



Patron
Sir Zelman Cowan

St Kilda Historical Society PO Box 177 Balaclava 3183

St Kilda Times

SKHS Quarterly Newsletter Issue No 203

Sept – Nov 2010

info@skhs.org.au

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

paint these gardens
st kilda botanical gardens art competition
9-10 October 2010

1st prize \$1000 (Vineyard Restaurant)
2nd prize \$500 (Glenlogie Shanty)
Peoples' choice \$500 (Chickering Shanty)
Child 1st prize \$150 (St Kilda Art Supplies)

Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens VINEYARD.
hackingstuart
curran
Quill

foskbg.org.au
0409 257 578
FLYER INSIDE

Robert Taylor* takes SKHS on a tour of
THE NATIONAL THEATRE
Cnr Carlisle & Barkly Streets, St Kilda

SUNDAY OCTOBER 3
Limited Numbers Reservations Only

Email info@skhs.org.au Phone or message 9537 1967
[meet time when you book]

Members free. Non-members \$5 or join SKHS on the day
a rare opportunity to visit this major theatrical, cultural and Beaux Arts St Kilda landmark
CEO National Theatre and SKHS Life Member



Image: www.nationaltheatre.org.au

SUNDAY SEPT 12
AGM 2009-2010
&
ANNUAL ELECTIONS
2010-2011

3pm Community Room,
off the foyer
St Kilda Library

bring a plate
light refreshments
provided

new members
most welcome

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

if you can contribute in the way of enthusiasm and ideas
or have administrative or computer skills and willing to devote
a little time towards conserving St Kilda's history and heritage

please nominate for a position
on the SKHS committee 2011-2012

TIME COMMITMENT
—one planning meeting per month—
[FIRST TUESDAYS 6-8PM]

nomination form included in previous newsletter (No. 202)
or ring SKHS secretary 9537 1967

SKHS BUSINESS

Inquiries & Appointments

info@skhs.org.au

Secretary: 9537 1967

Email: info@skhs.org.au

Mail: PO Box 177, 3183

Office: St Kilda Library, by appt.

150 Carlisle St,

Balaclava 3183

Heritage Advice:

heritage@skhs.org.au

Phone: 03 9525 3696

PO Box 1154, St Kilda South,

Vic. 3182

Newsletter: *St Kilda Times*

info@skhs.org.au

www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

click 'news'

Publications: www.skhs.org.au

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

COMMITTEE of MANAGEMENT

2009—2010

President: Peter Johnson

Vice President: John Hulskamp

Secretary: Dorothy Lobert

Treasurer: Vacant

OPERATIONS

Administration

Dorothy Lobert

Archives

Kitty Barclay

John Kissane

Dorothy Lobert

Maureen Walker

Foyer Displays

Carol Stals

Heritage Queries

Peter Johnson

Hospitality & Welfare

Joan Charlton

Library

Dorothy Lobert

Membership

Dorothy Lobert

Newsletter: *St Kilda Times*

Frances Bader

Webmaster:

John Hulskamp

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6–8pm 1st Tues each month

SKHS Office, St Kilda Library.

Financial Members very

welcome. To raise an issue or

make a suggestion, please

notify the Secretary 24 hrs in

advance so it can be included

on the agenda.

NEWSLETTERS

St Kilda Times is published each quar-

ter, 1st wk Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec.

As well as news and updates, *St Kilda*

Times welcomes emailed items

relating to present and past

aspects of St Kilda for

possible future publication — not

more than 1 x A4 page, 12pt

font Microsoft Word.

Please email to: info@skhs.org.au

(attn. Editor). Deadlines: for news

and updates email two weeks

prior.

