

City of Yarra Cycling Tour

Presented by U3A Yarra City
On Yer Bike Cycling Group



This tour should take around 3 hours



Join U3A Yarra City for a cycling tour exploring the City of Yarra's scenic beauty, ancient First Nations heritage and architectural landmarks from more recent times.



Start / Finish



Bike repair station

On-road cycle path

Off-road cycle path

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra. We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra. We pay our respects to Elders from all nations here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.



Look out for the local's tip!



1

Princes Park and Princes Park Football Stadium

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 dumping ground for human waste, and for many years was fenced to contain grazing cattle. It is now a large and well-used park with sports fields and other facilities.

The **Princes Park Football Stadium** is the former home ground of the Carlton Football Club. Formed in 1864, the club played on different grounds in the area until 1896, when it and the local cricket club were granted permanent occupancy at Princes Park. A small stand was opened in 1900, with further facilities constructed in the 1930s. Victorian Football League Grand Finals were played at the Princes Park oval in 1942, 1943 and 1945.

 *From Princes Park ride down Bowen Crescent and Garton Street. Turn left into McPherson Street then right at the cemetery North Gate. Ride along North Avenue to Seventh Avenue. Opposite that intersection is the Elvis Memorial.*

2

Melbourne General Cemetery and Elvis Memorial

North Avenue
Elvis Memorial
opposite 7th Avenue

The first Melbourne Cemetery was established in 1837 on the site now occupied by the Queen Victoria Market. By 1850 the cemetery was overcrowded with graves being used for multiple burials. Consequently the **Melbourne General Cemetery** was established on a larger site (43 hectares) at Carlton, outside the one mile city boundary. Originally designed to have a park-like atmosphere with open areas, ornamental trees and rotundas, including a 12-metre wide ornamental strip of trees and shrubs around its perimeter, its size was reduced in the 19th century to make way for more graves.

The **Elvis Presley Memorial Garden** was commissioned by the President of the Elvis Presley Fan Club of Australia in November 1977. It is believed to be the only one of its type in Australia and draws thousands of visitors each year on the anniversary of the King's death (16th August 1977).

 *From the Elvis Memorial, return along North Avenue and onto Wilson Street. Turn left at Richardson Street and at the corner of Arnold Street is the school.*

3

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 and was completely rebuilt in the brutalist style (characterised by the use of off-form, and unfinished, concrete) for which architects Daryl Jackson and Evan Walker won the RAlA (Vic) Bronze Medal in the General Building Category in 1973.

 *Turn right at Arnold Street and ride past the school. Turn left at Patterson Street then right at Garton Street and right onto the Inner Circle Rail Trail / Capital City Trail.*

4

Inner Circle Railway

The reserve to the north of Park Street is the site of the former Inner Circle Railway. This railway line once linked Royal Park Station with Clifton Hill Station. The line was opened in 1901 and operated as a passenger line until 1948, and carried goods trains until 1981. Some rail infrastructure still exists along the route including North Carlton Railway Station in Princes Hill, and the Electricity Substation in North Fitzroy.

 *Continue along the trail to the neighbourhood house.*

5

North Carlton Railway Station

27 Solly Avenue,
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. Built in brick in a Gothic Revival style, it included some Victorian features such as the wrought- and cast-iron decorations. After passenger services ceased in 1948, the 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.

 *Continue along the trail to Rathdowne Street.*

6

Cable Engine House

Corner of Park Street
and Rathdowne
Street, Carlton North

The Carlton North cable tram route was opened on 9 February 1889 and ran from Park Street along Rathdowne Street to Elgin Street. The **engine house** (designed by Robert Gordon) is constructed of brick on a bluestone base and is decorated with cement plaster mouldings, cornices and architraves. The building housed the engine, drive wheels and the cable tensioning mechanism. The **car depot building** (designed by Frederick Williams) is a utilitarian brick structure with a wide central doorway and narrow windows. The walls enclose a single open space that once included tracks, pits and a turntable for storing, servicing and turning tram cars and dummies.

 *Continue along the trail, cross St. Georges Road. Turn right onto Apperley Street and rejoin the Rail Trail. Ride through the Edinburgh Gardens and onto Napier Street, crossing Queens and Alexandra Parades. Turn left and then immediately right onto a bike path adjacent to Smith Reserve. Rejoin Napier and continue to Moor Street.*

7

**Fitzroy
Town Hall**

201 Napier Street,
Fitzroy

Fitzroy Town Hall was built in two separate stages, with the hall and tower (designed by William J. Ellis), built in 1873. Municipal offices, a police station, a courthouse and extensions to the hall (designed by George Johnson) were added between 1887 and 1890. A replacement clock tower was also added at this time. The building is an example of the Free Classical style of Victorian architecture and is recorded as a "Heritage place" by Heritage Victoria.

