



Patron:
Sir Zelman Cowan

St Kilda Historical Society Newsletter,

PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183

Issue No 196

April—May 2009

St Kilda Times

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ICE GIRL

Many of us will have read *The Age's* feature on the St Moritz Neon Skating Girl, dated Friday, March 27 (p5).

The article, written by Carolyn Webb, generated quite a lot of interest as you will read in the President's Letter inside (p2).

SEEKING SUGGESTIONS

Unlike Abbotsford/Richmond who have **LITTLE AUDREY**, the Neon Skipping Girl — our Ice Girl is nameless.

Do send your suggestion for a name [and any reason for preference] to: info@skhs.org.au; PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183; or ring Fran 9528 5103. (More, p3)



CONTRIBUTORS TO SKHS COLLECTION

SKHS is indeed grateful to those listed below who have so kindly donated the following items which will be conserved for posterity in our collection. A huge thank you to all:

Jennifer Edge, SKHS life-member:- Type C photograph, limited edition print 1/25 mounted image of 'Kambrook', Balaclava by photographer Ian Buckland, 2002

Joanne Grant, (NSW):- The Jacob Family History, digital photo of 33 Acland St, c1887 and digital photo of *Tallageria*, 74 Acland St, c1910

Pam Jennings, Publications, Geelong Family History Group:- photo of South Beach Bathing Pavilion, c1929

Shirley Joy, Sandringham:- photocopies of St Kilda extracts from 1904 Sands & McDougall's

Anne Peterson & Geoff Parr-Smith, St Kilda:- five mounted posters (420x580 mm) of various Garden Festivals at St Kilda Botanical Gdns, 1980s -1990

Robert Taylor, Manager National Theatre St Kilda:- copy of National Theatre's Conservation Plan 2009

Shirley Westaway & Grandson, Foster, VIC:- recent images of St Kilda [some to feature in next issue]

SKHS

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Joan Charlton

Library:

Dorothy Lobert

Newsletter: *St Kilda Times*

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Pearl Donald
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Dorothy Lobert
SKHS Committee

Webmaster:

John Hulskamp

Committee Meetings:
6.00–8.00pm 1st Tues
ea mth SKHS Office
St Kilda Library.

President's Letter

The Age recently featured a centrepiece of our collection which attracted much correspondence, letters to 'The Age' and several offers of assistance to the Society including a gift of \$500.

The photo of our St Moritz Skating Girl provoked many reminiscences of the ice skating rink destroyed by fire, 22 September 1982.

At the time, our former Vice President, Tom Ingram rushed down to dismantle the two Skating Girl neon signs from the front and stored them in his shed.

When the St Moritz Hotel, now Novotel St Kilda, was being developed on the site, Tom approached them and in 1991 they commissioned him to renovate one of the figures for display in their new restaurant.

In 2005 I negotiated its donation from Novotel to the St Kilda Historical Society. It was then loaned for two years for a successful exhibition in the City Museum.

We are currently engaged in discussing a further loan to the Astor Theatre where it would form part of an exhibition on the history of entertainment in St Kilda.

The media and public interest shows the importance of the priceless assets in our collection maintained by the hard work of members for almost four decades.

It strengthens our determination as custodians to ensure that these assets are catalogued and displayed in public settings for the benefit of the wider community.

Meyer Eidelson

SKHS PROJECTS

Creative Arts 2009

Photography with the theme 'Today is Tomorrow's History' is the focus of SKHS' Annual Children's Creative Arts Awards 2009 (incorporating the Don Taggart Memorial Prize).

The Principal of Ripponlea Primary School has advised us that her grade 4 pupils will participate this year.

The launch of the SKHS Awards is at St Kilda Library on Children's Heritage Day, 22 July 2009.

Entries are assessed by committee members after the Award closes, 4 Sept 2009.

SKHS Creative Arts Awards are funded by CoPP.

Cooper's On-Line

Thanks to a grant from PROV, scanning the text of J.B. Cooper's Volume I and II is now complete.

