

**2015-16 Activity Report of the Friends of Kurth Kiln
for the Annual General Meeting 8 October 2016 at Kurth Kiln**

The year 2015-2016 was again an active period for the Friends of Kurth Kiln. During the 12 months from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 the following events and activities are noted:

- **11 regular monthly meetings / working bees** were held and ongoing maintenance was carried out as listed below: The meeting on 14 May was cancelled due to the Parks Victoria Volunteer Day event
 - Checking out the condition of the local walking tracks, cleaning the display windows and the Interpretation Boards and talking to the casual visitors.
 - Storm damage to two Display Panels on the Thornton Track has been repaired
 - The badly weathered Interpretation Boards at the Kiln and in the Caretakers Compound have been taken to MSC for re-coating and refitted. Funded by the MW Community Support Grant
 - The badly weathered and vandal damaged Welcome Sign at the Thornton Walk has been updated and replaced by MSC, and the support structure repainted.
 - The local Parks Victoria Friends Christmas Break-up was held on 5 December at Mortimer Picnic Ground. Parks Victoria provided the various meats, bread and drinks, while the participants brought salads and deserts.
 - The routine preservative painting of the Huts has been completed again, except for the Big Shed side facing South where ladders are needed. Parks Victoria assistance will be needed there.
 - The Caretakers Compound Picket Fence was painted by Henriettes TAFE Students.
 - Glen, our Vice President, is also our Maintenance Manager and looks after the regular grass mowing on the site, which can be quite a chore in summer time. It is a pleasure to see it looking so nice and tidy.
- **Publications**
 - The December and June issues of our Newsletter THE KILN have been produced by Meredith, .
 - A convenient portable Pull-Up Banner was created by Laurence for easier promotion display.
- **Grant Works**
 - Confirmation of our \$4,900 Yarra Ranges 2016 Heritage and Development Grant for the publication of a “Walking for Pleasure” booklet was received at a Yarra Ranges celebration of successful 2016 grants event on Monday 12 October 2015 at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2016, with a Book Launch planned for 12 November at Kurth Kiln.
 - The \$4000 DEPI Communities for Nature grant for Re-vegetation with 1000 plants along Scout Loop Track between the new campsites was completed on 18 September 2015, with the help of the Cockatoo and Hoddles Creek Primary School Students.
 - The Threatened Species Protection Initiative grant application for the propagation of Tall Astelia in Kurth Kiln Regional Park has been approved
 - A \$2150 funding application for the 2016 Heritage Festival has been lodged by David, and approval in principle has been received
 - Raewyn, our treasurer, has applied for Melbourne Water Community Support funding, which has been approved for \$550.00.
 - Our application to Community Heritage Grants 2015 - National Library of Australia, for \$6325 funding for conservation work on the historic Charcoal Grader has not been approved
 - A Letter of Support has been written in September for the Victorian National Parks Association’s ‘Audio Monitoring of Birds in Bunyip State Park and Kurth Kiln Regional Park’ project, as part of a wider Social Impact Study on our Natural Environment
 - As part of our Parks Victoria grant to convert Annexe 03 into a dedicated display room for large artefacts the odds and ends that used to be there have been shifted to Parks Victoria's big shed. On Saturday 30 January 7 members installed shelving in a dedicated corner and sorted out the items.

- **Festival and Events**

- On Wednesday 8 July the Friends of Kurth Kiln gave a PowerPoint presentation about Kurth Kiln to the members of the Probus Club of Croydon.
- Robin Barden, Branch Manager, Lilydale Community Library invited the Friends of Kurth Kiln to give a talk about the story of Kurth Kiln. A PowerPoint presentation was given at the library on Wednesday 12 August 2015.
- Two 2015 Seniors Week Events took place at Kurth Kiln:
 - The Cardinia Shire "Walking in the Bush - a Tonic for good Health" on 5 October attracted 28 Seniors and was supported by the Kooweerup Regional Health Manager, Aileen Thoms. Geoff Stokes (2014 Victorian Active Senior) our guest-speaker, spoke about 'looking after yourself as an older person'. A selection of walks followed and then some health and diet tips. A promotional Flyer had been circulated widely.
 - This was followed by a Seniors Talk & Walk at Kurth Kiln on Wednesday 7 October, promoted and supported by the Shire of Yarra Ranges.
- The 2016 Kurth Kiln Heritage Festival was again a big success. The weather played its part; it was a perfect day in all aspects. We said hello to many old friends and welcomed new ones. Our thanks to Cardinia Council for supporting the event, to Parks Victoria to help stage it, and to the many Volunteers and Organisations for participating and helping to make it a success. Sadly Ted Hudson, our festival blacksmith for many years, had to decline, but luckily Fritz Rappold from the Upper Yarra U3A was able to step in and take over for the day.

