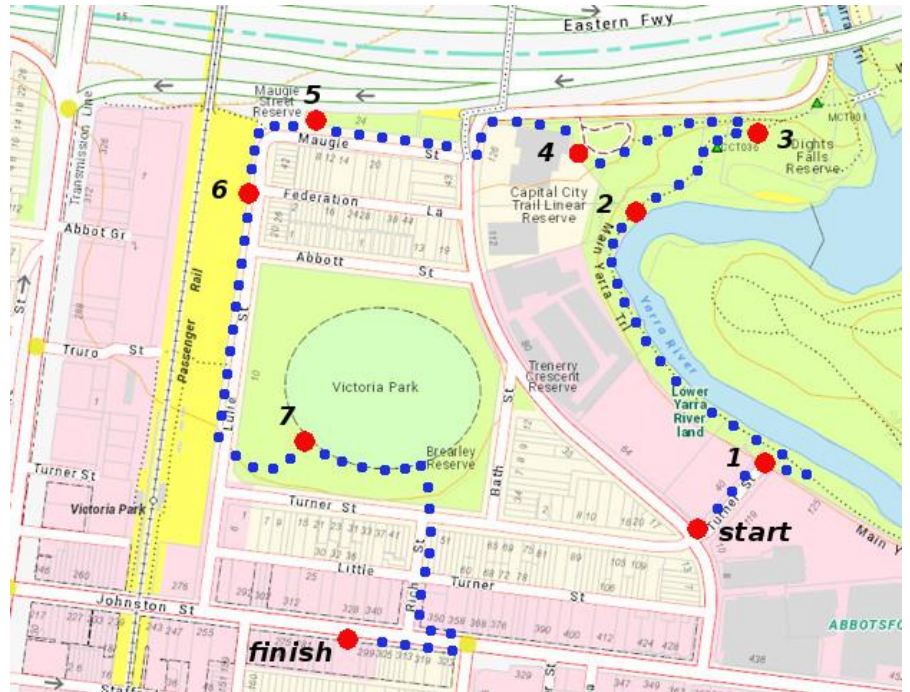


We acknowledge the Wurundjeri as the original inhabitants of this land

COLLINGWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY WALK 9 NOVEMBER 2019 ABBOTSFORD HERITAGE: THE VISIBLE & THE INTANGIBLE

This walk is situated in the area of Abbotsford once known as ‘Dight’s Paddock’, that is, the land bounded by Johnston Street, Hoddle Street, Reilly Street (later known as Alexandra Parade) and the Yarra River. Most of what we can see dates from the late nineteenth or twentieth century, but much of historical importance took place earlier and has left little or no physical trace. One constant across many hundreds of years is the Yarra river and its confluence with the Merri Creek, although even this was somewhat changed by the construction of the Eastern Freeway.



Starting Point

- *Go to the intersection of Trenerry Crescent (east side) and Turner Street Abbotsford. Walk down Turner Street a little way and go left into the parking area behind 20 Trenerry Crescent.*

Stop 1 Here you will find a flat viewing platform overlooking the river, a lovely vantage point to start thinking about the area’s history including the local Wurundjeri people, early colonial settlement, the Yarra River floods and industrial heritage.

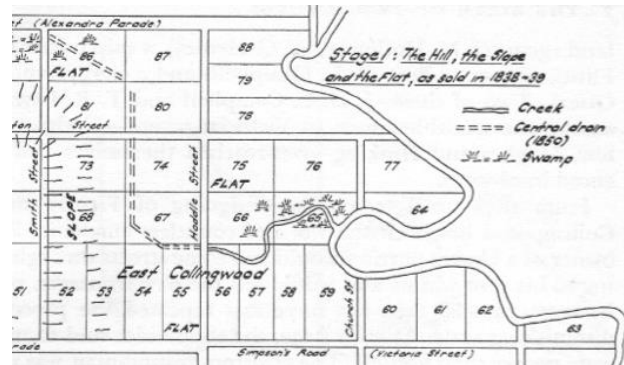
The local Wurundjeri people

This area was an important site for Woiwurrung clans, in particular the local Wurundjeri people. The river provided water, fish, eels, mussels, waterbirds and eggs. On the river flats were kangaroos, wallabies and emus, and in the trees possums to be hunted and roasted. Edible root plants could be harvested. At times of the year when food was abundant, other Aboriginal groups came here for social and ritual purposes.

