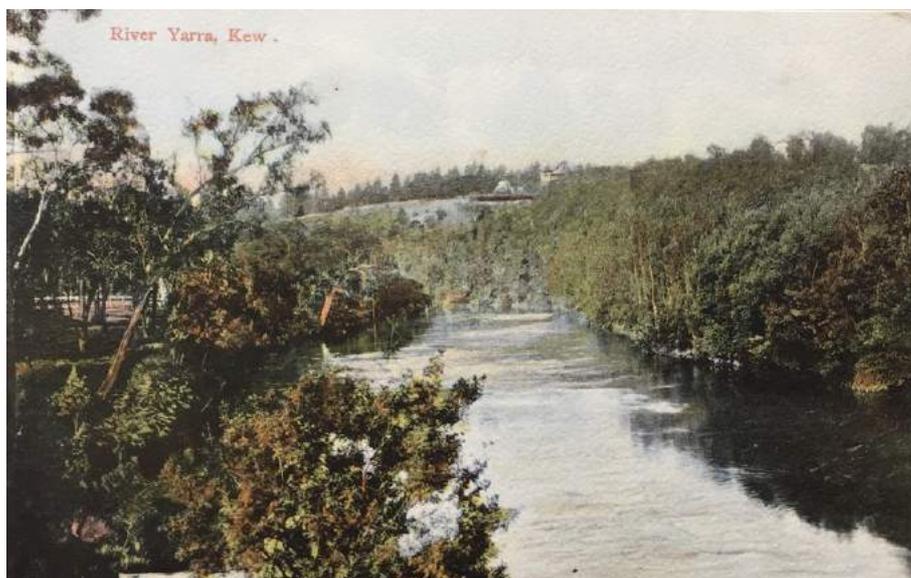


*Serving the  
community,  
families, schools,  
students,  
historians and  
other researchers*



## RESERVOIRS AND PIPES

The supply of potable water to Australian towns and cities has been one of the great challenges in our dry country. Melbourne is fortunate in having mountain ranges to our north and north-east where rain is relatively reliable and there are valleys that can be dammed to capture the run-off.

Melbourne's first European settlers (like their Indigenous predecessors) could draw upon the fresh water in the Yarra River that stretched from about Elizabeth Street upstream and past Kew. However, the influx of colonists in the 1840s, and especially in the goldrush 1850s, brought a human population far greater than the land had ever been required to support. The Yarra and its creeks, springs, rainwater tanks and water carriers could supply only so much fresh water, especially as seepage from privies, animal waste, industrial waste and town rubbish trickled into the river. Not surprisingly, intestinal diseases such as dysentery were endemic and there was constant fear of cholera.

Various solutions were proposed from the 1840s, including a pipeline from Dight's Falls near Kew, but by 1852 it was generally accepted that to supply Melbourne with water it would need to be brought by gravitation from well beyond Melbourne's fringe. Investigators looked at the southern face of Macedon Ranges, at Mount Disappointment, and at the Plenty Marshlands in the upper regions of Plenty River near the present town of Whittlesea. It was this last that was chosen.

James Blackburn, an ex-convict engineer, designed the project and supervised its construction. The scheme cut a drainage channel through the southern end of the marshlands to divert the water from flowing into the Plenty River and redirect it into a new reservoir, Yan Yean. Work began in 1853 and the first piped water reached Melbourne in December 1857, at first to standpipes and then gradually reticulated to private properties.

No consideration was given in those times to the environmental damage to ecosystems caused by the destruction of the wetlands, nor to the Plenty River which no longer lived up to its name once its natural flow was diverted. The Plenty was reduced to a chain of muddy ponds except during the height of winter and spring rains.

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**Yarra in Flood, viewed from Zig-zag Bridge, 1916.**

Donated by R de Vere, 2018. Kew Historical Society



## **RESERVOIRS AND PIPES** (from p.1)

This was an early major example of the impact of Melbourne's ecological footprint as we have truncated, diverted or dammed nearly all the water systems in Melbourne's vicinity.

Yan Yean was the first large dam to be constructed in Australia and without it Melbourne would have ground to a halt in the late 1850s. However, it by no means solved Melbourne's water problems as the quality and pressure were often poor, and the system was plagued by technical problems over the next several decades, especially in summer months.

Yan Yean water was considered a mixed a blessing because of these problems, and because it was expensive to build the reticulation infrastructure and to purchase the water it would supply. Nevertheless, there was substantial competition between Melbourne's emerging suburbs to be connected. Distribution in the immediate vicinity of the city was not a major technical problem, but to suburbs to the south and east there were two extra challenges. First, pipelines had to be built across the river, and second there was often insufficient pressure in the system to provide a supply to the higher areas in these undulating suburbs.

The residents of Kew waited, probably impatiently, and the Borough Council periodically pestered the government to build the pipelines. In the meantime residents had to rely on rainwater tanks or the inconvenience of bringing water from a pump on the Yarra at Hawthorn Bridge (Victoria Street), or the expense of having it carried.

An El Niño in 1865-6 resulted in a significant drought in south-eastern Australia, and this may have given motivation to the Government agreeing in January 1865 to extend a pipe across the Hawthorn Bridge and erect a standpipe to provide Yan Yean water. The benefits to Kew were limited, but finally in October 1865 it was announced that water would be piped from the bridge to a standpipe at Barnard's corner at the junction of High Street and Cotham Road.

Strangely, there seem to be no accounts of the opening of the standpipe in Kew, and the date is uncertain.

While quality and pressure issues plagued the system for many years, especially in the elevated areas, gradually piped water was extended through Kew and its homes and businesses were reticulated.

