Melton Visitor Information Centre Student Kit 2014

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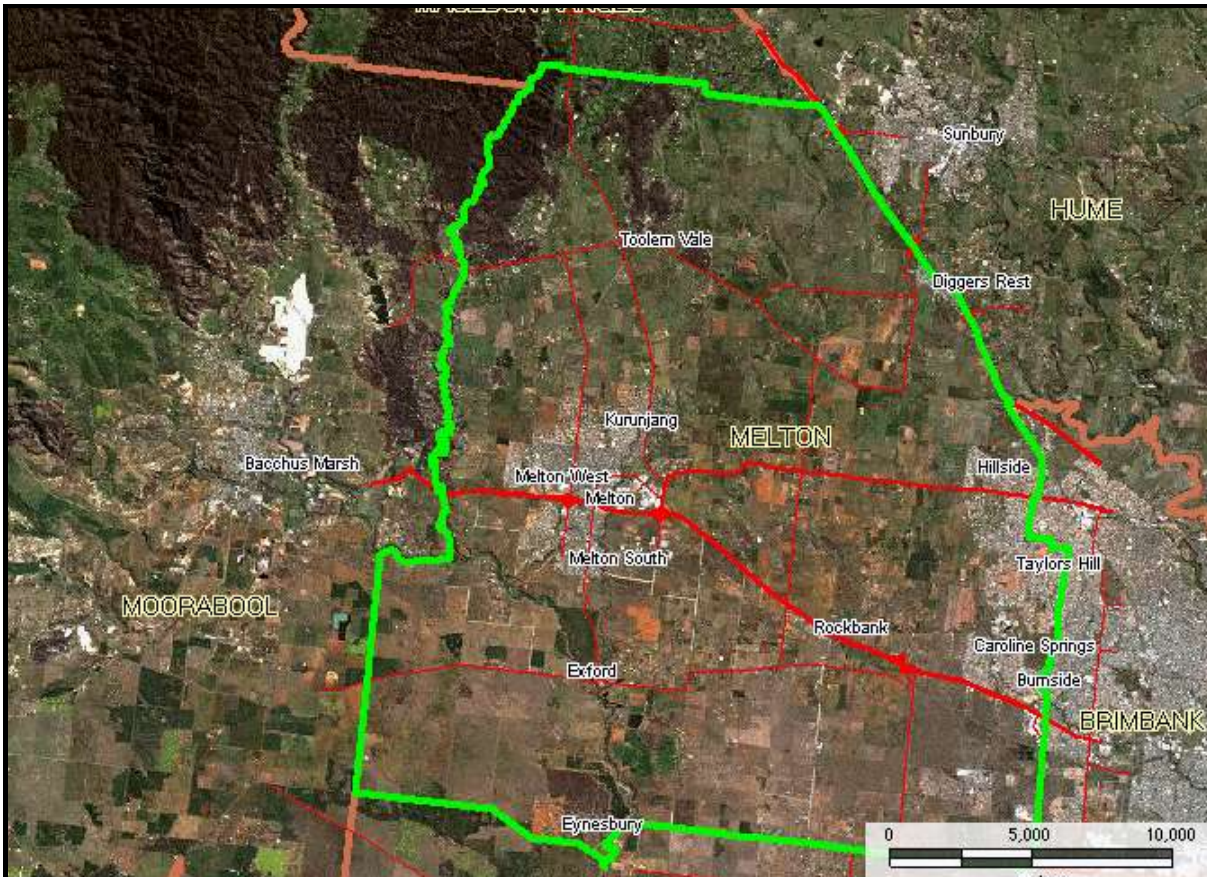
WELCOME TO THE CITY OF MELTON

The City of Melton Student Kit has been developed to assist students and researchers with the underlying questions about the History and Culture of Melton.

This Kit has been created as a response to numerous queries about the heritage, history and culture of Melton City Council. Content is to be used as guide for further research and aims to deliver true and correct information from the date it was produced. Melton Visitor Information Centre does not specialise in education and heritage based activities, but as a tourism facility it recognises the value of cultural tourism.

This kit has been designed to be able be printable in subject based themes and these sections have a list of further resources. Please note further resources listed are only suggestions and should not be considered comprehensive/ only resource available.



INTRODUCTION

The City of Melton is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Australia. Previously known as the Shire of Melton, the municipality was granted City status in September 2012 in recognition of its fast growth and development. It covers an area of 528 square kilometres and embraces a series of townships and communities, the larger towns being Caroline Springs (19km west of Melbourne's CBD) and Melton (35 km west of Melbourne's CBD). Other communities are Arnolds Creek, Burnside, Burnside Heights, Brookfield, Chartwell, Diggers Rest, Eynesbury, Exford, Hillside, Kurunjang, Melton South, Melton West, Mt Cottrell, Parwan, Plumpton, Ravenhall, Rockbank, Taylors Hill, Toolern Vale and Truganina.

The current population is over 125,000 and the growth rate is almost five per cent per annum. It is expected that the City of Melton will have a population of 137,000 by 2016 and a population of 241,000 by 2031. The newest growth areas are Melton North, Taylors Hill West and Toolern (including Atherstone and Waterford). The City of Melton offers diverse lifestyles and affordable living, which is why the community grows by 42 households per week. The municipality has a very young population: 42 babies are born each week and over 70 per cent of the population is under 45 years old.

Located at the juncture of a major development triangle and a transport hub, Melton provides easy access to local, national and international markets.

The City of Melton is within 35 minutes of major transport hubs, including Melbourne International airport, Avalon airport (a full scale freight dedicated airport) and large scale warehousing and distribution centres such as Laverton. Melbourne Port (the largest container port in Australia) and Geelong Port are also within easy reach.

