

*We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the original inhabitants of this area.*

## Collingwood Historical Society Annual Walk Layers of History

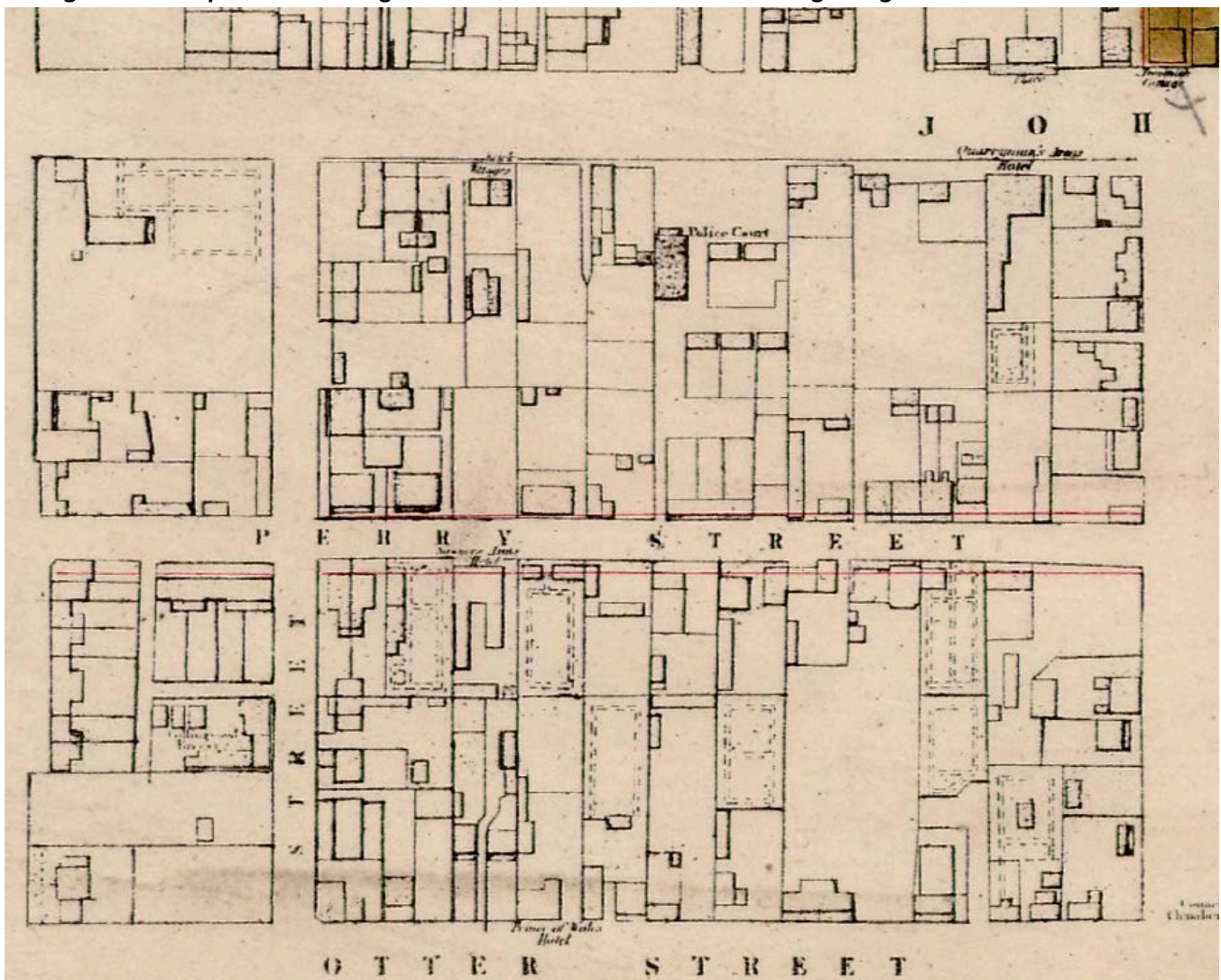
**Johnston, Smith, Otter, Bedford, and Perry Streets 11 November 2017**

*This is an expanded version of the handout used on the day of the walk. See last page for route.*

This Walk covers a small physical area which has a great deal of significance in Collingwood's history, and represents a series of stages in its development, ranging from small wooden houses interspersed with the occasional bluestone structure, the beginnings of local government and law enforcement, to boom period re-building, technical education, and factories. More recent is the massive increase in replacing or re-developing many old buildings with intensive housing development. Finally, the modern phenomenon of street art is well represented en route.