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

We are more than happy to welcome the following new members and we look forward to catching up with you at events during the year *and at the AGM.*

**John Dyett, Wilma Farrow, David Fernandes, Prue Griffiths,
Donna McCormick, Meg Selman, Gina Zouglakis**

SKHS MEMBERS' PUBLIC EVENTS

SKHS Committee is very grateful to George Florence proprietor of *The Astor Theatre*; Anna Griffiths *Unchain St Kilda* Group, and Simon Smith author of *Maverick Litigants* for their recent generosity towards our society as well as all the previous speakers including those listed on back page. (Also see Insert.)

SKHS URBAN ART DISPLAY

SKHS thanks our Exhibitions Officer, Carol Stals, for her recent display highlighting the location of Port Phillip City's Urban artworks — mounted in the Foyer Showcase St Kilda Library. These urban artworks, which enrich our local environs, are the murals, sculptures, inlays or installations we come across on street corners, parks & playgrounds, community facilities and other public places.

URBAN ART WALKS

City of Port Phillip website (Heritage & Culture) provides self-guided Urban Art Guides and Maps for each neighbourhood in our municipality. Member(s) interested in organising a group URBAN ART WALK in your neighbourhood, do let us know. Email: info@skhs.org.au or phone 9537 1967

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP WALK & TALK PROGRAM

SKHS Collections Room featured [twice] in the recent CoPP "Open House" Walk and Talk Program organised by the municipality, along with the Esplanade Vaults; Catani Clock Tower; Melbourne Camera Club; Sth. Melb. Town Hall, and Garden City residences.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS to SKHS COLLECTION

SKHS thanks the following for their contributions to the SKHS Collection:-

Dr Elizabeth Douglas

Fran Bader

book, *Creasy's Decisive Battles*, Sir Edwin Creasy

laminated A3 photocopy, chart of first St Kilda

land sales, December 1842

The Show Goes On

SKHS Committee reminds members that all three volumes of the *History of St Kilda* are now on our website and may be viewed free of charge on www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk click "online publications". Publication was made possible with support from SKHS members, the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund, the Public Records Office (PROV), Port Phillip City, and John Hulskamp & Assocs.

SKHS TALKS/PAPERS/PERFORMANCES

SKHS Committee wants to hear from any member or members who:-

1. are interested in researching or co-researching topics of LOCAL interest with a view to presenting your findings as a paper or performance at future SKHS members' meetings.
2. have an already researched subject — relevant to St Kilda or City of Port Phillip — that you would kindly share with SKHS at one of our members' meetings.

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

STREETS OF ST KILDA SERIES

St Kilda Times begins an occasional [time and space permitting] series of articles on the origins, backgrounds or meanings of selected street-names in Balaclava, Elwood, St Kilda (NSEW), Ripponlea and part of Windsor. Turn to page 4 to read what we have found out about Carlisle Street ... so far. More info and suggestions welcome.

***St Kilda Times* encourages members to research your own particular street-name for future inclusion in the series, with author accreditation of course, or co-research with family or other SKHS members — email only: not more than one x A4 page.**

CORRECTION [editor muddle]

St Kilda Times, Issue No 202, Jun–2010:- Samuel Jackson was the architect who designed "Wattle House" **NOT** Robert Russell as noted on Page 6, hardcopy.

St Kilda Historical Society
formerly
Historical Society of St Kilda

PO Box 177 Balaclava 3183

Office: St Kilda Library Hrs: by appt

Ph: 9537 1967 (Secretary) Email: info@skhs.org.au

SKHS LOGO

The logo of the St Kilda Historical Society is based on the municipal crest of the former City of St Kilda proclaimed in 1857. Benjamin Cowderoy, chairman of the first St Kilda council is credited with its design.

When the City of St Kilda amalgamated into the City of Port Phillip, in 1994, the crest was decommissioned, removed from City Hall and donated to SKHS.

Subsequently, SKHS had the crest professionally restored with support from the City of Port Phillip and since 2008, it is on public display in St Kilda Library (study area).

INTERPRETATION

When we look at the motto, figures, forms, symbols and botanical emblems on the crest we can interpret or infer some of the history, heritage and culture as well as the aspirations and achievements of early settlers in the area.

