



St Kilda Historical Society

St Kilda Times

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Patron: Sir Zelman Cowan
Newsletter of the
St Kilda Historical
Society, PO Box 177
Balaclava 3183

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Thank You

Thank you to all who renewed SKHS memberships in the past few weeks. Those who have not done so will notice a red dot reminder on the front of the newsletter. We do not want to lose one member as you are all precious to us, so please renew now and maybe sign up a friend as well. (Secretary: Dorothy Lobert)

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St Kilda Botanical Gardens

Do you have old photographs of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens (known for many years as the Blessington St Gardens)? If so, the Friends of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens would like to hear from you. They do not require the original print only a photocopy (with the date the photo was taken and any identifying information) at this stage. They are also requesting a written copy of your memories of the garden. FOSKBG hope to have an exhibition on the history of the gardens in late 2008.

Mail: PO Box 1089, Elwood 3184.

Email: foskbg@hotmail.com

Website: www.foskbg.org.au

What is it? Email Mark www.bsound.com.au

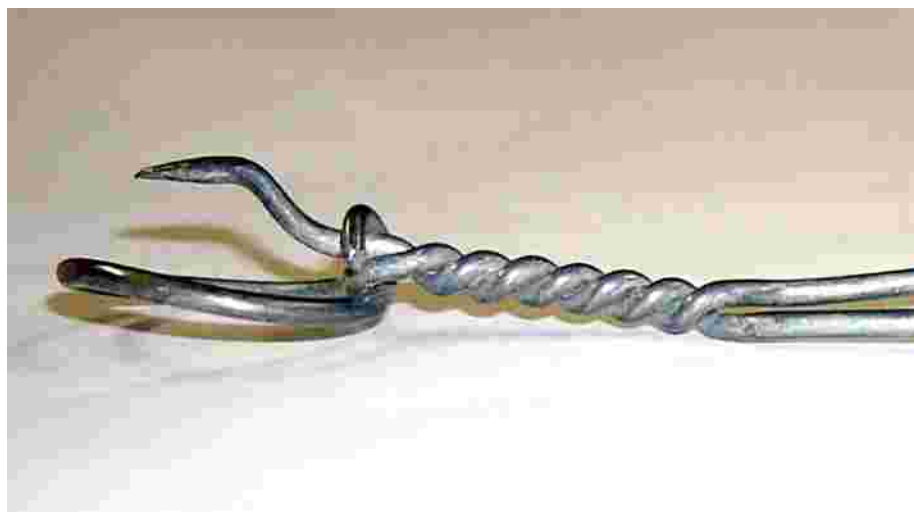


Photo: Mark Barry 2007 (see also p3)

Science Week 2007

6.30pm–8pm

Thursday 23 August

Discover how the break-up of Gondwana affected Australian-Antarctic plants through fossil evidence and scientific accounts with Professor David Cantrill, Director, National Herbarium and Luke Saffigna, an experienced Antarctic guide.

Venue: Mueller Hall, Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens. \$15.

Refreshments provided.

Pre-bookings only: Ph.9252 2429

Pavilion–Pier Kiosk

3.00pm Sunday 12 August

Community Room, St Kilda Library

Alex Heydon takes us behind the scenes at the St Kilda Pier Kiosk to give us a gripping account of some of the characters and events associated with this much loved St Kilda landmark. Share Alex's experiences while researching for his honors thesis after an arsonist destroyed this unique Australian icon in September 2003.

(The State Government rebuilt, restored and reopened the Kiosk in 2006 with Peter Tzambazis as the new operator.)

SKHS Contacts

2006-2007

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Committee meetings:
1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month
(except January) 6.30pm
SKHS office, St Kilda Branch Library
Members very welcome.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The truth of the maxim that a day is a long time in politics was never more evident than in the sudden resignation of our local member of parliament, John Thwaites. John has made an outstanding contribution to the Port Phillip community over many years including supporting our Society as has his wife Melanie Eagle, our former Secretary. We wish them and their son Jack all the best for the future.

