



DRAFT

ST KILDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5 September 2021 at 3.00pm via ZOOM

Item 1 – Welcome

President and Chairperson, Helen Halliday, welcomed members to the 51st Annual General meeting of the St Kilda Historical Society.

Item 2 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Paul Smith, Sheila Harris, Steve Cappadona, Jennifer Bryce and Sarah Lowe.

List of Attendees is in APPENDIX 1, below.

Item 3 – Indigenous acknowledgement of country

Acknowledgement as follows –

St Kilda Historical Society respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the peoples of the Kulin Nation, and pays its respect to elders - past, present and emerging.

Item 4 – Housekeeping

Voting by show of hands.

No proxies. We were not able to offer members the ability to use a proxy, due to the meeting being held by Zoom, as explained in the notice of meeting.

Item 5 – Confirmation of minutes of the previous AGM.

The combined minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 27 September 2020 and 1 November 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Sally Moore

Seconded: Gail Hastings

Carried

Item 6 – President’s report

Despite restrictions imposed by Covid responses, the Society continued to deliver on its vision, set at a planning workshop in November, including building new audiences, working on its collections, completing and starting projects, strengthening its resources, as well as answering some 200 queries on various aspects of St Kilda’s history.

1. Membership

Membership had remained steady at around the 100 mark notwithstanding disruption and uncertainty created by Covid-19. The Society was able to hold two successful events – a talk by David Brand at the Army and Navy Club and a guided tour of the Mirka Mora exhibition at the Jewish Museum, led by Janine Burke.

Unfortunately, Liz Kelly’s walk based on fascinating research into murders around St Kilda – of which there seems to have been a fair few - had to be postponed to later in 2021, as did Janine’s walk around Mirka’s St Kilda.

The Society published three newsletters. The President thanked all contributors and recognised the commitment of editor Krystyna Kynst and designer Jocely Harvey.

2. Collection

Maureen Walker and Liz Kelly continued work on the Society’s collection to review relevance, provenance, and condition of items. The photographic collection, started by Peter Johnson, was uploaded to Victoria Collections, thus keeping this visual record safe for posterity. More work remains, however.

Two significant donations were gratefully accepted – a book about the restoration of 23 Loch Street, St Kilda from John Bennetts and Ann Ryan, and a collection of B&W images of 1970s St Kilda, from photographer Julie Millowick. Julie had initially sought the Society’s help to identify the locations in some of her images. Impressed by Liz Kelly’s excellent detective work, Julie formally granted the Society copyright to some 200 images.

Ensuring accessibility to the collection is one of the Society’s key aims. Liz Kelly brings collection items to life through research into their backstories, which are published in each newsletter issue. Maureen Walker, recognised as most knowledgeable on all things St Kilda, prepares and mounts three annual displays in the St Kilda library foyer. Unfortunately, the library was closed in July and October for 2020 scheduled displays. April 2021 went ahead.

3. Research Projects

3.1 Maps and Mansions Project – phase 1: The mansion image database started by Peter Johnson, and added to over the years, can now be googled on maps and searched by street, mansion name, or architect, on the Society's website, with links to stories of the people who lived there. The next stage will integrate the mansions database with all maps of the city, from Kearney and Vardy to MMBW, further helping with research into the area's history.

3.2 Borne on Favouring Breezes – fifty years of the St Kilda Historical Society 1970-2020: illuminating research by Maureen Walker on how a volunteer organisation works, was completed and printed. The plan to launch it, and give all attending members a copy, had to be postponed to later in the year.

3.3 St Kilda 1841–1900: Movers and Shakers and Money-makers: a project by Carmel McKenzie, which takes a new slant on 19th Century St Kilda. Carmel took the floor and spoke about how her research, initially inspired by St Kilda's built heritage, grew to focus heavily on the people and the demographics that influenced and shaped St Kilda's era – the power brokers, innovators and disrupters. The Society has offered financial support and is helping with a grant application to the City of Port Phillip to publish the work and engage community interest.

3.4 History of Music in St Kilda 1970s-1990s: Working under a grant from the City of Port Phillip, Sally Moore spoke of her plans to interview bands and artists about how living and working in St Kilda impacted them, and to turn these into podcasts for the Society's website, once face-to-face contacts are allowed.

4. Community

The President outlined how we work with the City of Port Phillip (CoPP) on major committees and participate in the wider community. Phillip Stewart is the Society's representative on the CoPP Cultural Heritage Reference Committee, and Maureen Walker is a member of the CoPP World War 2 Commemoration Committee. Maureen is also active on the Southern Metro History Network.

In addition, the Society is developing links with other St Kilda organisations. Due to the help provided in 2019/2020 by Anne Thompson and Maureen Walker on a historical brochure celebrating the St Kilda Army and Navy Club's 100 years, the Society receives special deals for meetings at the Club's rooms upstairs

This year, the Society was approached by the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron about streamlining its collection. In appreciation of our advice and depth of knowledge, we are now the Yacht Squadron's associate member, with access to their excellent function rooms for future events.

