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Preserving the Past to Enrich the Future
St Kilda Historical Society (SKHS) Established 1970

St Kilda Times

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No 208

Dec 2011— Feb 2012

www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

click 'news'

email info@skhs.org.au

mobile/txt 0405 510 799

mail PO Box 177, 3183

message (03) 9209 6866

2012 SKHS DATES

March 17

April 15

May 15

July 8

Sept 9 (AGM)

Oct 16

Nov 13

SEE 2012 CALENDAR INSIDE

*times and speakers
to be advised
in next
St Kilda Times*

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SKHS is very grateful to
Port Phillip City Staff & Cnd
for their advice and valu-
able assistance during 2011



SOLAR NEW YEAR 2012


Solve your NYr gift dilemma and surprise your friends and relatives by giving them an SKHS membership for 2012-2013 — and they will receive a bonus six (6) months for remainder of 2011-2012.

Just contact us on www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk, click membership. Add your name and the recipient's details along with \$20 electronic transfer, or send cheque with all details to PO Box 177, Balaclava 3183.

We will mail or email your gift membership to the lucky recipient. 

GUIDED TOUR FLINDERS ST STATION


Do let your committee know asap if you are interested in a guided tour of Flinders Street Station [one flight of stairs], 11am, Saturday 17 March, 2012 (numbers limited). E: info@skhs.org.au; m0405 510 799; leave message 9209 6866.

We also want your suggestions for future tours. 

BOOK LAUNCH INVITATION

For the past two years Middle Park History Group (MPHG) have been collecting photographs of their suburb and recording oral histories — which might otherwise be lost to posterity. Now, their collection is about to be released in a new publication titled *The Heart of Middle Park* funded by Port Phillip City and local businesses.

All SKHS members are invited to the launch on Mon 5 Dec from 4.30pm at the Mary Kehoe Centre, 224 Danks Street, Middle Park where the book will be on sale for \$15.

RSVP: Telephone 9090 7964; middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com;
PO Box 5276, Middle Park VIC 3206. 

WALK & TALK FROM STH MELB TO SOUTHBANK

Join CoPP's free WALK & TALK PROGRAM SUN 5 DEC 10AM—MIDDAY
LEADER: KAY ROWAN BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

Meet: advised when booking (bookings close Friday immediately prior)

Email walking@portphillip.vic.gov.au OR ring (03) 9209 6522

CONTACTS

Office: St Kilda Library, by appt.
150 Carlisle St,
Balaclava 3183

Inquiries & Appointments
info@skhs.org.au

Secretary: 9209 6866
Email: info@skhs.org.au
Mail: PO Box 177, 3183

Heritage Advice:
heritage@skhs.org.au
Phone: 03 9525 3696
PO Box 1154, St Kilda Sth
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 #as from 2012
stkildahistory.org.au

COMMITTEE of MANAGEMENT 2010-2011

President Peter Johnson
V. President Vacant
Secretary Dorothy Lobert
Treasurer John Hulskamp

OPERATIONS

Administration

Dorothy Lobert

Collection

Kitty Barclay
John Kissane
Maureen Walker

Events Co-ordinators

Frances Bader
Dorothy Lobert

Foyer Displays

Kitty Barclay
Maureen Walker

Heritage Queries

Peter Johnson

Hospitality & Welfare

Joan Charlton

Membership

Dorothy Lobert

Newsletter: St Kilda Times

Frances Bader

St Kilda Cottages

Phillip Stewart

Webmaster:

John Hulskamp

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3-5pm 1st Mon every 2nd month
SKHS Office, St Kilda Library:-
Oct, Dec, Feb, April, Jun, Aug.

If you have an Agenda item, wish
to raise an issue or make a
suggestion, please notify the
Secretary 24 hrs in advance.

NEWSLETTER

St Kilda Times is published and
circulated in hardcopy as well
as email each quarter, 1st
week Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec.

Deadlines for any items and notices:-
Friday two weeks prior to
publication. [Microsoft Word
Tw Cen MT font, 12pt.]

