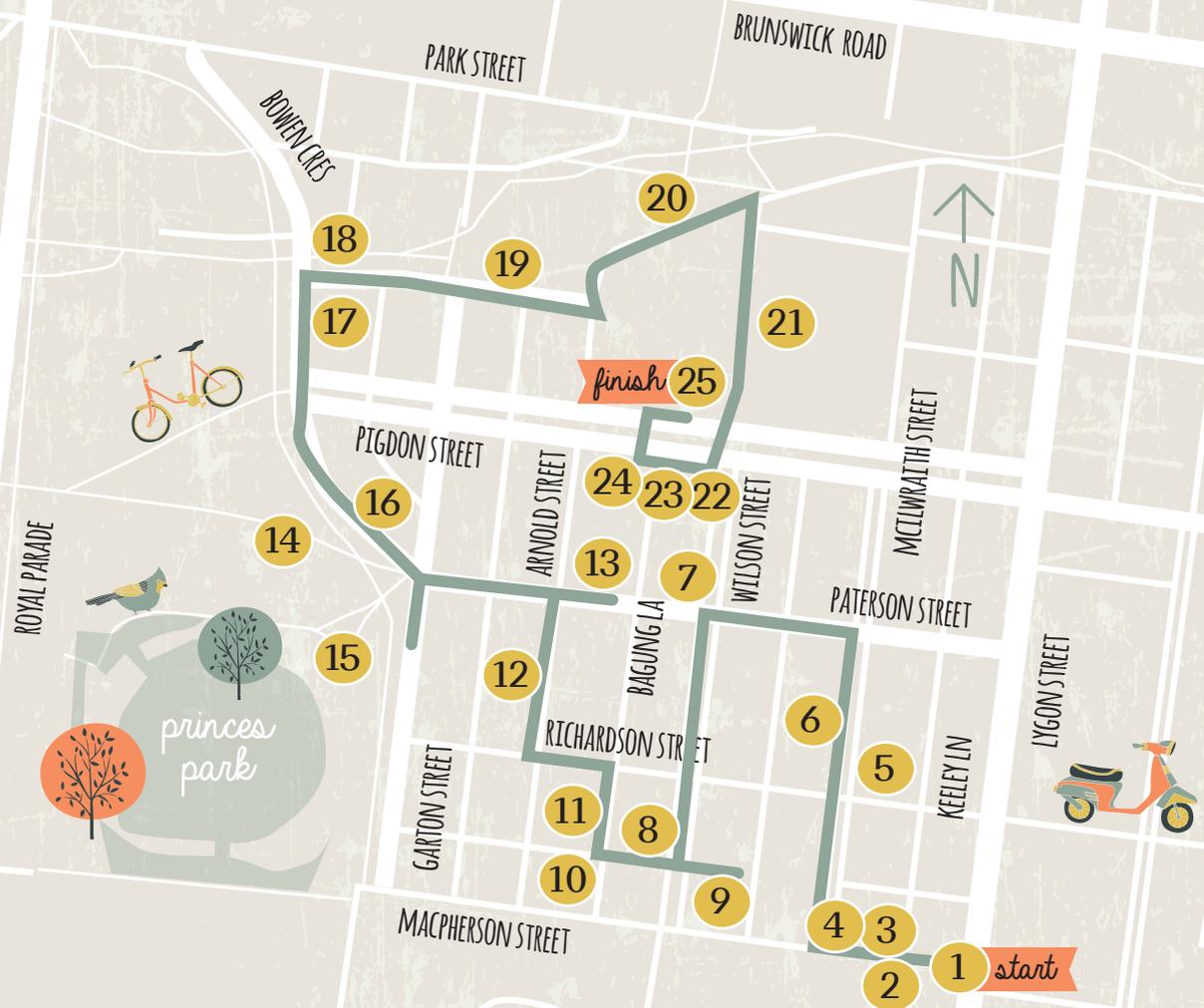


# PRINCES HILL

## heritage walk



The area that we now call Princes Hill was part of the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri clan of the Woi-worung tribe. Up until the mid-1870s, the area was an open bush land. Between 1876 and 1879 the Crown land between the Melbourne General Cemetery and Pigdon Street was subdivided by the Victorian colonial government. The street layout was established by government survey. The wide streets and generous rear service lanes appeared in the government subdivision, leaving little to the whims of private developers. The main period of development of the Princes Hill area was from the late 1870s until the 1910s, which gave

