



# ST KILDA TIMES

St Kilda Historical Society Newsletter

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Greyhound Hotel 1937-1938, Photo: Lyle Fowler, SLV Image H92.20/197

## The Greyhound Hotel is demolished

By Phillip Stewart

By now most of us will be aware of and lamenting the demolition of the Greyhound Hotel, on the corner of Carlisle Street and Brighton Road. Many were surprised to learn that this was a rare and very early St Kilda gold rush era building, of 1853. Behind the thin layer of the 1938 renovation, the building survived virtually intact. The original building could easily be read, the fenestration (window arrangement) and hip roof were unchanged.

The Greyhound Hotel is gone, but we must learn something from its destruction, and prevent such wanton acts from occurring in the future.

The National Trust Victoria has recently weighed in regarding the demolition of the Greyhound Hotel, arguing for "a review of heritage



Photo: Krystyna Kynst 2017

protection of socially significant places across the municipality", including "developing new guidelines" A Cultural Values Assessment was prepared for the City of Port Phillip (CoPP) by the

developer Context. It stated that there was "no Heritage control on the Hotel, no planning permit required for its demolition", and "a permit for

continued on page 2

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Dorothy Lobert

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Secretary: Dorothy Lobert  
Treasurer: Janet Beeston

### Ordinary Members:

Phillip Stewart  
Peter Tapp  
Ken Norling  
Jennifer Stone

continued from page 1

demolition was issued by a private building surveyor 22/6/2016". The report also stated that there were "45 objections, and a petition with over 2000 signatories against the proposal". Council's City Development Department refused the application for demolition, even though "previous assessment of the Hotel concluded that the Hotel was not of local significance on the basis of its architectural merit". This report is available on the National Trust of Victoria website.

An informative talk was given by Bill Garner, supported by the SKHS, 18/6/17, on the history and demolition of Brooke's Jetty (see page 3). Though this structure and the Greyhound Hotel are dissimilar in many ways, their destruction had things in common. They were both much loved, historically significant "icons" of our municipality, heritage protection for both was weak or non-existent, their significance was only recognised when it was too late, and in both cases very little time was available for creating public debate or community campaigns to save them.

While other parts of the municipality have had recent Heritage Review upgrades, St Kilda has not been assessed since 1982, and that Review is both inadequate and in many cases inaccurate. The SKHS is currently recommending that CoPP urgently commission an update. A recent Heritage Review of Port Melbourne is though, highly detailed, accurate, and should give greater protection to buildings. However, the recent demolition of the Port Melbourne London Hotel, also dating from the 1850s, is a sad reminder that this alone is not sufficient.

The Greyhound Hotel should have warranted preservation on many grounds. The main being its early date of construction, and state of originality. It was also significant in its prominent position opposite the Town Hall, at the eastern gateway to St Kilda. Also important was its place as a rock music venue, and its popularity as a LGBTIQ hotel.

In the demolition of the Greyhound Hotel, we have lost a building of great significance, and our community will ever be the poorer for it. Could it be the reminder that we need to ensure that this will not happen again? ■



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

## Helen Halliday OAM

The Society congratulates our Vice President on becoming a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for Service to the community of Port Phillip.

Helen was the first woman councillor in the City of St Kilda from 1974 – 1981.

Executive member/convenor of Fishermans Bend Network since 2013.

Executive member of CAPP since 1996.

Founder member of Alliance of Sustainability since 2014.

Helen has been involved in many other groups and causes from which many residents of Port Phillip have benefited.

The award is richly deserved for a lifetime of service to our great city. ■





## Vale Pearl Donald

15/8/1927 – 5/5/2017

It is with great sadness that the Society remembers with love and respect our Life Member Daphne Pearl Donald who died on Friday 5 May 2017 in the Alfred Hospital. Pearl was born on 15 August 1927 and lived in Colac.

Pearl joined the Historical Society in 1989 and served on the committee for some years. She was a founder member of the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery and conducted many tours around the cemetery. She was also known for her commemorative role of the much loved, good natured “Granny”, whose shop on the Esplanade was a beloved institution, particularly popular with children visiting the beach in the 19th century.

On 20 May her niece held a get together at Pearl’s home, attended by many people who knew her through her activities with the Historical Society, St Kilda Cemetery and Probus.