HISTORY & HERITAGE

St Kilda Times welcomes articles
relating to present and past
aspects of St Kilda's heritage
(bldgs) and history (people).
Please email to:
info@skhs.org.au # mail to
PO Box 177 Balaclava 3182

SKHS BUSINESS AGM 11 Sept

2011—2012 COMMITTEE

At the 2010-2011 AGM, the following members were returned to SKHS Committee of Management for another term of office.

Peter Johnson	President; Heritage Officer
Vacancy	Vice President; Events Co-ordinator
Dorothy Lobert	Secretary; Librarian
John Hulskamp	Treasurer; Webmaster
Phillip Stewart	Ordinary Member; Historian <i>St Kilda Cottages</i>
Frances Bader	Ordinary Member; Editor <i>St Kilda Times</i>
Vacancy	Ord. Member
Vacancy	Ord. Member

ENRICH THE FUTURE

SKHS seeks a vice-president and two financial members to complement the 2011-2012 committee of management.

Members with enthusiasm and energy to put towards preserving St Kilda's past to enrich the future, please, please email info@skhs.org.au.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SKHS is currently trialling committee meetings from 3pm to 5pm on the first Monday of **every second** month: Oct, Dec, Feb, April, Jun, Aug.

Financial members are most welcome to attend. Any Agenda items, 48 hrs in advance to info@skhs.org.au, mobile 0405 510 799, message 9209 6866.

2011 HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

In acknowledgement of all the work CAROL STALS carried out for our society from 2005–2011, a committee proposal to grant her honorary life membership was enthusiastically endorsed by all members present at the AGM.

For each of those years, Carol initiated, researched and mounted three St Kilda-themed (incl. Balaclava, Elwood, Ripponlea) historical displays in the library foyer showcase, with occasional assistance from Dorothy Lobert, Peter Johnson and Maureen Walker.

Among Carol's themes:- Art Deco St Kilda; Architects of St Kilda; Literary St Kilda; Lost Schools of St Kilda; Nautical St Kilda; Old St Kilda; Memorials Plaques & Plinths; Sport & Recreation; St Kilda by the Sea; Elwood; Vida Goldstein; St Moritz; Pubs of St Kilda, and others.

Plus, she managed four SKHS' Creative Arts Awards — initiated by SKHS Committee as an outreach project to local primary schoolchildren (incorporating the Don Taggart Prize). Participating schools were: St Kilda Park; St Kilda Brighton Rd; Ripponlea Primary and St Columba's Elwood. In addition, Carol and former SKHS president Meyer Eidelson, assisted by Dorothy Lobert, helped Port Phillip City Children's Librarian mount exhibitions of the children's original artworks for the annual "Children's Week" in St Kilda Library, and SKHS member, Carmel Shute kindly provided promotion and publicity.

Furthermore Carol introduced some excellent speakers for our members' get-togethers and along with Frances Bader and Dorothy Lobert, she helped organise one-off SKHS heritage events such as:- St Kilda's Heritage Picnic; St Kilda's 150th Anniversary Quiz; St Kilda's 150th Anniversary Tour of St Kilda Cemetery in collaboration with Friends of St Kilda Cemetery (FoSKC); St Moritz Night; St Kilda Library's 35th birthday and *Fine Tunes* Book & CD Launch in conjunction with St Kilda Library.

SKHS is indeed grateful for all the time that Carol committed to our society from 2005-2011. We are missing her passion, her energy and depth of knowledge.

SKHS MATTERS

SKHS WEBSITE/BLOG

Your 2011-2012 committee proposes to front-end redesign our website so as to utilise today's social media technology; make our site more interactive, and give SKHS greater online presence and visibility.

SKHS HISTORY DISPLAY

SKHS' striking display from mid-Oct to mid-Nov, in the St Kilda Library foyer showcase, stopped several library-users in their tracks.

One viewer, Joan, sums it up in her 4 Nov email: "*I would like to congratulate the society on the excellent St. Kilda Library display of our local connections to the Crimean war and Peninsula.*

As I grew up in Nightingale Street I have always been aware of the historical background of many of the streets in our area, but your display really puts it all into perspective. Thank you!"

SKHS appreciates all the research and work that members Kitty Barclay and Maureen Walker, with assistance from Dorothy Lobert, put into spotlighting local streets named after people and events associated with the Crimean War, 1854–1856.

