

Kew Historical Society Inc.

Founded 1958



Incorporated 1987

NEWSLETTER No. 94

SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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President:

Mr. David Benwell
Ph:

Secretary:

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

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Dear Fellow Members,

We are now coming up to the AGM which will take place at our October meeting. So thank you all for supporting your committee members during the year. We have had a few administrative duties in bringing our Constitution up to date and establishing By-Laws covering the ownership of assets, the use of computers and associated equipment, and book sales.

This latest group of amendments officially made were:

1. The start of our new year is the 1st. July
2. New members joining after the 1st January will only pay half the relevant membership fee.
3. Unfinancial members are ineligible to vote

This is all behind us now and has tidied up our administration and we have an effective group of committee members in place that I am pleased to say are offering stability for the coming year.

With the closing of the Kew Courthouse and Police Station Restoration Appeal we can look back on a successful completion of an important campaign to save these buildings. Our challenge now is to find more adequate space in which to store our artefacts as this has become an ongoing issue for us which as yet we still need to resolve. So any bright thoughts or ideas please let one of your officers know.

It has been good to see the rain and increase in the water in the dams. The eased water restrictions will be a blessing for gardeners who should be able to make the most of it in the warmer weather to come now that spring has arrived. It has been a long hard winter and I would thank our members for braving the cold over the past months to attend our meetings

I am looking forward to catching up with you all at our AGM.

David Benwell

President

Book Sales

The quarterly book sales continue to be popular, with many regular attendees both private and commercial. At our last sale over 100 people were waiting on a very cold day for the doors to open. We were very pleased with our \$600+ share of the proceeds. Our volunteer force does a wonderful job but a few more fit young people would be even better. Hope to see you at the next sale.

Set up Saturday 20th Nov. Book Sale Sunday 21st Nov.

IN & AROUND KEW

Extract from our September 1980 newsletter

COTHAM ROAD AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

Cotham Road was a beautiful road with great elm trees on the south side about 40 feet (13 metres) apart, making continuous shade. Every Sunday there was a morning parade; in summer beneath the shade of the elms and in winter on the sunny north side. The parade was a memorable site, the gentlemen in their fine top hats and the ladies with their leg o'mutton sleeves, voluminous skirts and large hats. Behind the parents trotted decorous children who were well reprimanded if behavior ever became "improper". When progress brought trams in 1916, the great trees were destroyed.

In those days many carriages and carts travelled up and down Cotham Road, and water troughs were placed along the way. A canvas water pipe was overhead near the Normandy Road trough and the horses automatically made for it to catch the drips. Council employees regularly removed the manure, which was first scraped up to the bins placed at intervals along the way; these were then carted away to the depot. Nearly opposite Normanby Road were the paddocks and stables for the horses of the regular bus service which ran prior to arrival of the tram.

There was a green verge to the road and a foot-worn track for a path. Sheep and cattle were herded along the road going for agistment to out-lying areas. Sometimes a sheep could be bought for 1/6d (15 cents). This would be shared by all the neighbours.

To the east of Genazzano Convent were nurseries and market gardens. On the corner of Mt. Victor Road was a blacksmith's forge. Also a store where local residents called in carts to buy their supplies.

On the corner of Cecil Street was Robinson's horse paddock, where the local boys played cricket. At the time when Jack the Ripper was frightening London, a lad who lived in Cecil Street floated around the area in his mother's nightie, trying to frighten people. Finally, one of his 'victims' threw him into a monkey-thorn tree.

This is a summary of part of a talk by our late member Mr. Rupert Wagner.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to our new members

- Mary & Alex Wilson
- Jane Joyce



Our model in 1970's uniform as part of the library celebrations

Vale Rona Jenkins

We remembered at our September meeting one of our older members Rona Jenkins (joined 1976) who died recently. Rona, and her late sister Lorie Dean (joined 1968), were among those people who quietly and efficiently give fine service to whatever cause they take up.

