



# NEWSLETTER

## No. 98

### FEBRUARY 2012

SERVING THE COMMUNITY, FAMILIES,  
SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, HISTORIANS  
AND OTHER RESEARCHERS

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## The Inaugural McIntyre Lecture

to be held in

The Kew Court House  
188 High Street Kew

on Wednesday 21st March 2012

7.30 for 8.00pm

Lecture to be given by

Em. Prof. Peter McIntyre AO,

### “Boroondara, Yesterday and Tomorrow”

–the growth of Boroondara from the time of  
European settlement highlighting past  
decisions, both good and bad, and  
forecasting the future

This lecture, to be an annual event, is initiated by the Kew  
Historical Society in recognition of the outstanding contribution  
of our members, Dione and Peter McIntyre, to the Boroondara  
community and the built environment

### A Kew Historical Society Kew Festival Event

Lecture free

Bookings essential:

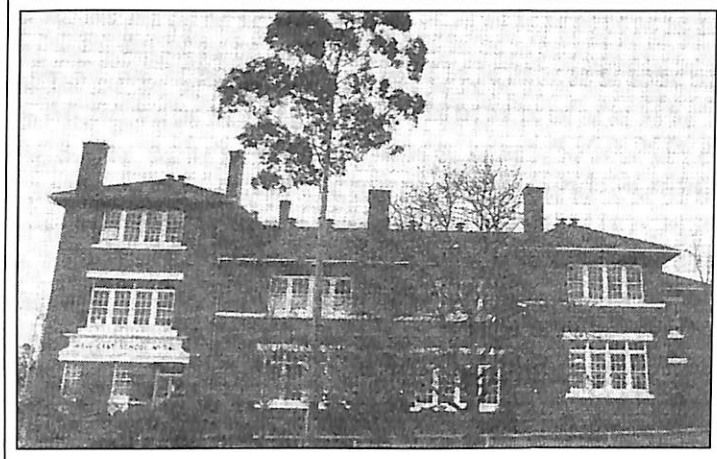
Email:

Phone:

## EAST KEW SCHOOL by G Lindsay

State School No. 3161 was originally situated between High Street (then Bulleen Road) and Kilby Road adjacent to Burke Road and was officially opened on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1892 with Mr Roland Gray as its Headmaster.

With more people moving into the district, the School was moved in 1905 to Strathalbyn Street. (This site was to become the Kew East Bowling Club, and is now a Kindergarten. )



*East Kew School No. 3161 in Kitchener Street.*

1929 saw the erection of the brick Infant School adjacent to the main building. In subsequent years many other buildings were added, including a weatherboard 'Rural' school, a brick library, an administration block, several portables, and a Community Music Centre and shelter sheds, culminating in the opening in March 2011 of the Commonwealth funded new Music/Sports Complex.

At one time it was called Kew East Central School and included years 7 & 8. When Kew High School started, the high school students were accommodated there whilst their buildings were being completed.

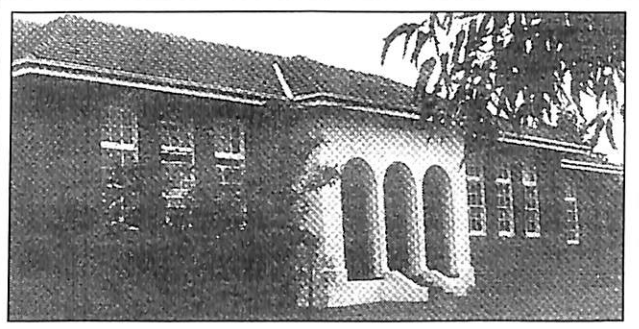
Kew East has gained an enviable reputation for Scholastic, Music and Sports achievement, with many of its pupils going on to significant leadership roles in the community. It is of interest to note that the School Board which began in the early 1930s has continued to this day, the only State School in Victoria to do so.

With the appointment of Graeme Lindsay as the school Historian/Archivist, it is hoped that a comprehensive history of the school will be written and published.



*First East Kew School, opened 1892.*

Early in the second half of 1923, the present two-storey building was opened in Kitchener Street and pupils transferred from the small weatherboard building which had housed Kew East students for 31 years.