Smith St and Johnston St were among the very few government roads established in the district in the 1840s, and both became important thoroughfares, especially Smith St. East Collingwood became a municipality in 1855, at which time the slope east of Smith Street was the most densely populated. Smith Street was also the residence of John Pascoe Fawkner, who competed with Batman for the title of 'founder of Melbourne'. In 1860 municipal chambers were built in Johnston Street next to the courthouse, and served this purpose until the new town hall was built in the 1880s. Smith Street had taken over the role of premier shopping street by then, and in the 1880s and 1890s many boom period double storey shops replaced earlier structures. Surrounding blocks were occupied by houses, factories, shops, and an extensive supply of pubs.

**Hodgkinson's map shows buildings in Smith St and Johnston St at the beginning of 1858. Note the courthouse.**



## Heritage Overlays and Planning Issues

Heritage controls are important in preserving heritage – and controlling demolition. This walk includes two places on the Victorian Heritage Register. One is a very old bluestone house (*Belmont*, 8 Johnston St). The other is the relatively recent Haring mural.

There is also heritage protection at the local government level. The walk includes two heritage precincts: **Johnston Street (HO324)** and **Smith St (HO333)**. Within the precincts buildings are classified as individually significant, contributory or non-contributory. For example, the former Collingwood Technical College site is individually significant.

There are also buildings not in heritage precincts that are classified as significant heritage sites: on this walk these include churches, houses and factories. In this area heritage guidelines are being challenged by large scale developments, for example a 12 storey building proposed at 23-33 Johnston St, which is currently (2017-2018) at VCAT.

Note: Places with heritage overlay listing are identified by their **HO** number in bold.  
Further information is available from the City of Yarra website.

### *Starting at 35 Johnston Street, carpark next to former Collingwood Technical School*

This site has played a prominent role in Collingwood since the 1850s, when the local courthouse was built. A police station and lockup was established behind it in Perry St. Council chambers were added in 1860 (Council had previously operated from rented premises in Wellington St.) You can see the courthouse and council chambers in a photo below. They had to serve these purposes for the burgeoning municipality for well over 20 years, until our beautiful Town Hall with library, courthouse and police station was built in Hoddle St in the 1880s. Collingwood was very forward-thinking in establishing a Free Public Library in 1860, with support from John Pascoe Fawkner who also donated an extensive book collection. For the first few years this was housed in the municipal chambers and open only at night. When the Collingwood School of Design was established in 1871, it too was housed initially in the same building, before moving to St Philip's hall in Hoddle St in the late 1870s.



*The chambers (left) and courthouse. On the right is the wall of the Courthouse Hotel, later The George Hotel*

In 1891 the old courthouse and Council chambers were tenanted by the newly-created Collingwood Working Men's Club, which was planned to provide educational lectures and a library for workers, as well as

some entertainment. The Club had to move to another site when Council sold the buildings to the Education Department.

In 1910 the Education Department made an important change to its previous stance of limiting its concern to primary education and developed a program of secondary and technical education. This led to the creation of Collingwood Technical School, which opened its doors in 1912. It commenced classes in the renovated old buildings in 1912 and they continued to be used until 1923, while other buildings were added around them. Notable buildings include 1913 and 1923 buildings in Perry St, the impressive 1938 main building in Johnston St, and the 1945 (approximately) boot trade building in Wellington St.

Collingwood Tech played a very important role both locally and in the wider scene. A wide range of trades was taught, and it was very active in training servicemen during both World Wars, and in re-training returned soldiers. A number of technical innovations were developed here.

