

Ardoch News



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ARDOCH, THE VILLAGE GREEN
EAST ST KILDA 3183

Famous Neighbours

Ardoch not only has had famous occupants but famous neighbours. Former Prime Minister Alfred Deakin is buried next door in the St Kilda cemetery.

Deakin was elected to Federal parliament in 1901 and became Attorney General in Prime Minister Barton's first cabinet. He was Prime Minister in 1903, for three years from 1905, and for two years from 1909.

His parliamentary career began in 1879 when he stood as a Liberal candidate and narrowly won the Victorian seat of West Bourke. In his maiden speech, he stunned the parliament by announcing he would resign due to allegations over the fairness of the poll. He was elected again the next year, and was very involved in irrigation and water supply issues.

In the decade leading up to the turn of the century, Deakin was preoccupied with the Federation movement. He attended many intercolonial conferences and Federal conventions and was involved in the development of the Constitution. ☼

Who's Who

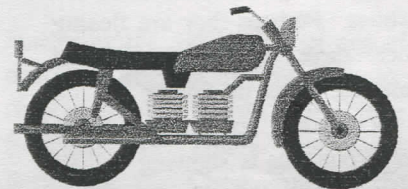
Michelle Guiney of no 2 in Kestrel is an industrial designer in the petrochemical industry but, together with business partner Michelle James, is about to open a furniture

shop in Prahran. "Spaghetti Bend Your Mind" furniture will cater for those with a penchant for 50s and 60s gear as well as newer, renovated stuff. Michelle says she would welcome inquiries from buyers - or sellers. (call 9533 6808)

Michelle and Michelle list leadlighting among their hobbies, and are in the process of preparing baby "Koukla", a tiny black toy poodle, for her first outing on the Green. ☼

Time for a Concors d'Elegance?

It's getting to the stage we'll have to mount a display of the beautiful machines now gracing Ardoch's garages (and in some cases, hallways).



Barry and Pam French worked frantically to finish off their new toy, a Ducati 900, so they could ride her down to Phillip Island for the Grand Prix. "Sophie" might look like a 1976 Super Sport but don't be deceived - she has all new running gear. Then there's Tom and Shirley's Moto Guzzi Supersport that stands like a gleaming, spotless sculpture in the entrance hall. Even my old "Bertha", a 1978 R100S BMW, could perhaps hold her own. Maybe

one sunny Sunday afternoon around the roundabout in Ardoch Ave? ☼

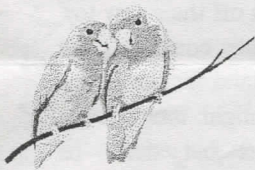
Hatches, Matches & Dispatches

A huge warm welcome to the newest and youngest Ardochian, Tannum Shipp. Virgoan Tannum was born to David and Wendy on 10th September,



weighing 3.11 kg. We understand Spot has grudgingly allowed Tannum to stay at no 3 in Bluebird House, on the understanding that he gets to demolish two frisbees a week rather than just one.

To balance up the addition, rumour has it Bluebird House is losing long-term residents Holger and Viola, who are heading back to their native Germany sometime before Christmas. Perhaps they are fleeing another three years of Howard government here in favour of the new Schroeder government back there? (Your bias is showing – Ed!) We wish them well for the future.



Anyone seen David and Bridget lately? We know they are nocturnal animals and rarely seen at civilised times but they seem to have been particularly absent recently. Their lair – around the corner of Phoenix, towards the pool, up the stairs, and tucked away in one of the old maid's quarters - has been

very quiet. One of our more enthusiastic birdwatchers (it must have been Marge I think) mentioned something about going off to celebrate mating for life. Congratulations and felicitations to both.

We also hear that Michael, Peter the Gardener's offsider, is on tenterhooks with his baby now overdue! Apparently they know it's a boy – perhaps he does not want to come out into a gas-free environment just yet. ☼

Events Coming Up

St Kilda Cemetery

A horticultural tour of the St Kilda cemetery will be held on Sunday 18th October from 2pm. The tour will be

led by horticulturist John Hawker and will examine the symbolic use of plants in cemeteries and the graves of people associated with botany, horticulture and the nursery trade. ☼

Ardoch History

By Harry Greenberg

After the first subdivision of the Ardoch site in 1857 (22 years after Melbourne's founding), the first building appeared in 1864 – at presently the eastern section of 1 Ardoch Ave, the home of William Wardell, then Inspector-General of Public Works in Victoria. Wardell, later Sir William Wardell, was responsible for the building of Government House, Parliament House, the Elizabeth St Post Office, St Patrick's Cathedral, and many

Meet the authors...

