



St Kilda Historical Society

No. 165

FEBRUARY 2004

ABN: 25 188 646 275

Patron: Sir Zelman Cowen

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

A few weeks ago on the 18th of January, the Army, Mayor, RSL, community groups, including SKHS members, gathered to lay a wreath at the annual memorial for **Albert Jacka**. He was Australia's greatest front-line soldier as well as a past Mayor of St Kilda. As I left for the ceremony a friend said: 'Don't forget we shouldn't be glorifying war'. A fair comment.

Jacka killed seven Turkish soldiers in the action that won the first **VC medal** at **Gallipoli**; they were probably just boys like him. It was this feat of killing which first brought him to national attention.

However, I don't believe Jacka believed in the glory of war. He, more than anyone, understood that war is a butcher shop not a sporting event. **Ken Jacka**, his descendant, pointed out on the 18th that less than 50 men survived from the original 800 of the 14th Battalion. Jacka was ferociously committed to the safety of his men. He suffered great pain from his extensive wounds. His bitter criticism of officers who sacrificed lives needlessly stifled his promotion past **Captain**. He was understandably reticent to discuss the war after his return. His distrust of authority was reinforced by his support for the unemployed during his term as **Mayor**.

Jacka was mysterious and reticent enough and died young enough for anyone to imprint his or her own values on his actions. Nevertheless, the personal conclusions I draw from Jacka are: **Don't blindly follow your allies into military adventures. Always retain command of your own forces and destiny. Look after the interests of your fellow Australians. Don't hesitate to criticize authorities when the well being of your fellow Australians is threatened.**

These issues are as relevant today as they were in **1914**, when an army of unseasoned teenage Australians under foreign command landed in the wrong place in a suicidal assault on a Middle Eastern coast of which most had never heard.

Speaking of returned soldiers, the **final year celebration of the Society** at the historic mansion of

*West St Kilda RSL in December was a wonderful event. **Helene Jacoby**, whose **grandfather was Mayor of St Kilda** four times attended with her family. Helen is over 90 and appears not to have forgotten anything in her entire life. Her knowledge of St Kilda's places and people is unsurpassed and aided by her 40-year career in the entertainment and fashion industries. Helen is a living treasure and our member and historian **Gillian Upton** plans to record some of her invaluable memories.*

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Southern District Historical Association (SDHA)

Up to 13 of our neighbouring Historical Societies meet three times a year to compare notes. Next meeting:

When: 6.30pm, Wednesday 18 February 2004

Where: Prahran Mechanics Institute & Local History Library, 140 High Street, Prahran (MEL: 2L H12)

What: Includes tour of the Victorian Local History Library and the Cinematic Society's archives. Refreshments provided.

RSVP: Meyer Eidelson 9690 9584 or 0408 894 724.

Royal Historical Society Victoria (RHSV)

February Lecture - *Madame Brussels*

Historian Phillip Bentley comprehensively chronicles Melbourne's most famous brothel owner – Madame Brussels (a St Kilda resident) life and work, dealing both with her public & private faces & placing her in the context of 19thC Melbourne with particular reference to 'Little Lon'.

When: 5.45pm, Tuesday 17 February 2004

Where: RHSV Premises, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne (enter Lecture Room from William St.)

Cost: \$5.50 (RHSV members - free)