**DON GARDEN**

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## **KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

### **PATRON**

Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**President:** Judith Voce

**Vice President:** Assoc. Prof. Don Garden OAM

**Secretary:** Brad Miles

**Treasurer:** David Benwell

**Archivist/Newsletter editor:** Robert Baker

**Curator:** Judith Scurfield

**Members:** Mary Kelleher | Debbie McColl-Davis | Desley Reid | Janet Walker | David White

### **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. Refreshments are provided.

### **KEW COURT HOUSE**

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

### **NEWSLETTER**

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

### **WEBSITES**

[www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au)

[victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/kew-historical-society](http://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/kew-historical-society)

**Kew Historical Society Inc.**

Inc. No. A0010789W | ABN 97 824 890 237

PO Box 175 Kew VIC 3101

KHS Newsletter, No.123/2018

ISSN 0155-1337

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Editor: We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Vice-President, Associate Professor Don Garden OAM, who has been re-appointed to the Australian Heritage Council.

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# SOCIETY NEWS

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## EVENTS

### TOURS & VISITS

#### MEMBER ACTIVITY

##### House Museum Tour - The Johnson Collection

William Johnston (1911-86) was a 20th century collector and antique dealer. His collection was bequeathed to the people of Victoria after his death, and is displayed in a constantly changing domestic setting in his former residence. Specific details about this tour for our members will be provided at the May monthly meeting and in the May eBulletin.

\* Wednesday 23 May. Melbourne CBD bus pick-up.

Cost \$20. Prepayment required at May Monthly Meeting or by direct bank deposit to KHS account 063-142 10066376, with your name as the subject.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

#### JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

**Topic: The Influenza Epidemic in Kew**

**Speaker: Andrew Frost**

In October and November 1918, the Spanish Influenza epidemic broke out in the United Kingdom, India, Australia and New Zealand. Initially, it was known as the South African influenza, since it seemed to spread to Australia from there with troop transports returning from the War. Andrew will describe the impact of the epidemic in Kew.

Wednesday 13 June, Phyllis Hore Room, 8.00PM

#### JULY MONTHLY MEETING

**Topic: Members' Show & Tell**

**Moderator: Brad Miles**

In July we are inviting members and friends to participate in a Show & Tell that includes something about Kew, Kew East or Studley Park in the distant or recent past. We will put on a small display, and briefly talk about some of the items in our collection. However we really want you to bring to the meeting an object or image relating to Kew that means something to you and or your family.

Wednesday 11 July, Phyllis Hore Room, 8.00PM

#### AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

**Topic: Fairyland**

**Speaker: James Nicolas**

In 1965 in Kew, Melbourne, 88-year-old Grace Tabulo passed away at her 1860's home, Fairyland. For more than 20 years, Grace and her Gallipoli veteran husband Jim had made their home a tourist attraction for children in the local area and beyond. With exhibits, stories, concerts and celebrations, Fairyland featured in newspapers and magazines in Melbourne and abroad. At the meeting, James will talk about his new book on the Tabulos and Fairyland.

Wednesday 8 August, Phyllis Hore Room, 8.00PM

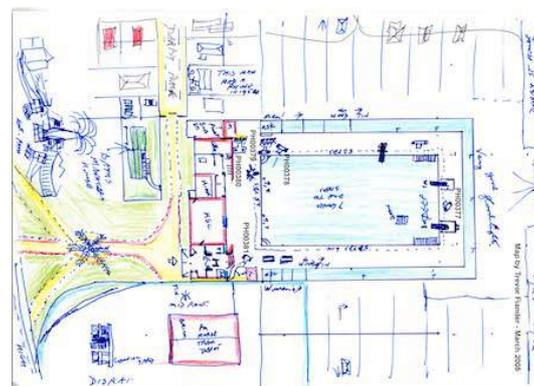
\* James will have discounted copies of his book available at \$25.

## EXHIBITIONS

The opening of our first new exhibition for 2018 focussed on 'Traders of Kew'. Its opening during the Kew Festival was a huge success. The exhibition has been extended to Saturday 30 June.

The second exhibition will now open on Friday 6 July and will explore how WATER has shaped the lives of the people of Kew in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Annotated plan of the Kew Swimming Pool 1925-62. Trevor Fiander, 2005



## THE COLLECTION

#### NEW ACQUISITIONS

Since the publication of the last newsletter, the Society has been the recipient of a number of donations. These include:

- Three photographs of the floods of 1916 (Richard de Vere) [see also p.2]
- Presentation trowel commemorating the laying of the foundation stone, *Kew Baptist School*, St. John's Parade (Bupa Aged Care).
- 'Shandy Rates' campaign documents (John Osborn).
- Two dresses designed by *Oggi* of Collins Street: 1967 evening dress (Desley Reid); 1971 wedding dress (Janet Walker).
- 1930s fur cape owned by Mrs Ada Wallis, Mary Street (Desley Reid).
- 1918 Parish Newsletter, St Hilary's Church, & Real estate brochure, *Goldthorns*, Normanby Road, 1931 (Jim Pilmer).
- Account book, 1980-4, Lioness Club of Kew (Debbie McColl-Davis).
- W.H. Fitchett, *40 Years at the Methodist Ladies' College 1882-1921*; *Kew Primary School* magazine 1980 (Alison Vickers).

The Society would like to thank all donors for these generous gifts to the Collection.

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# VICTORIAN COLLECTIONS

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Kew Historical Society has been publishing items from its collection on *Victorian Collections* since 2015, when it published a description of a pair of linen curtains designed by William Turner for G.P. Baker & Co., London in 1918. The curtains were originally part of the household furnishings of David Yorke Syme's house *Tourmont* (now *Fintona*) in Balwyn.

Since then, almost 1,800 items have been photographed, researched and added to *Victorian Collections*. Their availability can result in feedback about particular items. A recent 'comment' allowed us to correct a cataloguing error relating to a First World War 'Roll of Honor' certificate awarded to George Norman Pockett, the son of George Pockett, the co-designer and curator of the Alexandra Gardens in Kew.

Those items published on *Victorian Collections* are only a small proportion of the many thousands of items in our collection, so it is essential that additional members of the Society are trained in photographing and describing items.