the area a uniform streetscape of Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Today also we see an overwhelming dominance of one-storey housing, interspersed with a maximum of two-storey buildings. In addition, specific landscape elements such as the wide Pigdon Street boulevard, with its significant avenue of palms and adjoining reserves, and the adjoining Melbourne General Cemetery and Princes Park, all enhance the spacious and period landscape character of the area. Commercial development in this area has been minimal. Apart from a few traditional corner shops, most of the shops were developed in a strip along Lygon Street. Public and

community buildings are few, but significant places that date from the area's early period of development include the Princes Hill Primary School in Pigdon Street, and St Michael's Anglican Church and hall on the corner of McIlwraith and Macpherson Streets, opposite the Melbourne General Cemetery.

**Commence the walk at the corner of Lygon and Macpherson Streets, Princes Hill.**

The City of Yarra acknowledges the assistance of Carlton Community History Group in compiling this walk in 2019.

SEE OVER FOR  
walk  
details

start



1

### HARDY RESERVE

#### Macpherson Street Princes Hill

This reserve running along Macpherson Street and the northern boundary of the Melbourne General Cemetery was named after two long-serving City of Melbourne councillors – Robert Hardy (1915 to 1937) and Fred Hardy (1939 to 1975). Note the commemorative drinking fountain on the corner of Lygon Street.



5

### VICTORIAN TERRACE HOUSES

#### McIlwraith Street Princes Hill

In this part of McIlwraith Street there are a number of single-fronted single-storey Victorian terrace houses of a type common in Melbourne's inner suburbs. These houses reflect the 'Marvelous Melbourne' decades of the 1870s and 1880s with their exuberant 'boom era' features - ornate parapets, polychrome brickwork, cast iron 'lace' friezes, tiled and tessellated verandahs and paths, and cast iron fences and gate ornaments.



2

### MELBOURNE GENERAL CEMETERY

#### MacPherson Street Princes Hill

The Melbourne General Cemetery was established in 1850 and its first burial was in 1853. It is 43 hectares in size and hosts the graves of many people of significance to the State of Victoria. It was originally designed to have a park-like atmosphere with open areas, ornamental trees and rotundas. The original design incorporated a 12 metre wide ornamental strip of trees and shrubs around its perimeter. But in the 19th century, pressure to make more grave sites available led the Trustees to fill the strip with graves right to the fence. The Melbourne General Cemetery is located within the City of Melbourne.



6

### TRANSITION STYLE HOUSES

#### 51-61 McIlwraith Street Princes Hill

The semi-detached houses at 51 to 61 McIlwraith Street were constructed in the transition time between the Victorian and Federation eras, in the years around 1900. The terrace house as a form was losing its popularity at this time, and the duplex was becoming the preferred form for attached housing. The houses show a mixture of styles. Their Federation features include decorative gables, red brickwork and terracotta tiled roof. But they also have Victorian features such as cast-iron decoration and front fences. The chimneys are fine examples of ornamental brickwork using specially shaped bricks.

Turn left into Paterson Street, and then left into Wilson Street



3

### SPANISH MISSION HOUSE

#### 218 Macpherson Street Princes Hill

This house was originally built in 1886, but in 1926 it was reconstructed in the 'Spanish Mission' style, with uncommon Cordova pattern roof tiles, clinker brick and stucco walls and a miniature mission bell tower as a chimney.



7

### HOUSE

#### 97 Wilson Street Princes Hill

The house at 97 Wilson Street is in the Federation style that was popular in the first decade of the 20th century. It is noted for its elaborate roof, particularly the turret, and the impressive eucalyptus tree in its front garden.



9

### FORMER DYING AND WATERPROOFING WORKS

#### 14A Munnering Lane Princes Hill

This two-storey former factory / warehouse building at the intersection of the two laneways is a reminder of a time prior to segregated zoning which sought to strictly separate industrial and residential uses. Dotted around the service laneways of North Carlton and Princes Hill are a series of factory and warehouse buildings like this. Backtrack along the laneway to Wilson Street, cross Wilson Street, and walk up the laneway that runs beside 27 Wilson Street to the middle of the block.



