



St Kilda Historical Society Newsletter,

PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183

Issue No 198

August—September 2009

Patron:  
Sir Zelman Cowan

# St Kilda Times

**AGM  
Sunday  
Sept 13  
&  
Archive  
Tour**

**AGM 2008—2009 2PM SEPTEMBER 13, 2009**

**ELECTION FOR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2009—2010**

financial SKHS members are urged to nominate for positions on the  
Committee of Management for 2009—2010 (nomination form inside)

## SKHS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 2008-2009

We all know that without the support of members, donors, volunteers and Port Phillip City — its residents, council, municipal staff and St Kilda Librarians — SKHS would not be about to enter its fortieth (40th) year of operation in 2010 (see also p6).

Many thanks are due to all whose shared interests and ideas, energies and enthusiasms have helped make SKHS such a thriving centre of St Kilda's community heritage.

SKHS is very grateful to everyone who donated 2-d items and 3-d objects which are being catalogued by our team of archival volunteers.

Similarly, many thanks go to all the members of the outgoing 2008-2009 management committee.



**JOHN HULSKAMP**

John Hulskamp (above), our Treasurer for the past nine years, has decided to call it a day and will not renominate for the office in 2009—2010.

SKHS is indeed fortunate to have had the benefit of his skills, experience and high standards in financial management for that length of time.

We are seriously indebted to John for the invaluable work he has carried out and thankfully, he's continuing on in his role as SKHS webmaster.

### PEARL DONALD

Pearl Donald, a veteran SKHS committee member, has decided not to stand for the position of ordinary member in 2009—2010.

Pearl was not only our meeter and greeter for a number of years — she performed many behind the scenes services for SKHS — including proof-reading the "St Kilda Times".

**SKHS members with newsletter production experience(s) are urgently requested to contact us on [info@skhs.org.au](mailto:info@skhs.org.au).**

### THANKS

On behalf of all society members, SKHS sincerely thanks John and Pearl for their years of dedicated service and wish them well.

*St Kilda Times expect to bring you reports of their future activities, assignments and adventures.*

# SKHS

## CONTRIBUTORS TO SKHS COLLECTION

## MEMBERSHIP

### INFORMATION

**Office:** St Kilda Library  
150 Carlisle St 3183

**All Emails:**  
info@skhs.org.au

**Mail:**  
PO Box 177  
Balaclava 3183

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

**Publications:**  
www.skhs.org.au

**Website:**  
www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

### COMMITTEE

**President:** Meyer Eidelson  
meyereidelson@yahoo.com  
0408 894 724, 9090 7964

**Vice President:** Peter Johnson  
pjarchitectsj@gmail.com

**Secretary:** Dorothy Lobert  
lobertdp@optusnet.com.au  
Ph 9537 1967

**Treasurer:** John Hulskamp  
info@skhs.org.au

**Ordinary Members:**  
Fran Bader  
Pearl Donald  
Marilynn Fahey  
Carol Stals

### OPERATIONS

**Inquiries & Appointments**  
info@skhs.org.au  
Secretary: 9537 1967

**Collection:**  
info@skhs.org.au  
Frances Bader  
Kitty Barclay  
Marilynn Fahey  
John Kissane  
Maureen Walker

**Foyer Displays:**  
Carol Stals

**Files:**  
Dorothy Lobert

**Heritage Research:**  
Peter Johnson

**Hospitality & Welfare:**  
Joan Charlton

**Library:**  
Dorothy Lobert

**Newsletter: St Kilda Times**  
Frances Bader (editor)  
Sheila Harris  
Dorothy Lobert  
SKHS Committee

**Webmaster:**  
John Hulskamp

**Committee Meetings:**  
6–8pm 1st Tues ea mth  
**SKHS Office, St Kilda  
Library. Members  
welcome. Agenda items  
48 hrs in advance.**

A big thank you to the following who have generously donated the objects listed below which will be conserved for posterity in our collection.

