

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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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Kew Community Festival has come and gone and I would like to congratulate our members on once again providing wonderful participation in a rain soaked Parade and an excellent heritage display presentation in the Phyllis Hore Room. Well done everyone.

None of us are getting any younger and we now need to think whether we will take part in future Festivals either in the Parade or Phyllis Hore Room display. These are matters we need to discuss over the next few months.

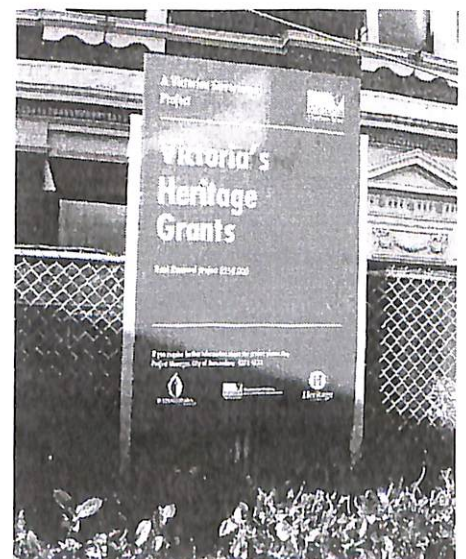
Well finally the restoration of the Kew Court House and Police Station is about to begin with work commencing on the roof. Peter McIntyre with the assistance of Dione is now hard at work preparing the necessary detailed architectural drawings. This will mean that we will not see as much of Dione over the coming months as she concentrates on assisting Peter in this project.

The City of Boroondara are now starting to hold meetings with various groups as to how they see their interests best being served within Kew Court House and Police Station complex and arts hub intended at Hawthorn Town Hall. The various Historical Societies have had a meeting at which our secretary, Philip Slobom, and I attended. At this juncture there was nothing to report as the meeting was very general in nature, however we indicated our continued interest in a room in the Police Station being set aside as a meeting room for the various Historical Societies.

Since then a meeting of the Project Control Group has been held at which timelines were tabled which looks to a completion in September 2010. Work on the roof has already commenced and construction and fitout is timed to start in January 2010. The time between then and now will be taken up with legal issues including getting the various planning permits and structural documentation.

I look forward to catching up with you all at our next meeting and will keep you posted with any developments.

David Benwell



Heritage Victoria have given a \$250,000 grant to fix the roof and work has already started

KEW FESTIVAL REPORT

Despite the downpour of rain, several members joined the parade, dressed for the occasion but not for the weather.

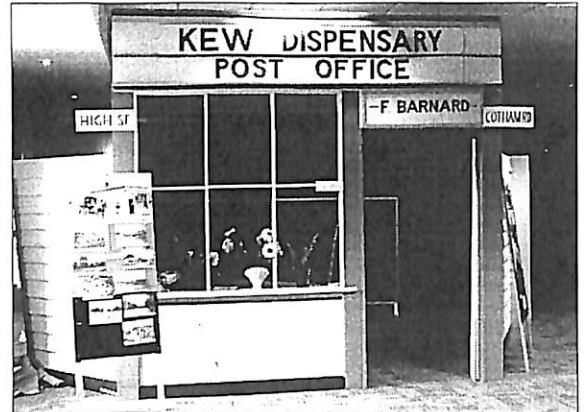
Preparations for our Heritage display and Old Fashioned Jumble Sale involved many members. Proceeds were to be assigned to the Kew Court House Restoration Appeal.

The donated goods were sorted, cleaned and priced by a team, led by Dione McIntyre and including Jill O'Brien, Margaret Robinson, Dorothy Benyei, Thea Sartori and Betty Huston.

Graeme Lindsay and his team, including Les Littlechild, Rodney Fernald, Tony Michael, Kym Sullivan and Luke Lindsay, built the setting, the "19th Century Barnard's Pharmacy" according to Dione McIntyre's design.

Sales people and popular Devonshire Tea servers and scone providers included Rosemary Smart, Joan Simms, Joan Fernald, Rosemary Vaughan-Smith, Slavka Jelovic, Judith Vimpani, Anne Glasson, Thea Sartori, Margaret Robinson and Ann Howlett. Betty Huston again organised the popular Lucky Dips.

The 1st Kew Scout group were invited to have a display as it is the 100th birthday of Scouting in Australia this year (part of this display is now in our window in the library)



Both the Historic Bus tour and the Boroondara Cemetery walk on Sunday were well attended.

On the Monday "Schools' Day", Graeme Lindsay, dressed as explorer Grimes introduced Kew's history.

The children made damper and handled old-fashioned kitchen utensils with Rosemary Smart.

With Kath Gervasoni they made tracings of their hands on cotton squares which they stitched to make a wall hanging. This will be sent to Flowerdale Primary School which was burnt down in the Black Saturday fires.

They also sat at our old desks and learnt to write with slate pencils, quill pens and steel nibs.

They learnt about scouting activities and puzzle solving with the scout leaders.

Their final activity was enjoying (?) a re-enactment from an 1895 Kew Magistrates Court hearing with Philip Slobom as magistrate, Les Littlechild was a police constable, and Rosemary Smart and Margaret Robinson played various roles.

