

HIGHPOINT SHOPPING & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

# MARIBYRNONG RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL MAP

## Legend

- Maribyrnong City Council Town Hall
- Council open space
- BBQ area
- Playground
- Dogs off lead area
- Walking track / bike track
- Library
- Arts precinct
- Shopping centres
- Train lines
- Train stations
- Public toilets - disabled access
- Public toilets - no disabled access

**Disclaimer:** all due care has been taken to prepare this map and its contents, however Maribyrnong City Council does not accept liability for any statements, opinions, errors or omissions contained herein.



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# MAP



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### 1 STONY CREEK BACKWASH



The Stony Creek Backwash is the mouth of Stony Creek which meanders down from Sunshine to enter the Yarra at this point. Layers of human and industrial activity since the 1850s have left their mark on this place. Bluestone quarrying, for building and paving purposes, was one of the region's first industries, and was quarried along Stony Creek for use as ballast from the 1850s.

### 2 COODE CANAL ENTRANCE AND YARRAVILLE WHARF NUMBER SIX (Eastern end of Francis Street)

A number of companies erected their own river wharves in the 1870s. In the 1880s the Melbourne Harbor Trust amalgamated these structures into a continuous line of wharves along the river bank between Francis Street and Somerville Road, though little of the original structure remains. Yarraville Wharf Number Six is the southernmost of the wharves. Opposite the wharf the Yarra River branches off to the east, marking the entrance to the Coode Canal. The natural junction of the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers was much further upstream at Footscray. A new course for the river, planned by engineer, John Coode, was constructed in the 1880s.

### 3 YARRAVILLE INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT



The Yarraville Industrial precinct includes companies that have offered employment to several generations of workers, such as the Colonial Sugar Refinery, Cuming Smith and Co, Pivot, and ICI/Orica. The river provided an ideal location for the numerous industries, not only as a means of transportation, and a source of water for use in the industrial processes, but as an outlet for waste from the factories.

### 4 BILLY BUTTON CREEK AND

### 5 FOOTSCRAY POWDER MAGAZINE



The brick-lined drain that empties into the river follows the course of what was once known as Billy Button Creek. The bluestone wall incorporated into a larger industrial complex is a remnant from Melbourne's third powder magazine, built in 1857 to store explosives during the gold rush era. The Footscray Powder Magazine was the first step in a long-lasting link between Footscray and the explosives industry.

### 6 OLD COURSE OF THE YARRA

The former junction of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers lies near the entrance of Billy Button Creek into the river. After the formation of the Coode Canal, the old course of the Yarra was reclaimed. The land between the old and new river courses became known as Coode Island.

### 7 BARNETT GLASS RUBBER WORKS



Barnett Glass Rubber, the first producers of rubber and rubberized clothing in Australia, operated on this site from 1906 to 1939. Joseph Plottel, (who also designed the Footscray Town Hall in Napier Street) designed the existing buildings for the company

in the 1920s.

### 8 SHEPHERD BRIDGE

In the 1880s the Melbourne Harbor Trust built a swing bridge to connect Melbourne and Footscray. The bluestone abutments of the swing bridge are still located under Shepherd Bridge, which replaced the original bridge in 1958. This bridge was named after Ernie Shepherd, local state Labor MP who had, only months before his sudden death in 1958, succeeded to the position of Leader of the Opposition in Victoria.

### 9 FOOTSCRAY WHARVES AND SALTWATER CROSSING SITE



The Footscray Wharves once stretched from Hopkins Street to Lyons Street. Built by the Melbourne Harbour Trust in the 1880s, they replaced a series of privately-built jetties and wharves and were primarily used by the industrial complexes that lined the river, as well as a number of boat-builders.

The railway tracks still evident beside the wharf were installed to service local industries in 1917.

### 10 CORNER BUNBURY STREET AND MARIBYRNONG STREET (Saltwater River Crossing)

Melbourne was a busy port in the 1850s and 1860s with a high demand for ship repairs at the Footscray riverside. Three hotels and a punt were operating by the river between Hopkins and Napier Street in the mid 1850s, servicing travelers and workers employed repairing ships in floating docks on the opposite side of the river.

### 11 BUNBURY STREET TUNNEL AND BRIDGE



The railway tunnel and bridge was constructed by the Victorian Railways in the 1920s as part of a separate line to divert goods traffic away from Footscray Station. Over 1700 men gained employment throughout the construction, earning an average of 15 shillings a day. Completed in 1928,

it was a significant technical achievement and remains the only site in Victoria where a rail tunnel opens directly onto a bridge.

### 12 FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE



The Footscray Community Arts Centre is a remnant of the early industry based along the river. In 1872 Samuel Henderson moved his pig slaughtering and bacon curing business to this site. Henderson did not remain on this site for very long and subsequent owners included Swallow and

Ariel Biscuit-makers and Lempiere and Company Metal merchants. The then Footscray Council purchased the remaining buildings in the 1970s.