Thanks also to those who lent us items to be photographed or scanned and/or placed in our displays and returned:-

### **HARD COVER VOLUME**

**Life-Saving Victoria per Prue Weber,  
Hon. History Officer:** "A History of Surf  
Life Saving VICTORIA 1946-2003"

### **FOUND ITEMS**

**Jennifer Edge:**  
(1) ORDER of SERVICE for State Funeral  
of Sir Ernest 'Weary' Dunlop, St Paul's,  
(11) two (2) light-shades from Majestic  
Hotel, St Kilda

### **"MEMORIES OF ST MORITZ" EVENING**

**Novotel St Kilda:** 14 framed photo-  
graphic images from former "St Moritz  
Restaurant", now GRILL 3182

**Fran Bader:** image of Novotel's exter-  
nal illuminated signage of Skating  
Lady, 1990s

**Gary Presland:** image of ice- skaters  
at St Moritz, 1960s

**Tom Ingram:** loan of:- St Moritz micro-  
phone and refrigeration pipe, Molony's  
Skate Shop sign; var. photos of St Kilda  
and Central Melbourne

**Brenda Richards:** loan of Wendy Rich-  
ards' St Moritz Team jacket and ice -  
hockey puck from last St Moritz game

**Wayne Collier:** loan of ice hockey  
jackets and hockey stick

### **SHOWCASE, FOYER ST KILDA LIBRARY**

**Aileen Shaw:** loan of skating  
memorabilia and costumes

**Beryl Black:** loan of St Moritz  
ice-skating photos and slides

Many thank to the members who have already sent in their subscriptions for 2009–10.

For those who have forgotten to renew, a form is included with AGM notice.

Renewals may be made online by direct debit, or by cheque or cash at a Sunday meeting.

You can also renew by mailing a cheque to PO Box 177 Balaclava 3183.

Any queries: do please

- ♦ email: info@skhs.org.au
- ♦ phone 9537 1967

## NEW MEMBERS

**A warm welcome to the following new members:-**

**Mary Gurr**  
**Naomi Milgrom**  
**Leone Shaw**  
**Holger Bader**  
**Malcolm Gurr**  
**Grace Wright**  
**Peter Scanlon**

**We hope to meet up with you in the near future. Do let us know when you come to a Sunday talk.**

### **SKHS QUIZ Newsletter Issue No 198**

- [1] During our "Memories of St Moritz" Dr Derham Groves spoke about the architect who designed the original "Wattle Path Palais de Danse" in 1922 later converted to the St Moritz Ice Rink. What was the architect's name?
- [2] After the Victory Cinema (renamed National Theatre 1972 ) was sold by Hoyts in 1930, its dynamic managing director resigned to start up EFFTEE Film Productions and bought the "Wattle Path" for use as film studios in the mid-30s. Who was he?

### **QUIZ: ANSWERS: Issue No 197**

- Q 1: [C] Saint Moritz was a Theban Legionnaire**  
**Q 2: [C] the town of St Moritz is in Switzerland**

### **Quiz questions relevant to St Kilda & surrounds sought**

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

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

## MEMORIES OF ST MORITZ

## The UNBLOCKERS



It was standing room only at our Memories of St Moritz Event, July 20 and your editor just managed to take a few very quick snapshots of the large audience.

The evening opened with the Mayor of Port Phillip, Frank O Connor saying a few words about growing up in St Kilda.

Speaker, Peter Johnson, a St Kilda architect and V. P. of SKHS, presented a fascinating audio-visual history of the St Moritz site from earliest times.

Dr Derham Groves, Lecturer in Architecture, Melbourne University introduced us to Arthur Purnell, the architect and *bon vivant* who designed the "Wattle Path Palais de Danse" in the 1920s (later St Moritz).

