

**HISTORICAL
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NEWSLETTER

**No. 114
MARCH 2016**



PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GARDENS

Residents of Kew have long been fortunate in being able to access public parks and gardens for private and active recreation. In the 19th Century, there were numerous reports in the daily press of the use of the natural reserves beside the Yarra for social festivities. These included a highly organised celebration in 1862 on New Year's Day, in which over 3,000 Melbournians participated. During the festivities, the correspondent for *The Argus* was to report that "there was an extemporaneous game of football, conducted without any observance whatever of the ordinary rules, and at times sadly interfering with the dancing, tea-kettle-boiling, and other arrangements prevailing in various portions of the park".

In contrast to this public use of natural reserves for leisure, a tradition emerged among the genteel residents of Studley Park to develop their private landholdings and gardens as exemplars of fine horticultural practice. John Halfey of 'Clutha' in Studley Park Road was to receive an Honourable Mention at the Horticultural Society of Victoria's 'Spring Exhibition' (1864) 'for a beautiful collection of fine fruit of the orange, lemon, lime, and shaddock'. When Clutha was put up for auction in 1875, the excellence of the garden was duly noted. "The grounds of about 8½ acres ... are laid out in lawn with shrubbery and extensive fruit and vegetable garden, with meadow for cattle. The garden will be found fully stocked with most valuable fruit trees of every known variety, bearing the choicest fruit, for which Mr. Carson has for many years made his name famous as a prize-taker".

The 'Victoria Horticultural Society', at which Halfey was a prizewinner, had been formed in 1848, largely due to the persistence of John Pascoe Fawkner. [It was to receive a Royal Charter in 1885]. Surprisingly, given that there were well-known prize-winning gardeners in Kew, a local Horticultural Society was not formed until 1914. At the first public meeting, chaired by the Mayor of Kew, Cr. Rucker, the aims of the Society were formulated. These were to "create and encourage a liking for the cultivation of flowers, shrubs, pot plants and gardening pursuits" through regular lectures, competitions and shows. In establishing a local branch, Cr. Rucker paid tribute to the work of George Pockett, the curator of the Alexandra Gardens in Cotham Road, which had been opened by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Reginald Talbot in 1908.

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Villa Alba

Entrance gates on Walmer Street

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The Noble family in their rear garden, c.1890

Framed family portrait, Kew Historical Society collection



PUBLIC AND PRIVATE GARDENS (cont.)

The Kew Horticultural Society was particularly active in the years 1914-1920. Its principal activities, apart from training and lectures, were its flower shows each Autumn and Spring. At the inaugural Flower Show in the Kew Recreation Hall in Wellington Street, there were prominent displays of sweet peas, carnations and rhododendrons. George Pockett of Cobden Street was a prizewinner in the sections for carnations and cut flowers.

The Society's garden competitions provide us with important information about garden styles and social values of the period. As early as 1914, a 'Cottage Garden Competition' was held, the results of which were reported in the *Camberwell and Hawthorn Advertiser*. While the winner was Mr W.H. Richardson of 58 Gladstone Street, the judges felt constrained to comment that: "The brick edging and curves were faulty, and asphalt was too prominent. Critically speaking, brick edging and asphalt were to be deprecated, particularly in small gardens, though a saving in labor. Asphalt drew the heat." The ubiquitous George Pockett was also an entrant, although his garden was not allowed in the official competition due to the preponderance of 'accessories and extras' (defined then as rockeries, ferneries, arches, pergolas, fountains, lily ponds and pot plants). The judge from Box Hill, in recommending the Pockett garden for a special award, noted: "At the rear, every unsightly object was well screened with climbing plants, affording shade and cover, pot plants being nicely disposed, giving the whole a cool and restful appearance, just the retreat a tired artisan required after a day's toil; in addition a well-stocked garden of vegetables, etc."

While on a scale far exceeding those created by such 'artisan' gardeners, the restoration of notable local gardens such as that at Villa Alba in Walmer Street, responded to the heritage value of 'utilitarian plantings' with which local gardeners such as Halfey, Richardson and Pockett would have been familiar. Dr. James Broadbent, who was appointed to help restore Villa Alba's gardens, after the demolition of the later buildings that surrounded the original house, recommended plantings in the rear garden of Villa Alba of walnut trees, oranges and a pummelo [also known as a shaddock]. These plantings complemented an existing venerable fig tree.

The current Kew Garden Club, which meets in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library at 1.00pm on the fourth Monday of the month (Feb-Nov), is an inheritor of the work and dedication of the urge to "create and encourage a liking for the cultivation of flowers, shrubs, pot plants and gardening pursuits" that inspired the first horticultural society in Kew.

EDITOR

[Note: The Kew Historical Society has in its collection a number of awards given to the Kew Garden Club since the 1970s.]

KEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PATRON

Sir Gustav Nossal AC, CBE

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President: Andrew McIntosh

Vice President: Assoc. Prof. Don Garden OAM

Secretary: Brad Miles

Treasurer: David Benwell

Archivist/Newsletter editor: Robert Baker

Curator: Judith Scurfield

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

KEW COURT HOUSE

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

NEWSLETTER

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

WEBSITE

www.kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

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

Email: secretary@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

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WHAT'S ON - MARCH TO JUNE 2016

EXHIBITIONS

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

KEW COURT HOUSE Victorian Fashion: Dressing for Society

Exhibition Opening: Saturday 5 March at 5.00pm
Thereafter, each Friday and Saturday 11.00am to 1.00pm.

