



St Kilda Times

Patron:
Sir Zelman Cowan

annual
membership
application
inside and
on website



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

SKHS gratefully acknowledges the generous donation made by St Kilda residents, Leigh Johns and Craig Andrade towards the manufacture of a box to protect Skating Girl's electrics (pic on left). Arrow on right indicates her position in St Moritz



St Moritz Ice Rink

Scanned and cropped reproduction
of original image in SKHS Collection

Donor: Richard Mulvaney

"MEMORIES OF ST MORITZ" 2009 > 1939

SKHS members, former St Moritz staff, iceskaters, friends and relatives are invited to a "Memories of St Moritz" Evening at St Kilda Library from 6 to 8pm, Monday July 20, 2009.

Have your pic taken with skating girl. Share your highs and lows with us. Show us your photos, scrapbooks, newspaper cuttings as well as any artefacts or memorabilia (>p3).

CONTRIBUTORS TO SKHS COLLECTION

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

Milton Johnson: Stardust Dinner Menu, December 4, 1973, celebrating the launch of the final stage of the National Theatre by Mr Eric Westwood, Director of the Arts, Victorian Ministry of the Arts. Milton Johnson & Partners were the project managers and consulting engineers for the 1972-74 conversion of the former Victory Theatre into the current National Theatre complex.

John Payne: dual-mounted sepia photographic portraits of William Cock & Ada Ann Frost Cock who resided in St Kilda till the 1950s.

Mimi Colligan: image of Wickliffe House, 10 The Esplanade (St Kilda by the Sea 1914/15)

Ron Harbourn, St Kilda Cricket Club: book, hard-cover edition, Piesse K., *Down at the Junction*

Peter Johnson: (1) architectural drawing of 45 Marine Pde St Kilda (now demolished)
(2) sale brochure for units at Majestic Hotel site. (3) National Theatre Menu

SKHS

INFORMATION

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Newsletter
www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk
click "news"

Publications:
www.skhs.org.au

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www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

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Dorothy Lobert

Newsletter: St Kilda Times

Frances Bader (editor)
Pearl Donald
Sheila Harris
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

NAIDOC Week celebrations (5-12 July) are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Society supports NAIDOC week annually with an event. This year, distinguished academic, Richard Broome is talking about his recent book on the history of the Victorian Aboriginal community (since 1800) at our Sunday June 14th meeting

At our last general meeting we exhibited indigenous artefacts including stone axes recovered from an Elwood midden. These rare items symbolise indigenous St Kilda given it was once referred to as Yuro Yroke, the 'axe grinding' site.

St Kilda has a rich indigenous history. Derrimut, the chief or arweet of the Yalukit Willam clan of St Kilda is buried in the Carlton cemetery. His headstone acknowledges his role in preventing attacks on the early settlers.

Cr Serge Thomann and I recently visited West Beach to investigate the site of a reported midden or cooking site. Unfortunately without success.

Last year I referred possible scarred trees in Albert Park to Aboriginal Affairs for investigation. No doubt there are many historical treasures buried in books and manuscripts that could be uncovered with further research.

Meyer Eidelson

NEW MEMBERS

a warm welcome to:-

Craig Bosworth

Irene Dunsmuir

Joan Hunt

Desleigh Kent

Jamie Young

Do let us know at reception when you attend floor-talks so the committee may introduce you to fellow members.

COOPER'S ON-LINE

Coopers History of St Kilda Vols 1 & 11 are now on-line: visit www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk.

Congratulations to John Hulskamp on this major achievement and thanks go to the SKHS team, the City of Port Phillip and the State Government for their support.

The publishing of an on-line version of the History of St Kilda 1840-1930 has long been a cherished dream of the St Kilda Historical Society.

This milestone project enables free and efficient access to the only comprehensive written record of St Kilda's early history. Equally important are the 119 outstanding photos and illustrations.

The general reader, historian, student, researcher and journalist will reap the benefits of this collaborative work completed with assistance from SKHS members, the Victorian Government's community support fund, the City of Port Phillip and consultant, John Hulskamp.