This area first appears in the European record when it was sighted briefly by explorers in 1803. It was 1835 before the first colonists established a settlement in what was to become

Melbourne. In 1839 the colonial Government held land sales in Sydney of large portions of the Wurundjeri homelands. The portions were around 20 to 25 acres (8 to 10 hectares). The area discussed today includes three Crown Portions: 78, 79 and 88.

This was an important area of early contact between the Wurundjeri and the colonists (more at Stop 2).



Early European colonists in this area were [John Dight](#) and [J.D. Lyon Campbell](#). Dight bought Crown Portion 88 and built a flour mill and a house. Dight later purchased Portion 78, bordering Johnston Street, which had been owned by Ranulph Dacre, a Sydney merchant who apparently never came to Melbourne. Campbell bought Crown Portion 79, about 20 acres between Hoddle Street and the river. He and his young agent [James Graham](#) pitched a tent on the land in 1839 so were perhaps the first Europeans to live in this area. In 1848 Dight bought Campbell's land and so ended up owning the whole area - 'Dight's Paddock'. (More about Dight and Campbell at Stop 4). These people must have had interaction with the Wurundjeri though it is not recorded. On the other hand, [Georgiana McCrae](#) and her family, who lived further along the river in the early 1840s, wrote extensively about them. We do know these early colonists found the area quite lovely. As James Graham wrote: *The site ... is ... on the prettiest part of the river ... commands an extensive view of the country all round and a long stretch of the river ... a romantic spot ... mimosa ... birds ...*

[1858 map of Collingwood](#) Shows Dight's Yarra House, Dight's Mill, Campbellfield

What is unusual about this area compared to the rest of Collingwood, much of which was densely settled by the 1870s, is that it was not subdivided until 1878 after the Dight family sold the land to **Edwin Trenerry**. Hundreds of allotments were first put up for auction in February 1878 as the 'Campbellfield Estate'. The Collingwood Council bought ten acres in the middle of it, which necessitated the drawing up of new subdivision plans and a fresh auction later in the year. Auctions continued as land was sold off parcel by parcel. Finally Trenerry died and all remaining lots were auctioned to be sold as one lot. This parcel was bought by J J Kelly and gradually re-sold in ensuing years. As we walk around, we will see some of the remaining late Victorian and early Edwardian houses which were built on these subdivided allotments. Later additions are factories such as Yarra Falls Mills, the railway line, Victoria Park football ground (Stop 7), and of course the freeway.

[Campbellfield Estate subdivision plan](#)

The Yarra's floods

The apartment buildings we can see on the south side of Turner St cover what was once very different housing. By 1890 there were rows of houses on the former May Street and River Terrace (off Turner Street) overlooking the river. In the great flood of 1891, the flood torrents engulfed the lower storey of the houses in River Terrace and there was debate in Collingwood Council about whether they should be condemned.

The following was reported in *The Argus* 21 July 1891:

Last night Mr. H. E. Tolhurst, surveyor of the city of Collingwood, handed in to the Collingwood council a report of the damage done locally by the flood. About 30ft of a newly-constructed portion of Turner-street, extending towards the river, has been completely washed away; and he recommends one of two things-either that the length of the street should be curtailed or, if not, that it should have a concrete foundation. The Riverside terrace, he thought, should be condemned, and occupation of it prohibited.

Debate continued in the Collingwood Council with the Health Inspector also saying they should be condemned, as reported in the *Mercury and Weekly Courier* [20 August 1891](#).

In 1892 May Street remained tenanted, but in River Terrace all houses were vacant.

