



Toorak Estate subdivision 1900  
Stonnington History Collection PH1062.38

## Heyington Station Area Walk April 2019

### Start on the north corner of Heyington Place and Torresdale Road Toorak

This area is one of the highest in Toorak. Early surveyors noted that this area had sandy soil with box, gum and wattle trees, large patches of heath and scrub and areas of tea tree along the Yarra River and Gardiner's Creek. European settlers began moving into this area in the late 1830s, soon after the settlement of Melbourne around Port Phillip Bay.

From the early days access to the river and creek was difficult. Diversions of the river and creek during the 20th century have greatly altered the courses of the waterways.

### Continue walking north along Heyington Place, stay on the west side. Stop at the south corner of Theodore Court

When Crown land was auctioned in June 1840, three large blocks were sold stretched from the Yarra River through to Gardiners Creek Road (now known as Toorak Road). The land, between present-day Orrong Road and Kooyong Road was sold to speculators. One lot of 70 acres was sold to Sylvester Brown, a sea captain. The second lot of 78 acres was sold to James Campbell, an entrepreneur. The third lot of 60 acres was sold to William Yaldwyn, a Queensland squatter, for £16 an acre. All three speculators sold their land soon after and they did not maintain links with the area.

Even in the early years, the area was to be regarded as prime residential freehold. The focal point was the mansion 'Toorak House', 21 St Georges Road Toorak, now the home of the Swedish Church in Victoria. 'Toorak House' was built around 1850 for the wealthy Melbourne merchant James Jackson although he never occupied the house. It was described as one of the finest in the colony at that time. It is thought that the architect may have been James Blackburn who had been transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1833 and was to become one of the most important engineers and architects of the period in Australia. In 1854 'Toorak House' was leased to the Victorian Government. It was extended and redecorated at great expense for use as the home of the new Lieutenant-Governor, Charles Hotham. At the same time, the Government constructed a surfaced road from the city to the gates at the front of 'Toorak House'. The house served as Government House until 1876 when the new Government House in the Domain South Yarra was completed.

The house gave its name to the suburb of Toorak. The word Toorak is a native word meaning 'reedy creek'. As the home of the Governor, it lent status to the whole area and stimulated the first wave of settlement. 'Toorak House' was later owned by the Bendigo mining entrepreneur George Lansell in 1875. Lansell subdivided the land into 137 allotments, created Lansell Road, and extended St George's Road north. 'Toorak House' and its gardens remaining on five and a quarter

acres. Two early houses in this section of Heyington Place, close to the corner of Theodore Court, both long demolished, were 'Ballark', built in 1888 and 'Kyalah', built around 1893.

### **Walk along Theodore Court and stop at 4 Theodore Court**

4 Theodore Court was designed by architect Anatol Kagan and built around 1959. Born in St Petersburg, Russia, in 1913, Kagan immigrated to Melbourne in 1939 and established his practice, Anatol Kagan and Associates. During a professional career that spanned more than seven decades and three continents, Kagan was active not only in the field of architecture and design but also as a writer, translator, lecturer and political activist. He designed homes for wealthy Melbourne families. His houses featured large windows, open-plan designs, passive solar orientation, north-facing balconies and built-in furniture. They often had flat roofs, integrated garages, stone feature walls and a skilful integration with gardens and surroundings. Many had bedrooms on the lower levels and living spaces above.

### **Return to Heyington Place, turn left and continue walking northwest along Heyington Place and stop**

Heyington Station is named after a local home. When 'Heyington' was originally built around 1875 it was known as 'Sussex'. It was built for artist James Turner who had come to the gold diggings from Britain. When 'Heyington' was resold in 1880 it was advertised as 'on 3 acres with a thousand-foot frontage to the Yarra'. The new owner was the Hon W A Zeal, President of the Victorian Legislative Council. Part of the Heyington House estate was purchased by the government for the new station. The rest of the property was sold and Heyington Place and Torresdale Road were created.

