

# ABBOTSFORD

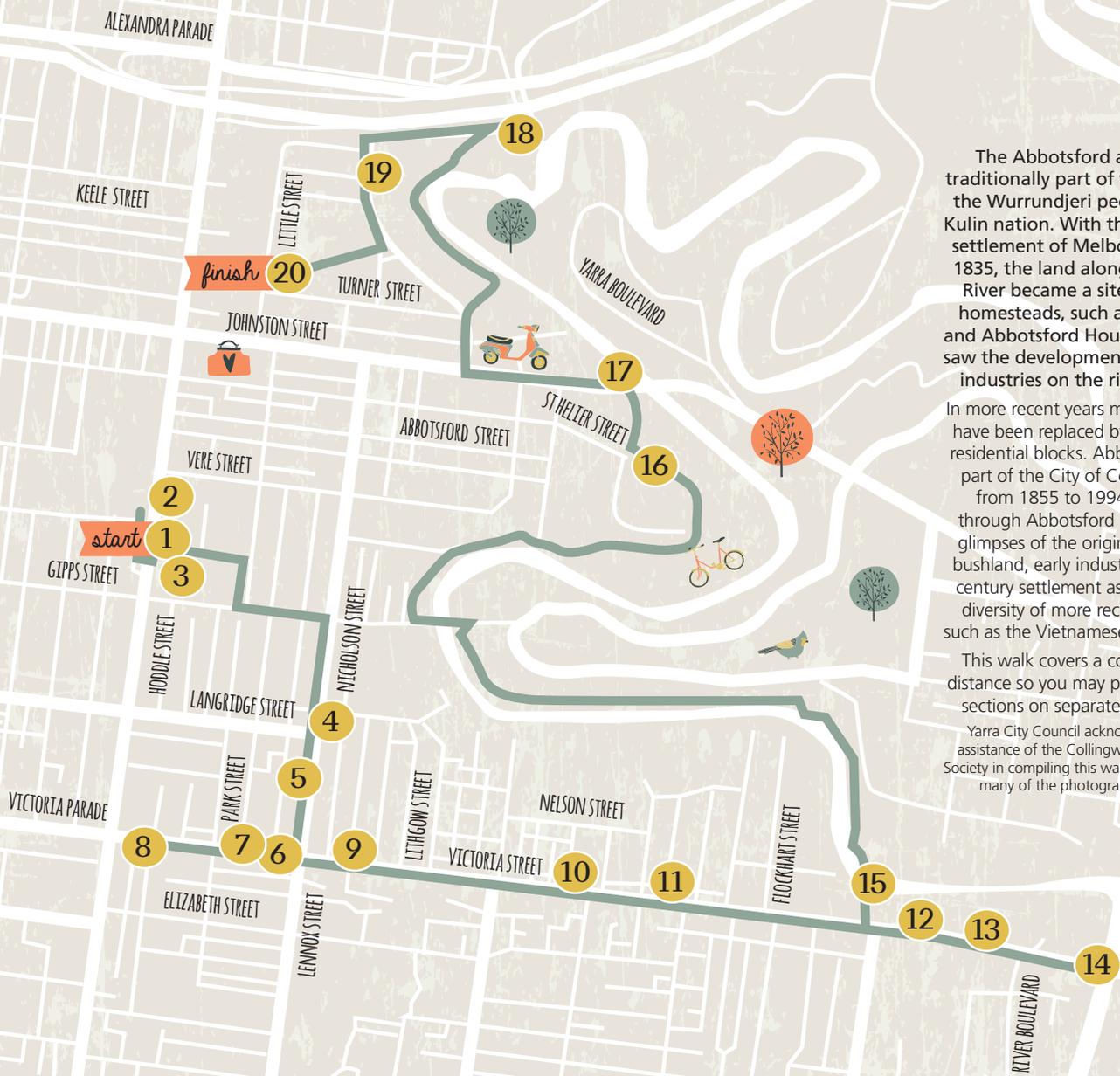
## heritage walk

The Abbotsford area was traditionally part of the lands of the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin nation. With the European settlement of Melbourne from 1835, the land along the Yarra River became a site for early homesteads, such as The Rest and Abbotsford House, but soon saw the development of noxious industries on the river banks.

In more recent years many of these have been replaced by large scale residential blocks. Abbotsford was part of the City of Collingwood from 1855 to 1994. A walk through Abbotsford now shows glimpses of the original riverside bushland, early industry and 19th century settlement as well as the diversity of more recent settlers such as the Vietnamese community.

