



# ST KILDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 177, February-March 2006

TO:

If undeliverable please return to: The Secretary, St Kilda Historical Society, P.O. Box 177 Balaclava 3183

**Mystery Object in SKHS Archives/26cm wide, 11.5cm high, 18.5cm deep**



A very similar item to this one was described in the 1908 Sears Roebuck catalogue as: "Electric Medical Battery Providing Adjustable Vibrations". So we sort-of know what it is, however it would be interesting to know a bit more about its application and what sort of ailments it was used for? Contact Mark 03 9531 1403 [mark@bssound.com.au](mailto:mark@bssound.com.au) (view in color on [www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk))

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR APPLICATION

1 JULY 2005 – 30 JUNE 2006

Fill out and forward the form below to **The Secretary, P.O. Box 177 Balaclava 3183** or bring to next meeting (2nd Sun ea Mth)  
(Please disregard if you have recently renewed your membership)

**\$18.00 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE**

**\$300 LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

**DONATION .....**

**NAME (MR, MRS, MISS, MS).....**

**GROUP/ ASSOCIATION (IF APPL) .....**

**ADDRESS:**

**SUBURB/CITY:**

**P/CODE:**

**PHONE NUMBER/S:**

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

I would like to receive my newsletter by email: **Yes**  / **No**

**SPECIAL INTERESTS/SKILLS**

**Signed .....**



# St Kilda Historical Society

ABN: 25 188 646 275

Patron: Sir Zelman Cowen

## Newsletter No. 177: February-March 2006

President Ph: 9690 9584, 0408 894 724; Email: meyreidelson@yahoo.com  
 Heritage Officer: prj@bigpond.net.au : Newsletter: fbader@bigpond.net.au & Pearl Donald  
 Secretary: E. seanodonohue@netspace.net.au; Exhibitions: C.Stals  
 Correspondence & Mail Orders (books): P.O. Box 177 Balaclava, 3183  
 (Publications) www.skhs.org.au or phone orders: John 03 9596 2782  
 Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk:

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! And I hope you all had a great start to the New Year. I extend our belated congratulations to the new Mayor, Janet Bolitho. We wish her all the best in a demanding role for which she is eminently fitted. Janet has always been an active contributor to local history groups and the environment of our city.

Last week we had a committee of management planning meeting at the Newmarket Hotel, a great family pub. We recommend the Hungarian cabbage rolls.

We brainstormed priorities for the coming year. These include:-

- holding at least three modest historical exhibitions,
- publishing a book on *Elwood*,
- reprinting the *Screening of St Kilda*,
- holding a nautical-themed family picnic,
- issuing *Naming of St Kilda* research,
- recruiting more volunteers for the collection team, plus an assistant heritage officer, and many others.

One of the priorities suggested by the committee this year is improving opportunities for residents to record the oral histories of family or community members particularly those who may be frail or elderly. The Society has just purchased a portable quality recording device for this purpose which will soon be available for use by members for this purpose.

Perhaps you have some suggestions for outcomes this year. Areas we could do better or important tasks we should undertake or community groups which should be more involved? We would love to hear any suggestions from you (see letterhead above). Planning meetings continue this year in our office in St Kilda Library on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6.30 pm and are open to any member (confirm on 9690 9584 in case of any cancellations).

Gillian Upton and I are both members of the COPP Urban History Advisory Committee (UHACC) which continues to press forward with its vision of an Urban History Centre — based one day in the future in South Melbourne.

Members might recall our memorable guest speaker, Helene Jacoby at the end of 2003. Helene, in her 90s, is the descendant of a former thrice Mayor of St Kilda and has an incredible memory. Encouraged by the Society, a relative is now publishing her history. A great outcome for Helene and St Kilda. No doubt we will invite the author to speak to us this year.

