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## **Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (formerly Ulimaroa), 630 St Kilda Road, Melbourne**

Ulimaroa is one of only five surviving nineteenth century St Kilda Road houses in what was once a glorious avenue of mansions. Important architects designed all five. The others comprise: Charlesfield (1889) by Charles Webb (**18, 24, 31 & 36**) at 478 St Kilda Road; Estella (now The Willows, 1890) by G Woolf, 462; Airlie (1891) by Anketell Henderson at 452 and Warwillah (Redholme) by John Beswicke at 572.

Prior to 1859, St Kilda Road had passed entirely within parkland, but in 1875, the Colonial Government offered the first residential allotments in the former parkland on the west side of St Kilda Road (then the Melbourne Road) for sale. The Fawkner Park frontages on the east side had been sold from 1859 in the face of vigorous protest from Melbourne City Council and the public.

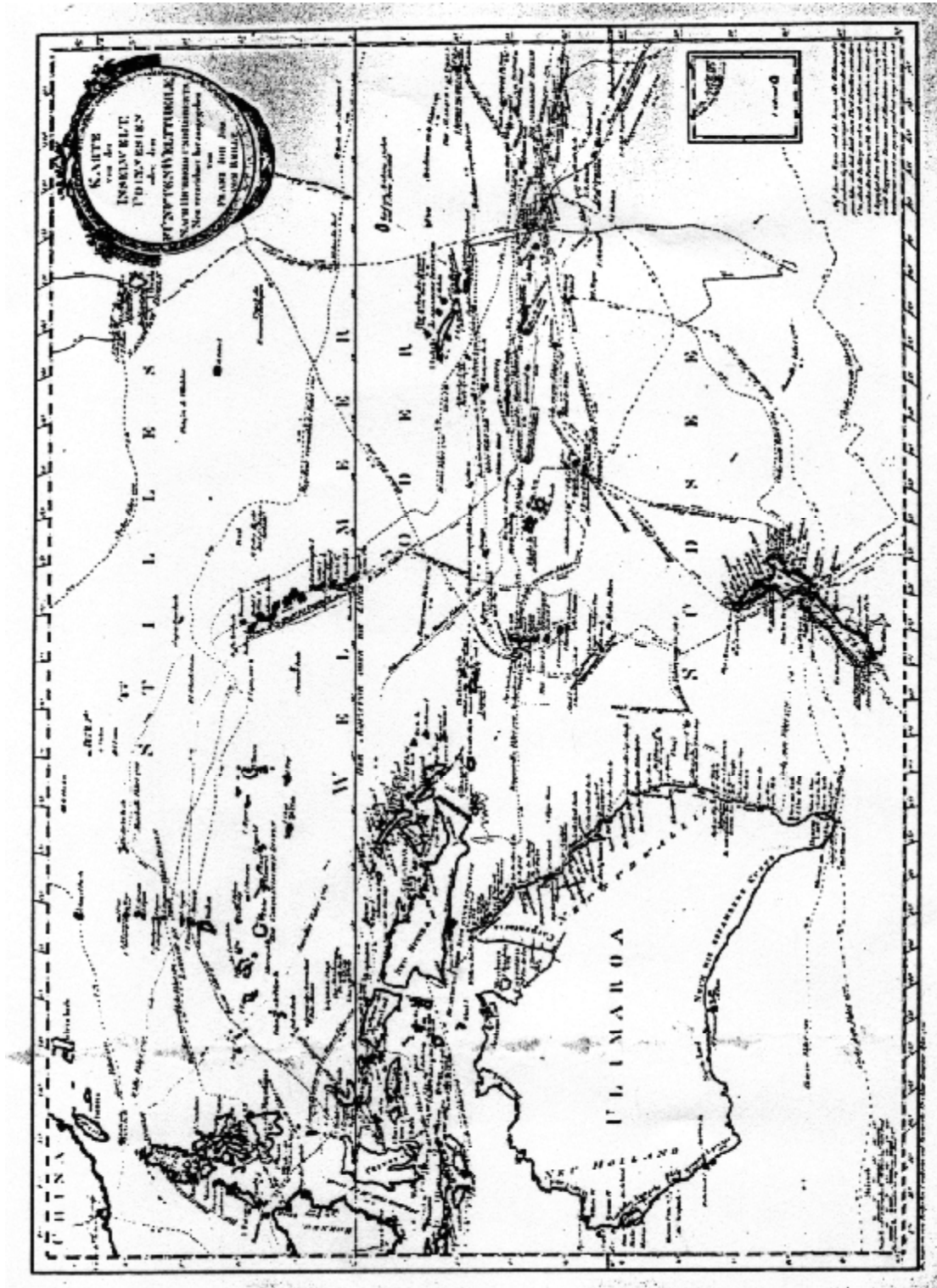
As early as 1855, there had been a proposal to subdivide the southern part of the parkland that became Albert Park, which did not proceed (**19**), but James Kearney's *Plan of Melbourne and Suburbs* shows an ambitious plan of streets radiating about the axis of the present Princes Street.

