

## Local History Research – Self-help

The Kew Historical Society is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers (historians, architects, researchers and enthusiasts). Our time is precious and our fees can be relatively costly, so we encourage you to undertake your own research. Here is a preliminary list of resources that may prove useful.

### **City of Boroondara Libraries**

The libraries in Boroondara have a range of local history resources. Web link: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries/local-family-history](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries/local-family-history). The Kew Library subscribes to various online records that can be accessed on computers at the Library for free (e.g. Births, Deaths & Marriage records; Immigration & passenger lists; Directories & electoral rolls; Council Records; Cemetery records; Newspapers &c.). Web link: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries/about/collections/history/microvic](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries/about/collections/history/microvic).

### **Books**

Research publications:

- Sagazio, C. 2004, *The National Trust research manual: trace the history of your house*, Halstead Press.

Local History publications:

- Bonwick, J. 1858, *A Sketch of Boroondara*. Web link: [www.slv.vic.gov.au/vicpamphlets/inter/1221356.shtml](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/vicpamphlets/inter/1221356.shtml)
- Barnard, FGA 1910, *The Jubilee History of Kew: 1803-1910*. Web link: <http://www.biostats.com.au/Kew/>.
- Vaughan, WD 1960, *Kew's Civic Century*, A Vaughan Publication.
- Rogers, D. 1973, *A History of Kew*, Lowden.

### **Sands & McDougall - Melbourne Postal Directories**

Published annually (1863-1974), these Directories list the streets of Kew, providing the name (and sometimes the occupation) of each property's occupants. Working backwards by year, these will tell you when your house was built. Print copies of the Directories are available at the Kew Library. The Kew Historical Society also has copies of the Directories that can be searched on a computer (by arrangement).

### **City of Kew Rate Books**

Published annually (1862-1993), these list the names of all property owners. Copies of the Rate Books (1862-1900) are available on microfilm at Kew Library. They can also be viewed at the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV), Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne.

### **Kew Historical Society Archives & Collection**

The Kew Historical Society has files on a number of significant houses in Kew and their occupants. Somebody may already have completed research on an individual a family or a house. The Society's Archivist can check records when you are able to provide details of people or houses. Email: [archivist@kewhistory.com.au](mailto:archivist@kewhistory.com.au).

### **Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) plans**

These plans show buildings existing in c1904. The detailed plans show streets, houses & gardens. If you search on the SLV website using the following process: MMBW 40 two nearest street names (e.g. MMBW 40 High Princess) you will find the relevant map. Web link: [guides.slv.vic.gov.au/](http://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/).

### **Newspapers**

Many newspapers (eg The Argus) are available online. The National Library of Australia's 'Trove' sub-site has online collections of newspapers (ca. 1800-1950s). You may be lucky if you search by 'street' and 'suburb'. It will be helpful if you know a person's name. Web link: [trove.nla.gov.au/](http://trove.nla.gov.au/).

### **Melbourne Mansions**

These are online databases listing significant houses and architects. The Architecture Faculty, UniMelb, has compiled them. You can search the databases by 'suburb', 'street', or 'house name'.  
Web links: [www.mileslewis.net/melbourne-mansions.html](http://www.mileslewis.net/melbourne-mansions.html); [www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html](http://www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html).

When you complete your work, we would very keen to obtain a copy of your notes and any other documents that you have found for our archives. The Society is gradually building up a collection of family, house and street histories. These will improve our knowledge of the area and greatly assist researchers in the future.

If you require any further information you can contact me directly: Phone (03) 9855-2852; Email: [archivist@kewhistory.com.au](mailto:archivist@kewhistory.com.au). We hope you have an interesting and fruitful time with your research.

Robert Baker  
Archivist, Kew Historical Society