



# KENSINGTON

Self Guided Tour



ASSEMBLE



Assemble would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional owners of the land which you visit today. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and pay our respects to elders' past and present and extend this respect to other Indigenous Australians.

Image by Tom Ross



# We ♥ Kensington!



If you haven't discovered it yet, Kensington is a bit of a hidden gem. Its village-like charm, diverse architecture, early-Victorian history and proud community spirit make it a great place to live. That is why we chose to build two Assemble Model communities in the area. To help you discover Kensington we have created this guide highlighting some its unique characteristics.

## Main route

Walk Time	approx 1.5hrs
Distance	3.5km
Difficulty	Easy

## Optional extended routes

Loop A	+ 20mins, 1km
Loop B	+ 20mins, 1km
Loop C	+ 20mins, 1km

Officially founded in 1840, after the arrival of European settlers to the region, It was initially part of the city of Essendon, but split away in 1882. The area was originally known for horse proving grounds, cattle grazing, saleyards, and abattoirs but quickly grew to be a bustling suburb.

This tour will give you an opportunity to learn more about the local area and its history, focusing on industry, architecture, and community. We've mapped out a diverse trail for you to enjoy by either walking or cycling, and have also included some additional legs for those who have more time or wish to venture further.

# Indigenous Heritage



The Kulin Nation, a nation of five nomadic clans, once foraged and hunted on the lands of which Kensington was once a part. The Wojwurrung group which included the Wurundjeri and neighbouring Boonwurrung people, along with the other clans believed that their spirit creator, Bunjil the wedged-tailed eagle, was responsible for bringing peace back to the clans after a long period of crisis.

A Boonwurrung story speaks of a time when the Nations fought, neglecting their families and their responsibilities to the land. In response to this fighting, the sea was angered, and began to rise. Flooding the plains that were once Port Phillip Bay. The people went to Bunjil and asked him to help stop the sea from rising; Bunjil agreed, but only if the people stopped fighting and respecting the laws and each other. He then walked out to the sea, raised his spear, and demanded that the water stop rising.

The Kulin then chose a meeting place to debate issues of great importance to the nation. That place, where they would also celebrate and dance, is where the Parliament of Victoria is now located.

*Image of Port Phillip Bay c. 1850 by Ham, Thomas 1821-1870 engraver, courtesy of the State Library Victoria ([www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au))*



# Kensington self-guided tour

## Estimated walking time

Main Loop	—	1hr 15mins
Loop A	—	+ 30 mins
Loop B	—	+ 30 mins
Loop C	—	+ 20 mins

Choose a location below to learn more

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# 1. Kensington Railway Station



**It was originally opened by the Melbourne & Essendon Railway Company, a private rail company in 1860, as a critical transport link for livestock.**

After the Station and Line closed in 1864, it was reopened under government ownership in 1871, and now forms part of the Craigieburn line. Platform 1 was built in 1888, followed by the signal box at the city end of the station in 1897, & platform 2 in 1905.

*If you are following the "main route" only, proceed to location #6*

## 2. True North & Stables



**Designed and owned by Architect Tim Hill of Tandem Design and completed in 2016, this 3-bedroom family home was a feature on Grand Designs Australia in 2017.**

The footprint of the house was designed to somewhat mimic the shape of the block as it narrows in the rear, while its curving lines, reminiscent of a "coral bommie," create fuller interior spaces. Its custom-made zig-zag of folded metal cladding draws upon the themes of suburban Australiana.

The original 1880s double brick stables still survive at the rear of the site and were renovated as part of the new build and converted to a one-bedroom townhouse. You can view images of the interior [here](#).

### 3. Old Shopping Precinct



Rankins Road was once a bustling commercial street lined with many shops. Strolling along the street it is possible to glimpse some of the shop buildings and their faded signs.

## 4. United Friendly Society Dispensary



**Built in 1915 Edwardian style building. The Friendly Societies were formed in the 1870s as a way for working Australians to access medicines and support soldiers from WWI & WWII.**

This example was built in 1915 reminiscent of the the Edwardian styling of the time. In the 1980s it was converted into two homes.