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



Victorian dress (part). Netta Fuller collection

FUTURE EVENTS

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

FEBRUARY

Rediscovering Lost Kew Research Group

Seven members of our research group will explore, using original photographs, 21 significant built structures in Kew that have been 'lost' through demolition, neglect, or whose original function has so changed that this use has been forgotten.

MARCH

KEW FESTIVAL 2016

For details of the Society's activities, see page 4 for details

THE 2016 MCINTYRE LECTURE

Planning for Growth

The Hon. Richard Wynne MP, Victorian Minister for Planning

Richard Wynne is the Minister for Planning in the Victorian Government. The lecture will address a range of issues facing Melbourne and Victoria in a period of rapid growth.

Booking details page 4.

APRIL

Boroondara Remembers: Stories of World War I

Fiona Poulton & Katherine Sheedy

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

Wednesday 13 April, 8.00pm

Boroondara Remembers: Stories of World War I by historians from 'Way Back When' includes the story of how Boroondara residents participated in the war effort 100 years ago. The quality of the book was recognised in the Victorian Community History Awards, winning the 'Small Publication Award'. At the meeting, Fiona and Katherine will focus on some of their discoveries about Kew residents and soldiers.

MAY

Boroondara's Heritage Gardens Bernadette Carroll,

Phyllis Hore Room, Kew Library

Wednesday 11 May, 8.00pm

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

February 10

Rediscovering Lost Kew
KHS Research Group.

March 9

* 2016 McIntyre Lecture
Planning for Growth
The Hon Richard Wynne, MP
[Just Theatre, Kew Court House]

April 13

Boroondara Remembers: Stories of World War I
Fiona Poulton & Katherine Sheedy.

May 11

Boroondara's Heritage Gardens
Bernadette Carroll.

June 8

The 1883 Election in Boroondara
Andrew Frost.

July 13

Kew History: Show & Tell
KHS Collections Group

August 10

The Californian Bungalow
Richard Peterson.

September 14

Annual General Meeting

October 19

* 2016 Dickinson Lecture
The Radical Hope of Aboriginal Activism in Victoria
Richard Broome, FAHA
[Just Theatre, Kew Court House]

November 9

How Kew citizens challenged the SEC to save their parklands
Valerie Bourke

December 14

* *Annual Xmas Party*
[Kew Golf Club]

* Ticketed event

[Monthly Meetings are held in the Phyllis Hore Room unless otherwise noted above].

Australia Day Honours

On Australia Day 2016, the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia was bestowed upon our members Don Garden and Jane Carolan. Associate Professor Donald Stuart Garden OAM was recognised for service to community history and heritage preservation organisations; Dr Jane Mayo Carolan OAM was recognised for service to the community as an historian, archivist and author. We offer Don and Jane our congratulations on their well-deserved awards.

KEW FESTIVAL 2016

EXHIBITION

Saturday 5 March (opening 5.00pm)

VICTORIAN FASHION: DRESSING FOR SOCIETY

1st Floor, Kew Court House, 188 High Street, Kew

An exhibition of costumes, personal accessories, photographs and ephemera that illustrate the fashions adopted by women during the period 1860 to 1900.

Open each Friday and Saturday 11.00am-1.00pm, for the duration of the Festival.

Exhibition opening: Limited to 30 participants.

Phone bookings: 0438 370 967

Email bookings: info@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

MCINTYRE LECTURE

Wednesday 9 March at 7.00pm for 7.30pm

PLANNING FOR GROWTH

The Hon Richard Wynne MP, Victorian Minister for Planning

The Kew Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Victorian Minister for Planning will present the 2016 McIntyre Lecture. Richard Wynne is the State Member for Richmond and Minister for Planning in the Andrews Labor Government. The Lecture will provide insights into the strategic direction of the State's planning policy and approach to rapid growth and urbanisation.

Ticketed Event

\$10 Members; \$20 Non-members

Bookings: A limited number of seats will be available, so bookings are essential. For tickets, phone (03) 9278-4770.

HERITAGE WALK

Saturday 12 March at 10.00am

WILLSMERE PARK

Join Tony Michael for an 80-minute walking tour around Willsmere Park. History of the Billabong, floods, the three golf courses, building of the Eastern Freeway, former boat houses, Willsmere Farm, nearby O'Toole Reserve named for the famous axeman and Kew policeman Jack O'Toole, Kilby Road a single track etc.

Meet at the Jack Gervasoni Pavilion (southern end of Willow Grove, Kew East) at 9.50 am. Limited to 25 people.

Phone bookings: 0419 587 939

Email bookings: info@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

HERITAGE WALK

Saturday 19 March at 1.00pm

KEW'S WORLD WAR I MEMORIALS

Join John Torpey for a 90-minute walking tour of war memorials in Kew that were erected to commemorate participants from Kew who served in World War I, including the Kew War Memorial and memorials in churches in High Street and Highbury Grove. The walk will conclude at the Kew RSL.

