

St Kilda Inn, formerly the Hare and Hounds, The Court House, and Prince Charles Hotel 1853 –

109 Barkly Street, corner Grey Street, St Kilda

MEL: 58 A10



St Kilda Inn, 2004

Established by Martin Fitzgerald in 1853, the Hare and Hounds was the first hotel in St Kilda to have a painting of greyhounds coursing a hare; coursing being a popular sport at that time. By 1861, with a new licensee JB Kelleher, a name change occurred - the Court House Hotel, given its proximity to the then Court House.

The Licenses Reduction Board granted a rent rebate on 14 May 1918, presumably in response to the post-war decline in patrons.

On 12 December 1948, permission was granted to licensee Laurie Walsh to rename it the Prince Charles hotel, almost a month after the birth of the heir to the British throne.

A colourful St Kilda character in the 1930s, 40s and early 50s, Dulcie 'Pretty Dulcie' Markham was a regular at the Court House. Known as the 'Angel of Death' because at least eight of her lovers, all underworld figures, died from gunshot or stabbing wounds, Markham's own record included a number of offences, prostitution, theft, offensive behaviour (brawling), and carrying an unlicensed pistol. On one occasion, police apprehended her as she chased a man in the street, wearing only her underwear and wielding an axe. When questioned, she explained 'the bastard insulted me about the price' (for sex). Characters like Dulcie invested the hotel with a level of notoriety to the degree that the Court House was referred to as the 'Blood House'.

The hotel, now known as the St Kilda Inn, is a popular venue for live music.