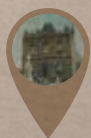


HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

ON SYDNEY ROAD BRUNSWICK

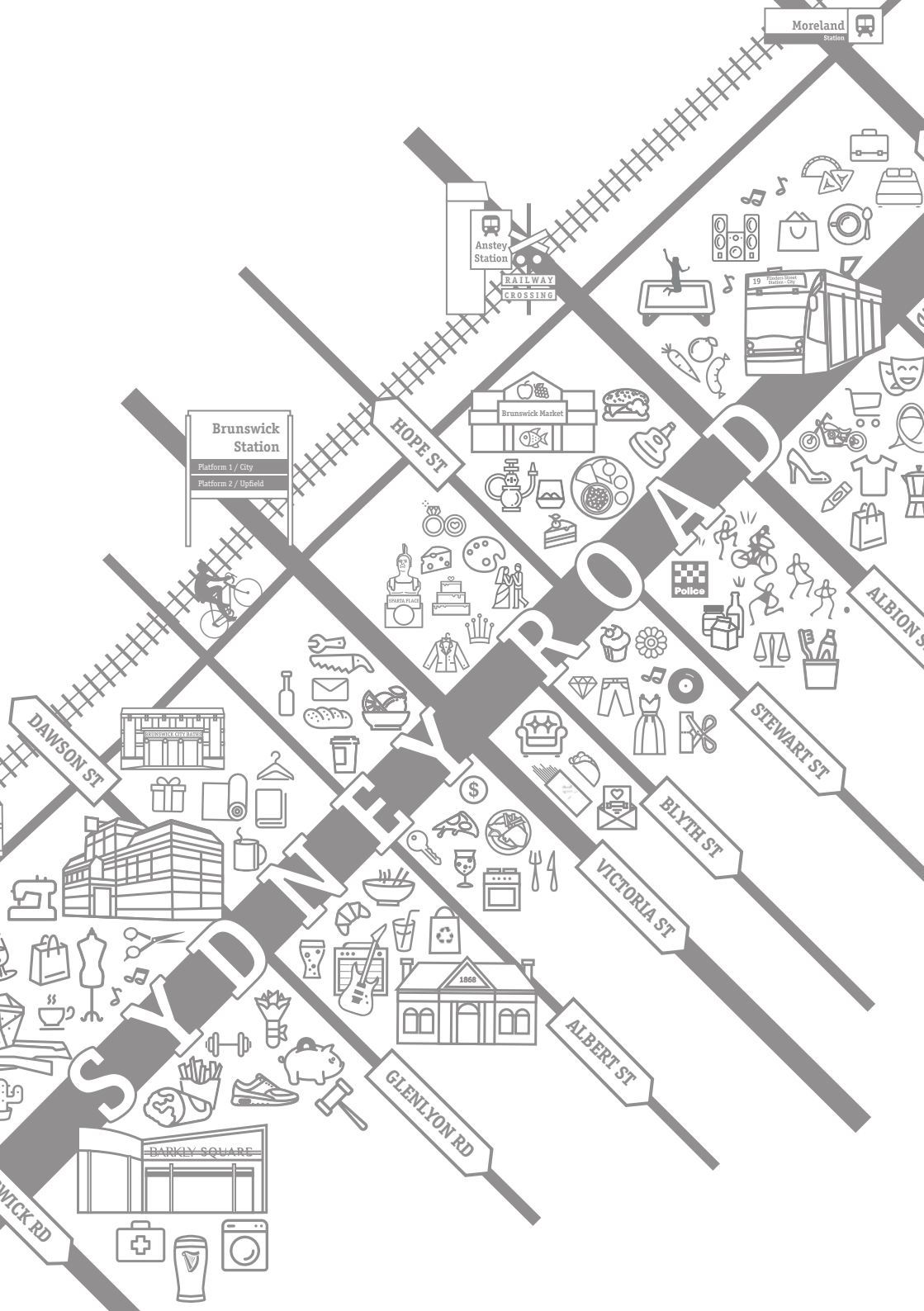


25 March, 2 & 15 April 2023

Brunswick Road to Glenlyon Road,
along Sydney Road Brunswick



SYDNEY EST. 1992
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ASSOCIATION



In partnership with the Brunswick Community History Group, the Sydney Road Brunswick Association (SRBA) welcomes you to another Sydney Road Brunswick Historical Walking Tour.

Led by local experts from the Brunswick Community History Group, tours will take a leisurely walk along Sydney Road Brunswick, exploring the below locations of interest for a deep dive into the history between Brunswick Road and Glenlyon Road.