Meet at the Kew War Memorial (cnr of High St and Cotham Rd., Kew) at 12.50pm. Walk limited to 25 participants.

Phone bookings: 0438 370 967

Email bookings: info@kewhistoricalsociety.org.au

COBBLERS OF KEW

From January 2016, 'Cobblers of Kew' has a new address, having moved to newer premises further up the street. The old Cobblers of Kew, at 2 Walpole Street, has been a visual landmark for many years. While Cobblers of Kew looked old, how old was it?

Dorothy Rogers, in *A History of Kew* (1973), states that "Mr Witchell started the small bootmakers shop in Walpole Street in the late fifties" (p.52) but searches of the *Sands & McDougall Directories* don't include any Witchells in Kew until 1870 when Witchell & Veitch are listed as proprietors of a bootmakers shop in Bulleen Road (now High Street). The *Directories* further complicate the issue, as in the 1870s and 80s, they list John Witchell (sometimes incorrectly as 'Mitchell') as a bootmaker in both Bulleen Road and in Walpole Street. Presumably, this first shop had a frontage to both streets, and was located on the site of the National Bank of Australasia, which was built in 1888. By 1889, John Witchell is listed as running a bootmaker business at 2 Walpole Street. Members of the Witchell family continued to operate the shop until 1959, when Les Witchell died. In 1962, A.L. Bohun was listed as owner of the business.

This means that a bootmaker/shoe repair business has operated out of 2 Walpole Street for approximately 127 years. It was probably the oldest continuing business in Kew, operating out of the same premises.



THE 2016 MCINTYRE LECTURE

PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Hon Richard Wynne, MP, Minister for Planning

Just Theatre, Kew Court House, Wednesday 9 March

7:30 for 8:00pm

Richard Wynne MP is a Member of the Victorian Parliament representing the communities of the Electorate of Richmond. He was Minister for Housing, Local Government and Aboriginal Affairs in the Bracks and Brumby Governments. Richard was a Melbourne City Councillor for six years, serving one year as Lord Mayor in 1991. He has extensive policy experience in the development and delivery of local government, housing and urban renewal reforms. Richard is the Minister for Planning in the Andrews Government. In the McIntyre Lecture, he will provide insights into the strategic direction of the state's planning policy and approach to rapid growth and urbanisation.

Ticketed Event

\$10 Members; \$20 Non-members

Bookings: A limited number of seats will be available, so bookings are essential. For tickets, phone (03) 9278-4770.

KEW GOES TO WAR

PART 1: KEW MEN ENLIST. OR NOT

1916 was the year in which it was becoming clear that the war was one of attrition and could last a long time. 1916 was the year in which the full impact of the Gallipoli Campaign was felt in Australia. 1916 was the year of recruitment drives and the first conscription referendum. 1916 was also the year of the Somme, and in particular, the battles of Fromelles and Pozieres, accompanied by long casualty lists in the newspapers.

1916 was a difficult year. How did Kew men react? Who enlisted? How did the community of Kew respond? What happened in the conscription referendum campaign of 1916 in Kew? This series of articles seeks to answer these questions.

RECRUITMENT IN KEW

In September 1915, the Commonwealth Government held a war census. Every male between eighteen and sixty had to complete a return. This information, written on cards, then became the basis of recruitment campaigns in 1916.

Each municipality was given a quota of recruits to fill. A local committee would then work to meet the set target. Kew recruits were to go into the 57th Battalion. This would put Kew men beside recruits from Camberwell, Collingwood, Doncaster, Lilydale, Nunawading, Richmond, Templestowe and Upper Yarra. The 57th Battalion would join other battalions from other Eastern suburbs, and rural areas of Gippsland and the North East of Victoria, to form a new (unyet numbered) Brigade. It was an interesting mix of middle class, working class and rural men.

The initial enlistment quota for Kew was 127 men, with monthly reinforcements of 43 men. While the formula for this is unclear, at a maximum, this would mean a total of 600 men, if we were to calculate 43 men for 11 months over and above the initial 127 men.

How did Kew men respond? The following table shows the enlistment numbers for Kew in 1916. This data was gathered by looking at the personal data for each of the 238 men who enlisted and who had nominated Kew as their address. The data also includes three women who enlisted as nurses. There is no way of knowing the accuracy of this data. One suspects that not all of the recruits who provided Kew addresses were actually resident in Kew, and that some were using parents' or relatives' addresses as their own.

Enlistments from Kew, 1916			
January	32	July	11
February	46	August	19
March	34	September	20
April	17	October	15
May	22	November	8
June	8	December	6
Total: 238. (3 Women also enrolled as Nurses In 1916)			

Overall, 735 men who gave their address as Kew enlisted during the war years. The 238 men who enlisted in 1916 represent 32 per cent of total Kew enlistments.

The data indicates that Kew was unable to meet its recruitment quotas. It could not meet the 127 immediate recruits in the first three months. Kew was only able to meet the monthly reinforcement quota once, in February. Thereafter, the recruitment numbers dropped off, although a few months show rises. This reduction in recruitment in Kew followed the national trend, where the numbers recruited in the first three months was 56,000, during the second three months it fell to 27,000, and in the third quarter it fell to 22,000. As a result, the Kew Council was an advocate of compulsory recruitment as early as March 1916.