Through our membership of the Boroondara Historical Societies Association, four of our members attended a cataloguing workshop generously hosted by members of the Surrey Hills Historical Society. Members attending included Prue McColl, Judith Scurfield, Kathleen Gervasoni and Robert Baker. The workshop involved participants cataloguing a randomly selected item from our collection. These are some of the items catalogued on the day.



## Writing Case

290 mm x 50 mm

Cylindrical leather case containing bottles for ink and sand, holders for pens, nibs, etc. Red leather lining. Ruler, bone-spreader, ivory and brass seal, and pen-holder included. Brass external clasps.

The case is believed to date from the 19th century and was probably used by an early surveyor or draftsman.

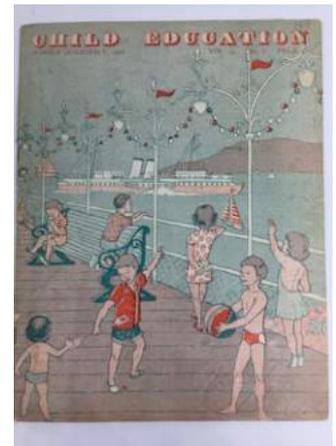


## Whitehead's Map of Victoria, With Alphabetical Key, 1869

180 mm x 120 mm x 5 mm

Fold out Map of Victoria published by E. Whitehead and Co., Engravers and Lithographers, 67 Collins-street east showing gold mining areas, notes on topography and transport routes. Relief is shown by hachures. A list of towns with their distance from Melbourne is listed in the map's margin.

Whitehead's *Map of Victoria* is an important record of region created towards the end of the Victorian Gold Rush. In addition to its historical significance, this is a rare map, of which there are only three other copies listed as held in Australian public collections.



## Child Education : Summer Quarterly, 1958, Vol. 35 No. 7

306 mm x 241 mm

20-page newsletter containing artwork and articles on the theme shipping and boats. Text on page 3 describes the subject of the issue as 'Around our Coasts'. The Child's Education magazines were published Messrs. Evans Bros Ltd., for British teachers between 1924 and 2007 to help plan activities for the season ahead. The internal pages contain a variety of lesson ideas in the form of music, art or craft activities.

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You can view these items, and others catalogued at the workshop, on *Victorian Collections*:

<[victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/kew-historical-society](http://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/kew-historical-society)>

If you would like to participate in cataloguing, there are opportunities to do so by participating in our Indexing or Collections Groups. The former meets each Tuesday and the latter each Wednesday.

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# BOOKSHOPS OF BOROONDARA

## PAST & CONTINUING

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In an age when bookshops seem to be a dying breed, Boroondara still has several which appear to be flourishing. This article examines those which are still in existence, a number which have disappeared in recent years but which probably still live on in the memory of many Historical Society members, and the large number which dotted our streets in the 20th century, up to the 1980's. Sources for this information have been mainly *Sands & McDougall's Melbourne Directory* (1860-1974), which the State Library of Victoria has recently started to digitise, and communication with several current booksellers, whom I thank for their contributions.

A search of the *Melbourne Directory* in various years (1900, 1920, 1934 and 1944-5) shows between ten and sixteen businesses in Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell, under the heading "Booksellers and stationers". But when the individual premises are checked in the streets section of the directories, they are often a "confectioner's and stationer's" or a shop selling "fancy goods and stationery" with books rather incidental to the other goods, so not true bookshops in the sense we now understand.

At the same time, there were similar numbers of "Circulating Libraries" in our suburbs, possibly operating out of private houses or small shops. Some, however, were dedicated to lending books for a fee, and selling books once their popularity had declined. In 1944-5, for instance, there were ten such libraries, some with intriguing names such as Devon Book Club, Sunbeam, Bridge, Lamah, and the Rex Library. This establishment, at 666 High Street, East Kew, had various proprietors from W.E. Quick in 1936 until at least 1974, when *Sands & McDougall's Directory* ceased publication. The same applied to the Kipling Book Club, which was first a library at 201 High Street from 1934 to 1964. After that date it appears as The Book Shop at 187 High Street, where it was a well-regarded bookseller still remembered by many Kew residents.

The high point of bookselling across the country must have been the 1970's, when two editions of Tom and Wendy Whitton's *Inside Melbourne Bookshops* were published (1974, 1977). The first lists 147 businesses, including four in Hawthorn and Camberwell. By 1977, the total number had risen to 210 shops, with thirteen in the same suburbs, but surprisingly not The Book Shop in High Street just mentioned - perhaps it had gone by 1974? The Whittons' listing shows a number of shops which, like the earlier booksellers and stationers, sold other, related items such as toys at Barwood's Toy Shop in Burke Road, East Kew, and Kindergarten Supplies in Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn.

Other shops specialised in children's books (The Little Bookroom in Burke Road, Camberwell), counter-culture (Bookmasters and Esoteric Bookshop in Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn), and foreign language material. (Language International which was also in Glenferrie Road, is still operating in Station Street, East Kew).



Roycrofts/Abracadabra, High Street, Kew East, 2018

Natural history has always been a popular subject for both the new and secondhand book trade, and a shop specialising in natural history was run for a time by the Douglas family in Edgevale Road, Kew; it later became Grant's Weekend Books, under the experienced guidance of Nick Dawes.

In the 1970s and 1980s, interest in antiquarian books was growing, and a number of good secondhand bookshops appeared, several of which are still in existence in some form. Camberwell Books and Collectibles, run by Mick Stone, is now only a small online business, running from East Hawthorn. Bradstreet's operated for many years in Railway Arcade, off Glenferrie Road, having been established in 1975 by Jack Bradstreet. Mike O'Brien, who regretfully sold the shop in 2015, when a potential developer bought the building it occupied, later owned it.