England is symbolised by the rose, Scotland, the thistle, Ireland, the clover, but there is no emblem for Wales. The unicorn also represents Scotland, enchained with the crown of England.

The mottos on the coat of arms and shield, HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE, evil to him who evil thinks, and DIEU ET MON DROIT, God and my right, recalls our historic and military connections with France.

The dominant female figure is most likely the mythical Greek goddess Aphrodite whom the Romans knew as Venus. As she approaches St Kilda Hill she is positioned above the municipal motto AURA FAVENTE FEROR literally translating from Latin as "I am borne [ferried or carried] by favourable breezes".

New settlers like Cowderoy were probably referencing the original myth which tells us Aphrodite was birthed in the ocean and borne by the zephyrs (breezes) over to the Aegean shore [read St Kilda] where she was nurtured by the four seasons.

Over the years, the municipal crest underwent various changes and additions. An as yet unidentified coiffeur changed the color of Aphrodite's hair to blonde in the 1950s/60s and it was some time before she was restored to brunette.

Main Sources: Bader, F., Naming St Kilda, SKHS 2007.

Cooper, J.B., History of St Kilda, Vol.1, 1931.

1970 — 2010
established 1970
40th ANNIVERSARY SKHS



Logo St Kilda Historical Society

SEPT OCT NOV

AGM 2009-2010; Annual Elections 2010-2011

3pm Sunday Sept 12

Community Room, St Kilda Library Foyer
Members from 2.45pm to help set-up
New members welcome.

Bring a plate to share. Light refreshments provided.

Guided Tour:- The National Theatre

Sunday 3 Oct [Daylight Saving]

Numbers limited. Reservations only.
Ph 95371967 Email info@skhs.org.au
Meet-time when booking

Michael Lawriwsky:

Return of the Gallipoli Legend, Jacka VC

3pm Sunday 14 November

Community Room, St Kilda Library
Members from 2.45pm to help set-up

Mon-Sun
Calendar
Sept-Nov

September 2010						
Mo	Tu	We	T	Fri	Sa	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2010						
Mon	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2010						
Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sat	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

STREETS OF ST KILDA

compiled by Frances Bader

SKHS MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO EMAIL ARTICLES, ITEMS OR SNIPPETS OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE ORIGIN, DERIVATION OR BACKGROUND OF YOUR OWN STREETNAME FOR FUTURE PUBLICATION/INCLUSION IN *ST KILDA TIMES*. Email to info@skhs.org.au (not more than one A4 p, 12pt, Times New Roman)

“On April 2, 1857 the Public Works Committee was authorised, in conjunction with the Government Surveyor, to supply names for the various streets in the municipality¹ [St Kilda].

“Care was to be taken to retain, as far as possible, the generally received names that the street had already assigned to them.

“Street names may be broadly sorted into five groups and they, in some instances, indicate the approximate date of birth of the municipality...”(Cooper J.B., p94)

Cooper indicated the following groupings -

- (1) Governors (2) Wars (3) Poets
- (4) Marine (5) Personal Names

A quick look at the Melways tells us that several colonial governors of NSW [*eastern half of Australia, not the rugby-playing colony of NSW*] and governors of VICTORIA (excised 1851) are remembered by street names in St Kilda, e.g. Hotham, Fitzroy, Robe, Grey and Barkly, others?.

What is currently not known is whether any of them except perhaps Gov. Barkly, ever set foot in St Kilda during their suzerainty. Does any member out there have further information?

NON-RECOGNITION?

For some inexplicable reason, Charles La Trobe (1801–1875) the cultured Superintendent² of the Port Phillip District from 1839–1850 and later Lieutenant Governor of Victoria³, 1851–1854, is not publicly acknowledged in the St Kilda area — so far as is known.

Charles La Trobe is credited with officially conferring the name of St Kilda on our suburb as well as the names of Point Ormond and Elwood.

