

Kurth Kiln Projects

COMPLETED

The Friends of Kurth Kiln have over the years since 1999 received funding grants from Parks Victoria, the Department of the Environment and Conservation, Department of Victorian Communities, Department of Family and Communities Services, from Melbourne Water and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, from the Waratah Group and from the Bendigo Bank. With these funds, and under the constructive guidance of Parks Victoria the Friends Group has carried out a number of projects around the Kiln site.

- ✓ Repair to the steel work on Kiln itself was followed by the reconstruction of a working 1.8m waterwheel, together with its storage dam and retaining fence. Proposals for the restoration of the historic Charcoal Grader and a suitable display area in the large storage shed on site are under consideration.
- ✓ Work has been carried out in restoring period machinery. With the Inmagic program used by museums cataloguing historic artifacts from the site is ongoing.
- ✓ Additional interpretation boards have been installed in the open area in front of the shed where, together with current activity reports, some of the original documentation for the construction of the Kiln can be viewed.
- ✓ Drainage was improved to waterlogged areas around the kiln and the Big Shed
- ✓ Re-vegetation has been carried out with the help of the children of Gembrook, the Hoddles Creek and the Cockatoo State School children.
- ✓ A Solar Electric System was installed in the Big Shed to provide light and power to operate a computer and small hand-tools.
- ✓ The Friends Group constructed the Thornton circuit track and bridge over the Tomahawk creek, in memory of Ron Thornton, the long time honorary caretaker of the Kiln site who passed away in June 2002.
- ✓ To by tables, heaters and chairs
- ✓ Install fencing to control vehicle traffic over sensitive bush areas around the picnic and camping grounds.
- ✓ Create a heritage type Post & Rail fence that blends in with the historic environment.
- ✓ To install additional Interpretation Boards to keep visitors and tourists informed.
- ✓ Allow the purchase of a professional quality Digital SLR Camera.

UNDER CONSIDERATION

- A Showroom for the six vintage Gas Producers that have been donated to the group following a promotional article in the RACV Magazine.
- Restore the Charcoal Grader
- Improved toilet facilities for the 10,000 visitors that come here every year.
- Covered Shelters on the Picnic Grounds
- Gas fired Barbecues to replace the environmentally unfriendly wood fires in the Picnic Grounds
- Re-alignment of Roads and improvements to drainage around the Kurth Kiln site.
- Removal of pine trees dangerously close to roads and buildings

The Friends of Kurth Kiln group is very grateful to all the authorities and organisations who have funded our projects so far. In doing so they have helped improve the conditions at Kurth Kiln and made it safer; they are helping promote greater awareness of the cultural heritage that is Kurth Kiln.