Next door, for a shorter period, was the perhaps aptly named The Cobweb! Roycrofts/Abracadabra, named Roycrofts after a famous bookstore in New York State, has been run by Lloyd Holyoak since about 1987, at 680 High Street, East Kew, a shop that was formerly a pharmacy. It now sells antique toys and other collectable items, as well as secondhand books.

The Merchant of Fairness has sold second-hand books in Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, first on the south side, now on the north near the Balwyn Cinema, for a number of years, as well as having had a stall in the South Melbourne Market since 1984.

Of similar longevity is Sainsbury's, begun in 1977 by John Sainsbury selling books at Camberwell's Sunday Market. John then set up a small shop in Burke Road, Camberwell, near Gardiner Station, and with Nick Dawes of Grant's Books, and Bill Matthews of City Basement Books, also spread to Carlton and Armadale.

*Continued p.6*



Lynn Franks, Tim's Bookshop, High Street, Kew, 2018

## BOOKSHOPS OF BOROONDARA (from p.5)

At this time, about 1987, there were at least six bookshops in Camberwell, and the proprietor of one, Margaret McMeekin, encouraged John to specialise in secondhand books, as she was one of the principal outlets for new books and particularly school supplies. This Sainsbury's continues to do, from its shop in Riversdale Road near Camberwell Junction.

Tim's Bookshop has been an institution in both Kew (High Street) and Canterbury (Maling Road) for 35 years. Its founder, Tim Warmington, started his career as a craft supervisor for Gresswell Rehabilitation Centre in Macleod. Then he built shelves for a bookseller which led him to start selling books in 1984, beginning with remaindered and secondhand books from his shop Hawthorn Second Hand Books in Burwood Road. He moved to Kew in 1987, his first shop having formerly been a butcher's in High Street.

Tim, with his wife and business partner Lynn Franks moved to various locations in Kew's main shopping street before settling at number 129. He also launched out with smaller shops in Bulleen and Ashburton, so that there were four shops functioning for a time, until the GFC and the downturn in bookselling, which began in the 1990's, forced him wisely to cut back to two. Those two have, for over 30 years, lured children and adults alike, who believe in Tim's motto that there is nothing better than to "Curl up with a good book"

A new bookshop opening is a noteworthy occurrence, so The Leaf, in High Street Ashburton, was warmly welcomed when it opened in 2016. Its owners state "We hope our shop will provide a warm and friendly atmosphere for book lovers of all ages, a place of refuge for some, a place of magic and mystery for others, but for all of us, the starting point of a great new adventure".

What we might call "chain stores" for books are also features of our shopping centres, although some, especially Readings, may not like this moniker! Readings was founded in 1969 in Carlton, and now has seven stores, including Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, where it is well known for its quality selection of books and music, and its hosting of book groups and author events.

Dymocks, among its sixty-five stores Australia-wide, has stores in Tooronga Road, Glen Iris, and The Well, off Burke Road, Camberwell.

So bookshops in Boroondara, while fewer in number than they were ten or twenty years ago, are not lost altogether. In spite of the rising popularity of all things online, they continue to draw us to dip into and buy from among the thousands of books on their shelves.

JUDITH SCURFIELD

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## A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT SOUND RECORDING

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Fifty-eight years ago, the Centenary commemoration of the City of Kew was held in the new Kew City Hall, and attended by invited guests, including the Australian Prime Minister, The Right Hon. R.G. Menzies, M.H.R. for Kew; Arthur Rylah; and the Mayor, Cr. W.H.S. Dickinson.

A sound recording of the speeches given on the occasion, was preserved on an old reel-to-reel tape until our member, Tony Michael, digitised it. Digitisation has allowed these important speeches to be heard and studied for the first time for many decades. Digitisation also made possible the uploading of the recording to *Victorian Collections*, where a wider audience can appreciate it.

The Society believes that this sound recording is of national and international significance due to the content of the Prime Minister's address.

The focus of his 17-minute speech concerned the nature of Australian democracy and its strengths, deriving from universal suffrage and the wide acceptance of democratic values by the Australian population. He contended that this was gained through historic participation in democracy at local, state and federal levels. The Prime Minister also described the emerging democracies of Africa in the period following decolonisation, and suggested that the success of these nations was dependent on democratic institutions not being imposed from above by colonial powers.

When Tony tried to digitise a number of other old sound recordings, these proved challenging, so the Society has sought the assistance of staff in the Boroondara Library Service to see if they can assist.

ROBERT BAKER



City of Kew 1860-1960:  
Centenary Addresses by The  
Right Hon. R.G. Menzies & Cr.  
W.H.S. Dickinson, 1960.  
Magnetic Recording. Kew  
Historical Society.

Online version:  
[victoriancollections.net.au](http://victoriancollections.net.au)

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# IN MEMORIAM

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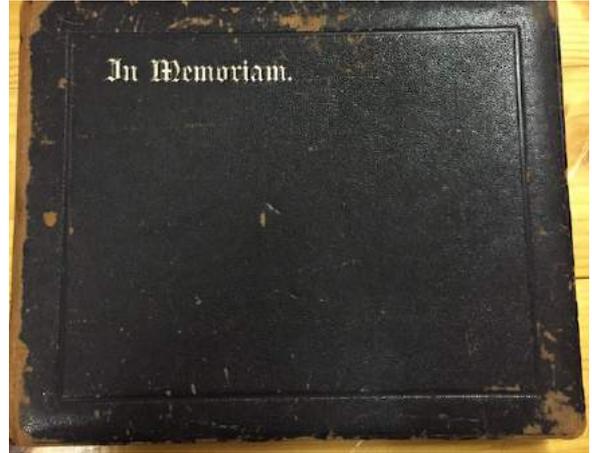
In the *Brisbane Courier Mail's* obituary for Dr. J.W. Springthorpe (24 April, 1933, p.8) the journalist notes in the final paragraph that: "Dr. Springthorpe was greatly interested in art. The monument to his first wife in the Kew Cemetery was one of Sir Bertram Mackennal's most important early commissions. Some of the drawings for it were executed by Sir John Longstaff."