The fire at the Palace was a great shock and we are relieved by the council's commitment to substantially upgrade security arrangements at the Palais.

Our recent launch of our children's poetry book received financial and moral support from local businesses with indications of support for future heritage projects. Many thanks to Biggin and Scott St Kilda, the Elwood Community Bank and Chisholm and Gamon Property.

We really need your membership renewals before our coming AGM and don't forget to nominate for Committee!

Meyer

Active Life Memberships

Various members have suggested that SKHS grant life-membership status to **four long-serving, active** members who carry out specific functions for the society — as a gesture of appreciation for the time, effort and dedication they have given, and continue to give to the Society.

SKHS committee invites feedback from other members before the AGM.

Emailing Newsletters

Many members have email addresses and in the interest of saving money and paper we are asking if any members want to receive the *St Kilda Times* by email. In these days of conservation we feel we should make whatever savings we can to protect the trees.

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

New Members

The Society warmly welcomes three new members:

Monique Cadariu
Marilynn Fahey
Sharon Giblett

Marilynn has also joined our cataloguing team and has become a valued member.

We hope to see you all at our monthly talks at 3pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Council Update

Mirka Mora Mosaic

I have been in discussion regarding insurance for the Mirka Mora Mosaic. The next step will be for Council to be presented with some options and costings to decide the mosaic's future.

Options may include keeping it in its existing position with extra barriers etc, or moving it to a place where it can be enjoyed without the risk of further damage, now that the Pier entry is a very busy area.

Relocating the mosaic would need to be discussed with our foreshore planning/design people to gain suitable options for council to consider.

We are keeping in constant conversation with the artist. So things are moving at what may seem a slow – but a very considered pace.

Melissa Hayes
Arts Team Leader
City of Port Phillip

Free Community Events in 2007

PORT PHILLIP CITY

Free Guided Walks and Talks 2007

Bookings required for all walks via Sustainable Transport Unit:
Port Phillip City, Phone 9209 6852. Email walking@portphillip.vic.gov.au.
Enquiries: Phone Assist 9209 6777

Have a Ball in Balaclava:

Meyer Eidelson: Sat. 20 Oct. 3.00pm–5.00pm

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:

Meyer Eidelson: Sun. 25 Nov. 10.00am–12.00pm

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.

Mystery Object in SKHS Collection. What is it?

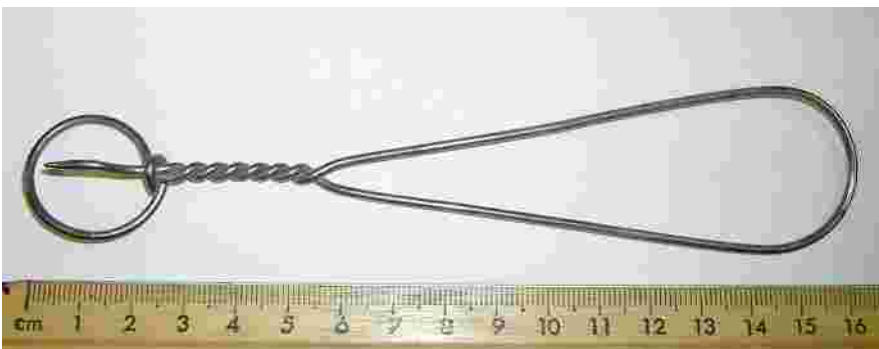


Photo: Mark Barry 2007

RHSV SEMINAR

Carol Stals and Dorothy Lobert attended the 'Building Bridges' RHSV seminar recently. The theme of the seminar was building connections with the local community, local council and grant providers. It was very interesting to meet other historical society members from all over Victoria.

Melissa Hayes from the City of Port Phillip was one of the four speakers and she spoke about the grants and other assistance they provide to Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society and ourselves. The audience was very impressed and can now lobby their local councils citing our city as a shining example.