In 1864, the Colonial Government made the Melbourne City Corporation and the Board of Land and Works, joint trustees of the parklands, including of South Park (now Albert Park), but the dimensions of the park reservation remained uncertain.

145 years later, the alienation of our parklands is still an issue concerning many people in Melbourne. The necklace of parkland that once surrounded Melbourne, as it still does Adelaide, is still being eroded: now parkland comprises only a third of the area that survived even as late as 1885. This alienation process began with reservations that were created for the Melbourne General Cemetery and the University of Melbourne and then the subdivision of the former parkland beside St Kilda Road and then Queens Road. For instance, before the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, all of the space bounded by Batman Avenue, Punt Road and the railway had been parkland.

St Kilda people are well aware of the erosion of at least five hectares of accessible parkland in Albert Park since the arrival of the Grand Prix in 1995. About 60 hectares, 30 times the size of the MCG playing area have been lost in the past 25 years from Melbourne's five greatest parks, including 31 hectares lost from Royal Park from what was once an area of 1,035 hectares reserved by Lieutenant Governor La Trobe, three hectares from Carlton Gardens for the Museum, four hectares from Yarra Park for the extending the MCG and widening Punt Road and 15 hectares from Flinders and Yarra Parks for the development of the National Tennis Centre.

So the surprise government announcement in the *St Kilda Advertiser* in March 1875 was worded with the kind of political astuteness that is still very recognisable in the twenty-first century:



An early map showing the name Ulimarua, c1795

It has been decided by the Government to permanently reserve the Albert Park Lagoon and the greater portion of the park, for recreative purposes. At present, there is nothing to prevent the whole area being cut up, and sold, in building allotments. A strip of the park, facing the St Kilda Road will not, however, be permanently reserved, but this means, it is anticipated that handsome residences will be erected there, as is the case on the opposite side of the road, and the approach from Melbourne, from the south will then be something worthy of a great city.

There were caveats on the Crown Grants restricting use to the construction of one masonry villa. Similar conditions applied to Royal Parade, Parkville. These caveats seem to have been since long forgotten, as office blocks replaced the houses from the 1970s. All of the grants were snapped up in months. When the road tolls on St Kilda Road were abolished in 1877 and with the consequent lack of income for its maintenance, the road fell into disrepair.

The land at 630 St Kilda Road was bought by T M McGrath, but remained vacant for about ten years. By 1888 it had been sold to Dr I E Watkin (1839-1916) an unusual Wesleyan minister, 'a particularly broad-minded man (with)... a catholicity of sentiment,' explained the *Argus*. He was born in Sydney, where his missionary father was enjoying a brief respite *en route* from eight years in Tonga and about to become the first missionary in the South Island of New Zealand to the Maori people. Educated at Wesleyan College, Auckland, at the age of 20 Watkin junior also entered the ministry and his 'powerful and popular' preaching was heard around Victoria, including in St Kilda.



Ulimaroa, c1980

For two periods from 1859, Dr Watkin was the minister of Wesley Church in Lonsdale Street, where he persistently advocated that the seven disparate branches of the Wesleyan Methodists unite together. His journalism included editorship of the Methodist organ *The Spectator* and frequent articles in the *Argus* on geographical and historical topics. He published a book, *Australian Native Names and their Meanings* and was honorary secretary of the Victorian Branch of the Royal Geographical Society. He was a particularly influential Australian Methodist, yet as the developer and owner of a substantial St Kilda Road mansion, he was also an astute investor, as was his son, Stanley Entwhistle Watkin who became a stock and sharebroker.

Ulimaroa is an eighteenth century name for the continent of Australia. It is indicated on Reilly's map, and Canzler's map offers it as an alternative name to New Holland; both maps were published in 1795 in German. The name clearly derives from Watkin's geographical education in Auckland and his reputation for knowledge of early Australian and Polynesian history. Ulimaroa appears to be a Polynesian name, possibly originally from Hawaii, but not Maori as there is no L in the Maori language. If so, then it should probably be pronounced as 'oo-li-ma-roar-a.'