References to Longstaff's role have traditionally focussed on the Memorial rather than on his other lasting, but physically smaller contribution; the design of the book *In Memoriam*. While the leather bound book is undated, and lacks any reference to its authors or designer, an article in the *Weekly Times* (11 April 1945, p.28) confirms that: "In August, 1897, Dr. J.W. Springthorpe the widower, published for private circulation among his friends an "In Memoriam" volume, in which he paid loving homage to Mrs. Springthorpe. A feature of the volume was artistic illustrations by John Longstaff."

Because of the book's limited circulation, only three copies are recorded as held in public collections: the National Library of Australia, the State Library of Victoria, and The University of Melbourne Library. In addition to these three, the Kew Historical Society holds two copies in its rare book collection. Public collections, in which copies of the volume are held, previously expanded the title to clarify its content. Hence, the National Library entry on *Trove* records the title as "In memoriam: Annie Constance Springthorpe", however no evidence for the subtitle is supported by a frontispiece.

While researchers can physically view these other copies, the Society has decided to include the cover and each page of the book on *Victorian Collections*, enabling a viewer to appreciate both its content and design. This has been a challenge as a number of sections have faded over time, due to Longstaff's selection of red lettering for parts of the text. Publishing each page online allows readers to identify the source of each of the texts and make qualitative judgements about Longstaff's designs. It also enables us to correct the physical description of the volume by the library cataloguer who stated that the book included 14 pages, whereas, including the page on which the recipient's name is inscribed, there are 27 unpaginated pages in each of our copies.

In the volume, there are a number of 'adapted' poems, chosen because of their suitability to the concept of loss.



The first poem in the book was adapted from the final lines of the second verse of 'Love Enthroned' by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, with a new conclusion, presumably by Springthorpe. The same poem, clearly a favourite, was expanded and reused on the occasion of his second marriage to Miss Daisy E. Johnston in 1916. The later poem, now entitled 'Hail Hymen', was published in full in *The Speculum: the journal of the Melbourne Medical Students' Society* (No.95, May 1916. p.45).

'Love Enthroned' was not the only work by Rossetti used by Springthorpe and Longstaff. Dr. Anne Sanders, in a lecture at the National Portrait Gallery - 'Less Than Six Degrees of Separation' (28 May 2011) - noted that "We do know that the artist, John Longstaff, knew that Dr. Springthorpe owned an etching of [the] painting [*Dante's Dream*] by Rossetti" and that the etching was included in the book. The original large oil on canvas by Rossetti was painted in 1871, and now hangs in The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. Typically, when the book was laid-out by Longstaff, he centred the image on the page, leaving plenty of space for the margins. The image of the etching in the book (below left) shows the typical margin width used for text and images. The second figure from the left, Dante, bows his head silently in front of a bed on which lies Beatrice Portinari, his immortal love. That the popular etching was already in Springthorpe's collection indicates a propensity towards the sentimental and romantic, which is not perhaps atypical of his generation.

While John Longstaff's placement of the image on the page shows an aspect of his artistic contribution, his touch is more apparent in the framing devices used in the remainder of the text. These show the influence on his early work of William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement, as well as that of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.

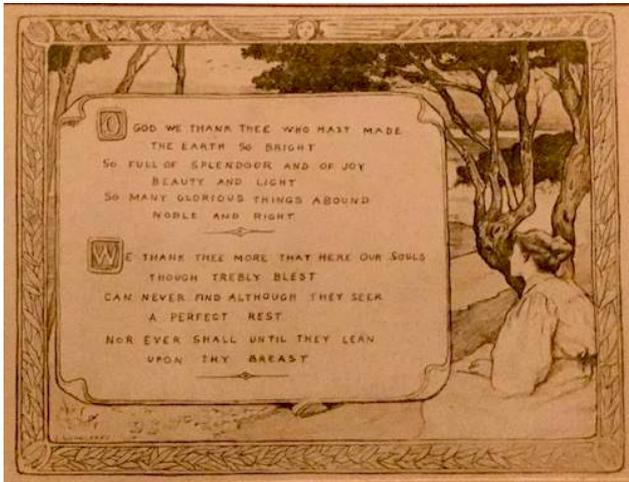
Surrounding the first verse of Rossetti's 'The Blessed Damozel', accompanied by a complementary stanza by Springthorpe, Longstaff designed a border that uses intertwined leaves in the manner popularised by Morris. A similar use of repetitive borders using leaves is used to surround the 1858 hymn 'O God we thank thee who hast made / The earth so bright'. In this case, the design is signed 'J. Longstaff' lower left. The design he created shows



Reproduction of an etching, *Dante's Dream*, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, from *In Memoriam*, 1897

## IN MEMORIAM (from p.7)

a woman gazing into the distance through a landscape, framed by sinuous tree trunks. The overall design (below) combines an interest in neo-gothic decorative techniques with that of the newly fashionable Art Nouveau movement, which sought to encompass the fine, applied, decorative and graphic arts, as well as architecture and furnishings.



While the works of Longstaff's contemporary, Sidney Long (1871-1955) are typically equated with Art Nouveau inspired depictions of the Australian landscape, Longstaff's familiarity with the 'Modern Style', as it was referred to in England, would have occurred on the first of his visits to London in 1893, returning to Melbourne in 1895 full of new ideas that he would employ in the designs of *In Memoriam*.

The sepulchral tone that imbues a number of the designs, hymns and poems are to a degree lightened by the choice of photographs of Annie Springthorpe. Perhaps the most striking of these is a photograph of Annie in riding costume on a bicycle (below). Other portraits of Annie emphasise her wan beauty, or her role as mother.



