

# MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP

## Newsletter 2 April 2012



Photograph: Rose Stereograph Co. State Library of Victoria

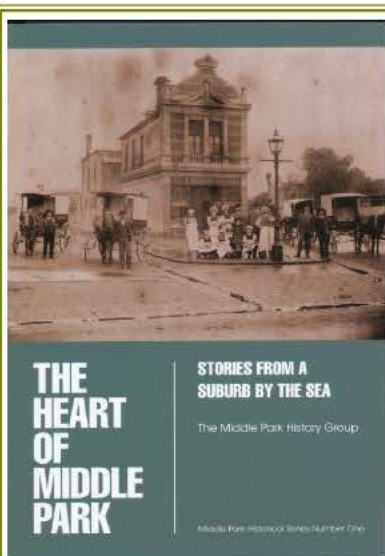
### APRIL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

*Born in Greece, Lambis Englezos arrived in Australia in his infancy. He attended Middle Park Primary School and lives locally.*

*Lambis spoke of his discovery and research into the mass graves of Australian 1<sup>st</sup> WW soldiers in Fromelles, France.*

*His talk was illustrated with telling visuals depicting the horror and tragedy of this horrific incident.*

*In 2009 Lambis was honoured with an Order of Australia (OAM) for 'services to the community through research and advocacy roles relating to Australian soldiers of the Great War buried in Fromelles, France'.*



Our very popular book can still be purchased for \$15 at the following outlets:

**Armstrong Street:**

- Hot Honey
- The Middle Park Food Store

**Richardson Street:**

- Peter Simmons Real Estate

**Albert Park:**

- Avenue Bookshop

**Or by contacting us on the email address below**

### OUR WEBSITE IS WORTH A LOOK

Our website (see address below) is constantly upgraded with an interesting array of historical information. Make it a habit to check the website regularly. Many thanks to Paul Connor for his expert continuing development of the website

### DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WORTH INTERVIEWING?

There are many fascinating stories to be told by local people about personalities or events relevant to Middle Park. If you know someone, or maybe yourself, who would have an interesting story to tell, please contact Anne Miller, our Oral History convener, on the postal or email address below.

MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP Inc. PO Box 5276, Middle Park 3206  
Email: [middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com) Website: [www.middleparkhistory.org](http://www.middleparkhistory.org)

# Know your street names - LANGRIDGE STREET

## George Langridge, MLA and Minister of Public Works

George David Langridge (1829-1891) was born at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, England. Early left fatherless, he went to Banbury, Oxfordshire, where he became apprenticed to a carpenter and then went into partnership with his brother, a builder in London. In 1851 he married Maria meade, and they produced nine sons and two daughters. The gold rushes brought Langridge to New South Wales, where he spent three months before moving to Victoria in 1853. he was unsuccessful as a digger at Ballarat and Bendigo for six months. He settled in Collingwood, and for two years worked as a carpenter on the building of Melbourne's military barracks before establishing his own contracting business. In 1869 he opened an auctioneering and estate agency firm, and by 1881 he had established three building societies. In 1866 he was elected to the Collingwood Town Council, and was mayor in 1867 and 1872. His wife died in 1874, and in 1877 he married Emily Judson.

Between 1874 and 1891 Langridge represented Collingwood in the Legislative Assembly. His background and his urban working class constituency were determining factors in his support of the Liberal leader, Graham Berry. He was an unspectacular back-bencher, but in 1875 he chaired the Royal Commission on



Friendly Societies and in 1877 had a leading role in the relevant legislation. In 1878 he served on the royal commission into closed roads and in 1885 was chairman of a select committee on the fire brigade system. In 1880 and 1881 he was commissioner of public works in the third Berry ministry. From 1883 until 1886 he was commissioner of trade and customs in the Service-Berry coalition. Because of ill health he did not seek office in the Gillies-Deakin coalition (1886-1890). In November 1890 he became chief secretary, commissioner of customs and minister of health in the Munro ministry. He was acting premier when he died suddenly at home in Clifton Hill, aged 62.

