

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ESTABLISHED 1958

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

NEWSLETTER

No. 115
JUNE 2016



WHAT PRICE MEMORY?

Memory, unless it is recorded, is unfortunately ephemeral. I'm sure that we can all think of past relatives who, if we were given another chance, we would ask questions to fill the gaps in our knowledge of the past. Like families, the Kew Historical Society is also dependent on social memory. And the absence of such memories makes it difficult to answer sometimes seemingly simple questions about Kew's past. Of course research, such as through the use of past newspapers, may fill in some of the gaps, but often it doesn't, even if you are trying to describe the lives of local identities.

One of our founding members was the artist Alma Figuerola who lived at D'Estaville in Barry Street from 1949 until her death in 1970. Contemporary newspaper reports provide some information about her art exhibitions, and the latter tell us about her aesthetic preoccupations. We also have numerous photographs of Alma, but one is often forced to interpret these to gain a sense of the voice of the woman beneath the public persona. Of her sisters, the poet Carmen Figuerola and the dancer Sylvie Figuerola, we can discover even less through contemporary newspaper accounts. How we might wish that there was an audio or videotape with one of the sisters in our archive; but there isn't.

The picture, above, is from the McArdle collection, and it was one of the photos that we chose to copy from the family's albums when we interviewed Fred and Ed McArdle in 2015. The interview coincided with the anniversary of the Sacred Heart Church, and so a number of our questions focused on the Church and its activities, such as the Sacred Heart Tennis Club, and local branches of the Legion of Mary and the Catholic Young Men's Society (CYMS). In this photograph of a CYMS outing, members industriously huddle around a table preparing lunch. But who were the young men? Is Fred and Ed's father in the group, or is he the person behind the camera? In a number of instances, the photos in the McArdle albums are annotated with information about the subject, but the writer sometimes only found it necessary to pen a note such as 'CYMS picnic, 1927'. The interview with Ed and Fred, which we are currently transcribing, tells us much about Kew's history but not so much about this and some of the other photos.

CONTENTS

3

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

News about exhibitions, special events, and future meetings

4

HERITAGE ISSUES

VicRoads plans to sell public parkland in Kew and Kew East.

5

THE GREAT WAR IN KEW

Part 2 of this series explores the Conscription debate in 1916

6

HISTORIC GARDENS

New exhibition - details about focus and dates

7

VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS

Adding to the Museums Australia web portal

9

LOST KEW

Four more built structures now lost to Kew

Right

Jan Walker and Margaret Robinson preparing a dress for exhibition. Kew Court House, March 2016

WHAT PRICE MEMORY? (cont.)

A similar issue that we have written about in previous newsletters relates to items in our collection, particularly those that were donated over twenty years ago. On pages 7 & 8, we describe the addition to the *Victorian Collections* web portal of sixty-five hats in our collection. While we could frequently establish a provenance relating to the retailer or designer, details about ownership and the donor are often missing, or when they occur, there may be a reference to a hat or hats being donated but no description of what they look like or of the manufacturer if known.

But getting back to memories. The best way to ensure that these are recorded is through a formal interview with real people. So, our Research Group has begun by resurrecting early audiotapes made by founding members of the Society. These recordings were often made at monthly meetings. We have found it interesting to listen to and transcribe the words of individuals such as W.H.S. Dickinson and Frances Dumaresq, or to reread existing written transcripts of talks such as that given by Bill and Helen Reeve in 1996.

The Research Group is aiming in 2016-17 to interview and videotape a range of individuals about their life in Kew, particularly from World War II to the end of the 20th century. The Group will follow a process recommended by Oral History Australia's *Guide to Commissioning Oral History Projects*.

Ideally we would like to publish in written form the interviews that we collect as the costs associated with publishing have become considerably cheaper. But if we take this path, we will need the support of our members and friends in purchasing copies. We are also investigating the potential for applying for grants to cover part of our costs.

So what are the areas we are particularly interested in finding out about? One area is about shopping and retailers in Kew. When you read the article on *Victorian Collections* (p.7-8) you will see that there were well-known milliners in Kew: R&M Dower and Anne Harrison. Who can remember what they or their shops were like? One of our members has said that he often played as a child at White's dairy. What were the dairies of Kew like? The topics are really endless and stretch almost to the present. So, Valerie Bourke has been interviewing participants in the Yarra Valley Powerlines debate, while Felicity Renowden has been interviewing past parents of Preshil. Through assembling these and other interviews, both past and present, we hope to create a living verbal tapestry of what it was like to live and work in Kew during the 20th century.

