

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



THE HOUSEMUSEUM

A number of historians and biographers have described the lives of artists with a connection to Kew. Some artists were born in Kew, such as the modernists George Bell (1878-1966) and Horace Brodzky (1885-1969). Others made their homes here, including Artur Loureiro (1853-1932), William Nichols Anderson (1872-1927), Alice Bale (1875-1955) and Alma Figuerola (1895-1969). Mme. Figuerola, who lived in d'Estaville in Barry Street, was one of the first members of the Kew Historical Society. W. Nichols Anderson, a pupil of Frederick McCubbin, lived at various times in Cobden Street, Parkhill Road and High Street. His daughter was to donate one of his paintings to the Society. Anderson's depiction of 'Adeney Avenue from High Street, Kew' (1906) is now one of the 'treasures' of our collection.

Kew has also been home to significant patrons of the arts. Carl Pinschof (1855-1926) and his wife, the soprano Elise Wiedermann (1851-1922), assembled a significant collection of works by contemporary Australian painters and sculptors including works by Arthur Streeton, Tom Roberts, McCubbin, and Bertram Mckennal. Pamela Niehoff describes how, after the purchase of Mackennal's bronze statue 'Circe' by the Pinschofs, it was placed '... between the two grand pianos at the end of the ballroom, framed by the arched window' in 'Studley Hall'.¹

A contemporary parallel to the Pinschofs of Studley Hall (now 'Burke Hall') is the 'Lyon Housemuseum', established by Corbett and Yueji Lyon on the corner of Cotham Road and Florence Avenue. While Carl Pinschof, in his role as Consul for Austria-Hungary, held many elaborately planned functions at Studley Hall, the Lyon Housemuseum has adopted a more systematic approach to opening its collection of paintings, sculpture and video art to the people of Melbourne through events, musical performances, lectures and tours.

In 19th century Kew, an equivalent of large-scale art installations such as those in the Lyon Housemuseum collection was exemplified through trompe l'oeil ceiling and wall murals. The most notable examples in Kew are the frescoes along the walls of the vestibule at 'Villa Alba' in Walmer Street. The two murals of Sydney Harbour and Edinburgh were each painted to appear as if seen from the vantage point of a colonnade.

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Mural, Ballroom, Ordsall.
Kew Historical Society



Right
Mural, Drawing Room, Ordsall.
Kew Historical Society

THE HOUSEMUSEUM (cont.)

Villa Alba was built in 1883 for the financier William Greenlaw and his wife Anna Maria (*nee* McEvoy). Decorated by the Paterson Brothers after 1883, Villa Alba is decorated in styles derived from the Medieval, Italian Renaissance, Rococo, and Neoclassic periods. The building is now a house museum with 'painted and stencilled interior decorative schemes [that] during the late Victorian period were de rigueur for the rich and aspiring'.²

It has been proposed that one of the decorators employed at Villa Alba by the Paterson Brothers was Signor Rizzi, who was renowned for his paintings of flowers. The flowers, particularly those included in the painted dados of the upstairs hall, are one of the most exquisite aspects of the painted murals at Villa Alba. The Paterson Brothers were not the only decorators to commission Rizzi to add flowers to murals. He was also to be employed by Cullis Hill & Co., to decorate sections of the ceilings in 'Ordsall', John Halfey's house on the corner of Cotham Road and Charles Street.

Dorothy Rogers was able to corroborate Rizzi's involvement, when she climbed up a 'very tall step ladder' in the Kew Council-owned property of 'Southesk' (formerly Ordsall) in 1964, to examine a detail of the painted murals on the ceiling of the ballroom. The object of her investigation was an inscription, which she recorded as 'Vanden, Branden & Rizzi, Artists to the Firm of Hill & Co., 14 May 1887'. She was initially to write about her discovery in an article for the *Eastern Suburbs Standard*. Her detailed descriptions of the murals on the ceilings of the ballroom and drawing room were also to be published in *A History of Kew* (1973).

Regrettably, the City of Kew demolished Southesk in 1970, so the writings of Dorothy Rogers, contemporary newspaper reports, and photographs in the collections of the National Trust of Australia, the State Library of Victoria and the Kew Historical Society are all that remains. For those interested in art in Kew, Villa Alba and the Lyon Housemuseum may be visited at prearranged and advertised times.

1. Niehoff, P. M., 'The Pinschofs: Patrons of Art and Music in Melbourne 1883-1920', Unpublished Master of Arts Thesis, University of Melbourne, 1991.
2. Montana, A., 'Villa Alba: A house museum and the Paterson Brothers' Scottish influence on decorative arts in colonial Victoria', *reCollections*, Vol. 8 No 2.

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Alex Wilson OAM
Vice President: Vacant
Secretary: Keith Kendall
Treasurer: Margaret Robinson
Archivist: Robert Baker
Curator: Vacant
Members: Don Garden | Mary Kelleher | Les Littlechild | Tony Michael

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 non-members.

KEW COURT HOUSE

Members of the Society played a key role in the preservation and restoration of the historic Kew Court House complex. Volunteers staff the Kew History Centre on Level 1 three days a week: alternate Thursdays (11.00am-1.00pm), and every Friday and Saturday (11.00am-1.00pm). Look for our sign. 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 and McDougall Directories.

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed to all members. Some additional copies are made available to the community. If you would like a copy of a particular issue, please contact the Editor at archivist@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au.

