

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

Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 175  
Kew Vic 3101  
Inc No. A0010789W  
ABN 97 824 890 237

Website:  
[www.kewhistory.com.au](http://www.kewhistory.com.au)

**President:**  
Mr. David Benwell  
Ph:  
Email:

**Secretary:**  
Judith Vimpani  
Ph:

Email:

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### DIONE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

An Award of Merit is made from time to time by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for exceptional service beyond the routine holding of office, but which requires being involved in the work of a member society or RHSV for a minimum of 10 years.

At the recent AGM of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria such an award was made to Dione McIntyre for her work at the Kew Historical Society since 1994, and in the Kew community generally, in being an advocate for the preservation of local history.

In particular her work in restoring 'Swinton', an Italianate style residence built in c1859 and its garden was noted, as was her representation of Kew City Council on the Villa Alba Board of Management whilst she was Studley Park Ward Councillor and she remains involved with Villa Alba. In 2011 she was created an Honorary Life Member of Villa Alba Museum for her contribution to Villa Alba.

During her time at Kew Historical Society Dione has become involved with designing and setting up historical displays for History Week and the Kew Festival as well as the KHS window in the Kew Library.

Dione was at the forefront of the efforts to keep the Kew Court House and Police Station in public hands which after 6 years of campaigning and fundraising finally came to fruition.

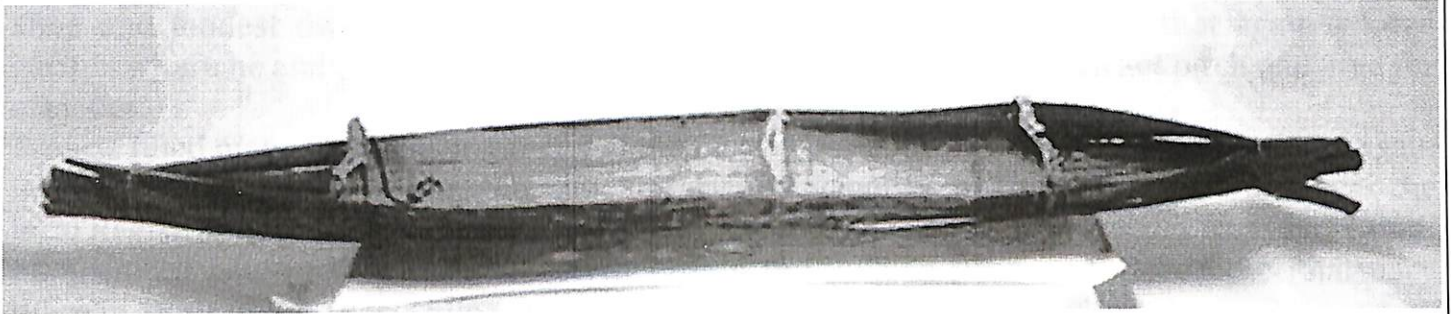
Please join with me in congratulating Dione on receiving this well-deserved award.

*David Benwell*



Members of KHS with Dione McIntyre - from the left Graeme Lindsay, David & Janelle Benwell, Annie McIntyre, Margaret Robinson, Dione & Peter McIntyre, Dorothy Benyei and Don Garden.

**Do you remember the Bark Canoe** in its glass case at the old Museum in Russell Street? It has a Kew connection and here is its story taken from 3 websites of Museum Victoria.



This canoe is the only remaining 19th century Aboriginal canoe from the Melbourne region. It was made by the Woi wurrung, a clan of the Wurundjeri, whose land extended from the lower Yarra to the mountains east of Melbourne.

Information on the provenance of the canoe is sketchy. It came to the museum in exceptional circumstances. In 1941 a museum curator received a letter from a resident of Kew, to say that a canoe had been thrown on to a bonfire and was going to be burnt the following week by the builders who were demolishing a house in the area. The curator visited the site and quickly realised the canoe's historical significance.

The house being demolished was "Finhaven" in Stevenson Street, Studley Park end, which John Buchan, an estate agent, had built in the 1870s. It is thought either he or his son John Innerarity Buchan acquired the canoe, possibly from the river bank below Finhaven. As no Buchans had lived in Finhaven for many years before its demolition, information could not be obtained from them about the circumstance of the collection of the canoe, but it seems extremely unlikely that Aboriginal people would have been camping in the area around Studley Park and Kew as late as the 1870s. The Woi wurrung and many other

clans of the Wurundjeri had been settled at Coranderk Aboriginal Reserve near Healesville by 1863.

All that is known about the canoe is what the canoe itself can tell us.

The canoe is made from bark of the Mountain Ash tree – Mountain Ash grow at least 45 kilometres or more from Melbourne up in the hills to the east of Melbourne, so the canoe must have been made there and then either made its way with occupants down the river or was transported to Kew in some other way later on.

Sharp marks show that the bark had been cut with a metal axe revealing that it was made after the arrival of the white man. Charcoal marks on its base indicate that it was heated to help shape it. The canoe is held together with rope. The two thicker ropes are handmade and most likely original. The thinner twine tying the canoe at each end is machine made. Hoops from a barrel have been used to hold the bark in shape. Possibly the Aboriginal makers used these hoops, combining a European material with the traditional design, or they may have been added by the collector.

*More on the Buchans and Finhaven next newsletter.*

#### RECENT DONATIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

Rosemary Vaughan Smith:- 2 velvet skirts; cotton baby's dress; cotton petticoat and pantaloons; blouse; sketchbooks; autograph book containing Nellie Stewart's signature; leather satchel; leather and brass 'Edgbarton' waistwallet; razor; 18 games and puzzles.

