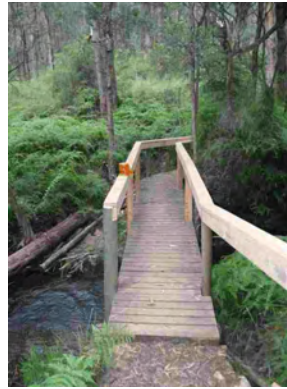


History and Heritage in the Bush

Some 7km North of Gembrook Kurth Kiln was completed early in 1942, and at that time was the only continuously operating charcoal kiln in Australia. It had a capacity of 25 tonnes of billets (1.2m lengths of wood) which, when topped up every two hours, produced three tonnes of charcoal every twenty four hours. Charcoal was used in motor vehicles as a substitute for petrol with so called "Gas Producers". A 6shilling (60c) bag would last for up to 100km.



all part of Kurth Kiln Regional Park

Today Kurth Kiln is a Picnic Ground in a quiet and peaceful bushland setting. Here the wind sings its undulating song in tall Eucalyptus trees, and graceful black cockies sail majestically overhead. Picturesque walking tracks lead along the Tomahawk creek, crossing it on several rustic bridges. At Kurth Kiln you are never far from civilisation yet you feel the beauty of the bush talking to you as if you were the only person in the world.



KURTH KILN		TIME-LINE										
1940-1942	>	1945-1946	>	1960-1963	>	1970	>	1982-1985	>	1999-2000	>	>>>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Petrol rationing begins 1 October ● Kurth investigates pyrolysis of wood ● Kurth lodges patent No 2563/41 ● Kurth is commissioned to build kiln ● First firing of kiln on 18 March 1942 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● War ends, Rationing ends ● Kurth Kiln decommissioned, ● now a Forest Management Centre ● 18 ex-army huts installed ● Workforce of 100 accommodated 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Management relocated to Kallista ● Only 8 of the huts remain here ● Now a Fire Fighting Base Camp ● 3 huts burn down, the rest are consolidated and refitted 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The site is used as a Storage Facility only ● Big Shed cladding removed For a large covered area 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● developed as a Picnic Ground ● Picket Fence installed ● Caretaker Cottage outfitted ● Ron Thornton takes up residence 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friends of Kurth Kiln group formed ● Repairs to Kiln started ● New Waterwheel built ● Ron Thornton dies June 2000 ● Thornton Walking Track created 		

Aims and Objectives of the Friends of Kurth Kiln

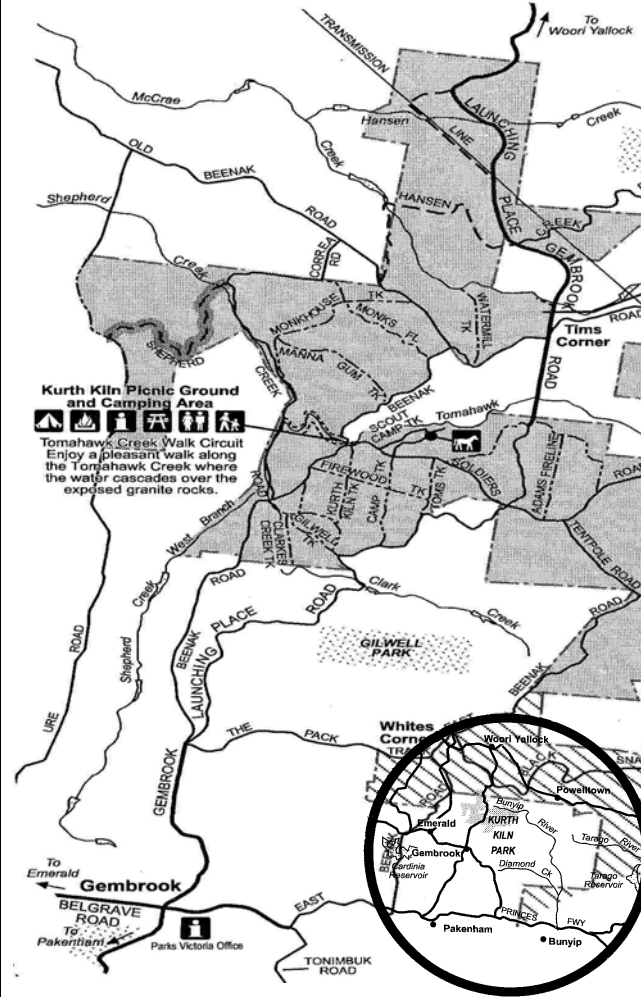


- Promote greater awareness of the site's historic significance in the development of the local area.
- Apply conservation, maintenance and appropriate restoration practices in line with recommendations by the Heritage Council.
- Construct and maintain walking tracks along the Tomahawk Creek in the kiln area, and produce suitable Track-Notes.
- Collect and collate Kurth Kiln history, both historic and technical, with the long-term view of publishing the collection in book form.
- Establish a Display Area where machinery and tools are accessible for viewing by visiting groups, tourists and the general public using the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground.
- Categorise and computer-catalogue its vast Moveable Cultural Heritage treasure, and provide a suitable storage facility.
- Encourage programs to protect the local flora and fauna, and the practice of environmental art, craft and hobbies.
- Provide covered Barbecue areas, with environmentally friendly barbecue facilities.

Friends of Kurth Kiln, Parks Victoria Volunteers

Locality Map of Kurth Kiln & its Park

Kurth Kiln Regional Park is the shaded area.
Part of Parks Victoria it covers about 3500ha.



For more information, and for details on how to join the group and support its aims, visit the Friends of Kurth Kiln website at: www.vicnet.net.au/~fofkk or contact us through Parks Victoria, 13 19 63.

Friends of Kurth Kiln

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Kurth Kiln

A historic Heritage in the Bush

and

a Picnic & Camping Ground
7km north of Gembrook



On the Internet at www.vicnet.net.au/~fofkk



A Natural Historic Environment

Produced by the Friends of Kurth Kiln in 2007