 *Continue along Napier Street. On the right is the Atherton Garden Housing Estate.*

8

**Atherton
Gardens**

125 Napier Street,
Fitzroy

This is an important area to the local First Nations community, with many from the Stolen Generation – the estimated one in three Aboriginal children who were removed from their families between 1910 and 1970 under official government policy – moving here from missions across Victoria. Atherton Gardens was the most well-known gathering place for people looking for their families. The 1990 Archie Roach album Charcoal Lane was inspired by this area. Walk through the opening, under the building, to the Tribute to the Stolen Generations marker.

 *Return to Webb Street then turn right and ride to Smith Street and walk the bike to the left - the old Post Office is across the road.*

9

**Collingwood
Post Office**

174 Smith Street,
Collingwood

The former Post Office dated 1891 provides an interesting example of the end-of-the-Boom style of architecture with its columns and tower.

 *Walk your bike across the pedestrian crossing and left to Stanley Street. Ride right along Stanley to Wellington Street.*

10

**Mural - Collingwood
Housing Estate**

240 Wellington
Street,
Collingwood

Painted by the artist Adnate, the work takes up the entire city-facing wall of Collingwood Housing Estate's 20-storey, 220 apartment tower block and celebrates the multicultural community that calls the estate home. The residents chosen to represent the neighbourhood were: 6-year-old Arden Watson-Cropley and 10-year-old Ni Na Nguyen, grandmother Badria Abdo from Oromia, Ethiopia who came to Australia as a refugee in 2006; and Yulius Antares Taime who relocated to Australia from West Papua, Indonesia. Standing tall on Collingwood's Wellington Street, the estate was built in the 1960s as part of a controversial urban renewal program. Today, it remains one of Melbourne's largest public housing estates, with over 2500 residents.

 *Look to the left to view the magnificent mural. Turn right down Wellington Street.*

11

Singletons Dispensary

162 Wellington Street,
Collingwood

Dr John Singleton opened a medical dispensary and mission in a single-storey building on this site in 1869. It was rebuilt in 1887. In addition to medical services, this building had a coffee shop, a lending library and space for a boys drum and fife band. In the 1970s, as the Collingwood Community Health Centre (now cohealth) it relocated to the corner of Hoddle and Sackville Streets.

 Turn right on Wellington Street, then left onto Gipps Street.

12

Collingwood Town Hall

140 Hoddle Street

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. The architect was George Johnson and construction of this grand town hall commenced in 1885. Incorporating a courthouse, police station, post office and library, as well as municipal offices and hall, it is considered to be an outstanding example of this type of municipal structure.

 Turn left onto Nicholson Street. At Johnston Street, cross at the traffic lights and turn right onto Rich Street, then left at Turner Street, and right at Bath Street. Victoria Park is on your left.

13

Victoria Park

Trenerry Crescent

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.

 Turn left onto Trenerry Crescent. Cross the road and enter the Dights Falls Carpark. Go down the path to Dights Falls.

14

Confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek. Yarra Bend Park

Turn right into
Dights Falls
car park

The confluence of Merri Creek and the Yarra River had been important to First Nations people both before and after European settlement in Victoria. The traditional landowners were the Wurundjeri balluk, who were part of the Woiwurrung language group.

Yarra Bend Park is Melbourne's largest natural bushland park and was a significant place of contact and negotiation between the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people and non-Aboriginal people in the early years of Victoria's colonial history.

Today the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc. are the Aboriginal custodians of the area. Since the settlement of Melbourne in 1835 Yarra Bend Park has been home to a number of institutions including Merri Creek Aboriginal Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Native Police Corps Headquarters, Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic, Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, and Fairlea Women's Prison.

15

Dights Falls and bluestone mill race from old mill

Dights Falls is the site of an old bluestone mill set up by John Dight who arrived in Melbourne in 1839 and bought a large portion of land at 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.

 *Ride south with the Yarra on your left. Go under the bridge at Johnston Street, then turn right to the Abbotsford Convent. This might be a good place for a rest or something to eat.*

16

Abbotsford Convent and Collingwood Children's Farm

18 St Helier's Street

In 1863 the Sisters of the Good Shepherd purchased 'Abbotsford House' – giving its name to the locality – and grounds by the Yarra to establish a refuge for needy women. A reformatory school for girls was added in 1864. In 1865 the Sisters purchased the neighbouring St Helier's House where they 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), all 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.

 *From the Convent ride along St Heliers Street, then turn left at Clark Street. Turn right at Yarra Street, left at Nicholson Street, and left at Gipps Street. Continue along Victoria Crescent and left at Murray Street. Cross Church Street and continue along Nelson Street. Turn left onto South Audley Street and continue along South Hampton Crescent and turn right onto Grosvenor Street. At Victoria Street turn left. Walmer Street Bridge is on the left.*

17

Walmer Street Bridge

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

 *Continue along Victoria Street until you see the Skipping Girl Vinegar sign on the left.*

18

Skipping Girl Vinegar Sign

651 Victoria Street

'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 1936 the manufacturer brought its label to life with a neon sign atop its factory. After the factory was demolished, the 1930s version of the sign was replaced with a smaller one 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.

