

Northern Maribyrnong River Heritage Map & Guide

THE MARIBYRNONG RIVER HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF MARIBYRNONG. THIS GUIDE SHOWCASES A FEW OF THE PLACES THAT REVEAL ITS RICH HISTORY OF ABORIGINAL LAND USE, EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND EXPLORATION, INDUSTRIAL BEGINNINGS, MUNITIONS LEGACY AND ITS MANY RECREATIONAL USES.



1. Raleigh Castle Archaeological Site



Pioneering Maribyrnong pastoralist, Joseph Raleigh, built a structure named Malakof's Castle in the 1840s to house his single male employees who worked in his boiling down works close by. This striking building, with a sheep weathervane, was made of local bluestone and dominated the local landscape until it was demolished in the 1920s.

2. Anglers Tavern



The Anglers Tavern, also known as the Anglers Arms, was established in the 1860s next to a new bridge built in Raleigh Road. The hotel offered boating facilities for fishermen, as this was a well known fishing spot, and had a jetty for excursion boats to the popular Riverview Teagardens upstream. Being close to the river the Anglers Tavern is regularly flooded to this day.

3. Dale Stables



One of the many connections with horses and horse racing in Maribyrnong's thriving racing industry were the Dale Stables, nestled along the river near the corner of Plantation Street and Chifley Drive and built in 1931. The stables became a kind of horse motel for horses taking part in races at the nearby Maribyrnong Racetrack, Flemington Racecourse and harness racing at the Showgrounds.

4. Pridham Grandstand



Built in 1935, the humble Pridham Grandstand at the Maribyrnong Reserve in Hortense Street became associated with the wild entertainment of racing cars and racing bikes at the reserve from 1946 until 1964. The races eventually closed due to pressure from local residents. Several thousand people gathered every Saturday night to watch these races.

5. Raleigh Mansion Archaeological Site



Joseph Raleigh, who gave Raleigh Road its name, built a grand mansion on a hill in the middle of his extensive pastoral estate here in the late 1840s. At that time this mansion had views to the City of Melbourne and along the river in all directions. It was described as having flowers of every variety, orchards, vines and a general park like appearance.

6. Maribyrnong Estate Maribyrnong Defence Site



This area of Maribyrnong, once covered with a she-oak forest where there was an Aboriginal silcrete quarry, was the home of pioneers, famous race horses, a remount depot where horse were trained for World War One and eventually an explosives factory with more than 1,000 buildings which was central to Australia's war effort in both the first and second world wars.

7. First Residents Maribyrnong Defence Site



The people of the Kulin Nation have lived in the Port Phillip area for at least 30,000 years. The Maribyrnong River and basalt plain provided the traditional owners of this land with a rich supply of food, water, shelter, tools, clothing and medicines.

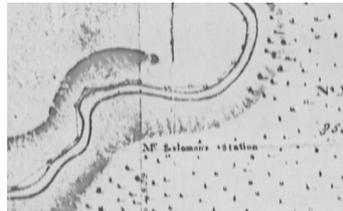
While few signs remain of this rich culture the former defence site is one of the places along the Maribyrnong River Valley that holds archaeological evidence of their way of life.

8. Natural Heritage - White Cypress Maribyrnong Defence Site



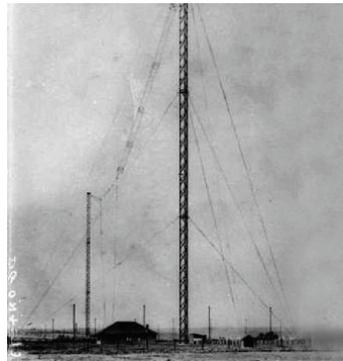
In the old Explosives Factory site were a number of indigenous White Cypress trees among the more dominant she-oaks of the area. The versatile wood of the cypress is soft, durable and aromatic and has been used for fencing flooring, panelling and furniture. It is termite proof but highly flammable. It is a small tree that can grow to 20 metres.

9. Solomon's House Archaeological Site



Joseph Solomon, one of Maribyrnong's earliest European pioneers, was a personal friend of John Batman and came to Victoria from Tasmania as part of the original Port Phillip Association. He obtained a licence to run sheep in the parish of Cut Paw Paw on the banks of the Maribyrnong and built a house on what is now the site of the Medway Golf Course.

10. 3Lo Radio Transmission Station



The foundation remains of a 130 metre high radio mast, which was once the second largest radio transmitter in the Southern Hemisphere, can still be found at 170 Ashley Street. The mast, built by Amalgamated Wireless Australasia, was part of a plan to deliver public radio programs from Australia to the rest of the world and is significant for its association with major technical advances in Australia in the 1920s.

11. Klipspringer



This is a beautiful art deco factory that was built in the 1920s when a number of meat byproduct industries were expanding into the Braybrook area. The company is known for its production of tennis racquet strings, particularly natural gut strings, an industry which grew in response to the growing popularity of tennis in the 1920s.

12. First Residents River Valley Escarpment Braybrook



Early settlers noted that the river valleys were often used as travelling routes by Aborigines and the Maribyrnong valley was a valuable food resource with abundant sources of food according to the season. At certain times of the year it teemed with fish and water birds and yams grew in the valley. The escarpment is a significant Aboriginal archaeological site

13. William Barak Pictorial Memorial



Described as having a bible in one hand and a boomerang in the other, William Barak, last chief of the Wurundjeri tribe, never ceased arguing for the rights of his people. Barak was born 10 years before Batman arrived and negotiated his people through the trauma of displacement. He achieved lasting fame as an artist bringing different cultural traditions together.

14. Solomon's Ford



There is a line of rocks crossing over the Maribyrnong River, lining up with Burke Street in Braybrook on the south side of the river and the west end of Canning Street, known as Solomon's Ford. In the 1830s, before punts and bridges were in common use, this ford was the main crossing point on the river. The closest households to the ford were those of Cottrell, Ferguson and Solomon.