The house appears to have been designed by John Augustus Bernard Koch (1845-1928) who called tenders for a two-storied house in St Kilda Road on 31 August 1889. Koch was born in Hamburg and migrated to Melbourne with his family at the age of ten. He served articles with F M White, architect of the Palais (3). Koch is known for over 78 buildings often in Richmond, or Hawthorn where lived in Yarra Street in St James' Park from 1896. His *tour-de-force* is the mansion Labassa (1889-91), Manor Grove in Caulfield. His houses and shops frequently include Hellenistic elements: the key pattern as at Ulimaroa, masks, caryatids, acroteria and foliated scrolls and consoles.

Koch became architect to the City of Melbourne in 1873, a Richmond City Councillor (1877-85) and mayor (1883) and Richmond City Architect (1887) and president of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects (1903-04). In 1913 he retired from practice although his family deny that this was due to the Great War and his German birth and he moved to Adelaide. His second son, Wilhelm Rudolph Waldemar Koch (1874-1952) was an architect and building surveyor in Hobart. John Koch took his fifth son (Oscar) Bernard as a partner and after he had served with the Australian Flying Corps in World War I, Bernard continued practicing under his own name from 1922.

Ulimaroa is a characteristic Melbourne Italianate tower house: asymmetrical, with canted bay and round-headed windows, hipped roof, bracketed eaves, tower in the angle and cast-iron return verandah, with 12 rooms, amongst Koch's designs it is unusually subdued.

The first, and famous tenant of Ulimaroa was John Traill (1826-1916), a shipowner. He clearly approved of the name, which he later gave to one of his Huddart Barker ships and there is a model of that ship at Malvern Grammar. Traill was also unusual, in that he lived quietly with his family, and was not involved with Melbourne's demanding late nineteenth century social whirl. Born on the Scottish east coast, educated in Edinburgh, in 1854 aged 28 he immigrated to Geelong, becoming manager of Smith Barker & Skinner who operated in the coastal shipping trade between Melbourne and Geelong. In 1860 he married and had four children.

In 1867 Skinner died and by 1876 Parker, Webb & Traill had joined with Huddart Parker & Co, merchants and coal importers from Newcastle and Huddart Parker expanded rapidly. By 1886 they had inaugurated the Melbourne-Adelaide shipping service and in 1882 entered the Sydney Melbourne trade. By 1890, Traill had relocated from Geelong and an office on the wharves, to Collins Street and he had moved into Ulimaroa. By 1895, Traill was the only surviving original director and he remained chairman until his death at the age of 92.

Huddart Parker was one of the seven major coastal shippers, whilst this was the principal means of interstate transport. Their merchant steamers including the *Ulimaroa*, were household names and they also operated the famous and glamorous Port Philip passenger steamers, including the *Ozone*, *Hygeia* and *Weerona*. On their moonlight cruises, dancing couples were serenaded by an orchestra playing popular

songs and the music wafted across the water for over a hundred years from 1842 until 1949, particularly from the 1880s to 1920s.

It is said that in about 1899, Watkin was so financially embarrassed by the financial crash that he was forced to sell Ulimaroa to John Traill. The family of Traill's son, John Cuthbert Traill who was also a director of Huddart Parker, continued living at Ulimaroa until 1946 when it was sold within the family. Dr Harvey Barrett was the last Traill relative to live there, whilst using it as his surgery, until 1960. The Traills had lived at Ulimaroa in St Kilda Road for seventy years.

They never owned a carriage, coach-house or stables, and John Traill walked each day to the office until he was 90. The family took great pride in the planning and evolution of their St Kilda Road garden as an integral part of their home. In 1891, Robert, son of John Cuthbert described in words and sketches how the garden was altered in the 1920s by his father after his grandfather's death. The Victorian garden had a symmetrical pair of palms behind a hedge and a corrugated iron fence on St Kilda Road, with a central path



Ulimaroa, 2002

from a splayed pedestrian gate. The house had perimeter paths and a shrubbery on the north boundary, through a lattice fence and gate to a large racetrack-shaped garden bed, like the Piazza Navona, in Rome

with two small trees and a central fountain. On the south side was a [clothes] 'drying green,' vegetable garden, almond and peppercorn trees.