Maximum day enrolment was reached in 1959 with 800 students. Gradually the proportion of post-secondary students grew. In 1970 there were 600 full-time secondary, 30 full-time technician, 1600 day-time apprentices, 1500

evening students (with 125 FT teachers). In this year it was re-named Collingwood Technical College to reflect the higher ratio of post-secondary courses. It was Collingwood Technical College 1970-1987; TAFE and separate tech school 1981-1987 (this was a disaster for the school, which eventually had to close; the large new Otter St building opened in 1980); NMIT from 1988 onwards, Melbourne Polytechnic late in 2014.

The Art Deco or Moderne main buildings fronting Johnston Street which were designed by Public Works architect Percy Everett in 1938 have become a striking feature of the streetscape, especially the arched entry bay. The whole complex is being re-developed as an arts precinct; Circus Oz and the Melba Spiegeltent are already operating.

**Haring mural:** Keith Haring (1958-1990) was a widely popular American artist and social activist who is often credited with bringing street art into the mainstream. In 1984, as his star was on the rise internationally, he visited Australia where he undertook art projects including this large scale outdoor mural on the wall of the Collingwood Technical School. This he painted in one day. The mural has been recently refurbished amid considerable controversy. (The mural is on the Victorian Heritage Register **HO354**). The ABC film 'Keith Haring Uncovered' (see Youtube link below) shows both Haring painting the original mural, and the restoration.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5sV68yCR0A&feature=em-uploademail>

### *Interior of former Collingwood Technical School buildings.*

On the day of the Walk we were privileged to be taken on an internal tour by C.E.O Marcus Westbury. Your visit will have to wait until the re-furbishment of the Collingwood Arts precinct is completed.

<http://creative.vic.gov.au/showcase/co-working-and-collaboration/collingwood-arts-precinct>

### *Walk east down Johnston Street to Wellington Street*

**Cnr Johnston and Wellington St.** Former Healy's Hotel 1870, called the Ivanhoe Hotel from 1873, and now The Tote, is located in the Johnston St heritage precinct **HO 324**. The Tote Hotel started life as a hay and corn store owned by Daniel Healy, who then built Healy's Hotel in 1870. The name was changed to the Ivanhoe Hotel in 1873 and to the Tote in the 1980s. Between 1870 and 1891 the licensees were Daniel Healy 1870 -1882 and his wife Bridget 1883-1891. The current name of the hotel may well be the cause of the rumours that it had some connection with John Wren's illegal betting shop, or tote (which was actually at the site currently numbered 148 Johnston St) with tunnels running underneath the street from the pub to allow the bookies to escape. There is no evidence to support this theory.

The Tote has been synonymous with live music and showcasing new and emerging independent musical acts of a variety of styles – punk, post punk, heavy metal and hardcore. It was the scene in January and February 2010 of large rallies protesting its imminent closure due to high cost of new stricter liquor licensing laws applying to 'high risk' late night music venues. This groundswell of community support saw the Tote stay open and amendments made to liquor licensing laws.

Read more about the hotel, and John Wren's tote, here:

<http://collingwoodhs.org.au/view/all-hotels-2/entry/52/>

[Plaques: John Wren's tote](#)

[Notable people: John Wren](#)

**241 Wellington St.** Collingwood Technical School boot apprentice building, built 1945. It now houses the Neighbourhood Justice Centre. **HO 324** The Collingwood and Fitzroy district was home to some of the largest boot and shoe manufacturers in Victoria, and in 1924 the Tech began training young factory workers in a disused factory in Perry St. After the boot and shoe trade was declared an apprentice trade in 1932, enrolment numbers expanded.

### *Walk up Perry Street to the 1913 Technical School building.*

This was the first purpose-built building for the Collingwood Technical School. Note the foundation stone, and the style of lettering on the lovely symmetrical facade. That the building was constructed so early showed the importance of the technical school movement. The Technical School building to the west dates from 1923. The area was once occupied by the police station and houses, and eventually boot factories. Two photos show what Perry Street was like in the 1880s.