Pearl will be greatly missed by us all and remembered with great affection. ■



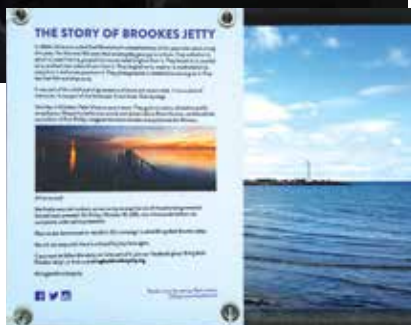
“Granny’s Shop” St Kilda foreshore c1865-70  
SLV Image H3617

Councillor David Brand  
(standing) introduces  
Bill Garner. Photo: Geoffrey Love



## How local history scripts activism

In June, Bill Garner (historian, playwright, actor) spoke to the Society about the special quality of local history. Using the demolition of Brookes Jetty as an example, Bill took us on a fascinating journey through how local history scripts activism. [Bill’s talk is available](#) on the Society’s website. ■



The Sign at Brookes Jetty. Photo: Krystyna Kynst

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome eight new members to the St Kilda Historical Society and hope we shall see them at our meetings.

Amy Cadusch

Kaye Blum

Carole Czermak

Rebecca Cushen

Brenda Forbath

Neil Brown

Jennifer Stone

Rohan Storey

We welcome back Rohan.

He was a member for many years and has now returned to St Kilda. Rohan is a keen historian and his Facebook has many interesting views of Melbourne.



# The Gatwick Hotel closes for a makeover



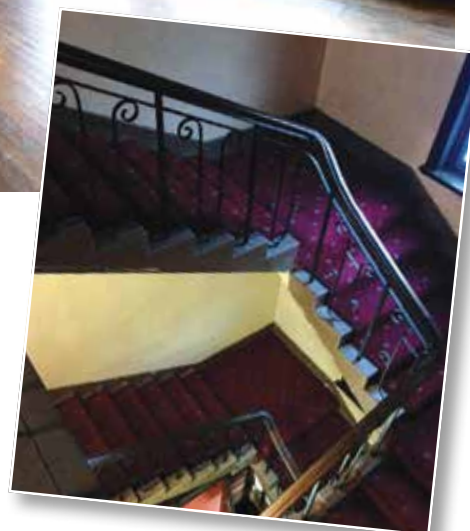
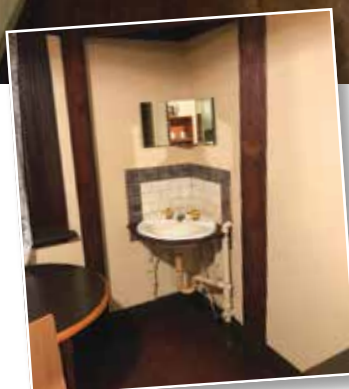
The newly-built Gatwick Hotel at 34 Fitzroy street opened its doors in October 1937. 80 years later the hotel closed for a reality TV show makeover (*The Block*).

In its latter years, the Gatwick provided affordable rooms to the city's most destitute. On 8 July 2017, exiting owners Yvette Kelly and Rose Banks, whose parents bought the hotel in 1977, paid tribute to past residents with a photo exhibition and open house. It was a fine farewell to one of St Kilda's longest, continuously operating purpose-built hotels, and a rare opportunity to browse its art deco interior. ■

*The Age* reported the public's last visit:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/public-get-final-glimpse-inside-st-kilda-institution-as-gatwick-hotel-shuts-20170708-gx7c0h.html>