INDIGENOUS CULTURE

Aboriginal people have lived in the western region from time immemorial. The entire Port Phillip region as far north as Euroa was owned by five language groups or tribes. The five groups all spoke a related language and were said to form a confederacy or nation called Kulin Nation. Kulin, or Gulinj means Aboriginal man. All of these five language groups are linked by a similar language which can be seen in their names which all end in 'wurrung' meaning mouth/lips=speak. Although there are many spelling variations, they all start with a word denoting a negative (or word for 'no'), Woi, Dja Dja, Boon, Taung, Watha, all of which have the word 'wurrung' preceeding it. This forms each language name.

Three different but related language groups, each made of a number of individual clans, lived in the areas now covered by the City of Melbourne and western region Councils. These language groups were called Woi wurrung, Wathaurong or Wathawurrung and Boon wurrung. Each language group had a number of social groups called clans. Clans were land-owning units in traditional society and members spoke the same language and identified with a particular area of land. Clans were connected through cultural and mutual interests, totems, trading initiatives and marriage ties.

The Wurrung language group was comprised of five clans, two of which claimed areas of land in the western region. The name for the Woi wurrung speaking language group is known as Wurundjeri, which has subsets of patrilines being Wurundjeri-wilam and Wurundjeri-baluk. Within these subsets, you have clans which are formed by medium to large family group. The Marin.balluk clan and its estate covered all the area between Kororoit Creek and the Maribyrnong River, stretching up to Sunbury. The area to the west of Kororoit Creek as far as the Werribee River was the estate of the Kurung.jang.balluk clan. Their clan area or estate took in the area where Melton now lies, including the appropriately named locality of Kurunjang. The Wurundjeri-William clan (which also has a patrline of Wurundjeri-baluk within it. This is William Barak and Simon Wonga's clan) lived in the area along the river flats that stretched in a wide tract north along the eastern side of the Maribyrnong River.

Clans from two other tribes also owned parts of the western region. These tribes were the Boon wurrung and Wathaurong/Watha wurrung. The Wathaurong/Watha wurrung language group of the fifteen clans claimed the area from the western side of the Werribee River to Streatham.

Traditional Owner groups continue to exercise their right to speak and care for their traditional country. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 recognises Aboriginal people as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage. At a local level, Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are the voice of Aboriginal people in the management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage. The Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Incorporated and the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative are Registered Aboriginal

Parties for areas in Melton City as decided by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.

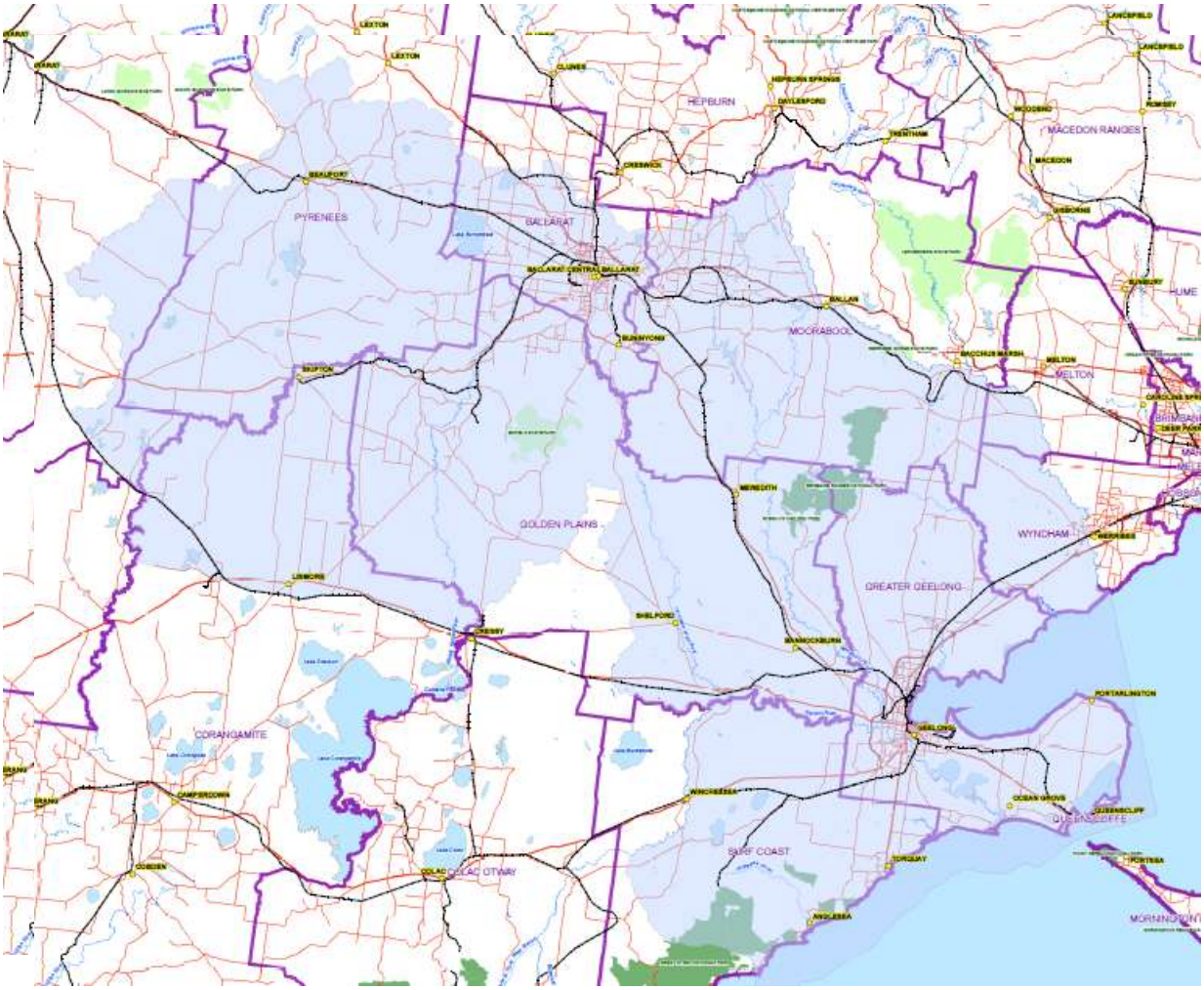
Residents of Melton City who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are likely to have come from many places across Australia and are likely to have experienced disenfranchisement and disconnection from family, place and culture. Our sense of ourselves and our place in our community comes from our knowledge and practice of culture and heritage. The inheritance of cultural practice for next generations is a common goal of both Traditional Owner groups and residents with ancestry to their people and places.