*Infant School, which opened in 1929*

Any ex-pupils, staff or others with memories and/or photos can contact Graeme at

Kew East Primary School,  
Kitchener Street,  
Kew East, 3102.  
Phone

### KEW FESTIVAL AT THE COURT HOUSE - 16th to 25th MARCH

*"From lonely Bush Camp to thriving Metropolis"*

Our activities will include a display in the meeting room downstairs as well as our displays upstairs. This means we will need lots of members volunteering their time to watch over our precious items and answer questions from the general public.

We will also need help in mounting the display on 14-15 March and demounting on 26-27 March.

Bus Tour and Cemetery Tour on Sunday 18 March. Bookings essential for both tours.

All bookings and enquiries to Dorothy -

**PRESIDENTS ADDRESS**

*Firstly on behalf of the Committee and myself let me wish all of our members and their families a joyful and healthy new year.*

*At our AGM I presented a review of the past years and the current outcomes we have achieved. These are significant in our continuing development and directions for the future. I have taken the opportunity of once more bringing these thoughts to your attention as markers of the past and pointers for the future.*

This year marks the conclusion of my third year in office and it gives me a great deal of pleasure to note the progress the Kew Historical Society has made over that time and more particularly over the past twelve months.

Some five years ago the Society was instrumental in bringing together community support to campaign for the public ownership of the Kew Court House and Police Station which was built in 1888. In doing so we raised over \$500,000 in the Kew Court House Restoration Appeal which together with other Federal, State and Heritage Grants and funding from the City of Boroondara enabled the ownership of the building to pass to the City of Boroondara and the restoration to commence. This has now been completed and the complex formally opened this year and full credit has to be given to the City of Boroondara for the superb job they have done in overseeing the restoration work.

The Society has been allocated an area within the Police Station and we now, for the first time, have a home for a permanent display of some of our artifacts. This is of some importance to the Historical Society as we are one of the few local Societies that maintain a collection of this sort. It also enables us to maintain a visible interface with the public wishing to learn more about their local area and acts as a drop in centre for members.

Another development has been the allocation of a room above the library which is what was needed to enable us to undertake the process of digitising our various records. We are currently working on our photograph collection in cooperation with the Boroondara Library Services. For both the room allocation in the old Kew Police Station and the room above the library, we are indebted to the good offices of the City of Boroondara. With all of this we still must look to the challenge presented by the need for more and better housing for our collections.

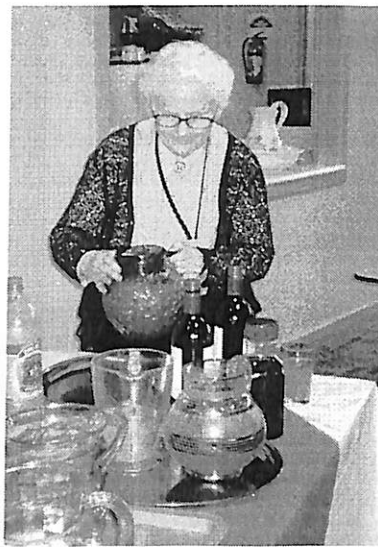
We have also been fortunate in receiving a number of grants. These have enabled us to embark on the process of upgrading and expanding our equipment. This is assisting us in our various projects towards further enriching our records of Kew, a long term commitment to providing a community resource for education and research.

Amongst the many activities of the Kew Historical Society is an ongoing involvement with: monthly meetings with speakers: dealing with the many queries we receive on historical matters both directly from the public or via the library service; production of newsletters; participation in the Kew Community Festival and History Week activities; and the secondhand book sales of both ex-library and public donated items. All of these activities do demand a lot of time and effort from our members, without whose dedication they would not be possible to undertake and successfully complete. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for what has been undertaken and achieved. Thanks are also due to the Committee which meets monthly to plan and advise and keep the president in line.

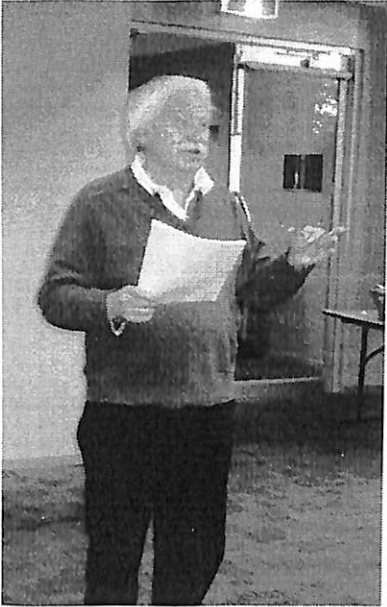
In conclusion may I say that the future looks exciting as we develop ways to meet the opportunities and challenges that confront us. We have been given a wonderful platform on which to build the future of the Kew Historical Society and the coming years will be about developing this basis for the benefit of our City and history in general.

