

# News



**Past and present:** Elaine Brogan of Essendon, Peter Somerville of Seddon and Eve Park of Ascot Vale dressed in full period costume to commemorate the event. **Picture:** Ted Kloszynski

## Ceremony to give credit where it's due

THE bicentenary of the exploration of Port Phillip Bay by acting surveyor general Charles Grimes was commemorated with a plaque unveiling by Melbourne Lord Mayor John So last Thursday.

The plaque, installed at Crown Towers landing stage, recognises Grimes's role in identifying the site that grew to become Melbourne.

An event to commemorate the first

time Europeans discovered the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers will be held early next month.

For more than two centuries, the location of the city of Melbourne has been credited to John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner.

In 1803, an expedition led by Grimes, from NSW, charted Port Phillip Bay and discovered the Yarra, Maribyrnong and Werribee

rivers. Matthew Flinders later used Grimes's survey when compiling his map of Australia and made reference to it, otherwise the discovery of the rivers and the identification of the location of Melbourne may have gone unrecognised.

The ceremony included a re-enactment of the arrival of Grimes's rowing boat in the turning basin with actors in costume.

# The Western Times

Douglas Parade, Newport, 9393 3633 Fax: 9393 3601

No. 1053

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

48 pages

30 cents



## How the West was won...

See report Page 3

Picture: Adam Elwood

# How the West was won

From Page One

THE 200th anniversary of the discovery of the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers, and identification of a settlement site that became Melbourne, was celebrated with a re-enactment last weekend.

On Saturday morning, seven men in period costume and a wooden rowboat, an 1803 replica, followed the route first taken by Charles Grimes, the acting chief surveyor of New South Wales.

The boat was followed by the *Blackbird* and the *Kumul*, which carried 30 local residents and history enthusiasts.

Grimes was in Port Phillip, then called Port King, to explore the bay and hinterland when he discovered "a great river".

On February 3, 1803, Grimes led a party up the river "two or three miles" until they came to a junction.

They decided to explore the

Saltwater River to their left, now know as the Maribyrnong River. The Yarra River and settlement site for Melbourne, were discovered the next day.

The re-enactment crew, members of Footscray and Essendon Rowing Clubs, rowed from Gem Pier, Williamstown to an official picnic and welcome at Pipemakers Park, Maribyrnong.

In 1803 Grimes' expedition travelled as far upstream as present day Avondale Heights and his party camped overnight when their boat could go no further upstream.

On his voyage up the Yarra River Grimes' party stopped at a small waterfall, near present day Queen St.

At this site Grimes identified it as an "eligible place for a settlement" the same spot that, John Batman, the man credited for finding a site for Melbourne in 1835, described as a "place for a village".



The crew, made up of rowers from the Footscray and Essendon Rowing Clubs, dressed in period costume for the event.  
Pictures: Adam Elwood

THE WESTERN TIMES. TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4 - 2003



Peter Somerville and sons Warwick and Gavin work on a boat for a re-enactment of Charles Grimes' journey along the Maribyrnong River. Picture: Adam Elwood

## Reliving a historic journey

By Tim Noisette

THE 200th anniversary of European discovery of the West will be celebrated with a re-enactment of Charles Grimes' expedition, on Saturday, February 1.

In January, 1803, acting chief surveyor of New South Wales, Charles Grimes, began an expedition to survey Port Phillip Bay. While mapping the bay he discovered "a great river" and on February 3 a party led by Grimes rowed in a small boat up the river until they came to a junction of two rivers.

They decided to explore the river to their left, that is now the Maribyrnong River.

The re-enactment crew, made up of members of the Footscray

and Essendon rowing clubs, will be followed by Maribyrnong River tour boat, the Blackbird, and a smaller passenger boat, the Kumul.

Blackbird captain and re-enactment enthusiast, Peter Somerville, urges people from the West to take part by following the boat, on the water, by bicycle or visiting a park where the boat will pass.