David Benwell:- 2 Kew Baptist Church historical photos; books; magazines and DVD.

Les Littlechild:- 3 ceramic ink bottles; and a bowls' handwarmer.

Betty Huston:- several newspaper cuttings.

Geraldine Hopper:- photos including 1880s postcard of Kew Junction.

John Torpey:- book - History of Kew RSL - published 2012 (may be purchased from Kew RSL)

Brenda and Bob Johnson:- additional items for Barnard Pharmacy Collection.

Dorothy Benyei:- 1960s long blonde wig.

Dione McIntyre:- shoes

## THE BARNARD FAMILY - The Kew Pharmacists

**Francis Barnard** established a dispensary in 1858 at the junction of the Bulleen Road (now High Street) and Cotham Road, site of the present QPO and Court House. He built a timber shop and modest dwelling for his wife and family behind it, and behind that again a large garden where he and his four sons established an orchard, beehives, a cricket pitch and area for athletics.

Francis filled many positions in the life of the district as councillor, Mayor in 1866-67 and again in 1883-5, and in establishing the Kew Library and Scientific Institute. From 1858 he was the local Registrar of Births and Deaths, and the official Postmaster for seven years from 1873 until he acquired new premises on the north side of the Bulleen Road and moved the Pharmacy there in 1880. A new Post Office was opened at adjoining the old shop site.

The old shop was demolished to make way for the Post Office, Court House and Police Station buildings.

Both he and his son F.G.A. were two of the 53 original members of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

After a visit to England in 1891 with his wife and daughter, Francis returned to Kew one year later to find that most of his savings had been lost in the crash of 1890s. Consequently he had to resume working until 1902, becoming one of the longest serving pharmacists in Australia. He was born in Norfolk, England in 1822 and died in Kew in 1912.

**Francis George Allman (F. G. A.) Barnard**, his son, was the first pupil to matriculate from Kew High School, a private school which later became part of Trinity Grammar School. He became a pharmacist too, and succeeded his father in the pharmacy and as the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

His personal interests included entomology, botany and physiography. He wrote a number of scientific works and was editor of "The Victorian Naturalist" from 1892-1925.

He was a council member of the Historical Society of Victoria and wrote Kew's first history - "The Jubilee History of Kew : its origin and progress 1803-1910" which was published in 1910. He became a Councillor in 1915 and was the Mayor from 1920 to 1921 when Kew became a City.

FGA Barnard was born in 1857 in Richmond and died in 1932. The family shop at 167 High Street, Kew continued to operate as a pharmacy until 1995.

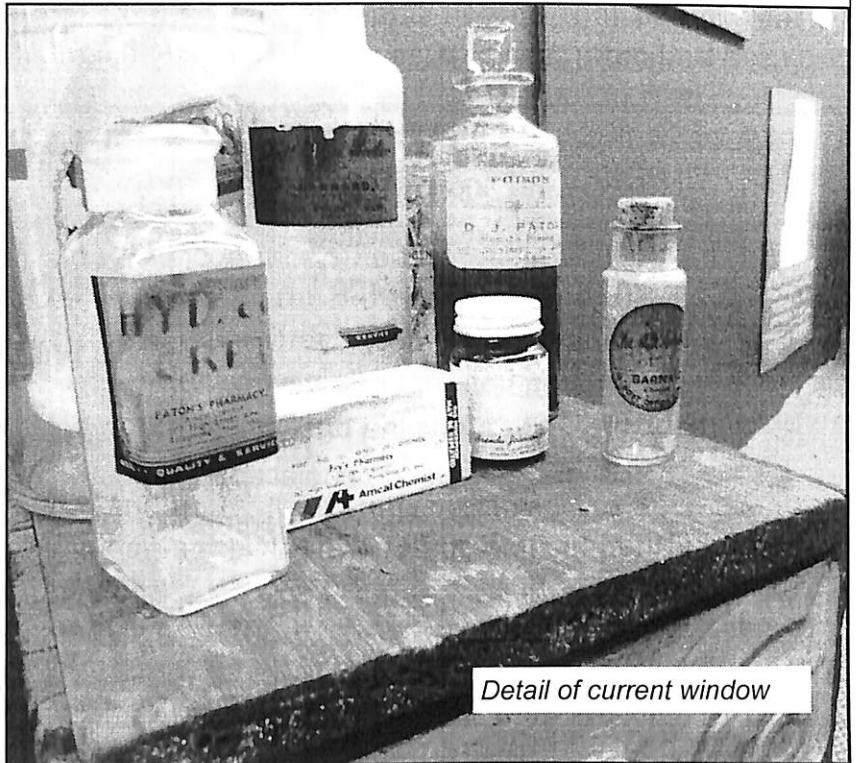
The succeeding owners' of the pharmacy included: Mr Paton

Mr Andy Fry

Mr Malcolm Malone

Mr Ron Matson

Mrs Brenda Johnson



*Detail of current window*

**Over 135 years continuous dispensing of medicines to the people of Kew.**

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

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

<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>	Trevor Hart "Banks in Boroondara"
<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

**BIG QUARTERLY BOOK SALE**

1 pm to 4 pm

**SUNDAY 19TH AUGUST 2012**Phyllis Hore Room (Rear Kew Library)  
Civic Drive, Kew

Lots of Bargains

Please put this date in your diary

**MEMBERSHIP FEES for 2012-2013**

are due on 1st July 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.

Printing courtesy of Andrew McIntosh MLA, Member for Kew

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

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