

# Copper in the park

Peter Pankiewicz, a Ferntree Gully coppersmith, has completed a commission, the likes of which he never expects again.

Peter made two copper domes for buildings in Melbourne's redeveloped Riverside Park on the Yarra's south bank near Flinders St station.

Usually, he spends his time making copper canopies for stoves and fireplaces at his Ferntree Gully workshop.

Making the domes presented a bit of a challenge.

Peter said the commission was unusual because such structures had not been made in Melbourne for many years.

"They were common in 19th century architecture," he said.

"Designers for the Board of Works wanted the park to re-create this atmosphere to fit in with the area's Victorian style buildings."

Peter, who learnt coppersmithing in England, first made full-sized 1.5m wooden frames and then attached the copper sheets in eight sections.

Both domes are identical and top the park's toilet block and information kiosk.

Gradually the copper will fade to match the familiar Flinders St station domes which grace the park's background.

## Peter helps to turn back the clock



● One of Peter Pankiewicz's domes adorns the park's toilet block ...



● Ferntree Gully coppersmith, Peter Pankiewicz, helped turn back the clock to create a 19th century atmosphere for Melbourne's Riverside Park with two hand built copper domes.



● ... and the other gives an historical touch to the information kiosk.