*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.

### LAST EDITION MYSTERY HERITAGE OBJECT

This cover- plate is located on the footpath outside the Armstrong St Food Store. The mains water supply to the store can be shut off by using this tap. It was common for plumbers to



have their business displayed on top of the cast iron cap. Often plumbers would also indicate the suburb they operated in. As yet, we are unaware of where the C Kemp plumbing business operated. Less and less traditional cover plates exist throughout Middle Park these days.

### MYSTERY HERITAGE OBJECT

What is it and where is it?



## *the long and perilous journey*

A HISTORY OF THE PORT OF MELBOURNE



Judith Raphael Buckrich

## **Port of Melbourne Corporation book donation**

We recently received this book to add to our collection.

*'The Long and Perilous Journey - a History of Port Melbourne'* tells an important story of the development of the port up to 2002. The Port of Melbourne has particular relevance to Middle Park as it provided a gateway for early Middle Park settlers, for the supply of building materials and for employment.

Thanks Port of Melbourne Corporation for your donation

## **ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA AFFILIATION**

We are now a Society member of The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV). This peak body for Victorian historical societies will advocate on our behalf, support the local history movement and represent the interests of its members on the broader cultural map of Victoria. The RHSV will offer us:

- Professional Support
- First Port of Call Service
- Cataloguing Expertise
- Victorian Local History Catalogue
- Insurance Scheme
- Information About Funding
- Local History Networks
- Publicity
- Free Use of the RHSV Library and Collections
- Opportunities to Take Part in RHSV Programs
- Subscription to the Victorian Historical Journal
- Collaborative Projects
- Victorian Community History Awards
- Bookshop
- History Week Banner Grant

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN OUR COLLECTION**

*South Melbourne: a history*, by Judith Priestley, 1995.

*The history of St. Kilda. v1, v2*, John Butler Cooper

*The show goes on*, Anne Longmire, 1989.

*No. 2815: Middle Park School, 1887-1987*, George Morris 1987.

*Melbourne's Grand Boulevard*, Judith Buckrich, 1996.

*Mind the curve! A history of cable trams*, John D Keating, 1980.

*Melbourne then and now*, Heather Chapman and Judith Stillman, 2005.

*Moments in time: great images of the 20<sup>th</sup> century*, Herald Sun

*Melbourne celebrates 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary: comprising the Noone panoramas.*

*Bayside reflections: Port Phillip Bay on film: part two: the top end.* DVD.

## **It happened.....**

**1861**

**151 years ago**

A rifle range with three butts was formed extending towards the beach from what is now Middle Park in a line east of Richardson St and parallel to the railway line.

**1909**

**103 years ago**

A post office was established in Middle Park.

**1939 -45**

**73 years ago**

Extensive takeover by the military in Albert Park.

Source: *'The Heart of Middle Park - Chronology'*

## SADLY MISSED



This Presbyterian church was located opposite the Middle Park Primary School on the land where the Frank and Mary Crean Reserve is now located.

There was a proposal to close Richardson Street midway between Mills and Wright streets to provide a safe crossing for students to use the church building and also to extend the school grounds.

However, the building was demolished in the early 1980's.

The 1980 Primary School Council report stated *'Since the purchase (church building) in 1976, nothing but crisis after crisis has occurred. The Education Department has allowed the building to deteriorate rapidly due to their non involvement ... and vandals have caused extensive damage to the church building'*.

Not only was the church building designed to be used by the Middle Park Primary School, it was also to become a much needed Middle Park community centre.

The Middle Park History Group is supported by The City of Port Phillip



### **Board Members:**

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

## **MEETINGS**

Every first Monday of the month except January

Forthcoming meetings: **7th May** , **4th June** , **2nd July**

**Meetings are held in 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)