Among those present were several SKHS members as well as Dr Gary Presland, author of "The Place for a Village: How nature has shaped the city of Melbourne"; performer Wilma Farrow of recent Vida Goldstein role-playing fame; past and present members of the Victorian ice-hockey team — alerted to our event by SKHS member, Brenda Richards.

Also in attendance were champion figure skaters Aileen Shaw, Beryl Black and others whom Carol Stals contacted — kindness of the Olympic Ice Rink, 1080 Centre Rd, Oakleigh.

The evening culminated with a torchlight procession to the archives where "devotees" had their photos taken next to the Skating Lady who — thanks to Tom Ingram's electrical skills — glowed for the occasion.



### REMINISCENCES

Members of the audience spoke briefly about their St Moritz ice skating experiences.

Brenda Richards told us of her daughter's Wendy's involvement with the St Moritz skating team and showed us the puck that put her in the Alfred Hospital after the last ice hockey game played there, back in the early 1980s.

Wayne Collier brought along his ice hockey stick and even gave us a few pointers.

Gary Presland spoke of his brother who was a very keen St Moritz skater — in comparison to himself — and kindly donated a copy of a 1960s family photo.

Harold & Diane Cole as well as Rose Stone talked of their personal skating experiences and Ken Corbett kindly put his memories on paper.

Jane Revill, now in WA, emailed her recollections of St Moritz and it was read out during the event.

### SKATING LADY OF ST KILDA

During our St Moritz Evening several people voted in favour of the name "Lydia".

"Moritzia" came a close second with "Dawn" an unexpected third.

"Lydia" was suggested by member Robert Taylor to recall Lydia Acland, and the schooner "Lady of St Kilda" which gave its name to our suburb.

Brenda Richards suggested "Moritzia" to recall St Moritz. "Dawn" remembers a national gold medallist skater.

A decision will be made during the AGM and more suggestions/choices are welcome till September 13, **when we may hold a naming ceremony.**



### THANKS

Many thanks to all who helped make the St Moritz evening such a success, especially the speakers.

Thanks also to: Meyer who MC'ed; Joe who helped set-up the AV and Mark who filmed the event.

**Special thanks** to Linda and the St Kilda Library Staff as well as to SKHS members:- Maureen and Kitty, Jan and Rose who pitched in to help the event co-organisers — committee members Carol, Dorothy and Fran.

SKHS members Brenda Richards\*, Margaret Wells, Robyn Foy, and Gillian Taylor, along with their friend, Lisa Edwards recently won top prize for the visual image they submitted to CoPP's "Block Parties" Competition.

The competition was open to all residents of Port Phillip City and the "UNBLOCKERS" won a \$400 de luxe food and beverage hamper.

Their winning image as well as their jingle will be used by our City to promote Block Parties in coming months to encourage residents to meet their neighbours and enjoy the positive benefits of living in a friendly environment.

\*Brenda was a winner of the 2008 CoPP Seniors' Writing Competition.

### BLOCK PARTIES

Although you might! block parties are not necessarily about making new best friends, they're about knowing who your neighbours are, greeting them by name, sharing an occasional chat or a cup of tea and having someone (or being someone) nearby to call on in an emergency.

Statistics show that communities with high levels of social connectedness tend to have lower crime rates, partly because neighbours know each other and look out for each other

People who are better connected to others are also more likely to feel safer, recover from illnesses more rapidly and suffer less from conditions such as heart disease or depression and live longer.

Source: CoPP website

## RICHARD BROOME "THE ORIGINAL HISTORY OF VICTORIA"



Leading up to NAIDOC Week, Richard Broome, Associate Professor of History at La Trobe University tells a rapt SKHS audience (June 14) the story of Victorians from first settlement to European colonisation through the church mission system and the struggle for civil and land rights up to the present day.

Professor Broome is one of Australia's most respected scholars of Aboriginal history and author of "Aboriginal Australians: A History since 1800" published by Allen & Unwin — which won the 2007 Victorian Community History Award.