The Society also formed a successful relationship with the Jewish Museum through our participation in its Mirka Mora exhibition, and we are in conversation with the Pride Centre to see how we can work together in the future.

Item 7 – Treasurer's report

President presented the treasurer's report, thanking member and public accountant, Christine Perkal, for her advice and welcomed her offer to provide future assistance, especially at a time when the society lacks a skilled numbers person, following the resignation of treasurer Anne Thompson early in the year. The President commented that:

- The balance sheet shows an \$11,856.59 deficit for the year reflecting the Society's decision to use some of our accumulated savings on projects for the 2020 year.
- We also used some of this money to update our Constitution and all handbooks and other associated information and guidance to committee members and the community.
- Certificate re financial information is attached as a separate document.

Item 8 – Acceptance of Annual Report

There were no questions and the motion to accept the Annual Report, being the President's Report and the Treasurer's Report, was put to the meeting.

Moved: Liz Kelly

Seconded: Gail Hastings

Carried

Item 9 – Election of members to the Committee of Management

The chairperson reported the following nominations had been received for the committee

President: Helen Halliday

Vice President: Phillip Stewart

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Ordinary committee members: Liz Kelly, Janine Burke, Sally Moore, Lindy Smith, Carmel McKenzie

Adam Ferrier resigned due to other commitments, though he will continue to be active, assisting Sally Moore with the History of St Kilda music project.

Lindy Smith, who is interested in working to preserve the collection, was co-opted to fill his vacancy during the year and has nominated to continue on the committee.

Carmel McKenzie nominated to join the committee and is interested to work alongside Sally Moore to expand and improve Social Media messaging.

Sadly, we say goodbye to long-serving committee member and Secretary, Maureen Walker, who has resigned following many years with the Society. We are sorry to see her go. Her contribution to renewing the collection has been tremendous.

It was noted that the Society is missing a Treasurer and would welcome members with the right set of skills to apply to fill the vacancy, at any time during the year.

Given that the nominations received align with the committee positions, as stipulated in the constitution, the above nominees were confirmed as the committee for the 2020/2021 year.

Moved: Freya Myles

Seconded: Jennifer Bryce

Carried.

Item 10 – Life Membership Nominations

On behalf of the committee, Phillip Stewart recommended that honorary life membership be awarded to long-standing member, and 2021 OAM recipient, Brenda Richards.

Peter Johnson asked for details of her ‘distinguished service to the Association’ to qualify her for the nomination under rule 38 of the Society’s Constitution.

Phillip responded outlining her long-term support for the Society and its activities including numerous contributions to the Newsletter.

The motion was put to the meeting.

Mover: Carmel Shute

Seconder: Phillip Stewart

Carried

With the AGM formalities thereby ended at 4:14pm the meeting moved to consider General Business.

Item 11 - General Business

Gail Hastings asked whether the Society would consider compiling a history of climate action in St Kilda and recognise those involved.

Krystyna Kynst asked whether the Society would consider pursuing heritage listing of the Esplanade’s grassy slopes, given the recent reactivation of Council’s Triangle Masterplan may lead to their demise. David Fernandes spoke on the importance of heritage, saying that if the Society did not look at protecting areas of social and historical significance, they will be lost and only referenced as history. David Brand said the historical preservation of the foreshore is important and the society should be prepared to be involved in heritage listing, especially for the middle section of the Esplanade’s features, but also be prepared to allow for the possibility of re-imagining other sections. In response to Sarah Low’s question, on Chat, as to where members could find more information about the proposed Triangle development, Krystyna Kynst recommended searching for the Triangle Masterplan 2016 on the City of Port Phillip website, and offered to send a copy to Sarah directly.

Both proposals were taken on notice to be further discussed by the Committee.

Maureen Walker spoke emotionally about the recent death of Society life member, Joan Charlton, and noted her contribution to the Society, in particular as the ‘face’ for many events where her cups of tea and biscuits continued to be warmly received.

Item 12 - Meeting closed at 4:22pm

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF ATTENDEES

40 registered + Brendan Moore, Ken Norling, Jack Halliday, Christine Perkal.

Registrants	Registrants	Registrants
Sarah Low	Carmel McKenzie	Isaac Hermann
Carolyn Paulin	Alan West	Sally Cowden
david brand	Michael Perkal	Maureen Walker
Paul Smith	Elisabeth Newman	Carmel Shute
john Spierings	Dave & Prue Fernande s Griffiths	Jennifer Bryce
Margaret Pagone	Ulla Svensson	Gail Hastings
Freya Myles	claire barton	Robyn Foy
Ann Byrne	Aife Horsley	Liz Kelly
Helen Sykes	Christina Siciliano	Helen Halliday
Susanne Provis	Rhonda Small	Peter Johnson
Catriona Sinclair	Anne Thompson	Janine Burke
Lindy Smith	Judith Armstrong	Sally Moore
Desleigh Kent	Rob Hess	Krystyna Kynst