



ST KILDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 175 September-October 2005

and

Membership Application/Renewal 2005-2006
TO:

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

AGM: 2.30pm (sharp) 11 September 2005

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR APPLICATION

1 JULY 2005 – 30 JUNE 2006

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

ABN: 25 188 646 275

Newsletter No. 175, September-October 2005

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

Membership renewals are now due and I hope you all support the Society's mission by filling and sending in your membership renewal form ASAP (in fact why not skip my letter and do it now!).

The launch of *Granny* went off without a hitch. We presented at four separate events at three different libraries with a total of 250 primary school students attending, along with their teachers. The Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, Darren Ray launched the book formally on Thursday morning with St Kilda Primary School. This was synchronicity as he had spent the previous day as *Principal-for-a-Day* at the same school and had obviously enjoyed it immensely. Deputy Mayor, Janet Bolitho and CoPP staff members also attended the launch.

Each school received free class sets of the book plus our new St Kilda History Resource Kit. Every child received apples and sweets from our FABULOUS volunteer Grannies (four of whom you can see in pic next column) dressed in costume and carrying straw baskets. Every child also received a penny half a century old. (Yes, we purchased three kilos of pennies from coin stores!). The students were given 'homework' which was to pass the penny onto their grandchildren in fifty years time with instructions to that grandchild to pass it on to their own grandchildren in another fifty years time.

In addition, sayings and words connected with the word 'penny' provoked lively responses from the attentive and well-behaved audiences (and their teachers) ...

penny farthing, the penny drops; in for a penny in for a pound; a penny for your thoughts; penny-pinching; spend a penny; penny wise, pound foolish; two a penny; penny dreadfuls; a pretty penny; an honest penny; pennies from heaven and more...

All the children present at the launch of *Granny* signed SKHS's 'One Hundred Year Book' which is to be presented at the Bicentenary of Federation in 2101. No doubt many of these children will be bionically present as will their grandchildren hopefully clutching their pennies. (ctd next column)

HIS STORY - HER STORY - YOUR STORY

Linda Todd of the City of Port Phillip's Branch Libraries read *Granny* aloud to the children at each venue (much to their delight and the delight of the grown-ups) using large laminated copies arranged by our secretary David Baker. (The original 'Granny' ran a fruit stall on the Esplanade selling fruit and sweets for a penny during the 1860s/early 1870s and became well known to children from all over Melbourne.)

Linda, who coordinated the entire event as part of Children's Book Week 2005 (20 to 26 August) also generously arranged lunch for the volunteers on both days. She also launched a complementary short story writing competition called 'His Story - Her Story - Your Story'. Entry forms are available at each branch library (in three categories 8-11; 12-14; 15-18) and close 07 October 2004.

You can purchase copies of *Granny* from the front desk of St Kilda library for only \$10. Or as a **renewed** member for \$5 at our meetings. What a bargain! We are thinking of taking the *Grannies* on the road to another two schools later in the year as it was very rewarding for all of us to connect in such a fun way with the history buffs of tomorrow.

Meyer Eidelson



N. Howard, A. Smallpage, M. Eidelson, P. Donald, C. Stals
Picture by David Smith:

Reproduced with kind permission of Port Phillip Leader

Granny Book

Granny; a History Mystery is part of the St Kilda Historical Society's Book Series. This is an ongoing project published in hard copy and E-book. Seven other books are already available in this series on www.skhs.org.au. Copies are also on sale at the front desk of the St Kilda Library.

Local History Library

According to the August-September issue of *Divercity*, (official newsletter of the City of Port Phillip), it's now easier to gain access to the South Melbourne and Port Melbourne Local History Collections held by the Port Phillip Library Service at the Port Melbourne Town Hall.

The Port Melbourne Library will be providing this service on Mondays from 12noon to 7.30pm and on the first Saturday of each month from 10.30am to 1.30pm.