This walk covers a considerable distance so you may prefer to walk sections on separate occasions.

Yarra City Council acknowledges the assistance of the Collingwood Historical Society in compiling this walk and supplying many of the photographs (2018)



SEE OVER FOR  
*walk*  
details

start



1

### COLLINGWOOD TOWN HALL

140 Hoddle Street  
Collingwood

In 1883 there were arguments in the council chamber over the priority of street repairs versus construction of a town hall to rival the one in Fitzroy. Construction of this grand town hall commenced in 1885. The architect was George Johnson and it is considered to be an outstanding example of this type of municipal structure. Collingwood Town Hall is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



2

### ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

144 Hoddle Street  
Abbotsford

The open space next to the town hall was the site of the earlier St. Philip's Church which opened in 1865. The bluestone church was demolished in 1968 due to declining attendances and lack of finances to repair the deteriorated building. The Vicarage was built next door in 1866 in the same style as the original church building. It is little changed on the exterior. It was designed to look into a garden which was originally laid out by patients of the Yarra Bend Asylum.



3

### COLLINGWOOD LIBRARY

11 Stanton Street  
Abbotsford

The former Church of Christ Tabernacle was built in 1888-89 to the design of Jonathon Rankin. Its elaborate design has some similarities with the town hall. It was sold to the City of Collingwood in 1976 and converted for use as Collingwood Library.



4

### DENTON HAT FACTORY

48-60 Nicholson Street  
Abbotsford

The former Denton Hat Factory was one of several clothing factories closely associated with the fellmongering, wool scouring and tanning businesses which were situated along the Yarra. Designed by William Pitt, the Denton Hat Factory is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



5

### HOUSES AT 39 AND 41 NICHOLSON STREET

39-41 Nicholson Street  
Abbotsford

A delightful pair of houses, built between 1858 and 1869 in a Picturesque Gothic design, unusual in this area. Take note of the multi-paned two-storey side windows, lighting the staircases. Both of these houses are on the Victorian Heritage Register.



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### VICTORIA STREET

Victoria Street  
Abbotsford

This east-west street (Victoria Street), originally known as Simpson's Road, was developed during the 19th century as a shopping centre for Abbotsford and North Richmond. It has served a strong shopping and community focus for Melbourne's South-East Asian migrants for a number of years.



7

### 297-301 VICTORIA STREET

297 Victoria Street  
Abbotsford

Built in 1888 for Joseph Gabriel, a chemist who occupied the corner site, these are particularly ornate examples of the Italianate style, by architects Powell and Whitaker. The unusual shopfront windows are original. From Charles Street, enjoy the view of Kretzschmer's carvings of Hygeia, the Goddess of Health, on the side of the shop.



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### VICTORIA STREET GATEWAY

Corner of Victoria Street  
and Hoddle Street  
Abbotsford

Near the Hoddle Street intersection, this gateway takes inspiration from ancient and popular Vietnamese culture. Take note of the the explanatory plaques as you walk under the railway bridge.



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### WILLIAM STREET HERITAGE PRECINCT

William Street  
Abbotsford

William Street is in the middle of this precinct, which is mainly residential, but includes the Abbotsford Primary School in Lithgow Street (built 1877), St David's Church (1882) and two large factories, Dentons, and the former Schweppes factory in Lithgow Street.



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### COOKE STREET COTTAGES

Cooke Street  
Abbotsford

Look left down Cooke Street to see the small cottages which once dominated this part of 'the Flat'. From here you can also see the substantial presence of the Carlton and United Brewery which absorbed the Abbotsford Brewery in 1909.



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### GROSVENOR COMMON SCHOOL

2 Bond Street  
Abbotsford

The former Grosvenor Common School at 2 Bond Street was built in 1864. The school room was on the ground floor and teacher's residence above. The building later became Bates' Cocoa Mills, and then a tannery. This area has developed its current industrial character through the 20th century. This building is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

## ABBOTSFORD heritage walk

SEE OVER FOR  
walk  
details



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### SKIPPING GIRL VINEGAR SIGN

651-653 Victoria Street  
Abbotsford

'Skipping Girl' vinegar, made in Abbotsford, was introduced at the start of the 20th century. The bottle featured a young girl with a skipping rope, and in the 1936 the manufacturer brought its label to life with a neon sign on the vinegar factory. After the factory was demolished, the 1930s version of the sign was replaced with a smaller version on this building in 1970. Mystery still surrounds the identity of the real 'Little Audrey'. The 1937 building, and its 1929 neighbour at 655, are excellent examples of Moderne style as applied to industrial architecture. This sign is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



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### ALMA WOOL SCOURING WORKS

663 Victoria Street  
Abbotsford

The wool scouring works included two wool scouring factories and associated dwelling of brick and bluestone which were erected in c.1861 for Peter Nettleton. The factory complex is representative of one of Melbourne's earliest industries which were originally concentrated along the Yarra. The basement arcades to the factory on the river frontage are of particular note. Peter Nettleton's bluestone house remains on Victoria St.