Despite only the facade being heritage the listed, the home at number 20 has retained some of its original features including entrance, tiles and marble plaque of the dispensary's past presidents, along with vaulted ceiling with clerestory windows from the era. You can view photos of the interior [here](#).

## 5. Kensington Lighthouse



**This multi award winning home is another example of Tandem Design architecture. Completed c.2009 this two-bedroom study home consists of two building clad in corrugated metal and connected by a central courtyard, all supported over a concrete base.**

Due to the awkward nature of the site and a tall neighbour building. The design for this home was focused on bringing natural light deep within the home.

This was achieved by placing windows along the top northern side of the building causing light to reflect onto the interior plywood panels covering the opposite wall, which curves inwards to meet the ceiling. You can view images of the interior [here](#).

## 6. Islington House



**‘Islington’ (c.1891) is one of the most ornate buildings in the area. It was designed by Architect Edward Owen Hughes for real estate businessman James Wales, who became quite wealthy from the 1880s property boom.**

The shop on the ground floor was known as the Kensington Property Exchange. Wales survived the great property crash of 1891, and in 1899 became mayor of Flemington.

The property has brick stables, a balcony overlooking tree lined Bellair Street, stained glass windows and pressed tin ceilings. It even has a turret. The shop also contains a vault and was used as a set for the TV show ‘The Sullivans’.

## 7. Plumbers House



Bill Pearce set up a plumbing business in the 1940s. The only gear he could afford was carried on his bike. By the turn of the century Bill was still here with a workshop out back. The facade remains and his daughter, is said to still live next door.

## 8. Kuruc House



**‘Kuruc House’ (1898), architects Ussher & Kemp, is an early example of a Queen Anne villa & was occupied by surgeon Joseph Moss until his death in 1914. It continued to be used as a doctor’s clinic until 1938, when it became one of the legal practices for solicitor Ethel Butchart.**

## 9. Kensington Town Hall



**Flemington & Kensington Town Hall architecturally expresses grand intentions in a small scale. The richly decorated Bellair Street premises opened in 1901. Operating as a civic centre for only four years, before Flemington and Kensington joined the City of Melbourne.**

Over the years it had many uses. In 1916/1917 the Conscription Campaign meetings 'for' and 'against' were held in the Town Hall. One night when 'the people for Conscription' meeting was held, the wires were cut, and the Hall fell into darkness. A few years later, in 1919 during the Influenza epidemic, the Town Hall was used as a Hospital.

Later it became a social hub with dances, weddings, women's groups & an infant welfare centre. The Town Hall held the Flemington Kensington Library until 1965. Today, a monthly market is held on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

