

# Community Engagement

## North Melbourne Heritage Review

March 2020



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# Executive Summary

The North Melbourne Heritage Review aims to understand the area's cultural heritage, and find out what makes North Melbourne distinctive. It focuses on a defined area of North Melbourne not captured in recent heritage studies.

The first stage was to seek views and feedback from members of the North Melbourne community to inform early research. This document is a summary of engagement between September and November 2019.

Input from the community is recorded in Appendix 1. It is being used by the review's heritage consultants to inform research, identify places for potential heritage protection, improve documentation for places already protected by the Heritage Overlay and increase understanding of what the community values and what makes North Melbourne distinctive.

We are also engaging with Traditional Owners to seek their knowledge of the study area and document stories, histories and relationships to places. Engagement with Traditional Owners is also being conducted.

## How we engaged

People in North Melbourne were asked to share their knowledge through a range of online and face to face engagement. Activities involved a pop up at North Melbourne's annual Spring Fling Festival, two open workshops, a meeting with the Hotham Historical Society and a workshop with students at the North Melbourne Language Centre. Website 'Participate Melbourne' hosted an online interactive map and a linked iPad was accessible at the North Melbourne library.

The engagement activities reached more than 56,000 people contributing 173 individual items of feedback and ideas to the review.

- 115 people participated in workshops and the Spring Fling Festival pop up.
- 1,505 people viewed the Participate Melbourne site with 21 making contributions.
- 55,000 people viewed social media posts.

## What we heard

North Melbourne is different to the rest of Melbourne with an identity forged over the period of its development, a strong sense of community and with many families living there for generations.

The area does not feel like suburbia with its wide tree-lined streets, open space and parks, all of which are important to local people and make the area distinctive. North Melbourne is close to the city yet quiet, and pedestrian connectivity is a key feature.

Individual heritage places are important but so too is the wider environment in which they are located; specifically the streetscapes. Streetscape features include buildings, materials, trees and the form and scale of the built environment. Examples of what people say they value include Victorian façades and streetscapes, verandahs, iron lacework, bluestone laneways and cobbled pathways, tree lined streets, industrial streetscapes and wide roads with central medians.

There is a strong desire to recognise invisible and intangible heritage with people identifying potential for heritage interpretation such as trails to mark stock routes and the start of the gold rush journey

from North Melbourne; the underground levers Creek; archaeology beneath the public housing and tram tracks buried beneath Abbotsford Street where it meets Queensberry and Victoria Streets.

# 1. Introduction

The City of Melbourne is committed to identifying and protecting the city's heritage as part of its Heritage Strategy 2013.

The aim of the North Melbourne Heritage Review, started in September 2019, is to better understand the area's physical and cultural heritage, and find out what makes North Melbourne distinctive. The review is focused on a defined area in North Melbourne, which has not been captured in recent heritage studies.

The first stage was to seek views and feedback from members of the North Melbourne community to inform the review and direct research. Community members were asked to share their knowledge through a range of online and face to face engagement. This document is a summary of the community engagement undertaken between September and November 2019.

## 2. How we engaged

Community engagement included both face to face and online activities. The purpose of the engagement was to access knowledge about heritage in the review area specifically to:

- identify potential new heritage places
- share information about existing heritage places
- talk about the heritage places that make North Melbourne different to other suburbs.

Engagement opportunities were:

- face to face meeting with key members of the Hotham History Group followed by a workshop for the wider membership including a presentation by the review's heritage consultants
- a pop up stand at the annual North Melbourne Spring Fling Festival on 19 October
- a drop in mapping workshop in North Melbourne on 31 October including two short presentations by the heritage consultants
- a workshop with North Melbourne Language students on 27 November
- Participate Melbourne online interactive mapping web page
- an iPad station in North Melbourne Library (linked to Participate Melbourne).

Methods used to promote the engagement opportunities included social media posts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, posters in libraries, a targeted email to community and stakeholders including historical and resident groups, traders and business owners.