[http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra\\_melbourne/Collingwood/9562.html](http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9562.html)

[http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra\\_melbourne/Collingwood/9551.html](http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9551.html)



*Walk down Perry Street turn right into Wellington Street to the corner of Otter Street*  
**St Joseph's complex.** Hall **HO120** 1885-6, Church **HO118**, 1860-62, 1891, Presbytery **HO117** 1903, School **HO119**, 1904.

The foundation stone of St Joseph's Church was laid in December 1860; it was built in stages, west nave first, also used for school; 1875-6 central nave added; east aisle 1891 designed by Collingwood city surveyor Henry Edmeades Tolhurst. The hall which we walked past in Wellington St was built in the mid 1880s to be used as the school, and you can see it under construction in one of the Perry St photos. The presbytery (Art Nouveau style) and current school are later additions, 1903 and 1904/1912? respectively. The whole forms a complex that has luckily survived despite attempts by church authorities to demolish the church after a fire in 2007. The first service in the renovated church will take place 17 March 2018.

**Former St George's Presbyterian Church.** Built 1861-62 **HO144**. Now St Martin's Community Church.

Over the road is St George's Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterians, who were mainly Scottish immigrants, first built a small wooden church in 1859 near the corner of Perry St, then this one was built 1861-62.

<http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/102803/download-report>

*Walk south along Wellington Street to Napoleon St, turn right.*

**12 Napoleon St.** Early houses, built before 1858. **HO115**. The 1858 Hodgkinson map of Collingwood shows this building. Now one dwelling, these were a pair of semi-detached, single storey bluestone cottages, with a hipped corrugated iron roof. The roof extends to form a verandah on the street elevation, supported on timber posts, and with a timber front fence. Doors are four-panelled, and windows are double-hung sashes with vertical glazing bars. They are rare early examples of bluestone workers' cottages.

*Follow curve of Napoleon Street to Otter Street*

**Northeast corner of Otter and Bedford St.** The building appears on the 1858 map making it also among the oldest surviving buildings in Collingwood, although much changed in appearance. It was occupied by a dairyman in 1864. The original bluestone shop appears to have been incorporated into a larger furniture factory in the 1920s where EH Reidy was still operating in the 1990s. Note the tooled stone work around the door and windows. This building has no heritage protection.

From this corner you can see the side of:

**284 Smith St.** Among the more flamboyant Victorian era shops is this three storey red brick and render shop, with unusual large horseshoe motifs on the rendered parapet. (Heritage rating individually significant in the Smith Street Heritage precinct **HO333**)

*Turn left (south) into Bedford St*

**33-47 Bedford St,** Purfleet Cottages **HO96**

Constructed in 1873, these replaced an older row of timber cottages. There were originally a dozen tiny cottages, of which eight remain.

*Walk north along Bedford Street*

**15-17 Bedford St.** A two storey brick factory built in 1886 for lease provides a rare example of speculative industrial development in Victorian Collingwood. It was McGann's boot factory for many years. (Heritage rating individually significant **HO95**)

**5 Bedford St.** built c 1885. Underclothing factory, later clothing, saddlery, heel and hosiery manufacturers to 1930.

**3 Bedford St.** Built for Henry Bradley and Sons manufacturers and importers of fancy goods. Used to manufacture clay pipes for smoking. It was later a boot factory. (Heritage rating contributory in Johnston St precinct **HO324**). The factory was almost immediately behind Bradley's shop at 324 Smith St.

*Walk south along lane behind these factories, back to Perry Street.*

Note the view of the often less-altered rear sections of Smith St shops, as well as the extensive street art on walls and doorways. On the day of the walk local resident and street art aficionado Shane Andrews explicated many such works in this laneway and elsewhere.

**312 Smith St** Now Friends of the Earth. Eight identical ornate Italianate shops nos 298-312 Smith Street were built in 1897. 312 on the corner is wider than the others. The upper level façade is stuccoed and laid out in the trabeated

form with Corinthian Order pilasters enclosing pairs of segmented windows. (Individually significant in **H0333** Smith St Precinct.)