*Meyer*

**NB due to C/Wealth Games, our 12 March Meeting will be held in SKHS Archives, Lwr Gr FI/Library Basement.**  
 You will also get to inspect our mystery object (P.01)

### St Kilda Heritage Displays 2006

Carol Stals, SKHS's new Exhibitions Co-Ordinator is currently planning ahead for 2006. She is looking out for practical assistance; material, and assistance. (*More on page 03*)

### New Year's Resolution

Just in case you are still looking for ways to change your life ... SKHS needs assistants to help with cataloguing our collection for two hours on Thursdays from 10-12 [short or long-term optional/weekly, once a month or a fortnight, and/or occasional] as well as putting records into the data base. Contact Mark: 9531 1403 (BH)

### Solution to Nov-Dec Mystery-Object



The mystery object, (illustrated N/L 176, Nov-Dec 05) has been solved — thanks to *Amber Harris; Jennifer Casinader; Liz Sansom; Felix Balfour, and the others whose names we apologise for not recording*. The object is a candle-snuffer. These were popular from the late 17th century onwards and in high fashion from 1730-1750. The point on the end was used for uncurling the burnt wick when cold. It could then be easily trimmed and caught in the box at the end of the scissors. (*P01 has this edition's mystery object*)

### St Kilda History Quiz

(For the winners of the Inaugural SKHS Quiz-2005, see p03)

**Many Thanks** to Mark Barry, Pearl Donald, Meyer Eidelson, John Hulskamp, Peter Johnson, John Kissane, Sean O'Donohue, Carol Stals, Carmel Shute (CoPP) and others who helped with questions and organizing the Quiz 05 event.

**Answers** to N/L 176: Nov-Dec 2005 Quiz Questions

**Q.1:** Meyer Eidelson and Don Taggart have two things in common! Name one?

**A:** Both are members of the SKHS

**Q.2:** The St Kilda Triangle carpark was described as "bog-ugly" in July 2004. Who said it?

**A:** Dick Gross

**Some SKHS Members** have suggested that we continue providing quiz questions in the newsletter. Answers will be provided in subsequent editions. Here are Qs3 & 4.

**3:** Prior to being surveyed Jan-Feb 1842, the Crown Survey Dept had designated another name for St Kilda. What was it?

**4:** Where in St Kilda would you have found the Catherina Jazz Club?

## Committee 2005-2006

President:	<i>Meyer Eidelson</i>
Vice President & Heritage Officer:	<i>Peter Johnson</i>
Secretary:	<i>Séan O Donohue</i>
Treasurer:	<i>John Hulskamp</i>
Archives:	<i>Mark Barry</i>
Newsletter:	<i>Frances Bader</i> <i>Pearl Donald</i>
Exhibitions:	<i>Carol Stals</i>
Public Meetings:	<i>Pearl Donald</i>

### Wellness Wishes

The SKHS extends its wishes for a speedy recovery to members who are ill in hospital or unwell at home.

### SKHS Exhibitions '06

Our new exhibitions co-ordinator, **Carol Stals** intends putting on some interesting displays during 2006. Carol will focus on the **Triangle Site** for her first display. **Elwood** will then be highlighted to complement Meyer Eidelson's upcoming book on the history of Elwood. A third exhibition will parallel SKHS's proposed end of year **Nautical-themed Family Picnic** (location yet to be decided) Sunday 10 Dec. 2006) and Fran Bader's compilation of research into the *Ladies of St Kilda*.

### Nautical Picnic '06

The proposed end-of-year nautical picnic on 10 Dec 2006 will evoke both the 1841 picnic when Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe reputedly 'tagged' *St Kilda* while sipping champagne (allegedly!) and; the first St Kilda land auction which took place, **07 December 1842** with —'upwards of *s-i-x-t-y* gentlemen' in attendance! It will a family-friendly picnic with BYO victuals, rugs and deckchairs. Dress-ups, hats and umbrellas will be encouraged. Stay tuned for further announcements.

### Cargo Dress-ups

We'll be putting out an SOS for 'sixty gentlemen' while you start looking thru yr bosun's chests, trunks, lockers and op-shops for cargo-gear and dress-ups for the nautical picnic (above) *ie* sailors, settlers, beachcombers, mutineers, smugglers, customs-officers, tidewaiters, harbour pilots, ship surgeons, champagne importers, merchants, auctioneers, and the like.

Also, if you are able to help with any of the organising or lend dress-ups, do contact [fbader@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fbader@bigpond.net.au)

### SKHS Newsletter

Members (and friends) are invited to contribute short articles, items of interest and anecdotes (re St Kilda) for publication in our bi-monthly newsletter — which is distributed in hardcopy and electronically.

