



# St Kilda Times

Patron: Sir Zelman Cowan

SKHS Newsletter Issue No. 182

December 2006

## Today is Tomorrow's History

### In this issue:

Today is Tomorrow's History	1 & 3
Photographic Memories	1
Time Traveling	2
150th Anniversary:	
SKHS Notices	3
SKHS Diary	4

**History is currently a hot topic.** Even our Prime Minister is talking about compulsory history lessons in schools.

What should be taught and how? Is local history relevant when it isn't a national issue? These and more are very much part of the education debate.

History is now active, not just a series of dates and events taught without relevance to

the issues, so it will be different to the schooling of past generations.

Why has history fallen from favor with so many? I don't have the answer but there needs to be work done on the problem and St Kilda Historical Society is trying to do their bit here.

SKHS is hoping to go into schools and assist the teaching program with some of our information, displays,

knowledge, experience and enthusiasm.

By using terms such as 'Today is Tomorrow's History' we want to encourage children to see their role in history as evolving, not as something from 'long ago'. Put the child at the middle of the equation and we may be able to stimulate their interest. If we engage them while young they may remain interested for life! **(cont p3)**

### SKHS St Kilda–Elwood

#### Heritage Day

[also see Page 4]

- Sunday
- 10 December
- 1.30 – 4.00pm

#### Community Centre

Elwood Beach, Melways P67:B4

- BYO picnic
- BYO sun-shade
- free entertainment
- improvisations
- mock auction
- children's poetry awards
- games/fun

### Photographic Memories

For the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Municipal District of St Kilda in February 1857, a suggestion has been made that SKHS create a photographic folio which would be a visual record of St Kilda and Elwood in the past, and a reference resource for future generations.

SKHS is asking members and friends to go through their photo albums and select **one** print showing an image of **St Kilda** or **Elwood** and donate a copy to SKHS. The image may date any time from Proclamation in 1857 or earlier, to Amalgamation in 1994 but should depict a local scene such as a streetscape, house, garden, beach scene, picnic, neon sign, building, etc.

We ask that you note the year when the image was taken and identify the subject and location. SKHS will also need your permission to reproduce and publish the images. The snapshots would initially be placed in a protective folder. In the future they will be catalogued and may become the subject of a heritage exhibition and, perhaps go on-line.

## SKHS

### Contacts

#### 2006-2007

##### President:

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

##### Vice President & Heritage:

**Peter Johnson**  
prj@bigpond.net.au

##### Secretary:

**Dorothy Lobert**  
lobertdp@optusnet.com.au

##### Treasurer:

**John Hulskamp**  
john@hulskamp.com.au

##### Archives:

**Mark Barry**  
mark@bssound.com.au

**John Kissane**  
**Maureen Walker**  
**Frances Bader**  
**Kitty Barclay**

##### Newsletter:

**Frances Bader**  
**Dorothy Lobert**  
**Pearl Donald**  
info@skhs.org.au

##### Hospitality:

**Joan Charlton**  
**Irene Johnson**

##### Exhibitions:

**Carol Stals**  
cstals@iprimus.com.au

##### Webmaster:

**John Hulskamp**  
info@skhs.org.au

##### SKHS Website:

www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

##### Publications:

www.skhs.org.au

**General Inquiries & Emails:** info@skhs.org.au  
**Mail:** PO Box 177  
Balaclava 3183

**From 1842 to 1857, St Kilda and Elwood were under the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Melbourne.**

Not long after the first auction of twenty-two land allotments (7 December 1842), residents began agitating for more and better representation. When 'The Act for the Establishment of Municipal Institutions in Victoria' was gazetted on 24 April 1855, inland St

## Time Traveling

Kilda and Elwood (as well as a few other suburbs) were proclaimed a municipal district.

However, the Melbourne Corporation retained the coastal St Kilda-Elwood area within the boundaries of Melbourne. Almost immediately, some St Kilda 'villagers' began petitioning that their properties be included in the District of St Kilda. After some contention between the

'Withins' and the 'Withouts', St Kilda and Elwood achieved 'Separation' in Feb.1857.

