

MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter 4 October 2012

Photograph: Rose Stereograph Co. State Library of Victoria

MIDDLE PARK HISTORY GROUP CELEBRATES IT'S FIRST YEAR

At the MPHG AGM held in September 2012, there was much to celebrate our first year.

Highlights include:

1. The production of our first book.

'*The Heart of Middle Park*' book and companion DVD have exceeded all expectations. We initially printed 400 books only to find that they sold out in a few weeks. Two further print runs, bringing the total to 800 are nearly sold out.

2. Website and Email address. We now have an informative and expertly designed website www.middleparkhistory.org This website provides members and the general public with a host of information including local historic photographs, a calendar of events and links to other kindred organizations.

3. Framed Historical Photographs. There are 16 framed historical photographs displayed throughout Middle Park shops. They are circulated around shops every six months.

4. City of Port Phillip (CoPP) partnership. We are delighted that we receive strong support from the CoPP. Due to CoPP's willingness to assist us, we now have a home base at the Mary Kehoe Centre. We have also entered into a Funding Deed with CoPP where a range of partnership projects will take place.

5. Affiliation with the Royal Historic Society of Victoria (RHSV). This peak body for Victorian historical societies advocates, on our behalf, on legal and administrative matters, and also assists with expert historical research services, public liability insurance and provides a range of exhibitions and benefits available to MPHG Members.

6. Newsletter. The MPHG produces a quarterly newsletter such as this edition.

7. General Meetings. General meetings are held throughout the year where reports have been presented on the finances and activities of the MPHG. A special and important feature of our general meetings is our guest speaker program.



Local estate agent Geoff Cayzer was guest speaker at the 2012 AGM
Photo: Meyer Eidelson

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SOME TERMS RELATED TO VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE

The article on Victorian architecture written by **Alison St John and Max Nankervis** in our last Newsletter highlighted a number of architectural terms. Alison and Max explain their meanings. Middle Park is known for its extraordinary Victorian and Edwardian (next edition) architecture.

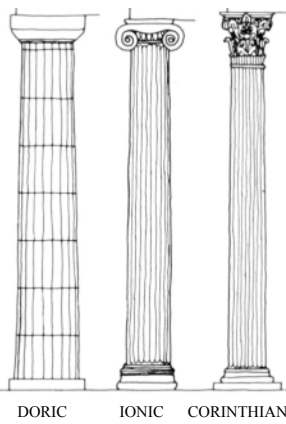
Next time you walk around your neighbourhood, see if you can locate these details.

Arts and Crafts Movement

A movement that flourished between 1860 and 1910 in the United Kingdom protesting against industrialization and infusing the crafts back into the world we live in. It stood for traditional craftsmanship using simple forms and often applied medieval, romantic or folk styles of decoration. It also advocated social reform. Architecturally it tended to express a rejection of gross “false” decoration which was so often exhibited in “high Victorian” architecture.

Classical

This style refers to the building styles of ancient Greece and Rome and is an attempt to provide a harmonious sense of proportion and balance in building facades. It can be especially seen in the use of the three ‘orders’ in caps/bases of columns; Doric (simple rings), Ionic (looks like bulls horns at head of column) and Corinthian (like leaves or feathers at top of column)



Corbel

A corbel is a bracket of stone, often carved, projecting from a wall and supports a cornice or arch. Often seen in hallways of Victorian houses as well as on the exterior of houses. The word comes from “corvus”, the Latin name for a raven, because of the similarity in shape to a raven's beak.

Cornice

This is the uppermost section of mouldings along the top of a wall or just below the roof, often joining the wall to the roof.



Finial



An architectural device which usually rises to a point, often of stone or wood, used decoratively to emphasize the apex of a gable, or it can be distinctive ornaments at the top or end of a building (once thought to deter witches landing

Frieze

A horizontal band or strip in a wall of sculpted or painted decoration.



Moulded ornamental swags

A festoon of flowers or ribbon fashioned from stone, wood or plaster, much used in the decoration of Victorian houses



Parapet

A low protective wall or railing along the edge of a roof which tended to “hide” the roof and give the building a more solid appearance. Often (in Victorian architecture) the parapet was made up of vertical balusters or rails supporting a top horizontal rail, and may be interspersed by spaced solid pillars or a decorative pediment.



Pediment

A classical architectural element consisting of a triangular or raised section, commonly viewed from the front of a building.

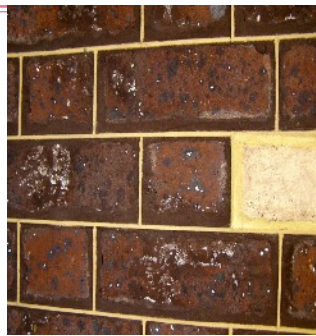


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Polychrome bricks

This style of brickwork which regained fashion status in the 1860s (having been used several centuries earlier) used bricks of different colours (typically brown, cream and red) in patterned combinations. Rare examples are to be found in Sydney but are prevalent in Melbourne, especially in the architecture of Joseph Reid (eg Rippon Lea, St Michael's Church)



Tuck pointed brickwork

After the bricks have been mortared with a matching colour mortar, a fine fillet of white substance is pushed into the joints just before the mortar sets, giving the impression that very fine joints have been made.