If you would like to participate, or would be prepared to be interviewed, please contact us at the Society.

EDITOR



KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PATRON

Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Hon Andrew McIntosh

Vice President: Assoc. Prof. Don Garden OAM

Secretary: Brad Miles

Treasurer: David Benwell

Archivist/Newsletter editor: Robert Baker

Curator: Judith Scurfield

Members: Andrew Frost | Mel Lawrence | Mary Kelleher |
Debbie McColl-Davis | Suzanne McWha | Margaret Robinson
| Janet Walker

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Kew Historical Society holds monthly meetings in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library. Meetings are held at 8:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise announced. Refreshments are provided. Meetings are open to members and visitors. Details of meetings and lectures are listed on page 3.

KEW COURT HOUSE

Members of the Society played a key role in the preservation and restoration of the historic Kew Court House. Volunteers staff the Kew History Centre on Level 1 every Friday and Saturday (11.00am-1.00pm). At the Centre, you can ask questions about Kew's history and view displays from the Society's collection. Inquiries about houses and past residents can be made using the Sands & McDougall Directories.

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed to all members. Some additional copies are made available to the community. Past newsletters can be downloaded from our website.

WEBSITE

www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

See page 12 of the newsletter or contact the Secretary, Brad Miles. Phone 9489 7815

Email: secretary@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

Kew Historical Society Inc.
Inc. No. A0010789W
ABN 97 824 890 237
PO Box 175 Kew VIC 3101
KHS Newsletter, No.115/2016
ISSN 0155-1337

WHAT'S ON - JUNE TO SEPTEMBER

EXHIBITIONS

The Kew Historical Society mounts regular exhibitions in the History Centre at the Kew Court House (Level 1, 188 High Street, Kew) and at Kew Library (Civic Drive, Kew).

**** FINAL WEEKS*****

KEW COURT HOUSE

Victorian Era Fashion: Dressing for Society

188 High Street. Every Friday & Saturday: 11.00am - 1.00pm.

Exhibition Closes: Saturday 28 May

An exhibition of costumes, personal accessories, photographs and ephemera that illustrates the fashions adopted by women during the period 1850 to 1901. Items include rarely seen costumes and objects from our collection that are augmented by pieces loaned by members and friends of the Society. The exhibition is funded through a *Strengthening Communities Grant* provided by the City of Boroondara.

KEW LIBRARY

The 20th Century Laundry

Civic Drive, Kew

During Library hours

A picture window display of items relating to laundries and laundering sourced from our own and or local private collections, curated by Les Littlechild. As a backdrop, there is a selection of framed photographs of a now demolished Californian Bungalow at 38 Westbrook Street, East Kew taken in 1998.



KEW COURT HOUSE

Kew's Public and Private Gardens

Level 1, 188 High Street, Kew.

Exhibition opens: Saturday 4 June 5pm

Thereafter every Friday & Saturday:

11.00am - 1.00pm. (See p.6)

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Kew Historical Society holds eight monthly meetings and two special lectures each year. Monthly meetings are held in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library. Visitors are welcome to attend these meetings.

MAY

BOROONDARA'S HERITAGE GARDENS

Bernadette Carroll,

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

Wednesday 11 May, 8.00pm

Bernadette Carroll is the Senior Coordinator: Open Space, of the City of Boroondara. Her talk will explore how public gardens in Boroondara reflect social history, provide a sense of place for the community, display seasonal change, provide a respite from the build environment, are a source of civic pride, and display and preserve significant plants and trees.

JUNE

THE 1883 ELECTION IN BOROONDARA

Andrew Frost

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

Wednesday 8 June, 8.00pm

The 1883 Victorian election was a watershed moment in Victorian political life. What was the context of the election, and how did it play out in Boroondara? The electorate of Boroondara included Hawthorn, Kew, Balwyn and Camberwell. Who were the candidates? What were the issues? How did the candidates campaign? This talk seeks to answer these questions and note the growth of a mature democracy in Victoria.

