



Patron: Sir Zelman Cowan

St Kilda Historical Society

February–March 2007

Citizen of the Year 2006

Source: Community Development Policy & Programs Unit, City of Port Phillip

Congratulations to SKHS member, **Pearl Donald** who was acknowledged as Joint Citizen of the Year on 5 December 2006 when Janet Bolitho, Mayor of the City of Port Phillip presided over the Civic Awards Ceremony held in the Gershwin Room, Esplanade Hotel, St Kilda.

Pearl has made an outstanding contribution towards promoting local history in St

Kilda and Port Phillip. She has provided research and tireless responses, in an honorary capacity, to many residents, and the general public seeking information and advice about their heritage and their family backgrounds.

Pearl is also one of the longest serving members of the St Kilda Historical Society as well as a founding member of the Friends of the St Kilda Cemetery.

Art Deco 2007

The Art Deco Society is hosting the 2007 World Art Deco Congress in Melbourne from Monday 16th April to Friday 20th April, 2007. Tours will highlight St Kilda/Elwood as a leading centre of outstanding Art Deco style (also featured in Meyer Eidelson's recent book on the History of Elwood*). 'The seaside suburb of St. Kilda and Elwood contains Melbourne's biggest concentration of Art Deco buildings, found in apartments, theatres, gardens and shopping streets'. Information: Robin Grow - ADS President; Tel: (03) 9813 4365 or 0412567923; robin-grow@ozemail.com.au www.artdeco.org.au

*Meyer's book *Flood, Fire and Fever* may be purchased at the St Kilda Library.

Inside this issue:

SKHS Committee Contact Details	2
St Kilda Walks & Talks	2
President's Letter	3
Photographic Memories	3
Senior Writer 2006	3
Albert Jacka	3
SKHS Don Taggart Award for Creativity	3
SKHS Diary	4

SKHS End Year Event
Photo Insert

150th Anniversary Celebrations, March 2007

Proclamation of the Municipal District of St Kilda 1857

Friends of the St Kilda Cemetery, in collaboration with the **St Kilda Historical Society**, are currently planning an 150th Anniversary community event in late March.

There will be a short sketch about our early local representatives followed by a tour focusing on former chairmen, mayors and councillors interred in the cemetery.

Members are welcome to this free community event, but bookings are essential as numbers are limited for insurance (and catering) purposes. For details and bookings: phone 95316832, 95272387 or email: info@foskc.org.

Local History

Kay Rowan, Local History Librarian, City of Port Phillip, is currently preparing a heritage exhibition — featuring the early years of the St Kilda Municipal District — to go on display in St Kilda Town Hall in the near future.

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
info@skhs.org.au

Archives:

Mark Barry
mark@bssound.com.au
John Kissane
Maureen Walker
Frances Bader
Kitty Barclay

St Kilda Times**SKHS Newsletter**

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

Hospitality:

info@skhs.org.au
Joan Charlton
Irene Johnson

Exhibitions:

info@skhs.org.au
Carol Stals

Webmaster:

info@skhs.org.au
John Hulskamp

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

GUIDED WALKS & TALKS**St Kilda/Elwood NEIGHBOURHOOD 2007**

Source: Sustainable Transport Unit, City of Port Phillip

Bookings: required for all walks via Sustainable Transport Unit: telephone 03 9209 6852

Email: walking@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Enquiries: phone Assist on 9209 6777 or send correspondence to Sustainable Transport, City of Port Phillip, Private Bag 3, St Kilda, Victoria 3182

St Kilda Meets Florence: Sun. 25 Feb. 10 – 12

Neighbourhood: West St Kilda

Leader: Meyer Eidelson

Discover the Tuscan origins of the St Kilda's foreshore designed in 1906 by engineer Carlo Catani of Florence, Italy. Explore this Mediterranean landscape with its esplanades, domes, pleasure palaces and parks.

Where all Roads Meet: Sun. 29 Apr. 10 – 12

Neighbourhood: St Kilda Road Precinct

Leader: Meyer Eidelson

St Kilda Junction, Melbourne's greatest intersection, has been the City's south-eastern gateway for over 160 years. Using historic photos, we explore a fascinating past of swamp, corroboree site, bushrangers, pubs, and the destroyed High Street shopping precinct.

Have a Ball in Balaclava: Sat. 20 Oct. 3 – 5

Neighbourhood: East St Kilda

Leader: Meyer Eidelson

Discover the delights, past and present, of the Balaclava shopping centre with its lively community, historic cottages, cafes, shops, railway, library, town hall and churches.

History of Elwood Foreshore: Sun. 25 Nov. 10 – 12

Neighbourhood: Elwood

Leader: Meyer Eidelson

Discover the rich and varied heritage of Melbourne's most visited foreshore including clubs, playing fields, rifle range, quarantine station, bushland, convict escape route, former tram terminus, kiosks, landmarks and waterways.

