



Preserving our Heritage for the Future

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Supposed Naming of Burnt Bridge

Captain Nelson owned the land from Oban Road (now Carcoola) to Kent Avenue. Therefore it was called Nelsons Hill and the small Swamp Lake, which was fed from springs in Wicklow Hill, was known as Nelson Hill Swamp Lake. The Aborigines got a lot of their food there, from 1860 to 1915.

On coming to Nelson Hill swamp, bullock wagons found the water had covered over the track and spread nearly two chains. The men from the wagon train got the local Wurundjeri Tribe to help build a corduroy bridge. After the help, the tribe was given a hand out on the return leg. In 1873, three brothers started with one bullock wagon from Melbourne and, when they camped near the bridge, some tribesmen came from the tribe to get a hand out. The brothers did not know about the hand out so they thought it was a raid and they fired their guns. One tribesman got lead in the arm and they ran away. One brother went back to the police and made a complaint. Because of this the mounted police chastised the tribe. In the morning when the brothers left and were out of sight, the tribe picked the bridge up and burnt it. When the Gippsland train returned and found the bridge was gone they asked the tribe why. They were told of the trouble and said they would put things right. Finally, the charges were dropped, stopping any further trouble.

The news of the bridge getting burnt spread far and wide, with people coming to see it. One man, Mr Hennessy, saw the prospects. He had a hotel built in 1880, and called it the Burnt Bridge Hotel. His barman was Mr Cutts, who later dabbled in mining and a broom factory, eventually taking over the hotel himself.

The Next Meeting

Tuesday 27th July, 8pm at Federation Estate, Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood

History of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade

Ian Munro

Senior Fire Officer Ian is still an active fire-fighter at the MFB, Sunshine Station when I last found some references to him in the local paper. He also takes an interest in the marvelous history of the Brigade, an institution that we often take for granted. Certainly, in Ringwood, we started late. Here is an extract from the 1927 Ringwood Mail:-

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade station at Ringwood was officially opened by Chief Officer Mr. Harrie B. Lee, on March 18th, 1926, and is thus celebrating its first anniversary.

The calls attended during the past twelve months were:—False alarms, 19; grass and rubbish fires, 28; house fires, 19; chimney fires, 2; total calls, 62. The calls attended by the crew were:—Fireman A. Anderson, 46; Fireman T. Harrigan, 40; Firemen R. Baker and S. Brown, 30 each; Fireman G. Burns, 25; Fireman D. Anderson, 24; Fireman Wilkins, 20.

But I'm sure that Ian, through pictures and words, will go back well before that in the Melbourne area. Fire has always been in the back of our minds in the Ringwood district. First the disastrous 1939 fires, then the early 1960s and finally in 2009.

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Pat Guest

Archives: North Ringwood Seniors
building (ring Russ to gain access)

Preserving our Heritage

Our website is at
www.rhs.org.au

North Ringwood Uniting Church

The 50th anniversary of the Dickson Crescent Church was celebrated on 20th June with the launch of a history book, of which we have a copy.

North Ringwood Heritage Weekend

Still going strong with the researchers working every Tuesday evening. A few more interviews to complete, then fitting all the pieces of the historical puzzle together (we've scratched a lot, now the hard part of verifying the facts and putting it in a readable form). Mark it in (next year's) diary - November 2011.

Cemetery Friends

An invitation is extended to you and anyone else interested to attend the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Australian Federation of Cemetery Friends Inc. which will be held at the Monash Federation Centre at 3 Atherton St, Oakleigh on Sunday 25 July at 1pm. Contact Catherine Turnbull on 5428 7359.

Last Meyland

A note from Marie Ricardo telling us that her Aunt Alice Bould (Meyland) passed away on 29th June; she was the last surviving member of the original Meyland family.

History Courses

A course on Australian history commences on Wednesday 21st July between 1:00pm and 3:00pm and runs for six weeks. The venue is Vermont South Community House, Karobran Drive, Vermont South (Melway map ref 62 G7)

The cost is \$73 for 6 weeks, plus \$10 for notes. Yvonne Rice on 9803-2335

Also Gerry Robinson starts his Australian Explorers classes Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th (repeat of Friday) at 10am at the Heathmont Uniting Church for 5 weeks. Ring Gerry for costs and further information on 9874-3974 or email grobinson@dodo.com.au.

Supper Roster

July	Gerry Robinson
Aug	Irene and Arthur Lunt
Sept	McKeons
Oct	Sandra Smart/Gloria Welch
Nov	Graeme Tamme

Please ask for assistance if you can't make it or have to change the date.

Archives Volunteer Open Hours

Saturday 10:00am - midday

Tuesday from 6:30pm

Come just to look around or lend a very welcome hand. Morning tea provided. Current need is to help with database work, organising the archives and North Ringwood research.

This Year's Programme

Jul	History of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade with Ian Munro
Aug	History of Poverty, and its impact on Society with John Murphy of Melbourne University
Sept	AGM, and Tales of the Cinema by Gerry Kennedy
Oct	Melbourne's Tramways, John Wayman, Tramways Museum
Nov	The Contribution of Early Jewish Settlers in the Colony of Victoria by Lionel Sharpe, Australian Jewish Historical Society