*David Benwell*

# MEMBERS ENJOYING THE 2011 CHRISTMAS MEETING



# CONVERSATION, QUIZ AND FATHER CHRISTMAS



## KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

## MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE 2011 - 2012

As elected on 12th October 2011

President:	David Benwell	Archivist:	Dorothy Benyei
Vice Presidents :	Dione McIntyre Philip Slobom	Committee members :	Joan Simms Rosemary Smart
Hon. Secretary:	Judith Vimpani	Re -appointed:	
Assist. Secretary:	Margaret Robinson	Public Officer:	Thea Sartori
Hon. Treasurer:	Graeme Lindsay	Auditor:	Max Sartori

Camberwell Historical Society

presents

Trevor Hart



"Life of an archivist"

Tuesday 28th February at 8pm  
Ashburton Library Meeting Room  
154 High St., Ashburton  
Enquiries :

**BOOK SALES**

Please note our BOOK SALE dates for 2012.

Set up	Feb 18	May 19	Aug 18	Nov 17
<b>Sale</b>	<b>Feb 19</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>Aug 19</b>	<b>Nov 18</b>

The book sales are on the Sunday from 1 to 4

Set up is on the Saturday from 1.30

Clean up Sunday from 4

All contributions of books and / or help greatly appreciated

Please leave books at the Boroondara Kew Library  
If more than 1 box or pickup required please phone  
Margaret

**VALE****David Pitt 1916 - 2011**

A compassionate man with a love of children, David was a member from 2005 to 2008 when he had to move from his home due to failing health. He grew up in Kew, studied Medicine at Melbourne University, married, served in WWII and then went to the Children's Hospital to study paediatrics. He spent most of his medical life working with the children at Kew Cottages.

**Sheila Pitt 1912 - 2011**

Sheila first joined us in 2006 when she gave a fascinating talk "Recollections of a decade in Kew: including the war years" where she told of her memories of Kew including who lived in the adjoining houses in Milfay Ave., and the nearby streets. She was very independent and always walked to our meetings from St. Anthony's Close.

**Kenneth Sillcock 1910 - 2011**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our esteemed member and staunch supporter Ken Sillcock. Ken and his wife Isobel (died 1988) joined in November 1985 and over the years Ken has made many contributions to our society including, editing our newsletter, writing plays, and representing KHS on the Boroondara Historical Societies Association. He was a keen sharer of ideas and a great advocate of using computers, especially to make digital copies of records and photographs so the originals could be preserved. A visionary agricultural scientist who used his scientific knowledge in dairy production and shared this information through discussion groups, creating a lasting legacy. During WWII he served in both the Army and the RAAF and recorded some of his experiences in *Two journeys into Peril: Wartime Letters of Ken and Ron Sillcock*.

A man ahead of his time.



## One Small Shop

One small shop is the start of my link to Kew. Not very big, not very fancy, it was built in the 1870s.

Number 179 High Street, originally 61 Bulleen Road, is near the corner of Walpole Street. It was not until 1888 that the street was named High Street. Today, it's the 'Lolly Shop' and 'Fruit and Vegetable' shop, opposite the War Memorial.

There have been shops in Kew since the 1850s. The first store, French's store opened in 1853 and stood where the ES&A Bank was built; now a newsagent. Barnard opened his pharmacy in 1858 and over the years it had also acted as the post office and registry office for births and deaths. The Woodman's Arms Hotel of 1855 had become a store and butchers and was soon known as the Junction Store.

The shops and businesses did very well with the local community of prominent citizens, merchants and tradesmen. Additional business came from those travelling through Kew to Bulleen and Templestowe, and to Warrandyte and Yarra Glen. By 1880 "six coaches were passing through Kew daily well laden with passengers, and at holiday times so packed that the sight was one worth witnessing." Barnard.



play in the street. I'm not surprised as she was busy in the shop and could not watch out for them.

It was still customary for the inhabitants of Kew to walk to the city and Anna would regularly set off with some of her boys to get the supplies for the shop. There were warehouses to go to in the city proper and in Collingwood.