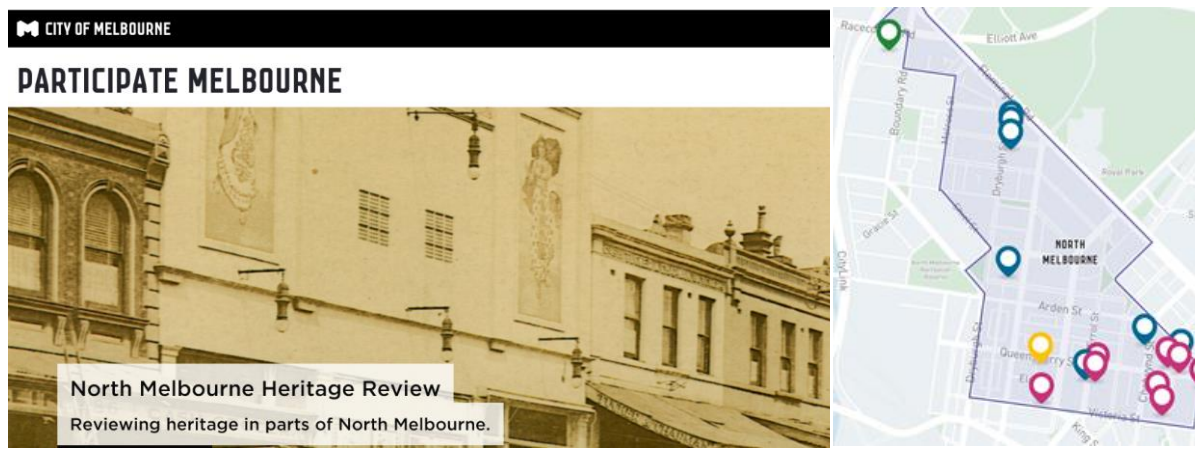
### 2.1 Spring Fling and Workshops

The number of people who participated in the face to face engagement activities is 115 and they contributed 152 pieces of information, ideas and feedback.



## 2.2 Participate Melbourne

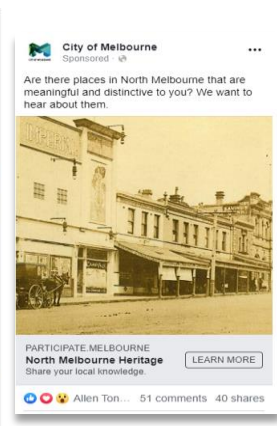
1,505 people viewed the Participate Melbourne site on the City of Melbourne website with 21 making contributions. 752 visited the information pages (79.2%) and 215 visited the 'share your knowledge' page where the interactive map was located.



Participate Melbourne (PM) website front page, interactive map and an iPad for the community to access PM at North Melbourne Library