A suitable 'name' for the newsletter is also being sought. Prize awarded.

Email [fbader@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fbader@bigpond.net.au)

## Heritage:

For Heritage Inquiries contact:  
Peter Johnson,  
SKHS Heritage Officer.  
Email: [prj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:prj@bigpond.net.au)  
PO Box 1154, St Kilda Sth, 3182

### Images—Local History

Looking for images of St Kilda (and elsewhere)? The following tips are from the SKHS website:

**1: SKHS E-Books:**

[www.skhs.org.au](http://www.skhs.org.au)

**2: City of Port Phillip:**

[http://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/spyodus.exe/MSGPPCD/AHDATA/](http://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/spyodus.exe/MSGPPCD/AHDATA/BASE.HTM)

**3: Picture Victoria:**

[www.pictures.libraries.vic.gov.au/](http://www.pictures.libraries.vic.gov.au/)

**4: State Library of Victoria:**

[www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au) and follow links to picture catalogue.

### Melbourne Mansions Index

MMI's web address:-

<http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/melbmansions>

### Heritage Query

#### —William Siddeley

SKHS has received a request from R.E. seeking information about her great grandfather, William Siddeley and his associations with St Kilda.

William's children were students at *Alma Grammar School* in 1885/86. HB de la Poer Wall was one of their teachers.

*Alma Grammar* operated from 'Lansmere', circa 1883-86, on the south side of Alma Road at No. 59 — one property west of Odessa St. Earlier it had been used by the Rev. Backhouse (Society of Friends) for his *St Kilda Grammar School* and later by Mrs Hatchell-Brown as the *Priory Ladies College* together with the adjoining property 'Sherwood Cottage' at No.61.

The Siddeley family lived at various St Kilda addresses including *Marlton* (also used by *St Kilda Grammar*, now part of *St Micheal's Grammar*). William passed away at *Shelford*, 148 Alma Rd, in October 1905. Any information, pictures or records of any of the above would be appreciated; [prj@bigpond.net.au](mailto:prj@bigpond.net.au).

## New Mayor



Mayor Janet Bolitho, councillor for Sandridge ward and Deputy Mayor Janet Cribbes, councillor for Ormond ward join a dedicated group of former community leaders — who represent the needs of residents and various interest groups in the City of Port Phillip.

We would also like to thank the outgoing Mayor, Darren Ray for his achievements and enthusiasm during his terms of office.

### Former CoPP Mayors:

Liana Thompson:	1996-1997
Christine Haag:	1997-1998
Dick Gross	1998-1999
Dick Gross:	1999-2000
Julian Hill	2000-2001
Julian Hill	2001-2002
Darren Ray	2002-2003
Liz Johnstone	2003-2004
Dick Gross	2004-2004
Darren Ray	2004-2005

### Extract

from the new mayor's incoming speech (full text [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au))

*...we need to keep on building the invisible infrastructure of 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. Our motto from the Commonwealth Games 'get connected, get involved' will remain relevant long after the Games have gone...*

### 2005 SKHS Get-Together

Members thoroughly enjoyed the convivial SKHS' get together; presentations and inaugural History Quiz held at the Acland St RSL, Sunday, 11 Dec 2005. After a tense play-off, **John Hulskamp's** team emerged as *Quiz Champions*. Their prizes were book vouchers — kindly donated by **Readings of Acland Street**.

In recognition of their contributions to SKHS during 2005, *Sheila Harris, Joan Charlton, Irene Johnson, Mark Barry, John Kissane, Peter Johnson, Pearl Donald & John Hulskamp* were presented with certificates of appreciation by President Meyer Eidelson and *Frances Bader* received the Annual David Baker Award.



## St Kilda Historical Society

### Free Public Events 2005 & 2006

**Members' General Meetings at 2.30 pm; Public Speakers start at 3.00 pm approx.**

Unless otherwise stated, public meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, 3PM in the St Kilda Library community room, 150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, 3183. Public welcome. Admittance free. RSVP not necessary. Publications for sale. Afternoon tea provided.

#### 12 FEBRUARY 2006

Members @ 2.30 p.m.  
Speaker: 3.00 pm  
library community room

#### THE (NOT THE BERMUDA) TRIANGLE SITE

Radical changes are planned for the St Kilda foreshore including the controversial redevelopment of the Triangle site.

