**Accompanies Item 6483**

**Just add Water**

I attended the launch of this absorbing and informative book on Friday 29 March at Toorourrong Reservoir. The launch was preceded by the inaugural ‘Table of Plenty’ long table lunch, where delicious local produce was shared, along with great stories from guests.

The event was presented by the Friends of Toorourrong, the City of Whittlesea, Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water.

The book is a collective history of the people involved in the construction and maintenance of the Wallaby Creek, Toorourrong and Yan Yean reservoirs. It covers the pre-European and early history of the Plenty Valley, then focuses on this amazing water harvesting system of ‘bluestone, granite and gravity’.

My father worked as the Fire Watcher on the Strath Creek Tower for many years, so I came to know the area well while growing up in Pheasant Creek. I contributed my recollection of his work, which complimented the stories of other workers and their families.

This social history is interwoven with themes and events, including the devastation of large parts of the closed catchment by the 2009 fires. Indeed, recovery from the fires and challenging moves by Melbourne Water to demolish Toorourrong’s bluestones walls and structures was the genesis of the Friends group. They now work together to protect the heritage and maintain Toorourrong Park, under the guidance of Parks Victoria.

The book features an array of wonderful photos and memorabilia. It is an important record and a credit to the dedication of the Friends of Toorourrong.

Copies are available at $40 via fotoorourrong@gmail.com

A copy is available at the Resource Centre.

The Friends of Toorourrong plan to make the Table of Plenty Lunch an annual event, so keep an eye out for next years’ lunch.

**Anne Paul**

**29 March 2019**