

# MELBOURNE WALKS

Newsletter Summer Edition 2010

[www.melbournewalks.com](http://www.melbournewalks.com)  
Tel: 90907964; 0408894724  
Email: [meyereidelson@yahoo.com](mailto:meyereidelson@yahoo.com)



## The Accidental Tourists

When Melbourne Walks started in 1992 we ran mainly environmental tours such as 'In the Footsteps of William Buckley' (Black Rock) and 'Melbourne's Kakadu' (Bulleen). As a result, wildlife rescue sometimes becomes part of our business particularly in springtime which can bring a host of problems for young animals. Brainiac is a noisy miner bird suffering from concussion possibly from a car collision and was nursed back to health for two weeks on honey water and grubs before being released. Two weeks later he came down again in a storm again and was nursed for a further week.



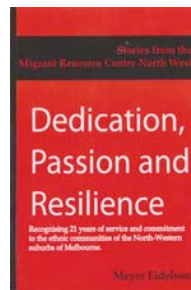
We also had a young wattlebird overnight on a hot water bottle after a storm and he flew off with no ill effects the next day.

More bizarre was the discovery of a large, long-necked, freshwater tortoise by Amanda on the beach. It bore the

name 'Thai' stenciled on the shell. We can surmise that 'Thai' was a pet who escaped, hibernated for the winter and was washed down the Yarra River in spring storms before struggling ashore at Middle Park beach. Thai was released a week later in Albert Park Lake.

## New book

We recently launched our 15th book, a history of the North West Migrant Resource Centre, on 30 November with over 300 migrants attending as well as state and federal MPs. *Dedication, Passion and Resilience - Stories from the North West Migrant Resource Centre* tells of a 21-year struggle by residents to build a centre to help new arrivals, refugees and culturally diverse communities. The book will assist this front line refugee agency in St Albans to advocate and inform the wider community about their work and the passion that has consumed years of many people's lives in a great but often precarious adventure. The book is available from **Sue Armstrong MRCNW 93676044**.



## A Saint in the Lanes

Mary Mackillop was born in Fitzroy on 15th January 1842. The co-founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph was canonized Australia's first saint on 17th October 2010. We have designed a new tour in the former slum and red-light district of Melbourne around Little Lonsdale and Little Bourke Street where the Josephites and others pioneered ragged schools, radical welfare services and missions. In 1891 Mary McKillop opened a slum mission for destitute women at 43-45 Latrobe Street. In 1897 she also opened St Joseph's Poor or 'Syrian' School in a

## Lanes and Arcades – The People's Melbourne

We recently ran one of our regular Lanes and Arcades tours as a pre-Christmas event for employees of a city business. Between Flinders Street and the Burke Street mall is the greatest concentration of lanes in Australia. To see the incredible range of shops and historic buildings is to understand why Melbourne is one of the great cities of the world. Yet strangely enough Melbourne was laid out by someone who disliked lanes.

In 1837 Robert Hoddle drew up a map of Melbourne's streets, creating streets wider than New York's - but refused lanes because of his belief they were disreputable.

It was the ordinary people who demanded the lanes during the gold rush expansion and reclaimed Melbourne from the Establishment. So the lanes are the people's streets.

Our tour visits over thirty lanes including many hidden places below ground level. Pictured is one of my favourites, Lingham Lane. Containing the 1850s flour mill owned by William Desgraves. It is also currently the subject of a video art and story installation. See more images of lanes on our tour route in our photo gallery at [www.melbournewalks.com](http://www.melbournewalks.com).

**We are running two Lanes and Arcades tours on Sunday 9 January and Sunday 30 January 10am-12.30. Coffee included. To book contact us by phone: 90907964, 0408894734 or email us at [meyereidelson@yahoo.com](mailto:meyereidelson@yahoo.com)**

**Tours for groups can be booked at any time. Or you can order our Xmas gift vouchers (\$50 per person)**

## Death in the Cathedral

We are always adding more unsolved cases on our Cold Cases Tour and now cover over thirty mysteries in our 2.5 hour tour in the City.

In 1997 a man was found hanging in St Paul's Cathedral. He reportedly had mental health problems and became a pariah in Portland after being questioned by police in relation to a double murder that occurred in Portland in 1990. Two women were stabbed to death in broad daylight in a hairdressers shop, apparently with little motive. Three years later there was a similar murder in a Sunbury shop.

Did this 33-year-old commit suicide because of guilt? Or because of victimization? There is still a \$100,000 police reward outstanding. In fact many of our mystery cases have unclaimed rewards for information leading to convictions.

