

### **Jimmy Melrose Memorial Cairn**

Arnolds Creek in Melton South has significant historical value in the history of pioneering aviation in Australia.

Jimmy Melrose was a famed early Australian aviator who crashed into the escarpment above Arnolds Creek in 1936. Jimmy Melrose participated in the Centenary Air Race from London to Melbourne in 1934, & was the only Australian to complete the race. This race proved that air transport over vast distances was feasible. The Jimmy Melrose Memorial Cairn was built on the site of the crash, overlooking Arnolds Creek. The cairn overlooks the J.C. Melrose Memorial Park, located on the opposite side of the creek, in Springbank Way. Melton Historical Society rebuilt the cairn in 1976 to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the crash. July 2006 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this crash.

#### *Memorial Cairn*

*Restored 1976 by Melton Historical Society to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of the noted aviator Charles James (Jimmy) Melrose 22 years of Glenelg S. A. who with his passenger Alexander Campbell crashed here on a flight to Adelaide on July 5<sup>th</sup> 1936*



### **Wheel Rock**

This is a basalt rock on the southern edge of the escarpment overlooking Arnolds Creek that has a curious "wheel" shaped marking. An archaeologist from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria visited Arnolds Creek inspect the possible petroglyph. His opinion is that it is not a petroglyph (ie. not man-made) & that natural weathering has caused the wheel marking. However, it was said to resemble Native American petroglyphs on the North American Great Plains, as the wheel symbol is a feature of North American Indian rock carvings there. It was stated however that the rock would probably have been of significance to the aboriginal peoples here as the formation is unusual & prominent, overlooking the gorge.



### **Melton Environment Group Inc.**

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***Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Don Nardella's office, Alexandra Street at 7.30***



## **ARNOLDS CREEK**

### ***MELTON'S OTHER CREEK***

**This is Melton's own creek, flowing almost entirely with the town of Melton. Small & full of surprising contrasts, but in need of some tender loving care**



## ARNOLDS CREEK REVEGETATION PROJECT

A partnership project involving Melton Environment Group, Melton Christian College, Melton Shire, Melbourne Water & Waterwatch.



In 2007 Melton Environment Group & Melton Christian College began a partnership to rehabilitate the stretch of Arnolds Creek adjoining the school at Brooklyn Rd in Melton South. Melbourne Water supplied 400 plants, cleared the creek of exotic & woody weeds, then cleared & ripped six planting sites. Melton Shire funded the project with a \$5,000 Adopt A Park grant. Prior to planting, the students conducted a habitat survey to assess the water quality & health of the creek, under the direction of Waterwatch. Initial planting was done by students (as part of the school curriculum) & MEG members, then by MEG, members of the community & assisted by Conservation Volunteers of Australia. All plants are locally indigenous species. Arnolds Creek provides a corridor through the western half of Melton. Strategic revegetation could create a biodiversity corridor along this route, not to mention magnificent linear parkland.

## Environmental Values



Lower Arnolds Creek flows through a steep rocky volcanic gorge of significant scenic value. The native vegetation in this gorge has a range of vegetation types & species, & is of significant environmental value. The grey box trees of the escarpment, the red gums of the riparian fringe, & the aquatic habitat, all provide habitats for a range of bird, reptile, frog & fish species.



Although Arnolds Creek carries but a small water flow, & flows only periodically, it is of

considerable importance. Native fish such as Galaxia flourish in lower Arnolds Creek & at least four species of frog are found here, including Eastern Froglet, Pobblebonk, Whistling Treefrog & Spotted Marsh Frog. Just a few hundred metres from Arnolds Creek, Spadefoot Toads may be heard after heavy rains in the Rees Road wetland. These unusual frogs have been recorded nowhere else in the Greater Melbourne area. The occasional kangaroo & koala are also seen along lower Arnolds Creek, along with the resident population of Brushtail Possums.

Arnolds Creek is a valuable wildlife corridor through Melton South, lined with many gnarled & picturesque Red Gum trees. These provide valuable nesting sites for native wildlife. A wealth of bird life can be seen among the trees, particularly those that nest in tree hollows. The many tree hollows along the creek contrast with the lack of tree hollow in the surrounding landscape, making Arnolds Creek a site of major importance as a nesting site.. These are much used by parrots of various species. Ducks also nest in these hollows.