The St Kilda Branch Library Local History Collection may be accessed Thursdays and Fridays. Contact Local History Librarian, Kaye Rowan on 9209 6558.

ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The St Kilda Historical Society is a 'Society Member' of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. As such, individual financial SKHS members are entitled to visit the Society to consult their records (for free). Therefore, when you do visit, you may be asked for proof that you are a current SKHS member (just make sure you have your SKHS membership receipt). RHSV advises that before you head in to see them, you contact them beforehand regarding your area of interest. Phone (03) 93269477 or fax no (03) 9326 9477, office@historyvictoria.org.au and they will be happy to assist you with your enquiries.

BookCrossing

'Bookcrossing' or releasing books which we have read 'into the wild' is the practice of leaving a book in designated public places to be picked up and read by others, who then do likewise. *Bookcrossing.com* was conceived of and maintained by Humankind Systems Inc, and has captured the imagination of thousands of people around the world.

Correspondence

Members wishing to respond to the following, contact SKHS for addresses

From *Western Australia*

*Would love to be at the meeting in October to hear all about St Moritz where I spent my youth. Great days!
Cheers from Janet Revill*

From *New Zealand*

Hi folks, finally back here in NZ (Great Barrier Island) & in front of a pc & wanted to say hi. Baby, house, new country, amongst sub-tropical winter rains....it has been one helluva journey, but here we are on our feet at last & doing great.

In case I haven't let you know already, Maya arrived on 1 May, so she is now nearly 3 months & "meeting all the "benchmarks"! She is developing every day which is a great source of entertainment & lots of joy.

Hope you are all really well & that life is tracking on as usual, or better? Will keep you posted from time to time.

*Best regards for now,
Melinda*



Melinda, Wade & Maya

Melinda was our previous SKHS Newsletter Editor: 2003-2004

Heritage Inquiries:

For Heritage Inquiries contact:
Peter Johnson, Heritage Officer.
Email: prj@bigpond.net.au
PO Box 1154, St Kilda Sth, 3182

Melbourne Mansions

Index

MMI's new web address :
<http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/melbmansions>

Inquiry re:*Mandalay*

The house was previously called *Murweh* (from 1882 to about 1888) and was built for Alfred Kirkpatrick to the designs of Smith & Johnson (also architects for the Supreme Court Building, Melbourne). Tenders were called in *The Argus* on 8th February 1882 (p3). In 1886, it was sold to a Thomas Smith. The building was later owned by Mrs E M Perkins who renamed it *Rathlin* (from c1888-1899). She sold it in 1899.

The subsequent purchaser probably renamed it *Mandalay*. I understand that it functioned as a boarding house for many years, probably from the 1930's when two blocks of flats were built in the front garden. These were also called *Mandalay*. The old building was demolished following a bad fire in the mid 1970s. The flats remain.

For more detailed information about all the owners and occupants you could look at the City of St Kilda rates books. (PRJ)

Seeking: *DEVA*

Bruce Bodman from the Anglesea Historic Society is looking for information regarding a property in Acland Street, named DEVA. Around 1952, DEVA was administered by the Victorian Society for Crippled Children. The residents, mainly from country areas, lived there while receiving therapy, finishing school, or going to work. Bruce's address is P.O. Box 98, Anglesea 3230 and any details will be gratefully received.

First in the Field

Municipality of Emerald Hill — 150th Anniversary

The motto of the Municipal District of Emerald Hill¹ – “First in the Field” translated from the Latin, *In Ordine Primum* – is the title of a six-month heritage display currently on show at the historic South Melbourne Town Hall until 05 December 2005.

First in the Field has been organised and sponsored by the City of Port Phillip to mark the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the borough of Emerald Hill. It also commemorates the first Council meeting which took place on 04 July 1855.

James Service (later Premier of Victoria) was elected Chairman. In 1872, Emerald Hill was proclaimed a Town and renamed South Melbourne in 1883 when proclaimed a City.

