



Wheelchair Access
We have developed three walks specifically for wheelchairs. Look for **A Wheel Pleasure** pamphlet.

Images

Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society Inc.
Mr Garth Kendall Collection
Council Database



Additional Walks

There are 20 walks in the series to choose from. If you liked this walk, you might like the ones listed below:
Fitness at Finns and Walking Westerfolds
Finns Reserve to Westerfolds Park Walk
Petty's Fruits and You Beaut Eucs
Petty's Orchard and Riverside Walk.



Be Prepared

Sun protection recommended
Carry water.
Days of total fire ban
Check the fire risk warning before embarking on this walk:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au



Facilities

Drinking fountain, playground, toilets, cafes, retail therapy.
Hazards
Take care at road crossings
There are no footpaths, take care on the roads.

The trail crosses the Yarra River while traversing riverine eucalypt forests and open grasslands. Kangaroos, wombats and echidnas are often seen along these tracks. Kookaburras can be heard from the treetops. After exiting Westerfolds Park you head straight up a steep climb along Milne Street. Don't complain, the locals do it all the time! It is worth it as it brings you into the ambient Templestowe Village. Cake, coffee, and plenty more await you before embracing several historical points of interest. The walk then heads downhill to Ruffey Creek and back to your starting point.



Location
Start and finish at Finns Reserve, Templestowe.

Melway Reference
33 C4

Public Transport
Metlink: t 131 638
www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au
Ventura Buses: t 9488 2100
www.venturabus.com.au

Parking
Wood Street carpark, Finns Reserve, Templestowe.



Walk Overview
This is an excellent stretch for your legs with a riverside walk through bushy parkland, often accompanied by kangaroos, leading to a steep climb to Templestowe Village. This is a good walk for friends, couples and active families.

Time
2 hrs
Distance
5 kms
Difficulty
Moderate
Accessibility
Unsuitable

Suitable for




Active Families	✓
Prams	
Pleasure Walkers	✓
Super Striders	✓
Circuit	✓
Seating	✓(Limited)
Dogs Welcome	✓ (Included off-lead area)
Trail Type	Natural Heritage with Historic Places and Points of Interest

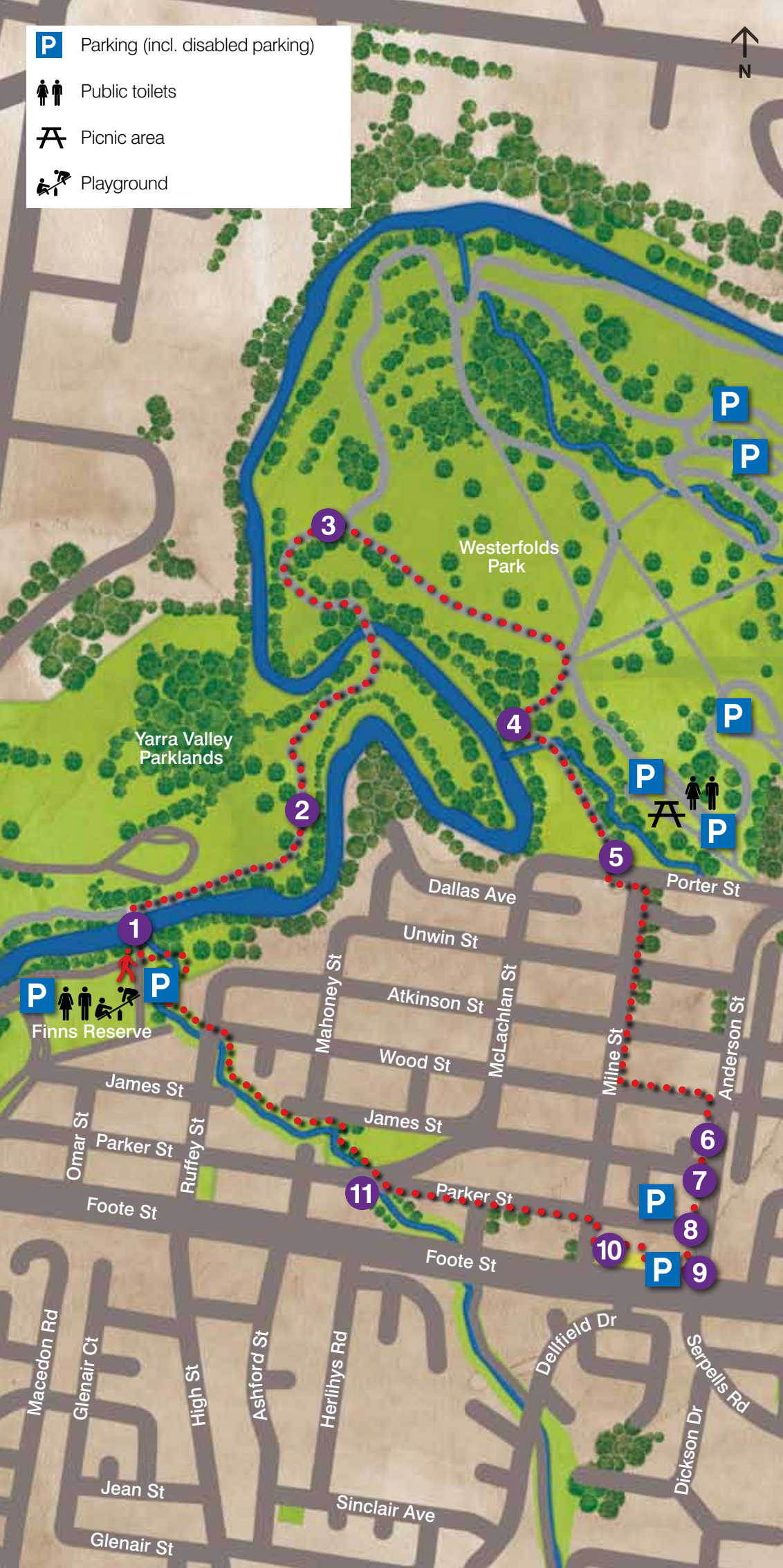
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Walk, Talk and Coffee
Westerfolds Park to Templestowe Village Walk

