

# Maribyrnong River walking trail

Distance 5kms Melway reference 28 B5



## Walking for pleasure

Walking is a cheap, safe and enjoyable way of staying healthy that can be done at almost any time. To make your walks even more enjoyable you can:

- Walk with a friend or in a group
- Vary your walking routes

## Some more tips for your wellbeing

- Wear light, loose, comfortable clothing and comfortable well-cushioned flat sole shoes
- Avoid the hottest times of the day
- Don't walk when you are feeling ill
- Try to make time for gentle stretching exercises before and after you walk
- Always wear a hat and apply sunscreen
- Be visible by wearing light coloured clothing when walking in the dark
- Drink liquids before, during and after walking

## Walking in your municipality

The City of Moonee Valley has produced a series of do-it-yourself walks, designed to encourage people of all ages to discover the history and beauty of our municipality.

## Getting involved

There are a number of walking groups, bicycle groups, and other recreation groups in the City of Moonee Valley. For further information and contact details, call Council on 9243 8888.

## Other walks

Woodlands Park Walking Trail, AJ Davis Walking Trail, Moonee Ponds Creek Walking Trail, Moonee Ponds Heritage Trail and Queens Park Heritage Trail.

Moonee Valley Language Line			TTY 9243 9170		
عربي	Arabic	9280 0738	Somali	Somali	9280 0743
中文	Cantonese	9280 0739	Español	Spanish	9280 0744
Hrvatski	Croatian	9280 0740	Türkçe	Turkish	9280 0745
Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 0741	Việt-ngữ	Vietnamese	9280 0746
Italiano	Italian	9280 0742	All other languages		9280 0747





## Maribyrnong River walking trail



Enjoy the sights of this beautiful section of the Maribyrnong River during this 5km walk. Once known as the 'Saltwater', the Maribyrnong River has played an important part in the history of the area.

This walk begins at Thompson St Reserve and ends at the historic Riverview Tea Gardens, incorporating many sights of interest along this magnificent waterway.

**Difficulty** Moderate  
**Surface** Gravel

**Limited wheelchair access** Access to the trail can be gained at Canning Reserve. The track is gravel and may prove difficult for people in wheelchairs.

**Bus information** For bus information on the return journey see map or 'getting home again' section.

References (Melbourne. Living Museum of the West Inc.)  
1990 Ecomuseum Broadseets 4 Maribyrnong River.  
A River of History (Friends of Maribyrnong Valley Inc.) 1993.  
Maribyrnong River Trail. Discover the Maribyrnong.  
Acknowledgments Living Museum of the West Inc.  
Essendon Historical Society Inc.

### 1 Thompson Street Reserve

Accessed via North Road, this reserve provides exciting views of the Maribyrnong Valley. Walk down the hill to the river path. 1.5 Kilometres to River Ford.

### 2 River Ford

In the years before the construction of bridges and the establishment of punts, the river had to be crossed via fords. The fords gave settlers their first access to the areas west of Melbourne. This reconstructed ford can still be crossed safely by careful pedestrians, except when affected by flooding or heavy rainfall. Try a river crossing if you are feeling brave. Just tread carefully! One Kilometre to Grimes Flat.

### 3 Grimes Flat

'Grimes Flat' was named after Charles Grimes, the surveyor to the Cumberland expedition. The first white man to see this section of the Maribyrnong, Grimes described it as 'beautiful beyond description'. This part of the walk incorporates native flora, mainly River Red Gums and Silver Wattles. Cormorants, ducks and other water birds are frequent visitors to this section of the river. One Kilometre to Pipe Bridge.

### 4 Pipe Bridge

This bridge holds a water main that supplies water to Melbourne's western suburbs. If you wish, you can cross the bridge via the walkway.

It provides a wonderful view of the river. One Kilometre to Canning Street Reserve.

### 5 Canning Street Bridge

The current bridge was built to replace a narrow military bridge built in 1921. Walkers should be able to see the abutment of the original bridge on the far riverbank.

### 6 Canning Reserve

Canning Reserve was purchased from the Crown by John Aitken in 1846. The northern edge of Canning Reserve was part of the Riverview Tea Gardens. The reserve has BBQ facilities, fishing platforms, a playground and is a lovely place for a picnic. Watch the river closely for bird life as you walk along. 0.5 Kilometre to the Tea Gardens.

### 7 The Riverview Tea Gardens

The Riverview Tea Gardens were established in 1909 by the Hicks family to take advantage of the then popular river excursions from the Maribyrnong Road Bridge. Facilities included tennis courts, pavilions and a dance hall. As such, the Hicks family soon had a monopoly on the Maribyrnong pleasure cruises. During World War II, a boom was placed across the river as a security measure. As a result, the cruises declined in popularity, and the Tea Gardens ceased operation in 1947.

Today, little remains of this historic site apart from the rockwork near the bank of the river, however the reserve still provides a great area for picnics. The white lady statue was part of the original garden layout. It went missing in the 1980s, and this replacement was erected in the 2000s.

#### Getting home again

Of course, the most picturesque way to return to the starting point is to walk back up the river. However, should you be a little leg weary, an easy way to return to Thompson Street Reserve is to walk back to Canning Reserve and up to Canning Street. From there, you can catch the Number 407 bus to North Road to your point of origin.

#### Other points of interest

**Fishing** – Fishing Platforms are located in Cranwell Street Reserve and Canning Reserve, on Afton Street Footbridge, in Newsom Street and Fisher Parade. The main types of fish to be caught are Bream and Mullet.

**Aboriginal Archaeology** – The Maribyrnong River was home to aboriginal tribes for at least 40,000 years. Some of Australia's most important archaeological sites are located along the Maribyrnong River. In 1940 an Aboriginal skull was found during the excavation of a sand pit on Dry Creek neat the Maribyrnong in Keilor. It has been dated back 15,000 years. The Aboriginal people of this area were known as the Wurundjeri.