Photos: Krystyna Kynst/Peter Johnson/  
Jacqueline Walker

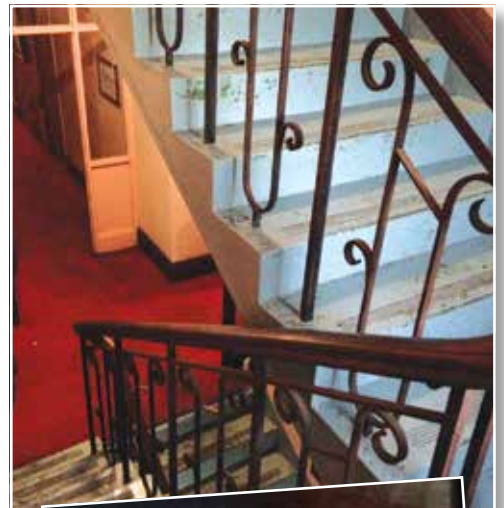






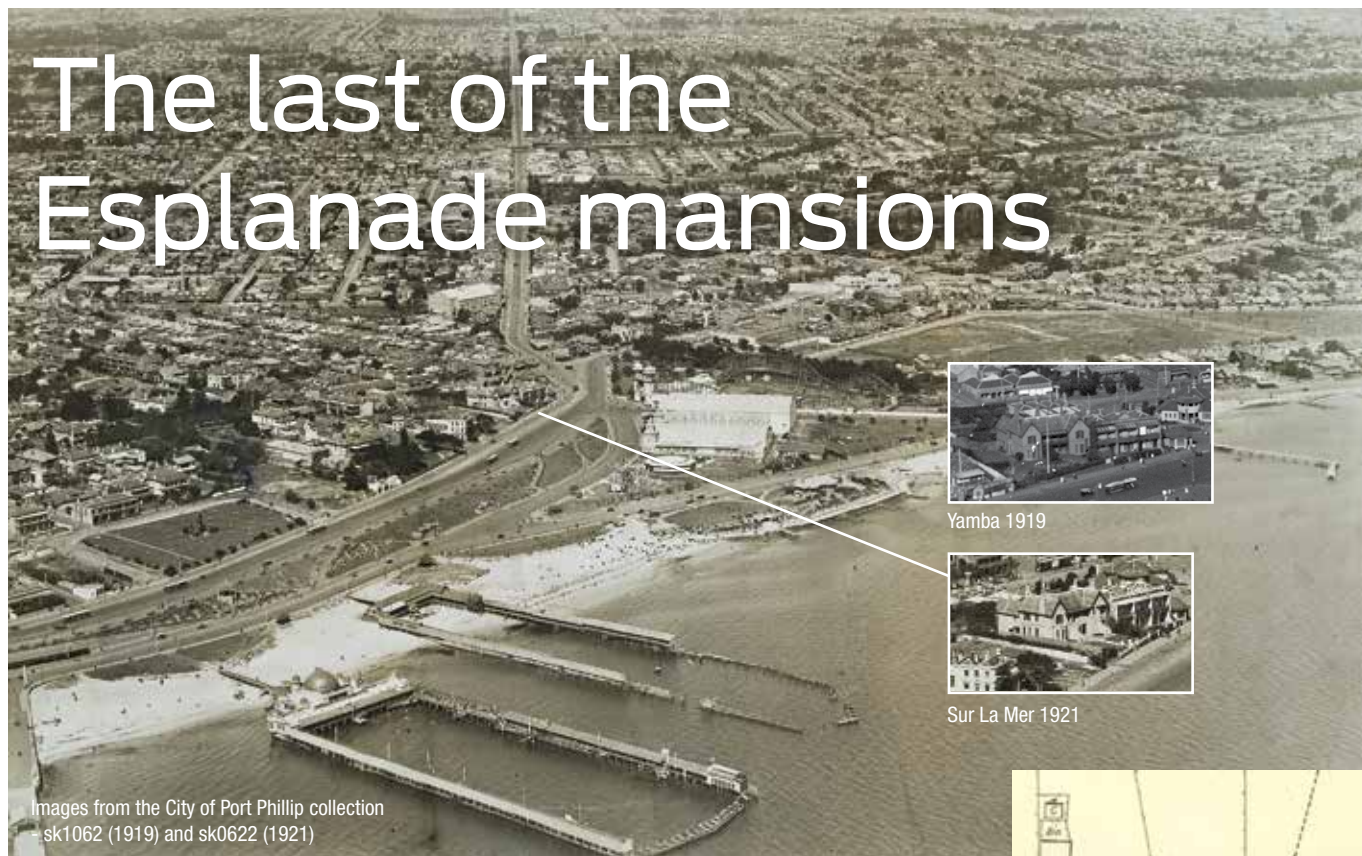
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"GATWICK," FITZROY STREET, ST. KILDA, MELBOURNE, VIC.





# The last of the Esplanade mansions



By Krystyna Kynst

Once upon a time mansions with spacious yards graced the Esplanade. Dotted between hotels, terraces and cottages, they were called Seaforth (1), Bournemouth (6), Wickliffe (10), Orcadia (12), Melford (16), Ellimatta (17), Murweh (20), Questa (21) and The Manse (25). Today, only one remains.

Disguised as a mock Tudor building, and partly obscured by its 1928 addition, the last of the Esplanade's mansions continues to sit contentedly at the rear of a lush garden, gazing at the Palais Theatre.

## The Manse 1869-1887

Its history begins with the housing plight of Presbyterian Church ministers. In 1869, reported the *Argus*, there were 90 Scotch Church congregations throughout the colony, but only 85 manses, "showing that the accommodation for

their ministers was not commensurate with the requirements of the body of worshippers" (17 March, 1869). To remedy this imbalance, funds were raised, a bazaar was held, tenders were called, and in 1869 the building of The Manse began on the Crown Land Allotment that had been set-aside for the Presbyterian Church back in 1855. When completed, the building would cost £2,224, 2 shillings and 4 pence.