Scanning of the images will soon be finished as will arranging the database content.

Acquittal is 30 April 2009 and hopefully we will be able to launch it into cyberspace shortly afterwards.

(More, next newsletter.)

SKHS QUIZ Issue No 196

Q 1: Australia Post is currently celebrating its bi-centennial. Isaac Nichols was appointed first colonial Postmaster in Sydney in 1809.

Who was appointed Melbourne's first **regular** postmaster, and when?

Q 2: A threatened species of native frog was recorded at Westgate Park. Was it: (a) the Growling Grass frog? (b) Pobblebonk frog? (c) Spadefoot toad ?

(Source: Eco Centre website)

Your quiz questions invited.

Send to info@skhs.org.au or drop into SKHS Office c/- St Kilda Library.

QUIZ: ANSWERS

Issue Nos 194 & 195:

We still don't know who were members of the committee that came up with the name 'City of Port Phillip' in 1994.

Issue No 195:

- In 1857 Cr Joshua Mooney successfully moved that some local streets be named after literary figures of the day instead of politicians and property developers.
- Early settler Wilbraham Liardet and author, Edmund Finn (*aka Garryowen*) are both recorded as using the name 'Emerald Hill' in the 1840s.

Unless otherwise indicated, the images photo-copied in this issue were taken by the editor.
Later on this month they may be viewed in color on SKHS website: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk then click 'news'.



Archivist Maureen Walker, March 2009, detailing and photographing the lightbox and-neon figure in preparation for uploading to SKHS database.

SKATING GIRL

Among the generous offers received by SKHS in response to our appeal, in *St Kilda Times* Issue No 195 (p4) and *The Age*, March 27 (p5), for a place to display our iconic St Moritz neon ice skating girl, Mr George Florence, manager of The Astor Theatre and member of SKHS, has kindly offered her a temporary home in the renowned *Jazz Moderne* Astor Theatre, cnr Chapel St and Dandenong Rd.

Mr Florence pointed out that: "As The Astor is one of the few venues from that era still in existence and more importantly still in operation in the mode designed for, it would be fitting to unite the two entertainment icons in this symbolic way."

SKHS members would already be aware that The Astor Theatre¹ and St Moritz Ice Rink² were both established in the 1930s. Plus, some of us who met our future spouses while inline skating at St Moritz may have progressed to 'courting' [prior to speed dating] at the Astor. (FB)

¹ *St Kilda Times*, Issue No 189, Feb-Mar 2008

² St Moritz closed down in 1981. It burned down in the mid-80s and was later demolished to make way for a new development. Refer also SKHS website, click 'articles'.

NEON SIGNS

In 1925, Mr Hack* of Collins St, Melbourne, received what is believed to be the first Victorian patent for a "vacuum tube illuminating device".

A Claude Neon franchise was established in Melb by 1930, and their first identifiable sign dates from 1932.

Skating Girl dates from 1939 and the Astor stars since 1936.

*Possibly patent attorney
Clement Alfred Hack (FB)

ARCHIVES

If members, relatives and friends wish to donate artefacts, ephemera, documents or images to the SKHS collection (relevant to St Kilda and Port Phillip City) do contact info@skhs.org.au, phone 9537 1967 or write to PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183.

Archival Team :

The archival team works on the collection 10-12noon Thursday mornings.

Work will soon start on photos, documents, memorabilia, etc.

Extra hands would greatly speed up the process so the images can be uploaded and viewed on our website.

Helpers:

Should you be able to help, even for limited periods, do ring the Secretary on 9537 1967 or email info@skhs.org.au.

LITTLE AUDREY TO SKIP AGAIN

Little Audrey, the Skipping Girl neon sign in Victoria St, Abbotsford, who has not been operational since 2001, will soon be lighting up the Melbourne skyline again. Little Audrey has a long and colourful history and, along with the (nameless) St Kilda Skating Girl, she is considered one of Melbourne's most romantic and favourite neon signs.