## 10. Newmarket Saleyards (1861-1987)

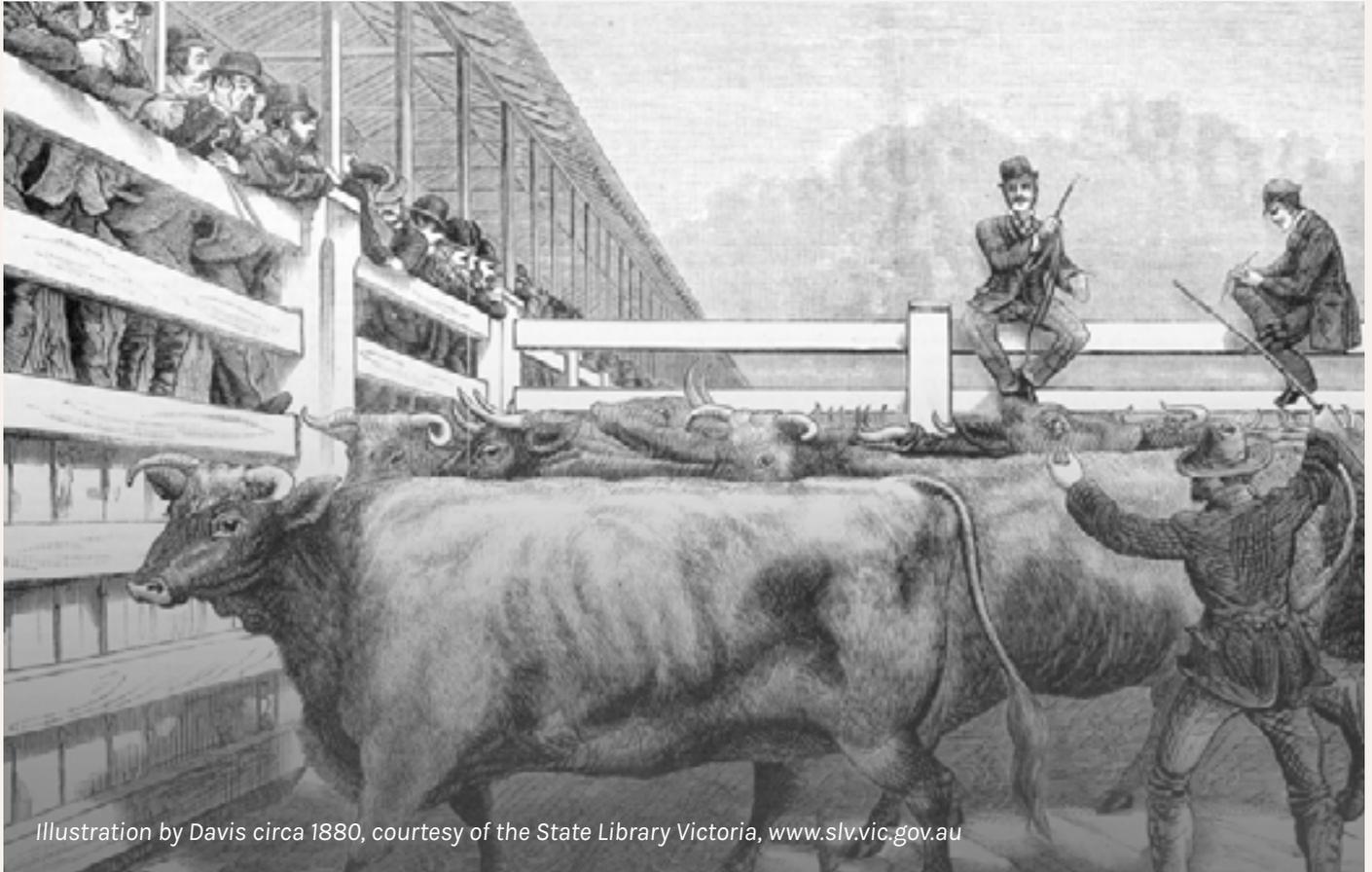


Illustration by Davis circa 1880, courtesy of the State Library Victoria, [www.slv.vic.gov.au](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au)

**In the late 1850s, the City of Melbourne moved its cattle yards from a location on the corner of Elizabeth and Victoria Streets to this location. The ‘new market’ saleyards were completed in 1858, with the first sales held the following year.**

The yards’ proximity to the Maribyrnong (or Saltwater) River, allowed for the discharge of liquid waste and were soon joined by factories for fellmongery, bone manure, and glue.

By 1888 the sales yard and its associated factories were surrounded by suburbs. The growing population soon began to complain about the by-products and waste produced by the saleyards. In 1891, Alfred Deakin lead the Victorian Legislative Assemble to favour the closure of the yards. However due to an economic downturn, the closure was

delayed and instead a by-law way implemented, making it illegal to drive stock through the streets between 8am & 10pm.

The yards operated until 1987, almost a century after the closure announcement was made. The dismantling of the yards was caried out by an employment trust of more than 100 long-term unemployed.

You can read more about the yard via the Melbourne’s Living Museum boards that have been placed on the site. Or read the story [here](#).

## 11. Stockyard Food Garden



**Located at the corners of Bluestone and Serong Streets, this organic community garden is supported by the City of Melbourne in the aim to help make Kensington a more sustainable suburb.**

This food garden site is also supported by a composting hub located at the Town Hall. This communal garden, launched in 2018, is a response to requests from local families wanting to grow food closer to where they live. You can learn about the Kensington composting and garden [here](#).