First in the Field contains documents and artifacts, heritage photographs and sketches spanning the earliest settlement at Canvas Town to the formation of the first Suburban Council in the Port Phillip District² and the subsequent growth of the area

Viewing Hours: 8.30-5.00:- Mon., Wed, Thur, Fri. 8.30-6.00 on Tues.
See also Nat Trust Walks (col.3)

Emerald Hill

¹Emerald Hill was the first suburban borough and only the third municipality to be established in the entire Port Phillip District (PPD) of New South Wales.

The first municipality to obtain ‘independence’ from NSW was the Town of Melbourne – created by Act 6, Victoria No. 7, of the Governor and Legislative Council of NSW; 12 August, 1842. It was subdivided into four wards (including parts of St Kilda) as defined in Act 3, Victoria 19; 22 October 1841. Inaugural Council Elections took place, 01 December 1842. Country Geelong, incorporated October 1849, came next, then Emerald Hill.

²The PPD was later renamed ‘Victoria’ when the Act ‘for the better Government of Her Majesty’s Australian Colonies’ passed through both Houses of Westminster, on 05 August 1850. This was enacted in response to growing discontent within the PPD and pressure for Separation from NSW.

When news of the passage of the Act reached Port Phillip, on the ship *Lysander*, Melbournians are reported to have partied for almost a fortnight. The Crown Colony of Victoria came formally into existence with the ‘Application of NSW Laws to Victoria Act, 1851 (under the provisions of the 1850 Act). Separation became a reality, 01 July 1851.

Archipelago of St Kilda

– Evacuated 75 Yrs ago (1930)

The National Trust for Scotland, (NTS) is currently celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of the Archipelago of St Kilda (the westernmost isles of the Outer Hebrides).

After living independently on the main Isle of Hirta for at least two millennia, the last 36 Islanders were evacuated on the SS *Harebell*, 29 August 1930. Their livestock was evacuated on the SS *Dunara Castle* which had also brought journalists, photographers and sightseers to ‘witness’ the ‘event’.

Before their departure, bibles were left in their places in church pews and a Gaelic and English bible placed on the lectern. Besides furniture, the Islanders left their own family bibles open in their homes and a small pile of oats on their tables. Fires were built up and left burning in the fireplaces of their cottages as they sailed away on SS *Harebell*.

St Kilda boasts the highest cliffs and largest colony of fulmars and gannets in Britain and has become a divers’ paradise. It has now one of a small number of global locations to be awarded “World Heritage Status” for both its natural and cultural significance. It shares this distinction with the Sanctuary of *Machu Picchu*; *Mount Athos*, and *Ukhahlamba /Drakensberg*.

In Edinburgh, NTS is exhibiting previously unseen photographs, cultural objects and archival items relating to the unique lifestyle of the original ‘*Sainters*’. A limited edition of 36 prints titled the ‘Hirta Portfolio’ is being produced – one for each of the evacuees. For further details see www.nts.org.uk

Other History Events

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

www.foskc.org or info@foskc.org
Members free: Non-members \$5.00
Details ph. 9527 2387; 9531 6832

Moonlight Tour

Saturday 15 Oct from 7.30PM

Equestrian Tour

Sunday 06 Nov at 2.00pm

Prahran Mechanics’ Institute

140 High St Prahran.

<http://www.pmi.net.au> Tel/Fax 9510 3393

Free to members:

[Re Bookings:- Numbers are limited.

PMI members given preference]

Historic Picture Show

with **Peter Wolfenden** Vice Pres.
Cinema & Theatre Hist. Society
incl. short docos of Melb (ca1910),
comedy, drama, retro advertising
material & refreshments.

7.00pm Thursday 15 September

Bookings essential, 9510 3393

A Magnificent Spectacle

Theatre Posters of J C Williamson

Display: 01-25 September

M-F: 9.30-4.30: Sat 9.30-1.00pm

Sidney Myer: a Life, a Legacy

Lecture by Stella Barber

Saturday 15 October, 2.30pm

National Trust Guided Walks

Numbers are limited. Bookings are essential. (\$22.00 for Non-Members: includes guide, light refreshments and tour of Iron Houses.)

