

Parks Victoria's Melbourne Region Volunteer Event

Saturday 16 May at Werribee Mansion and Werribee Open Range Zoo

Parks Victoria invited friends and volunteers to join them at Werribee Mansion and Werribee Open Range Zoo in recognition of their contributions to Melbourne's parklands. Four members from the Friends of Kurth Kiln accepted the invitation.

Arriving at the Werribee Mansion **Bernice Dowling, Volunteer Programs Coordinator** with a friendly smile welcomed the participants.



Listening on a portable audio unit we could tour the mansion and learn about each section's history. The mansion was built and developed between 1874 and 1877 by Scottish squatters Thomas and Andrew Chirnside.



The Mansion



Rocky Barca

The Chirnside ownership of Werribee Park ended in 1922 when the Catholic Church took it over as a religious training centre. In 1973 the Victorian Government acquired Werribee Park and commenced restoring the Mansion and remaining 400 hectares to its former glory.



The Parterre seen from the second floor

Today Werribee Park offers visitors a rich array of history, culture and stories to explore.

During lunch at 'The Farm' Chief Ranger Rocky Barca, Manager Werribee Park & Western Melbourne District, held a speech thanking the volunteers for their work. After lunch we were invited on a 45 minute bus tour to view the Open Range Zoo situated on approximately 225 hectares adjacent to the Mansion. We saw hippos, zebras, waterbucks, giraffes, ostriches and rhinoceros, camels and oryx. On the two independent trails we saw the Zoo's African village, with educational and entertaining features lions, vervet monkeys, gorillas, cheetahs and meerkats.



Picnic at The Farm

The Friends of Kurth Kiln sincerely thank Bernice and Parks Victoria for the lovely day we experienced at Werribee.



Bernice helps with the sausages