



ST. KILDA TIMES

St Kilda Historical Society Newsletter Issue No 215 Winter 2015 www.stkildahistory.org.au



INFAMOUS... SQUIZZY IN ELWOOD

John Theodore Leslie "Squizzy" Taylor, Melbourne's most notorious gangster of the 1920's, often frequented Elwood. In 1923 twelve police raided 443 Barkly Street, arresting him and an accomplice for the murder of a bank manager. Perce Lambell, who led the raid, was an Elwood resident who owned Belmac on the corner of Mitford Street and Broadway. On the 27th October, Taylor argued with rival gangster Snowy Cutmore in a sly grog shop that Squizzy was managing in Tennyson Street before pursuing him to a shoot-out in Carlton, where Taylor was fatally wounded. In 1997, renovations to a property now 60-66 Glenhuntly Road (corner of Spray Street) uncovered two underground rooms, one festooned with old bottles, behind a heavy concrete door. A blocked up tunnel was found leading from one of the rooms. According to local legend, Squizzy had hidden in the house in the 1920's, constructing an escape tunnel to the Elwood Canal. Newspapers under the floor coverings dated around 1921 fit with the fact that Taylor spent most of that year in hiding, evading an arrest warrant and taunting police with letters to the media.

What's On...

JUNE

Sunday 21 June @ 3pm – 14 Acland Street

An afternoon at Christ Church, with Dr Bronwyn Hughes, an acknowledged stained glass expert, who will speak about the stained glass in the church and Elisabeth Newman, a church member will talk about the church and its place in the community.

JULY

Thursday 16 July @ 6.30pm – 150 Carlisle Street

An interview with Sisters in Crime at the St Kilda Library. Carmel Shute will be speaking to Lucy Sussex about her book *Hume and the Mystery of the Hansom Cab*. Based on a Victorian blockbuster written by Fergus Hume that outsold the first Sherlock Holmes book worldwide. It's about a high society killing that ends in St Kilda.

Saturday 25th July at 10am

Lost Mansions of St Kilda – Linden, 26 Acland Street

Between 1850 and 1890 the sleepy seaside area of St Kilda was transformed into a suburb of grand mansions. Sadly most are now gone. Join Peter Johnson to re-discover some of the forgotten glories from this period.

AUGUST

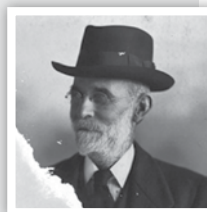
Sunday 9 August @ 2.30pm – 150 Carlisle Street

Annual General Meeting in the Community Room of the St Kilda Library. At 3pm, Stephen Rattle, an independent film historian, will speak about May Robson. Born in St Kilda, Robson went to Hollywood and starred in dozens of motion pictures and was the first performance artist to receive an Academy Award nomination.

Entry to all SKHS events is free to financial members and visitors are most welcome (\$5 donation to SKHS) or join SKHS at door \$20 per year. To book please email: info@stkildahistory.org.au

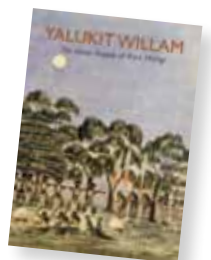
WHO ARE YOU?

Can you identify this gentleman? The society is continuing to grow the image database and sometimes we need your help to identify local landmarks and identities.



Wonderful FREE publication available at St Kilda Library

Yalukit Willam: The River People of Port Phillip, by local Historian, Meyer Eidelson, contains a suburb by suburb account of historical events sourced from early records and the point of view of descendants and contemporaries of the Yalukit Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung.



SKHS CONTACTS

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Phillip Stewart, Helen Halliday

Membership:

Dorothy Lobert

COMMITTEE of MANAGEMENT 2014-2015

President: Peter Johnson
Secretary: Dorothy Lobert
Treasurer: Janet Beeston
Ordinary Members:
Phillip Stewart
Helen Halliday
Vacancies (3)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are currently held 3-5pm on 1st Monday every 2nd month: Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec.

Meetings are held in SKHS Office, St Kilda Library. Financial members are most welcome to attend. However, any proposals or items for discussion you wish placed on the agenda please notify the secretary 48 hours in advance.



St Kilda Historical Society (SKHS) Established 1970
*PRESERVING THE PAST
TO ENRICH THE FUTURE*

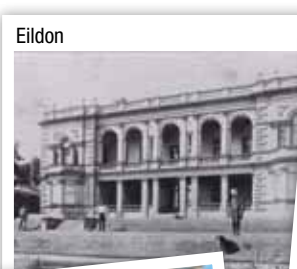
SKHS thanks Port Phillip City for its ongoing support and assistance



FOCUS ON... Grey Street

Grey Street was almost certainly named after Sir George Grey, who was Governor of South Australia from 1841 to 1845 and later Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1877 to 1879. Although, there are suggestions that it may have been named for another Sir George Grey, a British politician, but the fact other nearby streets are also named after colonial governors (Fitzroy Street after Charles FitzRoy, Governor of New South Wales, Barkly Street after Henry Barkly, Governor of Victoria, and Robe Street after Frederick Robe, Grey's successor as Governor of South Australia), makes the first Sir George Grey more likely.

Grey Street runs south-east between Fitzroy and Barkly streets. It lies within the original settlement area of the village of St Kilda, which was subdivided for land sales in 1842. As St Kilda grew into a wealthy and fashionable suburb during the second half of the 19th century, Grey Street became lined with the mansions of Melbourne's prosperous mercantile class, and the city houses of wealthy pastoralists, attracted to St Kilda's, coastal breezes, baths and holiday ambience. One of leading hotels of the era, the George, stands on the corner of Fitzroy and Grey streets. After decades of decline, it has recently been refurbished and its upper floors converted to apartments.



Eildon



Sacred Heart Church



The George Hotel



Coffee Palace

The best-known of Grey Street's great homes was Eildon, built in 1850 by Edward Green and originally called Barham House was added to by the wealthy pastoralist John Lang Currie in 1871. After many years as a guesthouse, Eildon was bought in 2006 by the Alliance française of Melbourne and has been restored. Next to Eildon is the house where Prime Minister of Australia Stanley Bruce was born in 1883. Another well-known landmark on the street in the 19th century was the St Kilda Coffee Palace, now a backpackers' hostel. The most prominent landmark on Grey Street is the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1884 by Archbishop James Goold.

SKHS Matters...

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society is due on 1 July 2015. If you wish to join and help support our work in recording St Kilda's history, please complete our membership form (<http://www.stkildahistory.org.au/index.php/support-us/membership-benefits.html>) \$20 per person or \$30 for a couple.

MEMBERS

Now it's time to remind you that the success of any organisation depends on its financial members promoting the society to their friends in the wider community and recruiting new members – as well as its pro-active members who give up their valuable time to assist with the day to day operations of the society and make constructive suggestions to help plan for the future. Do let your committee know if you can commit a few hours to help our society function (if not right now, perhaps in the foreseeable future).