Sun 18 September:

BKGS: 9329 0635, 9645 7517

Lanes & Byways of Emerald Hill

Sunday 16 October:

BKGS: 9836 8837, 9645 7517

Mansions & Gardens of Emerald Hill in the Boom Years 1875-1905

Sunday 20 November:

BKGS: 9859 6359, 9645 7517

From Tents to Terraces - The Gold Rush Years

RHSV Lecture Program

Enquiries Phone no: 9326 9288

5.45pm. William & a’Beckett Sts

Entry: non-members \$5.50

Coffee/tea available from 5.15PM.

13 Sept: Richard Broome,

Aborigines of Melbourne

11 Oct: Alan Gregory,

Melbourne High School

Healing the Wounds of War*

Hundreds of people attended the annual Memorial Service, *Healing the Wounds of War* held in St George's Uniting Church, Chapel St East St. Kilda, on 21.08.2005.

The Service remembered the:-

- 300,000 young Australians who went to fight in WW1. Of those 60,000 died and approximately 156,000 were wounded or taken prisoner.
- First and Second 14th Battalions and the 14th/32nd in particular, **Albert Jacka**.
- 90th anniversary of the death in Gallipoli of **Revd Andrew Gillison**, Minister at St George's and Chaplain of the First 14th Battalion.
- **Captain Edgar (Ted) Rule** of the First 14th Battalion and author of *Jacka's Mob*.
- 60th Anniversary of the Allied Victory in the Pacific.
- 14/32nd Battalion's 'Battle of Bacon Hill'.

Captain Edgar Rule

Several members of the first 14th Battalion AIF *aka* Jacka's Mob were awarded Battle Honours for their services to crown and country. Captain Edgar Rule was one of the Battalion's original members and was awarded the Military Medal and Military Cross in 1917.

Ted Rule kept a journal from the time he landed in Gallipoli right through to the end of the war in France. *Jacka's Mob; a Narrative of the Great War** was published in 1933 by A&R the year after Albert Jacka, 'symbol of the spirit of the ANZACs' died. Aliases were used to protect men who were still living as well as their relatives.

After the war, and like his comrade-in-arms, Albert Jacka (elected Mayor of St Kilda in 1930), Ted Rule helped 'care for his cobbles' during the Depression and became very active in the RSL. Rule (born NSW) was a Shepparton orchardist for many years before moving to Mornington (for health reasons) where he passed away, 1958, and was interred in Springvale Cemetery. (His ashes were recently re-interred in the grounds of St George's and a plaque erected in his memory.

*A revised publication of *Jacka's Mob* with the real names and identities of the men involved was re-published by Military Melbourne in 1999 and is available from City of Port Phillip Library Service.



14th Battalion Banner

Since inception, the First 14th Infantry Battalion, AIF, raised mid-September 1914, has been closely associated with Prahran, St Kilda and St George's Church.

Over the course of the four years of war, some 5000 men passed through its ranks including many local men and members of the congregation.

During the 2005 Memorial Service at St George's, Flags and Banners of the First, Second and the 14th/32nd as well as those of Peace-Keeping Forces were ceremoniously brought into the Church.

The Revd Andrew Gillison's Communion Cup, (held by Ivanhoe Grammar School) was conveyed to the sanctuary by Army Cadets.

Descendants of ANZACS and representatives from associated Veterans' Orgs. lit candles in memory of the fallen. They paid tribute in word and verse and, gave readings from the Testaments. The Minister reflected on the pain and devastation of war and the congregation was urged to build bridges of consolation with former foes.

The navy blue & gold colors of the 14th Battalion were entrusted to St George's Church and now hang in the Shrine of Remembrance.

The marching banner of the Battalion is cared for by the St Kilda Historical Society.