SKHS BANNER 2012

SKHS is grateful to the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) for selecting us the recipient of a new banner (850W x 2000H) to our design — as reported in Issue No 206, *St Kilda Times*.

Since then, Peter Johnson has come up with a layered design symbolizing our society and embodying St Kilda's history and heritage (see P8).

In the meantime, Dorothy Lobert has obtained permission from RHSV, the copyright holder, to reproduce the historic image on our banner, and has organised a graphic designer to work on a proposal to renew/upgrade our logo.

HISTORY WEEK St Kilda

During History Week VIC 2011, Sun 23 Oct to Sun 30 Oct, SKHS presented our very first panel display "Cinemas in St Kilda, Past & Present" in St Kilda Library. The subject was researched by Frances Bader, Dorothy Lobert and Maureen Walker.

If you would like to become involved in next year's History Week, please email info@skhs.org.au/call 0405 510 799.

SKHS is deeply grateful to St Kilda Library for facilitating the display.

HISTORY WEEK Victoria

History Week Victoria is an initiative of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) supported by the Vera Moore Foundation.

VIVA VOCE

Members can play a role in strengthening SKHS through word-of-mouth promotion and by encouraging everyone they know to join SKHS.

ANNUAL SKHS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our annual subscriptions have not increased for seven years (since 2005) and members at the 2010-2011 AGM voted to implement the following changes to our fees — taking effect as from 1 July 2012 — single membership from \$18 to \$20; joint membership from \$25 to \$30, with all other categories to remain unchanged.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our newest members
**Dallas Graham, Randal Kent,
Janice Lum, Warren Lum**

DONATION

Sincere thanks to member, Max Nicholson who very kindly donated the sum of \$32 to SKHS, part of which was used to purchase A3 archival quality folders and see-thru sleeves/pockets to accompany our panel displays.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Our newsletter is a key communication tool that promotes SKHS. As well as keeping members in touch with each other and up-to-date with society business and activities, it may also act as a forum.

For approx. seven years your editor, Frances Bader has been creating the newsletter in hardcopy format. Now, she reckons it's about time for a change and asks that another member or members consider taking over the responsibility for producing and publishing future *St Kilda Times* on a quarterly basis.

Anyone willing to become involved or wishing to learn, do let us know by emailing info@skhs.org.au.

INITIATIVE

Members are very welcome to take the initiative and suggest projects, speakers, presenters or performers for our events as well as letting the committee know of any future St Kilda-related activities, performances, functions, tours, discussion papers displays or other you may wish to organise. Please email info@skhs.org.au; Mobile 0405 510 799; Message: (03) 9029 6866 .

NOW & THEN

if you have an interest in urban photography inspired by the online ABC Open regional project *Then and Now* and/or the Flickr group *Looking into the Past* — do email info@skhs.org.au .

A member suggests SKHS might do something similar by revisiting St Kilda scenes & buildings as depicted in various artworks, vintage postcards, heritage photos, newspaper clippings, snapshots, etc, and take new images of the same spots and compare or pair-up the vintage with the current — juxtapose the **NOW** with the **THEN**.

MEMBERS' EVENT Sunday 13 November 2011

On Sunday 13 November, a rapt audience — which included members of the Cinema and Theatre History Society; Friends of The Astor; National Trust; Art Deco Society; Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens; Friends of



St Kilda Cemetery and Probus, as well as visitors — enjoyed our end-year event. *2011: A Screen Odyssey: The Astor's 75 years in St Kilda* was presented by George Florence, Proprietor of *The Astor Theatre* [and longtime SKHS member] along with assistant manager Tara Judah while *Marzipan*, the Astor cat stayed home to look after Nos 1-3 Chapel Street.

St Kilda Historical Society is very grateful to George and Tara for such an outstanding presentation. Their unique blend of humor and history, interspersed with fascinating front and behind-the-screen stories, delivered in such an engaging manner charmed everyone present. So much so that, during refreshments many of us made pre-2012 new yr resolutions to attend *The Astor* more often.