The City provides us with our office, archive room, telephone, lighting, heating and computer equipment. We also get a \$4000 grant each year to carry out designated projects and we have licence and service agreements with the council. We are very appreciative of our council's support and long may it continue. (D.Lobert)

Vale

Olive Moore O.A.M.

Members who read *Flying the Yellow Flag: the Story of the Glen Huntly* will be sad to hear that its author, Olive Moore died on 9 May 2007. Susan Hudson, a past secretary of SKHS, wrote Olive's obituary, which was published in *The Age*, 2 July 2007 (p7). She described her as 'an inspiring mathematics teacher, genealogist and author with a knack for seeing the big picture and the connectedness in all things'.

Olive's activities when she retired from teaching included researching and publishing *Flying the Yellow Flag*—her husband's great grand-father was a passenger on board the ill-fated ship in 1840. Olive also organised the 160th anniversary of that event in 2000. This included a reunion of the descendants, a re-enactment of the landing at the Quarantine camp on the Little Red Bluff, now Point Ormond, a service at St Kilda Cemetery, and a reception at St Kilda Town Hall.

Her husband, Donald Moore died in 2007, and Olive is survived by three sons and four grand children. (FB)

Denis Farrington O.A.M.

Members will be saddened by the loss of well-known local men's hairdresser, and the even better known big bandleader, Denis Farrington. He died 20 June 2007 after a long battle with cancer. Denis grew up on a farm in Tallangatta and dropped out of school at 13 to pursue a swimming career. Between 1933 and 1939, he was Victorian Junior Champion and held many other titles while at the Richmond Club. War broke out as he was training for the Olympics and he joined the Lighthouse Cavalry as a trumpeter.

After the war he formed a three piece band that played on Friday nights. While building up his big band repertoire, he worked during the day in his Hairdressing Shop in Acland Street. During his career, he played at the Melbourne Town Hall, the Southern Cross Hotel, the Delphic and the Menzies Hotel. In fact, he entertained at so many venues there were rumours that there must be more than one Denis Farrington! (Sheila Harris)



St Kilda Historical Society

Free Public Events 2007

Unless otherwise stated, talks are held on the second Sunday of each month at 3.00pm in the Community Room, St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda. 3183. Public are welcome. Free entry. Publications for sale. Afternoon tea provided.

REMINDER

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE 1 JULY 2007

12 AUGUST

Members meet 2.30pm

Speaker 3.00pm

Stories from the Pavilion—St Kilda Pier

Alex Heydon from Boat Books (214 St Kilda Rd) tells us about some of his experiences and the identities he came across while researching his honors thesis on the St Kilda Kiosk.

9 SEPTEMBER

Nominations from

2.00pm

AGM 2.30pm

Speaker 3.00pm

Annual General Meeting 2006-2007

Committee Election 2007-2008

plus Speaker: Patty Mark

Animal Liberation: A Personal History

Resident Patty Mark founded 'Animal Liberation Victoria' in St Kilda almost thirty years ago. She recounts the history of this influential animal rights organisation and her decades of struggle including animal rescue, campaigns against neglect and many arrests.

14 OCTOBER

Members meet 2.30pm

Archives from 3.00pm

Open Day SKHS Archives

Visit the archives to view the collection and meet the team:

John, Mark, Dorothy, Fran, Kitty, Marilyn, Maureen.

plus guest :

Narissa from Koorie Heritage Trust

11 NOVEMBER

Members meet 2.30pm

Quiz from 3.00pm

150th Anniversary Quiz Challenge

Pit your wits against John Hulskamp's team – the inaugural Quiz champions of 2005! Individuals, don't be shy! We will happily arrange that you share a table with other members. Teams, rope in your friends and book a table. Fun. Fame. Prizes.

9 DECEMBER

2.30–4.00pm

End-of-Year Party

Come and meet other St Kilda history tragics and celebrate our 2007 major and minor events. Singles, Couples, even Misanthropes are welcome! Refreshments provided. **If possible, RSVP for catering purposes.**