However the houses were repaired and continued to be inhabited for many years, and continued to be flooded and photographed,



as in this 1911 photo. If you want to read more reports, follow this link to the attached document [Floods](#)

[MMBW plan 1905 showing houses May St and River Terrace](#)

It was **the great flood of December 1934** that saw the end of River Terrace. *The Herald* 1 Dec 1934 reported:

Over 48 hours, more than 140mm of rain fell over Melbourne and 350mm fell in South Gippsland. More than 400 buildings were damaged, 6000 people made homeless and 36 people died. A single lake formed from South Yarra to Warrandyte. Nearly 4000 people are homeless in Abbotsford, according to an estimate made early this afternoon by the Collingwood police. For more than a mile in the Clifton Hill direction, back to the Johnston Street tram sheds, houses are 30 feet under water. In one terrace of two-story houses in River Terrace there is six feet of water in the top stories. The Yarra Falls spinning mills is submerged.

After the 1934 flood damage River Terrace and May Street disappeared and the land was taken over by Yarra Falls Ltd. In 1941, Yarra Falls Ltd obtained approval to construct a concrete river wall to replace the former timber structure. It was erected at a cost of \$80,000 and still stands today. The top of the concrete wall is 12.9 metres above the river's usual level.

<http://www.bymas.org.au/history.html> : 'Construction of dams and other works since the 1950s have given authorities far greater control of the Yarra River flows, so that the prospect of any future flooding in our area seems very remote.' The Upper Yarra Dam, built in 1957, has been important in preventing such drastic floods as in the past. However recent damage identified in that dam wall could pose a future threat.

Before we start walking by the river, we will talk about the nearby industrial buildings and the heritage protection to provide a planning context.

The heritage protection of this area

The area of this walk is largely covered by the City of Yarra's heritage overlay: HO337 Victoria Park Precinct, Abbotsford <https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/73453>

The Victoria Park Heritage Overlay Area, Abbotsford (industrial sub-area) is significant:

- For the strong cultural connection with the highly significant Dight's Mill complex (adjoining the Heritage Overlay Area) as an early and significant industrial site in the State and the precursor to this long-term riverside industrial domain;
- For the many notable, large inter-war former industrial complexes that remain contributory and individually significant because of skilful adaptation to new uses; and
- For the major aesthetic contribution made by the location of these buildings on the curve of Trenerry Crescent and the Yarra River, particularly from close and middle distant views to the riverbank and towering landmark factory buildings, above, that dominate the surrounding low scale residential development.

(Graeme Butler and Associates, *City of Yarra Heritage Review of Heritage Overlay Areas 2007* (updated March 2013, pp 168-170)

It is thus important to retain these aspects and not surround heritage industrial buildings with new taller structures.

There is also more recent State Government protection of the land all along the Yarra River.

For more details of some of the planning issues for the Trenerry Crescent area follow this link [Trenerry Crescent heritage and development](#)

Former Yarra Falls Mills

This walk passes a number of buildings still remaining from the extensive Yarra Falls Mills.

[Yarra Falls Mills](#) spinning and weaving mills became a major industry along the river here from the early 20th century, replacing earlier houses. **Yarra Falls Spinning Co**, which later became Yarra Falls Ltd, built its first mill for spinning wool yarn on Johnston Street, Abbotsford near the Yarra River in 1918 and its administrative complex facing Johnston St in 1919. The company became a leader of Australia's textile industry. By 1923 the mills employed 600 workers many of whom lived nearby in low-rent houses owned by the company.

The Age 1935 photo Yarra Falls spinning mills:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/204355733>

The Age 1939 photo Yarra Falls women workers:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/205957649>

Other Yarra Falls Ltd developments included:

In 1922 a wool weaving mill was built at **80-110 Trenerry Crescent** and extended in 1935.

In 1928 the massive Austral Silk and Cotton Mills was built at 112 Trenerry Crescent. (Stop 4)

In 1937 Byfas Pty Ltd was formed (named for Ballarat Silk Mills, Yarra Falls Ltd and the Austral Silk and Cotton Mills) and the substantial mill was built at **8 Trenerry Crescent**. Yarra Falls Ltd was taken over in the 1972 by Claude Neon Ltd. The buildings were recommissioned for light industrial or commercial use and are now returning to residential.

- *On the day of the Walk we did not walk along Trenerry Crescent, but you may like to detour along there now to look at the above addresses, or do so later after STOP 4.*

From Stop 1 we can see, across Turner St:

10-16 Trenerry Crescent.