QUIZ SKHS Newsletter Issue No 197

Q1: Was Saint Moritz (a) Celtic Warrior (b) Viking Marauder (c) Theban Legionnaire?

Q2: In which European country will you find the actual town of St Moritz (a) France (b) Germany (c) Switzerland?

QUIZ: ANSWERS: Issues Nos 194 & 195:

We're still seeking members of the committee that came up with the name "City of Port Phillip" during/after amalgamation in 1994.

QUIZ: ANSWERS: Issue No 196

Q 1: John Batman was Melbourne's first self-appointed postmaster.

Melbourne's first 'official' post office was a bark hut with mud chimney in Collins Street.

Apparently E.J. Forster was its first locally appt postmaster in 1837. Captain Benjamin Baxter was appointed in Sydney and his wife, Martha would run the PO from 1838-1839.

Q 2: (b) Pobblebonk frog: a threatened species of native frog was recorded at Westgate Park.

Quiz questions relevant to St Kilda wanted email to info@skhs.org.au

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".

Memories of St Moritz evening



FREE EVENT ORGANISED BY ST KILDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (SKHS)
FACILITATED BY ST KILDA LIBRARY WITH SUPPORT FROM PORT PHILLIP CITY

St Kilda Library

6-8pm JULY 20 2009

- ◆View SKHS' displays in library foyer & study area
- ◆Meet up with other St Moritz skaters
- ◆Hear the story of St Moritz
- ◆Bring your photos, scrapbooks, cuttings to show
- ◆Tell us your icescapades, romances, other
- ◆Visit the Skating Girl in our archives and have your photo taken with her (byo camera)
- ◆Vote on a name for the St Moritz Skating Girl



Free event. Light refreshments provided
RSVP: Ph9525 5913 Email info@skhs.org.au
[do let us know yr favorite piece of skating music]

BRIEF HISTORY ST MORITZ (Sources: SKHS website; Fogarty, *Screening St Kilda*, Longmire, A., *The Show Goes On*)

Since 2005, when Novotel St Kilda announced its donation to the St Kilda Historical Society of the St Moritz neon sign of a female skater, she glides alone in our archives — apart from an extended appearance in the City Museum "Signs of the Time" exhibition in 2006.

From 1939 until 1982, she lit up the facade of the St Moritz Ice Rink that occupied the spot where Novotel St Kilda now stands.

Prior to 1939, the Wattle Path Palais de Danse and Café, designed by architects Beaver & Arthur Purnell, operated on the site from 1922—1931 when it opened as the Streets of Paris dance salon run by Harry Kleiner until bought by F W Thring (snr) in late 1933 to house Eftee Studios (initials of owner).

Before 1922, the Paradise of Living Pictures and the Rivoli presented vaudeville and silent movies on the site from 1905 onwards.

Eftee Studios only operated for a short time before closing and after the death of its owner in 1936, his son Frank Thring Jnr retained freehold of the structure until 1955.

It re-emerged as The Streets of Paris dance hall and when patronage declined, Kleiner engaged architects Cowper, Murphy & Appleford to redesign the building as an ice rink.

Sinton & Bell Engineers carried out the conversion and the St Moritz Rink, accommodating more than 2,000 skaters, was run by Kleiner from 1939 to 1952 when he sells up to Ted

Molony and Jack Gordon who operate it until Lindsay Fox P/L & Hudson Conway P/L buy the site in December 1980 for development as a commercial retail complex.

However, St Moritz continues operating as a rink until Jack Norman and Bill Normoyne retire, and Vic Ekbergh is supervisor when it closes in 1982. Whelan the Wreckers move in after council officers issue a demolition order without the knowledge of some councillors and residents and a new chapter begins.

The BLF issue a black ban. An interim Heritage Preservation order is slapped on the site but its interior is reduced to rubble when St Moritz burns down on 22 September 1982. The site is re-auctioned and St Kilda council buys it after it is passed in but the site remains vacant until Novotel St Moritz build their hotel which opens in 1991.