**Tours for groups can be booked for any times on 90907964 or [meyereidelson@yahoo.com](mailto:meyereidelson@yahoo.com)**



## Walks in the Wild West

Recent we conducted a walk in Yarraville exploring the wastelands of the Stony Creek valley near Westgate Bridge with members of the friends of Stony Creek. This area is a stunning if harsh wetland surrounded by the striking towers of the refineries and the Westgate bridge docks yet harboring rare white manaroves.

cottage and in 1901 she erected home for women and children nearby, today the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre.

The story of the 19th C welfare services in the lanes (including many Chinese missions) is little known but played a huge part in founding today's modern welfare system.



The tour is running 7 March and April 10, 2011 at the CAE 96520611. Or Bookings for two more can be made at any date on 90907964; [meyereidelson@yahoo.com](mailto:meyereidelson@yahoo.com)

## New Walks in Port Phillip

We recently launched the new 2011 walking program which we prepare annually for the City of Port Phillip covering seven neighbourhoods.

The next walk is 'The Art of Wild Food' on 30 January 2011 from 10-12: *Harvest wild food from our native plants on Elwood Beach. Artist Trace Balla will also teach you how to illustrate and paint them!* This and other walks can be found on [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/walks](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/walks). Bookings 92096522

## Family History Videos

Recently we launched two new DVDs. One with photographs, film and music about the life of a local film actress. It was designed as a tribute to her and an important record for her family. We interviewed many family members as well as detailing her history drawn from albums, precious objects and memories including taking a drive to the countryside with her to locations where she once lived. We also produced a film of the life of a person celebrating their 50th birthday

If you are interested in making a film to record the life of an important family member, we may be able to assist.

## Business Excellence Awards

Melbourne Walks was thankful to be announced in October as a finalist in three separate categories of the Business Excellence Awards in the City of Port Phillip including Tourism, Environmental Sustainability as well as Partnership and Social Inclusion.

Westgate bridge docks yet harboring rare white mangroves. The Stony Creek Backwash was a famous ballast ground for ships and the landing point for John Batman's ship in 1835 from where he set out to sign the Melbourne Treaty. Here wanders of the ghost of 14 year old Mathew Lucke whose throat was cut in a robbery in 1842.

This was one of the 12 free annual walks program we organise for Maribyrnong Council which can be found at: [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page\\_Id=5233](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=5233)

Our next walks is 'Back to Belgravia', Sunday 6 February 2011 from 10pm – Noon. Experience the heritage and landscapes of the delightful precinct of Seddon, once known as 'Belgravia', including exploring the ghost of the 1921 tramline to Footscray. Bookings [walking@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:walking@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or phone 9688 0310 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).

## Halloween

Halloween arises from the ancient Celtic belief that the border between this world and the Otherworld becomes thin on the 'Samhain festival' allowing both harmless and harmful spirits to pass through to 'our side'.

We were forced to limit numbers on recent haunted Halloween tour as it was packed with kids and adults despite wet gothic weather. Fortunately we were well protected by chalk symbols, garlic cloves and red kabbalah strings on our wrists. Luna Park generously donated free rides on the ghost train. Our haunted tour now runs regularly by arrangement if you have a group. We now cover 12 magic illusions, 20 supernatural events and visit ten historic places. One aspect we explore is the supernatural powers of the Aboriginal sorcerers or 'Wirrawaps' who had the power of flight recorded by the protector, William Thomas. In 1842 the Melbourne Wirrawaps raised the great serpent 'Mindie' to inflict revenge on the settlers as a result of the attack by troopers on an encampment at Heidelberg.

Bookings 90907964; [meyereidelson@yahoo.com](mailto:meyereidelson@yahoo.com)

## Tragedy in the Graveyard

Melbourne Walks runs a Death in Early Melbourne Tour at night in Melbourne's cemeteries in Flagstaff Gardens and Queen Victoria Market. We explore the history of the 9000 pioneer gravesites buried under the market's car park.

Historian David Weatherill recently alerted us to extraordinary records of corpses arriving at the cemetery minus undertakers. For example the case of Lee Tang Wung who hung himself from the fence in 1874 after paranoia or persecution because of leprosy. We've seen gazette records (1854, 1855, 1859 and 1892) that proclaim rewards for the identity of murderers by infanticide. Unknown persons left deceased infants in the cemetery. What drove them to it? Poverty? Illegitimacy?

There was at least one arrest of a man secretly climbing the wall at night with a corpse and shovel to bury the wife to save money. In my humble opinion, this is carrying self-sufficiency too far.

Bookings for two more can be made at any time on 90907964; [meyereidelson@yahoo.com](mailto:meyereidelson@yahoo.com)



Last gravestone in car park today

[www.melbournwalks.com](http://www.melbournwalks.com)

Tel: 90907964; 0408894724 Email: [meyereidelson@yahoo.com](mailto:meyereidelson@yahoo.com)

To unsubscribe reply to this email with 'unsubscribe' as the subject