WEBSITE

www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

See page 11 of the newsletter or contact the President, Alex Wilson.
Phone 9859 6177
Email president@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au.

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Inc. No. A0010789W
ABN 97 824 890 237
PO Box 175 Kew VIC 3101
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EXHIBITIONS

KEW FROM ABOVE

Kew Court House
188 High Street, Kew
Ends 31 October

'Kew From Above' features aerial photos of Kew from the Airspy collection, State Library of Victoria, as well as a number of works from our collection.

MODEL KEW KITCHEN OF THE 1920S

Kew Library
Civic Drive, Kew
Ends 31 October

Model Kew Kitchen of the 1920s: Labour-saving devices is the theme of the new display in the window at the Kew Library. The display includes labour-saving devices used to prepare food and to store it safely.

PAST MEETINGS

JUNE MEETING

Dr. Tanya Warmis
Gallipoli and Beyond
Tanya, the chairperson of the Gallipoli and Beyond Committee described the composition and decision-making to date of the Committee. She described a range of projected projects throughout Boroondara and Victoria, and used web pages and social media to illustrate her presentation.

JULY MEETING

Albert Isaacs
History of Jews in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne
Albert presented an illustrated history of the major congregations in the eastern suburbs including the Kew Hebrew Congregation (Walpole Street) and the Leo Baeck Centre for Progressive Judaism (Harp Road). He also described the history of a number of Jewish schools and businesses.

AUGUST MEETING

Ron Killeen
Outer Circle Railway
Ron who is making a television documentary about the line, shared information and pictures that he had sourced about the lines origins, the location of tracks, stations and bridges, and how and when the line functioned.

FUTURE MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Tony Michael
Life on the Yarra at Kew 1860's - 1960's
Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library
Wednesday 10 September, 8:00pm
Tony will talk about the history of the Studley Park Boat House, Dights Falls and the former Kew pumping station and its link to the Royal Botanic Gardens, and the three Johnston Street bridges.

OCTOBER MEETING

Mrs. Jeanne Pratt AC
A History of Raheen
See boxed text at right, and also page 8.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Tony Michael
Kew: Now and Then
Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library
Wednesday 12 November, 8:00pm
An illustrated talk describing what has changed in Kew as progress has imperceptibly chewed up that to which we had become accustomed, to be replaced by what we see today.

DECEMBER MEETING

Christmas Party
Kew Golf Club
120 Belford Rd, East Kew
Monday 8 December
Members will be advised of the starting time and the cost once this has been finalised.

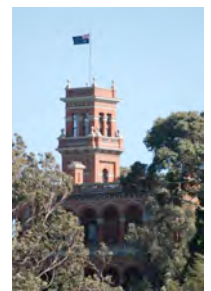
DICKINSON LECTURE

Mrs. Jeanne Pratt AC
A History of Raheen
Just Theatre, Kew Court House,
188 High Street, Kew
Thursday 16 October 2014
7.30pm, for 8.00pm.
Mrs. Jeanne Pratt AC will deliver the Kew Historical Society's inaugural Dickinson Lecture on 16 October.

Limited number of seats will be available, so bookings are essential.

For tickets, phone 9278 4770.
Tickets \$12.50 for members, \$25.00 for non-members.

Read more on Page 8.



'Tower of Raheen'. Tony Michael, photographer

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members since June 2014: Rohan Blyth, Maria Chrisant, Philip Cookson & family, Dr. Karen Lynch, Mark Russell, Dr. Suzanne McWha.

QUARTERLY BOOK SALE

A large crowd attended a highly successful book sale in the Phyllis Hore Room on Sunday 17 August. We would like to thank members and friends for the enormous effort that they put into setting up, serving customers, and dismantling the tables at the end of the day.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Kew Historical Society, one of the oldest historical societies in Victoria exists to keep alive Kew's history for future generations. In addition to monthly meetings and a quarterly newsletter, it performs many other services.

Twice a year it puts on two high profile lectures at the Kew Court House that are booked out within days of being announced; it maintains an extensive archival collection; it regularly mounts exhibitions at the Kew Court House and the Kew Library; it organises walking tours of Kew, including an annual Kew High School tour, where over two hundred students visit the Kew Cemetery to learn about the history of Victoria and the role that Kew played in that history. The Society has a growing membership and its members are interested in a variety of activities including research, family history, monthly meetings, and also the very important social side of meeting with like-minded friends.

Over the past 56 years, many wonderful Kew citizens have made their contribution to the Kew Historical Society. Can you help? If so give me a ring on 9859 6177 or email me at president@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au.

Alex Wilson OAM
President

A STORY OF A SCHOOL

On 5 February 1963, a special group of students from the Kew area reported for school at East Kew Central to begin their new school year. Since 1923 this Kitchener Street school had provided the first eight years of state schooling for local children. What was different in 1963 was that the students in Forms 1 and 2 were now to be known as students of Kew High School. They would become the founding classes of a school that would serve its community well for the next sixty years.

The decision to establish Kew High in the early 1960s was part of the massive expansion in secondary education in Victoria, which occurred between 1946 and 1970. In these years, Australia experienced a significant increase in its population as a consequence of an increase in the post-World War II birth rate and a massive migration program. During this period, Victoria's population grew from 2.04 million to 2.95 million. The challenge was to provide schools for a rapidly expanding secondary school population. A massive building program began, and in Victoria, from 1960 to 1970, thirty high schools were opened. Their underlying philosophy was that they should be secular, inclusive and be an important part of local communities.