The recruitment data also reflects the national recruitment policies of the Federal Government. The surge in the first three months of the year probably resulted from the effects of the *War Census*. The increase in September and October was probably due to the effects of the Government's conscription campaign, and the 'call up' in October of all eligible men in anticipation of a victory in the Conscription Referendum.

How did people in Kew go about attempting to meet the recruitment quotas? The Kew Council set up a Recruiting Committee, with the Mayor, Cr. F.R. Ratten, presiding. In January 1916, a wounded soldier, and a Recruiting Sergeant were appointed to assist. Staff worked through the cards from the *War Census* to follow up individuals. According to *The Argus*, there were 600 cards

to be worked on at the Kew Town Hall, and there were 60 men ready to enlist immediately. Supporting the Council was a Kew Central Patriotic League, with which the Council consulted from time to time on recruitment strategies. Unfortunately, the constitution and functions of this body are not clear.

Continued p.6



Above: Recruitment poster, 1916. Australian War Memorial

KEW GOES TO WAR (CONTINUED)

There was a major recruitment meeting held in Kew in early February 1916. Speakers included, Major General J.W. McCay, Sir Robert Best, the Hon. G. Swinburne and Cr J.H. Hewison, with the Mayor presiding. Returned soldiers were present. There were patriotic songs and recitations, and there was music provided by the Kew Brass Band. Arrangements were made to drive recruits in cars after the meeting to the Melbourne Town Hall for medical inspections. In fact, 40 volunteers enlisted that night. *The Argus* felt that this "major contingent" of volunteers from Kew was an example of what should be a "frequent happening." Alas, it was a one off event. It was reported that there was a small group of volunteers from Camberwell and Kew at the Recruiting Depot in mid February, amidst a disappointing overall recruitment result.

The difficulty of recruiting adequate numbers of men became apparent early in the year. Kew Council seemed to be clutching at straws in February, when it passed a resolution calling on the State Government to reduce the number of race meetings as they attracted a large number of eligible men "who should be in the firing line." This wowsier approach was part of a wider push to recruit soldiers, but also to get the community to take the war more seriously.

By March, the Council was asking the Commonwealth Government to introduce conscription. Obviously, the recruiting system was not working. Later, in April, the Council signed up to the *Warrigal Circular*, along with 81 other municipalities, to urge the Commonwealth Government to introduce conscription. In May, the Council admitted that it was having "great difficulty" in meeting the quota set under the voluntary system, and that it was time to introduce compulsory enlistment.

The Council participated in a deputation to the Minister of Defence in May. The Minister responded that he did not favour conscription, and said that local recruiting committees had not worked hard enough to meet voluntary enlistment quotas. This must have been discouraging for local communities that were struggling to meet these.

When men enlisted, there was a clear process followed. Firstly, they were given a medical examination by the local medical officer, who provided a 'Certificate of Medical Fitness'. Then they went to the central examination depot for another medical check. Thirdly, they went to the Sturt Street Receiving Depot. Finally, they went onto training camps, such as that at Broadmeadows.



Broadmeadows, Victoria 1916. An army cookhouse and staff. Collection: Australian War Memorial.

The system did not always work well for Kew men. In May, in a letter to the Editor of *The Age*, a "Genuine Recruit" from Kew complained that he had gone to the Town Hall and had been declared fit and was sworn in. He was told to report to the Sturt Street Depot. He made arrangements, quit his job, but at the Depot he was found to be "unfit." He went back to his employer, but his job had just been given to someone else.

Similarly, in November in a letter to the Editor of *The Argus*, a Kew man asked "When is a man unfit?" He was declared unfit twice, as he had a hernia and varicose veins. He was subsequently called up for a more thorough examination. They listened to his chest for five seconds and he was not asked a single question. He was then declared to be fit. He felt he was unable to cope with the training and his business affairs had been "knocked to pieces".

There was an element of amateurism in the recruitment process. A young Kew man, J.E. Bailey, a mechanic, had built his own "air vehicle." He took his bi-plane to Egypt, but the Flying Corps turned it down. After returning home after this set back, he was off to London with his bi-plane to try and join the Royal Aviation Corps. He was hoping "to try and shake them up a bit in the aerial business." Unfortunately, we do not know if he succeeded in his plans. One suspects not!

Prominent Kew residents corresponded with the editors of the metropolitan dailies in support of the war. Sir Frank Madden, a Kew citizen, Member for Eastern Suburbs (later Boroondara, which included Kew), and Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly wrote that he had warned ten years ago that Germany would be an enemy to Britain, and Australia would then be invaded by the Germans. He called on men to enlist. He wrote that there were men in Australia who valued their own comfort and safety over their duty to the Empire. He claimed that they would rather stay at home and use the war as a way of extracting higher wages. He would not even call these "creatures" Australians. These views reflected Madden's extreme social conservatism. Another regular correspondent was Arthur Wills. Like Sir Frank Madden, he was a social conservative. In one letter, he railed against socialist anti-conscription views.

The 'Call Up' in October of 1916, inevitably led to a series of court cases as men attempted to avoid enlistment. Kew was home to an Exemptions Court. In the October sitting of the Court, there were 49 claims, of which 24 were granted, 18 rejected and 7 adjourned. Not all cases involved men from Kew.