At last in the 1920s, a vehicle was acquired for which a drive was formed on the north boundary, reducing the width of the shrubbery to that of a double garage behind the house. The oval garden vanished and a lawn tennis court installed across the west [rear] boundary on Queens Lane.

From 1960, Ulimaroa was no longer occupied as a house and was sold to Repco Limited as their international corporate headquarters. An unknown architect extended the rear wing, with a modern verandah and a new bathroom and kitchen were installed. The quality of the workmanship by Swanson Bros builders was particularly high, with very fine joinery in fiddleback Blackwood. In 1985, Repco Limited was acquired by Ariadne Limited and Ulimaroa was auctioned in April 1986.

It was sold again at auction in March 1993, when the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists [then the Royal College of Anaesthetists of Australia and New Zealand] purchased it. The College engaged the distinguished architect Norman Day to design a major seven-level addition over a three-level basement car park. There was no objection from the National Trust to his fine design: this is a model of how to add to an existing historic building.

ANZCA is responsible for examining and qualifying anaesthetists in Australia and New Zealand. It maintains standards of practice in anaesthesia and has about 3,200 fellows, about a fifth of whom are female and the gender ratio is nearly even among the nearly eight hundred trainees in 140 ANZCA-accredited hospitals worldwide. ANZCA was established in 1952 within the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, but by 1992 Australia's third-largest group of medical specialists left the College of Surgeons and formed ANZCA, whose fellows use the post nominals FANZCA

Norman Day was educated at the University of Melbourne, and then worked for Robin Boyd and Professor Frederick Romberg at Romberg & Boyd (46) and by 1971-72 he was a director. Then in 1972 he founded Norman Day & Associates. He has inherited some of Boyd's mantle as an architectural journalist for *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, ABC TV, is the author of various papers and books and he is adjunct professor at RMIT University. His works include: the Day House, 72 Berkeley Street, Hawthorn, 1973; Mowbray College, Melton, 1982-95; the Doug Wade House, Fitzgibbon Street, Parkville, c1983; the Patullo House, 71 Brighton Street, Richmond, 1995; Elderly Persons' houses in Chelsea and Department of Schools Education primary schools at Grovedale, Highton, Norlane West and Lara Lake, 1997-1999.

Day completed the Burford House, 18 Kildare Street, Hawthorn and townhouses at 258 Mont Albert Road, Mont Albert in 2000; townhouses at Inverloch in 2001; the Foggo+Moore House, Albert Street, Williamstown, 2002; the multi-storied Port Phillip House, Beaconsfield Parade, Port Melbourne 2003; the Day+Wilson House, Windsor, 2004; the Cantho Learning Resource Centre, 2006; RMIT International University, Vietnam Campus, South Saigon, 2005; the Donnelly House, Kew, 2006 and the Timor Leste Australian Embassy in 2008. He is also involved in the Architects Without Frontiers movement.

From the 1970s, whilst his office was in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda near to Park Street, Norman Day went through a striking and sometimes controversial Post-Modernist phase (22). He moved on then to most expressive and complex forms, but his recent work is more subtle, elegant and indeed beautiful, as his design of Ulimaroa exemplifies. His new wing faces onto Queens Lane, over the site of the 1920s tennis court and surrounding a full-height atrium space. All is clad with a beautiful shimmering multi-coloured glass screen. When seen beyond the house, though large it does not dominate, utilising the 1960s addition as a connecting link. The work was completed in 2001.