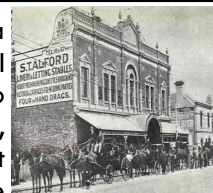
SKHS members interested in starting up an informal movie-going group for an occasional movie night/matinee at *The Astor*, please phone us or email info@skhs.org.au OR do yourself a favour and check out the Astor's calendar on www.astor-theatre.com. Remember *The Astor* kindly offers concession entry to individual SKHS members on production of membership receipt and Wednesdays are just \$10 entry (often a double feature).

Thanks also go to Dorothy, Fran, Joan, John, Maureen, Jan and Holger who helped make the afternoon such a success by setting up, serving refreshments and/or putting away afterwards.

Calling HISTORIANS/GENEALOGISTS

SKHS is very interested in hearing from members with insider knowledge of, or who are researching past and present aspects of St Kilda history and heritage or the genealogy/family history connected with St Kilda and surrounds. **Don't hesitate to email info@skhs.org.au.**

Samuel Tierney Alford* constructed a Livery Stables at No 3-9 Chapel Street, St Kilda in 1894, next to the Gippsland Hotel (on right, demolished by MMBW during St Kilda Junction Roadworks in the 1960s&70s). The stables occupied the entire site until either 1908 or 1912 (various historical reports) when Alford began redeveloping the upper section of the stables into a HARDTOP cinema which he would name the "Diamond Theatre".



Not that long afterwards, on 18 June 1914, *The Prahran Telegraph* reported that St Kilda Council received a complaint that "The Diamond ... blazed forth in electric lights on Sunday nights ... in a wanton and aggressive manner."

Alford changes the name to "The Rex" and operates successfully until the government levies an Entertainment Tax (1916) on the price of each admission. "The Rex" becomes "Alford's Motor Garage" c.1919 and some years later Alford is declared bankrupt.

The stables are sold around 1934 to Mr Frank O'Collins, director of Astor Theatres Pty Ltd. He commissioned architect, Ron Morton Taylor to design a new theatre and construction began in December 1935.

The Astor Theatre opened its doors with great fanfare on 3 April, 1936 showing 'Hands Across the Table' starring Fred MacMurray and Claudette Colbert. Richard Peterson in his book, 'A Place Of Sensuous Resort' [SKHS online] commented on its glittering debut: "One imagines the sky alive with sweeping kleiglits."

With the advent of TV in 1956, audiences begin falling off and the cinema is put up for sale. Tanda Investments Group P/L purchase it in 1964, and Stan Raft, who initiated showing Greek language movies in Melbourne, takes on management of *The Astor*.

Two decades later, demand declines further with the introduction of SBS and Home Videos which contribute to the cinema's closure in 1981.

Fortunately, Stan's nephew, George Florence takes up the reins and re-opens the cinema, 7 Sept 1982. And, since that time he has been transforming *The Astor* into the social, cultural and cinematic treasure we know and love today.

*S.T.Alford J.P., St Kilda Cr 1917-1928, Mayor, 1920.

SKHS OUT and ABOUT in ST KILDA

FRIENDS of the ASTOR

Some SKHS members were among those who marked the first anniversary of the establishment of the "Friends of the Astor Association" — at *The Astor Theatre*, Tues 22nd Nov 2011, in conjunction with their AGM.

Everyone present enjoyed seeing rare local Cinesound newsreels; Looney Tunes, and a c.1916 slapstick comedy starring Charles Chaplin as a *Fawlt* Towers type waiter and roller skater.

ST KILDA GARDENS 150TH

Friends of St Kilda Botanic Gardens (FoSKG) celebrated the 150th anniversary of the official opening of the Gardens on 16 Nov 2011.

FoSKG members were there in strength, including Kitty Barclay, Patricia Convery and Dorothy Lobert (who are also SKHS members).

Mayor Rachel Powning, Deputy Mayor Judith Klepner and Cr Serge Thomann represented Port Phillip City.

NATIONAL THEATRE

Cnr Barkly & Carlisle Sts
This year the National Theatre Ballet presents **Act 2** of the beautiful **Coppelia** and the fiery **Carmen**.

7.30pm 9 Dec 10 Dec
2.30pm 10 Dec 11 Dec

A Reserve

Adult \$35 Child >15, \$15

B Reserve All tickets \$15

Phone 9525 4611

or book online

SKHS HERITAGE WATCH

PLANNING APPLICATION: 12-14 GREY STREET

SKHS HERITAGE POLICY

Though much of the Elwood and St Kilda area is covered by Heritage Overlays, clearly, SKHS does not have the resources to object to every planning application that has a heritage component to it. Therefore it must be selective.