JULY

KEW HISTORY: SHOW & TELL

Kew Historical Society members

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

Wednesday 11 May, 8.00pm

This meeting provides an opportunity for members and friends of the Society to bring along an item about which you can tell a story about a person, place or group relating to Kew. Items of interest will also be displayed and described from our own collection. If you would like to talk about and display an item, please contact Robert Baker (0438 370 967)

AUGUST

THE CALIFORNIAN BUNGALOW

Richard Peterson

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

Wednesday 10 August, 8.00pm

Last year, 14 Irymple Avenue's demolition caused local concern. Why are Californian Bungalows significant to Kew? How can they be sympathetically added to, and altered?

SEPTEMBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

Wednesday 14 September, 8.00pm

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The Management Committee of the Society has now set the subscription fees for the coming financial year. The subscription for individual and student memberships remains unchanged at \$20 and \$10 respectively, with the 'household' subscription increasing to, a still modest, \$30. Subscriptions are due 1 July 2016. Membership provides an entitlement to fully participate in activities, including eligibility to vote and nominate for the management committee, and is a tangible way of supporting the work of the Society as it collects, exhibits and informs. The membership renewal form is included on p12 of this newsletter.

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

October 19

* 2016 Dickinson Lecture

The Radical Hope of Aboriginal Activism in Victoria

Richard Broome, FAHA

[Just Theatre, Kew Court House]

November 9

How Kew citizens challenged the SEC to save their parklands

Valerie Bourke

December 14

* *Annual Xmas Party*

[Kew Golf Club]

* Ticketed event

DOROTHY ROGERS RESERVE

In March 2016, *The Leader* newspaper advised readers that VicRoads intended to sell two public parks in Kew: the Dorothy Rogers Reserve at 4 Studley Park Road, and open space parkland at 85 Kilby Road. After the decision was taken, VicRoads made an offer to the City of Boroondara to purchase the land, Council declined to do so given that these two parks were already designated public space. The City believes that it “rejects the concept of using public money to buy land in public ownership” and that “the land should remain public open space for the enjoyment of the public”. It should be noted that Kew Council, and later the City of Boroondara, maintained both parks since they were created.

The then mayor of the City of Kew, Cr N.J. Whiting JP, officially opened the Dorothy Rogers Reserve on 2 April 1978. Dorothy Rogers was a long-time resident of Kew and a well-regarded historian and author. She was born not all that far from what is now the Dorothy Rogers Reserve and, following her marriage, lived and brought up a family in Kew. Her research, articles and publications were sound and well researched and provide an important window into the past. Today they are not only found in local collections including the Kew Library, but in the collections of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the State Library of Victoria and the National Library of Australia. She is perhaps best known for her book *A History of Kew*. Written over 40 years ago, it is still highly regarded and regularly referred to by those seeking to learn and understand about the development of Kew.

It is understood that the land, which now forms the Dorothy Rogers Reserve was part of land acquired for public purposes in the 1960s or 1970s by the government as part of road improvement works. That part not directly required for road works has remained in public ownership and a small but much loved park and oasis formed.



Originally the park was un-named and records held by the Kew Historical Society show that the Society sought to have the reserve named. Contemporary correspondence records that: “The Historical Society has instigated this application in honour of the late Dorothy Rogers, who was one of our members, and worked for many years without reward or recognition, recording much of the fast disappearing history of Kew. She published two books - *Lovely Old Homes of Kew* and *A History of Kew*, plus many articles, which are now used as reference. Our Society feels that the naming of this reserve in her honour, would in some small way pay back the debt the Citizens of Kew owe Dorothy Rogers.”

The application was supported by the Kew City Council and was in due course approved by the State Government. The reserve was officially named the Dorothy Rogers Reserve at a ceremony held on-site on Sunday 2 April 1978. As the headquarters of the Country Roads Board (and now VicRoads), which was built in 1961, is less than a 5-minute walk from the Reserve, it is probable that many of their staff attended the naming ceremony. Certainly, over the past 40 years, VicRoads staff, together with many thousands of residents and others working in Kew, have used and appreciated this park and perhaps paused to think of Dorothy Rogers and her selfless recording of our history.

Dorothy Rogers was a special person and the Dorothy Rogers Reserve is a special piece of public land. We hope that it will be retained as public land available for continued community use for many years to come.



Phillip Healey addresses a public meeting at the Dorothy Rogers Reserve. Photo, Tony Michael

**BRAD MILES
SECRETARY, KHS**

THE GREAT WAR IN KEW: 1916

PART 2: THE CONSCRIPTION DEBATE

The first Conscription Referendum was to be a significant and often divisive event during the years of World War I. In August 1916, the then Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, was to inform the House of Representatives that current recruitment drives were only raising 6,000 men a month, whereas the war effort required that 32,500 men needed to be enlisted in September 1916, and 16,500 a month thereafter. These figures resulted in his Government's decision to call for a referendum on the issue of conscription.