"They can follow the bike path along the river or have a picnic at Footscray Park and watch the re-enactment go by," Mr Somerville said.

The re-enactment, in a replica of Grimes' boat, will begin at Gem Pier in Williamstown on Saturday, February 1, about 9am.

The four-metre row boat, was built by Vic Uni and Newport TAFE students, and will be launched at the pier at 10am. The crew will row out from Hobsons Bay, up the Yarra River, then turn left into the Maribyrnong River to Pipemakers Park.

The boat is expected to arrive at the park for a special picnic celebration from noon to 2.30pm. At the picnic, expedition-members will read diary extracts describing the trip.

The rowers will then continue on to Maribyrnong Park in Moonee Ponds, where they are expected to land about 3pm.

# Replica boat to re-enact finding

By Stella Tzombanaki

AN event to commemorate the first time Europeans discovered the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers will be held on Saturday week.

The Living Museum of the West, together with the Friends of the Maribyrnong, will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the 1803 Charles Grimes expedition at Pipemakers Park, off Van Ness Avenue, Maribyrnong.

The day will include a picnic, entertainment, displays and guided tours of the park looking at the history of land, gardens, original bluestone factory

buildings, wetlands, as well as the river.

A highlight of the celebration will be a re-enactment of the route Grimes, the then acting surveyor-general of NSW, and his team took exploring the river.

The re-enactment will involve a replica row boat built by Newport TAFE students.

The journey will begin at Gem Pier in Williamstown and include a launch by Hobsons Bay mayor Angela Altair.

It will then continue through to Pipemakers Park where the boat will arrive at

1pm when Maribyrnong mayor Bill Horrocks, 100 invited guests and the public will welcome the rowers.

The crew will then row to Maribyrnong Park in the City of Moonee Valley where they will be met by the city's mayor Eugene Hammer, guests and dignitaries at 3pm.

Project co-ordinator Libby McKinnon described the event as significant.

"Giving a sense of history is important.

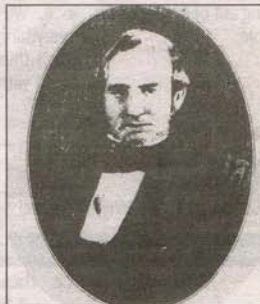
"And that's something this historic event will do."

People attending the event are encouraged to dress in colonial costume.

The celebrations will continue the next day when the boat, accompanied by the the Maribyrnong tour boat the Blackbird, and a flotilla of small boats, arrives at the Turning Basin in the city of Melbourne at noon.

Also on the Sunday, Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley will conduct plantings to help restore the natural vegetation of the valley.

For more information on the two-day event, contact the museum on 93183544.



Charles Grimes

## Survey leader showed way

CHARLES Grimes was born on February 22 in Aylesbury, England, and at 18 was appointed the deputy surveyor of roads on Norfolk Island. He became the surveyor-general of NSW in 1801.

In January 1803, Grimes led an expedition to survey Port Phillip Bay and on February 3, a group rowed to a junction of two rivers and took the left stream, now known as the Maribyrnong River.

Grimes resigned in 1815 and went back to England.

He died on February 19, 1858.



**Voyage into history:** cruise operator Peter Somerville and Libby McKinnon beside a replica of the original row boat used by Charles Grimes to discover the Maribyrnong River.

# River 'rediscovered'

By Stella Tzombanaki

AN event to commemorate the first time Europeans discovered the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers will be held on Saturday.

The Living Museum of the West, together with the Friends of the Maribyrnong, will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the 1803 Charles Grimes expedition at Pipemakers Park, off Van Ness Avenue, Maribyrnong. The day will include a picnic, entertainment, displays and guided tours of the park looking at the history of land, gardens, original bluestone factory buildings, wetlands and the river.

A highlight of the celebration will be a re-enactment of the route Grimes, the then acting surveyor-general of NSW, and his team took exploring the river.