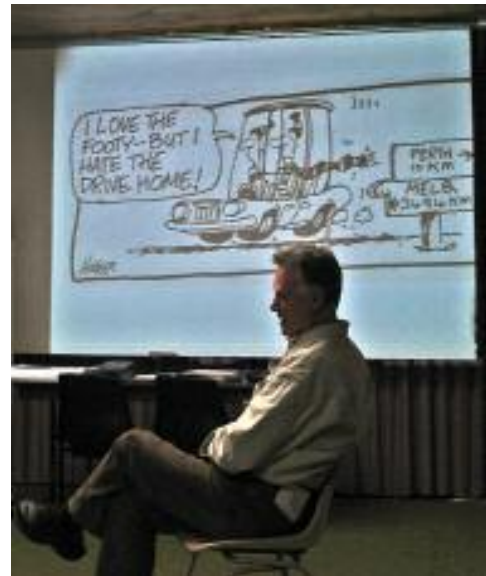
## GEORGE HADDON

SKHS members who were fortunate enough to attend the July 12 meeting were very privileged to have the talented social and political cartoonist, George Haddon come and talk with us. Not only did he tell us about his illustrious career and show us several examples from his portfolio, he even gave us a hands-on demonstration of his drawing techniques and explained his work methods.

Formerly an editorial cartoonist with The Herald, he is a four-time Walkley Award-winning cartoonist and, as well as being voted 'Cartoonist of the Year' he won the Gold Stanley award in 2004.

Haddon, who is based in South Melbourne, is now working as a freelance cartoonist, illustrator and watercolorist. His artworks are featured in many publications including the RACV Royal Auto magazine. More recently, he was involved in a one-off exhibition, held in the Block Arcade, by some of our best-known cartoonists to raise funds for the bushfire-stricken primary school children of Strathewen.

For the benefit of members unable to attend on July 12, SKHS purchased an autographed copy of his book, "George Haddon's Victoria Sketchbook", published by Royal Auto, 2006. In it he "captures the essence of contemporary Victoria and its citizens" and contains three delightful pages that reflect his impressions of Albert Park, South Melbourne and St Kilda.



## SKHS' SKATING LADY

Back in the days when St Moritz was the ice-skating Mecca of Melbourne, you would have found Joan Charlton (right) gliding on the ice alongside the likes of Wendy Lee Saranova, daughter of talented ballerina Madame Lucie Saranova and flamboyant band leader, Harry Jacobs.

Joan remembers saving up to buy her own pair of brown leather skates but neither she nor her girlfriends needed thermals or polar fleeces to perfect their chassés in St Moritz. However she wouldn't divulge whether she ever went off to the National (Victory) or the Astor afterwards.



Come rain or shine, Joan, who is our SKHS hospitality officer, graciously and unobtrusively serves real tea to all-comers after our Sunday afternoon talks.

Joan provides this valuable service for SKHS on a voluntary basis each month and has done so for several years.

Everyone says that the warmth and strength of her beverages are but a pale reflection of her personal dedication and thoughtfulness.

And, her tea is more than a match for those machines that dispense a variety of beverages ostensibly labelled "tea". (FB)

# Making History

RHSV HISTORY WEEK OCT 25 – 1 NOV 2009

Do contact SKHS if you have :-

- ♦ a great idea for History Week 2009
- ♦ images of social or architectural importance
- ♦ objects or items of community interest
- ♦ a story to tell

Email: [info@skhs.org.au](mailto:info@skhs.org.au); phone 95371967;

Mail: PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183

## ONLINE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

Downloaded from RHSV "History News" No 282 July-Aug 2009 (p1)

RHSV are advising members of the availability of the online archive of historic government gazettes providing access to over 160 years of official information published in and about Victoria.

It contains images of every relevant page in the *Victoria Government Gazette* produced since 1836, as well as searchable indexes for each publication.

