



Kenmore and District Historical Society Inc

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President's Report Annual General Meeting 17 November 2016

This report covers the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. It was our second full year for the Kenmore & District Historical Society (KDHS) and marked 2 ½ years since our establishment. We had a successful, productive and very busy year.

There were 10 meetings held and most of those were with a guest speaker. We were fortunate to have during the year the following speakers: July, Colin Hester "Mt Crosby Water Treatment Facility"; August, Hilda Mclean "Childhood Diseases"; September, Graham Wilcox "The Story of Federation Australia"; October, Michael Marendy "150 years of Dressing in Brisbane"; November meeting was our AGM and a Round Table discussion on the topics 'Christmases of Past Times' and 'Cracker Night'; February, Barry Searle "My Journey with the Local Bulletin"; March, Vivienne Binns "The Old Friary"; April, Janet Spillman "Artists of Mt Coot-tha"; May was a round-up of research being undertaken; June, Professor Peter Roennfeldt "Madame Mallalieu".

These presentations certainly contributed to the enjoyment of our meetings.

During this year a 2016 Calendar was published in conjunction with the Brookfield Historical Society. The KDHS received a profit of about \$300 from that publication. The William Pacey ANZAC Diary continued to be sold during this year and had earned for us a profit of \$473 by end June 2016.

We also decided to go ahead with a collaborative book with the other history groups in the western suburbs. Early planning took place and Penny Cook agreed to be our representative on that project.

The "Kenmore & District Pictorial History" written by Judy Magub and Penny Cook was launched by Cr Margaret de Wit in July. It has been a very successful first publication for our society. Initially 500 were printed then a second print run of 200 in October 2015 and by 30 June 2016 we had made a profit of \$5400.

The annual Planning Day was held in October and we achieved quite a lot. We determined how many meetings we would have in a year; the oral history program; and the Heritage Identification project. Committee members confirmed the research we would be doing over the next 12 months. Promotion and publicity initiatives were discussed and agreed on. Also decisions were made at Planning Day regarding the newsletter, a possible second Pictorial History, and membership rules. We also developed a budget for 2016.

An important role for our society is to research, record and promote the local history. Some of the committee and members have been busy with this task during the year.

Judy continued the Chapel Hill Cemetery research. Since the presentation to the Chapel Hill Uniting Church just prior or this reporting year, the list of people buried there has been placed on our website, and there have been many requests, some from overseas, either requesting information on someone buried there or else offering family history of their relatives. This is being collected for the Church records and also for our society records. The church generously made a \$50 donation to the society, towards the publishing of my cemetery research.

Judy has also continued to research the origin of street names in our area and the history of the suburb Fig Tree Pocket, working towards a publication for the society on this topic in 2017.

During this year Penny continued with her oral histories: Irene Jamieson, Roy Hanson, Joan Westaway and the research into war records and Immigration Land Orders. Sue Deal did Oral Histories on Carol Jang & Wendy Roberts (nee Jang) and also Michael George Jess. Judy did an oral history on KDHS member Sal Gardner.

Sue Deal continued her research on the Commercial history of the area and started a 'Timeline' of historical events. Sue also led the involvement of the society with the Suburban Centre Improvement Project (SCIP) and she worked with the Brisbane City Council on the words and images for the history boards on Moggill Road.

Other members have undertaken research Jim and Barbara Shepherd researched the local postal services during the 12 months and Deann O'Donohue commenced her research of the Mc Grath family.

We have received some excellent photos and other material donated from members and from people outside of our society. This material is being carefully recorded and stored and is growing all the time.

Suzanne Hanson took on the responsibility to store and catalogue the primary resources and the secondary sources were looked after by Penny Cook while she was on the committee and later by Sue Deal. I took on the task of storing & recording photographs early in 2016.

I would like to elaborate on some of the promotion and publicity projects I undertook during this 12 month period. There have been 4 projects introduced in that time.

Firstly In February on behalf of KDHS I organized a meeting of all the 14 history groups in the western suburbs and the local newspaper Westside News which covers 29 suburbs. The aim was to encourage the newspaper to have a regular history article in their paper. They agreed to this and a roster was established for the next 18 months providing the opportunity for each history group to write on their suburbs on a rotational basis. The article is titled "Down Memory Lane" and is produced monthly.