In the post-war decades, whilst students east of Burke Road were served by Camberwell High School, Balwyn High School (after 1954) and Greythorn High School (after 1958), west of Burke Road there was a dearth of state secondary schools. In 1960 a group of concerned parents under the leadership of Dr. Geoff Goding formed the Kew District High School Project Committee to press the Education Department to build a high school in Kew. There followed much Education department dithering about where to site such a school.

Eventually, in 1962, a 6.5-acre irregular-shaped site at the junction of High Street and Burke Road was purchased from the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board. Glass's Creek ran across the western end of the land which was severely encroached upon by the part of the former Model Dairy site, which had been purchased by BP (for use as a truck depot) the year before. Despite the irregular shape and smallness of the site, Kew Council assurances that the school would have the use of the adjacent Stradbroke Parklands for playing fields, enabled the school to be built.

Thus, at the end of 1963, the school was able to finally leave the Kitchener Street location that had been shared with East Kew Primary while the new three story 'L' shaped building, necessitated by the cramped site, was constructed.



Since 1963, Kew High School has reflected at a local level, the changes that have occurred in Australian society as a whole. Its original students were mostly Australian born (though many were children of post war migrants) but over ensuing decades the school adapted and responded to the influx of different migrant groups: Italian and Yugoslavs in the 1970s, Greeks in the 1980s, Hong Kong-Chinese and Vietnamese in the 1990s, and more recently people from India and China.

The school has also welcomed students from neighbouring suburbs such as Richmond, Collingwood, Ivanhoe and Hawthorn. These suburbs did not have their own co-educational high school in the 1960s, so the availability of public transport via the High Street tram and the Burke Road bus made Kew High an attractive option.

During their formative years in the 1960s, new high schools, such as Kew High, adopted the organisational culture and conventions of existing state and non-state schools: prefects, house captains, assemblies and an emphasis on academic success. Kew High, in particular, was challenged by the many private secondary schools in Kew. From the outset, Kew High provided a sound traditional curriculum along the lines of the English grammar school model, aiming to prepare its students for occupations, which then had clear predictable career pathways.

Late in the 1960s, a challenge to the prevailing orthodoxies of school life began to emerge. The Women's movement, the anti-Vietnam war movement and mass youth culture influenced the thinking and priorities of students and teachers alike. Young people began to challenge authority, generating debate over the ways schools should be structured and function. In many schools across the state, innovative and alternative ideas about the purpose of schooling were discussed and often embraced. At Kew High, this was reflected in curriculum innovation and a decision in 1979 that senior students would no longer be required to wear school uniform.

During the 1980s, the aging of the Kew community meant that the population of the school shrank from a high of 1034 in 1971 to 370 in 1991. In response to these changing demographics and government policies, some neighbouring high schools such as Banyule, Greythorn and Richmond, that had served their communities well since the 1960s, were closed.

Since 1990, the impact of the Information Technology revolution and the rise of the IT skilled 'Generation Y' students (born after the mid-1980s) has meant that schools have had to respond to change in order to prepare students for a world in which many former traditional occupations and certainties are no longer relevant.

Kew High School, the construction phase, Eric Sibly, photographer

A STORY OF A SCHOOL (CONT.)

When the school was established, its motto, *Loyal Service*, with its emphasis on secure pathways in employment and in life, reflected the orthodoxy of the time. However, in the early 21st century the motto was changed to *Aspire, Strive, Achieve*, reflecting the more individualistic world in which the school now operated.

As we reflect on the school's first half-century we can be proud of its achievements in providing sound, if traditional, learning experiences for its students. It has had the loyal support of local families, some of whom have had three generations attend the school, and of many excellent teachers and support staff.

Today Kew High School, despite trials and tribulations over the decades, is a thriving local institution with a cap on its growth of 1,000 students, and a waiting list of students hoping to gain entry.

This article was written by Valerie Bourke a co-author of *Aspire, Strive, Achieve: the Kew High School Story* (2013). It is based on the preface of the book, which is available for purchase at Kew High School.

IN THE NEWS

150-YEARS AGO

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1864

The site is now being cleared for the new Lunatic Asylum, and the Gazette has made known the acceptance of a contract 'towards erecting hospital for the insane, at Kew £18,000'. If ground has not already been broken by the contractors, a very few days will see the work actually commenced; and before the colony is many months older she may hope to see washed from her scutcheon that terrible blot - Yarra Bend. When this is done, and the patients are removed to their new home, which, from the high ground on the other side of the river shall look down upon the site of the old and abandoned dungeon, once the scene of so much misery and cruelty, then, and not till then, we may hope to find the asylum an hospital for the cure of mental disease, instead of merely a receptacle for the confinement necessarily with more or less of cruelty and hardship of mad people...

But we now hope to have public asylums - of which this at Kew is the precursor - in which charity will not be outraged, and in which the exertions of humane and scientific medical men will be aided, instead of being frustrated...

We believe that the plan of the new asylum at Kew, which, as have stated more than eighteen months back, was recommended by the commission, is, as closely as climate and other circumstances will allow of, and subject to any still more modern improvements, that of the Derby County Asylum, allowed to be one of the best in England, and frequently referred to and held up as a model asylum at the time of its erection...