In 2010 the proposal at 10 to 16 Trenerry Crescent for a 15-level building was rejected by Council but they and VCAT agreed to reduce it by a mere 3 levels (9 metres) to a 9-level building. Council guidelines for activity centres, heritage guidelines and riverbank setbacks were all ignored. This produced a development that visually dominated the Yarra River and partly hid the heritage Yarra Falls chimney.

And the buildings on the corner of Turner St and Trenerry Crescent:

18-62 Trenerry Crescent Former Saunders Malt Extract factory

The former industrial site contains building of three periods: 1911, 1920s and 1984, all assessed as contributing to the heritage significance of the site.

The 1911 buildings on the corner of Trenerry Crescent and Turner Street were built for W Saunders and Sons, manufacturers of malt extract and cod liver oil. The buildings behind them on Turner Street were built in the 1920s. Malt extract and cod liver oil were important food products in the first half of the twentieth century.

In 1984 the site was redeveloped for the Esprit clothing company with an award-winning redevelopment by the architect Daryl Jackson. It is now argued that this redevelopment has heritage significance in its own right.

A development proposal has been submitted to Yarra Council by the current owners, the Valmorbidia family, imported food distributors. (20-62 Trenerry Crescent Planning application 19/0361 05 Jun 2019) This is for a mixed-use development including 85 new dwellings.

Heritage issues include how much of the significant heritage fabric of the buildings will be retained.

- ***Now** walk down the pedestrian path at the bottom of Turner Street (noting the flood wall) and turn sharp left. Walk along the Main Yarra Trail, opened in 1988, and enjoy the lovely views of the Yarra and surrounds, and visualise what it was like here 200 years ago.*

The walk passes the long **mural** along the trail celebrating the local Wurundjeri people (Tom Civil 2014). The mural includes Bunjil the eagle the creator spirit, and Waa the crow the protector, as well as a portrait of Billibellary.

Stop 2 About 100 metres past the end of the mural, pause at the low-lying grassy patch to look across at Dights Falls and the geological formations on the other side of the river.

Dights Falls was a natural crossing place used by the traditional owners of the area, the Wurundjeri. The nearby junction of the Merri Creek and Yarra River was an important meeting place for trade, marriage, dispute resolution and other ceremonies. The area remains an important spiritual place for Wurundjeri people.

William Thomas, assistant Aboriginal Protector, was headquartered close by (1843-47) as was the Native Police Corps (1843-4), while the Merri Creek Aboriginal School was just

upstream. Wurundjeri leader [Billibellary](#) established relations with these officials and organisations.

Billibellary was an influential and important *ngurungaeta*, or spokesman, for the Wurundjeri-willum people at the time of the first European settlement of Melbourne. He was known as a chief of the Yarra tribe. His land was on the north side of the Yarra, including Yarra Bend Park and up the Merri Creek. He was known by various names including Billibilleri, Billibellary, Jika Jika, Jacky Jacky and Jaga Jaga.

Read more here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billibellary>

Stop 3 Walk up onto the remains of the mill structure

Dights Falls and Mills Timeline

Dights Falls is a naturally occurring rock barrier, just below the confluence of the Yarra River and the Merri Creek, named after [John Dight](#) who purchased a block of land next to the Falls at the government land sales conducted in Sydney in late 1838 to early 1839.

February 1803 – Charles Grimes got as far as the Falls when exploring up the Yarra River

December 1836 – John Gardiner, Joseph Hawdon & Captain John Hepburn who were overlanders from NSW, crossed at the Falls with their herd of cattle.

February 1839 – John Dight from Campbelltown, NSW a flour miller bought Portion 88, approximately 25 acres, in the Parish of Jika Jika, County of Bourke which was next to the Falls.

1841 – John Dight built a water powered flour mill by building a small weir on the basalt boulders of the crossing to regulate the water flow for the flour mill's water wheel.

1864 - Flour Milling was abandoned and the mill was leased to Thomas Kenny, who put in paper making machinery.

1867 – [Samuel Ramsden](#) acquired the paper making machinery from Thomas Kenny's mill and re-established the machinery on land at Southbank and so started Australian Paper Making (APM) Company. Dights Mill was abandoned.