St Kilda's Chronicles Bookshop will be hosting a series of book readings and book launches...

Thurs 22 October
from 7.30pm..

Tim Costello and Martin Flanagan discuss Tim's new book about his time as Mayor of the City of St Kilda

Sacred Heart Mission
87 Grey St
St Kilda

\$5 donation at door includes drinks and nibbles

"Streets of Hope"

(bookings essential on 9537 1166 or 9537 2677)

Friday 23 October
from 6.30pm..

Peter Ellyard and Robert Theobald discuss Peter's new book about the 21st century

Chronicles Bookshop
Brooklawn Mansion
Courtyard

"Ideas for the New Millennium"

(bookings essential on 9537 2677)

Friday 30 October
from 6.30pm..

Charmaine Solomon's new book will officially launched

Chronicles Bookshop
Brooklawn Mansion
Courtyard

\$6 at the door includes nibbles

"Family Cookbook"

(bookings essential on 9537 2677)

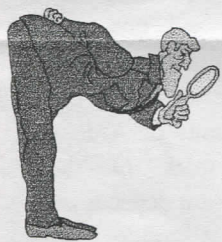
other well-known buildings.

With the collapse of the Colonial economy in the 1890s, St Kilda witnessed an exodus of wealthier residents to the eastern suburbs and many mansions converted to boarding houses. Following World War I, St Kilda became a popular location for flat development, especially areas close to public transport.

About 1922, more buildings were erected around the open space at Ardoch, the Village Green, a concept popular in the UK in the late 19th century.

By 1928, the last of the original buildings appeared- no 1 and no 3 Ardoch Avenue, which were classic examples of the improved style of 'Californian Bungalow' complete with a maid's room. Dame Nellie Melba rented part of no 2.

It's interesting to note that the boom in flat building after World War II was accompanied by the common notion that 'flat dwelling was somehow contradictory to the morals of family life!' Ardoch did in fact provide residential accommodation for the American High Command during World War II, and no 1 Ardoch Ave swerved US officers as a high-class brothel.



The Russian spy Vladimir Petrov was supposedly secretly housed here during the mid 1950s.

After the war years, like so many St Kilda flats, Ardoch entered a long phase of social and physical decline until the later 1970s when the Education Department acquired it for

use as a unique full scale secondary college in a domestic setting providing a supportive based for homeless and disadvantaged children.

In the early 1990s, the site was purchased by developers, who, in conjunction with the Urban Land Council, built four new buildings. The Body Corporate was formed in 1996.

Among Ardoch's many residents of note (as registered in the now defunct Sands & McDougalls Directory), were Dame Nellie Melba, painter Emmanuel Phillips Fox, famous tenor John Brownlee, whose international career was launched at Covent Garden, and Gladys Moncrieff.

The brief social history of Ardoch outlined here reinforces the character of Ardoch as a singular and unique enclave, both in its architectural conception and its cultural niche in Melbourne's society since 1864. ☼

Ardoch Living

Marge's Foolproof Biscuits

Beat 2 egg whites till thick and mix in a cup of icing sugar.

In a separate basin, mix together:

- 2 cups cornflakes
- 1 cup choc-bits
- 1 cup shredded coconut.

Add this mixture to the beaten egg whites and sugar and mix. Drop in teaspoonfuls onto a greased tray and bake at 175° till lightly browned about 10-12 mins. Allow to cool slightly before removing with a flat knife.

PS - If you haven't tried Marge's Poppy Seed Cake from the last

newsletter, it is foolproof! Invitations to future tastings will be gratefully received. (Ed) ☼

Letters

Missing from Ardoch's Village Green this summer will be sun loving Alison, Vincent and Madelaine (born here 15 months ago) who enjoyed their stay at Apartment 9, Magnolia Mansions.