Locally, the Kew Council had been urging the Government to introduce conscription since March 1916. The local community was firmly in support of conscription, with only one anti-conscription meeting in Kew being reported in the press. The local 'establishment', through the Kew Council, would remain active in the 'Yes' campaign. Following the Prime Minister's call for a referendum, the Kew Council expressed its support in early October and pledged to campaign in favour of a 'Yes' vote. The Mayor reported to Council that he had already convened various committees and meetings in support of the vote.

One public meeting was to be held in the Kew Recreation Hall in Wellington Street on Thursday 12 October. Commonwealth politicians, a woman and a soldier addressed the meeting: Mr Watt MHR, Mr Archibald MHR, Sir Robert Best MHR, Mrs K. Berry and Corporal E.C. Evans. Another meeting, four days later in the Recreation Hall was organised by a number of returned soldiers. A wounded soldier, a sailor and a Warrant Officer addressed the second meeting. Sergeant Clements, who had lost a leg in Gallipoli, argued that the "boys in the trenches in France want help. Will you give it to them by voting 'Yes' on October 28?" He claimed that everyone who voted 'No' would help the Germans win the war, arguing that the men in the trenches, without reinforcements, would be left until they were either killed or became ill from sheer exhaustion. The meeting pledged support for the vote. Meetings were not only to be held locally. One lady, the secretary of a women's group in Kew, organised a meeting in Melbourne, which was attended by mothers, wives and sisters of soldiers in favour of conscription. These women were connected with the Brigades' depot, which provided support for specific military units that they had adopted.

Churches were natural meeting places. Canon Sutton of Holy Trinity, Kew, was to preach from the pulpit in favour of conscription. He claimed that there were times in the history of nations when the choice must be made between the best and the second best. The "rulers" of "our" Empire chose the best in going to war. They did so because of the Empire's "national obligations, the honour of nations, the rights of the weak and her own worthy ambition to retain the trust of other nations".

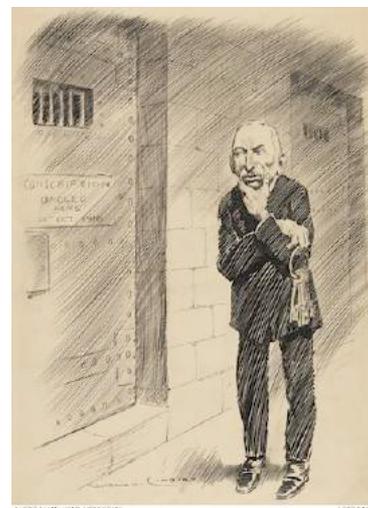
He preached that it was the Church's duty to express the Empire's need and to "voice the mother's call". He concluded by asking: "What is the Church for if it is to be dumb when the nation is in agony? Our flag is the symbol of what we are in Australia today: a part of the British Empire". His arguments reflected the symbiotic relationship that many Australians felt between Australia and the Empire.

Kew residents also acted individually to support conscription, writing letters to the editors of the metropolitan dailies. One woman wrote asking if those men who wrote so much anti-conscription literature that insulted women, would fight voluntarily for the safety of women and children. She had decided to vote 'Yes'. Another correspondent from Kew, referring to the appeals to women in the conscription debates, wrote, "It is not the other woman's son risking his life that should influence them [ie. women] to decide, but the effect of voting 'No' on the total number of lives sacrificed if reinforcements are not kept up and the men in the trenches could not be relieved." Arthur Wills took up his pen to refute the idea that Australia had contributed enough men already. He argued that Australia had not matched Britain's proportion of men under arms, and that when our very existence is threatened, "we should be the very last to talk about our share." While Wills was to be a great supporter of the war effort and the concept of conscription, he balked at the suggestion that "Capital" be taxed to help the war effort, and felt that the idea of shutting Germany out of free markets after the war was both impracticable and "unphilosophic". For Wills, unlimited numbers of men were needed, but capital and markets were off limits.

There was to be no reporting of anti-conscription views in Kew during 1916, unlike a rowdy local meeting, held in 1917, when the police had to be called. Nor was there to be the mini-riot that occurred in Hawthorn during the conscription campaign.