Except for various temporary ones, St Kilda and Inner Melbourne have not had a permanent ice rink until 2006 when the State Government approved plans submitted by a private consortium — led by ING Real Estate Development Australia, Ice Sports Australia and the Australian Olympic Committee's Olympic Winter Institute

Hansen Yuncken are managing the NISC ICEHOUSE Project currently under construction in Docklands. The design, by Cox Architects and international ice sports specialists, Brisbin Brooke Beynon, is based on the development of successful ice rink centres in the USA & EU. (FB)

FROM SKHS ARCHIVES

The archival team works on SKHS collection from 10-12noon each Thursday. John Kissane continues his project of hand-illustrating our 3-d objects and has completed more than one thousand illustrations since 2002.

Meanwhile other team members notate the details of our contributors, catalogue descriptions of donations, allocate file numbers and storage locations plus tag and label each object and item.

Recently the team started on 2-d paper documents and memorabilia, e.g., WWI, official invitations, theatre programs etc. which are placed in acid-free transparent envelopes and stored in numbered archival boxes.

Once tagged and labelled, items are photographed so they can be uploaded onto the SKHS computer. After the photographs are uploaded, their numbers are cross-referenced to coincide with the catalogue numbers and transferred onto our Tribute database.

Extra hands would greatly speed up the process so we can get onto sorting and cataloguing the photographic collection.

TEAM '09

Maureen John

Kitty Pearl

Marilynn

Dorothy Fran

ICE SKATES

Black leather skating boots were usually available for hire at most ice rinks.

But, one had to be early to get a pair that fitted properly — a great motivation to save up and buy your own, usually from Molony's Skate Shop.

Reportedly, it was the legendary Sonya Henie who introduced white skating boots with short skating skirts and dresses to competitions instead of ordinary daywear.

SKHS is currently looking for a pair of white skates as well as other skating paraphernalia.



Pair black leather ice skates
SKHS collection: Catalogue No 907
Donated, Frances Bader
Pic: Maureen Walker, 2009

ST MORITZ SHOW-N-TELL

SKHS wants to know if you, your friends or relatives have any images or clippings relating to St Moritz Ice Rink or any memorabilia associated with ice skating in general that we could display in our upcoming St Moritz Show-n-Tell event, Monday July 20, 2009.

Phone: 9537 1967 or Email: info@skhs.org.au

ICE GIRL's NAME

SKHS member, Robert suggests that our skating girl could be "Lydia", as she was the "Lady of St Kilda" after which our suburb is named. Lydia was the wife of extreme adventurer, Sir Thomas Acland who tagged his luxury yacht, *Lady of St Kilda* before setting off, with his wife and family, to re-visit the Outer Hebridean archipelago of St Kilda in 1834. Robert also put forward the name "Hirta" to evoke the name of main island of the group as well as its Celtic and Nordic history.

Members Joan and Shirley suggest "Wendy Lee": the name of inspirational ice-skater, Wendy Lee Jacobs, daughter of renowned ballerina, Madam Saranova and band leader, Harry Jacobs (Palais). Kate sent us 'Isis' the Egyptian deity of entertainment. Brenda suggests "Mortizia" to maintain the St Moritz connection. Janet favors the name "Joy" because of the enjoyment ice skating gave her and her friends.

A number of members advocate "Sonya" — to recall beloved Norwegian skater, Sonya Heinje, 1912–1969. Sonya dominated figure skating from the late 1920s when she becomes the first female to win a Winter Olympic gold medal in St Moritz in Switzerland and goes on to be a role model and an Hollywood movie star. SKHS has a photo of St Moritz* showing a poster of Sonya advertising one of her movies.

*[It may not be outside the realms of possibility to speculate that her Olympic victory and Sonya's wins at subsequent European Championships held at St Moritz during the 1930s may have inspired Harry Kleiner to name his rink "St Moritz" (FB)].



WOMEN IN SPORT: SKHS Floor-Talk April 19

Member, Ulla Svensson (left)



enjoys the talk presented by Dr Robert Hess and his Phd student Rachel Winterton,

on Sunday April 19 in St Kilda Community Room.

