



Kew from above

Aerial photographs from the collections of the State Library of Victoria and the Kew Historical Society



Main Catalogue

Please return this catalogue to the main table

Introduction

The second of the Kew Historical Society's exhibitions for 2014 presents views of 'Kew from above'. These views are mostly the work of aerial photographers who carefully selected their views by focusing on significant landscapes, urban developments or buildings.

Our perceptions of aerial views of place 21st Century are influenced by satellite images, which augmented with 'street view' photographs, allow the viewer to select the area on which to focus; shifting one's view from 'map' to 'satellite' to 'street view'. This provides us with enhanced opportunities to appreciate location and geospatial relationships.

In 1972, the Estate of Charles Daniel Pratt donated a large collection of aerial photos to the State Library of Victoria. Charles Pratt (1892-1968) was born in New Zealand. He enlisted in the 2nd Reinforcements in World War I, and fought in North Africa, at Gallipoli, and in Palestine. He was wounded at Gallipoli and evacuated to Lemnos. The last unit that he served in during the War was the Royal Flying Corps. After the War, Charles Pratt and his brother started a factory in Geelong, where they built de Havilland aeroplanes. Connected to the business was a flying school where Charles was the instructor. In 1938, Pratt moved his flying school from Geelong to Essendon Airport.

The 'Airsy' collection of the State Library of Victoria now includes over 1600 aerial photographs taken from aeroplanes., Over 1600 photos from the collection have been digitised and published online. The collection covers Melbourne city, suburbs and some Victorian country towns.

Within the large number of aerial photographs donated to the State Library by the Pratt Estate, a number provide views of Kew during the interwar period. Twelve of these have been selected for exhibition and are described in detail in this catalogue.

NO	TITLE	INFORMATION	
1	City of Kew	Title:	City of Kew
		Date:	1989
		Subject:	<i>Kew</i>
		Description:	In this large photomosaic of the City of Kew, created in 1989 and published in 1990, the new Eastern Freeway in the northern section can be seen slicing through the grounds of Willsmere (formerly the Kew Lunatic Asylum). Within Studley Park, its construction required the re-routing of a section of the Yarra. Bordering the latter on the Kew side, the Boulevard, which had been constructed during the Great Depression of the 1930s, extends from the Chandler Highway to Walmer Street.
		Creator:	Division of Survey and Mapping, Department of Property and Services
		Collection:	Kew Historical Society
2	Genazzano FJC College	Title:	Genazzano FJC College
		Date(s):	ca. 1928-ca. 1930
		Subject:	<i>Bradford Avenue--Cotham Road--Edward Street--Glendene Avenue--Grange Road--Mont Victor Road--Normanby Road</i>
		Description:	The significant physical and built features of this part of Kew, bounded by Cotham, Mont Victor, and Normanby Roads were already established by the date that this aerial photograph was taken. These 'features' include the Reservoir in the top left corner of the photograph, Genazzano FJC Convent, and the mansions of Grange Hill (Hillsbury) and Myrtle Hill. Glendene Avenue, running from Normanby Road had been a recent subdivision of the Grange Hill Estate. The Kew Reservoir was constructed in 1886 at the highest point in Kew. It was not officially opened until 1937. By 1928, Genazzano had been running for almost thirty years. William Wardell (1823-1899), the architect of St Patrick's Cathedral, had designed the main section of the school. Wardell's original design was for a much larger building, however the Depression of the 1890s affected the Order's finances, forcing a reduction in the scale of his plans. The design encompassed a convent, school, chapel, and dormitories.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H91.160/384
3	East Kew	Title:	East Kew
		Date(s):	ca. 1925-26
		Subject:	<i>Boorool Road--Burke Road--Doncaster Road--Harp Road--High Street--Kilby Road</i>
		Description:	The High Street tramline to Burke Road opened in January 1925. In the 1920s, this part of East Kew was predominantly farmland with few buildings. The latter included the Elite Dairy (later Model Dairy) on the corner of Burke Road and High Street. The Congregational Church on the opposite corner, constructed in 1904, was to be moved to Yarraville in 1940. Glass Creek, to the south of the intersection, was named after Hugh Glass, one of the early land speculators. On the other side of Glass Creek was the Violet Farm, which was to be subdivided in 1927. In the distance, subdivisions had already begun to open up East Kew. Many of the houses built in these new subdivisions were 'bank houses'. The State Savings Bank provided finance of up to two thirds of the value of the property or up to three fourths for returned servicemen. The scheme began in 1921.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H91.160/1760