The re-enactment will involve a replica row boat built by Newport TAFE students.

The journey will begin at Gem Pier in Williamstown with a launch by Hobsons Bay mayor Angela Altair.

It will then continue through to Pipemakers Park where the boat will arrive at 1pm when Maribyrnong mayor Bill Horrocks, 100 invited guests and the public will welcome the rowers.

The crew will then row to Maribyrnong Park in the City of Moonee Valley where they will be met by the city's mayor Eugene Hammer, guests and dignitaries at 3pm.

Project co-ordinator Libby McKinnon described the event as "significant".



**Voyage into history:** Libby McKinnon and cruise operator Peter Somerville beside a replica of the original row boat used by Charles Grimes to discover the Maribyrnong River.

"Giving a sense of history is important," she said.

"And that's something this historic event will do."

People attending the event are encouraged to dress in colonial-style costume.

The celebrations will continue the following day when the boat, accompanied by the Maribyrnong tour boat the Blackbird, and a flotilla of small boats, arrives at the Turning Basin in the city of Melbourne at noon.

Also on the Sunday, Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley will conduct plantings to help restore the natural vegetation of the valley.

For more information on the two-day event, contact the museum on 93183544.

## Who is Charles Grimes?



Charles Grimes

CHARLES Grimes was born on February 22 in Aylesbury, England, and at 18 was appointed the deputy surveyor of roads on Norfolk Island.

He became the surveyor-general of NSW in 1801.

In January 1803, Grimes led an expedition to survey Port Phillip Bay and on February 3, a group rowed to a junction of two rivers and took the left stream, now known as the Maribyrnong River.

Grimes resigned in 1815 and went back to England.

He died on February 19, 1858.

# Mayor answers 'no show' blast

By Mike Austin

BRIMBANK mayor Andres Puig has answered criticism of his non-involvement in the weekend's Charles Grimes anniversary celebrations.

Maribyrnong Valley Preservation Coalition criticised Cr Puig in a preamble to an attack on Brimbank Council's handling of the controversial River Valley estate development.

The coalition said it wanted to make sure that the celebrations to mark acting NSW surveyor-general Charles Grimes' historic voyage up the Maribyrnong River on February 4, 1803, did not overlook the fact that he took his boat as far as Rocks Across at the end of Burke Street, Braybrook, in Brimbank.

"It's unfortunate Brimbank Council has not joined in the Grimes celebrations," the coalition said.

Nevertheless, it was "understandable in the light of the council-authorised desecration of the river



**Making a point:** protesters object to over-development of the river banks in Brimbank.

escarpment at the Rocks Across".

The coalition said visitors to Rocks Across "would be shocked at the sight of bare, bulldozed earth for more than a kilometre along the river escarpment, on the site where the council has encouraged the River Valley estate development to accommodate 4000 people

with medium-density development as close as 30m to the historic river".

Cr Puig said the council's non-involvement with the celebrations had nothing to do with the River Valley estate.

"I do not believe we were invited to participate and that is a bit of an obstacle to taking part."

Cr Puig said the main celebrations took place not in Brimbank but in Moonee Valley.

"It was a busy weekend for me with a number of important commitments to the Brimbank community which I could not have fulfilled if I had been involved in activities outside the municipality."

## Maribyrnong's discovery re-enacted



**Celebrations:** Eve Park, left, of Essendon Historical Society, and the society's Elaine Brogan, who is also junior vice-president of the Living Museum of the West.



**Face to face:** Maribyrnong mayor Bill Horrocks and Blackbird tour boat operator Peter Somerville.

**Pictures:** Brendan McCarthy

THE cities of Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley and Melbourne have celebrated the discovery of the Maribyrnong River by Euro-

Charles Grimes expedition being rowed along the river which runs through the four neighbouring municipalities. The boat, built by

The stopover in Maribyrnong was at Pipemakers Park and featured a picnic and entertainment.

Sunday's celebrations included the