## 12. 'The Back Gate' Mosaic Murals



**Found under the Epsom Road Bridge. This mural was installed in 1998, commemorating the historic Newmarket Saleyards. Up until the early 1900s two railway gates operated at the entrance to and from the abattoirs and Newmarket Saleyards from Epsom Road.**

In 1911, a bridge and underpass were designed and built by John Monash replacing a level crossing. Each animal that came through the Saleyards was counted and yard dues were taken out of the sale price of each animal. Yard Dues paid for all works and maintenance at the yards by the Melbourne City Council who administered both the Saleyards and the City Abattoirs.

The underpass became known as "The Back Gate", as animals passed the gate to leave the Saleyards towards the abattoir or meatworks.

## 13. Women's Peace Garden



**This beautiful space was created to symbolise women's commitment to peace. In 1986, during the International Year of Peace, the idea was conceived. The garden was lovingly completed within the year by volunteers from the Kensington community.**

Entering from Epsom Road will provide you with the best view. The garden features a peace symbol surrounded by plants that represent peace such as rosemary, roses, and olive tree.

There is a plaque at the bottom of the step at the look out the also shares the history of this site. This park is the perfect place for quiet reflection or to gather with family and friends.

*If you are following the "main route" only, proceed to location #19*

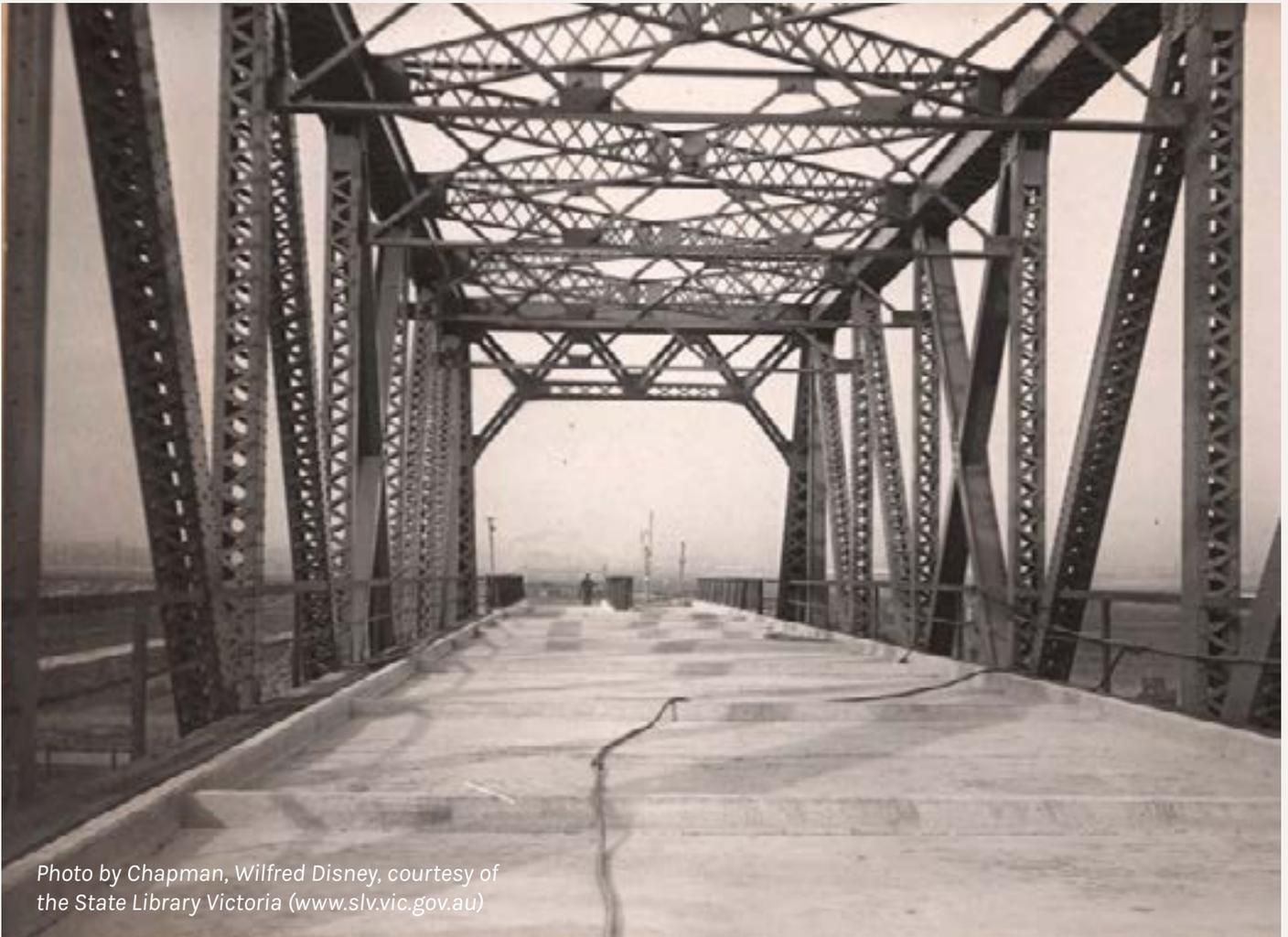
## 14. The Old Stock Route



The open space spine that runs from the Newmarket saleyards site to Maribyrnong river follows the old stockman's route. Some original timbers and bluestone remain but mostly it is a recreation of the route. Pepper trees that line the route provided shade for the animals.

*If you are following "loop B" only, proceed to location #16*

## 15. Angliss Stock Crossing Bridge & Maribyrnong River



**Originally built in 1894 as a footbridge across the Yarra near Punt Road, this bridge was re-erected here in 1941 to enable stock transport across the Maribyrnong from the saleyards to the Angliss meatworks.**

Apart from the nearby workers' houses, the Stockbridge over the river is the only reminder of the once vast Angliss complex. On the far side of the River when the water is low you can usually see starfish on the riverbanks.