Self guided walks in Port Phillip

See [Walks in Port Phillip - A guide by Meyer Eidelson](#) for various walks in the City of Port Phillip, complete with maps, trail notes, local history and details of the animal inhabitants you might see along the way

Other guided walks in the St Kilda area

The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery conduct themed tours around this historic local site. Details can be found on their website: www.vicnet.net.au/~foskc. Phone 9527 2387, 9531 6832, Email info@foskc.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was cycling past St Kilda Pier at midday on a recent Sunday when I noticed that the Mirka Mora mosaic sculpture at the entrance to the Pier had been damaged by a vehicle collision. The base was badly fractured and tile fragments were scattered about. This heritage art work would be extremely difficult if not impossible to restore to its original condition if these tiles were lost. My son Joe (11) and I collected them immediately. We also rang the council after-hours service to ask them to barricade the site. I wish that all activism to protect our heritage could be done so simply. I had delusions of grandeur comparing my role to the famous English doctor who stopped a cholera plague in London by simply removing the handle of an infected street pump.

The mosaic was created by Mirka Mora after she moved to St Kilda and was based on the view of the bay from her former home (now destroyed) at 116 Barkly Street. Mirka is a much-loved Melbourne identity and a former member of our Society. I love the story that Mirka used to walk to the pier carrying her mosaic materials in a pram and worked while chatting to onlookers. As described in our book on St Kilda's buildings (A Place of Sensuous Resort) she and her husband Georges were pioneers of so much that have since become common in Melbourne's and St Kilda's culinary and cultural life. In December 1954, the Mirka Café was the first in Melbourne to put chairs and tables for patrons on the footpath. In 1956 their restaurant Tolarno was the first art gallery in St Kilda and the first restaurant to serve fine food in St Kilda. As for the mosaic pieces we delivered them to the council for safe-keeping the next day to Melissa Hayes. Melissa informed me that she intends to contact Mirka to arrange restoration of the work.

Meyer Eidelson

Senior Writer, City of Port Phillip 2006

SKHS member, **Rose Stone** was among the top five writers awarded prizes in the City of Port Phillip's *Then and Now* 2006 senior writing competition. Their work, reflecting aspects of their life in Port Phillip, was read out during a champagne ceremony held at St Kilda Branch Library on the 5th December 2006 and published by the City of Port Phillip. Copies are now reprinting and will soon be available at Port Phillip Branch Libraries. Congratulations Rose!

PS: Rose has kindly agreed to read an extract from her winning entry, 'My Divorced Friends in Dalgety St' at our 18 Feb meeting.

Photographic Memory

One of our members has kindly donated to SKHS, a photo of the **St Kilda Football Team, dated 1886**, which includes an image of his grandfather, Samuel Henry Sinnatt. This will be inserted in the photographic folio we are putting together to mark the 150th Anniversary Year of the Proclamation of St Kilda as a Municipal District. We are seeking photos which depict aspects of St Kilda, Elwood, Ripponlea and Balaclava from Proclamation in 1857 (or earlier) to Amalgamation in 1994. Do bring them to monthly meetings or mail it with relevant details to PO Box 177, Balaclava.

Today is Tomorrow's History

St Kilda Primary School, Brighton Road really got involved in our inaugural St Kilda/Elwood themed, Don Taggart Award for Creativity. The 2006 Awards were for poetry and SKHS received over 150 entries.

The prizes were awarded at the 2006 End of Year Heritage Function and Don Taggart's brother, Graeme Taggart presented the awards. Prizes totalling \$200.00 went to the six winning students and a cheque for \$300.00 went to the Brighton Rd School.

These fresh and delightful poems will be displayed at St Kilda library, in the children's section and also bound into booklets, to be given to the school, for our records and for the library collection.

The next SKHS Don Taggart Award will be for a visual art prize highlighting St Kilda and Elwood.

We are trying to involve children in seeing the history around them and reflecting on the changes which are taking place before their eyes.

May they carry the enthusiasm for history into the future. (C. Stals)

Albert Jacka

On 14th January 2007, Pearl Donald and Dorothy Lobert attended the 75th Albert Jacka Memorial Service at St Kilda Cemetery to represent the St Kilda Historical Society. The Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, Councillor Janet Bolitho, welcomed approximately 120 guests. This was one of the largest attendances in recent years. Mr Ken Jacka spoke on behalf of the Jacka family and a representative of the RSL League of Australia spoke of Jacka's life and character both as a soldier and a councillor and Mayor of St Kilda.

A representative of the St Kilda RSL recited the RSL Ode. Members of the Descendants of the 14th Battalion were present and a banner which is in the keeping of the SKHS was paraded. Floral tributes were laid by various groups including one laid on behalf of the Society by Pearl Donald. One of the guests was Leslie Bailey, who is 96 years old and was in the firing party at Jacka's funeral in January 1932. He now lives in an RSL Home at Frankston and we hope to record his story. (D. Lobert)



Patron Sir Zelman Cowen

Email: info@skhs.org.au
Website: 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, 3.00pm. Non-members welcome. Afternoon tea served. Open to the public.

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

SKHS Talks: 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 investigates 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)**

History Shows

SKHS Exhibitions
Co-ordinator, Carol Stals is planning to mount three heritage displays in the St Kilda Library 2007.

1. Nautical St Kilda
2. Art & Artists of St Kilda.
3. Rock and Roll St Kilda.

Library *a capella*

All are welcome to enjoy the seven piece *a capella* library group, **Ke Foundation** celebrating the voice, and the changing seasons across the Port Phillip Library Services.

Autumn

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

SKHS T-Shirts

A limited edition of good quality cotton T-Shirts in red ochre, with the distinctive SKHS logo inset in blue on the back with SKHS insignia on the front, are available for sale to members for **\$20.00** each. The red ochre color evokes Euro Yoroke, the indigenous toponym for the local red sandstone, and the red brick of European development.