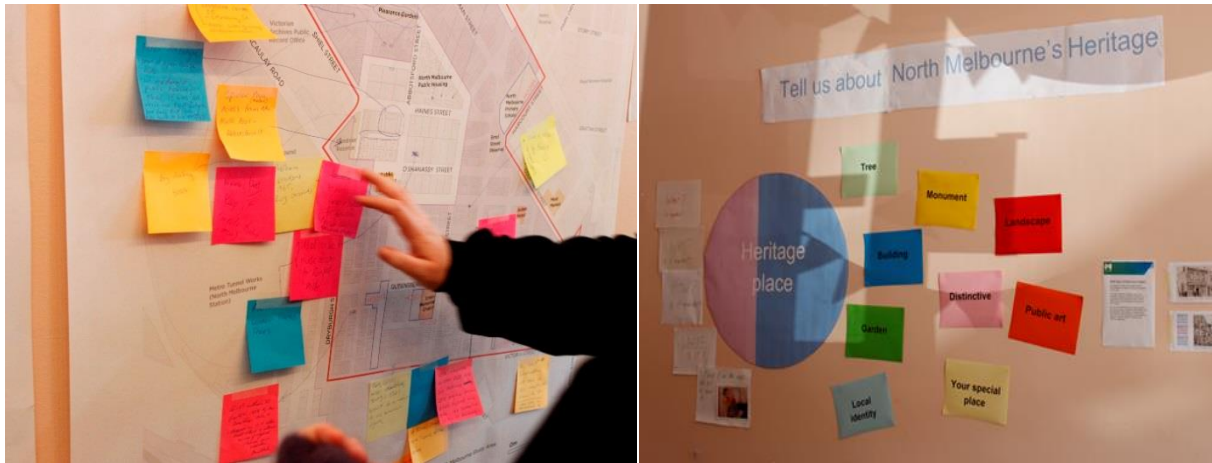
## 2.3 Social Media

55,000 viewed social media posts.



### 3. What you said

Participants at meetings and workshops were asked to mark heritage places onto a map of the study area.



Every response on the map was recorded and is in Appendix 1. The following are a selection of places and comments made relating to the main themes emerging from the consultation.

Examples of the types of places given:

- Gardens and parks – Pleasance Gardens, Gardiner Reserve.
- Buildings – public housing in Haines Street and Hotham Gardens in O'Shanassy Street, art deco flats on Manningham Street, North Melbourne Town Hall, North Melbourne Library, last remaining 1850s weatherboard house on Chetwynd Street, Imperial Theatre, Errol Street, original worker cottage row in Harker Street, Errol Street buildings.
- Trees - Plane tree avenue, big climbing trees in Pleasance gardens and Gardiner reserve, trees in the O'Shanassy Street public housing: liquid ambers, peppercorns, Eucalyptus Maculata, trees in Arden Street.
- Monuments – the fountain outside North Melbourne Town Hall
- Special places – Ukrainian Church in Dryburgh Street, Childcare Centre in Canning Street, Spider Park (with metal spider sculpture), big trees for climbing in Pleasance Gardens and Gardiner Reserve, North Melbourne Library, St Michael's Primary School. Pleasance Gardens
- Local identity – public housing, buildings, streetscapes, the impact of the North Melbourne Football Club, pavements and laneways, wide tree-lined avenues, parks and gardens, a feeling of history, different communities and tolerance, close to the city but quiet, a place that is pedestrian friendly.



...public and social housing in the area should be protected. Good examples of public architecture of the period, plus lots of social history.

PM 9 October

The intact rows of shops on Errol St make this a distinctive element of the local neighbourhood. They should be protected.

PM 9 October

...the laneways tell the stories...

workshop 31 October

There are a lot of surprising heritage buildings on the laneways inside this block [7-11 Gardiner Street]

PM 10 November

It is not like suburbia [with its] trees and open spaces

workshop 31 October

...beautiful trees...

workshop 31 October

'Gardiner Reserve [is] a safe family place for walks'

workshop 31 October

I like the big trees ...eucalyptus...because they have a good smell and its good for lungs...

workshop 27 November

'...fresh air and beautiful trees, the houses around the park are pretty.'  
[Pleasance gardens]

Workshop 27 November

### 3.1 What we heard

A number of themes emerged from the consultation and these are summarised in the following text and diagram in Figure 1.

**North Melbourne is different to the rest of Melbourne** with an identity forged over the period of its development and with many people living there for generations, having a **strong sense of community**. Key factors include the area having its own identity as the town of Hotham until 1887 and the influence of the North Melbourne Football Club on the local community' sense of itself with its aspirational values of '...audacity and feistiness...' alongside 'hardship and mateship'. (Lorna Hannan, Chair Hotham History Project, email 29 October).

**North Melbourne does not feel like suburbia** with its wide **tree-lined streets and open space** and its parks, all of which are important to local people and make the area distinctive. North Melbourne is close to the city yet quiet and **pedestrian connectivity** of the area is a feature.