Once a week John Dean walked to Raheen to wind the clocks for the Wrixons. It was a treat for one of the boys to go with their father on his Saturday morning visit to this establishment, especially when the cook produced a freshly baked meat pie. The 1891 depression struck and life was tough even in Kew. Watch repairs were not collected, jewellery certainly was not being bought and the shop's funds were lost in a closed bank. My grandfather, Harry, the eldest son at 14 years worked 'three' small jobs, bring home 14 shillings a week to feed the family. He worked during the week as messenger boy for Mr Remfry, the grocer at 146 High Street, just passed the new Police Station and on Saturdays mowed his lawn. On Sundays he worked around the corner in Walpole Street at the Public Library.

Sadly John Dean Vimpani died suddenly in 1897 aged 63, Anna moved to rented accommodation near the junction and continued to sell watches and jewellery with her son Robert just 18 years from a room at the Greyhound Hotel. Robert had been apprenticed to his father and went on to have a jewellery business in Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn.

Claringbold, the fishmonger, took over No 179 and he supplied the people of Kew with fish until 1920. By a strange quirk, my maternal grandmother, my mother and later I always purchased our fish at Prahran Market from the Claringbold's fish stall. Are they the same family?

The next business to set-up in the little shop was a florist and the shop continued to be a florist through several owners up until the 1970s.

*Judith Vimpani*

References:

1. Barnard, F.G.A. The Jubilee History of Kew. 1910.
2. Bonwick, J. A Sketch of Boroondara. 1858. Facsimile Edn.1968.
3. Vaughan, W. D. Kew's Civic Century. 1960.
4. Sands & MacDougall, Melbourne Directories. 1861-1974.
5. Vimpani, P. Birds of Barrington. 1994. private collection



High Street in 1880. The little shop is at the extreme right. From Barnard

No 61 stated out as a bootmaker's shop and warehouse, then in 1879 Mrs Cockburn a dressmaker set up her business. By 1882 she had moved her business down the street near the Greyhound Hotel and my great grandparents rented the shop and set up the Watchmaker and Jeweller's there. John Dean and Anna Vimpani's third child, Augustus, was born in the shop on 29th August, 1882. Gus married into the Parker/Allen/Ratten family and was to bring up his family in Barrington Avenue and become a staunch member of the Kew Baptist Church.

The Vimpanis ran their business as Kew expanded and by 1888 the Walpole Street, Bulleen Road and Cotham Road area became a hive of activity. The Post Office, Court House and Police Station complex was started opposite the shop and The National Bank on the Walpole Street corner was also being constructed. Daily workmen and tradesmen toiled, horses and drays carting the building materials arrived in a steady stream. Bulleen Road was already very busy with travellers going to Doncaster and further afield and produce and cattle coming to market in Melbourne. My grandfather thought his mother "a bit uppity" as she would not let her boys

**2012 CALENDAR****Wednesday 8pm**

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

<b>February 8th</b>	Carolyn van Wamel - Q ArtStudio "Creativity for All"
<b>March 14th</b>	Dr Matthew van Emmerick - Kew Band "Blowing their trumpet"
<b>April 11th</b>	Anne Marsden "Thomas Wills - Man about Town"
<b>May 9th</b>	Ken Smith - "Land Title Records of NSW & Victoria, 1837 - 1851"
<b>June 13th</b>	Barbara Hawkins "Port Phillip Pioneers - Kew Connections"
<b>July 11th</b>	Members' Night - Margaret Robinson "Bridges of Kew - Old & New"
<b>August 8th</b>	To be confirmed
<b>September 12th</b>	Leo Blake Shopkeeping in Kew
<b>October 10th</b>	AGM The Mayor of Boroondara Cr Heinz Kreutz
<b>November 14th</b>	Val Bourke Kew High School's 50th.
<b>December 12th</b>	Christmas Party

**MEMBERSHIP FEES  
for 2011-2012**

- 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.

**BIG QUARTERLY  
BOOK SALE**

1 pm to 4 pm

**SUNDAY**

**19TH FEBRUARY**

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

Lots of Bargains

Please put this date  
in your diary

Printing courtesy of Andrew McIntosh MLA, Member for Kew

[www.andrewmcintoshmp.com](http://www.andrewmcintoshmp.com)

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