Marge G. advises of a recent letter from Alison in the UK awaiting a possible move with Vincent to Casablanca. Baby Madelaine is a well travelled young lady - she's visited eight countries - most of them with Alison and Vincent on their three and a half month holiday since leaving Ardoch in May. Alison sends her best regards to all she met here. ☼

Grounds & Maintenance

Firewood for Free

Following the sad demise of one of our older trees on the Pillely St side (it actually fell down!), there's free firewood for those with open fireplaces. Check near the letterboxes of Kestrel (behind the pool).

Be Warned about the Bins!

Port Phillip Council will fine those who leave their rubbish bins out in the street. Be warned!

Classifieds

For Sale

¶ New kitchen sink (!!), still in box, complete with accessories – fitted Jarrah chopping board, plastic coated wire rack, colander. Model “ICI Rainbow” 2½ bowl, in white asterite (fibreglass). Worth \$700 (inc. accessories); sell \$280 ono.

¶ New leadlight light shade, in blue, red and yellow. 12 panels with a top diameter of 150mm and bottom diameter of 300mm. Worth \$260; sell \$160 ono.

Phone Michelle on 9533 6806 (home) or 9252 3352 (work).

¶ An opportunity to live in a tower! Apartment 8 in Lark House is for sale – that’s the one under the tower on the corner of Dandenong Road and Pilley St. You really have to see it to experience the warm, honey-coloured light of the tower room. Open fire, two bedrooms (the master large enough to fit a desk and computer), separate loo and laundry big enough to store a bike. It’ll be auctioned on Nov. 8th but if you want to see it beforehand, phone Meredith on 9530 2954.

For Rent

¶ Apartment 7 in Magnolia Mansions. Can you relax enough? Lounge around on the balcony, sip a G&T, and watch the world go around the Green down below. New York-style 2 bedroom loft apartment with bay glimpses. Call Barbara Devlin on 9525 3385. ☺

Useful Contacts

¶ For most inquiries about the operation of the Body Corporate, call Alan Hollibone, General Manager of Strata Title Flat Management, our Body Corporate management firm, on 9866 6167.

¶ For matters to do with Port Phillip City Council (rubbish collection, stray dogs, community services etc), call 9209 6777.

¶ If you’re interested in local government matters (strategic planning, heritage, environment etc), call our local councillor, Freda Erlich, on 9534 9192. ☺

Ardoch’s first Body Corporate Chairman.

We’ve also got new blood on the Grounds & Maintenance committee:

¶ Narene Ignace from Bellbird Place, the new building down in the corner. Narene, a teacher at Mt Scopus College, has been at Ardoch for a good three years and is committed to the idea of everyone having the chance to be part of the community here. Narene says she’d welcome anyone’s ideas about the grounds – for example, where to source bluestones, or good nurseries to use, or perhaps a reliable tree surgeon. Anyone can drop her a note at no 7, Bellbird Place. ☺

Body Corporate

Following the last AGM, we are fortunate to have new enthusiastic people on the Body Corporate. They are:

¶ Debra Hart from Phoenix Place – that’s the older style building on the left as you go in Ardoch Avenue (9525 0151).

¶ Andrew McGregor from Kestrel, the pool house (9529 4832).

¶ Noel De Sair from Wardell House, the mansion up the front (9521 4445).

¶ Ron Green from Cottonwood, the older style building under the big old tree (9533 6307).

¶ And Ian Jay is the new Chairman.

Many thanks to outgoing members Tom Huberts and Peter Hapersberger for their contributions over the last few years, and also to Ian Warren for the sterling job he has done as

Observations of a New Body Corporate Committee Member

One new Committee member recently expressed his surprise at the amount and complexity of the work the Body Corporate does on behalf of Ardoch owners and residents. Clearly, to maintain the harmony, value, ambience and security of our unique development is no mean feat and a brief examination of recent Committee agendas would reveal the amount of work and skill involved.

Our Committee meets around once a month, takes its responsibilities very seriously and impressed this new member with its professionalism and enthusiasm. To a major extent our well being as occupants of Ardoch depends on the work of the Committee which in turn depends on your appreciation and your contributions, by offering suggestions and observations and even complaints which might help enhance the lifestyle we all enjoy. ☺