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### VICTORIA STREET BRIDGE

Victoria Street  
Abbotsford

The Victoria Street Bridge was built in 1882 partly on land donated by Peter Nettleton, and with a financial contribution from nearby soap and candle maker Henry Walker (Mayor of Collingwood 1875). The bridge linked Abbotsford manufacturers with the 'newer' suburbs of Hawthorn and Camberwell.



15

### WALMER STREET FOOT BRIDGE

Walmer Street  
Abbotsford

Constructed in 1890-91 primarily to transport water from a reservoir on top of the Walmer Street hill to the Botanic Gardens.

(Cross the river by the footbridge and follow the Yarra Boulevard on the Kew side, taking in the views of Abbotsford, to the Collins Footbridge at Gipps Street. Follow the bike path along the river to the Convent in Clarke Street).

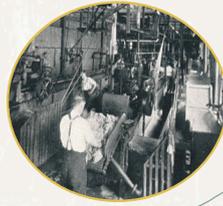


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### ABBOTSFORD CONVENT

18 St Heliers Street  
Abbotsford

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd purchased 'Abbotsford House' and grounds by the Yarra in 1863. The house gave its name to the locality. The nuns provided a refuge for needy women. In 1864 a reformatory school for girls was added. In 1865 they purchased the neighbouring 'St Heliers' house and land, and established an industrial school for girls. Over the years they built a bluestone chapel (1870), St Euphrasia's day school (1878-9) and the main convent buildings (1902). These were surrounded by their extensive farm and market gardens which occupied 30 acres. Part of the former convent land is now used by the Collingwood Children's Farm. The majority of the Convent of the Good Shepherd property was sold in 1975 and for some years operated as a University campus. It is now a vibrant Arts and Education Precinct, with an entrance in St Heliers Street. The Convent is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



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### YARRA FALLS SPINNING MILL

452 Johnston Street  
Abbotsford

Yarra Falls Spinning Mill was established in 1917 to assist in providing war supplies and in a response to the wartime shortage of textile yarns. By 1923 the mill was producing 25,000 pounds of spun yarn per annum, and employed 600 people, many of whom lived in low cost housing owned by the company. The site has now been redeveloped. The remains of the old chimney can be seen through the new development. Look for the history plaque at 8-10 Trenery Crescent.



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### DIGHT'S FALLS AND MILL

Trenery Crescent  
Abbotsford

At the time of the first European settlement the area by the river was a place favoured by the local Aboriginals and a site for corroborees. In the 1840s a Baptist minister established a school for Aboriginal children near the Falls.

Dight's Falls is the site of an old bluestone mill set up by John Dight. John Dight arrived in Melbourne in 1839 and bought a large portion of land adjoining the confluence of the Merri Creek and the Yarra. While Dight's mill is no longer there the bluestone mill race is, as well as the remnants of later mills. The mill is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



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### TRENERY CRESCENT

Trenery Crescent  
Abbotsford

The land between Trenery Crescent and the Yarra River was the site of some grand 19th homes, but by the early 20th century these were replaced by factories, in particular the large Yarra Spinning Mills complex, including the imposing 1920s Austral cotton and silk mills (112 Trenery Cres) and the 1930s BYFAS mill (8-12 Trenery Cres) where parachute silk was made during WW2. Glimpse the tall Yarra Falls chimneys behind both these buildings, now almost hidden by recent apartment developments.



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### VICTORIA PARK

Lulie Street and  
Turner Street  
Abbotsford

Victoria Park was built on part of Dight's Paddock and was the long standing home ground for the Collingwood Football Club.

The Club was founded in 1892 and won its first premiership in 1896. For its first 50 years almost all the players were Collingwood residents, and although this has changed in recent years the 'Magpies' remain an important focus of Collingwood identity. Victoria Park is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

## ABBOTSFORD heritage walk

For further information about Abbotsford heritage walks, visit the Collingwood Historical Society website.

[collingwoodhs.org.au](http://collingwoodhs.org.au)