Here can be found information about land transactions, court notices, government appointments, bankruptcies, proclamation of acts, deregistration of medical practitioners, statistics, tenders, unclaimed letters and monies, reward notices, etc.

The archive is at: [http:// gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/](http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/).

The RHSV also holds a full run of government gazettes from 1847 to 1912 for those who wish to research using the original printed resource.

## Friends of St Kilda Cemetery

[Membership \$15pa]

AGM 2.30pm Sunday Aug 30

Community Room

St Kilda Library

Guest Speaker

### MADELEINE SAY

Picture Librarian SLV

The life & photographic  
contribution of

### JOHN HUNTER KERR

c1821-1874

Buried at St Kilda Cemetery

## RHSV MELBOURNE DAY LECTURE

Monday 31 August

### Reconstructing the natural history of Melbourne

**Speaker:** Dr Gary Presland

**Where:** RHSV

**Tea/ Coffee** 12.30

**Lecture** 1.00pm

**Cost:** Free to Members & those with reciprocal rights

Non-Members \$5.50

Dr Presland will explain how he went about reconstructing the physical environments encountered by white settlers from 1835 onwards for his recent book and demonstrate how Melbourne was shaped by its natural setting.

## SKHS MEMBERS

receive

# reciprocal

membership rights to the

ROYAL HISTORICAL

SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

(RHSV)

Established 1909

239 A'BECKETT STREET

MELBOURNE 3000

Phone: 9326 9288

Fax: 9326 9477

Web:

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

Email:

[office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au)


Office Hours:

Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm

Library Hrs:

Mon to Fri 10am to 4pm

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

	<h1>St Kilda Historical Society</h1> <h2>Events 2009</h2>	<p>2009-2010 subscription \$18</p>
<p>Members' general meeting 2.30 pm. Speakers 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. No RSVP – just turn up! Members free. Non-members, a donation. Includes afternoon tea/coffee approx 4.00pm. Inquiries and Membership: Email <a href="mailto:info@skhs.org.au">info@skhs.org.au</a>; or phone 9537 1967</p>	
<p>9 AUG</p>	<p><b>THE SOUL OF ST KILDA: MEMORIES OF ST KILDA TOWN HALL</b> Mayor Frank O'Connor will launch the DVD of this great civic building at the heart of the Port Phillip community as told thru through the eyes and voices of local participants. Meyer Eidelson recently completed the DVD which was funded by a Port Phillip City cultural development grant (auspiced by SKHS).</p>	
<p>13 SEPT 2.30pm AGM 3pm approx TOUR</p>	<p><b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008-2009 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE 2009-2010</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>ARCHIVE TOUR</b></span> Attend the AGM starting at 2.30pm followed at approx 3pm by a tour of our archives located in the library basement [and a naming ceremony for the skating lady may be held]</p>	
<p>11 OCT</p>	<p><b>RAGS AND RICHES</b> 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—immigrants, factories, showrooms, funky fashion, fabulous frocks and characters of the glitzy rag trade.</p>	
<p>8 NOV</p>	<p><b>EDUCATING ST KILDA</b> Historian John Batt tells the story of James Bonwick (1817—1906) an intellectual giant who founded and ran two schools in St Kilda.</p>	
<p>13 DEC</p>	<p><b>END-YEAR EVENT : MEMBERS GET-TOGETHER</b> The Society celebrates the achievements of 2009 with food and frivolity. All members invited to attend. Refreshments provided.</p>	

## RUBY CONCEPTS WITH A DASH OF HERITAGE

As 2010 is SKHS's fortieth anniversary, members are urged to send us ruby concepts or other that you would like the 2009-2010 committee to consider at their planning meeting for the coming year — perhaps a souvenir calendar; an album/dvd with images of "St Kilda 2010", or ???.

SKHS is also looking for members with a bit of spare time, enthusiasm and/or technical skills to help with one-off projects.

Anyone out there willing to get involved we'd love to hear from you. Call Dorothy on 9537 1967.

Project  
2010