**'Um-m-m'.
Norman Lindsay, 1916.**
First World War cartoon depicting the Prime Minister Billy Hughes standing outside a goal cell door. The door is inscribed "conscription gaoled here 28th Oct 1916".

Australian War Memorial collection



KEW AT WAR IN 1916 (CONT.)

Perhaps one of the more bizarre stories to occur in Kew in 1916 was the assassination attempt on the Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, at his house in Cotham Road in October.¹ According to *The Age*, the attempt was associated with the conscription campaign, and the Prime Minister had received death threats before. It was a dark night, and unbeknown to the assassin, Mr Hughes was not at home. The garden of his house was planted with trees and there was a gravel path around the house, from which, if Mr Hughes was in bed, he would have been an easy target. Mrs Hughes and their infant daughter were asleep, and were awakened by the sound of a gunshot. The constable on duty chased the intruder, but he was never found. The story perhaps illustrates the passions stirred by the conscription campaign, in Kew and elsewhere.

In anticipation of a 'Yes' vote in the Referendum, the Government required all eligible men to register and be medically examined. The Kew Town Hall in Walpole Street was a Registration Centre with a Medical Officer, Captain Rogerson, in attendance. Local men were required to present themselves at the Town Hall on specific days and times. In Kew, men whose names started with "A" were required to attend on 3 October, at 9.00am; those whose names started with "B" were required at 11.00am, and so on. An Exemptions Court was established in Kew to hear cases for exemptions from Registration. The consequences of registration resulted in a dramatic change in the flagging recruitment efforts of previous months. Of the men examined on 3 October, 42 were declared to be fit, 45 unfit, 8 doubtful and 4 were deemed temporarily unfit. 42 men applied for exemption.

The *Referendum of 28 October 1916* was to ask Australians: "Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military service, for the term of this War, outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?" Nationally, the Referendum was defeated with 1,087,557 in favour and 1,160,033 against. The result of this first referendum in Kew was a vote in favour of conscription of 3,989 'Yes' votes to 1,991 'No' votes. This represented a 66 per cent vote in favour of conscription; a significant third of the population voted 'No'. It was a higher 'Yes' vote than in Hawthorn, where 63 per cent voted in favour of the Referendum, but slightly lower than the vote in favour throughout the Kooyong electorate, where the vote in favour was 67 per cent. According to the press, voting in Kooyong was quiet with a record turnout, and people fully "realised the importance and seriousness of the issue".

In conclusion, in 1916 Kew voters were to be firm supporters of conscription. There was to be less passion shown than in other suburbs. Kew residents were to contribute to the conscription debate both in Kew itself and beyond. The message given was of the Empire's need, but also the need to reinforce the troops in the trenches.

© ANDREW FROST, 2016
awcmfrost@hotmail.com

1. W.H. Hughes lived at 167 Cotham Road from 1915 to 1924.

HISTORIC GARDENS EXHIBITION

Following the success of our Victorian Fashion exhibition at the Kew Court House in March, April and May, a new exhibition will open at the Court House in the first weeks of June and will run until September. The exhibition focuses on public and private gardens and the local groups and retailers, which often supported these endeavours.

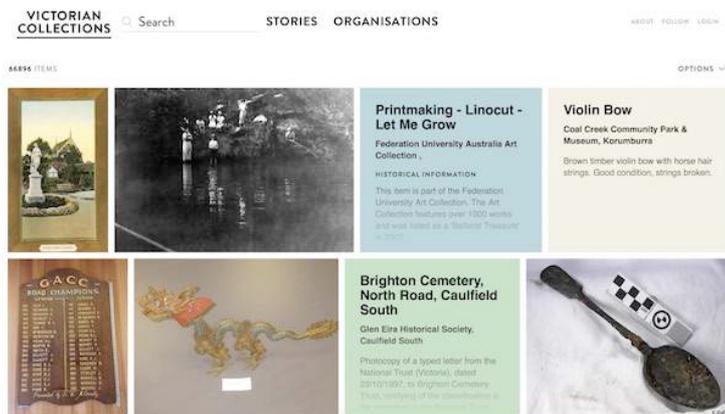
The gardens of Pomeroy (later Merridale) on the corner of Sackville and John Streets in Kew give some idea of the typical mansion gardens of the period. Interpreting the photographs (below) is assisted as we have access to the relevant *MMBW Detail Plan No.1769* (1905). The Plan shows a fountain, centrally placed in front of the entrance, reached at the end of a serpentine gravel driveway. To either side of the house, the Plan shows a trellis nursery and an octagonal summer house. While the Plan shows the skeleton of the garden design, only photographs can provide in a two-dimensional way the structure of the plantings, and that at the northern edge of the gravel driveway was a high formal hedge. The photos also show, interestingly, details of the rear gardens, filled with fruit trees and the freshly tilled large beds of a vegetable garden. The hedge served to obscure this section of the garden from Sackville Street and from the driveway.



