



GLEN EIRA

Historical Society Inc

Registration No: A0041700U

PO Box 202 Caulfield South 3162

Murrumbeena and the Boyds

Wednesday 26 March 2014

Talk by Colin Smith, author

Colin Smith's talk focused on the 1988 creation of Boyd Park in Murrumbeena, and outlined his research into the Boyd family. The latter is embodied in his self-published 460 page book entitled *Merric Boyd and Murrumbeena: the life of an artist in a time and place*.

Creating Boyd Park

In 1984, Murrumbeena residents became aware of a proposed rezoning of former Outer Circle Railway land from Main Road Reservation to Residential C.

Responses to this proposal included formation of the Murrumbeena Outer Circle Parkland Retention Group, the development of a proposal for an Outer Circle Linear Park, and discussions with government representatives on the linear park concept. Media involvement included articles and reports in metropolitan and local newspapers, and ABC radio coverage.

In August 1985, the Outer Circle Study Group was established, which recommended a linear park be developed on the crown land along the old line, from Oakleigh to Fairfield.

After discussion, the name Boyd Park was chosen and the Park was launched by Premier John Cain on 28 February 1988.

Colin's presentation of such documents as letters, newspaper articles and reports vividly showed the involvement of individuals, councils, conservation and heritage organisations, committees, government identities, and the media that led to the development of a linear park along the Outer Circle route.

Researching the Boyd Family

Colin next turned his attention to the Boyd family and outlined his methodological approach to gathering of information on that family. He started with interviewing people who knew the Boyds, seeking to understand the interviewees' perceptions of that family. He then interviewed some Boyd family members including Lucy, David and Phyllis Boyd.

In addition to shedding light on the Boyd family, Colin's talk emphasised the meticulous nature of his oral history research, involving recording, transcript preparation, and the often lengthy process of gaining feedback from interviewees on the transcript.

The 40 people present appreciated Colin's presentation which shed light on a significant recent local community action, and a prominent local family.