Robert Hess (below left) is senior lecturer in the School of Sport and Exercise Science at Victoria University. He recently co-authored the book *A National Game: the History of Australian Rules Football*, Penguin, 2008.

He has also written extensively about pioneering women players of Aussie Rules from 1916 onwards.

Rachel Winterton (right) is currently studying the history of aquatic sports and carnivals in Melbourne, especially St Kilda in the 1880s.

[Let us know if you have any relevant clippings or pics]



St Kilda Art Deco

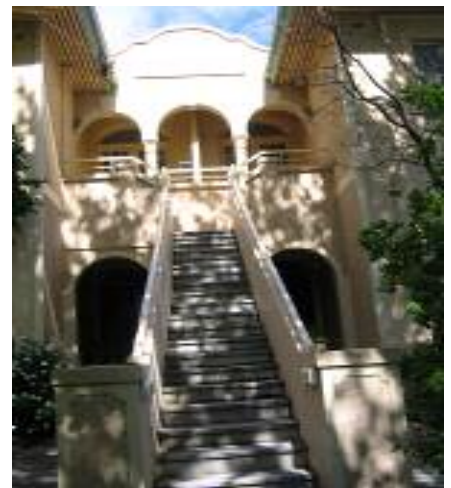


VCE graphics Project

(in color on SKHS website click "news")

images by

Sam Westaway
Fish Creek, Victoria



PHRYNE in ST KILDA: Socialising after Floor-Talk May 17



Author, Kerry Greenwood signs a copy of her latest book after giving us a fascinating talk about her glamorous private detective hero, Phryne Fisher [*the Emma Peel of late 1920s, St Kilda*]

HERITAGE RESEARCH

ST KILDA CABLE TRAM DEPOTS

Source: P Johnson SKHS Heritage Officer

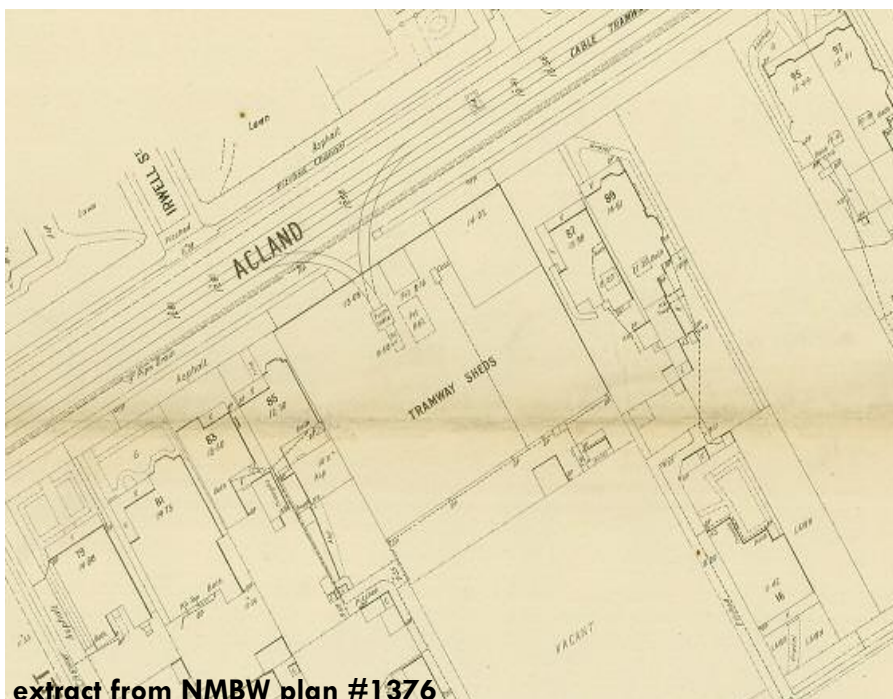
SKHS is looking for photos of the following.

The depot for the St Kilda Beach and Windsor-Esplanade cable routes was at the south west side of Acland St and replaced by a bus depot. Safeways Arcade is now on the site.

