

COLLINGWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY WALK 9 NOVEMBER 2019

Additional material on floods

River Terrace features from 1901 to 1924:

The Argus 25 April 1901:

FROM DIGHT'S FALLS TO CREMORNE-BRIDGE.

It was a rushing, roaring torrent which swept past the pumping station at Dight's Falls, and as it rose gradually all day the employees feared that ere long they would have to cease work. But at nightfall there was still a few feet of freeboard, and the smoke still poured from the chimney stack on the corner. A few yards further down, however on the Abbotsford side, a terrace of six two storied houses, called appropriately River-terrace, stood in 4ft of water, the inhabitants early in the day having taken refuge in the upper flats. Here the children were huddled together, while their elders rescued what furniture they could from the lower floors and stored it upstairs, preparatory to removing it in vans to other houses. Mr. Tanner, a young married man, lived in the first of these houses, and he was preparing to move under most disheartening circumstances, for in one of the upper rooms his wife lay ill with a three days old baby by her side.

Photo 1911 *Punch*: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/175613771>

1916 *The Argus* : <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1608614>

1918 *Punch*: More River terrace pictures, also of the new Yarra Falls wool warehouse

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/138714688>

The Age 16 October, 1923:

Whirling and eddying, bearing upon its broad bosom branches of trees, pickets broken from fences, sawn logs and other debris, the turbulent, muddy Yarra, after passing through the wide open reaches at Fairfield and East Kew, became a roaring, rushing torrent as it entered the more restricted confines between the high, precipitous cliffs at Studley Park. Approaching the Johnston-street-bridge the rising waters on Saturday began to encroach upon the premises of the Yarra Falls Spinning Mills. Yesterday, as the stream rose higher and higher, the mills were subjected to a severe flooding, in spite of the strenuous work of a number of willing helpers who endeavoured to minimise the damage done by the inrushing water by pumping it from the lower portion of the buildings. Other workers energetically occupied themselves in removing goods to a place safety.

Residents in six adjacent two-story houses were placed in an unenviable plight. On Saturday, after the occupants had been forewarned by the police, furniture had to be hastily removed, lighter articles being transferred to the higher stories. Further along the river other householders met with similar misfortune. Fortunately, not many houses are situated within reach of the flood waters. A good stretch of the eastern bank is park land, while the western bank is mainly occupied by factories.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/flashback-devastating-floods-hit-melbourne-in-1923-20171201-gzwqxh.html>

And in 1924

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/243883393>