4

### ST MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

#### 14 McIlwraith Street Princes Hill

St Michael's Church fronting McIlwraith Street was constructed in 1885 in a Gothic Revival style. The Church Hall fronting Macpherson Street was constructed after the church building and is noted for its restrained polychromatic brickwork and decorative roof vent. A glazed foyer linking the church and hall was constructed in 2004-2005.



8

### HOUSES

#### 27-31 Wilson Street Princes Hill

Further south along Wilson Street are three unusually large single-storey houses set well back from the street. The houses at 27, 29 and 31 Wilson Street were built for a local businessman, George Godfree over a seven-year period between 1893 and 1899. The buildings are noted for their large front setbacks, and each demonstrates architectural features and techniques popular at their time of construction and as such illustrate the evolution of building styles over that period.

Turn left into the service laneway located across the road from 27 Wilson Street and walk to the laneway that crosses it in the middle of the block.

## PRINCES HILL heritage walk

SEE OVER FOR walk details



**10** PRINCES HILL  
COMMUNITY CENTRE

**5 Bagung Lane  
Princes Hill**

This building was once a boot factory. In 1911 it was acquired by the Education Department for use as additional class-rooms for the nearby but severely overcrowded Princes Hill Primary School. Later in the 1970s it became a well-known folk music venue known as 'One-C-One', its former classroom designation. The building is now occupied by the Princes Hill Community Centre which provides classes in art and creativity, health and wellbeing, and music. At the Princes Hill Community Centre turn right or north up the service laneway (Bagung Lane) running parallel to and between Arnold and Wilson Streets.

**11** LANEWAY OF  
PRINCES HILL  
**Bagung Lane  
Princes Hill**

These laneways were used to service the houses in the area, facilitating the delivery of goods such as coal and provided convenient access for the clearing of the outdoor toilets. Many of the stables and warehouses which originally abutted these laneways have now been adapted to serve as dwellings. As you walk along the section of this laneway to Richardson Street you will notice a wide range of building types including single-storey garage buildings, former stable buildings, and residential conversions. Turn left into Richardson Street, and then right into Arnold Street.

**12** PRINCES HILL  
SECONDARY COLLEGE  
**45 Arnold Street  
Princes Hill**

The Princes Hill Secondary College in Arnold Street was originally the Princes Hill Primary School, but became the secondary school in 1959. In February 1970 it suffered a disastrous fire that damaged so much of the school that a complete rebuild was necessary. The current building was designed by architects Daryl Jackson and Evan Walker in the brutalist style, and in 1973 won the RAlA (Vic) Bronze Medal in the General Building Category. The brutalist style is characterised by the use of off-form concrete and unfinished concrete block work, expression of form such as in stair wells, and exposure of services.

**13** HOUSES  
**100-118 Paterson Street  
Princes Hill**

From the corner of Arnold and Patterson Streets can be seen an unusually long row of terrace houses in Patterson Street. Numbers 102 to 118 were built over a five-year period from 1889 to 1894 by property speculator Jurtus Wombach, with number 100 being added later in 1911. The extended period of construction and the 17-year gap from 1894 to 1911 was probably due to the economic recession that hit Melbourne in the 1890s. Turn left into Paterson Street, and continue along Bowen Street, which is its continuation.



**14** PRINCES PARK  
**Bowen Crescent  
Princes Hill**

Princes Park was proclaimed a park in 1854, and permanently reserved in 1873. In those early days it was used by the City Council as a convenient dumping ground for human waste from toilets. It was also for many years used for grazing cattle and had a fence around it to constrain the cattle. It is now a large and well-used park with a number of sports fields and other facilities.

**15** FOOTBALL STADIUM  
**Princes Park  
Princes Hill**

The football stadium in Princes Park is the former home ground of the Carlton Football Club. The club was formed in 1864 and for 30 years played on many different grounds in the area, until 1896 when it and the local cricket club were granted permanent occupancy of what was then rather rustic sports grounds in Princes Park. A small stand was opened in 1900 and further facilities for spectators constructed in the 1930s. Three VFL grand Finals have been played at the Princes Park oval in 1942, 1943 and 1945.

**16** SPARTELS FLATS  
**18 Bowen Crescent  
Princes Hill**

This block of flats, constructed in 1937, is in a distinctive 'moderne' style that was popular in Melbourne in the 1930s. It uses cuboid forms and has a cantilevering concrete balcony and hood, wrought iron balustrade, corner window cut-outs and steel framed windows.