## 16. Community Garden



This community garden site was redesigned in 2014 by landscape architecture firm 3 Acres. The new design continues the history of plot subdivision on the site. And is an excellent example of what community gardening can offer.

## 17. MacSween House



**Designed in 1995 by internationally recognised and celebrated architect Sean Godsell. This two-bedroom home was inspired by previous works and was overseen by strict planning controls which required all new buildings to have a pitched roof.**

The roofscape is a direct reference to the Ise Shrine in Japan, which the architect was studying at the time of designing this building. You can view photos on the interior [here](#).

## 18. Bayswater Road Park



**This playground is great for children of all ages. Despite its small size, there is plenty to do here. One half is a grassed area for ball games and picnic, and the other is a playground containing two forts and a cubby house.**

The park is fenced with gate access. It also has a BBQ, shaded and unshaded tables, seats and a water tap.

*Proceed to location #19 and continue the "main route".*

## 19. Local Folk coffee stop



**If you're in need of a break, stop by Local Folk café. Loved by locals, this family friendly café is housed in an original 1880s Victorian era storefront.**

Historically, the building is an important remnant of the earliest phase of development of this part of Kensington. Built around 1879 and described in the 1882-3 rate books as a four-room wooden house and shop, operated for many years as a grocery store.

Aesthetically, the building is typical of a modest late nineteenth century shop and remains relatively intact. The single-

storey weatherboard building with an unusual double-gabled roof form, clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The shop retains its original shopfront and skillion-roofed verandah supported on chamfered timber posts.

## 20. Victorian Workers Cottages



Hopetoun St has some excellent example of single-story Workers Cottages. Built during the reign of Queen Victoria, and mostly to house workers for the nearby stockyard and meatworks. While a lot of homes were demolished during the widescale slum reclamation programs, many homes still stand and have been lovingly restored.

## 21. 6th Melbourne Scout Hall



The 135-year-old hall, at the rear, used by the scouts since the 1920's was formerly used by both Anglicans and Methodists before either church was built. This building was restored with community involvement in 2014.