Stops on the walking tour include:

- Sarah Sands Hotel
- Cable Tram Engine House
- Barkly Square Shopping Centre
- Brunswick Hotel
- McDougall's Grocery Store (now Second Hand Phones)
- Phoenix Hotel (now Ollie's Pizza Parlour & Stay Gold)
- Miss R.E. Yon
- The Cornish Arms Hotel
- Uniting Church (formerly Presbyterian)
- Lyric Theatre (now The Brunswick Club)
- Brunswick Town Hall

All uncredited photos in this booklet are thanks to, and sourced from, the Brunswick Library, at the corner of Sydney Road Brunswick and Dawson Street.

Find previous tour booklets at sydneyroad.com.au

STOP 1 Sarah Sands Hotel

29 Sydney Road, Brunswick



Sarah Sands is the fourth oldest hotel in Brunswick and dates from the Gold Rush period of 1854. The name relates to the ship which brought the hotel's first owner, Robert Barry, to Victoria in 1852. The 1846 date on the hotel is the year the ship was launched.

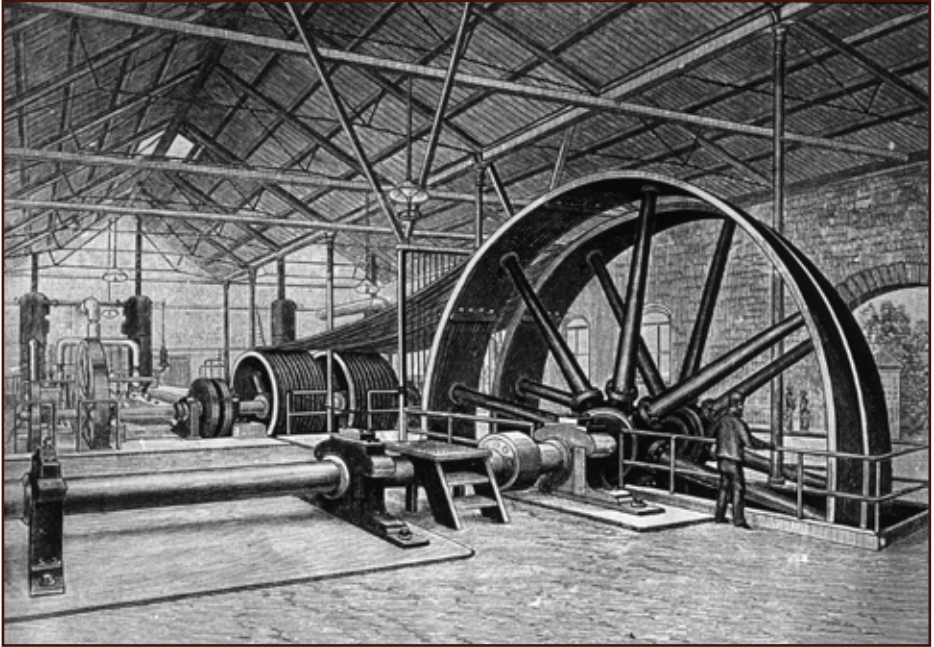
The hotel was rebuilt in 1872 and from 1906-1966, had a veranda around both levels.

For about 20 years it was the Bridie O'Reilly Irish Pub – the scene of many noisy St Patrick's Day parties.

It was closed for several years while new owners restored the façade, refurbished the interior, and built apartments at the rear. After delays due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the hotel re-opened in late 2021 as Sarah Sands Hotel.

STOP 2 Cable Tram Engine House

255 Brunswick Road, Brunswick



To the rear of the Sarah Sands Hotel is the former cable tram engine house, now Sam's Tyres. Cable trams operated on the Brunswick line from 1887-1936.

They were pulled along by a giant cable stretching all the way to Flinders Street and powered by a steam engine in this shed.

The chimney from the engine can be seen in the photo of Sarah Sands Hotel on the previous page.

STOP 3 Barkly Square Shopping Centre

90-106 Sydney Road, Brunswick



The area now occupied by the shopping centre carpark was once a giant clay quarry and was surrounded by brickworks. John Glew established the brickworks in 1857 after he had exhausted his claypits in the Phillipstown area, west of Sydney Road. Barkly Bricks and the Brunswick Brick and Tile Company were also located here at different times.

By the late 1970's the pit had been filled and the site was purchased by a consortium, which included Coles; and, the shopping centre was planned.

The filled area (which was the pit) could not be built on, so this area was transformed into the carpark behind Barkly Square Shopping Centre itself.

Some members of the community objected to the shopping centre while others welcomed the construction of a large supermarket – which Brunswick lacked at that time.

The centre opened in 1983 and has become a community focus.