**17** HOUSE WITH  
KANGAROO FINIAL  
**54 Bowen Crescent  
Princes Hill**

Constructed in 1911, this residence represents a very individual approach to design in contrast to the more conventional Edwardian houses in the surrounding streets. It makes innovative use of terracotta elements including roof tiles, balusters, chimney capping, and a kangaroo finial atop the roof.

PRINCES HILL  
heritage walk

SEE OVER FOR  
walk  
details



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### FORMER RAILWAY GATEKEEPER'S COTTAGE

**70 Bowen Crescent  
Princes Hill**

The house at 70 Bowen Crescent beside the Capital City Trail was formerly the cottage of the gatekeeper who opened and closed the manual gates where a railway line crossed Bowen Crescent. Short lengths of rail can still be seen in the roadway of Bowen Crescent. This railway line, which was part of the Inner Circle Line, linked Royal Park station to the west with Clifton Hill station to the east. The line was opened in 1888, operated as a passenger line until 1948, and carried goods trains until 1981. If you were to follow the Capital City Trail, which follows the former railway line, you would find more rail infrastructure including railway stanchions, tracks, and what was once a large Electricity Substation in North Fitzroy. Turn right from Bowen Crescent onto the Capital City Trail.



19

### HARDY GALLGHAR RESERVE

**Holtom Street West  
Princes Hill**

To the east of Bowen Crescent the Capital City Trail runs through a long park known as the Hardy-Gallagher Reserve. This is the land along which the Inner Circle railway line formerly ran. In the late 1960s when the line was little used, the Railway Commissioners began leasing out sections of it for factories and warehouses. This sparked a community protest and a movement to have the land retained as open space. The resident action group fighting for a park was supported by the rebel trade unions led by controversial union leader Norm Gallagher. In 1970, there were attempts by a developer to build a warehouse on the land, which resulted in scuffles between local residents and non-union workers trying to lay foundations - and a fight that resulted in Gallagher being arrested and later serving 14 days in jail. The developer eventually gave up, and the land was saved as open space. It is now a well-used park.



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### NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE AND PLAYGROUND IN THE PARK

**27 Solly Ave  
Princes Hill**

The Neighbourhood House in the Hardy-Gallagher Reserve was originally constructed in 1888 as the North Carlton railway station on the Inner Circle Line. It was built in brick in a Gothic Revival style with some Victorian features such as the wrought iron and cast-iron decorations. After passenger services on the line ceased in 1948, the station building was converted into a house for a railway worker and his family. Later it was taken over by local community groups and turned into a community centre. It is now the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House. Just past the Neighbourhood House, turn right off the Capital City Trail and into Wilson Street



21

### PRINCES HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

**61 Wilson Street  
Princes Hill**

This school was opened in 1924 as an annex to the main Princes Hill Primary School campus in Arnold Street, which was at that time grossly over-crowded. It initially housed Kindergarten to Grade Two, while Grades Three to Eight continued at the Arnold Street campus. It became the Princes Hill Primary School in 1959 when the Arnold Street campus became the high school.



22

### HOUSE - LIME'S GROVE

**265 Pigdon Street  
Princes Hill**

Lime's Grove is an elaborate two-storey house constructed in 1891. It is an exceptionally fine example of boom era style terrace architecture. The elaborate cornice and parapet, lions head medallions, and pedimented veranda are particularly notable.



23

### HOUSES

**295-297 Pigdon Street  
Princes Hill**

These two houses were built in the 1930s in a style known as 'streamline moderne', a development of the art deco style. There is another fine example, a two-storey block of flats, further up on the corner of Arnold Street.



24

### HOUSES ORMUZ, OROTAVA AND ORUBA

**299-303 Pigdon  
Street Princes Hill**

These three matching double-fronted single-storey houses were constructed in 1899-1900. The names are those of Orient Line passenger ships that plied between Britain and Australia at that time. The houses are noted for their distinctive parapets, intact front fences and veranda decoration.



25

### REDMOND PARK

**300 Pigdon Street  
Princes Hill**

This multi-storey aged-care facility was constructed in 1961 for the Royal Freemasons' Homes of Victoria. The building has been recently renovated and now has an additional two floors of units atop it.

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## PRINCES HILL heritage walk

For further  
information contact  
Carlton Community  
History Group  
[www.cchgasn.au](http://www.cchgasn.au)