

# KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Serving the community, families, schools, students, historians and other researchers

e-BULLETIN : APRIL 2018



## e-BULLETIN

Our monthly e-Bulletin is for members of the Society and describes some of our past and future activities to keep everyone informed and encourage participation. It supplements our quarterly newsletter. Please pass it on to friends who may be interested.

## THIS MONTH'S MEETING

This coming Wednesday, Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> April, is our next member's meeting – as usual in the Phyllis Hore Room at the back of the Kew Library, commencing at 8pm.

This month's meeting will be a special event focussing on historic fashion and design and will highlight a number of costumes, donated to the Society in 2017 by the granddaughter of Edith Mary Weir, the wife of the General Manager of the North Broken Hill Mine.

The costumes were created over a 50-year period from the 1890s to the 1940s. The significance of the donation to the Society's collection is that the Weir family lived in Kew at the historic mansion *Illapa* between 1917 and 1950, and that the costumes are outstanding examples of design of the decades in which they were made.

Dr Suzanne McWha has selected six representative 20<sup>th</sup> century costumes for display and detailed analysis at the meeting/lecture.

## MEMBER'S OUTING TO THE JOHNSON COLLECTION – WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY

For the first time in many years we will be having an outing!

We have made a booking of 20 places to visit the extraordinary Johnson Collection in East Melbourne. William Johnson was a 20<sup>th</sup> century collector and antique dealer and had a love for beautiful and exotic furniture, paintings, ceramics and object d'art. His collection is displayed in a changing domestic setting in his former East Melbourne residence. It is both amazing and impressive and we are booked in for Wednesday, 23 May 2018.

Bookings are absolutely essential – please email the secretary to secure your place, <secretary@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au>. Entry is \$20, payable on the day. To minimize traffic impact on the neighbours of the residence, we will need to meet at an East Melbourne hotel at 9.45am and be bussed in to the house. Details will be provided to those who have booked. The tour and inspection will take about 1 ½ hours.

## KEW FESTIVAL EVENTS - A GREAT SUCCESS

Once again, your Society had a strong presence at this year's Kew Festival.

Our first event was the Sackville Street Precinct Walking Tours. As last year's walk was booked out, we offered two walks this year and both attracted good numbers. The walks were ably led by Robert Baker and Felicity Renowden. A highlight was gaining access to one of the impressive mansions of the street, *Blackhall*, courtesy of Preshil School.

Professor Andrew May attracted a good crowd to this year's McIntyre lecture and his innovative look at the past streetscapes of Melbourne was well received. The Kew Court House was a terrific venue.



Our third and final Kew Festival event, was our participation at the 'Green Glam Fiesta Day' at Victoria Park. Along with many other community groups, we put up a stall – our first for many years (ever?). As well as having some of our publications for sale and handing out brochures, we had a display of 10 mystery 'old things' that visitors to the stall had to guess what they were called and what they were used for. It created much interest - from young people as well as the more mature-aged. We also signed up two new members.

## 'TRADERS IN KEW' EXHIBITION

Don't forget to drop into to our new Court House exhibition 'Traders in Kew'. Featuring a number of Kew and East Kew businesses, it has some impressive of 'now and then' images as well as a 'Kew Flyer' – the bicycles built, sold and raced in Kew.

As always, the exhibition is open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays, between 11am and 1pm, at the Kew Court House.