Grade 4 Chadstone Park Primary School 1954
Stonnington History Collection MP14118

Abbotsford Avenue Malvern East area walk December 2019

Start on the south-west corner of Abbotsford Avenue and Durward Road

This area was once home to the Wurundjeri people, who, before European settlement, camped along Gardiners Creek. In 1837 overlander John Gardiner selected a cattle run that extended from Malvern to Brighton. Crown land, bounded by Belgrave Road, Gardiners Creek, Warrigal Road and the route to Gippsland along what is now Dandenong Road, was first auctioned in the mid-1850s. One of the first buyers of Crown land in this area was speculator Patrick O'Farrell, a solicitor.

The subdivision of land, east from Chadstone Road to Warrigal Road, was planned in 1920. It was later known as the Malvern Garden Estate and included 581 lots of land. Lots on the corner of Waverley and Warrigal Roads were designated as shop sites. Some lots were still unsold in 1945.

Walk west along to the corner of Abbotsford Avenue and Quentin Road and stop

Development spread east from Belgrave Road from the 1920s. Before 1952, various postal district names were used in different areas of the former suburb of Chadstone, including Oakleigh, Malvern, Malvern East, Murrumbeena North and Carnegie North. In 1928 Carnegie North covered most of the area east of Belgrave Road. Locally, however, it was known by the residents as East Malvern.

In 1946, a gathering of ratepayers east of Belgrave Road formed the East Malvern Citizens Association. The Postal District name continued to give problems, so in 1952 it was decided by the Association to propose a name change. As Chadstone Road was the main traffic road through the centre of the area, the name 'Chadstone' was suggested. The Post Office approved the proposal and the name was changed later that year. At the time Chadstone was defined as extending east as far as Huntingdale Road in Mount Waverley. In 1989, 224 Chadstone residents presented a petition to Council requesting that the name Chadstone be changed to East Malvern. Following various polls and much local debate, in October 1991 the proposal to rename Chadstone to East Malvern, now Malvern East 3145, was successful.

The name Chadstone came from the Chadstone farm cottage. It was built for William Johnson in 1858, on 13 acres (5.2 hectares) of land at the north-east corner of Chadstone and Dandenong Roads. In 1879 Johnson sold the property to John and Emma Evans, who used part of the land as an orchard, supplying plums, cherries, apples and pears to the local community. In 1909 the property was sold to the Convent of the Good Shepherd, who owned the land to the east. The Good Shepherd Sisters demolished the cottage and used

the land for market gardening and grazing cattle. This land was later sold to the Myer family for Chadstone Shopping Centre.

Turn left into Quentin Road and walk south to the entrance to Percy Treyvaud Park and stop

Ken Myer returned from the United States of America with his vision for retailing and, in 1958, he purchased part of the Good Shepherd Convent land at Chadstone for Melbourne's first regional shopping centre. In less than two years, 30 acres of pastureland were converted to the largest centre of its type in Australia. Chadstone Shopping Centre was opened on 3 October 1960 by the Premier, (Sir) Henry Bolte, and was advertised as 'a new era in suburban shopping'. The £6 million Centre included 72 shops, a three-level Myer department store, a supermarket, an upper and lower mall, radio station, exhibition hall, medical centre and child minding facilities.

Land for Chadstone Park was acquired from 1926 to 1944. In 1971 the local newspaper, the Chadstone Progress, reported that Chadstone Park was to be renamed the Percy Treyvaud Memorial Park in honour of the late Councillor for his untiring service to the people of Chadstone. Percy Treyvaud was a Malvern Councillor from 1969-1972. The Park is the home of the Chadstone Bowling Club, established in 1934. He was instrumental in the formation of the Chadstone Recreation and Civic Club in 1958. As a result of his efforts, by 1971 some 800 residents of all age groups were involved weekly in bowls, tennis, cricket, football and lacrosse. In addition to his work at Chadstone Park, he was involved in scouting, school committees and various charities.

Return north along Quentin Road and stop on the south-west corner of Abbotsford Road

Around 1920, someone in the vicinity of Waverley Road and Scotchman's Creek must have been thinking about writer, Sir Walter Scott, for all the streets in the adjacent new subdivision, the Malvern Garden Estate, were named in his honour. Related names include Abbotsford (Avenue), Scott's residence on the River Tweed, his novel Rob Roy (Road), Midlothian (Street), Ivanhoe (Grove), together with the two main female characters from that book, Rebecca (Road) and Rowena (Road).

Walk west along to the south-west corner of Abbotsford Road and Rob Roy Road and stop

Rob Roy Road was constructed in 1954. Most houses built during the 1950s were designed by building companies not architects, including AV Jennings homes. Most of the original houses in this area date from that period. The change from austerity to prosperity was reflected in increasing house sizes and a growth in home ownership and the emergence of the triple-fronted brick veneer house. These houses were usually single-storey with interconnected living rooms. Common features outside included the incorporation of a carport or garage into the house and the increasing use of double garages, often with painted doors, and the minimal use of decorative flourishes. Gardens from this period often featured low fences and neat, ordered gardens with an emphasis on a lawn with deciduous trees and shrub beds. Many front yards feature trimmed lawns with wheel strips in the driveway and a narrow perimeter garden. The inside of the houses featured kitchen designs that reflected an increasing use of domestic appliances, the use of melamine bench tops, the generous size of windows, including window walls, and the use of linoleum and rubber floor coverings.

