

About the Kurth Kiln Group and its Activities over the years

Starting in June 1999 with 12 members and a desire to help protect our cultural heritage, the group now has over 100 supporters, regular working bees and project funding

Kurth Kiln was constructed in 1941, to the radically new design of Dr. Ernest Edgar Kurth (see picture on the left), to produce a substitute fuel for the motor industry during the WWII petrol rationing period of the 1940s.

Commissioned on 18 March 1942 it was the first charcoal kiln to operate on a continuous basis, utilising water cooling to produce 3 tons of charcoal from 21 tons of wood-billets every 24 hours.

The charcoal was put over a waterwheel-driven grader, sewn into hessian bags and sold at distribution points for 6 to 10 shillings, depending on grade. The charcoal grader is one of the items waiting for restoration funding at Kurth Kiln.

A display recently commissioned for a series of donated historic Gas Producers shows our visitors some of the many uses for the charcoal produced here.

Fitted with several Interpretation Boards, the Display constitutes a Heritage Walk, where visitors can learn some of the history of the units and of Producer Gas.



History and Heritage is a big part of our annual Cultural Heritage Festival in April each year, attracting big crowds.



Caring for our Bush and Waterways environment is of great concern to all of us. We are grateful for the funding support received from Parks Victoria and from Melbourne Water for our re-vegetation projects and for the participation of local Schools.



The Kurth Kiln Logo was created for us by Gembrook artist Sue Jarvis, and the picture below of the Kurth Kiln Forestry Huts taken in 1982 comes from her archives. We are grateful for the great support we receive from all our friends.



Scheduled meetings and working bees are on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 10am. Everyone is welcome to join us there at anytime, to help in whatever their favourite activity is, or to just say "Hello" and look around.



For those who enjoy the natural beauty of our native bush, there are many opportunities in Kurth Kiln Regional Park to do so, with over 100km of Walking Tracks to choose from. Including the recently completed Thornton Track with its footbridge over the Tomahawk Creek, commemorating long-time resident Caretaker of Kurth Kiln, Ron Thornton. Conservation work on a Portable Steel Kiln in Tonimbuk was a joint project with the Friends of Bunyip State Park



Locality Map of Kurth Kiln

and contact Information for the

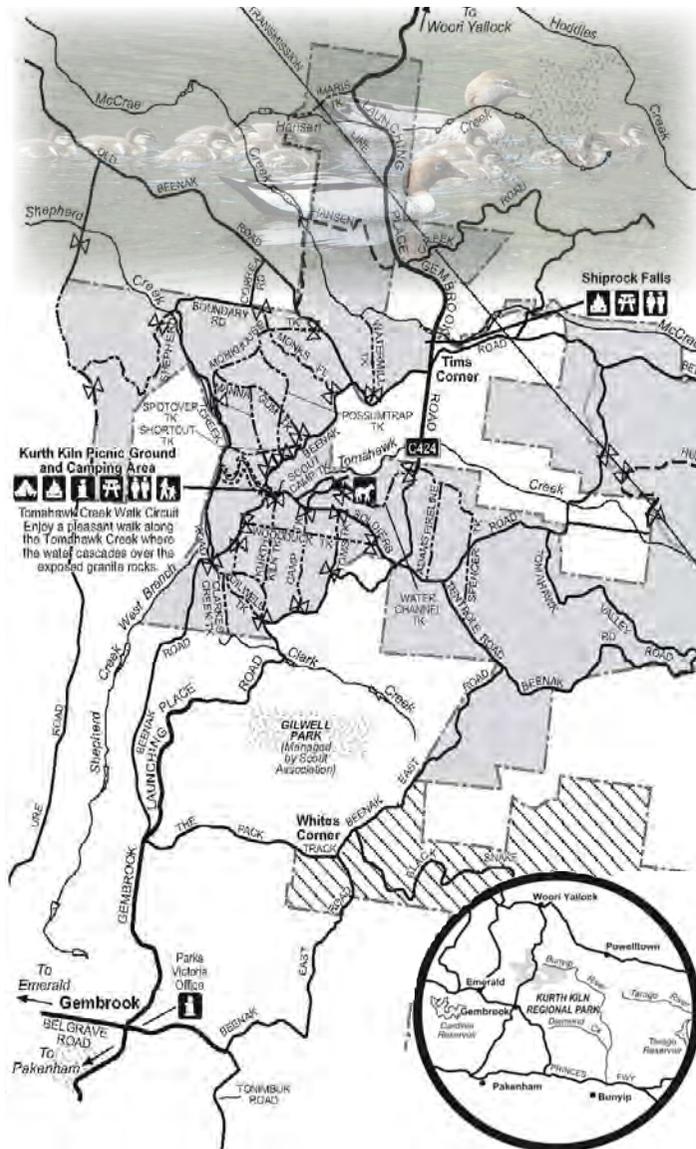
Friends of Kurth Kiln

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The Friends of Kurth Kiln

A group of Volunteers under the Auspices of Parks Victoria, caring for our environment and promoting greater public awareness of the Cultural Heritage of Kurth Kiln and of its significance in Australian History



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