By the end of the nineteenth century, Toorak was a wealthy suburb made up of professionals, businessmen, bankers, land dealers and pastoralists. Much of the land had been subdivided by this time. A number of the properties at the north end of the subdivision had Yarra River frontages. The subdivision of larger blocks made way for the construction of flats and apartments.

### **Continue walking northwest along Heyington Place and stop on the corner of Gawith Court.**

#### **Turn into Gawith Court and stop at 'Pattenbringen' on the west side**

'Pattenbringen' in Gawith Court, is an elegant late nineteenth-century villa, built in 1889-90 for Hugh Wilson, Manager of the Royal Bank, to a design by the notable Melbourne architectural firm, Reed, Henderson & Smart. By 1890 the nine-room brick house had been built on the elevated south bank of the Yarra, with views across the river to Richmond. It was close to the railway line which was built in 1879. The name Pattenbringen comes from a placename in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

The Argus newspaper reported in 1949: 'The beautiful garden of Pattenbringen, the home of Dr and Mrs Arthur Joyce, in Heyington Place, Toorak, made an ideal setting for the late afternoon party they gave on Saturday in perfect weather'

### **Return to Heyington Place. Cross Heyington Place to the north side. Follow the pathway to the station and stop at the small reserve halfway along.**

This small bushland reserve survives due to the hard work of local residents including one of its staunchest supporters, former Prahran Councillor Bill Dane, after whom the reserve is named. Bill was a Councillor for 25 years and Mayor in 1971/1972.

Just east of the Heyington Station south platform, there is an area of exposed bedrock in the railway cutting, which has been of great interest to geologists. It includes a section showing an under-

lying Silurian outcrop that extends to the river level below. The Silurian period, which spanned 24 million years, dates from 443 million years ago.

### **Return to the walkway and follow it to onto the railway bridge and stop**

This railway line was built in 1890 through the Yarra and Gardiner's Creek valleys from Burnley. Stations on the line were established at Heyington, Kooyong, Tooronga, Gardiner, Glen Iris and Darling. Not everyone was in favour of the railway line at the time of its construction. John Monash, said at the time 'I have made a careful inspection of the Glen Iris Railway. The stations are very close together and are equipped in a too expensive fashion'. He went on to say 'I saw no necessity for a station at Kooyong, there being no visible signs of settlement or traffic in that neighbourhood'. The line was extended through to Glen Waverley in 1930.

### **Continue across the bridge and stop before the steps down**

Just north of Heyington Station is St Kevin's College established by the Christian Brothers who had first arrived from Ireland in 1868. St Kevin's College was first opened in Albert Street, East Melbourne, as a central matriculation college for the other existing Christian Brothers' schools in Melbourne at the time. In 1932 the College was transferred to a site at the corner of St George's Road and Orrong Road, Toorak. The present Senior School at Heyington was purchased at this time and it was developed as the school's playing fields. In 1935 the College commenced taking primary school students and, from that time, St Kevin's gradually became a full primary and secondary college. In 1960 the Senior School moved to this Heyington site. A new Junior School was opened in Lansell Road in 1972 and the earlier property in Orrong Road was sold.

Initial construction of the South Eastern Freeway had been completed by the mid-1960s, connecting Burnley to Olympic Park. The freeway was eventually extended east from under the MacRobertson Bridge along the Yarra, to Toorak Road, with a single-carriageway feeder road taking excess traffic to Tooronga Road. By 1988, the South Eastern Arterial had been completed but because the road was constructed through residential areas, reduced speed limits were also enforced. This all led to heavy congestion, attracting the local name of 'the South-Eastern Carpark!' The Arterial was extended east in 1994. Known now as the Monash Freeway, it was named after General Sir John Monash, well known Australian soldier and engineer.