STOP 4 Brunswick Hotel

140 Sydney Road, Brunswick

The Brunswick Hotel was built in around 1852 by Mrs Catherine Stanway for her husband William who was granted the hotel's first license on 19 April 1854. There is some suggestion that there may have been a hotel on the site as early as 1850 but this has not been confirmed.



The hotel was ideally placed to catch the goldfield traffic, on the route from Collingwood to Mount Alexander Road, and also served the Sydney Road traffic. Mr O'Loughlin completely rebuilt the hotel in 1907, and it is this building which remains today.

According to the late Les Barnes, in the days when many brickyards operated just east of the hotel and the population was concentrated nearby, it was a boom pub. Only after the end of the second world war when the brickyards closed and the population declined did the pub similarly decline. Old timers can still recall the great days of the 1940s and 1950s when large crowds gathered in the pub to listen to the race broadcasts and go out in between races to place bets in the lane at the rear. They remember how the gangster Jack Twist came along one Saturday and demanded 50 quid. Not getting it, he scattered the punters with the blast of a pistol shot.

The hotel closed in 1986. There were plans afoot to redevelop it as a brothel, but, after renovations, it instead continued on as a pub, changing its name to Wicks Tavern. It reverted back to its original name of the Brunswick Hotel in 1997.

The hotel closed in 2018 following a flood and is still currently closed.

STOP 5 McDougall's Grocery Store

123 Sydney Road, Brunswick



This building was the site of McDougall's Grocery Store.

In the early period of white settlement, Brunswick was a close-knit community with strong Methodist and Presbyterian influences.

Charles McDougall and the Tough family migrated from the same part of Scotland in 1853. Daniel Tough and his wife established an ironmongery in Sydney Road at the corner of Phoenix Street.

McDougall married Tough's daughter, Helen, in 1857, and in the same year the couple opened the grocery shop at 123 Sydney Road Brunswick. Later establishing a second shop on the north west corner of Victoria Street and Sydney Road.

The family operated the shops for over 80 years and are commemorated by the name of the street running through Barkly Square.

This site is now occupied by Second Hand Phones.

STOP 6 Phoenix Hotel

133 Sydney Road, Brunswick



This hotel was built in 1866 by Thomas Austin; a well known pastoralist and land owner. He is reputed to have been the person who introduced rabbits to Australia. The pub was known as Austin's Hotel, renamed the Phoenix Hotel in 1871 because of its location in Michael Dawson's Phoenix Park estate. There was also a stained glass window in the hotel of a phoenix rising out of the ashes.

In the 1880s David Hennessy, owner of a local bakery business, took over the pub and built it up.

In 1972 the Storemen and Packers Union bought the hotel and renamed it the R.J. Hawke Hotel, after the prominent trade union leader who was to become the prime minister of Australia. Gough Whitlam named the pub the R.J. Hawke in an official ceremony in 1973.

In 1986 the hotel was sold and renamed the Candy Tavern. Rick Watt, former Collingwood footballer, was the licensee.

In 1992 it was sold again and renamed the Paris Tavern. The building was restored and the veranda added in 1994.

After further changes in ownership the pub reverted to its original name. This site is now occupied by Ollie's Pizza Parlour and Stay Gold.

STOP 7 Miss R.E. Yon

159 Sydney Road, Brunswick



Miss Ruby Ethel Ah Yon (1885-1937) was a dressmaker of Chinese heritage who conducted her business from this shop from about 1917 – 1937. She previously had a shop in High Street Northcote. She married Alexander Hoy Ling and was sometimes known by this name.

Her story is interesting in terms of Chinese migration to Australia. Her grandfather Ah Ket migrated from southern China in the 1850s during the Gold Rush. After some time at the diggings he became a tobacco farmer near Wangaratta.

He married Hing Ung in 1864 and they had 8 children. One of these, Margaret Yon, became the mother of Ruby Ethel and the only son was William Ah Ket (1876-1936) – reputed to be the first Chinese-Australian barrister. In this capacity he advocated for the rights of Chinese migrants and against the White Australia Policy.

For many years this shop was Olive Grove – a workshop and retail outlet for local craftspeople.