 *Return along Victoria Street and turn left at Davison Street, then right at Highett Street, and left onto Coppin Street. Cross Bridge Road, and at the roundabout turn right onto Wall Street. Continue onto Malleson Street, then turn right onto Lyndhurst Street, then left at Brougham Street. Cross Church Street at the pedestrian lights and enter The Vacluse.*

19

**Schoolhouse,
Chapel, Gatehouse,
Convent, Eurolie**

The Vaocluse
Richmond

The **school building**, designed in 1904 by Gerald W. Vanheems to complement the adjacent convent, is noted for its red brick construction with cement mouldings, projecting bay, and the tower over the entry.

As with other buildings on the site, the **chapel** (built in 1897) was designed by Vanheems. With its windows and concrete embellishments matching those of the adjacent convent building and gatehouse, it is the earliest surviving building constructed for the Faithful Companions on the Vaocluse site. The chapel is graded as Individually Significant under both Heritage Overlay - 332 and Heritage Overlay - 346.

The **gatehouse** (built in 1900), is the entry point to the College complex.

The site for the **convent** was gifted to the Faithful Companions of Jesus in 1882. The **convent building** (built in 1901), noted for its red brick construction with cement mouldings, and gothic windows, forms the centrepiece to the Faithful Companions of Jesus Complex. The schoolhouse, chapel, gatehouse, and convent are all listed as Individually Significant under both Heritage Overlay -332 and Heritage Overlay -346.

Eurolie, noted for its stucco quoins, architraves, bay windows and expansive veranda, was constructed between 1874 and 1882 as a private residence. In 1882 Eurolie was purchased by the Faithful Companions of Jesus, and has been used as part of the College complex since that time. The building is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

20

**Former St Ignatius
School**

The Vaocluse
Richmond

The two storey, red-brick school/parish hall building was designed in two stages. The first, a primary school for boys (built in 1898 to designs by architects McCrae, Toole and Blackett), consisted of the central hall and southern wing. In 1912, a northern wing for the education of girls was added. Designed in a Romanesque style, it has rendered dressings, a red tile roof and iron balconies and escape stairs. The school forms part of the St Ignatius complex, and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. The former schoolhouse is graded Individually Significant under Heritage Overlay - 359.

 **Turn left at Portland Street, left at Firebell Lane, right at Waverley Street, then left at Gipps Street.**

21

Former Drill Hall

26 Gipps Street
Richmond

Throughout the 1860s, there was growing concern that the Colony of Victoria was ill defended. With the depletion of imperial troops, and a renewed threat following Russian aggression in Europe, a number of volunteer Metropolitan Corps were formed. The corps provided temporary guards for the Treasury Building, Government House, and powder magazines. It was during this time that the Richmond Rifle Corps was established, led by local Parliamentarian, David S. Campbell. The Richmond Drill Hall was constructed during the 1860s, financed through donations and public subscriptions. During the 1880s, the government took control of drill halls, and established a program of modernising the buildings. In 1886 plans were drawn up to extend the Drill Hall by S E. Bindley, although they were not executed until 1891. The building was used for various Citizens Military Forces or Army Reserve units until the late 1980s. Externally the building remains largely unchanged since the 1890s, and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

 **Turn right at Docker Street to Swan Street, then turn right. Turn left down Green Street, crossing the railway line through the pedestrian tunnel ramp. Then turn left at Railway Crescent and right down Chestnut Street. Then turn right at Balmain Street, left at Green Street and right onto Oddys Lane.**

22

Richmond Power Station

Oddys Lane
Cremorne

Constructed in 1890 (designed by Henry B. Gibbs), the Richmond Power Station was operated by the New Australian Electrical Lighting Co. It is one of the oldest electric power stations in Victoria. Large power stations such as this one became possible after the development of alternating current supply in the 1880s. Prior to this, the limitations of direct current supply meant that power plants needed to be in close proximity to the buildings using the power. The station, initially supplying electricity to Prahran, Melbourne and Richmond, was located close to the railway for easy coal delivery, and to the Yarra River, a cheap source of water essential for the running of a large and efficient steam generating plant. Multiple extensions to the building were made between 1900 and 1922. Originally the building had two chimney stacks, although these were demolished in 1976 when the building ceased operation as a power station. Notable decorative features on the building include the finely articulated western facade with its campanile (freestanding) tower, and vast glazed arched openings in the east end of the boiler house and turbine hall. Today the site is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

**FINISH****National Relay Service**

TTY 133 677 then (03) 9205 5055

Languages

العربية 9280 1930

中文 9280 1937

Ελληνικά 9280 1934

Italiano 9280 1931

Español 9280 1935

Tiếng Việt 9280 1939

Other 9280 1940