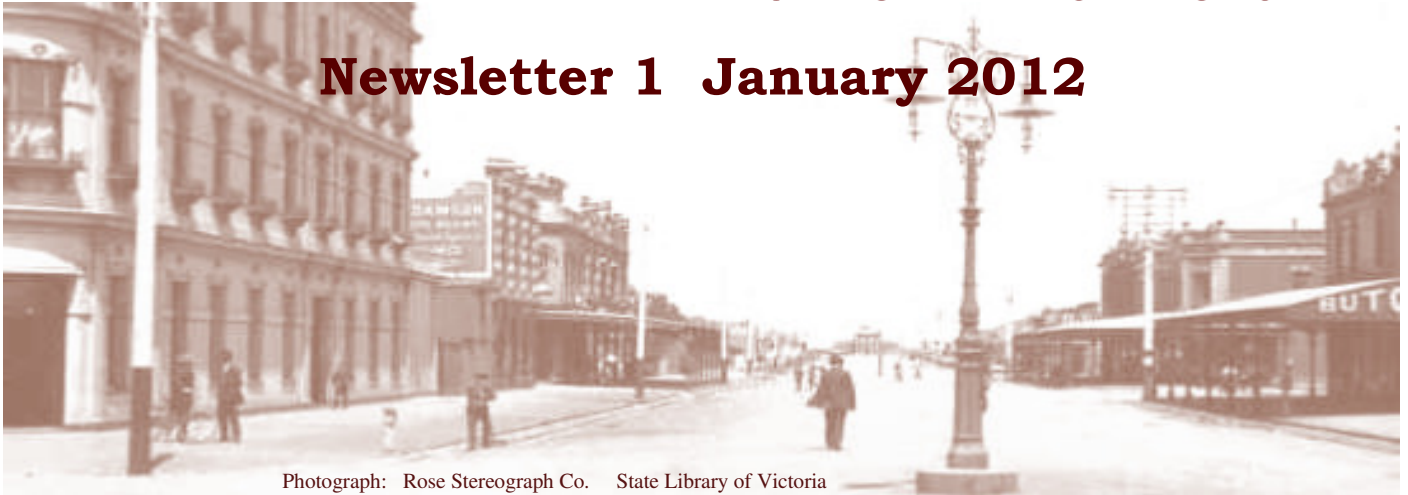


MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter 1 January 2012



Photograph: Rose Stereograph Co. State Library of Victoria

Formation of the Middle Park History Group (MPHG).

On Monday the 5th September 2011 the Middle Park History Group Inc. was launched at a well attended meeting at the Mary Kehoe Centre in Dank St. Prior to becoming an incorporated body a small group of Middle Park locals met informally for a year. They planned an historic photographic exhibition and prepared 16 framed historic photographs that were distributed throughout Middle Park shops. It was realised there was a need to become an official group.

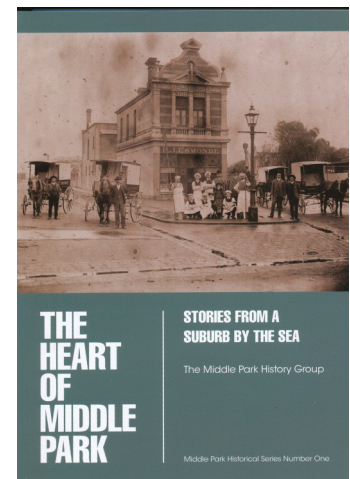
The objectives of the Middle Park History Group are to:

- *promote awareness and the preservation of Middle Park history*
- *involve and encourage the Middle Park community to actively participate in historical research*
- *seek from the community oral histories, photographs and moving images, documents and artefacts relevant to Middle Park history*
- *encourage research by government, educational institutions and others that can illuminate Middle Park history and culture.*
- *seek resources, both financially and in-kind to enhance the work of the Group*

The geographical boundaries decided for the MPHG include the Middle Park beach front, Fraser St, Kerferd Rd and Albert Park Reserve.

‘The Heart of Middle Park’

Our first book ‘The Heart of Middle Park’ was launched on the 5th December at the Mary Kehoe Centre. More than 100 people attended. Not only was the book received enthusiastically but Joe Eidelson presented his DVD also named ‘The Heart of Middle Park’. ‘The Heart of Middle Park’ book (\$15) can be purchased at ‘Hot Honey’, ‘The Victorian Wine Bar’ and ‘The Armstrong Street Food Store’, in Armstrong St; or at ‘The Avenue’ bookshop in Dundas Place, Albert Park. The DVD (\$10) is available from the ‘Avenue Bookshop’ and ‘Victor’s Dry Cleaning’, 9 Armstrong Street. You can also request purchases of the book and DVD by contacting the Treasurer on the email or postal addresses below.



MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP Inc. PO Box 5276, Middle Park 3206
Email: middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com Website: www.mphg.businesscatalyst.com

Know your street names – NIMMO STREET

John Nimmo, first city surveyor of Emerald Hill, Councillor, Mayor, MLA for Emerald Hill (Minister for Public Works)

John Nimmo (1819-1904) was born in Catrine, Ayrshire, Scotland, son of John Nimmo, mason, and his wife Janet. Trained in Glasgow, he arrived at Melbourne in the Abdallah with his wife Catherine, nee Kelly, in July 1853. He is said to have set up his own

contracting business, but the shipping lists show him as a grocer. His first recorded actions involved the separation of Emerald Hill from the Melbourne City Council in May 1855. He was appointed collector of rates and inspector of lodging-houses and nuisances for Emerald Hill in September; the post was divided in May 1856 and he was surveyor and inspector until September 1863. His major business interests thereafter are obscure. He was in coffee and spice wholesaling for some years and then moved into big business, joining the directorates of the Essendon Land Tramway and Investment Co., the Federal Coffee Palace and the Premier Permanent Building Land and Investment Association.

Extract, with thanks to Dr Rob Grogan, from his book:

Colonels, Colonials and Councillors: The Origin of Street Names of South Melbourne, Grogan, R; Cygnet Books, 2007.



MYSTERY HERITAGE OBJECT



What is its purpose?
Where is it located?
Do you know anything about C Kemp? Where was the business? For how long did he work as a plumber? Do you know where other similar objects like this are located in Middle Park?

Send responses to:
The Secretary, PO Box 5276,
Middle Park 3206, or email
to:
middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com

City of Port Phillip accolade



At the City of Port Phillip’s 2011 Civic Award afternoon on December 1st, the Middle Park History Group was selected as the ‘Civic Project of the Year’. This is indeed a magnificent accolade given the short time the Middle Park History Group has been in existence.



Middle Park History Group Vice President, Meyer Eidelson (top right), proudly holding the ‘Civic Project of the Year’ award. *Photo: Tim Turner, City of Port Phillip*

GET INVOLVE

Do you have a great Middle Park story to tell? Do you know any older resident that you think could tell great yarns about living in Middle Park? What about those photos or articles of bygone days? If you can help in any way, please contact Alison St John, Secretary, Middle Park History Group, at: middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com or, post to:

Middle Park History Group Inc., PO Box 5276, Middle Park, 3206.

Remember, history need not be something that occurred back in the dim dark ages. History is happening now!

It happened

150 Years ago

1862

By-laws were passed preventing the shooting of birds in Albert Park

100 Years ago

1912

Armstrong Street trade listings included a bootmaker, tailor, dressmaker and an ironmonger

52 Years ago

1960

The Middle Park Theatre was renamed as the New Arrow Theatre

Source: ‘The Heart of Middle Park’ Chronology

Lanark Terrace – a tragic loss!



Lanark Terrace, 55-60 Canterbury Rd, Middle Park, was demolished in 1974 by a dawn bulldozer raid. The demolition of this wonderful terrace caused an outcry throughout the wider community. The Middle Park History Group will oppose any proposals seen to destroy our heritage. If you know of any planning applications adversely impacting on Middle Park heritage, please contact Alison St John, Secretary, Middle Park History Group at middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com, outlining relevant details of the proposal.

BOARD MEMBERS

President: John Stirling
Vice President: Meyer Eidelson
Secretary: Alison St John
Treasurer: Sonya Cameron
Public Officer: Diana Phoenix
Rosemary Goad



Secretary, Alison St John viewing the MPHG exhibition at the Melbourne Camera Club, October 2011

The Middle Park History Group

is supported by

The City of Port Phillip



MEETINGS

Every First Monday of the month except January

6th February General meeting **5th March** Guest Speaker & Planning meeting

2nd April General Meeting

Meetings are held at the Mary Kehoe Centre, 224 Danks St Albert Park at 4.30 pm.

(An email will be sent to you prior to the meeting listing agenda items.)