A learned panel discusses the history of the site and debates the issues involved.

#### 12 MARCH 2006

Members @ 2.30 p.m.  
Speaker 3.00 pm  
\*library basement\*

#### BURKE'S SOLDIER\*\*\*Meet in ARCHIVES\*\*\*

Alan Attwood discusses his extraordinary book about St Kilda resident, John King, the only survivor of the Burke and Wills Expedition of 1860-1861. King, (who'd endured the Indian Mutinies of 1857-1858) became the 'camel man' of the trip.

#### 9 APRIL 2006

Members @ 2.30 p.m.  
Speaker 3.00 pm  
library community room

#### THE UPSIDE DOWN RIVER

Local author Kristin Otto talks about her landmark book, 'Yarra'.

From the earliest known native inhabitants, to the European settlers and their explorations, and the development of the city of Melbourne, 'Yarra' covers it all.

**14 MAY, 18 JUNE, 9 JULY, 13 AUG, 10 SEPT, 8 OCT, 12 NOV, 10 DEC.**

**OTHER MEETINGS** Mark these dates in your 2006 diary!

### Port Melbourne Historical & Preservation Society

#### *Then & Now*

**Gaswork's Foyer from 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February.**

PMH&PS with the Port Melbourne Football Club, Port Primary, and other community groups are presenting a *Then & Now* photographic display of changes to Port Melbourne from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. *Then and Now* will complement *The Borough*, a play by Sean Barker and the People of Port Melbourne which will be performed in the Gasworks theatre from 16<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February with a preview on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets \$25 & \$15. Bookings phone 9699 3253.

#### RHSV

Corner Queen & a'Beckett Sts  
Ph 9326 9288; E: office@historyvictoria.org.au

#### *Racing & the Character of Australia*

Tuesday 14 February 5.45pm (coffee from 5.15)

#### *Lecture by Andrew Lemon, Litt.D. (Melb)*

This renowned historian and biographer has a lifelong interest in horseracing and is currently commissioned to write volume three of a history of the industry (Vols. 1 & 11 publ. 1987 and 1990). Members free. Non-Mbr's \$5.50.

#### *Local History— Research Tools on Internet*

Friday 24 February 10-12noon: **Workshop**

The Workshop looks at internet tools providing new opportunities for researching the history of Victoria. Library catalogues, image collections, databases and websites will be discussed. Cost: \$10 Mbrs; \$15 Non-Mbrs.

### Prahran Mechanics'Institute

7pm Thursday 16 Feb: 140 High St Prahran

#### *The Encyclopedia of Melbourne*

Andrew Brown-May, co-editor

**Bkgs essential: 9510 3393; Library @ pmi.net.au**

### Walking St Kilda 2006

For Bkgs & Details > 2005 & 2006  
Bkgs essential. Phone **Krys Galas**: 9209 6229  
Guided walks — Courtesy of City of Port Phillip.  
Free to residents & general public.

#### *'The Other Side of Williamstown Road'*

**Sunday 26 February 10am**

*Janet Bolitho will lead us through the living history that lurks on 'the other side of Williamstown Road'. Home of the Port Melbourne Football Club, SKINC indigenous nursery, and much more beside.*

### Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

#### *Guided Tour of Brighton Cemetery*

**2PM Sunday 19 February.** North Rd Gate Entrance  
Refreshments provided. Tour: \$10.00  
Bookings essential: Phone 9558 4248

#### *Sporting St Kilda*

**2PM Sunday 05 March.**

St Kilda Cemetery. Dandenong Rd Entrance.  
Tour: Non-members \$10 Refreshments.  
Bookings not necessary.

### Celebrity Cricket Match

**11.00-6.PM:12th February 2006.** Peanut Farm, St Kilda.  
Entry: Donation to raise funds for/public awareness of Sacred Heart Mission. Details: Ph. 9537 1166

### Teen Idol Auditions 2006

Start rehearsing ... Auditions for those aged between 11 and 17 at Gasworks **18 & 19 February.**  
[www.teenidol.com.au](http://www.teenidol.com.au); [teenidol@bigpond.net.au](mailto:teenidol@bigpond.net.au)