- P** Parking (incl. disabled parking)
-  Public toilets
-  Picnic area
-  Playground



Your walk begins at the Yarra River suspension bridge.

Wombat Bend Playspace is to your left, but it might be a good idea to do the walk first. Children don't usually like to leave Wombat Bend.

1 The Suspension Bridge

The suspension bridge is a marvel in itself. It is worth stopping briefly just to enjoy the serenity that exists whenever you are near flowing water. Water releases negative ions that have a positive effect on mood and health. Breathe them in—you have a few kilometres to go before you can rest with a coffee.

2 River Banks

There is a revegetation area along the banks of the river. You will see the native Kangaroo Apple growing here easily distinguished by long dark green foliage that actually look like the feet of a kangaroo! The plant produces a small fig shaped fruit that turns bright orange. The colour is a warning—stay away I am poisonous!

3 Native Fauna

Time for kangaroo spotting. Look for Eastern Grey Kangaroos who favour open grasslands near protective woodland. These gregarious animals move in large mobs. You will see them at dawn and dusk or by day in the cooler months. If you can't see them look for their ears poking up from the tussock grasses.

Up ahead a dirt track will cross your sealed path. Turn right.

4 Billabongs

The little tributary here runs into the nearby Yarra River. Small inlets like this are vital to nourish the surrounding landscape. They flood and create marshes and swampland, or change course and create billabongs. These places were also vital to the survival of a local Indigenous group, the Wurundjeri. *Murnong* (native yam daisy) was a tasty tuber that grew in riverine habitats like this, but was largely destroyed by the heavy hoofs of wandering cattle.

5 This completes your bushland experience, for now. We hope you still have those negative ions flowing through your body. It is time to tackle the hill.

There are few footpaths on Milne Street so be aware of traffic. At the top you can turn left onto Wood Street or continue onto James Street. Either way you end up in Templestowe Village.



6 Motor Works, corner James and Anderson streets

William Hunter built the blacksmith shop here in 1878. He repaired carriages and shod horses.

Sylvester Mullens took over the business in 1900 and taught his son, Jack to be an expert farrier. In 1927, they built the Motor Works you see today. It catered to the popular motorcar trade as well as blacksmithing. Jack Mullens shod horses here for 63 years before his retirement in 1970. The original roof trusses are displayed inside.

7 Former General Store

Keeps Corner; this corner is much changed, but is special to the locals. The site was formally a General Store built around 1914. The store served the district for 50 years. The last owners were Jack and Ethel Keep—thus the area became known as Keeps Corner.

Look for the Heidelberg School Artists Trail sign. David Davies lived and painted in Templestowe between 1894 and 1897. He created *Moonrise* here, a romantic impression of evening twilight.

This is the time to find that coffee. There are plenty of options.

8 Mechanics' Institute

The Mechanics' Institute was founded here in 1882, in the wooden building to the rear of this one. The brick building was constructed 40 years later. Mechanics' institutes were once the backbone of learning for working men and artisans offering a library, lectures and demonstrations. They began in 1823. Of the 4,000 remaining institutes in the Commonwealth and United States 1,000 are found here in Victoria. They remain 'for the community, by the community'.

Take any of the pathways into the Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre.

9 Sculpture

The Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre, previously Templestowe Primary School, incorporates a highball stadium, outdoor netball courts and woodwork studio. On the corner of Foote and Anderson streets you will find *Triptych*, a playful sculpture about childhood games by artist Nick Papas. It reminds us all to remember the child within.

Walk behind the Leisure Centre towards the former Templestowe Primary School in the centre of the grounds.



10 Templestowe Primary School

Templestowe Primary School No. 1395 was opened in 1874, two years after the State Government declared education free and compulsory. Templestowe was built to a template designed for a single 120 pupil classroom. The room was cavernous with windows placed high to cater for tiered seating. Multiple classes were taught in the one space with few resources offered to teachers, and students squashed onto long backless benches.

Head down Parker Street.

11 Ruffey Lake Park

Your walk now joins the Ruffey Creek path. You could walk all the way to Ruffey Lake Park from here by following the little creek.

Turn to your right, carefully cross the road and pick up the path next to the bowls lawn. The track winds behind Melissa's Cakes Café Bar and finishes at your starting point.

This finishes your walk. Time to relax and plan your next adventure.