Mid 1870s - the site was leased to the Patent Safety Blasting Powder Company.

1878 - the Dight family sold the mill & land to David Abbot & Frederick Trenerry Brown (nephew) on behalf of Edwin Trenerry, who lived in England. The land was subdivided into what was known as the Campbellfield Estate.

1888 – The unoccupied mill started up again when the millers Gillespie, Aitken & Scott began operating the Yarra Falls Roller Flour Mills. They constructed a new mill & associated buildings. The mill race was re-built in much the same position as Dight's water race, using bluestone blocks from Dight's old mill buildings.

1891 – The enterprise was sold to The Melbourne Flour Milling Company, owned by the Hon James Bell.

1895 – The MMBW issued a license to the Melbourne Flour Milling Company for the construction and maintenance of the weir at the Falls.

1907 – The Melbourne Flour Milling Company sold the mill & plant on the banks of the Yarra River to Messer John Darling & Son, the well-known millers and wheat merchants of South



Australia. Shortly afterwards a disastrous fire destroyed most of the mill. What remained of the mill buildings were dismantled & removed from the site.

The MMBW has controlled and owned the site for most of the 20th century. The site contains what you can see today – the remains of the head race, tail race, turbine house, retaining walls and the weir. The site is now controlled by Melbourne Water.

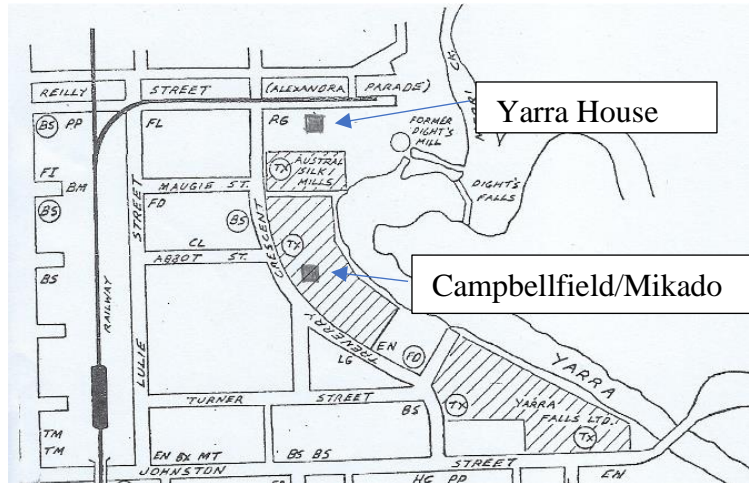
What is commonly known as Dight's Mill is one of Melbourne's oldest and most significant industrial sites and it is listed on the Heritage Council of Victoria's Heritage Inventory.

- *Walk westwards up the hill and then walk to the left of the public carpark.*

STOP 4 Here is a lovely view of Dight's Falls through the eucalypts. In the other direction you can see the former Austral Silk and Cotton Mills.

Let's go back to the two very early houses mentioned in the introduction. Firstly, *Campbellfield*, built by James Lyon Campbell. The house was in Trenerry Crescent roughly opposite Abbot Street. Campbell overlanded from Sydney with his young agent [James Graham](#), had plans drawn up for a house, then returned to Sydney to fetch his family while Graham remained on site, building a

log hut to live in while superintending twelve workmen building the house. The residence, designed by surveyor **Robert Russell**, was considered very extravagant by 'Port Phillipians'. Russell's design shows a single-storeyed but very substantial house. In 1840 the family moved in. Georgiana Macrae's sons were playfellows of the Campbell boys and visited regularly. Luckily for us Graham wrote copious letters and records of his business dealings, and Georgiana kept a journal, so we hear quite a lot about this period from several sources. Campbell died young, in 1844, and his widow was desperate to sell the house. Finally in 1848 Dight bought it for the paltry sum of £2000, though it was believed to have cost £7000 to build. So Dight ended up owning the whole area.