Kororoit Creek has been described as an important landmark that separated the territory of two Wurundjeri clans – the Kurung.jang.balluk clan and the Marin bulag clan. It was a source of food and medicine, a corridor for movement and possibly a nimportant social and cultural market for the interaction between the clans.

In 2006, there were 507 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents living in the Shire of Melton.

INDIGENOUS MAP 1: WATHAURUNG AREA:

Please note – this is an edited version of map - for full map/further details please view:
http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/images/documents/Aboriginal_Affairs/Wathaurung-Rap-area.pdf



INDIGENOUS MAP 2: WURUNDJERI AREA:

Please note – this is an edited version of map - for full map details please view:
http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/images/documents/Aboriginal_Affairs/Wurundjeri-RAP-area.pdf

BULLUM BULLUM

Bullum Bullum Aboriginal Place in Burnside is highly valued by the Wurundjeri people as a place of strong association with country. Artefacts at the site are remnants of thousands of years of camping, movement and activity. Bullum Bullum means 'white butterfly' and represents freedom of expression.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Koorie Heritage Trust: www.koorieheritagetrust.com
- KIRRIP Aboriginal Corporation (local Melton based Indigenous group) Contact Melton City Council Community Development on 9747 7200
- Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre: www.museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka
- National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week
- NAIDOC Week, celebrations are held across Australia each July: naidoc.org.au
- Bullum Bullum handout available at Melton Visitor Information Centre
- Get With it Brochure available at Melton Visitor Information Centre
- Department of Premier and Cabinet

  Web: www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-affairs-overview
- VACL (Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages), 295 King Street, Melbourne, VIC; Phone: 96003811; Web: vaclang.org.au

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF MELTON

Image details: Minns Hotel, aprox circa 1910, courtesy of Melton City Council

Melton was named after the fashionable Melton Mowbray hunting grounds in England and is a reminder that fox hunting was popular in the district. Melton's recorded history begins with land surveys and subdivisions made in 1839 by the surveyor William Wedge Drake. The Pykes were the first settlers on a site close to Melton township where they grazed sheep. The second settler, Simon Staughton, took up land in 1841 in Exford.

In 1852 one of the survey lots was subdivided into smaller sections and a village site, which became Melton. The discovery of gold at Ballarat in 1851 played an important part in Melton's development, not only in revenue from travellers to and from the fields, but through supplies sold to support the growing population of the fields near Ballarat and Mt. Blackwood.

The landscape bears the signs of its volcanic origins: low hills and the profusion of rocks that are scattered across the sparsely-treed plains. The characteristic rounded or oval shaped volcanic stones enabled the wallers of the past to build composite walls with materials at hand. The municipality has some of the oldest and most interesting examples of the different styles of dry stone wall fences.

CHANGING MELTON TOWNSHIP

THEN

NOW

Melton Township in the 1850s was set among a small forest of trees. There was a blacksmith, bootmaker, butcher, baker and various shopkeepers and boarding establishments. Within a radius of a few kilometres from the township there were 40 farmers.

By 1862 the settlement had expanded with the building of churches and schools and was the cultural and service centre of a large pastoral and agricultural district with a population of 1,000. Development had also begun at the outlying centres of Toolern Vale and Diggers Rest.

LOCATION OF IMAGES: HIGH STREET, MELTON, VIC, 3337

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Melton Township Heritage Trail brochure (available at Melton Visitor Information Centre)

GROWTH OF THE MUNICIPALITY

1974: SATELLITE CITY STATUS

1997: DELFIN PROPERTY GROUP DEVELOP CAROLINE SPRINGS

2010: TOOLERN DEVELOPMENT APPROVED (100,000 PEOPLE OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS)

2012: MELTON SHIRE BECOMES A CITY

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Melton City Council Economic Development and Tourism on 9747 7200
- Toolern Urban Design Framework - www.melton.vic.gov.au
- 2011 Census Quick Stats (Melton LGA) Web: censusdata.abs.gov.au
- City of Melton demographics Web – www.melton.vic.gov.au