SKHS's current policy is as follows:-

- ◆ the place concerned must have considerable cultural significance — it must be on a local, state or national list created by a recognized agency, therefore SKHS will only put arguments based on heritage grounds. It will not argue based on neighbourhood character or amenity issues.

RESULT

The City of Phillip and other objectors, including SKHS, successfully opposed a redevelopment proposed for 12-14 Grey Street, of a nine storey (9), seventy three (73) roomed hotel as well as a liquor licence.

A copy of VCAT's decision/conclusion (dated 26 August 2011) may be viewed by appt in SKHS Office, St Kilda Library.

For details of SKHS' objection on heritage grounds, submitted by SKHS Heritage Officer, Peter Johnson, refer *St Kilda Times*, Issue No 205, March–May 2011, www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk, klik "news".

HERITAGE & HISTORY QUERIES

RESPONSE to G. CASE LESH QUERY

Thanks to Margaret who kindly sent us some internet links to add to our growing GC Lesh file (refer *St Kilda Times*, Issue 206). She came across them while researching her own great, great uncle, Whitaker Bradley, who was for a time in the employ for Mr Lesh during the 1860s. Should members have further info on GC Lesh or Whitaker Bradley, do let us know.

QUERY 1

... I am tracing my grandfather's history, his father owned *Ward's Barber Shop and Milk Bar* next door to the barber in High Street, St. Kilda. Do you have any photos of High Street in the early 1900?

HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPLY

... Yes, we do have some photographs of High Street (mainly copies of originals held elsewhere).

However, you will first need to establish the shop's address (by checking Sands McDougall Directories), and roughly where it was (e.g. from the directories or by checking the on-line MMBW plans, found by using the SLV online catalogue) before we can help you further...

QUERY 2

Paul emailed SKHS for information about the Alma Hotel now the Dick Whittington.

REPLY

... You will find some information on this hotel and others in St Kilda at: <http://www.skhs.org.au/SKHSshots/St%20Kilda.htm>.

Unfortunately the details we have on the Whittington are extremely brief. So if you find anything else we would be extremely grateful if you could share it with us.

The earliest tenders I have found so far for this hotel in *The Argus* newspaper are in 1860. The architect for the rebuild in July 1924 was Joseph Plottel (1883-1965).

QUERY 3

... I'm wondering whether the Historical Society has had any contact with the Ymer family, who I understand ran Eildon Mansion for 57 years while it was in its boarding house/backpackers era.

I'm trying to track down a family member who might be able to give a first hand account of the period...

HERITAGE OFFICER'S REPLY

No, sorry. SKHS have never had any contact with the Ymer family. The best I can do is to put you in touch with the Johnson family who owned the Oslo Guest House opposite from 1937 until 1955.

QUERY 4

Mark emailed SKHS to ask if someone might know the artist who drew the biker image (right) or recognize whose work it could be. He found the pencil drawing behind another image in an old frame in St Kilda.

[The bike registration up front appears to be 3389.]



ST KILDA BURGERS

A member draws our attention to an item in "Black & White (B&W) with Steve Perkin", *Herald Sun*, Oct 8 (p101), telling us Melbourne's first U.S. style burger restaurant was "Hamburger Bill's" in Adand St run by a Mr Bill Bailey in the early 1930s.

According to Bailey's nephew, Warwick: "He'd [Bill] been to America, seen the soda shops there and decided to try the concept here. The St Kilda shop was quite impressive, with soda fountains, black and white tiles and staff in uniforms. He also went on to open other Hamburger Bill's in Nth Melb, Carlton and, perhaps Fitzroy ... Bill made a lot of money, but sold up and started a clothing store in Swanston St and lost everything."

Should you have any photograph(s) of Hamburger Bill's that we could scan and return, or know the street number, please contact info@skhs.org.au or leave yr details on (03) 9209 6866.