### *Smith Street between Perry and Johnston Streets* (all part of Smith St precinct **H0333**)

**314 Smith St.** Albion Hotel built 1874-75. The original owner was Patrick Coyle, who was publican at the Grace Darling Hotel. Unfortunately he was committed to the Yarra Bend Asylum in 1887, and died in 1888. One of Collingwood's prettiest hotels, at least on the exterior, it became the Albion Inn in the 1990s and was renamed the Punters Palace from 1995. It is a distinctive building on a corner site with a notable richly-decorated design including the decorative use of grapes and vine leaves on the building. Of note is the name Albion in script in the leadlight windows. The Punters Palace continues to trade today.

Find out more about Patrick Coyle here:

[collingwoodhs.notables-Coyle](#)

See a photo of Smith St shops c. 1887 here:

[http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra\\_melbourne/Collingwood/9116.html](http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9116.html)

**316-322 Smith St.** Shops/dwellings constructed in two stages for Patrick Coyle, owner of The Albion. 318 was the site of the Allan Studio, photographers to Collingwood and surrounding districts for over 80 years.

**324 Smith St** site of Bradley's second shop (demolished). Henry Bradley sold tobacco, cigars, pipes, perfumery, stationery, hair brushes, combs, purses, spectacles, eyeglasses, cutlery, toys and fancy goods, and repaired jewellery and pipes. He lived upstairs with his family.

Find out more about Henry Bradley and see a photo of his shop here:

[collingwoodhs-notables-Bradley](#)

**332-338 Smith St** Stanford Buildings. Constructed for Thomas Stanford on land bought from Coyle. The corner shop was a Moran and Cato grocery for many years. See a photo of these shops:

[http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra\\_melbourne/Collingwood/9225.html](http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9225.html)

**334 Smith St** The John Pascoe Fawkner plaque set in plinth on the footpath commemorates one of Melbourne's founders. Fawkner owned an extensive landholding in this block. His funeral procession of over 200 carriages set off from here for the Melbourne General Cemetery. Not long after his death in 1869, his widow sold her properties to Patrick Coyle.

Find out more about John Pascoe Fawkner here: [collingwoodhs.notables-Fawkner](#)

### *Cross Johnston Street to north side* (part of Johnston St precinct **H0324**)

See the intersection as it was in the 1880s:

[http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra\\_melbourne/Collingwood/9127.html](http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9127.html)

#### **8-10 Johnston St. Belmont** pre-1857/c. 1876. **H0107, VHR 311**

This started as a single storey house built in quarry-faced bluestone before 1857 by Moses Craven who was a resident in Johnston St, possibly in this house, in 1856. He and his brother John were builders. The brick upper storey was added around 1876. The balcony cantilevered over the footpath, and the front steps encroaching on the footpath, are indicative of the lack of building regulations in Collingwood at that time. It was later divided into two dwellings. <http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/311>

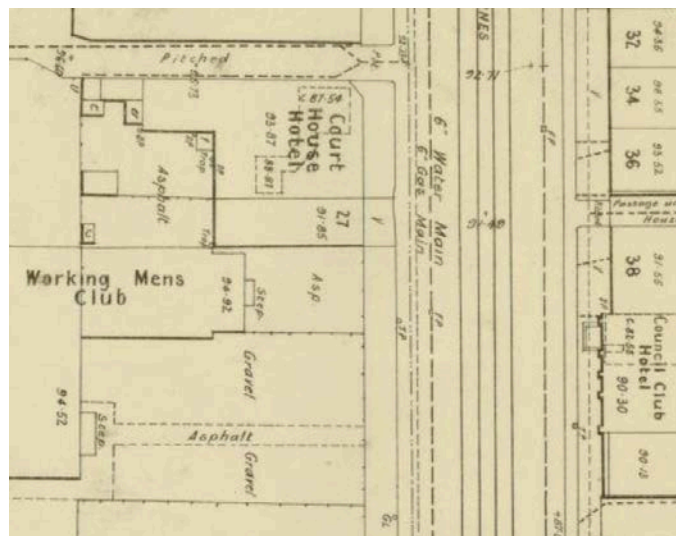
**40 Johnston St.,** Former Council Hotel 1858-84, Council Club Hotel 1885-1936. The name referred to the nearby council chambers. The bluestone building was owned by Henry 'Money' Miller, an investor who gave up politics to concentrate on amassing property. An early publican was Samuel Dredge, who was fined in 1870 for Sunday trading – a common occurrence in Collingwood's many pubs. Also a common practice was the use of pubs as a meeting place for Friendly Societies or lodges. The Prince Alfred Lodge of the United Ancient Order of Druids met here. The front of the hotel was substantially re-built in brick and extended after 1910, but at least one original bluestone wall can be seen if you peep down the tiny gap on the left (west) side.

