

# Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

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

*Est. 1958*

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## 50<sup>TH</sup>. ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. September, 1958, seventeen people attended the meeting at "Lanreath", home of Cr. W.H.S. Dickinson at 196 Cotham Road. This event marked the beginning of the Kew Historical Society.

Since that historic occasion, the monthly gatherings have continued, and our members have worked together to record and preserve the history of Kew. Names and faces have changed many times over the ensuing years, but the tradition that was established at that first meeting has continued to flourish and grow, so that we are now able to celebrate the Society's 50<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary.

It is normal to mark an anniversary such as this with the publication of a book or by the dedication of some historic object. However, for the past 6 years our major effort has been directed towards the achievement of our greatest goal so far – the saving of the Kew Court House and Police Station, and fundraising for its restoration.

After the doors closed in 2002 and the buildings were to be sold by the State Government, our members have made every effort to raise the money and to support the Court House Restoration Appeal.

Whilst recent changes to government policy may cast doubt upon the Community Support Fund Grant of \$330,000, we are pleased to announce that work on the roof will begin shortly, funded by the \$250,000 Grant from Heritage Victoria. This will ensure that there is no further rain or pigeon damage.

Two recent reports commissioned by the city of Boroondara reinforce the value of the project. The recent Arts & Cultural Strategy, stressed its importance as a centre for small group cultural & creative activities, and the Kew Junction Plan, its importance to the streetscape, its historic value and potential as a community facility.

Restoration and re-use of the Court House Complex will have a flow-on effect to the whole community. It will encourage community interaction and creativity, revitalise local business and preserve Kew's history.

*Looking forward to seeing you,*

*Dione McIntyre. (Pres.)*

### YOUR VERY SPECIAL INVITATION TO OUR

## 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

**WHEN:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>. October 2008    **TIME:** 8pm

**Our 50<sup>th</sup> AGM & Celebration Party**

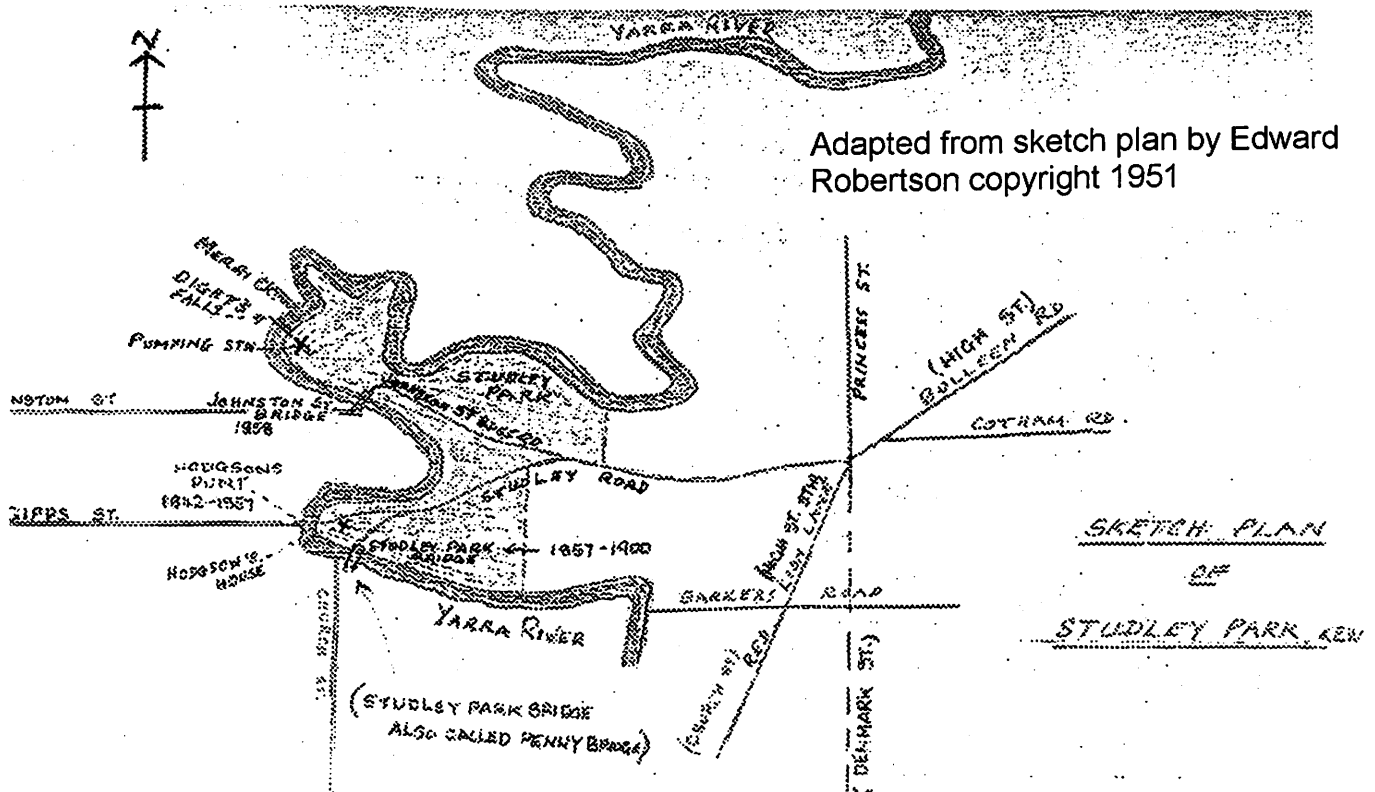
**SPEAKER:** Cr. Coral Ross, Mayor of Boroondara.

*Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library, Civic Drive, Kew.*

## BRIDGES OF KEW - Part 1

"The River Yarra forms a natural boundary for Kew, but also forms a barrier which has to be surmounted in order to provide communications with the city and northern suburbs."

*Kew's first Bridge...* "at the end of the old disused road in Studley Park once stood the Studley Park Bridge, or 'Penny Bridge', as it was known, as foot passengers were charged a toll of one penny. It was a wooden bridge built by a private company at a cost of about \$900, and was opened for traffic on June 6, 1857. It was a convenient link with Church Street, Richmond. The bridge had a precarious existence and, after the abolition of tolls in 1878, it soon fell into disrepair and was removed. A footbridge, the Collins Bridge, has since been erected to give Collingwood residents access to Studley Park and the children's playground which has been installed on the river banks."



**"Johnston Street Bridge.**— The present Johnston Street Bridge is the third structure on the site. The first, called the "New Bridge" by Bonwick, was erected by the government and opened with great rejoicings on the part of Collingwood citizens in 1858. It was a wooden structure consisting of two huge arched girders composed of numerous lengths of timber strapped and bolted together, set between stone abutments 180 feet apart. From the arches the floor of the bridge was hung. It is said to have cost £30,000, with £20,000 additional for the approaches, a very considerable cutting having to be made on the Kew side.

This bridge had a short life. Dry rot got into the timbers and its care was one of the first duties imposed on the Kew Council in 1861. Later some £750 was spent in building a staging under the bridge to prevent it falling into the river, and during the great flood of 1863 fears were entertained for its safety. However, it lasted until 1876, when an iron span bridge erected on stone abutments took its place. It has been suggested that the ironwork in this bridge was one of the spoils of the Crimean War, we have been unable to obtain official confirmation of it.

Placed at the end of a sharp bend, this bridge became a traffic hazard with the increasing speed and volume of motor vehicles. For many years Kew and Collingwood were concerned with this aspect, as well as the deterioration in the condition of the structure.

After many delays, the State Government commissioned the Country Roads Board to build a modern structure to line up with Johnston Street and Studley Park Road. It was completed in 1958 and cost £317,106, towards which Kew and Collingwood have each to contribute one-eighth. A magnificent job was done and the new bridge provides a more fitting approach to Kew."

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting Of the Kew Historical Society Incorporated will be held on Wednesday 8th October 2008** 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 2008
- (2) **Election of office bearers** for the year 2008/2009.

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 or President.

**Please contact Dione McIntyre or 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 2008/2009 become due on 1st July 2008 and **are payable prior to the Annual General Meeting**.
- (4) Any other business of which prior notice has been given

The committee for 2007/2008 of elected and co-opted members was:

Dione McIntyre - President;

Philip Slobom -Vice President & Assistant Secretary

Margaret Robinson - Vice President, Newsletter Editor, B.H.S.A.rep., Villa Alba rep.;

Thea Sartori - Honorary Secretary; & Public Officer

Jill O'Brien -Honorary Treasurer

Dorothy Benyei - Archivist;

Tony Michael - Digital Recording Officer & committee member;

Graeme Lindsay - Kew Festival rep.;

Joan Simms - committee member & hospitality co-ordinator;

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

### BOOK SALE

**SUNDAY 16th November**

Setting up starts 1:30 pm Saturday

SALE starts at 1 pm & stops at 4 pm

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



This will be our final big book sale for 2008.

Donations of good clean books are much appreciated.

Kindly label all donations

- KHS BOOK SALES

and leave with Kew Library staff during opening hours.

Kym would appreciate hearing from you if you are able to assist with setting up on Saturday 15th November (from 1:30 pm) and/or assist on the day of the sale, particularly after 4pm.

**2008 CALENDAR****Wednesday 8pm**

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

<b>October 8th</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting &amp; 50th Birthday celebration</b>  Guest Speaker: Cr. Coral Ross Mayor of Boroondara
<b>November 12th</b>	Family History
<b>December 10th</b>	Christmas Party ` <b>Note:</b> 7pm start ( <i>see below for details</i> )
<b>1st meeting 2009 - 11th February</b>	N.B. There is no meeting in January

A Reminder that  
**MEMBERSHIP FEES**  
**for 2008-2009**

fell due on  
1st July 2008

- 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.

**OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY** is on Wednesday 10th 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..

**VILLA ALBA MUSEUM INC.**

Visit Villa Alba in Spring when the flowers are in bloom. The house and gardens will be open on Sunday 5th October and 2nd November from 1pm to 4pm.

Admission charges:

Family	\$20
Adults	\$10
Concession	\$8
Children under 12	free

For further information [www.villaalbamuseum.org](http://www.villaalbamuseum.org)

NOTE: The house is open on the first Sunday of every month throughout the year from 1pm to 4pm.

**VALE**

Gwenda Ford 1927 –2008

Several members attended the memorial service for our life member Gwenda Ford. Gwenda was a quiet and much loved member and a great contributor to plant sales. She was a long time member of Friends of Kew Library and organised reviews of new books in Kew Library. Gwenda instigated the transfer of the book sales to KHS and helped set up and supervise the first book sale. She is sadly missed.

**OUR CURRENT WINDOW - some recent acquisitions**