

CONTACTS

Contact the committee through:
 Steve Smith, DNRE, 46 Aitken St, Alexandra.
 ph. 5772 0221
 or
 Lorraine Pyke, Upper Goulburn Field
 Naturalists Club.
 ph. 5772 1189

ACTIVITIES

In addition to groups and individuals organising their own activities after registering through the adopt an area, theme, weed or nursery there will be periodic activity days planned and advertised. Look out for information and dates for:

- Educational walks,
- seed collection days
- planting days.

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Register your interest in the project by returning the attached slip.

Public liability insurance for the committee and volunteers has been arranged through the Council of Murrindindi. All volunteers will be required to sign a once only form and then follow a simple procedure of notification when participating in activities.

Health and safety guidelines have been produced for the project and will be distributed to all participants. The guidelines and volunteer notification procedures are also displayed at Alexandra Library.

U.T. CREEK VEGETATION RESTORATION PROJECT



Sacred Kingfisher
 Photo: Ian McCann



Ivy leaf Violet
 Photo: Viridans

YOUR CHANCE TO BE
 INVOLVED IN
 EXCITING
 COMMUNITY
 ACTIVITIES



THE PROJECT

WAYS TO BE INVOLVED

adopt an area

Take on an area that suits your resources and interests and call it your own. You'll get to discuss the aims and tasks for that area and then run a program that suits your group.

adopt a weed

A small number of weed species that occur along the creek require special attention. Focus on one weed and specific removal techniques gives a better chance of

adopt a theme

Take ownership or participate in a theme that has a general focus on the creek. Choose from rubbish removal, water quality monitoring or flora & fauna survey or suggest other themes.

adopt the nursery

It is hoped that a small nursery can be set up to produce planting stock from material collected from native plants along the creek. Please register your interest and ideas on running this nursery.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Alexandra library have kindly allocated a display area to the project. Visit the library to view a map and read information about health and safety guidelines and insurance. News, events, flora and fauna lists and pictures and committee meeting minutes will also be at the library.

The project has been set up as part of a broader focus of planning and works along the general environs of Ultima Thule (U.T.) Creek within the Alexandra township. This project is being conducted through a sub committee of the U.T. Creek Enhancement Community Group. This project is focused on the bed and banks of the creek within the township, with the aim of restoring the creek to a corridor of natural indigenous vegetation through our parklands and town. (see project aims)

The project has funding of \$1500 from a Parks Victoria Community Grant for 2001/02.

PROJECT AIMS

- ◆ To restore the vegetation on the bed and banks of U.T. Creek from the current mix of native remnants and weeds to a more balanced and manageable ecosystem of predominately indigenous native species.
- ◆ To restore ecosystem components either missing or depleted such as large on ground litter and tree hollows.
- ◆ To develop a planned integrated boundary between parkland and natural vegetation of the creek. The aim will be to provide access and viewing points while maintaining integrity of the natural ecosystem and wildlife habitat.
- ◆ To involve the community in organising, participation and ownership of the project.

PROPOSED HERITAGE ZONE



A
160

ATTACHMENT
11

TOWNSHIP OF 17
ALEXANDRA
Upper Goulburn River

SCALE
5 10 15 CHAINS
Feb. 1867 SURVEYED BY
J. Downey
CONS. SURVEYOR

L. 3655



Photolithographed at the Department of Lands and Survey Melbourne by J. Noone.
14. 2. 76

"LAND ACT 1884."

Section 10 Part 1.

Application of *Alexandra Shire Council*

Parish of *ALEXANDRA* County of *ANGLESEY*

Area *21 3/9*

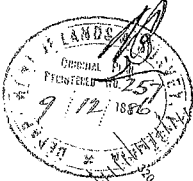
Scale *4 Chains to an Inch.*

DESCRIPTION

Geological form *Sands & loam*
Physical conform *flat*
Soil *good*
Vegetation *well grassed, no timber*

Application No *A. 17319*

Certif^o of Reg. No



*Exd
P. Millard
31.1.87
B.H.*



I Certify that this Survey has been effected on the Ground in accordance with Regulations and that this Plan is correct.

Oliver Thomson Authorized Surveyor
2-9-86

Examined
by
of
of

I certify to the best of my belief that this survey has been effected with due regard to instructions, and that the Plan is correct.