Typically, women of the period wore 'bicycle bloomers', but even then they faced numerous obstacles, including public opinion, which claimed that riding a bicycle, with the shocks and vibrations of the road would 'instigate a sexual awakening' in women. (Denning, A., in *The Fin-de-Siecle World*, 2014)

In contrast, the American proto-suffragette Susan B. Anthony argued that the bicycle "has done more to emancipate women than any one thing in the world" (1896). On the page opposite this photograph, an untitled poem by Springthorpe recounts his cycling experiences with Annie. Each verse represents a veritable geographical tour on a tandem bicycle.

*"Aye! we've dodged Prince's utmost pathway, "hand's off'd" the whole Parade, / And edged along the cliffs this side of Mentone; / And when hidden in the country, you as Rosalind arrayed, / We've made a Forest Arden of our own! / Oh! the rides we've had together! down Wheeler's long descent; / To Ballarat; past Seville; up and down, / Through Peshurst's switchback sailing; up Dunedin's steep ascent, / From Christmas Hills, through Heidelberg, to town."*

Perhaps the most interesting plate in the book is an early version of the design by Longstaff (below) for the statuary group in the Springthorpe Memorial, which returns us to the quote from the reporter in the *Courier Mail*: "Some of the drawings for it were executed by Sir John Longstaff."

A detailed analysis of the changes from Longstaff's preliminary drawings and the final monument as sculpted by Bertram Mackennal is included in 'Desbrowe-Anneer, the Springthorpe Memorial and the Arts and Crafts movement in Melbourne' (Harriet Edquist, 1999). Using the illustration in the La Trobe Library's copy, she describes Longstaff's preliminary sketch as a "dull and static vision", in contrast to Mackennal's "more sophisticated and lively approach". While the conception of the sculptural group also depicts an angel and a mourning woman, Mackennal's angel leans over, tenderly enfolding the sarcophagus with its wings, while the distressed kneeling woman, wrapped in a flowing robe seems distraught, caught up in her own sense of loss, rather than merely leaning on the legs of the dead woman.



While our copies of *In Memoriam* may be viewed by appointment, digitising the book allows readers a previously unavailable opportunity to engage with the design and text of this rare book.

Four years after Longstaff completed the layout and design, he returned to London, not permanently returning to Melbourne until 1920.

**ROBERT BAKER**

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# PRINCESS STREET

## A SHORT SURVEY OF SUBDIVISIONS

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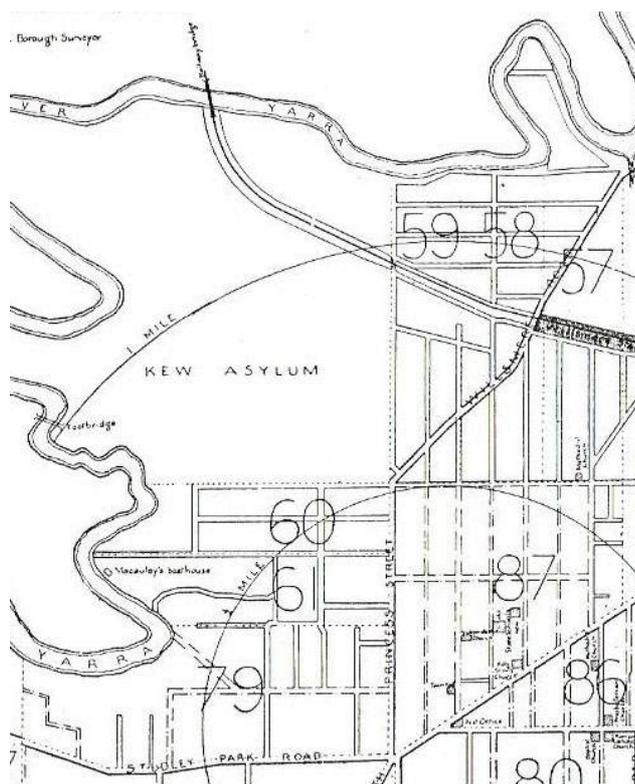
Pru Sanderson contended that: “Kew was the product of constant subdivision...” (*City of Kew Urban Conservation Study*, Vol. 2, 1988). Evidence of the truth of this can be seen by taking an informed stroll along Princess Street.

Climbing northward from the iconic Five-Way “junktion”, Princess Street passes over the crest of a ridge and descends through the Willsmere Road roundabout to a T-junction, where Earl Street becomes the Chandler Highway. Then, although it cannot be entered directly at this point, it continues for a short distance on the northern side of the T-junction before ending at the Eastern Freeway reserve.

The location of the Village of Kew subdivision on the eastern side of Princess Street between High and Eglinton Streets is generally well known. Less familiar to many people would be the locations along Princess Street of some other Kew subdivisions including *Fernhurst Park*, *Studley Park*, *Queen’s Park*, *Mr. Beath’s Paddock*, *Princess Park*, *Mount Pleasant*, the *Rosebank Estate*, *Hyde Park* and the *Studley Park Estate*.

The alignment of Princess Street predates both the separation of the Colony of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851, and the proclamation of the Municipal District of Kew in 1860. It was originally an unnamed government road on the 1843 *Survey of the Parish of Boroondara*, part of the County of Bourke in the Port Phillip District of the Colony of New South Wales. This survey was carried out under the direction of Robert Hoddle and subdivided the land of the Wurundjeri people, which had been claimed by the British Crown without their consent, into portions for sale by government auction.

Princess Street was abutted by five of these portions.



The first sale of land in the Kew area was held on 22 January 1845 when John William Cowell purchased Portion 59, which extended from the Yarra to present day Eglinton Street, while Thomas Wills purchased Portion 60, extending between present day Wills Street and Molesworth Street. Subsequently, on 8 December 1847, Wills also purchased Portion 61, extending his holding to south of present day A’Beckett Street. On 16 October 1851, Fairfax, Fenwick and Edward Bell purchased Portion 79, extending from the southern boundary of Thomas Wills’ land to present day Studley Park Road while his brother, Nicholas Alexander Fenwick, purchased Portion 87, extending between present day Eglinton and High Streets on the eastern side of Princess Street.