Secondly there have been local history articles in The Local Bulletin. We have had great support from The Local Bulletin in allowing me to place an article each month in that publication. Articles over the 12 month from July 2015 to June 2016 reporting period included stories on: Street Names; The Orange Lodge Hall; The second Kenmore Hall; The Hyde Park Store; Street Names of Fig Tree Pocket; Keith Jang, Storekeeper; Progress of the KDHS; Fred Lupi, Early Businessman; Kenmore State School; The Gibson Family; and the Pullenvale State School.

Thanks to the editor Barry Searle for the interest he has in the history of the local area. We have had a lot of feedback and new information from these articles and I believe that they have increased the interest in local history in the community.

Another project that we decided to introduce at our Planning Day was started in this year. It was an Area Networking Project. This involves approaching community organizations and institutions in our suburbs to ascertain what history they hold on their organization, and hopefully they share that history with us. So far on the project I have covered all the banks and schools and we have received some excellent history from them. They have all been very supportive.

Also at Planning Day we decided to produce give away brochures on the history of each of our suburbs. These will be useful when we have a public event such as a display. Thanks to Peta McDonald-Smith for designing those brochures

I continued to circulate a monthly newsletter to members over the 12 months. As well as advising when the next meeting is and who will be the guest speaker, it also served the purpose of letting people who have not been able to attend meetings to keep in touch with what we are doing.

There have been other activities. We were involved in the celebrations on 25 July 2015 to mark the completion of the Suburban Centre Improvement Project. At this event Councillor Marg de Wit launched our first publication "Kenmore & District – A Pictorial History". The committee manned a display of early photographs and we sold our new book. I was asked to speak on the local history. Thanks to Sue Deal for representing us on the SCIP committee.

In November we were invited to join many other Brisbane history groups at a display at City Hall. Your committee manned the display and we had an opportunity to get to know some of the volunteers in the other history groups.

A display at Kenmore Library of war artefacts was organized with Brookfield Historical Society. The library provided give away brochures regarding the display.

Before Christmas the Lord Mayor held a Morning Tea at City Hall for Brisbane's history groups. 16 of our members attended and we enjoyed the event and the presentations during the morning.

And the committee manned yet another display. This time it was at the Kenmore Uniting Church in September at an event to celebrate their 130 year anniversary.

I attended public meetings and prepared a submission for Brisbane City Council on behalf of the society regarding the development application at the Kenmore Park home site at 8 Acworth Street.

One of the roles that take quite a bit of time is dealing with the requests from the public for information. This can be as simple as someone asking a question that can be easily answered to requests for information that need to be researched and can take a lot of time.

These exchanges with people, some from overseas, can also involve lengthy contact when emails go back and forth over a period of time. Sometimes the exchange is face to face, or a phone call, email or by post. Many originate from the articles in the Local Bulletin, the Chapel Hill cemetery research, and through the website. There are usually about 8 a month.

We are grateful to the Kenmore-Moggill RSL for allowing us to store items at their facility at Fairview. During the year we changed the policy regarding access to this facility by making it "by appointment only". We have been unable to get insurance on these items stored there, as it is not possible to lock the room and cabinets. However our secondary material records are locked in filing cabinets.

During the 12 months the number of members has varied but stayed in the 60s. We have had a very small committee this year. I am grateful to Suzanne for her role as Treasurer and to Penny for being Secretary until her resignation in February 2016. I took on Acting Secretary as well as President for the last 4 ½ months of this reporting year. Also I thank Sue Deal for her contributions at committee meetings and with all the projects we have been involved in.

We are very grateful to Peta McDonald-Smith for developing and maintaining the website and for her design and layout of publications. Thank you Lola for providing the supper at each meeting; and Suzanne for manning the front table; and thank you to those who put out and put away the tables and chairs each month.

Our Federal, State and Local representatives have given us great support. And we are very fortunate to have this meeting room, an excellent facility provided by Brisbane City Council free of charge to hold our meetings.

We are well on the way to establishing a strong history group to research, record and promote our local history. It has been a great honour to lead the society in these formative years.

Thank you to you, our members, for your support for and involvement in our society.

Judy Magub
President