4a	Kew Junction	Title:	Kew Junction
		Date(s):	ca. 1925-ca. 1940
		Subject:	<i>Brougham Street--Denmark Street--Fernhurst Grove--High Street--High Street South—Highbury Grove--Princess Street--Stawell Street--Studley Park Road--Wellington Street</i>
		Description:	A view of Kew Junction viewed from High Street South. The photograph predates the later widening of the intersection of Princess Street and Studley Park Road. During this period, historic commercial properties bordered the Junction: the Clifton Hotel, Jellis' Bakeries, Merfield's Pharmacy, a produce store, and the service station on the site of what had been O'Shaughnessy's Kew Hotel. To reach Kew in the interwar period, commuters had a number of transport options, including the Kew Branch railway line and an electric tram system. South of the shops in High Street is an extensive open reserve, traversed by walking tracks, linking Denmark, High and Wellington Streets. The area, now largely designated for parking was used in World War II for air-raid trenches.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H91.160/1713

4b	Kew Junction	Title:	Kew Junction
		Date(s):	ca. 1925-ca. 1940
		Subject:	<i>Banool Avenue--Brougham Street--Cotham Road--Denmark Street--Foley Street--Gellibrand Street--High Street--High Street South--Henry Street--Highbury Grove--Miller Grove--Princess Street--Queen Street--Stevenson Street--Studley Park Road--Tara Avenue--Walpole Street--Walton Street--Wellington Street--Woodford Avenue</i>
		Description:	While much of this part of Kew has remained substantially intact, significant high-rise development has occurred at Kew Junction, and as a result of the establishment of the Woolworths and Leo's supermarkets. Before the age of supermarkets, Kew's major civic buildings were located in this part of Kew. Where Woolworths and its car park are now located in Walpole Street stood the Kew Town Hall, the Kew Library and the Masonic Hall. In High Street, just north of the Police Station of the Rialto Theatre. Mecu Bank is now located on the site of the Rialto.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H91.160/1710

5a	Yarra Bend Park	Title:	Yarra Bend Park
		Date(s):	ca. 1925-ca. 1940
		Subject:	<i>Clarke Street--Johnson Street--St Helier's Street--Yarra Bend Road</i>
		Description:	The bend in the Yarra, which is now filled with ovals and picnic areas, was the site of Melbourne's first 'lunatic' asylum, the Yarra Bend Asylum. The Asylum, built in 1848, was to remain open until 1925. A number of the remaining buildings were still extant at the time this photo was taken. In the distance, on the Kew side of the river are Johnson Street and Galatea Point. The first bridge crossing the Yarra at Johnson Street was built in 1858. This bridge, constructed of wood, was to be replaced by an iron-span bridge in 1876. The entrance to the second bridge from Studley Park Road required a left-angled turn before crossing the bridge. This bridge was to be replaced by the current structure in 1958. The first Kane's pedestrian bridge was to be destroyed in the 1934 floods. It was replaced in 1935. Just visible in the photo is the Studley Park Boathouse, which has been in continuous use since 1863.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer

Collection: Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
Accession no. H91.160/1649

5b Kew Mental Hospital

Title: **Kew Mental Hospital**
Date(s): **ca. 1925-ca. 1940**
Subject: *Fellows Street--Molesworth Street--Princess Street--Wills Street--Wiltshire Drive*
Description: In 1854 the Victorian Government commissioned a report from the Public Works Office to identify possible sites and designs for a new Asylum. It identified a hilltop site in Kew opposite the Yarra Bend Asylum. The Victorian Public Works Office was responsible for the design of the main buildings and of the grounds. The central three-storey administration building was linked to two-storey wings for male and female inmates. Each wing had a four-storey tower with a mansard roof. These wings surrounded courtyards lined with iron columned verandas. The grounds were planted with introduced and tropical Australian exotics, whereas River Red Gum, Yellow Box and Lightwood were used in the further reaches of the grounds. In the latter, clearing ensured that the local trees followed the specimen planting approach carried out on the rest of the site. The Asylum was finally closed in 1988. Many of the buildings were later to be renovated and redesigned for the Willsmere Residential Development, which opened in 1993.
Creator: Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
Collection: Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
Accession no. H91.160/1490

