



## MYSTERIES OF THE PARK



The upside-down pyramid shape monuments - a combination of lots of theories.

There are two monuments at Sanctuary Park. The pyramid shape monument was carved in Groombridge Queensland, then brought to Railton and placed in the park by his son Ian in the early 1990's.

The unusual shape of the monument is a mixture of ancient theories from Pythagoras (his picture featured on the front of the brochure) a mathematician, and the philosophers Confucius, Oannes (a Sumerian), Kapila (from India), Imhotep (an Egyptian), Fu Shi (from China) and Buddha a spiritual leader.

The size of the monument is 78.6 cm square on the top and base and the height (with the podium) is 78.6 cm.

The second monument is a small sand stone structure with a plaque in memory of Mr. Sykes on the top.



Sand stone memorial

## Sanctuary Park

We would like to tell an ode  
About some land across the road,  
Given by a generous hand  
To the Kentish council band.

Twas given by a Norman Sykes  
Who had some eccentric likes,  
Who thought that trees and the very  
Provided health, and a sanctuary.

Mr. Sykes of England fame  
Piloted a world war fighter plane,  
He even was an engineer  
Until he was tired of all that gear.

Disgusted with war and city life  
Stress, machines and all the hype,  
In '47 came to Melbourne town  
To begin a new, for peace of sound.

Again he moved with wife and sought  
Life on the outskirts of Devonport,  
Where he walked and rode his bike  
Lived and worked, and the like

He died in nineteen eighty seven  
But before he went to heaven  
Left 15 hectares of native land,  
To make a retreat and life less bland

At the park you can sit and talk  
Breathe fresh air, relax or walk,  
And you'll find a memorial bright and clear  
To Norman Sykes a generous pioneer.



This brochure was produced by 3/4 Crossin of Rallton Primary School. Special thanks to Mr. Bannon and others who readily supplied information.

## Who was Norman Sykes?

Norman Sykes was born in 1890 in England. He was an engineer in World War One. He graduated from Leeds University and worked in Woeville England. He married Elizabeth, a Melbourne girl living in England. They moved to Melbourne in 1947. They again moved to East Devonport Tasmania, then to Claude's Road Sheffield.

Mrs. Sykes got a teaching job in Devonport and this is where their children Ian and Elizabeth attended.

When Mrs. Sykes passed away he moved to what is now called Sanctuary Park. Mr. Sykes built a small shack there which housed a bed, an oven and a piano.

About 10 years before his death he packed up his belonging in a pram and left his land to the young people of Railton and went to mainland Australia.

This is Mr. Sykes bike. It was his major means of transport.



On the monument are some sayings. These sayings represent Mr. Sykes life and are as follows:

- \*Knowing nature's cycles is wisdom.
- \*Your mind can prevail over its in-built wants.
- \*Care or destruction of man by man.



'What I see at Sanctuary Park' by Shari Perkins

## ABOUT THE PARK

The park is 15 hectares and its main entrance is located off Sunny Side Road in Railton.

Norman Sykes planted lots of trees such as silver birches, oaks, walnuts and chestnuts but most did not grow because of the gum trees.

There is a grassed area with seats and tables and has two monuments to look at. This grassed area was where Mr. Sykes built his shack.

The park was left to the Kentish Council, when Mr. Sykes moved to mainland Australia, to be used by the people of Railton and visitors to the area.

A map showing how to get to Sanctuary Park.



## What can you do at the park?

Because Mr. Sykes hated noise, things like chainsaws, guns, and cars are prohibited in the park.

It is expected that people who go to the park take care of it by picking up rubbish, not dumping garbage and looking after the trees.

You can walk and horse ride on the many tracks. On the grassed area which is about 200 meters from the entrance, you can sit, talk, relax and breathe fresh air.

The word sanctuary means protection and a place of safety. We think that the park provides protection and safety for birds and wildlife, and a place for people to relax and be close to nature.



A picture of Norman Sykes (1968)

## Why Mr. Sykes left the park

Mr. Sykes did not like the business of city life and the ruined towns made by war. He moved to Melbourne and then East Devonport Tasmania and finally to Railton.

He purchased some land not only to be away from people but because he believed that nature was good for the human soul.

He left the land known as Sanctuary Park to the young people of Railton so they would have a place to use as a retreat, so they could breathe fresh air, relax and have a peaceful place to walk.