for Arts and Culture in the City of Boroondara views it as a potential place for small-scale performing, literary, heritage arts and cultural activities.

The buildings now have the potential to become not only an important part of our heritage, but also an important element in the cultural life of Boroondara.

The Arts and Culture Strategy Report is now open to Community Comment before it goes back to Council for final adoption.

It is important therefore that we all take this opportunity to respond in writing, stating our individual views and support for these recommendations.

We enclose a summary of the relevant points made regarding the Kew Court House and Police Station as a guide, to assist you.

PLEASE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE AND VOICE YOUR SUPPORT, TO ENSURE FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THIS ASPECT OF THE REPORT WHEN THE COUNCIL MAKES ITS FINAL DECISION.

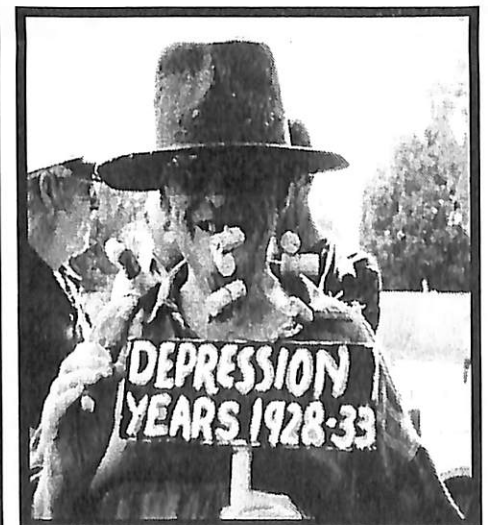
The Heritage Grant together with the Commonwealth Grant of \$300,000, brings the Appeal result so far very close to the \$1,000,000 mark.

Further events planned for the coming months will be announced soon.

With warm wishes to you all.

Dione McIntyre

2008
Kew Festival
Parade



Photos from Kew Historical Society archives taken by T. Michael.

The City of Boroondara has commissioned Geografia to prepare a Strategy for Arts and Culture in the City of Boroondara. A draft of this report was submitted to Council in May, and is now up for Community Consultation prior to its final presentation. It is important that we take this opportunity to state our views on the future use of these buildings which we have been fighting so hard to retain for the community.

The Draft Report is a document of 179 pages which is inaccessible to some of you, and so we are including a summary of those points from the report which make reference to the Kew Court House & Police Station, and request that you all write individual letters expressing your views in the light of this information.

Please address your letters to:-

Martin Foot
Cultural Services Coordinator
City of Boroondara
Private Bag 1
Camberwell 3124

(In the following summary, the City of Boroondara is referred to as CofB and the Kew Court House and Police Station as KCH&PS).

- Page 15 The Hawthorn TH and KCH are ideal Cultural Hubs due to their available space, heritage value and location to other activities and transport services.
- Page 17 Boroondara residents surveyed during the study indicated support for Local Council investment in Arts and Culture. However CofB has not invested in Arts and Culture to the same extent as its neighbours (less than half per capita).
- Page 20 In order to flourish, Arts and Cultural organizations need financial support, security of tenure, and affordable and appropriate space, which is in limited supply in Boroondara. There is no single public facility in B. that can meet all of these needs. The Hawthorn TH and KCH&PS offer the best prospects for anchoring arts and cultural activities in B. for the medium term. The need for spaces for studio workshops leads to the conclusion of using the KCH as an Arts Incubator, while at the same time not losing its public space role. Issues include: management arrangements and ongoing funding.

The report goes on to suggest a network of facilities. The following references refer to KCH&PS:-

- Page 21 Use of the KCH&PS for small-scale performing, literary and heritage, arts and cultural activities. The KCH would be a place for both the production of arts and cultural output.
- Page 22 Lack of space for rehearsing, exhibiting and performing is the single most pressing issue in B.
- Page 24 Arts & culture are an important part of the social, economic and cultural fabric of the city. We aim to make the CofB a place in which residents and visitors can provide, create and enjoy arts and cultural activities in a local setting.
- Page 28 Objective 1: Provide new, activate existing and develop appropriate cultural environments.
Objective 2: Ensure that the arts and cultural spaces in B. are efficient & effective.