Your Committee of Management 2003 –4

Melinda Haldon: Secretary 0402 016 539;
mhaldon@bigpond.com

David Baker: Minutes Secretary 9537 0736

Melanie Eagle: Vice President 9281 7166

Meyer Eidelson: President 9690 9584; 0408 894 724. meyereidelson@yahoo.com

Peter Johnson: Heritage Officer 9596 2782;
prj@bigpond.net.au

Pearl Donald: Member

John Hulskamp: Treasurer/Webmaster 9597 2782

John Kissane: Archivist

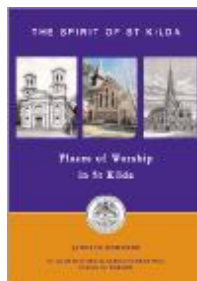
VOLUNTEER REPORT

- There are currently **four volunteers** working steadily in the Collection team in the basement including the Society Archivist, John Kissane. They took a break over Christmas but are back at work again on Thursday mornings.
- We have purchased a new **vacuum cleaner** and the basement is looking better since the floors were vacuumed.
- The **CoPP** has donated ten sets of shelves to us from the renovation of the Port Melbourne library, which we will need to assemble. Thanks to **Ruth McLean**.
- We are currently seeking **two high stools**, if anybody has a spare one to enable better seating at the Catalogue Table.
- Unfortunately our **Grant submission** by John Hulskamp for **computer hardware & software** to Arts Victoria for the Collection has been rejected for a second time: they changed the goal posts and are now refusing to fund local Historical Societies.
- We have formally written to the Council requesting space for an SKHS Office upstairs suggesting it be named the **Vida Horn Room** so that the Collection process can be done in better conditions for Volunteers.
- Recently we have discovered a box of earlier catalogue records & donation lists that will make the current catalogue process easier.
- Many thanks to volunteers:
 - **Lucy Minichello** who has done an outstanding job totally re-organising the SKHS Office
 - **Jennifer More** who has done the same for the SKHS Records Room.
 - **Chris Stoneman** who has completed the editing of 'Hotels of St Kilda and South Melbourne.'
 - Special thanks to **Pearl Donald** who organised the 14th Battalion Banner for Jacka's Day
 - **David Baker**, a new member of the committee, has volunteered to take on the role of Minute Secretary for the SKHS, effective immediately. He has also taken on the role of book distribution.
 - **Diane Boyle** who, over six months, designed and uploaded the new E-book on historic Cinemas of St Kilda by Peter Fogarty on St Kilda's web site. **Details re printing of hard copies and purchasing will be announced in the next newsletter.**

*We still actively seek more
Volunteers for the Collection Team -
Please ring Meyer 9690 9584 if you
can spare an occasional Thursday
morning?*

BOOKS

'The Spirit of St Kilda'



*Spirit of St Kilda'
Places of Worship in St Kilda*

For sale \$15.00 non-members; \$12.00 for members. To obtain:

Place order (☎ 9573 0763 or chaucer@bigpond.net.au) OR

Available monthly SKHS meetings OR

Use order Form at: www.skhs.org.au OR

Chronicles bookshop 91 Fitzrov Street

SIGN UP FOR SEX & DRUGS IN ST KILDA!

Join the '**Sex and Drugs Historical Tour**' (with **music and performance**) organised by the Port Phillip Local Drug Strategy. Take a jaunt through the laneways and byways of St. Kilda to explore how drugs and sex-work became a part of the City's identity & allure. Music & performance bring to life the experience of sex workers, drug users, residents and police as they play out the conflicts that have been repeated on our streets since the 1880s. **Book now: places are strictly limited to 30 per performance!**

When: 7.30 - 9pm, Wed 28/1; Tues 10/2; Wed 25/2

Where: Meet O'Donnell Gardens Fountain (next to Luna park), St Kilda.

How: To attend, contact Krys Galas ASAP (kgalas@portphillip.vic.gov.au or 9209 6852).



Colin Kerby of St Kilda Kiosk caused a scandal in 1951 when he sold homemade beer containing more than the regulation 2% alcohol - 7.4 % to be exact!

*"It was in the headlines for a week,"
Mr Kerby said.*

"There were drunks on the pier on a Sunday and the Salvation Army was upset."

Seniors Writing Festival - "Port Phillip reflections"

Residents over the age of 55 are called on to write a short piece (fiction or non fiction) reflecting their memories & reminiscences of life in Port Phillip - past, present or future!

What: Free writing workshop, by Gill Upton & Karen McKnight

When: Sunday February 15th 10am - 1pm. [Note: Same day as next SKHS meeting]

Where: St Kilda Library 150 Carlisle St, St Kilda

How: For bookings please call Philippa Armstrong on 92096597

Please book soon as places are limited!



St Kilda Historical Society

Free Public Events 2004

General Meetings at 2.30pm. Speakers start at 3.00pm approx.

* = Meet at the St Kilda Library Community Room.
FREE unless otherwise stated. Afternoon tea available. Agenda is subject to change – note advertisements in local papers. ALL WELCOME.