Picture credit: Peter Holmes

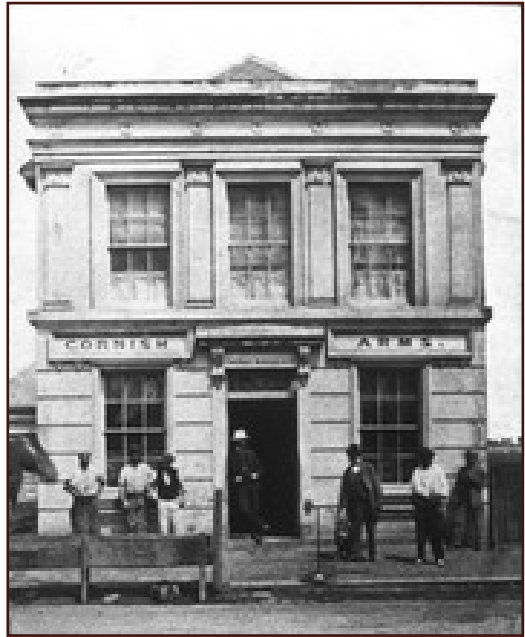
STOP 8 The Cornish Arms Hotel

163 Sydney Road, Brunswick

The Cornish Arms, in its original form, is one of Brunswick's earliest hotels. It was opened in 1854 as the Cornish Arms Hotel, by Thomas Manallack.

Manallack was one of Brunswick's earliest brickmakers. He was a blacksmith who migrated from Cornwall in 1849. After doing well at the gold diggings, he established his brickworks in Albert Street.

Thomas Manallack married three times and it has been suggested that Trinity Street was named to commemorate this. Several other streets were also named for Manallack, his wives and his many children.



Like many of the early white settlers, Manallack was a Methodist and his brickworks supplied the bricks for the 1853 Wesleyan Chapel (demolished 1888).

The hotel was the meeting place of the first Brunswick Council on 23 October 1857. The first Chairman of the municipality was Thomas Wilkinson; also a prominent Methodist who donated the land for the Wesleyan Chapel.

During the 1930's the pub was rebuilt in its current form.

In the 1990s the licensees, the Rattens, changed the hotel's name to the Rainbow, and changed its character, from a rowdy, bloke-dominated stronghold, to a music venue, with a consequent change in clientele. The name subsequently reverted to Cornish Arms and it remains as a well-known music venue. For many years it has been one of the venues for the Brunswick Music Festival.

STOP 9 Uniting Church (formerly Presbyterian)

212 Sydney Road, Brunswick

Presbyterians, like Methodists, were prominent in the early days of white settlement in Brunswick.

The first Presbyterian Church in Brunswick was built in 1855 and was situated at what is now 276 Brunswick Road. It was a bluestone building which was later converted into a house. The house now on this site may have been built on the foundations of the original church.

In 1865 the church was donated some land by William Dods in the more central location of Sydney Road, and the bluestone church was built. It was designed by Charles Webb and is particularly notable for the cream brick spires. The bricks were manufactured in Brunswick by John Glew.

By 1885 the church became too small, so a larger church was built. It was designed by Evander McIver; a local resident and member of the church. He designed 22 Presbyterian churches in Victoria, as well as having a successful career as a municipal engineer and surveyor. The new church was designed to complement the older church. One curious feature was the cedar communion table which was a work bench from a Brunswick boot maker which; moved to the church in 1946. It seems to have disappeared during renovations unfortunately.

The first Presbyterian minister in Brunswick was Rev. Allan MacVean, who served the area from 1854-1896. A memorial tablet to him is in the church with the epitaph "He ever did what he could".

With the merging of three Protestant denominations in 1977, this church became a Uniting Church. In 2005 it merged with the South West Brunswick Uniting Church in Union Street. Extensive renovations were carried out in 2010.

The Brunswick Uniting Church has an active presence in the community. It is particularly notable for its refugee welcome program. The church building has excellent acoustics and is a venue for the annual Beethoven Festival.



STOP 10 Lyric Theatre

203 Sydney Road, Brunswick



The Lyric Theatre was Brunswick's first purpose-built cinema and as such, was opened to great acclaim in September 1911.

It operated as a cinema until 1931, when at this point the then lease holders, Hoyts, decided they could not afford to wire both this and their other picture theatre, the Empire (where Aldi is now), for sound required for the "talkies".

Later the building was used as a boxing stadium and also the Casino Dance Hall.

For many years since then it has been the proud home of The Brunswick Club, and achieved a measure of notoriety when it was the site of the gangland shooting of Lewis Moran in 2004.

STOP 11 Brunswick Town Hall

233 Sydney Road, Brunswick

The central section of the Town Hall was built in 1876/77. Previously the Council had their meeting rooms and offices further to the north.

In 1926 a further wing of offices was built on the south side. In 1926 the large hall in Dawson Street was constructed in the Moderne style.

It was designed by Wilson and Charles R. Heath (1926) and remodelled (1937), by Peck and Kemter.

Also in 1937 renovations were carried out to the building fronting Sydney Road. The central section was enlarged towards the street and the portico added.

In 1992 the large hall was converted into a library and the smaller hall, which had housed the library since 1976, was converted back into a hall.



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