14th Battalion AIF

In the last week of September 1914, the Headquarters of the 14th Battalion relocated from 178 Collins Street to Broadmeadows. That's where the Battalion's recruits, principally from inner Melbourne, were mostly trained.

With the 13th, 15th, and 16th Battalions, the 14th formed the 4th Brigade commanded by Colonel John Monash. The Battalion embarked for the War Zone on 22 December and, after a brief stop in Albany, WA, arrived in Egypt, 31 January 1915.

In Egypt the 4th Brigade became part of the New Zealand and Australian Division with which it would serve with such distinction in Gallipoli.

They landed at ANZAC Cove on the afternoon of 25th April 1915. On 19th May, the Turks launched their counter-attack. During this fighting Albert Jacka's leadership and courage became legendary within the AIF. He was awarded the Victoria Cross and commissioned as an officer in the 14th Battalion — which came to be widely known as *Jacka's Mob*.

The 14th Battalion was heavily involved in establishing and defending the ANZAC Front Line and suffered heavy casualties before being evacuated in December.

They returned to Egypt where the AIF was reorganized. The 14th was split and some of the experienced soldiers sent to the 46th Battalion. The 4th Brigade was combined with the 12th and 13th Brigades to form the 4th Australian Division.

In June 1916 the 4th Division sailed for France and the Western Front. Until 1918 they took part in trench warfare, attacking enemy positions and stopping the Prussian advance till the guns fell silent on 11.11.1918

Source: www.awm.gov.au/units/

NB 13th Nov Talk:

Roland Perry on John Monash



St Kilda Historical Society

Free Public Events 2005

Members' general meeting at 2.30 pm.

Public speakers start at 3.00pm approximately.

Public Meetings are held at the St Kilda Library community room, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, 3183, on the second Sunday of each month unless otherwise stated. Collection item of the month displayed. Public welcome. Admittance free.

11 September 2005

Renewals/Nominations from

2pm: AGM 2.30pm

Talk 3.00pm

St Kilda library community room.

AGM & ELECTION OF 2005-2006 COMMITTEE

+

THE GREENING OF ST KILDA

Neil Blake OAM highlights the history of the environmental movement in St Kilda. For over two decades, Neil has been in the forefront of radical changes including Earthcare, the Ecocentre, the Penguin Sanctuary, West Beach, Albert Park Lake, indigenous plants movement and seaweed re-use.

09 OCTOBER 2005

Sunday @ 2.30 p.m

St Kilda library community room

ST MORITZ and SKHS COLLECTION OPEN DAY

Learn more about historic St Moritz Rink and the Skating Girl neon sign recently donated by Novotel to the Society's collection (currently on display at City Museum (Gold Treasury)).

Moving to collection room in basement of St Kilda library.

The SKHS Collection will also be open and you can talk to the archival team.

13 NOVEMBER 2005

Sunday @ 2.30 pm

St Kilda library community room

JOHN MONASH – THE OUTSIDER WHO WON A WAR

Don't miss internationally acclaimed Elwood writer, Roland Perry, talking on his award-winning book on one of our greatest Australians.

11 DECEMBER 2005

Sunday @ 2.30 pm

Location to be announced

END OF YEAR EVENT AT MYSTERY VENUE

Join SKHS as we celebrate the milestones of 2005 with refreshments and a special *Surprise Speaker*. Details in November Newsletter

WALKING ST KILDA 2005

Conducted walks, courtesy of the City of Port Phillip

Free to the public. Bookings are essential.

Bkgs & Details: Phone Kry's Galas; Ph. 9209 6229

The Fall of Sebastopol

Sunday 11 September 10am

The fall of Fort Sebastopol 150 years ago on 09 September 1855 marked the turning point of Crimean War hostilities. Relive the Crimean War (1854-1856) 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 *boulevarde* along which early Melbourne travelled south from the city to St Kilda and beyond braving potholes, cattle and bushrangers