The Argus, 6 October 1864

100-YEARS AGO

KEW LINE ELECTRIFICATION WORK BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 1

At the meeting of the Kew Council on Wednesday it was intimated that the purchase money [sum indecipherable] for the right of the Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus Company in the Kew horse tramway had been paid over, and that the property became the possession of the Kew Council on September 1. It is proposed to begin the work of electrification on November 1, and arrangements have been made for the Melbourne Tramway Company to continue to work the horse tramway until the Malvern and Prahran Tramway Trust takes possession.

The Argus, 1 October 1914

PATRIOTIC EFFORTS X-RAY EQUIPMENT KEW COUNCIL'S PROVISION

At the meeting of the Kew Council last night it was decided, on the motion of Councillor McCrae, seconded by Councillor Hiscock, to provide £300 to furnish the Second Victorian Expeditionary Force with an X ray equipment.

The Argus, 8 October 1914

THE UNVEILING OF THE KEW WAR MEMORIAL

One of the 'Treasures' of our Collection is the large photograph of the unveiling of the Kew War Memorial by the Earl of Stradbroke KCMG, Sunday 30 August 1925. The framed photograph has been in need of urgent restoration, which thanks to the generosity of Andrew McIntosh MLA, has now been restored by conservators at The Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, University of Melbourne. The Society would like to publicly express its gratitude to Andrew McIntosh for this significant donation. The framed photograph will be on permanent display at the Kew Court House from the evening of the inaugural Dickinson Lecture.

GLASS'S CREEK POUND

The City of Boroondara currently advises that any dogs and cats 'found at large' will be taken to the Council Pound in Glen Iris. Before the amalgamation of individual cities into the City of Boroondara in 1994, most cities funded and managed their own pounds.

The term pound comes from the Middle English 'pund', used to define or describe an enclosure. Current usage of the term derives from this original meaning and encompasses places for the detention of stray animals, a space where automobiles are impounded, a section of a canal between two locks, and even a type of fishing net.

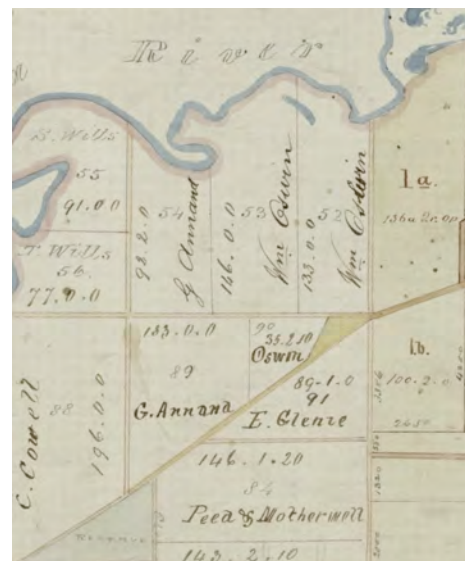
It can be difficult to establish with certainty the dates when the first pounds were established in the Port Phillip District. A Proclamation by Governor Gipps in 1840 ordered and directed that 'Notice of all Cattle impounded in the Public Pounds in the District of Port Phillip should be published by the Poundkeepers of such Pounds in one or more of the Newspapers published at the Town of Melbourne, in the County of Bourke ...'. The Proclamation, amended in 1846, presupposes that a number of public pounds already existed.

While the first successful land sales in Boroondara occurred in Hawthorn in 1843, and Kew in 1845, these areas were to be without local pounds until April 1858, when the Governor of Victoria, in accordance with *Act 18 Victoria No 30*, was pleased to direct the establishment of a Pound at Glass's Creek on that part of land bounded by the Kilby Road, Burke Road and High Street.

While the Governor was required to proclaim the establishment of a pound, the appointment of a poundkeeper was the responsibility of the Justices of the Peace in the local Court of Petty Sessions. Following the appointment of Mr. John Oakes as Poundkeeper by the relevant court ('Warringal' later Heidelberg) in April 1858. Kew at this time was not a discrete political entity, being governed by the Boroondara Roads Board, which had been proclaimed in 1854.

The location of Glass's Creek Pound can be identified in one of the earliest maps of Boroondara (above right). This identifies a triangular section of land on the northwest corner of Bulleen (High Street) and Burke Roads. The four-acre Pound Reserve was initially a triangular section, separate to Lot 90. William Oswin had purchased the latter on 16 October 1851. Oswin's Lot 90 adjoined Lots 52 and 53, which he had purchased in August of the same year, on the northern side of what was to become Kilby Road.

The Pound took its name from the most distinctive natural feature of the area, Glass's Creek, named after the early pastoralist Thomas Glass. From its source in Balwyn, just north of the land defined as 'Elgar's Special Survey', the Creek meandered across Balwyn to reach Kew near where Kew High School is now located, before reaching the Yarra River at Hays Paddock, East Kew.



[Extract]
'Boroondara
No.3', 1850s.
State Library of
Victoria

The 'Table of Rates' to be charged by the new Poundkeeper for the 'Trespass of Cattle and the Sustenance thereof' had been determined by the Justices in Petty Sessions at Warringal on 24 April 1858. In establishing the Rates for different animals the Justices followed established precedent that had been more or less consistently defined since the 1840s. Impounded livestock included: the equine and bovine (horses, mares, geldings, colts, fillies, asses, mules, bulls, cows, oxen, heifers, steers, calves); the ovine (rams, ewes, sheep, lambs); goats; and pigs.