HISTORY OF CAROLINE SPRINGS

Timeline by Linda Bulner Delfin Lendlease

Year	Event
1997	▪ The original farming landowners signed an agreement with Delfin Property Group to develop the 800 hectare award-winning master planned community now known as Caroline Springs. ▪ First works on site commenced with the construction of the circular Spring Lake
1998	▪ Chisholm Park, Caroline Springs first village launched ▪ First block of land sold for $53,000in Chisholm Park ▪ Caroline Springs Boulevard intersection was opened ▪ First residents moved in
1999	▪ First Caroline Springs Summer Festival held for residents and purchasers, now an annual event. ▪ Housing Minister Ann Henderson opens the first Living Options Display Village in Chisholm Park ▪ First school, Mowbray College, opens in a residential home with 36 students ▪ Launch of Springlake Village; Cobblestone Village; The Grove Village ▪ Caroline Springs first bus, Route 215 commences ▪ First birthday celebration with John Newcombe ▪ First Carols by Candelight held at Springlake, now an annual event.
2000	▪ Melton Council Preschool and Child and Maternal Health opens ▪ Opening of : Caroline Springs Brookside Campus; Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School opens; Mowbray College Brookside Campus; Brookside Community Centre opens ▪ Brookside Early Learning Centre is launched by Premier Steve Bracks
2001	▪ Launch of The Grove village park, featuring a vineyard managed by the residents ▪ Brookside recreation facilities delivered for the community with two playing fields, tennis clubhouse.
2002	▪ Lake Caroline sod turning ▪ Launch of The Bridges village ▪ Brookside Central opened by Premier Steve Bracks. A time capsule is created for future generations
2003	▪ First shops open in Caroline Springs at Brookside Central. ▪ Caroline Springs expands to the north with the launch and first land release in North Gate ▪ Djerriwarrah Festival held at Brookside
2004	▪ The Caroline Springs Boulevard bridge over Kororoit Creek completes the link from the Western Highway to Keilor-Melton Road ▪ Launch of Oakwood Village ▪ The $25 million CS Square Shopping Centre is officially launched featuring Coles and 21 specialty stores
2005	▪ 10,000th residents Catherine and Michael Daly move in ▪ Opening: Caroline Springs College Creekside Campus in the Town Centre; Space2 Business Lounge; Mowbray College Senior Campus in the Town Centre
2006	▪ Opening: Catholic Regional College in the Town Centre; Caroline Springs College Lakeview Campus ▪ Police Minister Tim Holdings opens the state of the art Police Station in the Town Centre ▪ Caroline Springs was recognised as Australia's Best Master Planned Community at the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) 2006 Awards For Excellence Ceremony

Year	Event
	▪ Launch of Northlake Village ▪ The 10,000th street tree is planted at Caroline Springs
2007	▪ Launch of The Esplanade village in the Town Centre ▪ Sod turning at the Caroline Springs Anglican Church site ▪ Launch of the Edenfield village ▪ Iconic “On Tap” sculpture is installed alongside Lake Caroline
2008	▪ Launch of Ridgewater village ▪ ICA Melton College in Northlake ▪ Official launch of the $19 million recreational precinct, including an indoor sports stadium, library and civic centre. The stadium offers 3 multi-purpose sports courts and the Community Youth Activity Node skating precinct. ▪ Completion of the Caroline Springs Corporate Centre by CGA Bryson ▪ The Caroline Springs Library and Civic Centre wins the ‘Keep Australia Beautiful’ award ▪ Retirement by Design’s Caesia Gardens Retirement Village welcomes its first residents ▪ $300,000 grant received to fund two new drought resistant low maintenance sports ovals at Caroline Springs Northlake Campus

VOLCANIC LANDSCAPE

Pastoralism, the foundation of Victoria's European settlement, was also Melton's first industry. The early 1800s saw the plains become sheep-runs for Port Phillips first squatters. It was not long before the Clarke family's Rockbank estate, the Staughton's Exford and Eynesbury estates, and William Taylor's Overnewton estate dominated the Shire landholdings.

The enclosure of the Shire represents one of the Europeans' most profound marks on the landscape. While the early pastoral phase had left most of the Shire open, the advent of freehold land in the 1850s necessitated land divisions. Resourceful farmers could resolve two problems at once, the need to clear the land and the need for fencing. As such they made use of the abundant volcanic fieldstones that littered their paddocks to build dry stone fences and other necessary buildings and structures.

The City of Melton is located on the eastern edge of the Victorian Volcanic Plains which covers 10% of the State. Victorian Volcanic Plain is dominated by cenozoic volcanic deposits which are approximately 65 million years old. Examples of this can be seen at Mount Cottrell and Mount Kororoit both of which are located in the Melton municipality.

Mount Cottrell is a low lava cone resting on a broad lava shield formed by the radial eruption of numerous thin fluid lava tongues. The mountain is a dormant volcano 165 metres above sea level and the summit provides a great view of the Western Plains of Melbourne.

Mount Cottrell was named after Anthony Cottrell one of 15 members of John Batman's party who were officially the first to settle the Melbourne/ Port Phillip area. Despite its somewhat benign appearance today, Mt Cottrell had one of the biggest lava outputs of Victoria's Western District volcanic area which is the great plain that stretches from Darebin Creek in Melbourne to Mount Gambier in South Australia. This is the largest volcanic area in Australia and influenced settlement in the region. The remnant dry-stone walls of Melton tell a story of the natural history of the volcanic creation of the area and of the cultural history of its human modification.

Mount Kororoit is a small asymmetric conical hill with a flattened summit, steep southern slopes and a long, gentle northern slope of eroded lava. On this flow is a broad, swampy depression north of Holden Road. The hill is predominantly of scoria and is capped by a rocky outcrop of lava and lava agglomerate.

The low bald mounts that rise above the Melton plains do not immediately impress as fuming volcanos. But unspectacular 'shield volcanos', such as Mount Cottrell and Mount Kororoit (south and north-east of Melton), the diminutive Mount Atkinson (south of Rockbank), Casey Hill (3 kilometres west of Toolern Vale), and Aitkens Hill and Mount Tophet at Aitkens Gap, are the origins of the fieldstones that were gathered up by early settlers.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Contact Melton City Council Environmental Education Officer on 9747 7200
- Research local wine from volcanic earth : Witchmount Winery; Galli Estate

WILDFLOWERS

The City of Melton is on the Victorian Volcanic Plains and has endangered flora and fauna. The Ecological Vegetation Classes include Plains Grassland and Plains Grassy Woodland. Native grasslands with their wildflowers are one of the most threatened eco-systems in Victoria with less than 1% of the original grasslands remaining. Ptilotus Macrocephalus (or Tall Mulla Mulla) are one of the rare wildflowers you may see in the springtime.