FEB 15*
Sunday @ 2.30 p.m.

WOMEN MAYORS OF ST KILDA AND PORT PHILLIP*

The City of St Kilda (1857 – 1994) had only two women Mayors in its 137-year history, both in recent times. Since amalgamation in 1994 the City of Port Phillip has had three women Mayors. We invite **Elaine Millar, Melanie Eagle, Christine Haag, Liana Thompson** and incumbent **Liz Johnston** (pictured), to share highlights of their terms.



MARCH 14*
Sunday @ 2.30 p.m.

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH*

Acute poverty, slum housing, offal and garbage, outbreaks of diphtheria, tuberculosis, and infantile paralysis. **Kay Rowan**, local History Librarian, discusses the sometimes appalling living conditions recorded by Health Inspectors in the City of Port Phillip, 1900 - 1950.

APRIL 18
Sunday @ 2.30 p.m.

THE SCREENING OF ST KILDA

Venue yet to be determined.

St Kilda has an amazing and largely undiscovered history of early Australian cinemas from the early bioscopes to the outdoor shows in Alfred Square.

Our new web book **'The Screening of St Kilda. A History of St Kilda Cinemas'** by Peter Fogarty will be launched.



MAY 9*
Sunday @ 2.30 p.m.

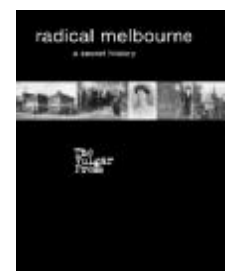
THE ST KILDA DREAMING*

Meyer Eidelson, author of **'The Melbourne Dreaming'** by AAV, discusses the records of indigenous history of St Kilda collected by European society since settlement. **Maps** of indigenous sites of Port Phillip will be distributed. **Tools** will be exhibited. **Stone tool manufacture** will be demonstrated.

JUNE 13*
Sunday @ 2.30 p.m.

RADICAL MELBOURNE – A SECRET HISTORY

Sister and brother, Jill and Jeff Sparrow, work at the Trades Hall bookshop. Their alternative history of Melbourne Volumes One (and soon to be released Two) chronicles the places where socialist, anarchic, anti-establishment, eccentric and even bizarre events have occurred since settlement.



THE REST OF 2004
Sundays @ 2.30 p.m.

11 July, 8 August, 12 September
10 October, 14 November, 12 December



WALK & TALK PROGRAM 2004

The Walking Strategy of Port Phillip encourages residents to walk rather than drive, to use public transport & to learn about the great places & people in their neighbourhood

- Bookings:**
- Required for all walks Stephanie on 9209 6229
 - Places are limited but extra walks may be run if demand is sufficient
 - Walk dates and events are subject to change – check local papers and *Diversity* closer to the date for confirmation
 - Walks are also listed on website: www.portphillip.vic.gov.au. If unable to attend, kindly please advise ASAP to enable others to attend in your place

- What to bring:**
- Wear comfortable walking shoes
 - Dress carefully for the weather
 - If in doubt, ring *Weather Call* 1196. If rain seems likely, bring an umbrella.

Cost:

- Free

General:

- Families are welcome
- All walks are conducted at a leisurely pace
- Walks will depart from starting point promptly at scheduled time
- Leaders' mobiles are Meyer 0408 894 724 and Janet 0408 556 499.

Public transport:

- Ring 131 638

WHEN	WHERE	DETAILS
JAN 18 Sunday 7 – 9.30 pm	SANDRIDGE Meet at Sandridge Lifesaving Club	The Docks at Night Travel from White Reserve to the mouth of the Yarra & discover the eerie lightscapes, biology, history, & environmental issues of the changing Webb Dock area. <i>Leaders: Janet Capes & Meyer Eidelson</i>
FEB 22 Sunday 10 – 12 am	ELWOOD Meet on Elwood Beach at outfall platform at Head Street. MEL: 67 C5	Follow the Wild White Man Follow in the footsteps of escaped convict William Buckley who fled from Sorrento in 1803 along the Port Phillip coastline & discover the truth about this epic figure. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>
MARCH 21 Sunday 10 – 12 am	GARDEN CITY Meet Fishermen's Bend Community Centre, Centre Ave. MEL: 56 H3	Housing the Poor and the Privileged Garden City is home to five extraordinary housing estates including 'Baghdad' or Fishermens Bend & the heritage Bank Houses built to an English visionary ideal. <i>Leader: Janet Capes</i>
APRIL 17 Saturday 3 – 5 pm	POINT ORMOND Meet at playground at Point Ormond Reserve (Hill), Point Ormond Road, Elwood. MEL: 67 A2	Fire, Fever, Death & Dairies Discover the historic places of an ancient swamp & coastline where Elster Creek or Elwood Canal, meets the sea including archaeology, military, quarantine, graves, abattoir, coal mine, and fires. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>
MAY 22 Sunday 10 – 12.30 am	EAST ST KILDA Meet Astor Theatre, Cnr. Dandenong Rd and Chapel St. MEL: 58 D8	The Spirit of St Kilda Discover their amazing heritage of St Kilda synagogues and churches, home since settlement to communities seeking religious freedom, spiritual solace, welfare & the ongoing rituals of 'matching, hatching and dispatching'. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>



WALK & TALK PROGRAM 2004 (cont.)

The Walking Strategy of Port Phillip encourages residents to walk rather than drive, to use public transport & to learn about the great places & people in their neighbourhoods

WHEN	WHERE	DETAILS
JUNE 21 Monday 6.00 – 8.00 pm	ST KILDA FORESHORE Meet at Cleve Gardens roundabout on Fitzroy Street	The Screening of St Kilda A century ago the carnival era gave birth to famous cinema venues such as St. Kilda Bioscope, Broadway, Lyric, Efftee Studios, Palais de Danse, Casino, Palais & the 'Mem'. Visit the St Kilda foreshore places where the flicks really got going. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>
JULY 11 Sunday 10 – 12 am	ST KILDA JUNCTION Meet Cnr Aughtie Drive and Fitzroy Street. MEL: 58 B8	The Port Phillip Dreaming Visit the ancient Corroboree tree & discover the history of the traditional owners, their landscape & their use of local plants & wildlife for food medicine, shelter, tools & fire. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>
AUG 15 Sunday 10 – 12.30 am	ALBERT PARK Meet at Gasworks Park, inside entrance off Graham Street.	Working Life in Albert Park Voyage from 19th century bluestone lanes, cottages & dunnies to the Gasworks Park where steam whistles screamed & the coal factory poured soot into the sky. Morning tea provided by Books Illustrated gallery. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>
SEPT 12 Sunday 10 – 12 am	PORT MELBOURNE Meet at the Federation Bench at Station Pier opp. Beacon Cove light rail terminus	150 Years Down the Track Celebrate the actual birthday of the journey of the very first steam railway in Australia by taking a walk along the Railway Reserve that was set aside - with great foresight - at the same time. <i>Leader: Janet Capes</i>
OCT 10 Sunday 10 – 12 am	SOUTH MELBOURNE MEL: Meet TBA	Drinking Holes of South Melbourne Discover the mixed & fascinating stories behind the present & past 92 pubs that were once crowded by the working people of South Melbourne. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>
NOV 9 Tuesday 6 – 8 pm	PORT MELBOURNE Meet on Beach Road bike path @ the Federation Bench (between Esplanade West & Esplanade East)	From Lagoon to Lifestyle Living Walk along the shores of the former Sandridge Lagoon, now replaced by parks & residential estates & trace its fascinating & many-layered history through cues in the landscape. <i>Leader: Janet Capes</i>
DEC 5 Sunday 10 – 12 am	ST KILDA HARBOUR Meet St Kilda Pier, corner Pier Road, MEL: 57 K10	Sail into History Become a crewmember of an historic wooden sailing vessel & explore the City of Port Phillip past & present from the water. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>

And also

JACKSON STREET FESTIVAL Date TBA	ST KILDA Meet on steps of the George Hotel, cnr Grey & Fitzroy Sts. MEL: 58 A8	The Mansions of Jackson and Fitzroy Street Visit historic homes & buildings as guests of the owners & hear the stories of Melbourne's greatest 19 th C seaside boulevard. <i>Leader: Meyer Eidelson</i>
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