In one case, a conscientious objector, who was also a member of the Defence Department (much to the amusement of the Court), and a member of the Baptist Church, believed that he should not fight. He claimed that he had always avoided fighting, but was not a shirker, offering to perform any service as a non-combatant. His case was rejected.

Continued p.7

KEW GOES TO WAR (CONT.)

A young man was granted exemption even though he had married brothers who had not enlisted, because he was supporting his widowed mother and paying off a mortgage. A man was exempted who said that he was supporting four brothers under military age, his mother and three sisters. However, a plumber who was completing studies at the Working Men's College was refused an exemption. A man with a widowed mother who supported her was also refused exemption because it was shown that his Army pay would enable him to support her without financial hardship.

Finally, two naturalised Germans were refused exemption. They worked in Warburton, mining 'wolfram', which was used to harden steel for military use. Their claim that they were materially assisting the war effort through their work was rejected.

Overall, it can be seen that despite a strong pro-war and patriotic spirit in Kew, and the efforts to meet recruitment targets, there was, from the government point of view, a lukewarm and disappointing response from the men of Kew.

It is perhaps not surprising that Kew strongly supported the Conscription Referendum Campaign in October 1916.



...

This article is based on newspaper reports, both metropolitan and local, and some secondary sources. Full citations of sources and references can be obtained from the author on awcmfrost@hotmail.com

© **ANDREW FROST**



Above. Kew Baseball Club, Christopher Robinson, middle row, 2nd from left.



Left. Kew Baseball Club premiers cap, 1927

Both items donated to the Collection by Peter Robinson, 2015.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Kew Historical Society receives a number of research inquiries relating to Kew. Frequently these are passed on by the City of Boroondara or by Kew Library staff. Other inquiries are/can be made directly on Friday's or Saturdays at the Kew Court House (11.00am-1.00pm).

Some recent inquiries and requests include:

'Fairyland', Malmsbury Street

James Nicolas has been researching Grace and Jim Tabulo and their house in Malmsbury Street, commonly known as Fairyland. James would like to know whether anyone has any personal memories of Fairyland and/or Grace & Jim Tabulo, as he would be interested in these for possible inclusion in his book.

Dutch Migrant Hostel

In the 1940s Fr. Maas opened a hostel for Dutch Catholic immigrants in Kew. Anthony Heinemann's father was a resident in the hostel in 1954 or 1955. Anthony wanted to know where it was located. An article in the *Advocate* in 1951 identified the hostel's location as 'Malinda' (originally 'Bella Vista' owned by the confectioner A. Hoadley), 276 Cotham Road. The exact date when the hostel was closed has yet to be established.

'Iona', Studley Park Road

Rowena Lister, the great granddaughter of Charles Lister of Iona has written to say that she has photographs of her family at Iona and items of furniture from the house. She asked if we have any additional photos. While we don't, Kerry Fairbank and Robert Baker will meet Rowena to share their knowledge of the house and its occupants.

Kew Baseball Club

Following a donation of undated photos of the Kew Baseball Club and a premiership cap from 1927, belonging to Christopher Robinson, Ian Job has advised us that:

"The Victorian Baseball League was established in 1889 with the following clubs: MCC, Metropolitan, Richmond, Richmond Cricketers, Kew, Geelong, Fitzroy, The Age, Carlton, and Coburg. By 1897, Kew had up to six teams, but went into recess around the turn of the century. [After a period of abeyance] Kew Baseball Club did not resume until 1926 under Captain/Coach Frank Littlefield. Kew won the D Grade Premiership in 1926 and/or 1927 playing out of Victoria Park, at 12 noon and as a curtain raiser to either Kew or Kew District or East Kew Football Clubs, and post WWII, North Kew Football Club, which joined Kew Football Club as a co-tenant.

Team members included H.L. Barclay (ex. Richmond), A. Brierley (ex. Collingwood), H. Ely (ex. Essendon), Frank Littlefield, J. Marshall and C. Robinson (ex Hawthorn-East Melbourne Cricket Club). A third club was formed after WWII, which played at Willsmere Park. The Reserves followed to Willsmere Park in 1963 and the Seniors in about 1970.

Kew Council moved the club to the substandard Stradbroke Park No 2 Oval for the 1976 season and this proved to be the last for the club."

A number of years ago, a small silver presentation cup was discovered in an opportunity shop. Soon after its discovery, it entered the Kew Historical Society's collection. The inscription on the cup provides some clues as to its provenance and significance. Within a laurel wreath is a record of its recipient and the reason for the award: "A.W. Dakin, K.H.S., 440 Yards Race, 1902".

'K.H.S.' is the acronym of the privately operated 'Kew High School', so during a chance visit to our archive by Jane Carolan, the archivist of Trinity Grammar School, we asked whether there were school records that might explain who A.W. Dakin was. Jane explained that Trinity Grammar also held the Kew High School archives and that it should be easy to find out about him.

Some weeks later, Jane returned with the results of her archival and public research. It turned out that Arthur William Dakin (1892-1950) was more significant than we had anticipated.