National Trust Australia (Victoria) with AGL as principal sponsor launched Little Audrey's restoration appeal in 2008, along with the Heritage Council of Victoria, Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund and other public donors.

Funds have now been raised to restore the sign, which is included on the Victorian Heritage Register of the State's most significant places and objects. On March 23, 2009 the sign was removed by crane from its landmark spot in Victoria St for transportation to Delta Neon where it will receive structural frame repairs, undergo a major overhaul and rebuild of its electronics and neon tubing to restore Little Audrey to her former glory.

Delta Neon hopes that they will have Little Audrey back skipping on the rooftop again in a few months, this time powered by renewable energy thanks to the five-year sponsorship deal with AGL.

NEW SKHS BROCHURE

SKHS committee is currently working on updating our promotional brochure.

We are seeking suggestions from members and friends for a contemporary, eye-catching two or three word phrase or slogan that encapsulates our society.

Suggestions so far:-

- SKHS — The History Zone
- SKHS — Historyheads
- SKHS — History Tragic

Send yours asap to:

PO Box 177 Balaclava 3183;
info@skhs.org.au; or ring
Fran 9528 5103

Members out and about in the 'hood

Images in color on SKHS website, click 'news'

Doesn't matter where you go in Port Phillip City you will, more often than not, come across fellow SKHS members. Sandra Lanteri (left), Robyn Foy and Gillian Taylor (right) are shown here at the February "Summer Read" event co-hosted by St Kilda Library and the Australian Poetry Centre.



Melbourne University-based poet, Peter Steele author of 'White Knight with Beebox', an anthology of his recent poetry and one of the books on SLV's **Summer Read** shortlist, crossed the Yarra to talk to us about his work, reading and readers in general.



Some of us will recall the launch of the **Summer Read** program at St Kilda Library back in December 2008 with champagne and light refreshments followed by two hours with library funster, Monica Dullard, masquerading as an interactive reading consultant. 'Blood Sunset' (crime fiction set in St Kilda) by Jarad Henry was another book on the "Summer Read" Shortlist.

CoPP International Women's Day Forum

Members (from left) Valma Leonard, Rose Stone, Dorothy Lobert, Carol Stals and Pearl Donald at IWD Forum: "Gender in the City" in South Melbourne Town Hall, Sunday afternoon March 8.



During question time Rose Stone (2nd left) asked a question on behalf of many St Kilda attendees. Rose queried who has responsibility for maintaining the public convenience in the carpark behind the Balaclava shopping centre.

WOMEN'S WORLWIDE WEB



Marilynn Fahey (above) at the launch of the women's website & book, 'Women Working Together' by Geraldine Robertson, Tuesday March 31, 2009 — 100 years to the day when the Adult Suffrage Act 1908 became law, and Victorian women could vote for the first time in state elections.
www.womensweb.com.au

LIFELONG LEARNING

SKHS member, Sheila Harris (right) was over at the Mary Kehoe Centre, Albert Park on Feb 21, 2009.

Sheila was attending a seminar organised by U3A Port Phillip titled 'Transparency International Uncovered'.

For U3A's public lecture program visit www.u3app.org.au or phone 9696 3495, 9696 1682.

Members may be interested in U3A's May 16 Seminar at Mary Kehoe Centre 2.30pm.

Subject: GM Foods: the science, issues, application and ethics.

Speaker: Jason Major, Gene & Nano Technology Information Services.



SHEILA HARRIS

in front of artwork on loan to Mary Kehoe Centre painted by Denise Pitney, Emerald Hill Art Group

Free CoPP GUIDED WaLKs 2009 www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/walks

Guided Neighbourhood Walks is a program of free walks funded and organised by the City of Port Phillip.

BOOKINGS Essential : walking@portphillip.vic.gov.au or ring 9209 6522 (see below for more details)

A SPORTING CHANCE: Leader: Meyer Eidelson

APRIL 19, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: St Kilda

Visit historic and famous sporting venues of St Kilda that have played host to football, cricket, yachting, bowls, athletics, swimming as well as lesser known recreations such as marngrook and two-up.