J. Nixon District Surveyor

*O.P.A
160*

Mandy 6/12/86

Dove Cottage, Leckie Park, Alexandra

Compiled by Joan Edwards for the U.T. Creek Group 2004

This charming and picturesque cottage on the banks of U.T. Creek is one of the few reminders of the goldfields which brought Alexandra into existence. It is thought to occupy the site of one of the many miners' shacks which sprang up along the creek soon after the discovery of alluvial gold in 1867. At its peak, the gold rush brought thousands of miners to camp on the 3,000 acres of common land which had been set aside for their dwellings, livestock and for their wood.

The building has become much altered over time but retains its sense of the past. The oldest visible section is the wall of split palings at the rear. The chimney bricks were handmade at the local kilns and the maker's fingerprints are still clearly visible.

Most of the previous inhabitants will never be known, especially as, although built on Crown Land, it was privately owned and was often rented out. The earliest documented inhabitant was Mrs Gertrude Morris who lived at the cottage from 1926 - 1939. She carried out a laundry service for the local hospital, the hotels and for some of the surrounding farmers. The original laundry building remains at the rear of the cottage although the copper and troughs have disappeared.

The washing was dried on about 3 clotheslines, with props, in the yard. There was a 3 roller mangle in the kitchen and all the sheets were ironed. The washing was brought to her in big cane baskets and repacked into them when laundered.

It was rented for a time by Mr Joe and Mrs Jean Norris before they helped the last occupant, Mrs Sarah Dove move in in 1940. Mrs Dove had moved in to Alexandra from Upper Rubicon after her home was burnt in the devastating 1939 fires. She lived there from 1940 to 1983 and worked as a cook at McNair's Hotel for many years.

After her departure, the cottage remained empty and neglected for years until officers from the then Department of Conservation and Environment and the Shire decided to see if it should be retained. A public meeting, held in 1987, was well attended and a Dove Cottage Advisory Committee was appointed. Considerable sums were donated by the community for the purchase of the property and towards its restoration. Materials for a new picket fence were donated by Goulds and the DCE staff undertook the construction of the fence and the restoration of the verandah.

It should be noted that the cottage was seen as an important feature of the park by landscape designer Richard Hammond. An officer from the DCE's Historic Buildings Branch also visited the cottage and was hopeful that it could be saved as there are so few remaining examples of early timber dwellings.

In 1991 a 'Friends of Dove Cottage' group was formed with the aim of protecting the cottage from further deterioration, restoring the exterior in a sensitive manner and making a cottage style garden of hardy plants. The group held a public appeal and a raffle to raise funds for work on the exterior. The appeal ran between April and July 1991, raising \$2,158 as well as valuable offers of building materials and labour.

The group dismantled the old bathroom at the rear of the building and a new section, using donated old windows and doors, and including a sewered toilet, was built. The exterior of the building was also painted in Heritage colours by the Friends.

In 1993 the Citizen's Advice Bureau moved into the cottage after the painting of the interior was organised by Alexandra Community Care. They operated there until Alexandra Community Care was disbanded. In March 2000 the cottage began to be used by the Shire and continues as consulting rooms for the Family counsellor and associated visiting professionals such as CASA, JPET and Adult Mental Health.

The Friends group has always been few in number but have been assisted by other interested residents, especially members of the DCE and the former Alexandra Community Care. Shire garden staff undertook to mow the lawns and have been helpful with rubbish removal and installation of the watering system.

Over recent years, some of the Friends group continued to try and ensure that the garden was kept tidy and watered. They organised a watering system to be installed but restrictive watering schedules and pressure on too few and too busy members has meant that the garden has suffered badly over the long dry spell.

Members were also disheartened by a lack of recognition by local government in general, especially when a colour bond roof was installed on half the building with no consultation whatsoever. Although no doubt done with the best of intentions, it was disappointing that neither the group nor the historic elements of the cottage, for which the Group worked hard to protect, were recognised.

The Dove Cottage Advisory Committee has not met for at least 10 years and probably now has no official standing and few surviving members. Some of the Friends group continue to keep an eye on the cottage and garden but there is an obvious need for a revival of interest both from the community and the Shire. The possibility of a Heritage Grant for further sensitive restoration could be investigated.

Like other remaining original members who have spent many, many hours at Dove Cottage, my impression is that, unlike grander buildings like the Shire Hall, Post Office etc, it is a simple weatherboard residence and gives a real sense of domestic life in the early days of Alexandra, especially of the goldminers and working people. It is often visited by tourists and locals alike. They all appreciate the fact that the cottage has been saved. These tangible glimpses of history help to give us an immediate sense of Alexandra's past and of the unique character of the town we live in. They also help us, as individuals, to form a sense of our own identity.