BIRD LIFE

There are more than 160 bird species in the City of Melton including several species of eagles, rare woodland birds, water birds and migrants from Tasmania and overseas. In Eynesbury greybox forest 103 bird species have been spotted. Lake Caroline, Eynesbury Lake and Westlakes are good places to start bird watching.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Contact Melton City Council Environmental Education Officer on 9747 7200
- Research links through ‘Geography and Geology’: www.melton.vic.gov.au
- Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail (available at Melton Visitor Information Centre)
- Collect three bird life posters from Melton Visitor Information Centre
- Ecological Vegetation Classes: http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/veg_evc
- Pick up brochure on wildflowers and local fauna at Melton Visitor Information Centre.

DRY STONE WALLS

The City of Melton is home to some of the best and rarest examples of Dry Stone Walls in Australia. They are an important link to our history.
Melton City's rural areas were mostly settled in the mid 1800's for grazing and limited cropping. The grassy basalt plains provided excellent grazing country for sheep, used in wool production, and were also grazed by cattle before their final muster for sale at Newmarket in Melbourne.

Dry Stone Walls were the predominant form of fencing constructed in Melton City Council, due to the ample supply of stone on the grassy plains. Farmers cleared the vast amounts of rocks exposed at the surface, giving "Rockbank" its name.

Many fences in Melton City Council used a combination of stone at the bottom, and post and wire at the top to define boundaries and confine both folks and herds. Posts were lumbered from the scattered woodlands that existed on the plains of Rockbank, Toolern Vale and Exford.

In 2003 the Melton City Council was successful in securing funding from the State Government's Pride of Place program to audit, protect, preserve and educate the public on dry stone walls and their cultural heritage.

The audit recorded and classified over 300 Dry Stone Walls and other dry stone structures in the City of Melton. It also assisted in the identification of appropriate sites for the development of the Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail. The Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail brochure can be found at the Melton Visitor Information Centre.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Research links through 'Geography and Geology': www.melton.vic.gov.au
- Dry Stone Wall Driving Trail (available at Melton Visitor Information Centre)

AVIATION HISTORY

HARRY HOUDINI

At 8am on Friday 18 March 1910, Harry Houdini, the famous American escapologist, became the first person in Australia to successfully fly in a 'heavier than air' machine. Houdini brought a Voisin biplane to Australia at the request of the Aerial League of Australia and used Plumpton's Field in Diggers Rest as his base. After waiting through days of bad weather, he was finally able to fly on the 18th of March. He made three successful flights, ranging from one minute to three minutes, reaching an altitude of 100 feet and travelling a distance of over two miles.

A monument to Harry Houdini's flight is located on the Old Calder Hwy in Diggers Rest. The 100 year anniversary of this history making flight was celebrated over the 18th, 20th and 21st of March 2010. Commemoration of a new memorial, an air show at Melton Airfield, and a festival at Stan Payne Reserve in Diggers Rest were part of the celebrations.

JIMMY MELROSE

Image details: Jimmy Melrose's plane at Laverton, circa 1934, courtesy of State Library of Victoria

Melton marks the final resting place for another famous aviator, CJ (Jimmy) Melrose. Jimmy made a record solo flight from Australia to England in eight days and nine hours. In July 1936 Jimmy Melrose crashed and died in Melton South.

A cairn marks the place of the crash in the Jimmy Melrose Memorial Reserve in Springbank Way, Brookfield and a rock monument to Jimmy Melrose can be found at the rear of the Melton Visitor Information Centre.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Visit Royal Australian Air Force Museum: www.airforce.gov.au/raafmuseum
- Books and resources at Melton Visitor Information Centre
- Melton Model Airplane Association has Aviation Activity packs for school children and regular model airplane displays: www.meltonmodelaircraft.dyndns.info
- Melton Air Services: www.meltonairservices.com.au
- Australian National Aviation Museum, (Moorabbin Airport): www.aarg.com.au
- Melton and District Historical Society

  Ph: 0402 730 675 or 9747 9207 or email: meltonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

EQUINE HISTORY

Image details: Tabcorp Park, 2013, courtesy of Tabcorp Park, Melton

The City of Melton has a rich history in the equine industry. It has been home to thoroughbred breeding since the 1850s, with reputable industry identities and studs developed in the region over 150 years, producing many successful racehorses.

Melton is known as the “Home of Harness Racing”, and is home to over 140 registered trainers and over 1200 horses. Melton trainers combined with local drivers, have won every major racing trophy in Australia and New Zealand. With ongoing development and its recognition as an ideal location for developing young racehorses, the Shire was acclaimed as ‘The Heart of the Thoroughbred Country’ in 1985.

The City of Melton has 17 percent of the harness racing population within its boundaries and it is now home to the Melton Harness Racing and Entertainment Complex, Tabcorp Park. The first race at this complex was held on 5 July 2009.

Another of the area's early settlers was William Cross Yuille, who established his 640 acre pre-emptive Right Run at Rockbank in the early 1850s. A leading identity of his day, Mr Yuille was a notable turf writer and founded one of the oldest established and largest bloodstock agencies in Australia, W. C. Yuille and Co. He played an important role in establishing the Victorian Racing industry and founding the Australian Stud Book, which was completed after his death in 1894 by his son Archie.

There have been some famous horses that have resided in the City of Melton. In 1918 Melton Park Stud was built and became home of ‘The Welkin’, Australian

champion sire who won races from 1918-19, 1920-21 and 1921-22. Another famous Melton racehorse ‘The Gloaming’ won 19 races in a row and was honoured with one of Australia’s top races, ‘The Gloaming Stakes’ being named after him.