STREETS OF ST KILDA & ELWOOD: Glenhuntly Rd

Occasional street name series compiled by Frances Bader. **Main Sources:** SKHS Files; Pearl Donald; Sisters of St Joseph; SLV. MacKillop Images used with kind permission of the Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph: www.marymackillopplace.org.au/museum/.../Mary'sParents

Glenhuntly Road owes its name to the barque, *SS Glen Huntly*. Captained by John Buchanan, it arrived in Port Phillip Bay, 17 April 1840, flying a yellow flag indicating there was fever on board.

Some of us may be interested to know that Flora Hannah MacDonald — future mother of the now Sainted Mary MacKillop — was among the 160 or so passengers¹.

The ship, said to be smaller than the *Polly Woodside*, was on its maiden voyage. Allegedly, its owners² had it specially built to take advantage of a then profitable worker relocation scheme³ to fill job vacancies in the Australian colonies. Colonies that were on the verge of an economic downturn exacerbated by withdrawal of credit by UK Banks to their Australian branches.

Flora Hannah MacDonald (right) was born in 1816 near Fort William, Inverness-shire in the Highlands of Scotland. Other MacDonalds listed as passengers on the *Glen Huntly* were: Flora's mother, Catherine⁴ MacDonald, nee Campbell; Donald, thought to be Flora's surviving brother, and Alexander, her other brother who contracted yellow fever and fell overboard, 10 April 1840.



- Names of the other passengers may be found in Olive Moore's (out of print) publication titled "Flying the Yellow Flag" 1990, and on various passenger websites.
- Captain Buchanan held a quarter share in the *Glen Huntly* along with Samuel Patterson and Alexander Smith, the fourth shareholder is not known to *St Kilda Times*. Smith's son, Robert Murray Smith would be elected to the Vic Legislative Assembly as the member for St Kilda.
- The "Bounty Scheme" was a worker relocation scheme to the Australian colonies defrayed by monies gained by the Colonial government from sales of "wastelands of the crown" augmented by debentures raised against future sales. "Bounty" was paid to immigration agents, shipowners and ship officers for each able-bodied, healthy person (worker) they landed safely in NSW (included the Port Phillip District). Fares or part thereof were advanced to Bounty passengers — on condition that after arrival they worked an agreed amount of time for their sponsors/employers to repay their passage.
- Olive Moore's book lists Catherine McDonald as "widow, engaged [sponsored] by a friend, Mr MacKillop" (p75).

YELLOW FEVER

When *SS Glen Huntly* dropped anchor, the Port Phillip medical officer found several emaciated passengers on board with others suffering from fever. And, that at least ten, including one of Flora MacDonald's two brothers, had died during the voyage out.

Superintendent Charles La Trobe, who had a horror of yellow fever since his own and his brother's experiences in the British West Indies, hurriedly established a quarantine station at the Little Red Bluff, as Pt Ormond was then known.

Cpt Buchanan was ordered to separate the healthy from the sick and land them on opposite sides of the bluff. Dr John Brown, the *Glen Huntly* surgeon was put in charge of the sick and medical officer, Dr Barry Cotter (Melb) in charge of the healthy while a guard of soldiers was sent to prevent any physical communication between the station and the township.

To La Trobe's credit and despite his very limited financial resources, he also arranged for fresh food and supplies to be brought in from outlying farms to the Little Red Bluff along what is now known as Glenhuntly Rd. [Surprisingly, there is no street named after La Trobe in St Kilda, not even a plaque — considering he officially named our suburb in 1842. FB]

ALEXANDER MACKILLOP

Within three months of arriving in Melbourne, Flora MacDonald married successful settler, Alexander MacKillop (right), a fellow Highlander with a house in Brunswick St and an outlying farm.

Unfortunately, Alexander became involved with the so-called Twelve Apostles¹ — a syndicate of prominent Melbourne investors who, in 1841, inexplicably agreed jointly and individually² to guarantee or indemnify the £10,000.00 debt that fellow speculator, Wm. Rucker had run up with the British owned Union Bank.

While bank manager Wm Hightt was overseas, he was replaced by TE Boyd who called in the loan which Rucker was unable to honor. Boyd then called on the other eleven who, at the time, were also unable to cover the debt. Some of them, like Wm Rucker and J Pascoe Fawcner, declared themselves insolvent.