Nor is there any recognition of Cr Joshua Mooney⁴ who moved the amendment that names of British authors be given to the streets, instead of British or colonial statesmen. (ctd. next col.)

1. Municipality of St Kilda excised from City of Melbourne on 7 March 1857.
2. La Trobe was a civilian, not a career army/naval officer.
3. Port Phillip District renamed VICTORIA in 1851 after its excision from NSW.
4. The Mooney family were licensees of the Royal Hotel (demolished) and later, the Princes Bridge Hotel (Y & J's).

Main Resources:

SKHS Online www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk click publications:
Cooper, John Butler, *The History of St Kilda 1840–1930*, Vols 1 & 11 (Ch V1), SKHS online publications by J Hulskamp & Assocs.
Wikipedia

CARLISLE STREET

St Kilda Times selects Carlisle St as the first subject for our *Streets of St Kilda* series.

Part of Beach and Balaclava Roads were assigned the name “Carlisle” Street some time after the Public Works Committee submitted their No 11 report to council on July 29, 1857 (refer col.1, para.1)

It seems Carlisle St was called “Balaclava Rd” until St Kilda council voted to adopt the above Public Works report in October the same year.

Cr Joshua Mooney then moved an amendment “That names of British authors be given to the streets.” Cr Spicer seconded the amendment.

Cr Marshall moved a further amendment “That names of British or Colonial Statesmen be given to the streets.” Chairman, Cr Cowderoy seconded the motion.

After some “lively discussion” the second amendment was lost and Cr Mooney’s amendment carried.

THOMAS CARLYLE (1795–1881)

According to official council historian, John Butler Cooper, Carlisle¹ Street was supposed to be “Carlyle” but an error was made in spelling the “dour Chelsea sage’s name”(p97).

So who was Carlyle? Wikipedia tells us that Thomas Carlyle was a Scotland born teacher, satirical writer, essayist, historian, translator, misanthrope and controversial² social commentator who labelled economics ‘the dismal science’.

Carlyle became known as the “Sage of Chelsea” after his relocation, in 1834, to No 5 (now 24) Cheyne Row, Chelsea, London where he joined a local literary circle that included eminent essayists and writers.

Among them, John Stuart Mill³, Hunt, Dickens, Tennyson, Darwin, Ruskin and others —

some of whose names, thanks to St Kilda councillors Mooney & Spicer, are remembered today in the streets of St Kilda and Elwood.

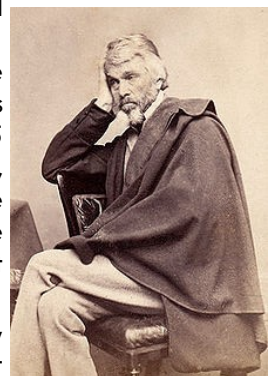


image: wikipedia

- 1: **Carlisle** is also a city in the Lake District of Cumbria dominated by a spectacular castle begun c.1093 by William 11 (son of the Norman Conqueror of England) over Roman and Celtic fortresses (*caer; cahir*) to prevent the Scots from reclaiming their lost territories. It was completed c.1122 by Henry 1 Beauclerc (Wm’s 4th son and father of the Empress Mathilda) .
- 2: **Thomas Carlyle** is reported as defending people enslavement on the grounds of “genetic inferiority” and claiming that development in the West Indies was due to British ingenuity alone, plus he dismissed the notion that there was any indebtedness to imported slaves from other dominions or regions.
- 3: **J. S. Mill:** *England and Ireland, 1868*
The Subjection of Women, 1869

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY SERVICES

Main Source: CoPP Local History Website

CoPP Local History Librarian is looking for volunteers to help with indexing past issues of local newspapers. Training provided. Phone 9209 6713 and ask for Port Phillip Library Service

CITY OF PORT PHILLIP PUBLIC LIBRARIES

offers the services of a professional local history librarian who can assist us with local and family history research in the area, and provide access to specialist collections, as well as resources aimed at local history research.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

Collections of historical material at the City of Port Phillip include:

1. **City Archive** — council records
2. **City Heritage Collection** — heritage items, incl. photographs and artworks

1. **City Archive:** Many original documents and records dating from the 1850s to the present covering the former cities of St Kilda, Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, and the current City of Port Phillip have been catalogued by Council Records Management Unit and are available for access by researchers and the general public (by appt only).