6a Carmelite Monastery

Title: **Carmelite Monastery**
Date: **5 January 1930**
Subject: *Carson Street--Hyton Crescent--Madden Grove--Murphy Street--Stevenson Street-- Swinton Avenue*
Description: In 1928, Archbishop Mannix laid the foundation stone of the Carmelite Monastery in Stevenson Street. The Monastery was designed for a cloistered order of Carmelite nuns who had arrived in Victoria in 1922. The estimated cost of the construction of the Monastery and its walls was £40,000. The monastery, and a shrine to St. Thérèse of Lisieux, was completed by 1931. This part of Studley Park had previously formed the grounds of a number of mansions, some of which were still extant. They include Mooroolbeek, the former home of Sir Frank Madden in Madden Grove, and Finhaven, the home of the Buchan family. Finhaven, in Stevenson Street, which was built in 1872, was demolished in 1940. Mooroolbeek, which had been built in 1884, was demolished in 1968.
Creator: Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
Collection: Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
Accession no. H91.160/387

6b Rockingham, Blythswood and Swinton

Title: **Rockingham, Blythswood and Swinton**
Date(s): **ca. 1925-ca. 1940**
Subject: *Barkers Road--Carson Street--Elm Street--Findon Crescent--Harrison Crescent--Hodgson Street--Laver Street--Miller Grove--Myrtle Street--Pine Street--Stevenson Street--Swinton Avenue--Victoria Street--Walmer Street--Young Street*
Description: The section of Studley Park near Barkers Road was the site of a number of mansions that, at various stages, were owned by members of the Syme family. They included Rockingham, which adjoined Barkers Road, Blythswood, next door, and Swinton, on the corner of Maud and Effey Streets (now Swinton Avenue). The newspaper magnate David Syme purchased Blythswood in 1882. As well as extending the original home on the site, he used the eleven-acre site for farming. The property included stables, paddocks, vegetable gardens and orchards. A number

of cows provided milk for the house. Rockingham was to be purchased by the Red Cross in 1940 as a rehabilitation hospital, treating soldiers with psychological disorders resulting from war. Rockingham was to be sold, demolished and subdivided in 1966. Swinton is still a residential property, albeit with its grounds much reduced in size.

Creator: Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
Collection: Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
Accession no. H91.160/1686

7a	Studley Park	Title:	Studley Park
		Date:	ca. 1930
		Subject:	<i>Hodgson Street--McEvoy Street--Raven Street--Studley Park Road</i>
		Description:	Only one of these mansions, Studley House at the top right of the photo, was constructed before 1860. It was built for John Hodgson, the Victorian entrepreneur and parliamentarian. A subsequent period of mansion building was to take place in this area between 1869 and 1906, when Knowsley (Raheen), Waverley (Studley Hall) and Dalswraith (Campion Hall) were built. In the foreground is Knowsley, with its colonnades and tower. Knowsley was designed by the architect William Salway for Edmund Latham of the Carlton Brewery in 1884, and was to be extended by Sir Henry Wrixon, its subsequent owner. In 1930, it was the home of Dr. Daniel Mannix, archbishop of Melbourne. To the southwest on the other side of Studley Park Road stood Waverley, built for the merchant Charles Griffiths in 1869-70. The prominent architects Ussher & Kemp designed Dalswraith (upper left) for the retailer Samuel William Gibson, of Foy & Gibson.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H91.160/1169

7b	Burke Hall	Title:	Burke Hall
		Date(s):	ca. 1928-ca. 1930
		Subject:	<i>Hodgson Street--Nolan Avenue--Studley Park Road</i>
		Description:	Between 1869 and 1870 Charles Griffiths erected a single-storey residence in Studley Park. Griffiths resided at 'Waverley' (later Studley Hall, then Burke Hall) until 1872 when he sold it to John Simpson, a squatter. Simpson enlarged and altered Waverley, adding a second storey. During the occupancy of Charles C. Staples, the notorious boom-time bank manager, the ballroom was added, the gardens re-laid and a croquet lawn established. The Consul for Austria-Hungary, Carl Pinschof, became the owner and occupier of the house in 1899, by then known as 'Studley Hall'. In 1920, the property became a part of Xavier College and further alterations and additions were necessary before the building was opened as a Preparatory School.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H91.160/391

8a	Australasian Paper & Pulp Co. Mill at Fairfield	Title:	Australasian Paper & Pulp Co. Mill at Fairfield
		Date:	ca. 1930s
		Subject:	<i>Alphington Street--Chandler Highway--Coate Avenue--Grange Road--Heidelberg Road--Latrobe Avenue--Perry Street--Rex Avenue--Tower Avenue--Yarraford Avenue</i>
		Description:	Construction of the 'Fairfield Mill' in Alphington for the Australasian Paper & Pulp Co. Ltd began in 1919. The first section took two years to complete and cost £200,000. In the distance, beyond the Mill, lies the open farmland of North and East Kew. This area included farmland bought in 1845 during the first successful land sales in Kew. Beside the Yarra, in addition to the Thomas Wills' farm, were Wade's Bedford farm and Oswin's Kilby farm. Apart from isolated houses on this land, the

first major subdivision was to occur in the 1920s, in the Old Kew Golf Links Estate.