Walk west along Abbotsford Road to the corner of Chadstone Road and stop

Chadstone Road was originally known as Miltons Road. In 1956, the Malvern Council sold land fronting Chadstone Road and soon after shops were erected. Some of the early businesses included a hardware store, confectioner, fruiterer, butcher, dry cleaner, chemist, drapers, grocer and physician.

Return east along Abbotsford Road and cross to the north-east corner of Rob Roy Road and stop outside the school grounds

Chadstone Park Primary School also known as Chadstone Park State School No. 4669 opened in June 1953 with John Heffernan as Principal and 199 enrolled students up to Grade 4. The school was officially opened the following year by the Minister for Education, The Hon. Alfred Shepherd. It was renamed Malvern Valley Primary School in 2002. In 2004 most of the school buildings were destroyed by fire. A new school on the site was opened in 2006.

Walk north along Rob Roy Road and stop outside the main Phoenix Park building

Chadstone High School commenced in 1962. In the beginning, students were bussed to temporary accommodation at Wattle Park High School. The first portable buildings for the new school in Ivanhoe Grove Chadstone were erected on land jointly occupied with Chadstone Park Primary School that became available in February 1962. The school complex was completed in 1963 with Mr Hughes as Principal. In 1968 the school included 951 students. The Assembly Hall was opened in 1978 by Hon. Lindsay Thompson, Minister of Education. Most of the school was demolished after it was closed in 1991, except the hall which is now part of the Phoenix Park Community Centre, opened by Cr Leon Hill in 2002.

Continue north along Rob Roy Road and turn right (east) into Ivanhoe Grove and stop close to the wooden playground

Phoenix Park community playground was constructed at the Phoenix Park Community Centre, on the site of the former Chadstone High School in Rob Roy Road. Volunteers from Council staff and the community helped with construction.

Cross to the north side of Ivanhoe Grove. Continue walking east along the north side of Ivanhoe Grove and stop outside the Scout Hall

It's interesting to note that when land in the area was being advertised for sale in 1920, text on the advertisement noted that the estate would soon be surrounded by trams along Waverley and Warrigal Roads! Just to the north is Scotchman's Creek. In the 1930s a new creek bed from Scotchmans Creek to Warrigal Road was cut by Sustenance (welfare) workers. Flooding was frequent and Council prepared plans to straighten, deepen and widen the creek.

In the 1920s the latest technology in reinforced concrete was being used when the rising number of motor vehicles resulted in the need to replace early timber bridges. Harold Irwin, a civil engineer, considered a construction pioneer, was responsible for a large number of Victoria's crossings, including the Waverley Road crossing of Scotchman's Creek in Malvern East. The project involved the re-direction of the creek and would have involved major earthwork. Today Scotchman's Creek has been reduced to a culvert under Waverley Road where the Monash Freeway passes overhead.

The development of this area was positively impacted by the opening of the railway line from East Malvern to Glen Waverley in 1930. A single double-ended swing door carriage ran the entire route and it was referred to as the Flying Matchbox. It consisted of a first and a second-class compartment.

In 1977 a Government Steering Committee reviewed the need for a road link through the Gardiners Creek Valley. In August 1978 the Government announced that the C3 route would be adopted. This led to a campaign by residents against this route. In August 1978 the Government announced that the C3 route would be adopted. In the early 1980s the newly elected State Labor Government downgraded the planned road link from a freeway to an arterial road, and the route for the South Eastern Arterial along the edge of the Gardiners Creek Valley was approved. Construction of the road started in 1985 and was completed when the Burke Road to Warrigal Road section was opened in December 1988. The arterial was later extended east and a new overpass across Warrigal Road was opened in 1994. In 1997 the name was changed to the 'South Eastern Freeway'. It is now known as the Monash Freeway, named after General Sir John Monash, an Australian soldier and engineer.

Continue walking east and stop outside the old Guide Hall

The East Malvern Men's Shed operates in the former Girl Guide Hall. Men's Sheds offer a space for men to meet new friends and participate in a range of activities including carpentry, health seminars, bike rides and day trips. Members also work with local organisations, upgrading and repairing furniture for local kindergartens and fixing broken toys for the Stonnington Toy Library.

Walk further east along Ivanhoe Grove and stop opposite the corner of Abbotsford Road

In 1974, 100 trees were planted along this north section of Ivanhoe Grove to mark the first 100 issues of the community-run newspaper, the Malvern News Sheet. It was produced from 1973-2000.

Cross to the corner of Abbotsford Road and stop

In 1946 there were petitions regarding the proposed application by Oakleigh City Council for the severance of a portion of the City of Malvern bounded by Warrigal, Dandenong, Chadstone and Waverley Roads.

Walk west along Abbotsford Avenue and return to the starting point