

NEWS RELEASE



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PORT PHILLIP MARKS HISTORY

Graham Kennedy's childhood home in East St Kilda, *Biltmore*, a magnificent four-storey former coffee palace in Albert Park and Brinsmead's lead-lighted pharmacy in Ripponlea are three of the 21 heritage sites identified for heritage markers, under a scheme approved by the City of Port Phillip this week.

Mayor Cr Johnstone explained that a historical recognition strategy was first approved by the council two years ago.

"A list of potential sites for heritage markers was compiled by the St Kilda Historical Society, the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society and with our local history librarian, Kay Rowan. Since then, councillors, staff and residents have added to the list and it's taken a while for the steering committee to resolve and document a list for the first round of heritage markers.

"Each neighbourhood will gain three heritage markers – in the form of plaques – this financial year. Each plaque will describe the historical significance of the site. The plaques are limited to fifty words with additional information on the council website, along with photographs, diagrams and references to other sources of information," she said.

Each heritage marker will include the statement: "This site is located on the traditional lands of the Boon Wurrung people".

Cr Brand, an architectural historian himself, said that the council was maintaining a master list of other potential sites deserving of recognition.

"Each year, there will be a similar selection process for heritage markers to be installed. To research and install 21 plaques costs around \$30,000, a very modest outlay for the layers of meaning that they add to our municipality.

“With some of the oldest suburbs in Melbourne, the City of Port Phillip possesses an unusually rich historical heritage but most residents and visitors remain unaware of all but the obvious important locations, personalities or events. The heritage markers are one way of changing all this,” he said.

Cr Brand said that apart from the plaques at each town hall, there were about twelve other plaques installed by the former City of St Kilda in the eighties and a handful of other known plaques across the municipality.

“We hope that this new program will bring some consistency and identifiable style to heritage markers. In the long run, the heritage markers can form part of heritage walks that are all the rage.

“All markers will be reviewed five years after installation to ensure they have not fallen into disrepair. If they have been damaged, the council’s steering committee will review the continued relevance of replacing them at its annual selection meeting. We are wary of cluttering the municipality with too many historical markers,” he said.

A list of sites where heritage markers are due to be installed over the next few months is attached.

Enquiries:

Carmel Shute

Media Officer

Tel: 9209 6163 Fax: 9525 4640

Mobile: 0412 569 356

Council webpage: www.portphillip.vic.gov.au

After hours

Liz Johnstone

Mayor

Tel: 9531 7358

Mobile: 0412 135 350

Heritage Recognition Program: Sites selected for 2003-2004

Emerald Hill

Existing HRP marker

- James Service's home, 337 Dorcas St

2003/2004 selection:

- Mechanics' Institute building, 170-172 Cecil Street
- Park Towers Estate, Cecil Street
- Emerald Hill (Lauder's Riding School), 295 Bank Street

Albert Park

2003/2004 selection:

- Walter Lindrum's family home, 158 Kerferd Road
- Biltmore, 152 Bridport Street
- South Melbourne College, College Place

St Kilda

2003/2004 selection:

- Wattle House (home of Alfred Felton), 53 Jackson Street
- St Kilda Railway Station, Fitzroy Street
- St Moritz site, Esplanade

Sandridge

Existing HRP marker:

- Site of lagoon and former HMAS Lonsdale Navy Base, Beach Street

2003/2004 selection:

- Pump House
- Port Melbourne Railway Station
- Site of Town Pier

Alma

2003/2004 selection:

- St Kilda Cemetery
- "Ardoch", Dandenong Road
- Graham Kennedy's childhood home, Nelson Street

Blessington

2003/2004 selection

- Greyhound Hotel, 1 Brighton Road (if insufficient information found, Albert Tucker's house in Blessington Street as second choice)
- Sidney Nolan's home, Pakington Street (if exact address cannot be determined).
- Site of Brunnings nursery, Brunnings Street

Ormond

Existing HRP marker:

- Point Ormond Beacon, Point Ormond

2003/2004 selection:

- Brinsmead's Pharmacy, 73 Glen Eira Road
- Elwood Canal/abattoir
- St Kilda to Brighton Electric Tramway