Vermiculation

A decoration in stucco on rendered walls, projections etc where a dense but irregular pattern of lines or indentations resemble worm tracks. The word comes from the Latin for worm. There are many examples on the projecting verandah walls in terraces in Middle Park.



Tessellated patterned tiled verandahs

Complex tiled patterns using a variety of tile colours, typically on verandahs and paths, but sometimes also in interiors in halls, fireplaces etc.



Know your Street Names

William Carter, an old and respected resident, conducted a florist's business and hot-house in Ferrars Street opposite the South Melbourne Railway Station, and also had some Italian greyhounds used for coursing rabbits in Albert Park. In 1870 he was contracted by the Council to prune trees in streets and reserves.

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.

City of Port Phillip Funding Deed partnership



The MPHG has recently signed a Funding Deed with the CoPP to operate from the July 2012 to June 2013.

The funding is provided to enable the MPHG to promote awareness and the preservation of Middle Park's history. This will be achieved by involving and encouraging the Middle Park community to actively participate in historical research, seek from the community oral histories, photographs, moving images, documents and artefacts.

Funding is also provided to enhance the development of innovative heritage programs in the City of Port Phillip.

The MPHG will, over the next year, embark on the following activities to meet the

Requirements of the Funding Deed. This will be achieved by:

- continuing with a second book publication.
- Digitising and cataloguing historical photographs.
- Recording oral histories from both residents and former residents of Middle Park.
- Delivering programs including exhibitions, heritage talks and self guided walks.
- Responding to public enquiries regarding the history of Middle Park.

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(City of Port Phillip Funding Deed cont.)

We congratulate the initiative of the City of Port Phillip in granting this Funding Deed. We are also appreciative that Council is very supportive in protecting the municipality's heritage.

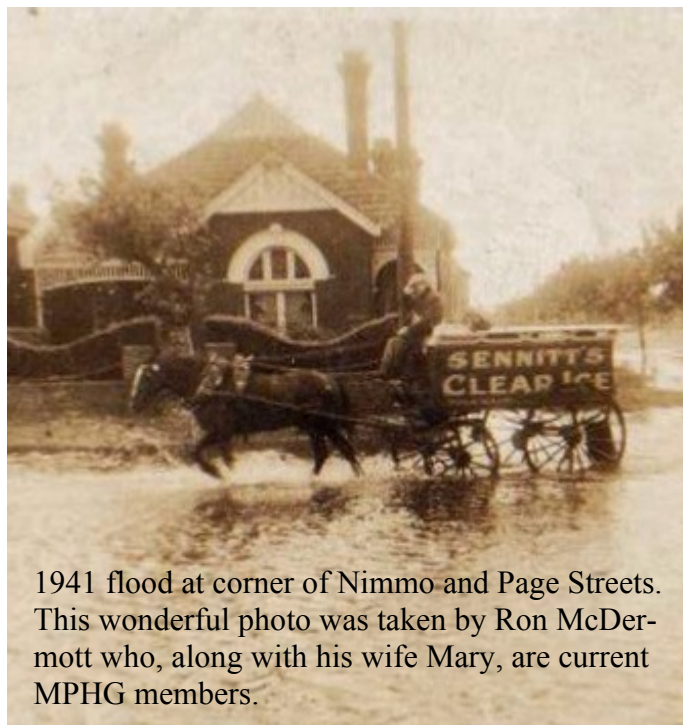
It Happened in...

1856 (July) Contract let for the construction of the St Kilda railway line (now light trail No. 96 route).

1908 Council (South Melbourne) agrees in principle to open bathing on the beach.

1939 to 1945 Extensive takeover by military in Albert Park.

Source: 'The Heart Of Middle Park' Chronology



1941 flood at corner of Nimmo and Page Streets. This wonderful photo was taken by Ron McDermott who, along with his wife Mary, are current MPHG members.

MYSTERY HERITAGE OBJECT

Regularly seen in lanes throughout Middle Park. What has caused this deep ridge?



LAST EDITION MYSTERY HERITAGE OBJECT

This is the remains of a lamp post located at the Armstrong St. light-rail underpass. A second one, in a poorer state of repair can be seen on the Albert Park side of the underpass. Both these cast iron lamp posts deserve to be restored.

We are keen to find a photograph showing what the light fitting on top of the post looked like.

If you have a photograph of the intact light post please contact us.



HAVE YOU BOUGHT OUR FIRST BOOK?

Our very popular book 'The Heart of Middle Park' can still be purchased for \$15 from these outlets:

Armstrong Street:

- Victor's Dry Cleaners
- Sweat

Richardson Street:

- Peter Simmons Real Estate

Albert Park:

- Avenue Bookshop

Or by contacting us at:

middleparkhistorygroup@gmail.com



THE HEART OF MIDDLE PARK

STORIES FROM A SUBURB BY THE SEA

The Middle Park History Group

Middle Park Historical Series Number One

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

Forthcoming general meetings: **3rd December 2012, 4th February 2013**

Committee meetings: **5th November 2012, 4th March 2013**

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

(Notification will be sent to you prior to the meeting listing agenda items)