Front and rear gardens of Pomeroy.
Photos courtesy of the Piesse family

VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS

Victorian Collections is an online portal to the cultural items held by museums, galleries and other collection custodians across the State of Victoria. It includes a free, user-friendly, online cataloguing system that allows any Victorian collecting organisation to share their objects and stories online. The system was developed and is maintained by Museum Victoria's information technology and collection management system specialists.



The Kew Historical Society maintains its own collections website, on which it has posted numerous images of items in our collection with accompanying descriptions. These can be discovered when a person undertakes a general web search for a particular item or by browsing through and delving into the collections section of our website.

I have written before of the challenge for organisations in managing collections, especially if they have significant collections that include numerous and diverse items. Online Cataloguing System software that is used to organise, store and display items is often very expensive, and usually requires the outlay of many thousands of dollars upfront, even before taking into account the human costs of photographing items and writing about, editing and proofreading descriptions. Faced with this financial challenge, numerous historical societies have had to rely on volunteers with experience in information and communication technologies to create customised systems.

Recognising our dilemma, some of our members recommended that we use *Victorian Collections* cataloguing system, so as a trial, we decided in April to post on our own section of *Victorian Collections* 67 items from our collection that had not been previously published: our collection of hats. After some initial problems with lighting and finding suitable stands on which to photograph each hat, the task of photographing proved remarkably easy, especially when using the inbuilt camera of a smart phone. At first, we had decided to provide a basic description of the item and one digital image. Dating and measuring hats were deferred to a later date, and we may call again on the advice of Loel Thomson from the Costume Collection, Yarra Park to assist with this task.

In addition to the description of an item, its dimensions and the date when it was created, *Victorian Collections* encourages

cataloguers to write about an item's history and its significance. An item, or group of items, may be deemed to have 'historic', 'artistic or aesthetic', 'scientific or research'; and or 'social and spiritual' significance. (Significance as a concept is described in Russell & Winkworth's *Significance 2.0: a guide to assessing significance in collections*, published by the Collections Council of Australia Ltd. in 2003.)

So how can one make claims that an item such as a hat is 'significant'? One of the items that we placed on *Victorian Collections* is a 'smokers' or 'lounge' cap. The provenance and age of the cap is recorded. It was donated to the Kew collection by Marion Blatchly, and was believed to date from c.1860. The original donation record also noted that it had been made for, and was worn by, a Mr Middleton, of Vaughan in Central Victoria.

The context in which the hat was made and worn assists in establishing its potential historic significance. *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide containing the most recent and accurate information as to every place in the Colony* (1870), describes the village of Vaughan as being located on the road from Daylesford to Castlemaine. In 1870, Vaughan was deemed to be entirely a gold mining area, gold having been discovered in the district in 1853. Intriguingly the entry in the *Gazetteer* claims that the electoral division of Vaughan began at the junction of the Middleton Creek and the Loddon River, so perhaps the cap might have belonged to a member of a significant local family. In 1870, Vaughan had a population of about 1,000 persons and included almost 300 dwellings. Articles from newspapers, published on *Trove* refer frequently to a Mr Middleton as a litigant in court cases before the Vaughan Court in the 1860s. By the 1870s, the *Mt Alexander Mail*, in an article on 'Mining: The Pioneer Wheel' describes the success of Mr Middleton and his Middleton's Reef Gold Quartz Mining Company, which had built the largest water wheel in the Colony. The wheel was 20' in diameter and 2' wide. Quartz mining as practiced by companies such as Middleton's had become necessary after the exhaustion of alluvial quartz mining deposits in the 1860s. So we can probably establish a link between the cap and a significant mining identity in the period in which the article was made.