However, by 1883 plans were afoot to sell the site. The Governor

gave consent for the church to subdivide its sea facing land. Seven lots next to the Manse were auctioned in February 1884. Only two sold. The following January, the remaining five lots were put up for auction again. It appears the Manse was sold that year as well, because in early 1886 a Mr Thomas Jaques Martin, an insurance agent, advertised it for lease at £66 per year, furnished. It boasted "three reception, four bedrooms, dressing room, kitchen, servant's







Sur La Mer, front, 2017. Photo: Krystyna Kynst



Sur La Mer, rear, 2017. Photo: Peter Johnson

offices; bath hot and cold; cellar, coachhouse, stable, harnessroom, cowhouse, paddock" (*Argus*, 27 February 1886).

The 'return to' address in the Lost and Found ads from the time identifies the tenant as Mr C. G. Millar, who lost a pony (*Argus*, 28 March 1887) and pin points when Mr Martin, who lost a tin box (*Argus*, 19 April 1887), came back to live in his house.

## Yamba 1888-1920

The name 'Yamba' first appeared in an *Argus* advertisement seeking a cook/housemaid with references (13 January 1888). Mr Martin, we learn from his obituary, was a bachelor who lived with his sister at Yamba until his death in 1896. Two other sisters may have also shared the residence. During this time, a second wing was added to the mansion's southern side, clearly visible in the MMBW map of 1897.

Mr Martin was remembered as the General Manager of Colonial Mutual and the chairman of the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which he started. On matters of insurance, it was said "his opinion carried weight all through Australia" (*Argus*, 29 June 1896). He also served as consul for Portugal.

Following the death of his sister, Miss Amelia Georgiana Martin, in November 1919, the estate's executors auctioned Yamba in two lots in February 1920.

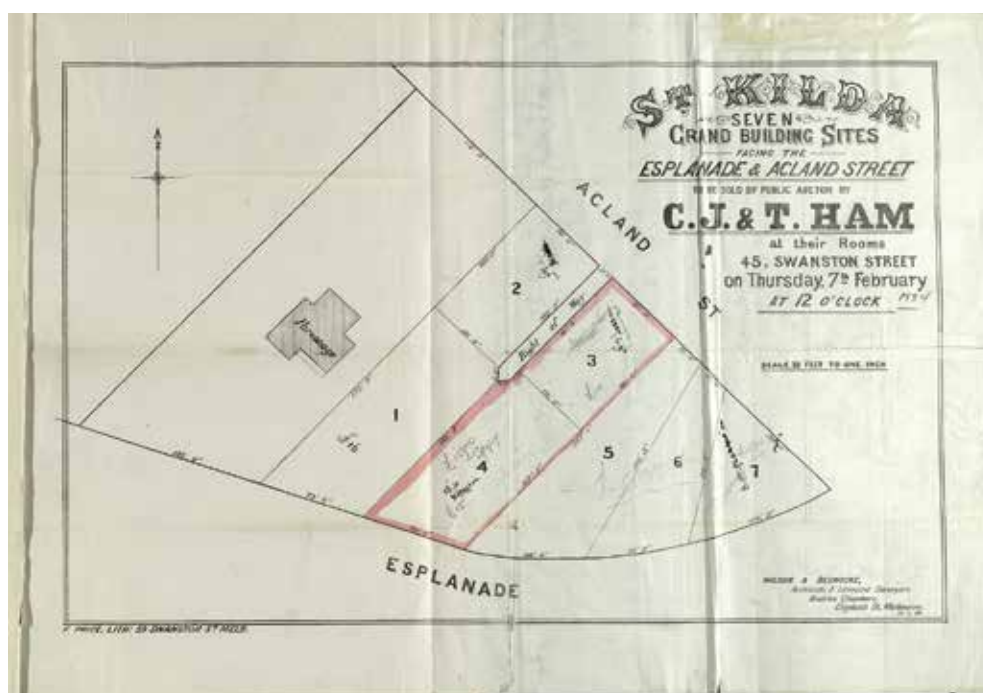
## Sur La Mer 1921 – present

In 1921, the new owner of the mansion, Dr Webb, divided it into flats, under building permit #4154. The next owner was Mr G McAlpine, the developer of the adjacent Hotel Royal site. In 1928 he added a second building to the original mansion (building permit #7172), creating an L-shaped structure around the front garden. Mr McAlpine used architect William Henry Merritt (1898-1955) to

design the addition and in the following year relied on his services again to design the Spanish Mission Belvedere flats, with which he replaced the Hotel Royal at the corner of Robe Street and Esplanade.

In 1982 the Sur La Mer flats were renovated internally and sold individually on a strata title. While the front of The Manse/Yamba mansion presents a Tudor identity, the rear of the original building displays the decorative bargeboards and slate roofs reflective of its 1869 construction era.

With thanks to research by Peter Johnson. ■



The Manse, Plan of Subdivision, 1884, SLV Maps