2. **City Heritage Collection** includes photographs, maps, plans, objects and ephemera which date from 1855 onwards.

All items are specifically relevant to the history of the City of Port Phillip and Council related activities.

Historical records may be viewed in the Local History Search Rooms by appointment only. Contact details next column (opp).

The library provides a microfilm reader and microfiche reader/printer for public use by appointment only.

COPP LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES

Research resources available include:-

- Rate rolls (microfilm)
- Voters rolls
- Photographs
- Books
- Reports
- Local Newspapers
- Biography Index
- Pamphlets
- Pamphlets
- Maps

Family History (Genealogy)

- Victorian Postal Directories
- Victorian Cemetery Indexes
- Victorian Shipping Records

Microfiche

- Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

APPOINTMENTS

To make an appointment for access (incl. distance access) to the collections and other research enquiries regarding records held by the City of Port Phillip archive:-

Email: assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au or call ASSIST on (03) 9209 6777 or (03) 9209 6713 and ask for Port Phillip Local History Library Service.

ARTISTS for CLIMATE ACTION

a newly formed group based in Port Phillip



We are aiming to increase awareness of climate change issues in our community through **ART** action.

All creative people are invited to assist with our community events to achieve this.

We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm

EccoCentre, corner of Blessington and Herbert Sts St. Kilda

HISTORY WEEK VICTORIA 2010

SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER — SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER

[Coordinated by Royal Historical Society of Victoria.]

History Week 2010 will have something for everyone:- from exhibitions, walking tours and discussions to “history in the making” events across several locations.

To find out more, visit the Royal Historical Society of Victoria 239 A’Beckett Street, Melb
Website: www.historyvictoria.org.au. Give them a call (03) 9326 9288. Email: info@historyweek.org.au

Members with ideas as to how SKHS might participate in History Week 2010, let us know ... soon.

(SKHS opened up our Collections’ Room for History Week 2009)

FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY (FoSKc)

Notice of the 11th Annual General Meeting

of the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Incorporated

to be held on **Sunday 5th September 2010 at 2PM**

in the Community Room, St Kilda Library

150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda



PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

*Prahran Mechanics' Institute (PMI) always welcomes new members
Just call in to the library at 140 High St Prahran (opening hrs above)
or download a membership application from www.pmi.net.au*

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES

Main sources: PMI and Athenaeum websites; Wikipedia

Mechanics' Institutes (MI) are the forerunners of public libraries and adult education.

The movement began in 1799 when Dr George Birkbeck conducted a series of free lectures for the working men of Glasgow.

The term 'mechanic' indicated artisans and skilled tradesmen with the definition growing more specific during the Industrial Revolution when such workers became increasingly associated with manufacturing and mass production.

MIs spread rapidly throughout Britain and its dominions, including Ireland, Canada, South Africa, India, and Australia, as well as the United States of America.

Mechanics' Institutes began in Victoria (formerly Port Phillip District) with the formation of the Melbourne Athenaeum¹ in 1839, just four years after Melbourne was founded. Its original mission was defined as "the diffusion of literary, scientific and other useful knowledge amongst its members". This was to be achieved by maintaining a circulating library, reading room, art gallery and the establishment of classes and lectures.

Several municipalities² and nearly every town in Victoria once had a Mechanics' Institute. They served as focal points for their communities, offering libraries and reading rooms, opportunities for self education, and other attractions such as lectures, meeting rooms, museums, concerts and various games.