The historical significance of the cap is only one part of the story. Caps such as the Middleton example can also be items of aesthetic significance as they were typically, examples of women's work, using published patterns in magazines such as the *Ladies Home Magazine*. While women might follow or adapt a published pattern, their choice of materials reflected what was available locally. The fine hand stitching on

VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS (CONT.)

this example is evidence of high quality domestic needlework. The maker crafted the cap from five triangular pieces of cotton cloth, each piece lined with now faded yellow net. The net provides some stiffening for the cap and has a functional purpose in that it anchors the hand-stitched, looped design of yellow silk ribbon that decorates the surface of the cap.

Smoker's caps were popular items of informal men's attire from the 1840s to the 1880s. They were made in an age when such caps were used to protect men's hair from the smell of tobacco smoke and also to provide warmth. That this cap performed either function is doubtful, but it is an early and rare colonial example, with good provenance from a significant period in Victoria's history.

Other examples of hats that we have published online are of potential significance as the work of milliners with shops in Kew during a period stretching from the 1940s to the 1970s. While these milliners worked locally, their hats are held in important collections such as those of the National Gallery of Victoria and Museum Victoria. They include R&M Dower of 146 High Street, and Anne Harrison of Princess Street, Kew.

This example (at right) is a small brimless woman's hat designed and retailed by the milliners R&M Dower. The internal structure of the hat is of stiffened net, while the exterior is covered with multicoloured fabric flowers, leaves and a purple ribbon. At one stage, probably for display purposes, the floral hat was attached to a wide brimmed straw hat. The separation of the two revealed the maker of this hat. The National Gallery of Victoria collection identifies R&M Dower working in Kew during a twenty-five year period, from 1949-74. Without further information it is a challenge to identify the hat's significance on other than aesthetic grounds. Other than that, newspapers and periodicals contain only minor references to this millinery firm. Perhaps one of our readers may remember the business and be able to contribute information that will enable us to develop a more complete significance assessment.



There are three hats by 'Anne Harrison of Kew' in our collection. Two examples of her hats are also in the Museum Victoria collection. They were donated to the Museum as part of a collection of clothing from one family, from three periods: late 19th-early 20th century, 1920s-1930s, and 1950s-1960s. Two of the hats by Anne Harrison in the Kew collection, which we have published on *Victorian Collections*, share a similar design. At left is an apricot coloured high crowned felt hat, its brim trimmed with a narrow band of black fabric and with the addition of a wider



band of ribbed black cloth around the base of the crown. This band is complemented by a flattened bow at the front.

Kathleen Gervasoni recalls that the retailer/designer had a different name to that used for the name of the shop and for the fashion label. Kath's daughter, Clare, the curator of Federation University Australia's Historical Collection, wondered whether the proprietor of the business was the same person who made special designer clothes for her sister Lisa? Kathleen is following up these clues, but we would appreciate any further information about 'Anne Harrison's' business activities. The Museum Victoria citation hesitantly records that she probably worked in the 1950s and 60s, but this may need to be revised.

In comparison to the five 19th century gowns from our collection that are on display at the Kew Court House until the end of May, these 65 hats may seem rather ephemeral or even trivial items to even publish on the *Collections Victoria* portal. We were therefore gratified at the reception to their publication. On 26 April, Cameron Aughty, the co-manager of *Victorian Collections* left us a message that the items that we had published and described were an "Amazing hat collection, these are a great addition to the site". Because we have also submitted to the National Library of Australia the required documentation for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Kew Historical Society and the Library, which will allow *Trove* to harvest our items on *Victorian Collections* and display them nationally, it has meant that members of the *Trove* team have viewed our content and responded to it. Deidre Kiorgaard, the Director of *Trove*, wrote on 28 April that "I've just taken a quick look at the hats - they are wonderful!"

Our former curator, Dione McIntyre, has previously displayed some of the hats that are now listed on the *Victorian Collections* portal. That they have been so well preserved is a credit to Dione, and to Dorothy Benyei, our former archivist. There is still research to be done, and we'd have to say that the history of milliners and millinery in Victoria, apart from some notable exponents such as Charles Harrison, is rather scarce. Putting them online, and allowing viewers to comment and add information to an item is a great way to encourage engagement with the past, and to establish the significance of items within our collection.

If you would like to see the collection of hats on the *Collections Victoria*, you can use this web address: victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/kew-historical-society.

ROBERT BAKER ARCHIVIST



Black and white striped half hat.
Beverly of Melbourne.