Year	Event
1819	Father of Melton’s Equine Industry and founding father of the Victorian racing industry William Cross Yuille was born. Yuille established the first pastoral and horse property in Melton in 1846 and won the Melbourne Cup riding his own racehorse in 1865, four years after the Cup’s inception.
1852	Yuille, who had taken up the Rockbank Run in 1846, sold to Sir William John Clarke. Clarke bred thoroughbreds and his filly Petrea won the Victorian Oaks in 1879.
1859	‘Birdswing’ owned by WC Yuille became Melton’s first winner of the Victorian Turf Club Oaks. Melton horses have won the Oaks on many occasions. At one stage Emirates Park Stud, then known as Stockwell Stud, had bred seven winners of the Oaks.
1865	‘Toryboy’ owned by WC Yuille, became Melton’s first horse to win the Melbourne Cup.
1877	WC Yuille established the first Australian Stud book.
1918	Before the turn of the Century Mr EED (Ernest) Clarke created the Melton Park Stud, which became the famous home of the celebrated sire ‘The Welkin’, Australian champion sire 1918-19, 1920-21, 1921-22.
1921	Melton racehorse ‘The Gloaming’ won 19 races in a row and was honoured with one of Australia’s top races, ‘The Gloaming Stakes’, named after him.
1927	‘Trivalve’, owned by Melton land owner Mr EED Clarke, won the Melbourne Cup.
1957	Stockwell Stud became one of the largest breeders of thoroughbreds in Australia.
1960	‘Tauto’ sired by Dreelburn Stud’s famous ‘Good Brandy’, won the WS Cox Plate.
1966	Melton Stud bought UK’s Champion Mile Racehorse, ‘Showdown’, who went on to become a leading Australian champion sire.
1983	Local trotter ‘Scotch Notch’ named “Australian Trotter of the Year” and held the title until 1985.
1987	To celebrate the local thoroughbred industry, the Shire ran the Melton Cup from 1987 to 1989. The first inaugural winner was ‘Gallipoli Prince’

Year	Event
1988	'Our Poetic Prince', 1988 Cox Plate champion, stood at Emirates Park and was retired to Cornwell Park, now the Independent Stallion Station, in 1989.
1989	The first "Melton Plate" held at Moonee Valley, reaffirming the Shire's dominance in the harness industry. The first inaugural winner was local trotter 'Victorys Phil' owned by local identity Danny Mullan.
1990	'Cole Diesel', sired by Melton sire 'Brigand' at Tamarin Stud, won the Caulfield Cup.
1992	Harness trotter 'Franco Tiger', trained by Glen Tippet, wins Miracle Mile.
1995	"Australian Trotter of the Year" won by 'Wagon Apollo'.
2000	The 2000 Australian Horse of the Year 'Shakamaker', trained by John Justice, wins the Inter Dominion.
2009	Victoria's newest harness racing facility, Tabcorp Park, opens in Melton.
2010	Harness Trotter Smokin Up trained by Lance justice wins the Miracle Mile.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- National Sports Museum (Champions Racing Gallery): www.nsm.org.au
- JurAvon Park Equestrian Centre and Stables: www.juravon.com.au
- Tabcorp Park: www.tabcorppark.com.au
- TNT Equine Therapy: www.tntequinetherapy.com
- Living Legends: www.livinglegends.org.au
- Melton and District Pony Club: www.melton.ponyclubvic.org.au
- Melton Equestrian Park, Bulmans Road, Melton
- View Public Art: Horse Clock Tower, High Street, Melton
- Melton and District Historical Society: Ph: 0402 730 675
- Melton and District Adult Riding Club Inc: www.manddarc.com

PLACES OF INTEREST

HANNAH WATTS PARK

In the early 1980s, Hannah Watts Park was named in honour of one of Melton's much-loved pioneers.

Also known in Melton as 'Grannie Watts', Hannah Jane Watts was the town's first midwife and bush nurse. During a long career she helped deliver and care for many of Melton's early residents.

Born in Ireland in 1832, Hannah sailed to Australia with her first husband at 20 years of age. By the time she arrived she had already impressed many with her natural ability, and she was still serving the Melton community until her death at the age of 89, in 1921.

Hannah bore six children of her own and was widowed twice. At different times she lived in both Toolern Vale and Melton and is credited with establishing a cottage

clinic that became Melton's first hospital. This was located on what is now Melton golf course.

LOCATION: HIGH STREET, MELTON

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Melton Township Heritage Trail brochure (available at Melton Visitor Information Centre)
- Melton and District Historical Society

  Ph: 0402 730 675 or 9747 9207 or email: meltonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

WATERWAYS

Image details: Melton Reservoir, circa 1915 – 1940, courtesy of State Library of Victoria

Melton's first early water supply was from Toolern Creek. An earth reservoir adjacent to Toolern Creek was constructed in 1877. The new century saw further development with Melton Reservoir (also known as Exford Weir), being constructed in 1916 and further enlarged in 1937. But water was an ongoing issue for the community; Melton was connected to Melbourne Water supplies in the early 2000s.

Many swamps on the plains east of Melton have now disappeared. In the early years extensive swamps up to two metres deep were the homes of various species of birds. Rumours of a Bunyip were prevalent, as it was reported a large black beast had been seen moving through the swamps.

Today the local community celebrate Toolern Creek and the water ways through a local Platypus festival held annually.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Contact Melton City Council Environmental Education Officer on 9747 7200
- Contact Friends of Toolern Creek: www.fotc.com.au
- Platypus Festival: Held in October annually. Contact President Of Friends of Toolern Creek - Web: www.fotc.com.au
- Melton Reservoir – Web: www.srw.com.au

MELTON COURTHOUSE

Built in 1892 at a cost of £860, the Courthouse hosted its first Court of Petty Sessions in the same year. Trials continued here until 1999. The Courthouse was designed by architect S E Bindley of the Public Works Department Planning Section, who also designed numerous school and public buildings throughout Victoria.

Surrounding the courthouse is an Amphitheatre, Plaza and recognisable Clock Tower that portrays a rearing horse and harness.