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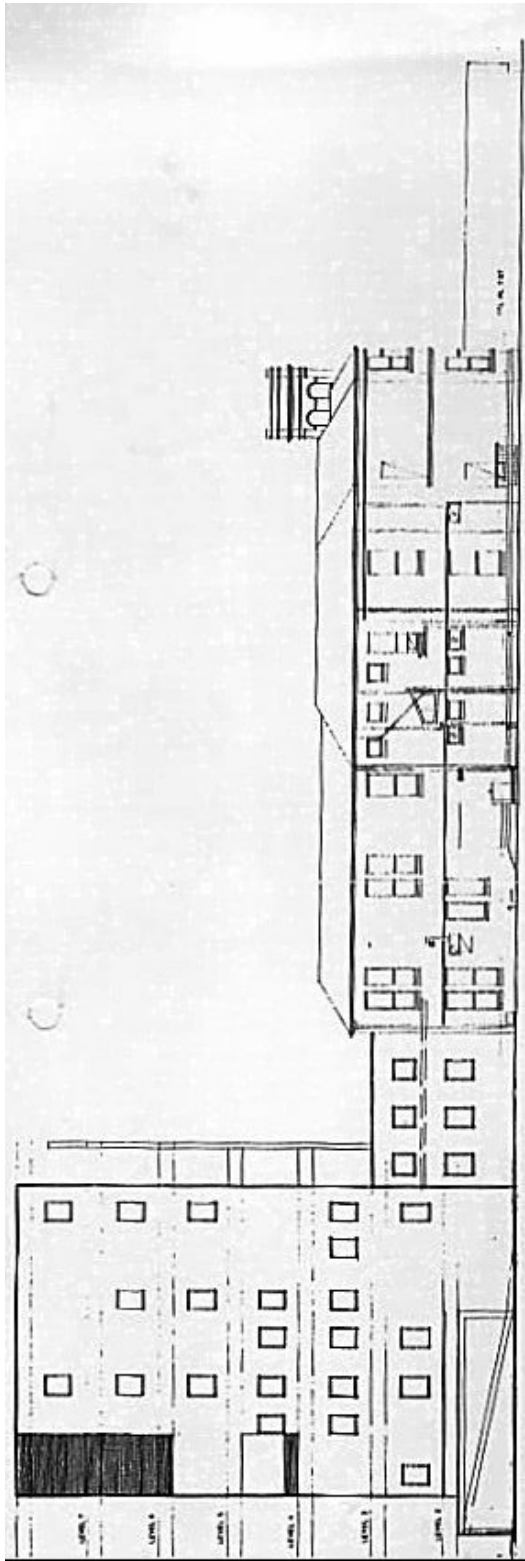
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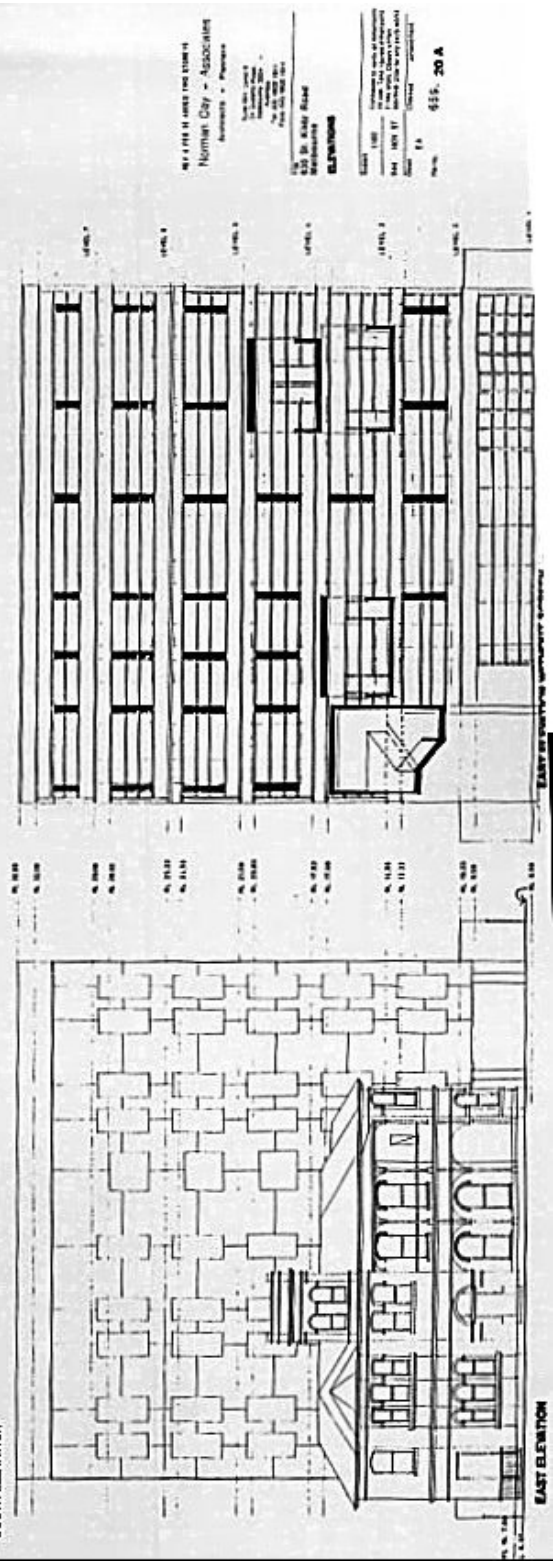
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