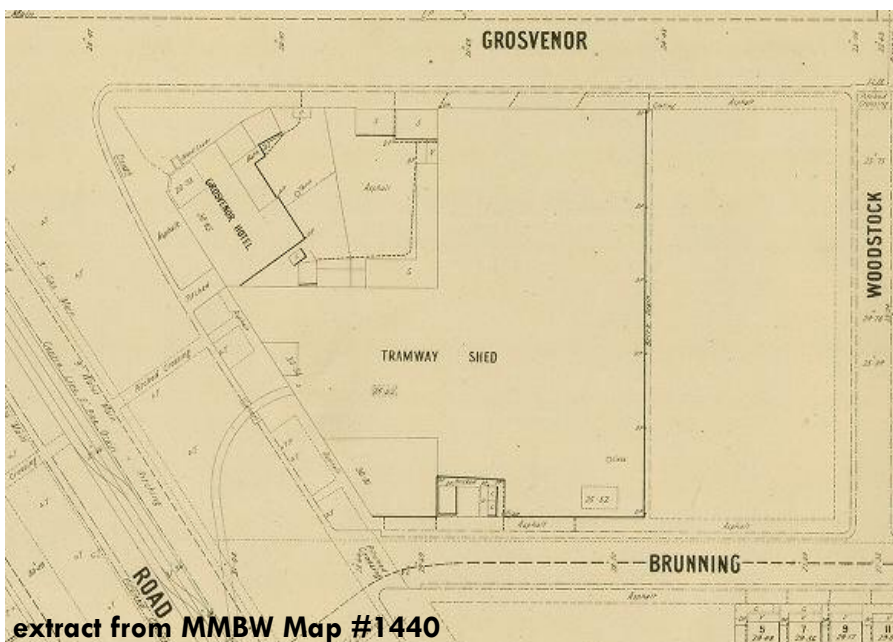
The Brighton Road tram depot site is occupied by the Grosvenor Hotel.

Date for completion of the lines were:- Brighton Rd 11/10/1888, Windsor to Esplanade 27/10/1891. (Keating, John D., *Mind the Curve!*, MUP 1970, p137)

If you or your friends have any images or reproductions of either depot which we could scan and return would you kindly ring the Secretary on 9537 1967 or email info@skhs.org.au.



extract from NMBW plan #1376



extract from MMBW Map #1440

Images supplied kindness Peter Johnson SKHS Heritage Officer

BUILDING PERMITS REGISTER (local)

A CD of the Building Permits Register from 10/11/1898 to 29/9/1933 is now available for research in the CoPP Local History Library, St Kilda Library.

To view, contact CoPP Local History Librarian.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHITECTURAL INDEX

SOURCE: MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY Media Release, Tues 28 April 2009

The Australian Architectural Index is now available online. www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html

Australia's peak architectural and design index, covering more than 50000 items, will now be easier to access following the launch of a digitised web edition.

The Australian Architectural Index, already the fundamental tool for building researchers and architects, covers items from as far back as 1830, including tender notices, published descriptions of buildings, illustrations, and architect biographies.

Although Australia wide in its coverage, and particularly strong for the period 1840 to 1910, the majority of content is Victorian, however Professor Lewis of Melbourne University says proposals to link with other data bases around Australia are welcome.

The 2008-09 digitization process was funded by a grant from the Vera Moore Foundation and is a further stage in Melbourne University's Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning's provision of publicly available research services, which already includes the Melbourne Mansions Database, with its own link to the State Library of Victoria site; the E G Kilburn Photographs, which are now much used by American and other scholars; and Professor Miles Lewis's extensive notes titled *The Culture of Australian Building*.

www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural.html

NOTABLE WOMEN

Guided Tour: 2PM Sunday 21 June 2009 St Kilda Cemetery

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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.

Tour cost: Free: members of Friends of St Kilda Cemetery and children u/18
\$10.00 adult non-members [Annual FoSKC membership \$15].

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). **Tours** usually run for about 90 minutes.

Bookings: Places are limited, pre-book by contacting 9531 6832

‘NoTHiNG RHyMeS with 3RR’ CHALLENGE

The Australian Poetry Centre (APC) at Glenfern are recording their new radio pod-cast show over the next six months.