To see Johnston Street c. 1906-10, look at this photo: [http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra\\_melbourne/Collingwood/9413.html](http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9413.html)

**5-13 Johnston St.** Shop fronts on the south side between Smith and Bedford Streets.

**31 Johnston St.** Courthouse Hotel 1865-95, Federation Hotel 1899-1906, George Hotel 1906-14. Remnants remain. The Court House Hotel was built in 1865. It was sited next door to the original East Collingwood Court House and no doubt contributed to its custom! Some years after the court function moved to the new Collingwood Town Hall in Hoddle Street, and in

recognition of impending federation of Australian states, the name was changed to the Federation Hotel.



MMBW Detail Plan 1899

The original licensee was George Cotton Clarke in 1865, Charles Easton was next licensee and his wife's funeral left from the hotel in 1871. Denis O'Bryan was the licensee for ten years from 1885 – 1895. Why the name was changed to The George Hotel is lost in the mists of time. The hotel was delicensed in 1914 along with a seven other Collingwood hotels in an attempt by the Licensing Reduction Board to reduce the large number of hotels in the Barkly and Darling Wards within the City of Collingwood.

The hotel still exists behind the frontage which is composed of shops and offices in the distinctive Moderne design of the 1930s which have had further alterations in the 1950s. However a closer look reveals original chimneys and roof behind this façade as well as the splayed corner doorway and a carriage way on the western side. There is now a development application which would involve demolishing the former hotel. This building was incorporated into the neighbouring buildings that housed Gregory Steel Products until the 1960s. It is always interesting to be able to have a glimpse into the past even though the façade of the building has been so altered as to make the passerby unaware of previous usage.

**23-33 Johnston St.** Former Gregory Steel Products, the site is currently the subject of a planning proposal at VCAT. These buildings are the site of Gregory Steel Products, which in the first half of the 20th century replaced the earlier 19th century buildings. However there was a blacksmith at the site from as early as 1860. James Havelock Gregory (1880-1964) began the business in 1912 and it petered out in the mid 1970s. Gregory was listed in the 1920 directories at 25 Johnston St as 'saw and cutlery works'. Over time the works expanded. During the 1950s Gregory Steel Products was the largest manufacturer of cutlery products in the Southern Hemisphere. Prior to that they were Australia's biggest producer of military bladeware (not including bayonets) for Australian and American defence forces serving in Asia and the Pacific Ocean in World War Two. To read more:

<https://www.knivesaustralia.com.au/index.php/component/jshopping/gregsteel?Itemid=0>

These three properties (all rated as individually significant in the Johnston St precinct HO324) are in 2017 the site of a proposed 12 storey development which would have a major impact on the heritage street scape. The proposal would keep the facades which date from 1939-1954 and set back the new building a little from the façade, but would dominate the streetscape and cast shade over the public open space of the Contemporary Art Precinct. Yarra Council refused the proposal and it is now (2017-2018) at VCAT.