Action: Develop the KCH&PS as an Arts& Cultural Hub for the production & presentation of local arts and cultural activities through exhibitions, plays, musical recitals and workshops.

- Page 29 The KCH&PS provides an opportunity to develop an Arts Incubator for new and emerging talent.
- Page 58 The KCH has the capacity to be an effective arts incubator.
- Page 59 There is a high level of local amenity in the Kew Business Centre.
- Page 74 There is a high level of volunteerism in the local community (23.4%)
- Page 82 The Kew Court House has a seating capacity of 75 seats, plus multiple small meeting and storage rooms in the adjoining Police Station.

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS OF KEW

Have you ever wondered about the rectangular horse trough, now used to grow flowers, which stands near the entrance to the Boroondara Cemetery? In 1856 large two-horse buses ran from Hawthorn to Kew. In 1887 the first horse drawn tram from Victoria Bridge began its service to and from the Boroondara Cemetery gates. It collected passengers alighting from the cable tram service which terminated at the bridge. These journeys necessitated watering the horses at the cemetery gates. The driver would unhitch the horses, take them across to the lane where the water trough stood and let them have a drink then return to the tram and re-hitch them to the other end of the tram ready for the return journey.

This trough, which was restored and placed here as part of the Bicentennial celebrations in 1988, is one of several which were in Kew until electric trams, trains and motor vehicles took the place of horse drawn transport. More than 500 similar troughs were erected in Australia mostly in New South Wales and Victoria, and some in overseas countries – England, Ireland, Switzerland (for donkeys) and Japan. These troughs were erected as the result of a large bequest from the Estates of George and Annis Bills, a childless couple, who assisted many causes especially those involved in the welfare of animals. George was a life governor of the RSPCA and in his will directed that the income from the residue of his estate be used for the welfare of animals “building drinking troughs for horses and other dumb animals for the alleviation of suffering animals in any country”. Applications for troughs were made to the trust which were then supplied and erected free of charge, but councils had to accept responsibility for maintaining them and seeing they were continuously filled with clean water. Each trough carried the same inscription:

DONATED BY
ANNIS & GEORGE BILLS
AUSTRALIA

Along side the horse trough is a hitching post which originally stood outside the old Kew Town Hall in Walpole Street.

The acquisition of both the horse trough and hitching post was due largely to the foresight of our Treasurer, then Kew City Councillor, Jill O'Brien.

BOOK SALES

These will be held in the Phyllis Hore room from 1 to 4 pm on Sundays.

Book Sale Dates for 2008:

August	16th Saturday Set up 1:30 →	17th Sunday Sale 1:00 - 4:00 Clean up 4:00 →
November	15th Saturday Set up 1:30 →	16th Sunday Sale 1:00 - 4:00 Clean up 4:00 →

Setting up starts at 1:30 pm on the Saturday before the sale and continues until finished.

The sale starts at 1pm on Sunday and finishes at 4pm. Clearing up starts at 4pm on Sunday

Donations of good saleable books are very welcome. These can be left at the Kew Library.

The Library will continue to be involved and the proceeds from the book sales will be shared.

We would welcome your help in setting up from 1:30pm Saturday and/or cleaning up on Sunday from 4.00pm



BOOK SALE

SUNDAY 17th August

(Setting up starts 1 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
and come

All help appreciated

2008 CALENDAR

Wednesday 8pm

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

July 9th	Member Travel Night
August 13th	Gerry Petrie Kew Council
September 10th	Dr Des Parkin History of Glass Creek
October 8th	Annual General Meeting The Mayor Cr. Coral Ross
November 12th	Family History
December 10th	Christmas Party Note: 7pm start

RECENT DONATIONS

We appreciate the following donations:

- Black "jam-tin" billycan for Swagman's outfit — Ray Boothroyd
- 2008 Kew Festival Parade photographs — Tony Michael
- Trinity Scout scarf, and "Yarra " — Peter and Dione McIntyre
- Purse and compass — Heather Martin
- "A Journey Through Melbourne's East" — Fletchers

The unveiling of the restored horse trough and hitching post on 19th March 1988 - A Kew Bicentennial Restoration Project.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES
2008-2009**

These are due on 1st July each year

- 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 the following new member

- David Benwell