Nicholas Fenwick’s 225-lot Village of Kew subdivision of Portion 87 was offered for sale to “Capitalists, Gold Diggers, Newly arrived Emigrants and Others” at the Commercial Sales Room of Symons and Perry on 6 July 1852. Architect and surveyor George Wharton prepared the plan of the subdivision for Fenwick.

The *Studley Park* subdivision was located on the northeast corner of Portion 79 at the corner of an unnamed road, now Stawell Street, and an unnamed government road, now Princess Street. It was offered for sale by auction at the rooms of Mr. Robert Byrne on 23 May 1865. A 14-lot subdivision including an unnamed internal street, *Studley Park* was described as “on the top of the hill – adjoining the residence of Sir William Stawell - admirably adapted for villa residences”.

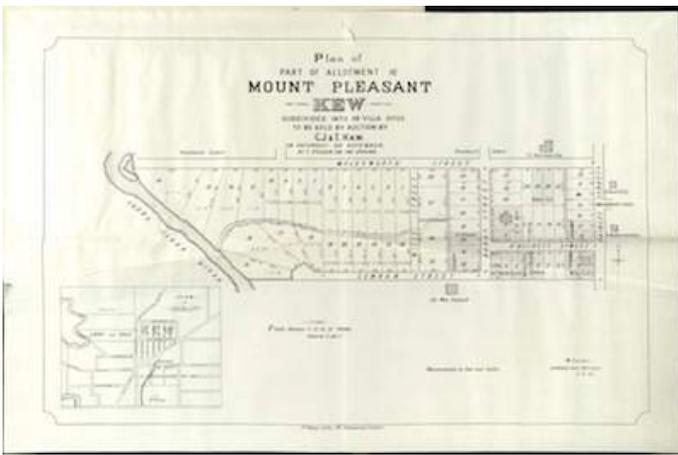
William Foster Stawell and his new wife Mary had purchased 24 acres of land in Portion 79, including a short frontage to the Yarra River in 1856, and by 1859 had built the bluestone mansion *D’Estaville*. The purchase enabled Stawell to satisfy the requirement that members of the first elected Victorian Parliament own property worth a minimum of £2,000.

Stawell was a barrister and had been a nominee Crown member and Attorney General in the first Victorian Legislative Council, playing a major role in drafting the *Constitution* for the new Colony of Victoria and establishing its parliamentary and legal system. In the first election under the new *Constitution* in 1856, he became a member of the Legislative Assembly and continued to serve as Attorney General. Knighted in 1857, he later served as Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

Sir William and Lady Mary may not have been taken by the idea of close neighbours in villa residences as they purchased the entire eight-acre subdivision, using it as a pony paddock for their children.

*Continued p.10*

**Extract, Borough of Kew, 1910.**  
Rogers’ Collection. Kew Historical Society

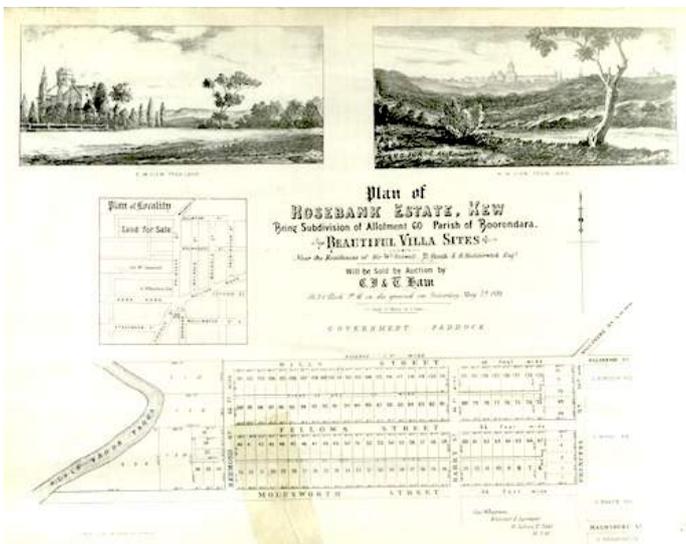


**Mount Pleasant, Kew.** Batten & Percy Collection, State Library of Victoria

**PRINCESS STREET SUBDIVISIONS** (from p.9)

The first stage of the *Mount Pleasant* subdivision of Portion 61, an “Important sale of 39 Villa sites” was offered for auction on the ground by C.J. & T. Ham on 19 March 1881. An advertisement by C.J. & T. Ham over a year later promoted a further auction on the ground on 25 November 1882 of fifty Villa sites comprising the second stage of the subdivision, which included lots with a Yarra River frontage and unsold lots from the previous auction. The *Mount Pleasant* subdivision extended along Princess Street from the right-of-way on the northern boundary of *Queen’s Park* and included A’Beckett and Molesworth Streets, both intersecting with Princess Street, and internal streets Barry Street, Wills Street (now the northern end of Studley Avenue) and Conran Street (now Holroyd Street). The subdivision plan is attributed to W. Salway, Architect and Surveyor, and dated 3.10.82. William Salway was a successful Melbourne architect of the 1880s, his other work including the design of *Knowsley*, later known as *Raheen*, for Edward Latham in Studley Park Road.

The *Rosebank Estate* adjoined the *Mount Pleasant* subdivision and shared Molesworth Street with it. This subdivision was advertised by C.J. & T. Ham for auction on the ground on 7 May 1881 as “129 superior villa sites, having frontage to Princess Street, Molesworth Street and the River Yarra”, and was a subdivision of Portion 60.



