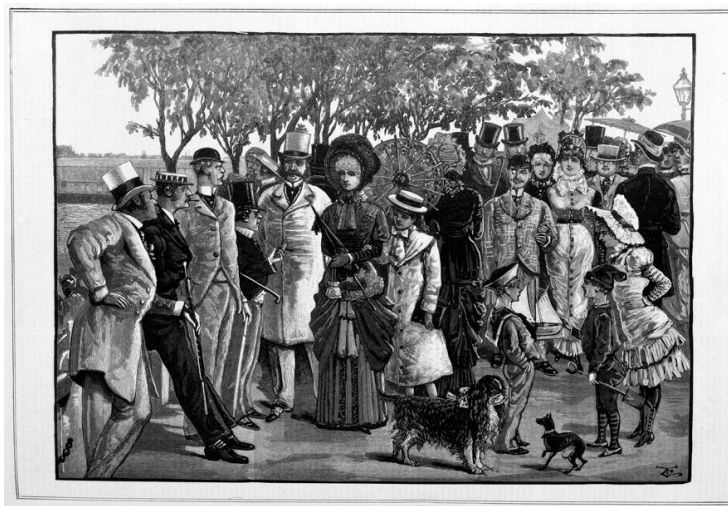


## 'The Posh and the Riff Raff'

*This is the story of how a beautiful seaside paradise, once home to the rich and powerful, became officially the worst suburb in Melbourne and a magnet for the homeless, the desperate and those without hope.*



At the end of the 1800s St Kilda was the wealthiest suburb in Melbourne. Yet, by the turn of the century, most of its fabulous mansions and elegant gardens were disappearing. As their gold boom fortunes dissipated in the 1890s Depression, the rich and powerful fled. They were also running away from being overrun by thousands of fun seeking Riff Raff, now able to easily access St Kilda's beaches on the new cable cars.

As they deserted St Kilda, the wealthy sub-divided their huge estates. Leaving their mansions to rot or be turned into boarding houses. By 1931, St Kilda had over 300 boarding houses, many overcrowded slums, with overflowing garbage and plagues of rats.



Then, taking advantage of lax regulations and new state laws, unscrupulous money grabbers arrived to build a plague of tiny tasteless flats, and what was once the most prestigious address in town became the destination of those with nowhere else to go.

But the transformation of St Kilda had an upside. The cheap rent, seaside vistas, and fun also became home to thousands of post-second world war migrants, musicians, writers, artists and film makers. St Kilda was now a city of diversity, inclusion, multiculturalism, and a

destination for visitors wanting to party, swim, dance, have fun at Luna Park and eat exotic food and cakes



There are still remnants of former glorious St Kilda, like Linden, Halcyon, and Eildon and rows of elegant terraces. Those looking for drugs, criminal spoils and prostitution have mostly moved on and the well- heeled are moving back in, but the locals are vigilant.

St Kilda's sorry history of being prey to those seeking to make their fortunes means they will now fight any plans for inappropriately high apartments blocks, monolithic shopping centres and playgrounds for the wealthy, determined to stop greed from once more ruining St Kilda.



This is the story of how self-interest and ignorance turned a beautiful city into a morass of poverty, slums, disease and destitution, but then became home to musicians, artists, writers and the site of a constant battle between the Posh and the Riff Raff.

This 54-minute documentary will feature freshly shot film of St Kilda as well as archival footage and photos. Interviews with historians, former councillors, residents, Gay archivists, protestors, boarding house dwellers, street workers, social workers, artists, musicians and writers.

The documentary will be pitched to ABCTV, SBSTV, the education market (Bloomsbury) as well as international distributors.