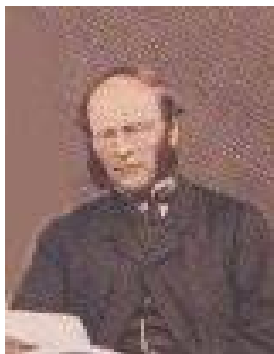


Benjamin Cowderoy First Chairman of the District of St Kilda 1857

In March 1857, St Kilda residents elected seven men to represent them in an honorary capacity on the inaugural Council of the newly proclaimed Municipal District of St Kilda and they selected Benjamin Cowderoy as their first Chairman.

Benjamin Cowderoy (1812-1904) was born in Reading, which is located on the confluence of the rivers Thames and Kennet in Berkshire, Southern England, and his surname is reputed to be of Norman-English origin, perhaps a variation of *coeur de roi* or *coudrai*. Young Benjamin received a classical education at Christ's Hospital School, and other students who attended the same school (not at the same time) were: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, August Pugin, Warren Hastings, Edmund Campion and Charles Lamb.



Benjamin Cowderoy

Image scanned by FB from
Cooper, J.B., *History of St Kilda 1840-1930*

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery (FoSKC) website states that Cowderoy and his father were caught up in the ferment surrounding the Electoral Reform Movement of the early 1830s, and the later Repeal of the infamous Corn Laws. After leaving school, he went into business supplying material for the construction of the Great Western Railways and managed the 'Musical Times' for two years.

Shortly after arriving in Melbourne in late 1852, he formed the 'Victorian Freehold Land Society' with Frederick Sargood, Thomas Fulton and Lachlan MacKinnon, and went on to become one of the most widely known and highly respected businessmen in Victoria.

Before retiring from public service in 1866, he served five terms as a municipal councillor, and was selected chairman of St Kilda Council from 1857-58, and again in 1861. Benjamin Cowderoy is also credited with composing our municipal motto, *Aura Favente Feror*.

Main Sources: Friends of St Kilda Cemetery: www.foskc.org
Pearl Donald, Wikipedia.

Aura Favente Feror (I am borne (ferried) on a favorable breeze)



Photo: F Bader 2007
Inaugural municipal crest, shield and motto on mayoral chair
on display from 15.03.07-30.05.2007
'St Kilda by the Sea, 1857-1863'
Free entry, open to public during b/hrs
Access Exhibition Space, St Kilda Town Hall.
Enqs: Kay Rowan, Local History Librarian, Port Phillip Libraries
or Curatorial Services, Port Phillip City.

St Kilda
proclaimed
a
municipal
district
in
1857



Tim Costello

Mayor of St Kilda 1993-1994

Image : courtesy of World Vision Australia

Tim Costello AO Last Mayor of St Kilda 1994

Mr Tim Costello is the voice of social conscience for many Australians — having over the years led debates on domestic issues such as gambling, urban poverty, homelessness, reconciliation and substance abuse. Mr Costello also has the distinction of being elected Mayor of the City of St Kilda, just before it was incorporated into Port Phillip City in 1994.

Tim Costello, whose surname reflects a French-Irelandic ancestry, grew up in the leafy eastern suburb of Blackburn (named after the father of Melbourne's Water Supply). He attended Carey Grammar school in Kew and graduated in Law and Education from Monash University in 1979. A stint as a solicitor in family law followed before he travelled to Switzerland, in 1981, with his wife Merridie, where they both studied Theology. After obtaining a Masters in Theology at Melbourne College of Divinity, he was ordained a Baptist Minister in 1986. Between 1986 and 1994, Rev Costello established a socially active ministry at St Kilda Baptist Church where he demonstrated his commitment to serving his wider community from 1991 until 1994 by representing them as a Municipal Councillor.

After Council Amalgamation in 1994, he was appointed Minister of the Collins St Baptist Church, from 1995 to 2004, as well as Executive Director of 'Urban Seed', a Christian outreach service for the urban poor. Meanwhile, Tim and Merridie Costello raised three children. In addition, he has written several books, including *Streets of Hope: Finding God in St Kilda*; *Tips from a Travelling Soul Searcher* and *Wanna Bet? Winners and Losers in Gambling's Luck Myth* (which was co-written with Royce Millar). He is also a much sought after public speaker and every year addresses tens of thousands of people from the public and private sector, and the wider community.

In February 2004, Mr Costello accepted the role of chief Executive of World Vision, Australia's largest overseas aid organisation, having been drawn to the organisation's philosophy of helping the poorest of the poor. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in June 2005, for "service to the community through contributions to social justice, health and welfare issues, and international development assistance ..."