Dight's brother **Charles Dight** and his young family apparently lived in it at first until Charles's untimely death. Dight then let the house. Tenants included **William Degraes**, a miller and merchant who probably used it as a country house. From 1868 to 1874 Collingwood town clerk **George Bennett** was the tenant. The house was bought by **Henry Walker**, an Abbotsford soap merchant and 5 times mayor of Collingwood, who let it to the noted architect [Leonard Terry](#). When Terry died in 1884 Walker sold the house to another well-known architect [William Pitt](#). Pitt re-named the house *Mikado*, because the operetta was being staged at the Princess Theatre which he had designed. After Pitt died in 1918 his wife moved to East St Kilda and the Yarra Falls Company took over the site.

[Photo of Mikado in 1904](#)

The second house was the Dight residence, *Yarra House*, sited with a good view of the river and the falls and the mill. The alterations in relation to freeway construction make it hard to visualise the house's position, but it was roughly where the existing corner building, currently housing the Education Union, stands. [Dight's Yarra House c. 1870](#)

Around 1882 it was bought by Thomas [Shelmerdine](#) who built a hat factory next door. The property still comprised a number of acres. [Margaretta Shelmerdine](#) made the most of her large house and extensive gardens to host fetes, garden parties and her son's wedding. These events were written up in the social pages with gushing descriptions of the commodious house and its pretty setting and picturesque views. It was sold to Dunlop Rubber in 1925 and demolished shortly afterwards.

112-120 Trenerry Crescent Austral Silk and Cotton Mills

Yarra Falls Mills acquired the Austral Hat Factory and built their impressive new **Austral Silk and Cotton Mills** on the site in 1927. From the 1990s the Victorian Branch of the Australian Education Union was located at number 112 Trenerry Crescent but in recent years c 2011 the union purchased the neighbouring property **126-142 Trenerry Crescent**, moved there and sold the Austral Mills building in 2019 to the Zagame family.

<https://www.realestatesource.com.au/zagame-family-pays-aeu-21-million-for-prime-abbotsford-site.html>

The imposing four-storey brick building reflects its Interwar construction date in its Stripped Classical architectural style and was probably architect designed. Stripped Classical was a Moderne–Neoclassical style popular between the wars, especially in the [United States](#) and Nazi Germany. It was **stripped** of most or all ornamentation, frequently employed by governments when designing official buildings and adapted by both totalitarian and democratic regimes. Modern additions have since been constructed on the rooftop to extend the fourth floor, while a modern entrance porch, with stairs and ramp, has been constructed at the entrance.

- *Carefully cross Trenerry Crescent and walk along the park on the north side of Maugie Street.*

STOP 5 Standing opposite number 10 Maugie Street gives a view of all the houses on the south side, and the 'ghost sign' on the back of the shop on the corner of Lulie Street.

Maugie Street came into existence with the Campbellfield Estate subdivision of 1878-1882. The roads and the lots were set out for sale in Blocks I, K, L & M. The northern side of the street was settled first with the southern side mostly built on later.

All of the land and houses on the northern side of Maugie Street to Reilly Street (Alexandra Parade East) were acquired for the building of the Eastern Freeway in the 1970s. Trenerry Crescent which originally went through to Reilly Street to meet up with Groom Street was also re-aligned to its present state at this time.

Collingwood Notable [Betty Wilson](#) lived her early life at Number 11 Maugie Street, and this is where she honed her skills as a cricket player, playing for the Collingwood Ladies Cricket Team at Victoria Park, and was in the Senior Victorian Women's side at 16. From here she went onto become one of Australia's most successful woman cricketers and was known as the 'Female Don Bradman'.

She played for Australia during the 1940s and 1950s in the U.K. and New Zealand. Her batting and bowling figures put her ahead of most of the male players of that era, so it is no wonder then, that during a lull in the batting at a Men's Australia v England Test Match in 1953, the crowd was heard to shout 'send Betty Wilson in, that will liven things up'.

