



# HOTHAM HISTORY PROJECT Inc.

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Estab. 1995  
ABN: 89 919 256 977

## *Hotham History News*

### *Summer 2010*

Dear friends and supporters of the Hotham History Project,

A Happy New Year and welcome to another year of activities with the Hotham History Project. We hope you had an enjoyable festive season and are looking forward to joining us in exploring and celebrating the history of this fascinating part of Melbourne during 2010.

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Hotham History Project. Many of the original committee members still serve on the committee and although their experience is very important, we welcome new members to the committee who can contribute fresh energy and ideas. If you would like to discuss becoming more involved please contact a member of the committee below:

Chair: Lorna Hannan – [blhannan@netspace.net.au](mailto:blhannan@netspace.net.au)  
Treasurer: Rae Nicholls – [raenicholls@inet.net.au](mailto:raenicholls@inet.net.au)  
Secretary: MaryKehoe [kehoemccallum@bigpond.com](mailto:kehoemccallum@bigpond.com)

### **MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2010**

Hotham History Project Committee meetings are usually held bi-monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at the North Melbourne Library. Committee meetings for 2010 will be on 23 February, 27 April, 22 June, 24 August, 28 September and 23 November at 7.30pm.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 9 October at 2.00pm. Further details closer to the time.

### **2010 Events**

We are still finalising our program of events for 2010 but please note the following dates in your new calendars/diaries

#### **Walk – 2.00pm Saturday 20 March**

##### **The churches of North & West Melbourne.**

Join us for a tour of some of North & West Melbourne's magnificent landmark churches dating back to the early years of settlement.

Meet outside the North Melbourne Library.

#### **Walk – 2.00pm Saturday 22 May**

##### **The Gidneys, horse traders of North Melbourne**

Not really a walk but a stroll around Canning and Wood Streets looking at and learning more about some of the grandest houses in North Melbourne, built by the Gidney family who established a highly profitable horse breeding and trading business with India in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Meet at the Dryburgh St end of Pleasance Gardens

#### **Talk – 7.30pm Tuesday 27 July, North Melbourne Library**

##### **The Lost Dogs' Home**

The campaign to establish a Lost Dogs' Home in Melbourne started in 1910, culminating in the opening of the Home on its North Melbourne site in February 1913. The Managing Director, Dr Graeme Smith, will talk about the crucial role the Lost Dogs' Home plays in caring for the abandoned animals of Melbourne.

#### **Event – August**

##### **Burke & Wills 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

The Victorian Exploring Expedition to cross the continent from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria, led by Robert O'Hara Burke, left from Royal Park on 20 August 1860. The Hotham History Project hopes to be part of the celebrations to mark this important event. We will keep you posted.

#### **Talk – 7.30pm Tuesday 26 October, North Melbourne Library**

##### **Female immigration**

Guest speaker, Dr Liz Rushen has written widely about female immigration to Australia in the 1830s. Liz will talk about her book, *Single & Free: female migration to Australia 1833-1837*, and about the lives of some of the women she researched, including Jane Maloney, the mother of Dr William Maloney who represented this area for many decades in both State and Federal government.

Lorraine Siska will also talk about her detailed research on Jane Maloney who lived and owned property in Roden Street, West Melbourne.

## BURKE & WILLS AND THE NORTH MELBOURNE LINK!

Excerpt from letter to *The Age* 27 September 1934

*Sir - We were born in Boundary Road and our old home was built over eighty years ago with bricks made by my father on the property. This house had just been demolished. We have watched with great interest and pride the progress of our wonderful city.*

*The Bridge Inn Hotel was situated near where Flemington-bridge railway station now stands and was kept by a Scotchman known as "Scotch Jock". From here our father used to carry the water to our home before water was laid on. Mr. J. Owen was the first plumber and gas fitter. His shop is where Cooney's shop in Abbotsford Street now stands.*

*From Melrose Street to Boundary Road, the lower part was a huge lagoon which was frequented by wild duck in season and provided good sport. An old identity was John Phillips who lived in a A.I.O.Gun Boat. He used to drag his boat along the lanes and tracks and camp just where he felt inclined.*

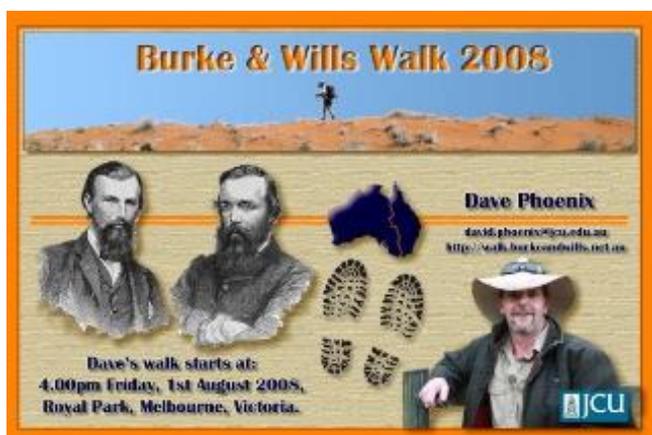
*M. Cormvale who started his pottery works near our home was known as "Alf the Fiddler". He was given this name because he used to "fiddle" to the children.*

.....  
*As little girls we were taken to Royal Park to see the blacks with their gins and piccaninnies holding their corrobories(sic).*

*We also saw the departure of Burke and Wills on the 26th August, 1863(sic) and well remember the procession with camels and horses, starting on their long procession. The way they took was along the tracks in what is now Shiel Street, thence along Macauley Road through to Ascot Vale.*

A.S. & E.R., Boundary Road, North Melbourne,

## WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BURKE & WILLS



Some members of the Hotham History Project were present at Royal Park in 2008 to farewell Dave Phoenix as he set off on his epic journey to follow in the footsteps of Burke & Wills. Perhaps some of you followed his progress on his website? You can check Dave's website at [www.walk.burkeandwills.net.au](http://www.walk.burkeandwills.net.au).

## ANCESTRY

You may be interested in checking out more of your family history with the database, *Ancestry*. This has an amazing number of resources. There are not as many Australian records as there are for the UK and USA, but there are electoral rolls, convict records and cemetery indexes. For the UK and US you can look at census data, military collections, passenger lists, Births Deaths and Marriages, slave narratives, images and even newsreels. You can print ancestor forms free of charge.

At this stage, *Ancestry* is only available in the North Melbourne library. But you can save records to a memory stick or even email them to yourself to peruse at your leisure.

If you are interested in using *Ancestry* but do not know how to begin, please contact Heather McKay at the North Melbourne Library or [info@hothamhistory.org.au](mailto:info@hothamhistory.org.au) and we can arrange to get you started.

## PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE

As reported in our last newsletter, the Hotham History Project received a grant from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in 2009 for a Toucan roll-up banner and also \$50 towards the printing of membership promotional brochures. The banner was ready for our November walk and graced the old farriers' building at 2A Curran Street where we had afternoon tea after our walk. We would like to thank the owners, Joanne and Daniel, for their hospitality and for Joanne's contribution to the delicious afternoon tea.

The brochures, with the imprint of the banner design on the cover, have been printed. Please look out for them at the library, neighbourhood centre and at various other places around the area.

Hotham History Project membership for 2010 is from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. Some of our members have not renewed this year. If you are unsure whether you are financial or if you do not wish to receive our notices and newsletters, please contact us at [info@hothamhistory.org.au](mailto:info@hothamhistory.org.au)

We look forward to seeing you at some of our activities throughout the year.

Please don't forget our first walk on Saturday, 20 March.