GOING ROUND THE BEND: Leader: Janet Bolitho

MAY 17, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: Fishermen's Bend

Explore the heritage and lesser-known locales of Fishermens Bend. Discover its connection to iconic Vegemite, its warehouses, factories and extraordinary role in Australian transport.

PLAQUES, PLATES AND PLINTHS: Leader: To be announced

JUNE 21, SUNDAY 10.00AM Neighbourhood: City of Port Phillip

South Melbourne and other parts of Port Phillip have an astonishing range of historic and often little known markers that commemorate personalities, art, wars, buildings and past events. Tour the city by community bus and discover the more obscure memories of a city.

ANGELS AND BATTLERS: Leader: Meyer Eidelson

JULY 26, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: St Kilda

Visit Fitzroy and Grey Streets and surrounding areas to learn about the extraordinary range of organisations and individuals in St Kilda that support disadvantaged Melbournians in need

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LIARDET: Leader: Janet Bolitho

AUGUST 9, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: Port Melbourne

170 years ago Wilbraham Liardet, the founder of Port Melbourne, landed on the shores of Port Phillip with his wife Caroline and their nine children. Explore historic Liardet places that tell the story of this extraordinary pioneer, entrepreneur, musician, fisherman and artist.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HERITAGE: Leader: to be announced

SEPTEMBER 13, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: South Melbourne

Details: To be announced

MORE POETRY IN THE POETRY STREETS : Leader: Meyer Eidelson

OCTOBER 11, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: Elwood

Join our second tour of the amazing 'Poets Corner' of Elwood. Group members can take turns to read more poetry of the thirty or so authors and poets whose names are borne aloft on street signs such as Dickens, Tennyson, Byron, Browning, Barrett and Gordon.

FIRE IN THE BOROUGH: Leader: Janet Bolitho

NOVEMBER 8, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: Port Melbourne

Follow in the scorched footsteps of the earliest firefighters of Port Melbourne from the Insurance brigades of the mid 1800s to the Melbourne Fire Brigade (1890) and onwards outlined in the history book 'Fire in the Borough'.

MORE SOUTH MELBOURNE HERITAGE : Leader: To be announced

DECEMBER 13, SUNDAY 10.00AM – MIDDAY Neighbourhood: South Melbourne

Details: to be announced

BOOKINGS: walking@portphillip.vic.gov.au OR ring 9209 6522

NUMBERS: Limited to twenty places but extra walks may be added if demand is sufficient. You can book up to three walks ahead. Walk dates and events are subject to change. It is advisable to check local papers and council's website closer to the date for confirmation.

BOOKINGS essential for all walks:- email walking@portphillip.vic.gov.au OR phone the Walkline 9209 6522.

You will be notified about the meeting place after booking.

Your booking will be confirmed either by return phone call or email. However please remember that unless your booking has been confirmed either by phone or by email, you are not guaranteed a place on the walk. Bookings close by 4pm of the Friday immediately preceding the weekend of the walk. There are no bookings on weekends.

CANCELLATIONS should be made prior to the weekend of the walk on 9209 6522 so others may take your place.

FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY INC (FoSKC)

Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc is a not-for-profit incorporated association (Reg No A0038728J) formed in 1998 and incorporated in 1999.

FoSKC aims to promote the conservation and appreciation of the St Kilda Cemetery as a place of remembrance, historic importance and natural beauty.

Public are welcome. Inquiries & Bookings : ph 9531 6832

FORTHCOMING GUIDED TOUR (Pre-Bookings essential)

NOTABLE WOMEN 2.00 PM Sunday 21 June 2009

This tour highlights notable women buried in the cemetery and the contributions they made to the community and the nation. They include Tilly Aston, Matron Mary Finlay, Dr Mary Page Stone, Sr Katherine Mulquin, Annie MacKillop, Elizabeth Parsons, Gertrude Johnson.