Local government elections took place on 9 March at a polling booth in the Junction Hotel. Seven honorary councillors were elected to represent residents' interests and welfare. At the time the population was estimated as around 2,700, and the number of ratepayers, as 1000.

Main resource: Butler, J.B.,  
History of St Kilda, 1841-1932.

## 150th Anniversary Suggestions

Suggestions are being sought from SKHS members, friends, local residents as well as former residents and members as to how, or what else SKHS could do to mark the 150th

anniversary of the proclamation of the municipal district of St Kilda and Elwood in 1857. Do send any ideas to PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183 or E: [info.skhs.org.au](mailto:info.skhs.org.au).

**Friends of St Kilda Cemetery** are proposing a collaborative 150th anniversary event for the first Sunday of March 2007. For more information, E: [info@foskc.org](mailto:info@foskc.org)

## Port Phillip Libraries

All are welcome to enjoy the seven piece *a capella* group **Ke Foundation** delivering their spell binding cycle of concerts celebrating the voice, and the changing seasons across the Port Phillip Library Services.

### Summer:

Albert Park Library :  
Wed. 13 Dec 2006  
6.30 to 7.30 pm

### Autumn:

St Kilda Library:  
Tues. 13 March 2007  
6.30 to 7.30 pm

Refreshments provided after each performance.

## SKHS Exhibitions

SKHS Exhibitions Coordinator, Carol Stals is planning to mount three heritage displays in 2007.

1. Art & Artists of St Kilda.
2. Rock and Roll St Kilda.
3. Nautical St Kilda  
*Any assistance will be appreciated.*

## Today is Tomorrow's History (cont from page one)

Engaging children is one reason why SKHS initiated the 2006 Don Taggart Prize for poetry about St Kilda and Elwood, composed by local primary school children.

Next year we may look at a different expression of talent on a similar topic or theme.

These children are participating in tomorrow's history. Their work will be collected, printed and looked at by other children many years from now.

**Family and Local History have often been a way for people to discover an interest in history.**

Sometimes it is by doing research about the place where they now live or have lived in previously.

All of these are valid reasons, so we want to capture people's interest and make history a living thing for them.

History is being taught in schools, often as part of a unit on various topics. It is not

in the formal manner in which we were taught.

I currently teach Australian History to older adults at U3A and I'm frequently asked, "How come I didn't know this? Why weren't we taught this at school?" Generally this is because it is 'local history' which wasn't considered important enough, and in fact, was considered somewhat shameful. Most of the history we learned at school was about England and Empire.

My daughter was fortunate enough to take a Local History unit at Ardoch High School, run by Gill Upton.

Years after leaving school she still remembers it and is often the person I turn to for information about the St Kilda area.

Well done Gill, and thank you!

*Carol Stals*

SKHS Exhibitions Coordinator

### Profile

As well as teaching history and being a member of SKHS, Gillian Upton (refer C. Stals' article above) also curated the exhibition *Splash: St Kilda Beach and Baths* for the City of Port Phillip.

When Gillian's book, *The George* won the Victorian Community History Award a few years back, the judges agreed that Gillian's book was 'out of the ordinary' and 'written with flair, grace and vivacity'.

[*The George* may be purchased at **Chronicles Bookshop in Fitzroy St.**]

### Thanks

SKHS thanks the staff in Mr Michael Danby's office in Fitzroy Street for kindly photocopying this issue of the *St Kilda Times*.

### Researchers

Members and friends who are conducting independent research on any aspect of St Kilda or Elwood history (past or present) are invited to contact SKHS. We may be able to help.

### Writers

*St Kilda Times* welcomes short articles on various aspects of our local history, news items and anecdotes for publication in our bi-monthly newsletter. Issues of *St Kilda Times* will be published on the first week of the following months: February, April, June, August, October, December. Closing dates for articles are the last Wednesday of the previous month.