Main Sources: World Vision Australia & Kitty Barclay

Representing the residents of Port Phillip City

Port Melbourne 2007 St Kilda 2007 South Melbourne



Pictured above l-r: Cr Janet Bolitho, Mayor, (Sandridge Ward), Cr Darren Ray (Alma Ward), Cr Janet Cribbes (Ormond Ward), Cr Karen Sait (St Kilda Ward), Cr Dick Gross (Blessington Ward), Cr Judith Klepner (Albert Park Ward), Cr Peter Logan, Deputy Mayor, (Emerald Hill Ward).

Image: facilitated by Deputy Mayor, Cr Peter Logan, courtesy of City of Port Phillip website.

2007 marks St Kilda's 150th anniversary as a separate municipal district from the City of Melbourne, the last thirteen as an integral part of Port Phillip City.

In this anniversary insert, SKHS pays tribute to the first and last mayors of the former City of St Kilda, as well as our current mayor and all the other public spirited residents, representatives and council staff who have played major and minor roles in the vast changes to the area over the past 150 years. For future inserts — which will depend on space constraints and economics — members are urged to contribute short items on individual past or present councillors and/or municipal staff who have made an impression on you as well as resident radicals, community activists, local personalities and colorful characters. (Email info@skhs.org.au)

St Kilda, incorporated into Port Phillip City in 1994, is arguably the most vibrant suburb in Melbourne. Public-spirited residents and their representatives have co-piloted it throughout its nascence, its highs and lows, its so-called gentrification and renaissance. Now as much famed for the cultural, economic, educational, and linguistic abilities of its inhabitants as it is for its dynamic nightlife and complex streetlife, St Kilda is blessed with some 11 kilometres of foreshore, public parks and gardens, and a range of community, recreational, entertainment and leisure facilities, such as libraries, crèches, sporting grounds, children's playgrounds and community centres.

St Kilda, Alma, Blessington and Ormond Wards are home to an estimated* 50,000 residents in 2007, with some 80,500 in the City of Port Phillip City overall and a projected annual growth rate of 1.5%. This is in sharp contrast to the 2700 or so people (1011 registered ratepayers) who resided in St Kilda in 1857, when it separated from the City of Melbourne and elected Messrs. Cowderoy, Fraser, Hale, Marshall, Mooney, Spicer and Sutherland to represent them at local government level. Back then, Greater Melbourne had a population of around 80,000, and Victoria was known as the 'Workingman's Paradise' since the introduction of the eight-hour day (in 1856). A census, taken in March 1857, counted Victoria's population as nearly 411,000, including some 25,000 Chinese, and approximately 1770** Koori-Victorians. (*F.Bader*)

* ABS 2001 census.

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Social Justice Commissioner, *Native Title Report, 2003*, p6.

Janet Bolitho Mayor Port Phillip City 2007

Since her election as mayor of Port Phillip City in December 2005, Janet Bolitho has gone out of her way to show interest in, and address the concerns of diverse interest groups within our city. She has also dealt with local, socio-economic and environmental issues with patience and perspicacity.

In addition, she is an active member of many community groups, including Port Melbourne ALP, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society, Friends of Port Melbourne Foreshore and CAPP (Community Alliance of Port Phillip).

According to Mayor Bolitho's on-line municipal profile, she spent several years working overseas before relocating to Australia with her husband in 1986 and her employment has comprised stints as a school bursar in the Solomon Islands, an Oxfam campaign worker, and a teacher of the Alexander Technique.

Her credentials include graduating in History and English in South Africa, a Masters Degree in Social Science Planning and Environment at RMIT, and raising a family. She may also be prevailed upon to render a version of *Ulysses* by Alfred Lord Tennyson or *Dover Beach* by Matthew Arnold on very auspicious occasions.

Mayor Bolitho has seen many changes since making Port Melbourne her home in 1987. Living opposite a major development inspired her to get more involved in local community and planning issues.

Participation in foreshore and historical groups brought her in touch with many other concerns and provoked an interest in ways that local government can better serve and support the community. That meant increasing participation in community and civic life, including creating places where people can mix and enjoy community activities.

In her incoming mayoral speech (Dec 2005) she observed: "We need to keep on building the invisible infrastructure in this city — the connections and relationships between us. In this, the council is indebted to the myriad community organizations and people who ceaselessly pour hard work and goodwill into this community".