Each class of animal was charged at a separate rate; three rates for trespass and one rate for sustenance. The highest penalty charged was for trespass in any 'Garden, un-cut Meadow, or Growing Crop of any kind, enclosed by a good substantial Fence'; while the lowest penalty for trespass was that which had occurred in any 'Forest or open Pasture Land, open Stubble, After-Grass, or other enclosed Land'. The fine was 10s. for horses and cows; 1s.6d. for sheep; 12s. for goats; and 15s. for pigs. For Sustenance, the rate charged for horses and cows was 2s., whereas that for pigs was 1s., goats 6d., and sheep 1d.

Like other poundkeepers, John Oakes was required to advertise the impounding of animals and notify when they would be sold. Once the Notice of Impounding was published, owners usually had less than 30 days to pay their fine and collect their animal.

On 7 May 1858, a bullock, two cows and five heifers were listed as impounded. Most animals could be described and identified because of the brands used: One 'light strawberry cow, small hoop horns, black muzzle, tanned ears, notch in milking ear, CPR off ribs, 5C milking thigh'. During 1858, most of the animals impounded were cows and heifers, with horses the only other animal listed. Presumably, goats and pigs were not as popular or were placed under greater control by their owners.

GLASS'S CREEK POUND (CONT.)

Due to the number of animals impounded, one might have presumed that the Pound was profitable, however in May 1861, John Oakes was declared insolvent due to the 'pressure of a judgement creditor, and falling off in pound receipts'. His assets were declared to be £20; and his liabilities £142.7s.4d.

The secession of Hawthorn and Kew from the Boroondara Roads Board in 1860 initiated a period of conflict between both municipalities, and subsequently boroughs. While the boundaries of the new municipalities were quickly established, the status of Glass's Creek Pound was to be a source of dissension. George Wharton, Kew's first Chairman, wrote a letter of complaint in September 1861 to the Hawthorn Council regarding the removal of surface soil from Hawthorn's reserve, or 'common' at Glass's Creek Pound. Because each municipality claimed sovereignty over parts of the Pound, magistrates in both municipalities could meet and rule on issues such as the Rates to be collected. The issue was not resolved until 1864, when Hawthorn decided to create its own pound. As a result of this decision, John Oakes was to write to the Hawthorn Council, complaining of 'the injury likely to be inflicted upon him by the establishment of a pound within the Borough, and offering to hand over any fees that may accrue from cattle impounded from Hawthorn'.

Political dissent was not the only calamity to be visited on the Pound during the first ten years of its operation. In April 1864, *The Argus* reported that 'On Wednesday, soon after midday, a flash of lightning struck the house at Glass's Creek Pound. There were four men in the yard, and two women in the house, at the time. The electric fluid appeared to have struck the large gum-tree overshadowing the cottage, and then to have passed in at the back window, over the head of one of the inmates. It passed out at the front door, where it encountered another inmate, who received a severe shock, was upset, and severely scorched about the body. This person stated that she saw the fluid pass close by her, but could not decide what direction it had taken. In the yard the shock was felt in different degrees by the four men - one was stunned and temporarily blinded; another was struck on the feet. A horse was thrown down, having been momentarily paralyzed. Six persons, it thus appears, escaped most imminent danger in what would appear to have been either a broad blaze of electric fluid discharged over a huge surface, or a narrow stream which descended the tree, passed outwards over a space of forty or fifty feet, and spent its force in various directions.'

No subsequent calamities were reported as being visited on the Pound. The intervening years until the death of John Edmund Walter Oakes at Glass's Creek in 1878, aged 68, were to be filled with conventional impoundings; minor disputes over issues such as whether animals should have been impounded at Hawthorn or Kew; and family notices listing the marriages of his children into local farming families.

Poundkeepers known to have succeeded John Oakes included Samuel B. Cash in 1890, Edward Stephen Delaney in 1892, and Emma Oswin in 1894.

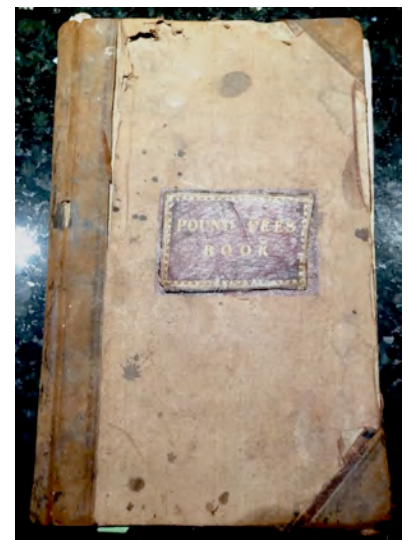
In 1901, a Congregational Church was to be situated on the edge of the Pound's triangular block, facing Burke Road and High Street. In 1908, an A. Oakes was to be the final Poundkeeper at Glass's Creek. In 1910, F.G.A. Barnard records that the Pound was no longer in existence.

Which brings us to the 'Pound Fees Book' in the Kew Historical Society's archive. Mr. J. Smith of Laburnum donated the leather bound ledger to the Society in July 1992. It was presumably Mr. Smith who discovered the document on a local rubbish tip. Due to the volume having suffered some damage, the earliest entries in the ledger may be missing. The surviving entries cover a 24-year period from 1874 to 1896. The ledger dates to the period when Kew was a borough (1863-1910), as 'Borough of Kew Pound' and 'Glass's Creek Pound Fees' are printed at the top of odd and even pages respectively. On each double page, the first page lists details about impounded animals, noting: 'Number', 'Date', 'Particular of Cattle Impounded', and 'Brand or Mark'. The second page, which continues the entry, lists: 'Time when Sold or Released', 'By Whom Released or Bought', 'Fees for Public sale', 'Sustenance', 'Trespass', 'Advertisement', and 'Total'.