MI libraries were regularly patronised up until the 1950s but with the passage of time and the creation of enlarged educational, welfare,

(ctd next col.)

recreational and library facilities, Mechanics' Institutes gradually lost their pre-eminence.

Nevertheless there are still over 500 operating in Victoria as halls and homes for local organisations.

And, six Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria, including PMI, 140 High St, Prahran, founded 1854, continue to principally offer a lending library service.

GEORGE BIRKBECK

Mechanics Institutes were established in Glasgow and London by George Birkbeck (1776–1841) after he was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy at Anderson's College, University of Glasgow.

John Anderson, professor of physics at Glasgow, who died in 1796, left his estate to provide an education for the "unacademic classes".



Image: Wikipedia

His legacy enabled Birkbeck to provide free classes for working men and led to the establishment of MIs.

Birkbeck inspired some other academics with a social conscience to become MI committee members and dedicate themselves to improving the cultural, educational and social life of their local [read, disadvantaged] communities.

1. A short-lived St Kilda Athenaeum formally opened in January 1857 with *une Soiree et une Dansante* and Orion Horne giving a paper on "Popular Institutions".

2. The St Kilda Mechanics' institute inaugurated in Dec 1859. More info in *St Kilda Times*, Issue Nos 190 & 197, www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk, click "news".

<p>please note various times, dates & venues</p>	<p>Members free. Non-members \$5 (or join SKHS at events, by mail/online). Inquiries and Membership: email info@skhs.org.au; phone 9537 1967</p> <p>Membership includes author talks, presentations, visits, functions, as well as limited access to SKHS' 2 & 3 –D collections, heritage advice, and more.</p>
<p>3pm Sunday March 14 Community Room St Kilda Library</p>	<p>Sam Everingham — <i>The Wild Ride: Behind the Legend of Cobb & Co</i></p>
<p>6.30pm Thursday April 22 St Kilda Library</p>	<p>Maureen Walker — <i>The Homefront St Kilda, WWI</i></p>
<p>2pm Saturday May 22 The Astor Theatre Chapel Street, St Kilda</p>	<p>George Florence — <i>Guided Tour of The Astor Theatre</i></p>
<p>6.30pm Thursday June 15 St Kilda Library</p>	<p>Robin Grow — <i>Art Deco in St Kilda</i></p>
<p>6.30pm Thursday July 15 St Kilda Library</p>	<p>Anna Griffiths — <i>St Kilda Triangle Campaign</i></p>
<p>3pm Sunday August 8 Community Room St Kilda Library</p>	<p>Simon Smith — <i>The Governor General, the Entertainer and a tale of two vexatious litigants</i></p> <p><i>Maverick Litigants</i> available in good bookshops or you may purchase a copy from the author : phone Simon 9531 5278 E: naylorsmith@gmail.com</p>
<p>3pm Sunday September 12 Community Room St Kilda Library</p>	<p>SKHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009–2010</p> <p>SKHS ANNUAL ELECTIONS SKHS COMMITTEE 2010–2011</p> <p>Financial members are urged to nominate for a position on the 2010-2011 Committee [only one planning meeting per month]</p>
<p>Daylight Saving Alert Sunday October 3 Cnr Barkly & Carlisle Sts</p>	<p>Robert Taylor — <i>Guided Tour of The National Theatre</i></p> <p>Limited Numbers. Bookings only. (Meet-time when booking)</p> <p>Email info@skhs.org.au or phone secretary 9537 1967</p> <p><i>a rare opportunity to visit this major theatrical, cultural and architectural St Kilda landmark</i></p>
<p>3pm Sunday November 14 Community Room St Kilda Library</p>	<p>Michael Lawriwsky — <i>Return of the Gallipoli Legend; Jacka VC</i></p> <p>Continues <i>Hard Jacka</i>, the story of Albert Jacka, VC — soldier, legend and St Kilda councillor. Glimpses of how survival away from the trenches becomes an emotional battle on the Homefront.</p>