The *Rosebank Estate* extended from Molesworth Street to Wills Street and included Fellows Street, all intersecting with Princess Street, internal streets Redmond and Barry Streets and twelve-foot right-of-ways behind most sites. Architect and surveyor George Wharton prepared the subdivision plan, dated 30.3.81. The pamphlet promoting the auction included views from the subdivision towards *Ivy Grange* and the “the city with its domes and spires” but tactfully labelled the Kew Asylum Reserve as a “government paddock”

Returning to the eastern side of Princess Street, a further subdivision of four lots of the original Village of Kew subdivision, which had been advertised in the newspapers as both *Mr. Beath’s Paddock*, and the *Princess Estate*, providing “10 Grand Building Allotments” was offered for auction on the ground by A.B Johnston & Co. on 21 November 1885.

Right:  
**Mr Beath’s Paddock/Princess Estate.** Batten & Percy Collection, State Library of Victoria.  
Below left:  
**Rosebank Estate.** Vale Collection, State Library of Victoria.



David Beath lived with his family in the bluestone mansion *Ivy Grange* on the north-eastern corner of Princess and Malmsbury Streets. He was a successful importer and merchant, a partner in the commercial house of Beath, Schiess and Felstead, and an important figure in the business life of Melbourne with extensive property holdings.

The subdivision consisted of four sites facing Princess Street and six with frontages to Brougham Street. Rear access to all sites was provided via a 12-foot right of way from Brougham Street. A mirrored pair of 1880s Italianate villas located at 72 and 74 Princess Street, believed to have been designed by architect J.T. Conlan, remain behind more recently built high walls on the two northernmost allotments of the subdivision.

Sir William Stawell experienced a period of ill health between August 1885 and July 1886. It was during this time that *Queen’s Park*, described as “Late The Chief Justice’s Paddock”, was advertised by F.L. Flint and A. Stanton & Co. as “thirty-seven noble sites” to be sold by auction on the ground on 20 February 1886. A re-subdivision of the *Studley Park* subdivision used by the Stawells as their pony paddock, *Queens Park* (page 11) included two new streets, Albert (since renamed Fernhurst Grove) and Beatrice Streets, named after two of Queen Victoria’s children, and three right-of-ways including the one which intersects Princess Street between Beatrice and A’Beckett Streets and marks the northern boundary of both the *Queen’s Park* subdivision and Portion 79.

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**Queen's Park, Kew, 1886.**  
Batten & Percy  
Collection, State Library  
of Victoria.

**PRINCESS STREET SUBDIVISIONS** (from p.10)

Hyde Park estate was an extensive subdivision of land, which had been originally purchased by John William Cowell and his wife Catherine abutting the northern and eastern sides of Fenwick's Village of Kew. Portion 59 extended along Princess Street from Eglinton Street to the Yarra River.

C.J. & T. Ham advertised an auction on the ground of 107 lots on Portion 59, then known as *Smart's Paddock*, to take place on 18 November 1882. Forty-nine lots were sold on the day. The remaining lots were re-advertised for auction on 25 November immediately following the *Mount Pleasant* auction. The advertisement suggested that the counter-attraction of the English cricket match had prevented intending purchasers from attending the auction on 18 November. This subdivision extended from Willsmere Road to a point 364-feet north of the intersection of Duke and Princess Streets and included extensions of Brougham and Walpole Streets from the Village of Kew.



**Hyde Park, Kew, 1882.**  
Batten & Percy  
Collection, State  
Library of Victoria

Following the collapse of the Land Boom and the subsequent economic depression of the 1890s, the next subdivision to come onto the market was *Fernhurst Park*, which was located in the south-east corner of Portion 79, between Studley Park Road and Stawell Street. Offered for auction on the ground by auctioneers in conjunction, John Vale and Son and Chas. Forrester & Co., on 27 November 1897, the subdivision consisted of "twenty-five choice building sites" including the mansion *Fernhurst*, since demolished, which gave its name to Fernhurst Grove, a new street within the subdivision.

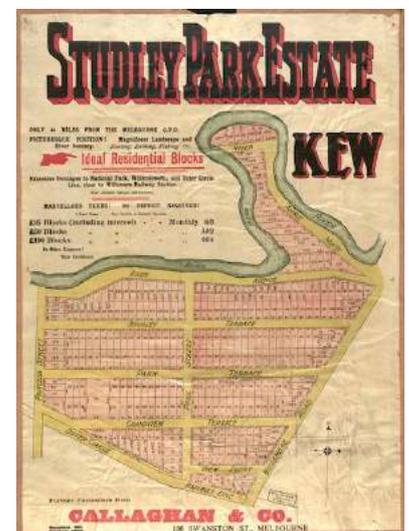
*Fernhurst* had been the home of George Wharton who had died in 1891. In addition to laying out the Village of Kew for Nicholas Fenwick, Wharton had maintained an active role in Kew affairs, including serving as chairman of the first Kew Municipal Council.



**Fernhurst Park, Kew, 1897.**  
Batten & Percy  
Collection, State  
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It wasn't until the end of 1911 that a subdivision including the remaining area of Portion 59, between the Outer Circle Railway line and the Yarra River, came onto the market. The *Studley Park Estate* was a 294-lot subdivision bordered by Princess Street, the Outer Circle Railway and Willsmere Road extending north to the banks of the Yarra River. Release of the subdivision onto the market was delayed by the refusal of Kew Council to issue drainage certificates for a portion of the subdivision that was subject to flooding. Frank Hagelthorn, the owner of the *Estate*, appealed against this decision, and his appeal was upheld by the Police Magistrate in the Kew Court, on 8 March 1911. The Council appealed to the full court, where the Chief Justice upheld the Police Magistrate's decision and discharged the appeal with costs awarded against the Council. Subsequently, Kew Council imposed a flood level, based on the 1916 flood, below which no building permits would be issued. This level was successively increased following floods in 1921, 1923 and 1936. During the 1936 flood only the chimney pots of a house at the corner of River Avenue and Willsmere Road were visible.

**DAVID WHITE**



**Studley Park Estate, Kew, 1911.**  
Kew Historical Society

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**Kew VIC 3101**

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