LOCATION: 323 HIGH STREET, MELTON

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Melton Township Heritage Trail brochure (obtain at Melton Visitor Information Centre)

THE MASONRY ARCH BRIDGE

The Masonry Arch Bridge was constructed in the late 1850's. From 1859 to 1889 the bridge carried a steady increasing flow of horse drawn traffic but the opening of the Melbourne to Ballarat railway line in 1889 saw a dramatic drop in road usage.

LOCATION: ANTHONY'S CUTTING/DJERRIWARRH CREEK

MELTON VIADUCT

Image details: Melton Viaduct, circa 1885, courtesy of State Library of Victoria

The railway link from Melbourne to Melton was completed in 1884 to provide an alternative means of transporting the district hay crops, which became commercially successful after experimentation by the Robinson family.

VIEW: VIEW FROM CLARK'S ROAD, MELTON SOUTH

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- www.museumvictoria.com.au/railways
- V/line trains: www.vline.com.au
- Melton Model Railway Club Inc: www.meltonmrc.org.au

EYNESBURY

Image details: Eynesbury Homestead, 2013, courtesy of Eynesbury

Eynesbury is a newly developed township and is named after a town in the United Kingdom (north of London) where Simon Staughton was born (1797). Mr Staughton moved with his family to Australia in 1841 and settled on 101,000 acres which was subsequently subdivided in 1852.

The township of Melton was created from the 30,600 acre subdivision. When Mr Staughton died in 1863 his four sons inherited his holdings of 70,400 acres. In 1870 the property was divided into four lots: Exford; Nerowie; Staughton Vale and Eynesbury – each station had its own Homestead. The Eynesbury Homestead was the most grand of the four homesteads and presently exists as a cafe and restaurant.

Samuel Staughton inherited the 20,000 acre Eynesbury property. The Eynesbury Homestead, which was built in 1872 has been restored and is heritage listed. This also includes the Bluestone Men's Quarters (now the Golf Club locker rooms); coach house & stables (now the Golf Club pro-shop).

The Eynesbury station currently has 60 buildings and structures dating from 1870 to the 1940's. In 1947, Eynesbury Station was purchased by M.L. & J M Baillieu (Charlie and Antony Baillieu are still involved in the pastoral business and new township development).

Eynesbury also has other unique features such as a preserved natural landscape, Grey Box forest that covers an area of approximately 268 hectares and is one of the most intact groupings of Grey Box in Victoria. Other features of Eynesbury include an18 hole Championship golf course, sporting ovals and a planned town centre for the newly established residential development.

LOCATION: EYNESBURY ROAD, EYNESBURY

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Eynesbury Heritage Trail. Guided Tours can be booked through Eynesbury Administration by calling 1300 396 372/ www.eynesbury.com.au

- Staughton’s Lamp is part of Melton Township Heritage Trail and is a homage to family who owned Eynesbury Homestead (brochure available at Melton Visitor Information Centre)
- www.eynesbury.com.au/heritage.html

THE WILLOWS HISTORICAL PARK & HOMESTEAD

Image details: Willows Homestead 2013, Melton City Council

Situated on the banks of Toolern Creek, The Willows Historical Park accommodates Melton's oldest surviving homestead, built in the 1850's. After several tenants over the years, vandals left the Willows derelict, until concerned locals, affected over the loss of a piece Melton's history, initiated a move which resulted in the Council purchasing the Willows in 1972. The National Trust listed the Willows in 1975. The Willows has since been gradually restored and two other local historic cottages have been re-erected at the site (Dunvegan & Mac's Cottage). Dunvegan Cottage, a quaint bluestone street cottage was once used as the local police station; it was relocated to the Park during 1977.

Today the Park offers visitors picnic and BBQ facilities, a heritage walking trail and a historic museum that is community run initiative by the Melton and District Historical Society. The Melton and District Historical Society is an independent voluntary community group who produce a wide variety of publication.

LOCATION: RESERVE ROAD, MELTON

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Melton and District Historical Society have large amount of historical records/ material and conduct school tours. The Willows Homestead is open for inspection on Sundays 2-4pm or by appointment. Entry: Park (free), Museum ($2)

  Ph: 0402 730 675 or 9747 9207 or email: meltonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

- Melton Township Heritage Trail (brochure available at Melton Visitor Information Centre)

MORTON HOMESTEAD

Image details: Morton Homestead, 2013, Melton City Council

Morton Homestead is a Melton City Council community facility and was awarded the 2012 Cultural Heritage Award as part of Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities Awards. The homestead is a rare example of an early 20th century farmstead. The historic property was formerly owned by the Morton family, and was handed over to Council as a developer contribution. Located in the emerging community of Taylors Hill, Council saw the opportunity to transform the farmstead into a community hub while preserving its historical features.

Works undertaken included the repair and adaptation of the farmhouse. Council conserved and integrated aspects of all original features into the landscape design where possible. Community activities, including Planned Activity Groups, are now taking place in the building, bringing new life to the old homestead.

LOCATION: MORTON BOULEVARD, TAYLORS HILL

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Guided tours are available to school groups by a friendly volunteer at the centre. To organise please contact Melton City Council Community Care & Inclusion on 9747 7200
- Melton and District Historical Society: Ph: 0402 730 675 or 9747 9207 or email: meltonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

MELTON LIBRARY AND LEARNING HUB

Image details: Melton Library and Learning Hub 2013, Melton City Council

- project value: $20 million
- builder: ADCO Constructions
- architect: fjmt

The innovative hub consists of approx 3500 square metres over two levels and located in McKenzie St, Melton. The building houses the library's collection and also provides a central focus for lifelong learning and community activity through the inclusion of a number of flexible spaces to cater for large and small groups as well as formal and informal community and learning opportunities. It offers children's programs and Maternal and Child Health services, clubs and community groups can use the space or people can just come and have a coffee at the kiosk.

