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# THE ST. KILDA BOWLING CLUB MEDAL

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From humble beginnings after the first settlers arrived in the Port Phillip District, the village of St. Kilda grew to be a flourishing settlement.

The railway ran to the St. Kilda station terminus. The luxurious George Hotel stood opposite.

Broad streets led to the beach and grand houses lined the way. The surrounding hills were liberally settled with luxury dwellings. St. Kilda had become the holiday resort of many wealthy people and the retirement spot for others. It was a wonderful time.

A meeting of residents of St. Kilda was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall of St. Kilda on June 7, 1865 for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a bowling club.

The proposal was met with a favourable reception and a number of resolutions were passed including one stating that a bowling club be formed, to be called the St. Kilda Bowling Club.

A provisional committee was appointed to select an eligible site and to obtain the sanction of the President of the Board of Lands and Survey for its occupation.



The Town Clerk of St. Kilda, Edward Bradshaw acted as Treasurer and he wrote to the Commissioner of Lands and Survey requesting a site in Fitzroy Street, frontage 205 feet, next to the St. Kilda and Melbourne Railway Reserve.

The Mayor of St. Kilda, the Hon. Alexander Frazer, M.L.C., was first President, and a squatter residing in Grey Street, W. Nimmo was on the Council.

On June 21, 1865, it was announced that the application for the land had been approved. When the green was opened, November 11, 1865, the members roll exceeded one hundred.

The first game of bowls played was between two teams, the sides chosen by the President and Vice President. The Vice President's team won by 78 to 72.

To mark the occasion the Vice President, William Nimmo, had prepared a medal (or medals) for presentation.

This medal, recently discovered, is in hand-crafted silver, 48mm in diameter. The obverse shows a figure of a bowler, dressed in the manner of the day, overlaid in gold on the surface. The reverse has the Royal Coat of Arms over a mermaid seated on a rock, to her right the (St. Kilda) railway and to her left a likeness of a ship, possibly alluding to the 'Lady of St. Kilda'. Around the edge - 'PRESENTED TO THE ST. KILDA BOWLING CLUB FOR COMPETITION BY W. M. NIMMO, VICE PRESIDENT - GAINED BY GEO FREER'. The medal has a silver suspender and pale blue ribbon.

Although probably of colonial manufacture the medal and case carry no marks of identification as to maker and with the passing of time this is to be regretted.

It is of interest to note that Mr. George Freer was President of the Club during 1868-69 season.

References: Records of St. Kilda Bowling Club  
The History of St. Kilda by J. B. Cooper, Melb. 1931