To avoid the stigma of bankruptcy and settle with the bank, MacKillop sold up his home and farm, probably at a loss. And, while most of the other twelve managed to survive, he never recovered financially [and perhaps, psychologically].

- Other influential pioneers such as JB Were, JH Patterson and HN Carrington were among the "Twelve" as was A. Abrahams and TH Power. Settler Henry Dendy got caught up in the fallout as he had guaranteed a separate JB Were loan from the Union Bank which Were was unable to repay. In turn, this caused Dendy financial distress leading to his insolvency and forced sale of much of his Brighton Estate Special Survey (5120 acres bounded by North, Boundary and South Rds, Bentleigh to the Shoreline).
- $£10,000.00 \times 12 = £120,000.00$



SS Glen Huntly
Artist: Dacre Smyth
SKHS Collection
photographed by FBader 2011

TRAGEDY

Some four decades later, in 1886, Flora MacDonald MacKillop would take some of her handcrafted goods on the ship, *Ly ee Moon* to help raise funds for her daughter's welfare work in NSW.

En route, the ship hit a reef and broke in two near Green Cape Lighthouse, south of Eden, NSW. A total of 71* people, including Flora, perished in the raging sea.

* 21 out of 26 saloon passengers, all 19 steerage passengers, and 31 of the 41 crew.

MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES

CoPP DiVERCiTY (Issue 5 Jun/Jul 2011, p13) noted that MacKillop Family Services (Melb) are looking for caring people who can offer a stable home to children unable to live with their own families, and are willing to undergo training to become a foster carer.

If able to assist in any way, please contact Rachel on 9699 9177.

STREETS of ST KILDA

St Kilda Times welcomes articles about the origins of our local street and house names, as well as profiles/short biogs. of past and present local residents or other items of community interest.

Members are invited to email such articles to be considered for publication in *St Kilda Times* — up to one A4 size page.

Please email to: info@skhs.org.au

CENTENARY SNIPPETS: 1911

compiled by Frances Bader

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

The Royal Australian Navy marks its centenary this year. In Oct 1911, three months after George V is crowned King, he approves Australia's request to have the "Royal" prefix attached to the Cwlth Naval Forces (est. 1 Mar 1901), and permits them to fly the White Ensign.

To mark the Navy's centenary in 2011, the Navy League of



Victoria commissioned a re-casting of the life-size portrait bust of the "Father of the Navy", Vice Admiral, **Sir William Rooke Creswell**, 1852-1933 (left). The original had been erected on the St Kilda Foreshore near the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron (RMYS) in 1938, but went "AWOL" in the 1970s.

reproduced from
www.rmys.com.au

Gibraltar-born Creswell emigrated to Australia in 1878 after a distinguished career with the English Navy. From 1886 to 1913 he waged an unrelenting campaign to increase the size and deployment of Australia's naval forces. He also served during the Boxer Rebellion in 1901, and was knighted in 1911.

Creswell's original monument was commissioned by the Navy League of Aust assisted by the St Kilda Foreshore Committee, the Royal St Kilda Yacht Club and by public subscription*. Mayor Dawkins unveiled the bust on 1 May 1938 and gave it into the care of the Foreshore Committee represented by Cr Burnett Gray (*The Argus*, 2 May 1938).

Earlier this year, the Navy League discovered that a gold-painted clay bust on HMAS Creswell, home of the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay, was the actual mould used by artist Wallace(is) Anderson to cast the 1938 bronze. The original mould was used to re-create two new bronze replicas of the original, one at St Kilda Foreshore, the other for HMAS Creswell.

***The Navy League are hoping the public will again contribute to the cost of the new bronze. Address is: Navy League of Australia Victorian Division, PO Box 1303, Box Hill 3128.**

COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE 1911

On 6 Oct 1911, compulsory military training becomes mandatory for all young blokes aged 12 to 26 (until 1929). At the time, Australia appears to be the only English-speaking country with compulsory training during peacetime.

Alfred Deakin's Fusion government introduced the legislation in 1909, and under the succeeding Labor government, led by Queenslander, Andrew Fisher, by then residing in Oakleigh House, E. St Kilda, it passed into law in 1911.