The hub includes the library collection, a seminar room, facilities for family and local history research, study and discussion areas as well as multimedia and computer-based learning areas. The Library and Learning Hub has a strong information technology component, with the latest in wireless connectivity, self-serve library equipment as well as computer training rooms. There is car and bicycle parking onsite and the building is fully accessible and child-friendly.

The building has a focus on sustainable design and energy efficiency, with a proposed 5 Star Green Star accreditation from the Green Building Council of Australia, one of the first public buildings in Victoria to do so. This includes extensive use of sustainable building material as well as energy efficient design to minimise heating and cooling costs. Melton City Council is setting the standard for future buildings and the building industry in our City.

LOCATION: MC KENZIE STREET, MELTON

FURTHER INFORMATION:

- www.melton.vic.gov.au/library or 9747 5300
- virtual overview: http://player.vimeo.com/video/37220336

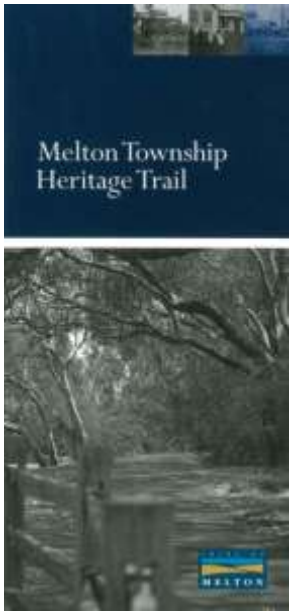
MELTON TOWNSHIP HERITAGE TRAIL

The self-guided walking trail takes you on a journey through more than 150 years of history. You'll explore Melton's heritage streetscapes and learn about the pioneers who shaped the town from its early days.

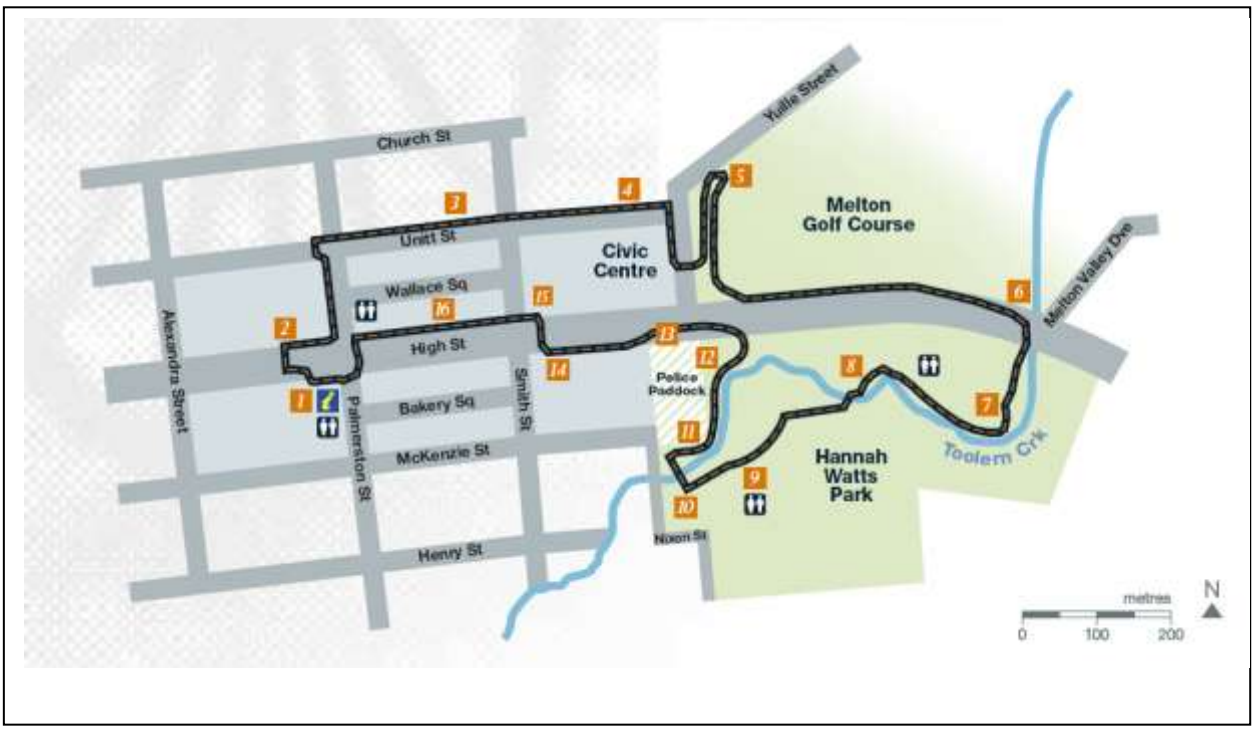
The Melton Township Heritage Trail begins and ends at the Melton Visitor Information Centre and takes approximately 45min to complete.

Some of the stops include:

- Melton Courthouse
- Mac's Hotel
- St Dominic's Church
- Melton Primary School
- Toolern Creek
- Hannah Watts Park
- Police Paddock
- Raglan Cottage
- Mechanics Institute and War Memorial



Groups can make a booking for a guided Heritage Trail tour by contacting the Visitor Information Centre on 9747 7300.



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LOCAL ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN ASSIST WITH RESEARCH

Living Museum of the West - www.livingmuseum.org.au; Ph: 0419 154 265

Melton City Council Library - www.melton.vic.gov.au/library; Ph: 9747 5300

Melton and District Historical Society - Ph: 0402 730 675 or 9747 9207

Family History Group **-** www.meltonfhg.homestead.com/mfhg.html**;** Ph: 9747 3478

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Updated 11/1/14