On Saturday 11 March 1950, his obituary was published in *The Age*. It recounted that:

"Mr. Arthur William Dakin, 58, who died at his home, 'Periwinkle Park', Camp Street, Chelsea, this week, was educated at Trinity Grammar School, Kew, and went to sea as engineer in 1914. He served through the 1914-18 war in naval transport. He was a member of Shackleton's relief expedition to the Antarctic in 1917 in the *Aurora*, for which he received the King's special medal with snow ribbon. He left the sea in 1923. Mr. Dakin later helped to assemble the large new pumping plant at Red Cliffs and then joined the *First Mildura Irrigation Trust* as engineer in charge at Nichol's Point pumps. He was also acting chief engineer. He returned in 1945 owing to ill health."

Jane was able to advise about his career at Kew High School and later at Trinity Grammar. When he won the trophy in 1902, he was 10-years old. The 440-yard race was equivalent to quarter of a mile, or in most cases one lap of an oval. As a student at Trinity Grammar, he is recorded as a winner of the 'Drawing Prize' in 1906. He also attained the rank of corporal in the school's cadet unit.

Jane's research identified his parents as Francis F. Dakin and Lucy Dakin of 'Biggin', in Fellows Street. His father had been a sports journalist but later became handicapper to the Victorian Racing Club. When he died in 1903, his contributions to Volumes 2-9 of the *Australian Stud Book*, compiled by Archibald Yuille, were publicly acknowledged. Following his death, the Fellows Street house was sold and his widow and her children moved to 61 (now 33) Princess Street, to a house that they also named 'Biggin'.

During World War I, Arthur's role is not easy to identify, even though the obituary records that he was an engineer on vessels undertaking 'naval transport'. His military service is not recorded on the Australian War Memorial website, but he is listed on the Kew War Memorial, and on the honor boards of Holy Trinity Church and Trinity Grammar. [Also listed on these memorials is his younger brother Francis Edward Dakin.]

That he was involved in the war effort is verified by an article in *The Argus* in December 1916, which announced that: "Mr. Arthur Dakin, eldest son of the late Mr. F. F. Dakin, of Kew, is leaving with the *Aurora* as second engineer under Sir Ernest Shackleton for the Ross Sea relief expedition".

The remarkable A. W. Dakin

The article noted that Dakin had only recently returned from Europe, where he had, since the beginning of the war, been in the Australian transport service.

The Ross Sea Relief Expedition, officially known as the "*Aurora*" Antarctic Relief Expedition of 1916-1917, was a joint exercise of the British, New Zealand and Australian Governments.



Ernest Shackleton could only participate as a 'supernumerary officer', being prevented from leading the new 1916-17 rescue expedition. The aim of the expedition, now led by Captain John King Davis, was to rescue members of a 1914 expedition conceived of, and led by Shackleton, that had unsuccessfully attempted the first continental Antarctic crossing. Ten members of the 'Ross Sea crew', including Captain Aeneas Macintosh, had been marooned in Antarctica since 1915.

After the rescue of seven of Macintosh's team, the Australian contingent returned to Melbourne. Their progress through regional Australia was lauded in the daily press. Finally, on 1 March 1917, Captain John King Davis and three members of the relief expedition were honoured in a grand civic reception at the Melbourne Town Hall, in the presence of representatives of the Federal and state parliaments, representatives of the Navy and Army as well as many citizens prominent in the public life of Victoria. The Lord Mayor, Sir David Hennessy, welcomed Captain Davis to Melbourne and acknowledged the presence of "three of the companions of Captain Davis, Mr. C P. de la Motte, who went as chief officer, and whose fourth trip it had been to Antarctica; Dr. F.O. Middleton of Ballarat; and Mr. A. Dakin of Melbourne, both of whom had made their first acquaintance with the great Southern Continent".

After an individual's death their achievements frequently perish with them, unless preserved in the memories of friends and descendants. Others have more permanent memorials. This is so with Arthur Dakin. His membership of the "*Aurora*" Antarctic Relief Expedition is memorialised in part of a permanent display, *Islands to Ice*, at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Hobart. The exhibit includes his Kodak camera (c.1914), which he used to record aspects of the rescue expedition.

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BALDUR AND THE ART OF FEMALE 'MUSCLE CULTURE'

The year after her husband, surveyor August Tuxen, was declared bankrupt, Mrs A. Tuxen [Andrea Magritte] was forced to use her education to support the family. In 1896 she became teacher No. 9733 in the Victorian State Education Department. From the family home, *Ailsie Villa*, 36 Carson Street, Kew, she established Baldur Girls Grammar School, Baldur being a Norse god of purity and light.

Three years later in 1899, she relocated the school to an ex-private residence at 15 Wellington Street, Kew. The Grammar School became a 'Ladies School and College', which offered matriculation classes and boarding facilities. In 1904, the growing school relocated to 17-19 Denmark Street, one minute from the Kew Railway Station.

Tuition ranged from kindergarten to post-matriculation, and boys were included in the lower classes. The teaching methodology was that of the Victorian State School system with a private school overlay. This allowed for 'moderate' fees. There were two trained teachers and three matriculated assistants. Specialist teachers in modern languages, music, elocution, drawing, 'physical culture' and needlework, for example, were outsourced.