Two entries from 1878 include animals owned by a Mrs. Britt. On 3 November 1878, a light brown horse with a heavy saddle and collar was apprehended. The horse had a blaze on its face. Its nostrils and its near hind fetlock were white. The horse had a brand like TB near its shoulder. When Mrs. Britt collected the horse she had to pay 3s.6d. for sustenance, 1s.6d. for trespass, and 3d. for costs. Nine days later on 12 November, Mrs. Britt had to redeem a black and white cow at a cost of 2s.6d. for sustenance, 3s. for trespass, and 3d. for the notice. Within a month, she had paid a total of 8s.6d. These were not to be the only occasions on which Mrs. Britt had cause to visit the Pound.

Historic documents such as the Pound Fees Book enable us to gain a picture of life in Kew during a period when most of the northern and eastern parts of the Borough were predominantly agricultural.

ROBERT BAKER



'Pound Fees Book'.
Kew Historical
Society

THE INAUGURAL DICKINSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

William Henry Shorey Dickinson M.B.E. (1888-1974) lived a long, active and useful life. He was a man of many parts, and for his contributions to the community, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1956.

Serving in the First World War, Dickinson went to Gallipoli with the ANZAC Fifth Battalion, then to France and Belgium, rising to the rank of Lieutenant. Back home again he became a chaplain in the military forces and Drill Commander of the Kew Company. During the Second World War he served as a Major.

In 1943 was released from the army to serve with the Red Cross where he became Chief Accountant of the Australian Red Cross National Headquarters, a position held for 13 years. He was also acting Secretary-General when the Secretary-General was absent. In 1953, he was awarded the Australian Red Cross Service Award. On 23 November 1961, he also received a Long Service Medal from the Red Cross Victorian Division.

Dickinson was active in local government as a Councillor in 1940-50 and 1953-65. He was twice mayor of Kew in 1946-47, and again in the Centenary Year of Kew, 1960-61.

His sporting interests included golf, boxing, wrestling and amateur athletics, and for a number of years wrote a sporting column for the Herald.

He also sat for many years on the Council of Ruyton Girls' School.

His great love for the City of Kew resulted in his calling on 16 September 1958, the Inaugural Meeting of the Kew Historical Society. He was elected President of the Society, and remained in that office until his death in 1974.

In 2014, 126 years after his birth, and 40 years after his death, the Kew Historical Society is proud to announce an annual lecture honouring his varied contributions to a range of organisations in Kew.

In the inaugural Dickinson Lecture, the Society is honoured to invite Mrs. Jeanne Pratt to speak to members and guests about the history of her house, Raheen, and the approaches she has taken to its restoration.



W.H.S. Dickinson.
Mayoral portrait. Kew
Historical Society

A HISTORY OF RAHEEN



[Raheen, Dalswraith, Burke Hall and Studley House], ca. 1930.
Charles Daniel Pratt (1892-1968), photographer. Airspy collection,
State Library of Victoria

2014 DICKINSON LECTURE

Raheen in Studley Park Road, Kew, is one of Melbourne's best-known mansions. The first stage was built in the 1870s and was the home of a series of prominent owners until it was acquired as the Melbourne Catholic Archbishop's residence and became synonymous with Archbishop Daniel Mannix.

In 1981 Jeanne and Richard Pratt acquired the property and under Jeanne Pratt's supervision, the house was beautifully restored and a magnificent modern extension added to the rear of the home.

The Kew Historical Society is privileged and delighted that Mrs. Pratt has accepted an invitation to present the inaugural Dickinson Lecture. She will speak about the history of Raheen and its development under her care.

KEW IN THE 1890S DEPRESSION

PART 1: THE BOOM ENDS

After a decade of growth in the 1880s, Australia, Victoria and especially Melbourne, experienced a severe depression. According to Reserve Bank of Australia economists, the 1890s depression was both longer and more severe than the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The underlying economic causes of the Depression of the 1890s are complex and controversial, but the triggers that set the Depression off and sustained it are fairly well established: the disruptive Maritime and Shearers strikes of 1890; the Barings Crisis in London in November 1890, which stanchied the flow of investment funds to Australia; the failure of several building societies and finance companies in 1891 and 1892; the 1893 banking crisis that led to the collapse and reconstruction of many banks; and low wheat and wool prices since the mid 1880s. These events sapped business and consumer confidence, reduced funds for investment, and caused unemployment with consequential depressing effects on business and commerce.

The resulting unemployment and collapse of the financial system caused a fall in property values as many people, in order to repay debt, off-loaded property that had been frequently purchased at speculative prices. Share prices also declined. Many people reduced consumption expenditure because of lower incomes resulting from unemployment, loss of wealth, reduced wages or weak commercial activity.

As in other areas of Melbourne and beyond, the boom of the 1880s left a legacy in Kew.

Population

Population decline was a Victoria-wide phenomenon during the 1890s, as many sought opportunities elsewhere. Melbourne lost about 50,000 people in the years 1891 to 1893. Kew's population followed this trend.