### Worldwide Web

SKHS newsletters are published on our worldwide website [www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk) (site maintained by John Hulskamp).

Original special interest articles and items contributed by members are also published on-line.

## Seeking Information

Information is being sought about any of the following:

**Thelma May Watt** who managed the *Village Belle* restaurant during the 1930s.  
**William Jones** and family who lived above the old St Kilda Railway Station, c1860s-1870s.

**J.H and Elizabeth Read** (Reade or Reid) nee Bennet with connections in Launceston and Butcher's Gully.

Cable-car driver and St Kilda Life-Saver **Thomas Sparnon** who lived in Havelock St, 1900-1930s.

**Reginald Hansford**, born St Kilda, 5/11/1890. Father, Thomas Henry Hansford, and mother, Mary Ann nee Clarke.

**Mildred Cass** nee McCarthy, Queen's Bridge Hotel, 1928-1964.

**John Williamson**, tailor of Brighton Road.

**James Roberts, Walter Gardner, Sophia Millar**, all of Jackson St.

Did anyone know **Pretty Dulcie**, the *Angel of Death*? (Fourteen of her husbands and lovers were reputedly gunned down in St Kilda during the 1950s.)

Info on **Little Luna Park**, circa 1947-1950 is also being sought. **(Do contact SKHS with any details.)**



Patron Sir Zelman Cowen

Email: [info@skhs.org.au](mailto:info@skhs.org.au)

Website: [www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk)

Unless otherwise notified, SKHS meetings are held in the  
Community Room, St Kilda Library, 2nd Sunday ea. month.  
Members meet 2.30pm. Free talk, open to public: 3.00pm.  
Afternoon tea served.

## SKHS End-of-Year Function, Sunday 10 December 2006

### St Kilda and Elwood Heritage Picnic (Melways P67:B4)

#### Invitation

SKHS members, friends, residents and members of other community and heritage organizations are all invited to a fun BYO Picnic and Mock Auction conducted by Alastair Chisholm (of Chisholm & Gamon) at the Elwood Beach Community Centre on Sunday 10 Dec from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. The Elwood Angling Club, the St Kilda Brass Band and the City of Voices are collaborating in the event which is supported by the City of Port Phillip.



Superintendent La Trobe

#### History Notes

Some 165 years after the legendary 'naming of St Kilda' picnic, 'Lord and Lady Acland', the previous owners of the schooner *Lady of St Kilda* and her skipper, 'Captain Lawrence' will come ashore for the SKHS St Kilda-Elwood Heritage Picnic 2006, hosted by businessman, 'Mr J.B.Were'.

'Superintendent Charles La Trobe', who also named Elwood, will re-endorse the place-names of St Kilda & Elwood and the Aclands will 'belatedly' allow one of St Kilda's premier streets to bear their name. (Period outfits by J.C.Westend Costume Hire.)

## 2007 SKHS Dates: 18 February, 11 March, 22 April 2007

#### Melbourne Cold Files Sunday 18 February 2007

Historian Meyer Eidelson re-opens unsolved crimes and mysteries from the City of Melbourne since settlement including the Charles Frank killing 1836, Bourke and Wills conspiracy 1860, the curse of Ned Kelly 1880, Federici Ghost 1888, Gun Alley murder 1921, Stolen Picasso 1986, and others.  
**NB: no meeting 11 February**

#### Carlo Catani; Father of the St Kilda Foreshore

#### Sunday 11 March 2007

Our guest speaker is Daniela Volpe, author of *From Tuscany to Victoria*

The book explores the lives of three Italian immigrants including engineer Carlo Catani, the designer of St Kilda's Foreshore.

#### The Koories of Port Phillip Sunday 22 April 2007

Guest speaker and distinguished jurist, Howard Nathan, explores the historic events before and after colonial settlement affecting the traditional owners of the Port Phillip District.

**NB: no meeting on 8 April  
(Easter Sunday)**