MORE EXAMPLES OF 'LOST KEW'

STUDLEY PARK TOLL BRIDGE

The 'Studley Park Bridge' or 'penny bridge' linked Church Street in Abbotsford and what is now Yarra Bend Park. The privately constructed bridge opened in 1857, gaining its popular name from the toll charged at the Abbotsford end. The engineer of the 485ft wide bridge was Mr. Austin and the builder was 'Mr Grant, who threw the bridge over the Niagara'. Following the opening of the Johnston Street Bridge, declining tolls led to the toll Bridge falling into disrepair. Badly damaged by the flood of 1891, the Bridge was compulsorily acquired by the Government in 1899, and later dismantled and sold for firewood.

Photographer unknown, [Kew Historical Society]



SALVATION ARMY CITADEL

Established in Kew in 1892, the Salvation Army obtained land for a 'Citadel' in 1912 on the corner of Charles and High Streets. In 1919, a brick Citadel and a wooden 'Young Peoples Hall' were opened. The Kew Citadel was one of 460 buildings opened in Australia and New Zealand during the tenure of James Hay, Commissioner of the Salvation Army from 1909-21. It was a standard Salvation Army building of the time. The Kew Corps closed in 1969 due to demographic changes. The last reference to the buildings was in the Sands & McDougall Directory of 1971.

Photographer unknown, [courtesy Salvation Army Archives]



HARP OF ERIN HOTEL

Strategically situated on Bulleen Road (High Street) in East Kew, the 'Harp of Erin' was built on the corner of Harp Road and High Street. The current hotel is the third to be built on the site. This is a photograph of the second, two-storey brick and stucco hotel, which was built c.1864 and which replaced an earlier wooden structure, built in 1854 by Edward Glynn. The second 'Harp' was a local landmark, used by the Melbourne Hunt Club for their meetings. The Club had their kennels behind the hotel, and at meets, red-coated riders might be seen assembling from all directions. The second hotel building was demolished and replaced in 1956.



KEW RECREATION HALL

The 'Kew Recreation Association' was formed in 1878 with the aim of building a new venue dedicated to civic events; the enterprise funded by subscriptions. The photograph shows the timber hall in 1891. It was built in 1880 to the design of architects Henderson & Smart. Located in Wellington Street, the 'Kew Recreation Hall' was opened on 29 October 1880. The dance floor was reputed to be the best in Melbourne. The hall served the community for 80 years until Council leased it to the Bowling Club in May 1960. It was subsequently demolished.

Photograph c.1960, [Kew Historical Society]



Kew Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 175
Kew VIC 3101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11 May - Boroondara's Heritage Gardens
 15 May - Quarterly Book Sale
 08 June - 1883 Election in Boroondara
 13 July - Kew History - Show & Tell
 10 August - The Californian Bungalow
 21 August - Quarterly Book Sale

MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY – KEEPING ALIVE KEW HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Society has operated continuously for over 50 years holding monthly meetings, conserving historical records and items, undertaking historical research, arranging public exhibitions and lectures, and giving guided tours. You can become involved and support the Society's work by becoming a member or renewing your membership and/or making a donation.

[Tick relevant boxes]

- I/we wish to join the Society
- I/we wish to renew my/our membership *Note: Renewals are due 1 July each year.*
- Individual membership (2016-17 annual fee \$20)
- Household membership (2016-17 annual fee \$30)
- Student membership (2016-17 annual fee \$10)
- I/we agree to be bound by the rules of the society.
- I/we prefer to receive the Society's notices by email.
- I/we prefer to receive the Society's quarterly newsletter by email.
- I/we would like to volunteer – on a committee, on the courthouse or supper rosters, or with research.
- I/we would like to make a donation of \$ _____ *Note: All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.*

NAME/S: _____ [PLEASE PRINT] TITLE/S: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____ POST CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENTS: Please mail form and cheque, made out to Kew Historical Society Inc., to KHS, PO Box 175, Kew, 3101.
 OR Pay by direct bank deposit to KHS account 063-142 10066376 with your surname as the subject or reference and email payment details and/or scanned form to treasurer@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Privacy note: The KHS will not pass your details to a third party without obtaining your permission.

Kew Historical Society Incorporated Registration A001078W ABN 97 824 890 237 info@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

Amount Paid:	Card / Receipt #	Database / Label	Name Tag: Yes / No
--------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------

Printing: Courtesy of Tim Smith M.L.A., Member for Kew. tim.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au
Suite 1, 400 High Street, Kew. Ph. (03) 9853 2999