Creator: Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
Collection: Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
Accession no. H91.160/165-180

8b	Chandler Highway	Title:	Chandler Highway
		Date:	ca. 1920s
		Subject:	<i>Barnard Avenue--Brougham Street--Chandler Highway--Coate Avenue--Duke Street--Earl Street--Grandview Terrace--Kellett Grove--Latrobe Avenue--Pakington Street--Parkview Road--Peel Street--Princess Street--Rex Avenue--Roemer Crescent--View Street--Walpole Street</i>
		Description:	The Yarra Viaduct, built for the Outer Circle Railway in 1889-90, was converted for vehicular traffic on the Chandler Highway in 1936. The Chandler Highway effectively bisected the lands allocated to the Kew Mental Hospital. The photograph predates the construction of the Yarra Boulevard in 1931, when it was created as a Depression Era project. In 1958, fifty-eight acres of the Hospital between the Highway and the Yarra River were granted to the Royal Talbot Colony for Epileptics (now the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre). Ten years later, a complex for the Guide Dog Association of Victoria was built next to the Royal Talbot.
		Creator:	Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H91.160/165-180

9a	Kew Golf Links Estate	Title:	Kew Golf links Estate
		Date(s):	ca. 1925-1926
		Subject:	<i>Baker Avenue--Belford Road--Barnard Grove--Boulevard--Carnegie Avenue--Cole Avenue--Coleman Avenue--Connor Street--Earl Street--Grandview Terrace--Kellett Grove--Kilby Boulevard--Mathers Avenue--McConchie Avenue--Page Avenue--Ramsey Avenue--Ratten Avenue--Spruzen Avenue--Sutherland Avenue--View Point--White Avenue--Willsmere Road--Woolcock Avenue</i>
		Description:	Subdivision plans held by the Kew Historical Society and the State Library of Victoria show that the peak of the inter-war residential subdivision boom occurred between 1913 and 1928. One such subdivision was the 'Kew Golf Links Estate'. In 1922, the land occupied by the Kew Golf Club had been acquired by the Kodak Company for its proposed (but never realised) industrial complex. This land was to be sold for subdivision in 1925-26. It has been suggested that Kodak's decision to not proceed with the construction of the factory was a response to the increase in land values.
		Creator:	Airspy photographer
		Collection:	Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria
		Accession no.	H37842/1

9b	Kew Golf Links Estate [Third Section]	Title:	Old Kew Golf Links Estate, [Third Section]
		Date(s):	1926
		Subject:	<i>Baker Avenue--Belford Road--Coleman Avenue--Kilby Road--Kodak Avenue--Mathers Avenue--White Avenue</i>
		Description:	When the old Kew Golf Links was subdivided in the mid 1920s, the developers were able to break the sale into sections. The third section included eighty lots. Those coloured red in the plan were advertised for sale. The lots faced Kilby Road, Kodak Avenue, Belford Road, Baker Avenue, Mathers Avenue, and White Avenue. [Kodak Avenue was renamed Page Avenue at a later date]. This advertisement is one of a number of subdivision plans in the Historical Society's collection.
		Creator:	Unknown
		Collection:	Kew Historical Society

Acknowledgements

All but one of the works exhibited are from the State Library of Victoria's 'Airspy' collection'. These have been supplemented by photographs and subdivision plans from the Society's own collection.

The Kew Historical Society acknowledges the importance of the State Library of Victoria's Pictures Collection, of which the Airspy collection forms a part. Without access to these photographs, the exhibition could not have been held.

The Society also acknowledges the role of Les Littlechild and Graeme Lindsay in arranging and hanging the exhibits.

The exhibition is being held at the historic Kew Court House: Community Cultural Centre. The Society would like to acknowledge the City of Boroondara provision of this community facility.

ROBERT BAKER

Exhibition Curator