



ST KILDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter No. 172
March 2005

TO:

If undeliverable please return to: The Secretary, St Kilda Historical Society, P.O. Box 177 Balaclava 3183

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR APPLICATION
1 JULY 2004 – 30 JUNE 2005

Fill out and forward the form below to **The Secretary, P.O. Box 177 Balaclava 3183** or bring to next meeting.
(Please disregard if you have recently renewed your membership)

\$18.00 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

\$300 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

DONATION.....

NAME (MR, MRS, MISS, MS).....

GROUP/ ASSOCIATION (IF APPL)

ADDRESS:

SUBURB/CITY:

P/CODE:

PHONE NUMBER/S:

EMAIL:

I would like to receive my newsletter by email: Yes / No

SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS OR SKILLS:

Signed.....



St Kilda Historical Society

No. 172

MARCH 2005

ABN: 25 188 646 275

Patron: Sir Zelman Cowen

Secretary: P.O. Box 177 Balaclava; 3183; chaucer@bigpond.net.au

President Ph: 9690 9584, 0408 894 724; Email: meyereidelson@yahoo.com

Heritage Officer: prj@bigpond.net.au : Editor: fbader@bigpond.net.au

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk Society: www.skhs.org.au (Publications)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and a warm welcome to our new members. Our thanks also go to the volunteers who play such an integral part in SKHS activities.

Elwood Forum: Recently we attended a public forum to hear a presentation from the consultants who are updating the Council's heritage overlay of Elwood. They revealed a fascinating range of new buildings to be potentially added – from art deco apartments to the Elwood Angling Club. Members interested in including buildings of interest can contact the *Heritage Alliance* consultants, tel: 03 9328 5133. A draft study should be unveiled to the public for comment by mid-year. The timing is perfect for our Society as we are currently writing a concise social history of Elwood with a grant from the Elwood Community Bank.

Granny Resource Kit: The St Kilda Library is keen to assist us with the launch of our children's book 'Granny' at the library during Children's Book Week this year in August. Up to 200 children and grandparents will attend this occasion. We are seeking people interested in preparing a children's history resource kit for this occasion.

SKHS Office Volunteer Roster: Our roster for SKHS volunteers this year to open our office to the public will commence once per week every Saturday morning in April from 10.00 – 1.00. So if you have any time to spare on an occasional Saturday we would be glad to hear from you on 9690 9584. Our role will be to provide general advice regarding heritage, sale of items, access to our records and referral when necessary. The office is equipped with computers, internet access, printer, and phone and is located near the Australian History section 994. A manual will be available to assist volunteers.

Archival Team: Thursday mornings from 10 -12 John and Mark are cataloguing 3-D items in the SKHS Archives, St Kilda Library Dungeon. Members with an interest in historical archiving are urged to contact meyereidelson@yahoo.com.au.

Name for Newsletter: Members are asked to put on their thinking caps and come up with suggestions for a "name" for our bi-monthly newsletter. Suggestions will be discussed at the 2004-2005 AGM when members may decide which one to adopt. The member(s) who comes up with the new name will receive a SKHS Publication in recognition. Bring written suggestions to meetings or mail to: The Secretary, PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183 or email chaucer@bigpond.net.au

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Web site: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

ST KILDA WALKS 2005

Bookings Krysl Galas 9209 6229.

Hotels of St Kilda

Sunday 15 May 4.00 pm

Take an historic pub crawl of St Kilda's hotels from settlement until today which played host to morgues, public meetings, inns, bushrangers, music bands, film sets, stables, gangland feuds and other events.

The Dark Side of St Kilda

Tuesday 19 July at 7pm

Carnival St Kilda was known for its 'colourful sleaze' from bushrangers to bohemians, murderers to mob wars, banned substances to brothels, GIs to G-strings, drugs to deviants, variety venues to the vice squad. Explore the dark side of St Kilda in the dark of a winter night!

Explore Elwood Village

Sunday 14 August 10 am

Explore the Elwood village, meet traders and residents and discover the past and present history of buildings, places and significant people.

The Fall of Sebastopol

Sunday 11 September 10am

The fall of Fort Sebastopol 150 years ago on 09 September 1855 marked the end of Crimean War hostilities. Relive the Crimean war in our part-two walk by exploring streets such as Sebastopol, Jervois, Cardigan, Raglan, Malakoff, Alma, Inkerman and others.

The Grand Boulevarde of St Kilda Road

Sunday 20 November 10am

Bring your tram fare to explore the history of Melbourne's greatest boulevard along which early Melbourne travelled south from the city to St Kilda and beyond braving potholes, cattle and bushrangers.

Royal Historic Society of Victoria

239 A'Beckett St, City. Entry William St. Ph: 9326 9288

(Members Free. \$5.50 non-members)

(Coffee/tea available from 5.15PM.)