Female charity work, through the bazaar system of fund-raising, was inculcated as was the ethos of Empire through flag saluting, singing of the National Anthem and 'patriotic entertainment' held in the Kew Recreational Hall. A 'limited number' of boarders 'enjoyed an exceptional home life' through 'care and attention'.

Leading Kew residents provided testimonials to the school's excellence and they supported Mrs Tuxen, in the form of a generous 'purse [money]' for an 'extended' holiday after her health failed, possibly due to overwork and the swift death of her niece/step-daughter, 17 year-old Johanna Tuxen, four years previously in November 1900.

The school's excellence in plain needlework tuition is today preserved in some extraordinary examples of manual dexterity, known then as 'muscle culture', with the needle. The work is held in the Kew Historical Society's archives.

In 1905, Hawthorn schoolgirl, Emily Muriel Grace Davies, left the very prestigious Grace-Park Ladies College [Hawthorn] to complete her education at Baldur. This attests to the calibre of teaching at the school. In her matriculation year, aged 16, Emily received a 'special prize' for botany and Grade IV level needlework. There were six grades of needlework education and the grade was not correlated to school year level but skill through examination.

Representing the school, Emily submitted a number of needlework samplers for examination by the Association for the Advancement of Plain Needlework [also known as the Victorian or Melbourne Institute for the Advancement of Plain Needlework]. Plain needlework was essentially utilitarian sewing; it was not decorative needlework such as embroidery. It consisted of a set of sewing techniques to construct and repair clothing.

The philosophy behind the Plain Needlework movement was the teaching of 'thrift and good housewifery' while promoting the 'feminine virtues of modesty, obedience and self-discipline'. The laborious nature of the work prevented 'slovenly behaviour' such as 'knocking about in gutters' for recreational play or reading 'trashy romantic novels'. The ability to execute plain needlework gave refined ladies a ready avenue of gentle employment, if they fell upon hard times.

Mrs Tuxen, herself, was an example of a very educated woman who married well but was forced to work for a livelihood. It is therefore not surprising she introduced this English initiative into her school curriculum long before the Victorian State School system conceded the value of this type of education for girls. Miss E. Webster, the Baldur needlework teacher, undertook the initial training in the teaching of a set of essential stitching techniques and was subjected to an annual 'quality control' examination by the Institute.



Right: [Part of the] Samples of plain needlework submitted by Emily Davies to the Victorian Institute for the Advancement of Plain Needlework, at Grade III level.

Continued p.10

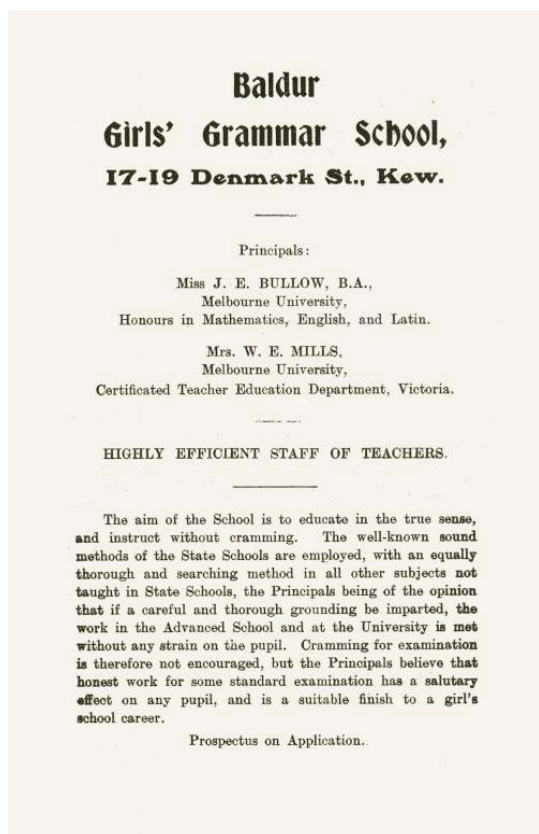
BALDUR AND THE ART OF FEMALE 'MUSCLE CULTURE' (CONT.)

In 1907 the innovative Australian Exhibition of Women's Work was held in October and early November. Emily, along with 5,000 other girls and women of all ages and economic backgrounds, submitted a set of worked samplers. Culling the entries for exhibition was stiff. That Emily's set of 'stitching specimens' was chosen as representative of her class, age 12 to 18 years, was a credit to Emily, the initiative of Mrs Tuxen and the instructional skills of Miss Webster.

By mid 1908, Mrs Tuxen had sold the school, possibly to care for her ailing husband who was in the early stages of Hodgkin's Disease [lymphatic cancer]. He succumbed in 1911. Thereafter, the widowed Mrs Tuxen left Kew. She devoted her life to public advocacy for women and children. On her death, on 20 June 1923, a Country Women's Association spokeswoman wrote: 'Such women can ill be spared'. Emily left school, never married and probably spent numerous hours exercising 'muscle culture' within her close-knit family circle in Hawthorn.

Mrs Mary Slight Mills and Miss J. E. Bullock were to become the new principals of Baldur Grammar School. By 1916, the school had closed, the redecorated ex-school building being advertised for rent as Villa Baldur. The Plain Needlework movement slowly lost its thrust in female education by the 1920s due to technological innovations in garment construction.