Records show that approx 350,000 Australian boys under 17yrs were eligible to register up to the end of 1915, and according to various SKHS reports, around 3,000 men and boys from St Kilda signed up.

Boys living more than 5 miles/8km from the nearest training site could apply for exemption as could the medically unfit, theological students, and resident "aliens" or non-citizens.

Apparently, conscientious objection to compulsory military training on religious grounds did not apply to the 1911 legislation. And, unless able to satisfy the authorities that their principles did not allow them to bear arms, any such objectors, including the **fathers of minors**, faced fines and/or gaol.

In Australia between 1911-1915, opposition to boyhood conscription reportedly resulted in approx. 34,000 prosecutions and 7,000 detentions of trainees, parents, employers or other persons required to register.

Should members have information/details about any St Kilda or Elwood boys who registered for military training or those who declined or refused to register, do contact us.

ELWOOD LIFE SAVING CLUB (ELSC)

Elwood Life Saving Club, as well as St Kilda LSC (refer Issue 207) is established in 1911 by local volunteers at Pt Ormond with the foundation stone of their first clubhouse laid in 1918 and remodelled several times before being demolished c.1970.

City of Port Phillip Elwood Heritage Review tells us that Don Hendry Fulton designed the new Brutalist style Elwood Beach Pavilion built in 1971 on the site of the pre-war sea bathing pavilion, one of three structures built by the City of St Kilda in 1928.

... the [new] building served as a bathing pavilion and the premises of the local lifesaving club plus from 1976, State Disaster Headquarters for all marine emergencies on Port Phillip Bay. (www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/Elwood_Surf_LifesavingClub)

The building was renamed in honour of Jack Conabere — an Elwood Life Saver from 1932 and president of the club from 1952 to 1982. At the time he "sounded a warning that the government and general public could not take the services of Life Savers for granted any more" — mainly because of running costs and the decline of interest in voluntary community service (Longmire p285).

Before City of Port Phillip Council agree to lease the former Life Saving Club rooms to *Sails on the Bay* Restaurant in 2002, "a compromise situation was developed involving the relocation of the ELSC in 2004 into the original change pavilion."

(www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/default/o3456.pd)

HERBERT/HERMAN ALTMANN

Australia Post Stamp Bulletin tells us that in 1911, Herbert/Herman Altmann from St Kilda wins the competition for Australia's first postage stamp after Federation. A prize of £100 is awarded for his design of the recently crowned King George V in military uniform flanked by a kangaroo, emu, crown and six shields bearing the emblems of the states.

However, newly appointed Postmaster-General Frazer (Labor) rejects the design as 'execrable' and asks the Victorian Artists Society to nominate a new designer. Blamire Young is selected but reportedly falls out with Frazer over payment of professional fees. Another change in government leads to Young's design being altered.

Do let SKHS know if you have a copy of the First CWLTH stamp that we could scan, or have any more info on H. Altmann.

MORE

- ◆ In Oct 1911 results of the first CWLTH census reveals the population to be 4,455,000.
- ◆ St Kilda resident, Margaret Fisher (PM's wife) leads Australia's delegation to the 1911 suffrage demonstration in London. [Pic on right, includes Mgt Fisher; Emily McGowen (wife of NSW Premier); Lady Cockburn (wife of former SA Premier), Lady Stout (wife of former NZ PM. & Vida Goldstein.)
- ◆ Film-makers Johnson & Gibson open St Kilda's first hard-top cinema, *The St Kilda Theatre & Bioscope Film Studios* at 145 Fitzroy St, demolished late 1930s. [Johnson's father a pharmacist at St Kilda Junction, Gibson, his brother-in-law]
- ◆ Greater J.D. Williams Amusement Company acquires a lease from Council to build a new amusement park on the Dreamland site for a 10yr period at £400 per annum.
- ◆ Caulfield Grammar re-locates to Glen Eira Rd, East St Kilda.
- ◆ Free St Kilda and Balaclava Kindergarten opens.
- ◆ Cazaly signs up for St Kilda Football Club in 1911.
- ◆ Half a century earlier, St Kilda Botanical Gardens opened with a Fête Champêtre on 16 Nov 1861.



PROPOSED SKHS BANNER

Designed by Peter Johnson 2011