Tuesday 12 April, 5.45PM:

Jill Barnard & Karen Twigg: *Holding on to Hope, A History of McKillop Family Services*

Sunday 15 May 10-4PM: *Mammoth Book Sale*

Heritage Inquiry of the Month

Re *Big Mouth* Building, corner Barkly & Acland Streets, St Kilda



Photo reproduced from one page article in *St Kilda by Day & Night*, published 1910

The Big Mouth building was built ca 1938 in a style popular at the time now called Moderne, but the actual designer is unknown. It was built on the site of the old Oakwood Tea Gardens (misspelled 'Oakrood' above). The State Library holds a number of objects from this business including tea pots, jugs and a rubber stamp. For most of the new building's life the upstairs functioned as reception or club rooms with shops below. Next door to the Tea Gardens and owned by the same family, stood the 'Elite Skating Rink' (1910) and 'The Barkly' cinema. The latter probably became the Market Building (this needs checking).

The front elevation of which was later altered to match the design of the Big Mouth building at the corner, indicating that it was carried out by the same architect. The Skating Rink was demolished and rebuilt as a Coles Store in 1938 to the designs of Harry Norris Architect.

Very little research has been done about this important site until now. More needs to be done. If you would like to help or you have any information about it please contact me, **Peter Johnson tel: 9525 3696 or e-mail: prj@bigpond.net.au**.



View of Acland Street ca 1950 with the *Big Mouth* Building on the extreme right.

Reproduction of *Rose* Postcard courtesy SLV



St Kilda Historical Society

Free Public Events 2005

Members' General Meeting at 2.30 pm.

Meetings held at St Kilda Library community room.
150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, 3183, unless otherwise stated.
Public welcome. No cost. Publications available for sale at meeting.
Collection item of the month displayed.
Afternoon tea (free) at (approx) 4.00 p.m.

Public Speakers start at 3pm approximately

APRIL 10, 2005

Sunday @ 2.30 p.m
St Kilda Library
community room

WRITE YOUR OWN STORY

Learn about the 'Write Your Own Story' program' from Julie Meadows, a gifted facilitator who has assisted over fifty people to write and produce their own high quality books on their family and personal histories in conjunction with the *Makor Library*

MAY 08, 2005

Sunday @ 2.30 p.m
St Kilda Library
community room

SHUTE – THE MESSENGER

Carmel Shute is a force of nature: St Kilda resident, raconteur, activist, history graduate, convenor of *Sisters of Crime* and City of Port Phillip media officer. Join Carmel as she shares with us the huge range of heritage events and stories she has promoted in our fair city

Other Exhibitions and Activities

Members may be interested in some of the following heritage and cultural exhibitions/activities

Immigration Museum

, Old Customs House, Flinders St
Phone no: 9927 2754 for opening hrs and admission
E-mail: immigration.museum.vic.gov.au

Station Pier: Gateway to a New Life

Find out why this Port Melbourne Landmark has become such an evocative symbol of Victoria's History.

Now Showing: Ends 29.05.05

The Immigration Museum was recently awarded the title Best Heritage & Cultural Tourism Attraction 2004/2005

Melbourne Museum

Note: Melbourne Museum charges an admission fee
Enquiries 8341 7777; E:melbourne.museum.vic.gov.au

Stone Knapping Demonstration(s)

Watch Simon Greenwood demonstrate this ancient indigenous skill. *Bunjilaka Gallery*, Melbourne Museum, Nicholson Street, Carlton, 1.00-3.00pm, Sat 09.04.05; 07.05.05; 05.06.05

Indigenous String Games

Join Judy McKinty as she shows you how to create some traditional string games: *Bunjilaka Gallery*, Melbourne Museum, 1.00-3.30pm; Fridays: 08.04.05; 15.04.05; Sundays: 08.05.05; 05.06.05; Tuesday 28.06.05

Community Collections

Find out what Victorians collect. Chosen as from the result of a statewide call for entries, a range of the more unusual and interesting items are currently on display in the *Australia Gallery*, Melbourne Museum. Hrs 10.00am.-5.00pm
There will be *Caring for Collections* Days on May 18-20

web site: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

Ph: 9527 2387/ 9531 6832 or info@foskc.org

Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Tour

Sunday, 17 April, 2.00pm, Cost \$5.00 Bkgs 9817 4896

Judges & Justice, St Kilda Cemetery

Sunday, 15 May, 2.00PM

Portable Iron Houses

National Trust, 399 Coventry St, South Melbourne
Open Days: First Sun. ea mth 1-4pm, Entry \$5/\$3
Open to public and informative video. (Bkgs not reqrd)

Early Emerald Hill –The Goldrush Years 1852-1875

Guided Walk: Sunday 17 April, 1.30pm-4pm
Cost \$22 (\$19 members). Concludes with tour of Portable Houses & Light refreshments. Bookings essential. Phone 9593 9693

Boom Years Mansions & Gardens of Emerald Hill 1875-1905

Guided Walk: Sunday 15 May, 1.30pm-4pm
Cost \$22 (\$19 for Members). Concludes w/tour of Portable Houses & Light refreshments. Bookings essential. Phone 9859 6359

Family & Local History Fair

10am-4pm, Sat 30 April 2005
The Wellington", Cnr Otter & Wellington Sts, Collingwood.
Entry \$10.00. Conc \$8.00.
Seminars, Family History, Info, Databases, Genealogical Organizations and Services,
Publications, Plus**Enquiries 9417 7517**