### 13 MICHAELIS-HALLENSTEIN SITE



The red brick structures at this site are a reminder that one of the world's largest tanneries once stood here. One of Footscray's oldest industries, it was purchased by Isaac Hallenstein in 1864, who was joined in business by his uncle, Moritz Michaelis. Along with leather tanning, the company began producing glue and gelatine products and established offices in London and New Zealand as well as other tanneries throughout Australia.

### 14 HOPETOUN BRIDGE

The Governor of Victoria opened the first bridge across the Saltwater River 'in the vicinity of Melbourne' on this site in February 1863. The Saltwater River Bridge had a moveable centrepiece that slid back to allow river traffic to proceed up river. In 1903 it was replaced by the Hopetoun Bridge, named after Australia's first Governor-General. This was replaced by a four-lane bridge in 1969.

### 15 MARIBYRNONG RAILWAY BRIDGE



When gold discoveries brought thousands of migrants to Victoria in the 1850s, a number of private companies were hastily formed to build country and suburban railway lines. The building of the bridge was begun by the Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway. However, when the company ran out of funds, the Victorian Government took over the work, forming the Victorian Railways Department. The bridge was opened in 1859, and was modified and duplicated in the twentieth century when the original iron girders were replaced with steel.

### 16 NEWELL'S PADDOCK

In the 1870s, Newell's Paddock was a magnet for young Footscray boys who gathered mushrooms and caught jabbies in the two large waterholes. For a while at the end of the nineteenth century, Newell's Paddock was Parkside Football Club's home ground. Newell's Paddock was also used as a holding pen for cattle and sheep, before being herded to the nearby abattoirs.

### 17 STOCKBRIDGE



In 1905 William Angliss established the Imperial Slaughtering and Freezing Works at Footscray. Angliss' Imperial Meatworks, along with the Newmarket saleyards and abattoirs, closed in the 1980s. The stockbridge over the river is a tangible reminder of the vast Angliss complex. It

was built in 1941 so that stock purchased at the saleyards could be driven across the bridge to Newell's Paddock, rather than along the public road. The materials for the bridge came from a footbridge that had spanned the Yarra River at Punt Road from 1899 to 1938.

### 18 LYNCH'S BRIDGE AND PIONEER HOTEL

This bridge marks one of the more popular early crossing places of the Maribyrnong. In 1849 Michael Lynch established a punt and hotel at this site; in 1863 he replaced his punt with a drawbridge that enabled river traffic to continue upstream. The present steel and reinforced concrete bridge with art deco designs dates from 1935. The original hotel, the Punt Hotel, was replaced by the Pioneer Hotel which has been converted to residential use.

### 19 FOOTSCRAY PARK



Footscray Park is a testament to the people of Footscray and to long-standing curator, David Matthews. In 1908 the Victoria Racing Club planned to sell its land on the Footscray side of the river, the citizens of Footscray urged the Council to buy it. Noted architect Rodney Alsop designed the gardens and a citizen's committee worked with David Matthews to carry out the design, donating labour and plants.

### 20 FOOTSCRAY ROWING CLUB

Footscray Rowing Club was formed in 1873 and achieved glory in the early 1880s when it won the prestigious Clarke Challenge Cup. The Footscray Rowing Club was succeeded the City of Footscray Rowing Club in 1894. The present rowing club building replaced a timber building dating from 1925.

### 21 EDGEWATER -FORMER AMMUNITION FACTORY



The Edgewater Housing Estate occupies the site of the former Commonwealth Munitions Factory, some remnant buildings of which are still located on the upper portion of the site near Gordon Street. The Colonial Ammunition Company (CAC) built an ammunition factory on the river flats at Maidstone in 1889. The Commonwealth Government purchased the ammunition factory in 1928. During WW11 the Ammunition factory was Australia's largest and most important ammunition factory, employing over 9,000 workers, including many women.

### 22 JACK'S MAGAZINE

Initially known as the Saltwater River Powder Magazine, Jack's Magazine replaced the Footscray Powder Magazine (site 5) as the main storage depot for explosives in Melbourne in 1879. Noted architect William Wardell designed the complex which originally contained two bluestone magazines surrounded by 10 metre high earth mounds. Unofficially, it became known as Jack's Magazine after its keeper from the 1920s, Wally Jack.

### 23 PIPEMAKERS PARK



Pipemakers Park has an industrial history lasting from 1847 to 1979. The bluestone buildings and chimney on site date from the 1868 to 1888 period when the Melbourne Meat Preserving Company, preserved and canned meat here. Several hundred people were employed here in the 1870s, when the company was Australia's leading exporter of tinned meats. The preserving works closed in 1888, when there was a decline in demand for its products. Humes Pipes, the largest manufacturer of steel reinforced pipes in Australia, was based here from 1911 to 1979.