## 22. Kensington Primary School



**Kensington State School No.2374 opened in 1881 with an initial enrolment of 228 children, which grew to 1,000 by 1898. In 1914 the State School was the second largest in Victoria.**

Following the Second World War there was a general exodus of families to the outer suburbs, which forced the decreasing attendance at Kensington to its lowest point - 451 students in June 1949, which meant half the rooms were not in use.

## 23. Christ Church Uniting



The vacant lot to the left is where the original timber Church (1882) stood. This served as Sunday school until burnt down in the 1970's. The current Church was built 1889, now an Anglican and Uniting Church joint congregation.

## 24. Kensington Neighbourhood House



**Opposite the church is the Kensington Neighbourhood House. Established in 1975 as a meeting place for the community and its various groups.**

Today it welcomes over 1,000 locals through its door to connect, learn and create with one of the many programs on offer. Such as a range of adult education, art and hobby, social, children's activities, childcare and health and wellbeing. You can read more about the founding women [here](#).

## 25. Hardiman's Hotel



**The former Clarence Hotel built in the late 1870's by the ocean-loving Hardiman family.**

The hotel was designed to resemble an ocean liner and the nautical theme lends the pub a slightly art deco look and creates quite the space in which to enjoy a beer. It was rebranded in the 40's by Tim Hardiman and renovated by new owners in 1998.

## 26. Macaulay Rd Shops



**This village style shopping strip features vibrant cafes, eclectic gift stores, a multitude of professional services, small grocers, and a bustling food scene.**

Store owners take great pride in their wares, from beautiful fresh produce, scent of home-made soup, to the meticulously styled display windows. You'll have a hard time deciding which store explore.

## 27. Younghusband Woolstore



Image by Tom Ross

**From Bellair Street Reserve, look across the train line towards the city and you will find the Younghusband Woolstore.**

Built in the early 1900's these warehouses and their private railway siding were the hub of much commercial activity, particularly within the wool industry.

Younghusband Ltd is a company of national significance to the wool industry and the complex has been identified as a rare example of surviving wool stores in Victoria.

The complex was operated by Younghusband until at least the 1970s. In recent years, the former wool store

been adapted for a diverse range of uses including as an arts hub, home large and small creative businesses, and as a costume store for the Australian Ballet.

The precinct is currently being rejuvenated and while restoration works are underway part of the site is closed off. But you have time, it's well worth a visit. You can find out more about the restoration project and development of this site [here](#).

## 28. Last stop, visit our communities!

While you're here, why not finish your trip with a visit of our two Kensington community locations. You're only a few minutes walk away from both sites.

### 393 Macaulay Rd

This site is currently under construction. Why not swing by and see Norris the crane in action? Lovingly named by the project's residents after the original building's designer, Harry A. Norris. An Art Deco inspired architect who is also responsible for the Nicholas Building and Curtain House in Melbourne. This project is due to be completed with residents moving in mid-2021.

### 15 Thompson St

This site is just a 5min walk from our Macaulay Road project, and is located at 86 Stubbs St. Surrounded by small industries businesses like Rumble Coffee Roasters, this area will soon begin a transformation. Our latest community, designed by Hayball Architects, will provide a 500sqm pocket park for residents and locals to enjoy and is due to begin construction in early 2021.

Artist Impression of 15 Thompson St



Learn about home availability at – [hello@assemblecommunities.com](mailto:hello@assemblecommunities.com)



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Thanks to the following online resources  
that helped to inform our tour:

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- [discoverkensington.com.au](http://discoverkensington.com.au)
  - [livingmuseum.org.au](http://livingmuseum.org.au)
  - [flemingtonheritage.org.au](http://flemingtonheritage.org.au)
  - [adb.anu.edu.au](http://adb.anu.edu.au)
  - [museumsvictoria.com.au](http://museumsvictoria.com.au)
  - [livinghistories.net.au](http://livinghistories.net.au)
  - [heritage.vic.gov.au](http://heritage.vic.gov.au)
  - [vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au](http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au)
  - [melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)
  - [walkingmaps.com.au](http://walkingmaps.com.au)
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