- **Functions attended** The Friends of Kurth Kiln group was represented at number of functions to promote our Cultural Heritage, support the environment and volunteer activities:

- Alfred and Ursula attended the Local Writers Meeting At the Paradise Hotel in Clematis on Tuesday 7 July on behalf of the Friends of Kurth Kiln to discuss the upcoming issues of The Local Newspaper.
- Four members of the Friends of Kurth Kiln attended the Developing Sound Financial Practices Seminar at the Yarra Ranges Council Chambers in Lilydale on Wednesday 15 July. Lou Sbalchiero, Volunteer Support Officer, Shire of Yarra Ranges welcomed the participants and introduced Patrick Moriarty, Executive Director, Institute of Community Directors Australia.
- At the "Caught on Camera" Community Day in Gembrook on Saturday 1 August 2015 at the Gembrook CFA Fire Station Ian Vaskess from the Friends of Bunyip State Park, Christine Connelly, Victorian National Parks Nature Watch Coordinator, Anthony Hester from Parks Victoria and Jasper Hails talked about why researching in the parks is important and spoke of the project's successes over the past two years.
- Southern Ranges Environment Alliance (SREA meeting Wednesday 5 August at Cockatoo Neighbourhood House. Even though it was a very cold and rainy evening nine members attended the meeting. SREA is an umbrella group that works to liaise between the many local volunteers, community groups, landholders and agencies that have given high priority to protecting environmental assets along the Puffing Billy corridor and adjacent areas of the Yarra Ranges and Cardinia Shires.
- Five Kurth Kiln members attended the Yarra Ranges Council's Code of Environmental Practice forum at the Lilydale Council Offices on 22 August 2015. The Action Plan proposes a list of projects and programs Council is considering pursuing to help deliver the goals of the draft Environment Strategy
- Five members attended the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning 2015 Fire Operations Plans Meeting at the Parks Victoria Office Woori-Yallock on 25 August 2015, Various DELWP representatives showed PowerPoints concentrated on Modelling
- Four members attended the Cardinia Shire Council Community consultation regarding safer communities meeting on Thursday 3rd September at the Gembrook Community Centre. It is part of the council's World Health Organisation International Safe Community project.
- Two members attended the 'Art in the Garden' Meeting at Sue Jarvis' home on 3 October. Before the walk in her garden the participants were given an introduction to her Gallery.

- Nine members attended the Native Orchids talk by Emily Noble at the Hoddles Creek Primary School on Monday October 26, 2015 presented by the Friends of Hoddles Creek. The one hour illustrated talk was about the fascinating relationships of orchids with other plants, insects and fire.
 - Four members took part in the Cardinia Shire Annual Christmas Celebration Thursday 19 November at the Toomah Community Centre Pakenham. The Friends of Kurth Kiln thank Rob Jones and the Cardinia Shire Council for inviting us to take part in the Christmas Celebration, for the opportunity to speak with other groups and for the delicious supper.
 - Three members of the Friends of Kurth Kiln attended the workshop Good Marketing Design for your Community Events on Wednesday 11 November, in Montrose Lou Sbalchiero from Yarra Ranges Council introduced Ann Roberts from Graphic Design. Her presentation was aimed for Not-For-Profit community groups in the Yarra Ranges, to support and create effective promotional materials for events.
 - Four members took part in the Cardinia Environment Coalition AGM Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 16 Purton Rd Pakenham. The Friends of Kurth Kiln thank the CEC, especially Carol Hoskins, for keeping them informed of activities, invitations etc and for their hospitality at the AGM.
 - Two members attended the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater 'Breakfast with the Birds' on Saturday 28 November 2015.
 - David and Henriette attended the Jason Wood sponsored meeting regarding Heritage groups at Emerald Museum on 19 November at 2pm,
 - Two members of the Friends of Kurth Kiln represented the group at the Rotary Club of Wandin Australia Day Breakfast on Tuesday 26 January 2016
 - On Sunday February 28 the annual Environmental Volunteer Celebration was held at the Burrinja Centre in Upwey. Six members of the Friends of Kurth Kiln attended
 - 12 Members attended the Parks Victoria Melbourne Region Volunteer Day in the Dandenong Ranges in recognition of volunteers contributions on Saturday 14 May at the Kallista Mechanics Hall.
 - Alfred and Ursula represented the Friends of Kurth Kiln at the Yarra Ranges National Day of Thanks Mayoral Breakfast on Saturday 28 May 2014 at the Foothills Convention Centre Mooroolbark.
 - Three members of the Friends of Kurth Kiln group attended the "Atlas of Living Australia" and BioCollect Citizen Science presentation, by Peter Brenton (CSIRO Canberra), on 16 June 2016, in the Yarra Ranges Council Chambers.
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- **Membership Notes:** The Friends of Kurth Kiln have now 124 members on our books, 34 of which are family registrations. That gives us a total of 158 people supporting our aims.
 - New Members during the year: Lyn Ter Maten, Robert Lindhe, Matthew Goodson
 - On a sad note, our long time member Ken Banks has passed away on 28 July 2016 after a difficult battle with cancer. Six members of our group attended the big funeral service in Woori Yallock. Ken was our mechanical wizard and was instrumental in many of our construction projects. The wood for the post and rail heritage fences was all cut and prepared at the Banks' place on Old Beenak Road. We still remember the day Ken managed to bring the historic motorised saw-bench in the Big Shed back to life, with a bang. He also acted as our financial auditor for many years, always friendly and ready to give a helping hand. Both Ken and Dawn joined the Friends of Kurth Kiln soon after its inauguration in 1999.

There truly was lots of action and activity! **We thank all our Members and Friends as well as our supporters in helping us to promote greater public awareness of our cultural and natural Heritage.**
Your Management Committee