General tour details

Unless otherwise indicated, all tours of St Kilda Cemetery leave from the main entrance gates on Dandenong Road, St Kilda East (Melway Map 58 – F9).

Tour cost: \$10.00 for adults (except where indicated).
Friends of St Kilda Cemetery members and children u/18 free.
[Annual FoSKC membership \$15.00 p.a.]

Bookings: Places are limited and pre-booking is required by contacting 9531 6832.
Tours usually run for about 90 minutes.

Tours are offered in all weathers, so dress appropriately for the conditions as there is little shelter or shade within the cemetery. Tours proceed at a leisurely pace and keep to the safest paths, but those who may have difficulty walking on uneven ground should use their discretion.

Special tours

Special tours may be arranged, on request, for schools, clubs, organisations and individuals.

Further information:

FoSKC Bookings: phone (03) 9531 6832 email: info@foskc.org www.foskc.org

BRIEF HISTORY OF ST KILDA CEMETERY

Main Resource: FoSKC website

St Kilda Cemetery was one of the principal burial places south of the Yarra River during the nineteenth century and its heritage values have been recognised by both Commonwealth and State Governments.

St Kilda Cemetery was established in 1855 and covers an area of twenty acres. The area surveyed included four acres each for Anglican and Catholic denominations, and two acres each for Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Baptists and Independents. A further four acres was also reserved for extensions. Part of this reserve became the Hebrew section and the rest left for other denominations. The specified capacity of the cemetery was 20,000 graves.

In June 1855, the cemetery was officially opened, although the burial registers indicate that a young girl, Charlotte Green, was interred in the Baptist section in May that year.

The cemetery contains many notable Australians. They include:

Fever victims from the 1840 ship, Glen Huntly

George Briscoe Kerferd – boiler-maker, brewer, lawyer, premier, supreme court judge

William Pitt – architect (dsgnr. St Kilda City Hall)

Alfred Felton – businessman, philanthropist and arts benefactor

Captain Albert Jacka – World War 1 Victoria Cross winner

Christina MacPherson – provided the music for Banjo Patterson's Waltzing Matilda

Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller – botanist and director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens

Alfred Deakin – politician and Prime Minister of Australia (3 times)

Caroline Hodgson – Madame Brussels of Melbourne's most famous and refined brothel, 32–34 Lonsdale St, Melb.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LEARN from the BIRDS

Where? ECO CENTRE,
St Kilda Gardens
Cnr Blessington and
Herbert Sts St Kilda

When? Every Sunday

Time? 7.30am – 8.30am

Why? To learn from the birds!

What will we do?
Experience "stillness"
"See and hear" beauty.

What is in it for me?

- ♦ Meet new people
- ♦ Connect to nature, others and SELF
- ♦ Breakfast at Eco House

Cost: \$10 includes breakfast and a professional bird expert

What happens to the cash?
It helps the Eco Centre care for our environment for the generations to come.

Intrigued? Come along and find out what there is to Learn from the Birds.

<http://www.ecocentre.com>

Paint the St Kilda Botanical Gardens

6— 8 June 2009

Friends of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens are holding a "Paint the Gardens" on the weekend of 6—8 June (long weekend).

Bring along your own art supplies and paint the gardens from whatever perspective you wish.

Prize winning entries will be included in the 150th anniversary exhibition in the St Kilda City Hall Gallery in September.

Take part in this event and help celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Gardens.

For further information and to register for the event go to the Friends website www.foskbg.org.au

'Eating Out in Port Phillip'

Exhibition of new paintings by EHAG, Emerald Hill Art Group, with support from City of Port Phillip

OPEN INVITATION to SKHS MEMBERS & FRIENDS

8th Annual EHAG Exhibition

to be opened by Mayor of Port Phillip City

Opening: 6-8pm Wed April 22

Gallery St Kilda City Hall

Exhibition: April 22-May13 Mon-Fri 8.30-5

All welcome: RSVP not required.