### **Retrace your steps back over the railway bridge. Follow Heyington Place west and stop just after the curve, opposite St Kevin's Junior School**

One early mansion was 'Clovelly', built in the 1880s. It was owned for many years by Achelen Palfreyman, the General Manager of the Australasian Jam Company in Chapel Street South Yarra. Palfreyman was keen on attending race meetings, though never a betting man. He was also a horse breeder. 'Clovelly' was demolished in 1968 to make way for the St Kevin's Junior School.

### **Continue walking south around the curve of Lansell Road. Turn left into Lawrenny Court and proceed to the end**

One of the largest early properties in Lansell Road was 'Homeden'. Today only the ventilation tower with a clock on the top of Homeden's former stables remains. The mansion itself was demolished in the mid-twentieth century. The original Homeden mansion was built around 1889 for Justice Henry Hodges. In 1900 Homeden was sold to Edward Grimwade, one of the firms of wholesale druggists, who later sold the property to chemist George Nicholas. George Richard Rich Nicholas founded the pharmaceutical company Nicholas Pty Ltd, makers of 'Aspro'. He operated chemist shops in Punt Road from c1914-1920. Nicholas Pty Ltd moved to South Melbourne in 1921, then to Warrigal Road, Chadstone in 1957. The area's only high-rise apartment block was built on Homeden's land.

### **Return to Lansell Road and turn left and stop**

'Prado' was a former modest residence owned by well known architect Charles D'Ebro who designed 'Stonington' in Glenferrie Road Malvern, 'Northbrook', home of the Stonnington History Centre, Prahran City Hall (and extended clock tower), Prahran Market and George's department store in Collins Street. D'Ebro also designed an early house next door to his own home. It was known at different times as 'Abergaveny' and 'Chartres'.

### **Continue south along Lansell Road to St George's Road. Turn right, and cross Lansell Road. Continue west. Turn right into Yarradale Road, walk along to 6 Yarravale Road**

Yarradale Road is shown on an early map in the Stonnington History Collection as St Andrew's Road. In the early days the Twickenham Ferry and boatsheds operated on the Yarra River near Grange Road, Toorak. The ferry operated from the Survey Paddock in Richmond from 1880 to 1934, closing when the McRobertson Bridge was built. The name Twickenham came from Twickenham on the Thames in London, where a ferry ran between Richmond and Kew. The ferry on the Yarra River at Toorak was built and operated by the Barrow family for more than 50 years.

### **Stay on the east side of Yarradale Road, walk along to 12 Yarradale Road**

12 Yarradale Road was built in 1936. This style is known as Derived Prairie style, noted for the complex low-pitched hipped roof and wide eaves. Horizontal emphasis has been added to the clinker brickwork.

### **Walk along to 20 Yarradale Road**

This house was built in 1937 and it is based on the English Cottage style. The wide picture windows were a new idea for this era.

### **Continue walking east along Yarradale Road to the end, cross to the north side and follow Yarradale Road south west back to the corner of Edzell Avenue**

Early homes in this section of Torresdale Road, included 'Cawood', the residence of Charles Washington Umphelby and his wife Lydia. Charles arrived in Hobart from England in 1841 and moved to Victoria shortly after. His wife Lydia, was born at 'Cawood', New Norfolk, Tasmania. The Very Special Kids home in Glenferrie Road Malvern was originally named 'Cawood' and it was also built for Charles Washington Umphelby, before it became their family home in 1886.

Many of the homes on the north side of Yarradale Road and Edzell Avenue extend down to the Yarra River, where some have private boat anchorages. Edzell Avenue is named after the former Victorian house 'Edzell', 76 St George's Road, designed in 1892 by architects Reed, Smart and Tappin, for James Cooper Steward.

### **Turn into Edzell Street. Walk west along Edzell Street to St George's Road. Turn left into St George's Road. Follow St George's Road east, cross Lansell Road, continue to the corner of Torresdale Road, turn right and walk east back to the starting point.**