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Above: Baldur Girls Grammar School. Advertisement in Barnard, F.G.A. *Jubilee History of Kew, Victoria* (1910)

THE REMARKABLE A. W. DAKIN (CONT.)

Afterword

Sometimes, when researching individuals, houses or events we think that we have reached an endpoint. This was the case with the article on A.W. Dakin on page 8, however there proved to be one more piece of information that popped up just at the last moment.

In December we had relocated some of the antique books in our archive, in some cases wondering why we had collected this or that book. One was a black family Bible of no particular distinction. However, as I flicked through the pages again in January, checking to see whether other items had been stored between its leaves, something caught my attention. It was a list of births and deaths on the fourth page of the book. What was more extraordinary was that it included the births and deaths of members of Arthur Dakin's family.

Mary M. Dakin had presented the Bible to Francis F. Dakin in May 1871 [perhaps his mother or sister], and an additional note indicated the location as Ringwood. To augment the previous narrative, I decided to include the information that it provides:

Francis Ferdinand Dakin, born Nov 2nd 1844
Somersetshire, died April 11th 1903 at Sydney.

Lucy Dakin, nee Chapman, born Aug 15th 1873, died Aug 17th 1929.

The children:

Arthur William Dakin, born January 16th 1892.

Francis Edward Dakin, born Victoria April 30th 1893.

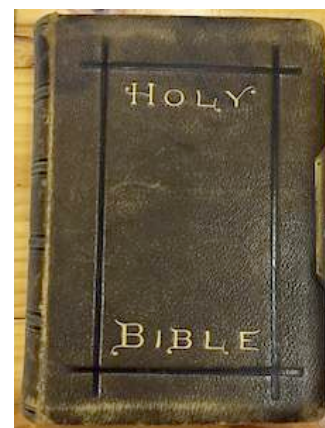
Margaret Lucy Dakin, born Victoria April 1st 1894. Died Dec^r 25th 1894.

Dorothy Dakin, born Victoria Australia Febry 5th 1896, died July 23rd 1959.

Lucy Dakin, born Victoria Australia Oct 19th 1897.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the extensive research and inquiries provided by Jane Carolan and John Torpey.

ROBERT BAKER
ARCHIVIST



Right: Dakin family Bible.
Kew Historical Society archives

MORE EXAMPLES OF 'LOST KEW'

ELM LODGE (c.1864-1975)

'Elm Lodge' had a frontage to Wellington Street and extended to Cotham Road. It was renamed 'Madford' in 1874 following its purchase by the pastoralist Arthur Septimus King, the grandson of Philip Gidley King, third Governor of New South Wales. The Alexandra Gardens were developed on the northern section of Madford after the sale of the land to the Borough of Kew in 1905. King's house and the remaining gardens were sold to the Catholic Church in 1920, and subsequently developed into 'St Anthony's Home for Babies' in 1922. The organisation relocated to Footscray in 1975, and the building was subsequently demolished.



KEW LUNATIC ASYLUM (1872-1988)

Following a Royal Commission in 1854, the building of a new Asylum at Kew began in 1864. It was built to replace the Yarra Bend Asylum on the Fairfield side of the Yarra River. Work started in 1864 and was completed in 1872 at a cost of £198,334. Operating over a period of 116 years, and often renamed to take account of public sensitivities, the Kew Lunatic Asylum was one of the largest asylums built in Australia. 'Willsmere' was finally closed in December 1988 and sold by the Government of Victoria in the late 1980s. [This photograph from our collection is an original silver albumen print]

Photograph by Charles Nettleton, [Kew Historical Society]



RANGE VIEW (c.1885-c.1960s)

The ownership and occupancy of 'Range View' in Mont Victor Road is typical of many mansions in Kew. Built in the 1880s for Mr Long, by 1889 it was being rented to the nuns of the order of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, while 'Genazzano' was being built. After the nuns vacated the property in 1891, it resumed life as a private residence. In 1919, Reverend Lawton bought Range View, renaming it 'St Andrew's College'. In 1935, the mansion was taken over by the Redemptorist Fathers and used as a monastery. Range View was demolished in the early 1950s.

Photograph by McAlpine Bros, 1898 [Courtesy of Genazzano Archives].



RENO (c.1854-1971)

A National Trust citation of 1960 described 'Reno' in St John's Parade as reminiscent of prefabricated weatherboard houses and proposed a construction date of 1845-1855. The earliest recorded owner was the architect Samuel Cocking who lived there from 1865 to 1880. By the mid 20th Century, the house appeared to be little altered. It is believed that Baron von Mueller provided rare garden plants for the garden. Despite a 'local significance' classification by the National Trust, the building was demolished in 1971. [The Society possesses samples of wallpaper, iron nails and the doorknocker from Reno.]

Photograph by J.E. Rogers, c.1960, [Kew Historical Society]



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PO Box 175
Kew VIC 3101

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 February - Quarterly Book Sale
 4-19 March - 2016 Kew Festival
 9 March - 2016 McIntyre Lecture
 13 April - Monthly Meeting
 16-24 April - Australian Heritage Week
 15 May - Quarterly Book Sale

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