- *Walk around the corner into Lulie Street on the west side and stop opposite Federation Lane where you will get a good view of the terrace houses as well as a distant vista of Trenerry Crescent*

STOP 6 Winniefred (sic) and Dorothy Terraces

34-48 Lulie Street The Winniefred & Dorothy Terraces represent classic 1880s boom period speculative development near transport nodes. The date on the pediment is 1888 and the initials WTC: William Thomas Chidzey, a local builder who developed the land in collaboration with Theodore Fink (a solicitor, director of *The Herald* newspaper, and property speculator). In *The Age*, 18 July, 1888, W.T. Chidzey advertised one of the Terraces as a splendid investment for £4,000. It was described as a terrace facing Collingwood Railway Station and adjoining Victoria Park, comprising two shops and six balconied dwellings. By December 1889 Chidzey, who had built dozens of houses in the area, had become insolvent; Fink also suffered from the collapse in property prices from 1889 and the ensuing bank failures and economic depression of the 1890s. By the 1890s both terraces were owned by building societies which had held mortgages over the properties. There is some evidence that Chidzey also built the houses in River Terrace and May Street, referred to under floods at Stop 1.

The two Terraces with their shops at either end are distinctive compared to the more commonly seen rows of houses with the shops nearby (or just one corner shop at the end of the terrace). The shops were occupied by grocers, butchers, greengrocers and bootmakers conveniently providing residents with their needs. The Terraces are of architectural significance as a rare example of a residential two-storey building type which incorporated six dwellings flanked by corner shops. Representative of polychrome boom style terraces, they are of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria and Dorothy Terrace is on the Victorian Heritage Register – H1035.

Dorothy and May Winifred were Chidzey's young daughters. The photo (courtesy descendant) shows William in the front row, May Winifred behind him, and Dorothy back row right. How Winifred was translated to Winniefred remains a mystery.



Abbot Street Victoria Park School

With all the building going on, a new school was needed. It opened on 8 July 1889 stretching between Abbot Street and Federation Lane. By the 1980s there were an average of only 80 pupils. It closed at the end of 1992 and was demolished in 1997. Townhouses were built on the site.

- *Walk to Turner Street and enter Victoria Park (go through a turnstile to get in the right frame of mind)*

Stop 7 Victoria Park

Walk up to the closest information stand. Note from this high point you have a good view of the surrounding area. You can also see how some recent developments have blocked viewlines.

Originally forming part of the Campbellfield Estate, which was put up for sale in 1878, this ten-acre site was bought by the City of Collingwood as ‘a public resort and recreation garden’. What exactly it was to be used for was discussed ad infinitum in the last decades of the nineteenth century. A range of activities, sporting and otherwise, took place here, but finally in 1892 it became the home of the Collingwood Football Club and ‘Football! Football! Forward Collingwood!’ asserted the ad announcing the public meeting held at the Town Hall on 12 February 1892 to endorse the creation of the Club. That night Cr Beazley assured residents that the new Club would be a boon for the city. Unionist and MLA [John Hancock](#) elicited a roar of approval when he predicted the Club’s destiny. The team would soon win a premiership, he cried, because the very name of Collingwood would ‘strike terror into the hearts of opposing players’.

The first game of the newly constituted senior club was played on 7 May 1892. Certainly, pride in their football team was a dominant force in Collingwood life for many years. And it was a sad day for many when the ground ceased to be used by their beloved Magpies. If you have queries about any aspect of the football club, contact the archives for help (telephone or email only). <https://forever.collingwoodfc.com.au/the-collingwood-archives/>

One of our members who spent his boyhood in Collingwood was unable to attend the Walk to talk about the importance of football and Vic Park to his family, but wrote a document for us. Follow this link to: [Bob's family football memories](#)

Nearly 120 years after that first game, the quality of urban life in the local area has been enhanced by the open space and free access to the oval. A number of artworks were commissioned in 2011 to recognise the park’s historical and social significance and to provide interesting and educational focal points for park visitors.

- *If you have time, walk around the park to inspect all the signs and artworks which are full of information and entertainment. Note the one closest to the entry turnstiles has a copy of the subdivision plan.*
- *Leave by the steps halfway along the Turner Street wall. Don’t miss ‘Strata of Memory’ a timeline of Victoria Park incised into the steps.*
- *Walk down Rich Street to Johnston Street. Here you get a good view of the exterior of the Yarra Hotel. You can then do as we did on the day of the Walk, cross at the traffic lights and enter the hotel for a drink.*

Stop 8 295 Johnston Street Abbotsford YARRA HOTEL

The Yarra Hotel started life as Mackay’s Family Hotel when Margaret Mackay applied for a license to operate a hotel in September 1854. The full license was granted in April 1855. Margaret operated the hotel until her death in August 1859. The license was then transferred to Mr Chilmers, who was also the proprietor of a pleasure boat on the Yarra River. *The Prince of Wales* was licensed to carry 30 passengers.

