

NON LOCAL

1. South Melb. Port Melb.
2. Nth. Carlton & Melb. Gen. Cemetery.
3. M.C.G. Museum etc.
4. Footscray, James Flood Museum.
5. Melb. Performing Arts Centre.
6. Caulfield, "Labassa" Racing Museum.
7. Prahran, Mechanic's Inst. Library of Local Histories of Victoria.
8. Melb., Latrobe Library.
9. Werribee, Werribee Park Homestead.
10. Queenscliff, Historic Fort & Tourist Steam Railway etc. etc.
11. Yarra Glen Museum at the old railway station.

=====

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ABORIGINAL SITES ( IN THE MELB. METROPOLITAN AREA)  
SUMMARY OF A TALK BY MR GARY PRESLAND OF THE VIC. DEPT. OF ARCHAEOLOGY.  
at N.H.S. Meeting 11th April 1984.

The 10 years work so far done on the Vic. Archaeological Survey has been mainly in rural areas - such as the Mornington Pen., the Westernport Catchment area & the Bellarine Pen. Results make it possible to assess the need for more intensive work in the metropolitan area. It is also desirable to obtain a clear idea of the number & density of archaeological sites & the means by which they can be preserved. The further study of Melb. sites would be valuable for the clues they can give about pre-European life in the area.

Using a "land use" map of today the speaker indicated that the focus had to be on areas which could be walked through & which had a 70% visibility of land, e.g. creek edges - Koroit Cr. recently had 17 sites, the Maribyrnong R. 3 sites.

Another map reconstructed possible areas used in pre-European time, swampy lands such as Sth. Melb. to St. Kilda & the Carrum-Edithvale Wetlands as food sources; the huge Sandringham sandy area, the open savannah spaces & the forests spread over the Dandenongs & the edges of & nth. of the Yarra for hunting etc.

A third map showed the approx. areas occupied by the five tribes (Kulin) situated west of the Dandenongs to Mt. Macedon & the Barwon R. Mr Presland described the possible sizes of the tribes & the total number of aboriginal people around Port Phillip prior to Europeans.

It was interesting to learn that there is still visible evidence of aboriginal occupation in the Met. area, the most famous being the Maribyrnong R. at Keilor where in 1940 a human skull proved to be 16 - 17,000 years old was found. Scarred trees, often known as "canoe trees" are evidence of aboriginal activities. The bark was taken to make shields, containers & if large enough, canoes. To be a true relic the tree must be at least 150 years old, the scar symmetrical & not run to the ground. One fine example is in a garden in Main St. Blackburn.

Kitchen Middens have been found at Pt. Ormond, Brighton & Sandringham, & other spots on the M'ton Pen. They are observed as ledges or ridges in sandy escarpments along which are the remains of shellfish, bones & ash from fires.

The finding of many tools was described at length, their origins often being far distant from where found, this indicated the widespread trading of tools between tribes. Hunting & trapping methods were also described inc. an early sketch of a fencelike weir constructed across a river (near Braybrook of today) which was used to trap fish.

In conclusion Mr Presland suggested that much further information on early Aboriginal life could still be found in private diaries, drawings & records which have not yet been found & asked that we keep looking for such information as we worked on research into families etc.

Joan Roczniook.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed. 13th June  
7.45pm

General Meeting at Coffee Shop Civic Centre Nuna-  
wading. Speaker: Mr Warwick Shortland talking &  
exhibiting his fine collection of Toy Cars.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN JULY. Next meeting 8th. Aug.