For many years these two members undertook the supper roster and were willing helpers with all our street stalls and fund raising efforts. Together they took leave for a time when they worked at a remote mission in Northern Australia.

It is only a few years ago that Rona ceased her weekly visits to Kew's Carnsworth Centre to bake biscuits for the residents. We treasure several articles Rona donated to our Archive collection

To Rona's niece Mary Dean and other family members we extend our sympathy.

Villa Alba

A Jazz Soiree at 'Villa Alba'

44 Walmer Street, Kew

On Saturday October 2nd at 5pm will feature 'The Sweet Lowdowns'

Tickets \$50—incl. Refreshments

Bookings and enquiries to

Diana Allen

"Clocks around Victoria"

Thursday 23 September 8pm

Presented by Camberwell Historical Society

Speaker: Mr Vivian Kenney

Meeting Room

Hawthorn Town Hall

(side entrance via car park)

360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting Of the Kew Historical Society Incorporated will be held on **Wednesday 13th October 2010** 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) Apologies
- (2) Minutes of last AGM
- (3) **Reports** of office bearers for the past year including the audited financial statement
- (4) **Election of Committee members** for the year 2010/2011.

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, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, an Archivist, and two Committee Members.

Any member wishing to nominate a member for any position on the Committee should use the enclosed nomination form.

All nomination forms should be in the hands of the secretary (Judith —) by

5pm Wednesday 6th October 2010

- (5) Appointments of Auditor and Public Officer

The committee for 2009/2010 of elected and appointed members was:

President	David Benwell	Treasurer	Graeme Lindsay
Vice Presidents	Dione McIntyre	Archivist	Dorothy Benyei
	Philip Slobom	Committee Members	Rosemary Smart
Secretary	Judith Vimpani		Joan Simms
Assistant Secretary	Margaret Robinson		
Public Officer	Thea Sartori	Auditor	Max Sartori

Subscriptions for the year 2010/2011 became due on 1st July 2010 and to be financial should be paid **prior to the Annual General Meeting.**

OUR WINDOW

In July, we were asked, and agreed to provide an October window display in celebration of 150 years of Boroondara Library Services. Dione McIntyre immediately began as usual a sketch plan, which was fortunate, because the date of Kew Library's celebration was advanced to August 6th, the date in 1860 when Kew's first library was opened. In four days, the previous window was dismantled with the help of Les Littlechild and Tony Brotherton, and Dione's magnificent plan, including a newly painted backdrop, and a printed history, was put in place by Dione, Margaret, Judith and Dorothy. We also dressed one of our models in a 1970's uniform, which stands near the library's entrance. The library held "Open House" complete with balloons, birthday cake etc., and many people then and since have commented favourably on our window. If you have not already viewed it, do try to visit the library within the next month.



2010 CALENDAR**Wednesday 8pm**

We normally meet monthly in the Phyllis Hore Room on the second Wednesday of each month.

October 13th	AGM – Cr. Brad Miles deputising for the Mayor Cr Wegman
November 10th	Kerry Fairbank & Michelle Scollo "Studley Park Modern Houses — A Post War Legacy"
Thursday 16th December	Christmas Party Note:- Date & 7PM start– for details see ↗
First Meeting 2011 February	N.B. There is no meeting in January

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday 16th 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 \$5) men something for
a man, ladies for a lady.

Please label and place in
correct basket.

This will be an entertaining
evening for all.

Printing courtesy of Andrew McIntosh MLA, Member for Kew

www.andrewmcintoshmp.com



Kew Historical Society Inc.

Established 1958

Incorporated 1987

*"Preserving Kew's History
for future generations"*

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

Membership Fees: - due on 1st July each year

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

All enquiries: Kew Historical Society, P O Box 175, Kew Vic 3101

BIG QUARTERLY BOOK SALE

1 pm to 4 pm

SUNDAY

21ST NOVEMBER

Phyllis Hore Room
(Rear of Kew Library)
Civic Drive, Kew

Lots of Bargains

Please put this date in your diary

Kew Historical Society Inc.
P O Box 75
Kew VIC 3101