[http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/result\\_detail/104044?print=true](http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/result_detail/104044?print=true)

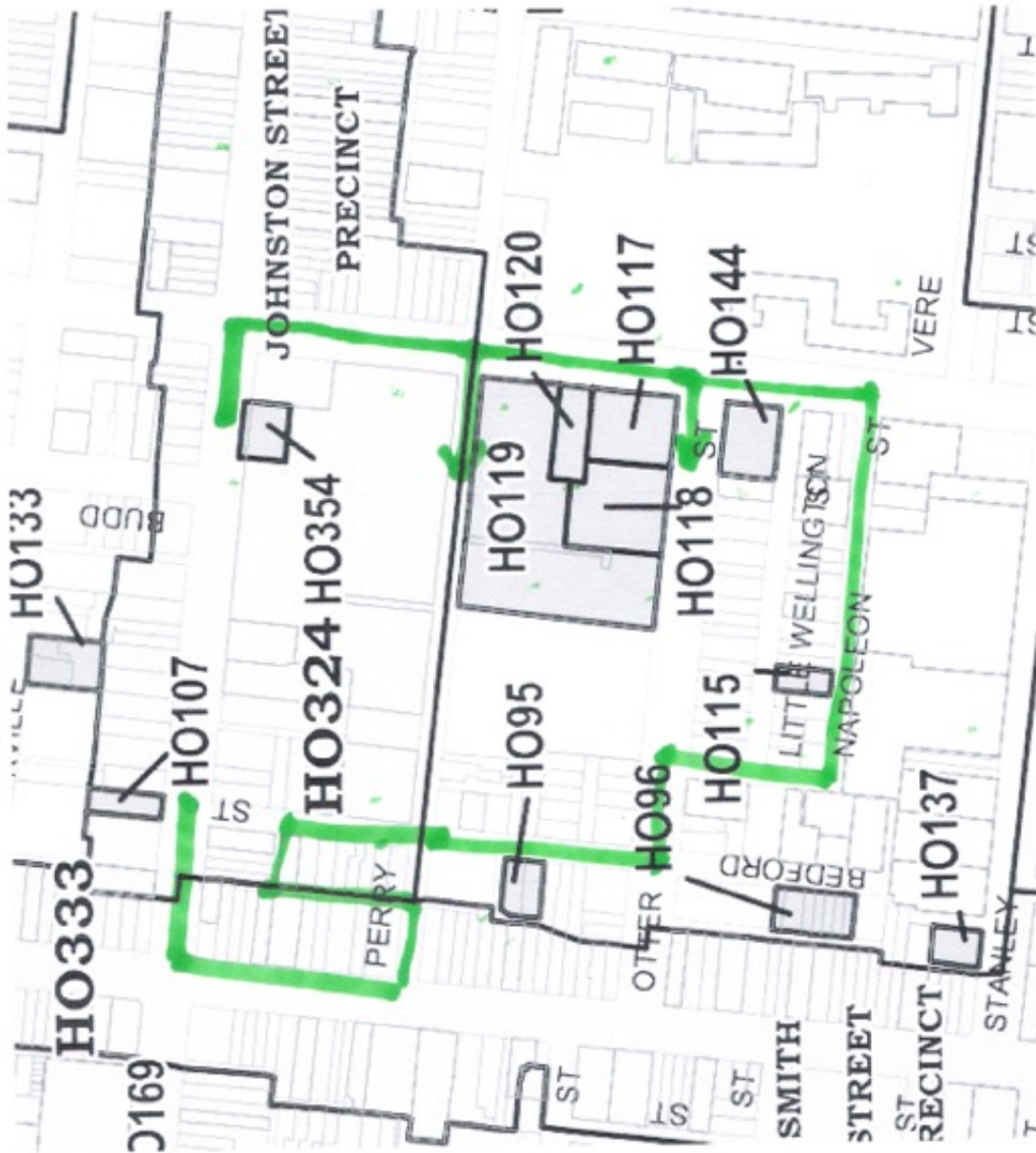
*On the day of the walk we finished up with a drink at the Robert Burns Hotel. Why not do the same?*

**376 Smith St** The Robert Burns Hotel was built in 1860, and is among Collingwood's longest-lasting licensed hotels. It is rated as individually significant within **HO333**.

<http://collingwoodhs.org.au/view/all-hotels-2/entry/68/>

# Heritage Overlay Precincts and Route Guide

Start 35 Johnston St, finish 40 Johnston St.



Collingwood Historical Society, Inc  
[www.collingwoodhs.org.au](http://www.collingwoodhs.org.au)