The 'Municipal Directories', published annually between 1890 and 1896, indicate that Kew's population fell from an estimated peak in 1894 of 8,476 to an estimated low of 7,500 in 1896. This represents a decline of about 11 per cent. This is corroborated by comments of the Assistant Traffic Manager, Victorian Railways, that in 1893 there were 182 empty houses in Kew and a population loss of 550. The Kew Brass Band also advised that several of its members had to leave the district due to 'bad times'.

Insolvencies

There were a number of insolvents declared during the 1890s. These show that some Kew residents were financially ruined by the collapse of the land boom, share market declines, and resultant depressed commercial activity and employment. *The Argus* and the *Kew Mercury* published lists of 'New Insolvents'. These insolvents included: Butchers, 'Gentlemen', Civil Servants, Clerks, a Carpenter, a Builder, Estate Agents, Agents, a Bootmaker, a Stock and Station Agent, a Surgeon, a Legal Manager,

a Reporter, a Distiller, an Art Decorator, a Contractor, a Coachman, and a Coach builder.

Reasons given for the insolvencies included: 'dullness or lack of trade'; 'inability to collect debts'; 'pressure of creditors'; 'lack of capital'; 'paying excessive rent'; 'losses in land speculation'; 'paying excessive interest on borrowed money'; 'depression in trade and industry'; 'losses on contracts and being refused progress payments'; 'depreciation in real estate'; 'illness in family'; 'inability to gain employment'; 'adverse litigation'; 'being surety for others'; being 'unemployed'; 'failure of various banking institutions ... inability to pay calls on shares'; and 'claims made for debts'.

These represent only those Kew residents who were in financial straits requiring that they were declared insolvent. Many of the insolvents listed more than one of these factors as leading to their insolvency. (It is also interesting to note the effects of illness in families on financial health, in an era before the introduction of social security payments).

Sharp Practices Come To Light

During the prosperous years of the 1880s, a variety of legal and illegal sharp, fraudulent, dishonest and undisciplined commercial and financial practices had developed, as is often the case when there is a speculation-based economic boom.

In February 1891, twenty-five shareholders of the Australian Financial Agency and Guarantee Company, living in Kew and Hawthorn were informed that the Manager, who had been nominated by one of the directors, had embezzled some £12,244. Four shillings was wiped off the share capital. Subsequently, another seven shillings would be written down.

Three civil legal cases involved Kew land. These cases indicate that land in Kew was part of the broader land boom speculation with its accompanying carelessness and alleged misrepresentation.



'High Street, Kew', 1891. J.F.C. Farquhar (Photo).
Kew Historical Society

KEW IN THE 1890s DEPRESSION (CONT.)

One case involved Gustav Lachal, who had purchased land at £180 an acre from Richard Oswin in 1888. Lachal had formed a syndicate after the purchase. The land was then sold to another syndicate in 1890 for £200 an acre; a profit of 66.6 per cent. The second sale was claimed to have been sold on the basis of a misrepresentation, as the purchasers believed that the land had frontage to Burke Road. The second syndicate sued the estate of Lachal, as well as other members of the first syndicate, and won the case.

The second case involved one of the bigger land boomers, William McLean, a director of the Federal Bank, which had to close its doors during the crisis of 1893. McLean was accused of introducing, and assisting in the procurement of advances for the Kew Land Company (among other companies) of which he was also a director.

The third case involved a block of land in Kew on Whitehorse Road. The purchasers were sued for the £1,000 that they had not paid for the purchase of the land. The defendants claimed that the deal was induced by the misrepresentation of the vendors who had stated that there was only one gully on the land, whereas in fact there were several such gullies. Clearly the purchasers did not undertake what now would be called 'due diligence' before purchase.

Whilst not necessarily reflecting illegal practices, the Kew Borough Council received notification in 1892 of a number of land companies and finance companies that were being liquidated. At least two of these companies were involved in scandals in the land boom era. In April 1892, the National Property Land and Investment Company was liquidated with land in Mont Victor Road. In August, the British Bank was liquidated with land in Fellows Street. In January 1893, the English and Australian Mortgage Bank Ltd., was also liquidated.

Property Values

The 1890s Depression was triggered and sustained by a major fall in property values. It took a number of years for the general slowdown in the economic situation of the early 1890s to be reflected in local land values.

An indication of the scale of losses in property value in Kew is evident in the rateable value of property, as calculated by the Municipal Valuer. The rateable value of property in Kew, based on a Net Annual Value basis, was published annually in the Municipal Directories of the 1890s.

The *Municipal Directory* of 1890 identified the valuation of all land in Kew to be £121,412. The value was to rise to a peak of £137,274 in 1893, before falling to a trough in 1897-98 of £77,333. The decline from peak to trough was around 43 per cent.

The decline in property values of 43.7 per cent is consistent with an estimate of a 40 per cent reduction in property values provided during a debate in the Kew Borough Council in September 1893.

More specific data can be gleaned from a number of appeals by ratepayers to property valuations, which were reported in the *Kew Mercury*:

- Burke Road - Property, 26 acres. Valuation: 1892 £12,870; 1893 £7,800; 1894: £6,600.
- Foley Street - 3 houses, Annual Rental: 1892 £20; 1893 £17; 1894 £14.
- Walpole Street - House, Annual Rental: 1894 £40; 1895 £34; 1896 £32.

During this period, there were also reports of withdrawals of properties from sale, the upset price or reserve price being the actual price, and opportunities for bargains or 'knock-downs'. All were indicative of a weak market.