Our weekend takings were almost \$1800, but we had many "left overs"

On 9th April Margaret Robinson, her friend Mary Moors and Mary's car, together with helpers Jocelyn Clarke and Dorothy Benyei, took a stall at



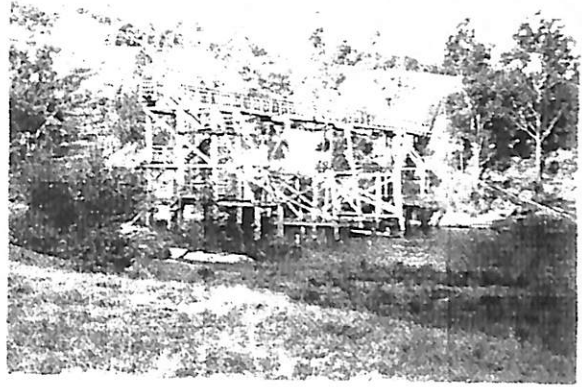
Balwyn Rotary's Sunday Camberwell Market, a fascinating experience for all concerned, resulting in a final total of \$2000 towards the Court House. Left over items were donated to Kew Elderly Citizens Opportunity Shop.

BRIDGES OF KEW - Part 2

Continuing our look at bridges in Kew.

The Zig-Zag Bridge - built circa 1860

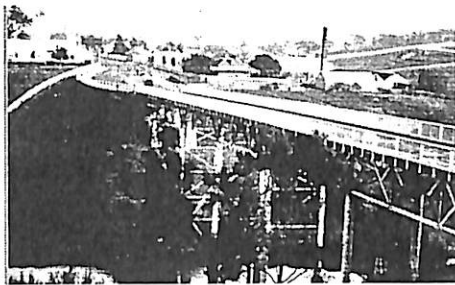
Another early bridge now gone was the Tramway or Zig-Zag Bridge which was located near the Bellbird Park picnic area. It was a wooden structure and was built to carry stone being quarried at Yarra Bend across the Yarra to the site of the new asylum being built in Kew in the 1860's. The bridge was later modified hence the name "zig-zag" and became a footbridge linking Yarra Bend with Kew. The bridge appears to have disappeared in the 1920's. There is no sign of it today.



Zig-zag Bridge, Kew Date & source unknown

The Victoria Street Bridge - built 1884

The need for a bridge linking Barkers Road to Victoria Street, or Simpson's Road as it was then known, was realised early but nothing happened until a meeting held by interested parties with representatives of the councils of Hawthorn, Kew, Richmond and Collingwood at the Richmond Town Hall on 29 January 1880. It was agreed that the bridge be built with Government and Council (Hawthorn, Kew, Richmond and Collingwood) assistance.



Cable tram terminus, Victoria Street.
Blainey, G. A history of Camberwell. ill(9) p. 24

Because of its apparent frailness, there was much controversy both during construction, and at the official opening in March 1884. The

bridge has been widened several times. In 1890 the bridge was widened to 40 feet with two footways 7 feet wide to carry horse trams, by the addition of a third line of trusses. In 1914 -1916

the bridge was strengthened to carry electric trams by the replacement of the centre line of trusses. Extensive reconditioning and widening of the bridge was carried out by the Railway Construction



BOOK SALES

Book Sale Dates for 2009:

August	16th Saturday	17th Sunday
	Set up 1:30 → 3.00	Sale 1:00 - 4:00 Clear up 4:00 →
November	15th Saturday	16th Sunday
	Set up 1:30 → 3.00	Sale 1:00 - 4:00 Clear up 4:00 →



Donations of good saleable books are very welcome. These can be left at the Kew Library. All help is greatly appreciated. This is a worthwhile community activity as the Library and our Society share equally in the takings.

Summary of monies raised:

	2007/08	2008/09
Quarterly Sales	\$5,413	\$5,317
Mini Sales	\$2,106	\$2,558

BOOK SALE

1 pm to 4 pm

SUNDAY 17th August

Phyllis Hore Room

Please put this date in your diary

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped make this wonderful result possible.

2009 CALENDAR 2nd Wednesday at 8pm in Phyllis Hore Room	
July 8th	Mr. John Doyle - Honorary secretary of the Kew Cricket Club
August 12th	Kew Business speaker
September 9th	Royal Historical Society
October 14th	Annual General Meeting
November 11th	Speaker on Copyrights
December 9th	Christmas Party Note: 7 pm start

MEMBERSHIP FEES
2009-2010

These are due on 1st July

- 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

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members

- Judith Vimpani

Continued from page 3.

Branch between 1931 and 1933. The bridge reopened for normal traffic on 31 July 1933, at a cost of £24,772/6/10. In 1934 additional work was carried out at the cost of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, in strengthening truss members and altering braces to carry a new 30 inch water main. The bridge has seven spans and provides for a roadway 44 feet wide and two footpaths 4 feet wide.



Fairfield - Kew Pipe Bridge circa 1910
Darebin Library

The Pipe Bridge - built 1878
This was built to carry water from the Yan Yean Reservoir across river to Kew. It was washed away during the 1934 floods and had to be rebuilt. It was refurbished in 1982
It now has pedestrian access



Walmer Street Ferry
Barnard, Jubilee History of Kew. p. 4

Walmer Street Bridge - built 1891
A footbridge built to replace the Walmer Street or Simpson's Road ferry (Victoria Street was formerly Simpson's Road). It was built over the pipeline which ran from the pumping station at Dight's Falls via the reservoir, where Rylah Oval is now, through to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Albert Park Lake and some hydraulic lifts in Flinders Street.
This no longer operates.