It's called "Nothing Rhymes with RRR" and will be up on the APC website, as well on the RRR site.

You are challenged to write a stanza, verse, haiku, clerihew, limerick, triolet, sonnet, quatrain, tanka or couplet, where at least **ONE LINE** rhymes with RRR (triple-r)?

Good luck! The best ones will be read out as received during the pod-cast and do mention SKHS when you send your attempt(s) to: australianpoetrycentre.org.au.

The PMI library contains the only Victorian history collection available for loan to the general public. PMI is also the home of the archives of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria (MIV) as well as the Cinema & Theatre Historical Society (CATHS).

Historic PMI Library

Our neighbouring 155 year old iconic Prahran Mechanics' Institute (est. 1854), (PMI) in High St is looking for help. The library needs to obtain more space to house its treasure trove of Victorian history, more money to renovate its library, and more support for its "No Minister" stoush with the Victorian Education Department.

For over 15 years, Swinburne University has occupied the two attached PMI buildings which PMI kindly leased to the Victorian Education Department back in 1947.

PMI leased the buildings, which had housed their own technical school, to VIC ED after the state took over its operation and the PMI school then became known as Prahran Technical School.

The original lease granted the Victorian Education Dept use of the attached buildings to provide state-funded technical education and, in the spirit of the Mechanics Institutes' charter, PMI only charged Victorian taxpayers a nominal sum of one shilling per year for 99 years.

However, the technical school was moved from the High Street site in 1971 and TAFE & CAE used the buildings until 1992. VIC ED then allowed Swinburne University (which is not a technical school) to occupy the buildings without consulting PMI who now want their property returned as it's not being used for its original purpose nor are they being paid any rent.

You can help by joining the PMI library (more below) or with their "No Minister" campaign. For further information, Email: library@pmi.net.au. Tel: 03 9510 3393.

Prahran Mechanics' Institute (Source: PMI website)

Prahran Mechanics' Institute is a community owned and run library located at 140 High Street, Prahran
PMI aims are to:


- ♦ provide a lending and reference library specialising in works about the history of Victoria.
- ♦ organise educational activities relating to the history of Victoria.
- ♦ encourage and facilitate the study of history, particularly the history of Victoria.

Membership is open to everyone for the very low annual fee of \$12.

As a member you can: borrow items from the Victorian History Library, including many items in cd & microfiche formats. You can also access the internet for historical and genealogical research at the library free; enjoy free tea, coffee and hot chocolate while you read; receive a quarterly newsletter to keep you informed of goings on at the library and a list of new items in the collection; receive a 10% discount on all new and second hand books available for sale at the library; access a members-only book covering service; and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting a not-for-profit, community organisation and one of the longest running libraries in VIC.

Opening Hours Mon-Fri: 9.30am-4.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.00pm except for public holidays, Christmas—New Year
Email: library@pmi.net.au. Tel: 03 9510 3393.

SKHS is grateful to the City of Port Phillip for its ongoing support and the Hon Mr Danby's office staff for photo-copying the *St Kilda Times*.

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">St Kilda Historical Society</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Events 2009</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;">2009-2010 subscriptions gratefully rcvd</p>
<p>Members' general meeting 2.30 pm. Speakers start at 3.00pm</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. Members free. Visitors, a donation appreciated. Includes afternoon tea/coffee, 4.00pm approx.</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 archives located in the basement under the library containing an extraordinary collection of artefacts, photos and costumes. <i>(Members may visit at other times by appointment)</i></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 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 /member's suggestions invited</p>	
<p>13 DEC</p>	<p>END-YEAR EVENT The Society celebrates the achievements of 2009 with food and frivolity. All welcome.</p>	

SKHS DISPLAY

St Moritz in St Kilda

July 1—31

St Kilda Library Foyer & Study Area
library opening hours

“Memories of St Moritz”

free event everyone welcome

6—8pm Monday July 20

St Kilda Library

Light refreshments provided
RSVP 9537 1967 E: info@skhs.org.au