The only bright spots for the property market between 1892 and late 1897 were in 1894 when a new handsome brick shop in Denmark Street was sold, and in December 1896, when there was a good sale in High Street. The *Kew Mercury* hoped that the 'sale was a good sign and let us hope it shows that property is improving in value'.



'Fernhurst Park, Kew', 1897.
Batten & Percy Collection.
State Library of Victoria

Evidence of a real recovery could be seen at the end of 1897. The first signs of a growing confidence was in November, with the 'Fernhurst Park' subdivision in Fernhurst Grove. The recovery was confirmed in the *Kew Mercury* on 30 May 1899, which reported that over the previous year there had been a strong demand for 'medium class' houses within reasonable distance of train or tram, and that over £9,000 of new buildings had been erected in Kew.

The decline in land values did not affect all people equally. Those who were most affected were people who owed money, requiring the liquidation of their assets, especially if they had lost employment.

In conclusion, it can be seen that Kew was not immune from the effects of the collapse of the boom of the 1880s. Population fell and land values declined about 40 per cent, especially between 1892 and 1897. There were also insolvencies related to poor trading conditions and financial speculation. Some sharp practices of the boom involving Kew were dealt with in the courts. But there was more to come, including hard times and retrenchment.

ANDREW FROST
awcmfrost@hotmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special General Meeting of the members of the Kew Historical Society Inc., will be held immediately before the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 8.00 pm in the Phyllis Hore Room, rear of Kew Library, Civic Drive, off Cotham Road, Kew.

The following business will be transacted at the meeting:

1. Apologies

2. Special Resolution One

That the following words in the second line of Clause 49 (2) sub clause (a) be deleted, "be present at all meetings of the Management Committee." And the immediately preceding word "shell" be replaced with "shall".

Clause 49 (2) (a) will now read as:

"ensure that the financial records of the Society are kept in accordance with the Act; and be responsible for control of the Society's finances. The Treasurer shall liaise with the President in preparation and monitoring of the Society's budgets; recommend to the Management Committee the proposed annual subscription rates; recommend to the Management Committee the Society's budgets; report to both the Executive and the Management Committee the current financial position of the Society's annual accounts and;"

3. Special Resolution Two

That the word "three" in Clause 56 sub clause (1) be changed to "six".

Clause 56 (1) will now read as:

"The number of ordinary members of the Management Committee shall be six, with the option of co-opting two more."

4. Special Resolution Three

In the event that Special Resolution 2 is passed, the following Special Resolution is proposed:

That the word "three" in Clause 45 sub clause (g) be changed to six.

Clause 45 (g) will now read as:

"six ordinary members elected under rule 56."

By order of the Management Committee.

Dr. Keith Kendall
Secretary

Woodbury College, Cotham Road.,ca.1908-ca.1920.
Kew Historical Society

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 55th Annual General Meeting of the Kew Historical Society Incorporated will be held immediately following the conclusion of the Special General Meeting to be held on Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 8.00 pm in the Phyllis Hore Room, rear Kew Library, Civic Drive, off Cotham Road, Kew.

The following business will be transacted at the meeting:-

(1) Apologies

(2) Speaker: Councillor Jim Parke, Councillor for Bellevue Ward

(3) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

(4) Report from the President for the year ending 30th June 2014

(5) Report from the Treasurer for the year ending 30th June 2014

(6) Report from the Archivist for the year ending 30th June 2014

(7) Election of Management Committee members for the year 2014-2015

In accordance with the Constitution approved under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, all positions become vacant.

(a) In the event that Special Resolutions 2 and 3 proposed at the immediately preceding Special General Meeting are passed:

The elected Management Committee positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist, Curator and six ordinary members.

(b) In the event that Special Resolutions 2 and 3 proposed at the immediately preceding Special General Meeting are not passed:

The elected Management Committee positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist, Curator, and three ordinary members.

Any member wishing to nominate a member for any position on the Management Committee should use the enclosed nomination form. All nomination forms shall be delivered either personally, or by mail, or electronically to the Secretary of the Society, Dr Keith Kendall by 2nd October 2014.

(8) Appointment of an Auditor.

Elected members of the Management Committee for 2013-2014 were:

President: Alex Wilson OAM

Vice President: Judith Vimpani (resigned 30/06/14)

Secretary: Dr. Keith Kendall

Treasurer: Margaret Robinson

Archivist: Robert Baker

Curator: Dione McIntyre (resigned effective 30/06/14)

Members: Assoc. Prof. Don Garden, Mary Kelleher, Les Littlechild

Member: Tony Michael (appointed 27/06/14)



MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

Kew Historical Society is the keeper of information and items pertaining to the history of Kew. To continue the work of the Society your support is needed. This work is ongoing and involves conserving, cataloguing and making the collection available to the public.

You can support the Society by becoming a member and/or making a donation. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

I/We wish to make a donation of \$

join the Kew Historical Society. I/We agree to be bound by the Rules of the Society.

Signature of Donor(s)/Applicant(s): _____ Date: _____

Please post your cheque with this form to KHS, PO Box 175, Kew VIC 3101

Annual Membership Fee

Individual \$20

Family \$25

Student \$ 5

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10 September: Monthly Meeting

16 October: Dickinson Lecture

12 November: Monthly Meeting

23 November: Quarterly Book Sale

8 December: Christmas Party

Kew Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 175

Kew VIC 3101