

# Kenmore & District Historical Society Inc

## President's Annual Report

For the year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

I am pleased to report that we have had a very successful and productive year. This report covers the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. During that time the committee conducted a Membership Drive and our membership rose from 37 to 57 in the 12 months.

We have had some very interesting guest speakers. These were: Stewart Cameron then President of the Kenmore-Moggill RSL in July; Pat Dryden on her book on Bielby Road in August; Judy Magub & Penny Cook on the Kenmore State School in September; Sue Turner on Misty Morn in February; Bev Walker on the Penhaligon Family in March; Trevor Dixon, President Kenmore-Moggill RSL on ANZAC Courage in April; and Hilda Maclean on Childhood Death in Colonial Brisbane in May. October was our AGM and in November we enjoyed some Christmas cheer and a movie - the first films in Queensland 1895 to 1919.

Your Committee has been hard at work during the year, holding committee meetings monthly and conducting the general meetings. At the beginning of 2015 we welcomed Dianne Harris to the Committee. The other members have been: Penny Cook secretary; Suzanne Hanson treasurer; Sue Deal committee member; and myself, president. My sincere thanks to them all for their contributions.

In September 2014 we conducted a Planning Day and determined the direction we would take and new initiatives we would implement over the next 12 months. Brian Becconsall and Sue Turner joined the committee for that session.

As well as their committee roles the committee members have all undertaken their own research. Penny & Ian Cook have researched the soldiers who fought in the Boer War who are listed on our local war memorial. Penny has also researched other aspects of war history of local people. Sue Deal has progressed well with her research of the retail history of the area. Suzanne has been able to contribute with her memories of growing up in the area and also with her plentiful supply of information she has collected over the years. Dianne and Sue took a special interest in old homes and farms and began a time line of the past. Dianne assisted with the website and developed a bookmark style flyer. I conducted research into the Chapel Hill cemetery and the origin of the names of the streets in the 5 suburbs we cover. I also began my research into the suburb of Fig Tree Pocket. Penny & I researched the Kenmore State School. Jim Sheppard researched the Kenmore Race Course. In addition we have undertaken a number of oral histories of early residents of this area.

In July we launched our logo and I would like to express my appreciation to Peta McDonald- Smith from Moonstone Creative, (and a member of KDHS) who has done so much for the Society (most of which is pro bono) and given us a style that is very recognisable. This branding has been used on our publications, website and banner and will continue to identify us in to the future.

As well as Penny's role as secretary she has taken on responsibility for preparing forms and policies for committee approval; manning and organizing the area we have at Fairview; cataloguing photos and other primary and secondary material that is donated to us; preparing grant applications; and she conducted an oral history workshop in March. She has also arranged insurance for us with public liability and volunteer workers personal accident coverage.

Sue Deal has been our representative on the BCC Kenmore Suburban Centre Improvement Project over the 12 months of this report and represented us at meetings and working with Brisbane City Council to plan the launch event and develop the wording on the history plaques. Sue also donated a banner to KDHS and this has been useful at displays.

Treasurer Suzanne Hanson has been diligent in keeping accurate records of our finances and presenting regular financial reports. Suzanne has taken responsibility for maintaining a record of all the primary research material. She has also shown considerable skill in selling publications!

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As well as my president's role and organizing guest speakers and arranging the general meetings, I have also taken on responsibility for public relations and publicity.

I have produced the Newsletter monthly and also prepared the Media Releases. We are grateful to Barry Searle at the Local Bulletin for offering in March to publish a story for the KDHS each month. Our stories for this reporting period have been: The Role of the KDHS in March; William Pacey's Diary in April; The Kenmore race course in May; and the Chapel Hill cemetery research in June. And the monthly program continues.

I attended local residents' meetings regarding the subdivision and development of the Kenmore Park site and I prepared a submission on the Development Application on behalf of the society.

We have all been involved in displays. On ANZAC Day we held displays of material prepared by Penny on local soldiers who served in World War 1. All the committee manned the displays for the whole of ANZAC day at Kenmore Village, Wal Cocking Park, Brookfield Museum and at the ANZAC Cricket Match. At these displays we sold our publication William Pacey's ANZAC Diary. In total we sold 132 copies of this publication.

Penny and I spent a lot of time during the year preparing the publication "A Pictorial History of Kenmore & District". We sourced the photos and wrote the words and Peta McDonald-Smith prepared it for the publishers. This book was launched just after the end of this year so I will report on the success of that in next year's Annual Report. However it was a major activity for many months and the profits from it will be a great start for our publishing fund.

We were very fortunate to have been given office and storage space at Fairview RSL facility and we are very grateful to the RSL for this. At this facility our records are carefully stored and original material is stored in acid free paper and folders.

We were successful in two grant applications during the 12 months. Firstly we received \$1434 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for IT equipment and we received \$1474 from the Lord Mayor's Suburban Benefit Fund, with support for Cr Margaret de Wit, for a 6 panel display board.

We have an excellent and up to date website and for this we thank Peta McDonald-Smith for updating and maintaining it.

We have cooperated successfully with other groups. We joined the collaborative website 'Brisbane West History' along with the other history groups in the western suburbs. During the year Sue Deal and I represented the KDHS at a meeting of all the Brisbane history groups and we also attended a seminar on using digital newspapers in research.

We have built up a good relationship with the Chapel Hill Uniting Church, and through my research of the cemetery and in June, we had a delightful morning at the church where I gave a presentation on my research and presented the church with the material. I am grateful to Jenny Brecknell at the church and KDHS member Dorothy Miller for their assistance with that event and the project in general.

Others have helped during the year. Anita Nimmo made carry bags for our display boards which make it so much easier to move them around. I am grateful to Lola Priddle who has produced a lovely supper for us at each meeting.

We are very grateful to the members who have generously donated their family and local history material, including photos to the KDHS, in particular Jean Stewart, Vi Hall and Sal Gardner. And for every other donation we say thank you. We welcome them all.

We also thank the politicians who support and help us: Cr Margaret de Wit , Federal member Jane Prentice and the two state members over the 12 months, Bruce Flegg and Christian Rowan.

And last but not least ...thanks to you, the members of the KDHS who attend meetings, contribute ideas and generally support the work of your committee. We are looking forward to strengthening the society over the next 12 months.

***Judy Magub***

***President***

***19 October 2015***