By June 1860 Mackay’s Hotel was for sale due to the insolvency of Mr Chilmers. Maybe the pleasure boat business combined with the hotel wasn’t a success! In the sale notice the hotel

is described as having an 80ft frontage to Johnston St, a Gothic brick front, well built, providing good accommodation for visitors and in ‘an improving locality’.

In June 1863 the hotel was once again up for sale and was still for sale in November 1863. It was described as having a frontage of 80ft and a depth of 97ft, built of weatherboard with a Gothic brick front.

In March 1864 Joseph Scholz applied for a new license for the former Mackay Hotel to be known as the Yarra Hotel. Joseph remained the publican until 1888. John Ross Bremner became the publican in late 1888 and he was involved with the Britannia Football Club and the formation of the Collingwood Football Club. In 1894 he retired from the hotel and as Vice-president of the Collingwood Football Club.

In keeping with most hotels in the district, Mackay’s Hotel and the Yarra Hotel were used as venues for polling stations, inquests, meetings of ratepayers, Union meetings, meet the candidate for local Collingwood and State Elections, smoke nights for the Collingwood Football Club, the Abbotsford Fish Protection Society & Anglers Club and lodge meetings. The hotels would have been at the centre of life in Abbotsford.

The Collingwood Football Club had a strong association with the Yarra Hotel from its formation – the hotel was used as the players dressing rooms for the first two games and they would change there and then run along Rich Street to Victoria Park. The hotel was the venue for team dinners, reunion of players and celebrations of becoming the Football Premiers.

The Yarra Hotel was the choice of football patrons for their half time drinks as it was close to the ground. This situation of the rush of patrons out of the ground at half time existed until the mid 1920s when liquor was again allowed to be sold at the ground. The crush of patrons into the hotel lead to Peter McCaffrey being charged & fined in October 1907 with selling liquor from an unlicensed premise (it was the shop next door to the hotel). The shop was connected to the hotel by a doorway and it was used because of the large number of patrons wanting drinks. His conviction was subsequently quashed.

In 1935, Carlton & United Breweries submitted plans for alterations to the Yarra Hotel and tenders were called in early 1936. The alterations were for the demolition of two shops and part of the back of the hotel. The front part of the hotel would be carried right across the front and over the land now occupied by the two shops (no doubt one was the shop used by Peter McCaffrey). The work was to take 6 months at a cost of £2,500. The two shops were either side of the hotel and in 1935 one was a fruiterer and the other was occupied by an electrician. The work maintained and expanded the 1880s façade that we see today.

Maps, Photos and Paintings

Campbellfield Estate 1881 version: <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/94984>

May Street & River Terrace MMBW Detail Plan: <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/117756>

Dight's Mill and Dight's Falls:

1855: http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/permalink/f/1cl35st/SLV_VOYAGER1655382

1857: http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/permalink/f/1cl35st/SLV_VOYAGER1685255

1868: http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/permalink/f/1cl35st/SLV_VOYAGER1901486

c. 1875: http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/permalink/f/1cl35st/SLV_VOYAGER1800966

Many more pictures can be found on the State Library of Victoria website slv.vic.gov.au

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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/141809763> Expansion of Yarra Falls

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<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/fink-theodore-6171>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/58466481?searchTerm=chidzey&searchLimits=-state=Victoria&|-decade=188#> William Chidzey's insolvency details

<https://forever.collingwoodfc.com.au/the-collingwood-archives/>

Collingwood Notables Database

<https://collingwoodhs.org.au/resources/notable-people-2/>

Search the database for the following people (links are also located within Walk text)

Billibellary, James Graham, JD Lyon Campbell, John Dight, Georgiana McCrae, Samuel Ramsden,

Leonard Terry, William Pitt, Thomas Shelmerdine, Margareta Shelmerdine, Betty Wilson, John

Hancock.