Images from EHAG



L.I.V.E. wants your BODY to help break the world record

Locals into Victoria's Environment want to break the world record by creating the largest human sign on St Kilda Beach. 10,000 or more climate-conscious people (individuals, families, schools, community groups, organisations, businesses) are needed to register online and turn up to demand faster action on:-


**curbing greenhouse gas emissions
cleaner energy initiatives**

Where: St Kilda Beach, front of seabaths

When: 11am (sharp) Sunday May 17

Register: www.live.org.au

Human Sign is a co-operative effort between L.I.V.E., Port Phillip EcoCentre, Bayside Climate Change Action Group, Cool Melbourne. The City of Port Phillip is hosting and promoting the Human Sign on St Kilda Beach.

	<h1>St Kilda Historical Society</h1> <h2>Sunday Events 2009</h2>	Annual Membership \$18.00
<p>Members general meeting 2.30 pm. Speakers start at 3.00pm approx.</p>	<p>Talks presented 3pm, 2nd Sunday each month St Kilda Community Room, Foyer, St Kilda Library, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda — except January and as noted below. Archive items of the month displayed. Afternoon tea/coffee, 4.00pm approx. Members free. Visitors welcome, entry donation appreciated. No RSVP – just turn up! Inquiries and membership: Email info@skhs.org.au; or phone 9537 1967 (Secretary)</p>	
<p>19 APRIL</p>	<p>WOMEN IN FOOTBALL Did you know women have played Aussie rules football since at least 1915? And that some of the earliest ever games took place in Port Melbourne and St Kilda in 1921? Dr Robert Hesse of Victoria University presents his recent and fascinating research and images. PhD student Rachel Winterton also talks on some of the earliest aquatic sports in Melbourne.</p>	
<p>17 MAY</p>	<p>PHRYNE'S ST KILDA Local writer Kerry Greenwood is an acclaimed author of detective novels. Many set in St Kilda include a score of books featuring Phryne Fisher, a fabulous jazz era heroine. Kerry talks about her books and their researched St Kilda settings.</p>	
<p>14 JUNE</p>	<p>THE ORIGINAL HISTORY OF VICTORIA Eminent historian Richard Broome presents stories and images from his prizewinning history of Victorian Aboriginals from 1800 onwards including St Kilda. Don't miss this important prelude to NAIDOC Week 2009.</p>	
<p>12 JULY</p>	<p>A CARTOONIST'S LIFE George Haddon is a former editorial cartoonist with the Sun Herald, winner of four coveted Walkley Awards and Cartoonist of the Year 2004. A resident of South Melbourne, George tells of his life journey to become one of Australia's best known and prolific cartoonists.</p>	
<p>9 AUG</p>	<p>EDUCATING ST KILDA James Bonwick (1817-1906) was an intellectual giant of the nineteenth century who founded and ran two schools in St Kilda. Historian John Batt tells the story of this innovative educator, traveller, historian, archivist, author, journalist and gold prospector..</p>	
<p>13 SEPT</p>	<p>AGM plus MUSEUM OPEN DAY Attend AGM starting at 2.00 followed by a public exhibition at 3.00 pm of our museum located in the basement under the library containing an extraordinary collection of artefacts, photos and costumes.</p>	
<p>11 OCT</p>	<p>RAGS AND RICHES Local author and film maker, Les Rosenthal, reveals how 'Schmattes came to be written. The book is a great saga of the thriving garment industry which impacted on generations of Melburnians – the immigrants, factories, showrooms, funky fashion, fabulous frocks and characters of the glitzy rag trade.</p>	
<p>8 NOV</p>	<p>To be announced</p>	
<p>13 DEC</p>	<p>END-YEAR EVENT The Society celebrates the historical achievements of 2009 with food and frivolity. All welcome.</p>	

LEST WE FORGET ANZAC DAY 25 April 1915