Individual heritage places are important but so too is the **wider environment** in which they are located; specifically the **streetscapes**. Streetscape features include buildings, **materials**, trees and the form and scale of the built environment. Examples of what people say they value include Victorian façades and streetscapes, verandahs, iron lacework, **bluestone laneways and cobbled pathways**, tree lined streets, industrial streetscapes and wide roads with central medians.

There is a strong desire to **recognise invisible and intangible heritage** with people identifying potential for heritage interpretation such as trails to mark stock routes and gold rush travel/travellers; the underground levers Creek; archaeology beneath the public housing and tram tracks buried beneath Abbotsford Street where it meets Queensberry and Victoria Streets.

The key themes emerging from the consultation are summarised in the diagram below, Figure 1. All information recorded is in Appendix 1.



Figure 1 Key themes emerging from consultation

## 4. How your input will be used

The input from community engagement is being used by the heritage consultants to inform research at the beginning of the study and to:

- bring to our attention any places that need to be investigated for heritage protection in the Melbourne Planning Scheme
- add to our knowledge and understanding of existing heritage places, and potentially add information to written documentation on them
- build our understanding of the places the community values and why
- increase our understanding of what makes North Melbourne distinctive.

## 5. Appendix 1 record of inputs

The following is a record of community input. It is a combination of direct transcription of the notes and comments recorded by participants on maps at the workshops and of notes taken by the heritage consultants and council officers in conversation with participants. For privacy reasons we have removed the names and contact details of individuals where they were provided.

### 5.1 19 October, 54 Errol Street, part of Spring Fling Festival

11am – 4pm

Spoke with 56 people

The following information was transcribed from the post-it notes and written comments on the map.

At the Spring Fling on 19 October we colour coded the post-its but dropped this approach for subsequent consultation because it was over complex. The colour coding has been documented for 19 October.

Blue (new places)

- Bluestone lanes throughout the study area (blue)
- The pedestrian life of the whole study area – connectivity (blue)
- 46 Manningham Street – Art Deco block of flats; could have previously been a dairy or stables (blue)
- Beautiful trees – throughout North Melbourne public housing Abbotsford and Haines Streets, 13-23 Wood Street, 18, 20 Wood Street [may be others] (blue)
- [City Gardens], Haines Street, designed by Peter MacIntyre. Was the first Modernist public housing block. It was all designed by McIntyre but only this block was built to his design. Part of Open House Melbourne. A heritage study was done by Aron Paul and this can be obtained from citygardens.com.au (blue)
- Hotham Gardens 1965 Roy Grounds; designed by Master builders; innovative. Marked on map as public housing estate O'Shanassy Street (blue)
- O'Shanassy – Avenue of London Plane trees (blue)
- 1 Elm Street should be contributory to the precinct (blue)[confidential comment – an analysis of the inventory shows that 3 Elm Street was added to the inventory in error]

Pink (information about existing places)

- Gardiner reserve – safe family place for walks (pink)
- Backyard dunnys[sic] [marked on map as Donovans Lane (laneway behind Wood Street) (pink)
- Pleasance Gardens – perfect, safe trick or treating place as no cars can come through (pink)
- 519 Dryburgh, two storey house recently restored, we call it Bougainvillea House, particularly ornate (pink)
- St Michael's Primary and Church -St Aloysius College Catholic community (orange)
- 10B Courtney Street (pink)
- Errol Street and Victoria Street – length of – Victorian verandahs and lacework (pink)
- Public housing – plane tree way – possibly used as accommodation for nursing staff at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (pink)
- O'Shanassy Street public housing – rent to own. Larger and more suitable for families. A study was done by Victoria University (pink)

- 41 and 43 Lothian Street built in 1858 by Mr Dowling. Only 10 houses in NM older. Most exterior and interior original. There are some additions. (pink)
- Loco Hall/Loco Theatre, 1914 – Saturday matinee. Loco engine drivers union owned the site – see locomotive on top of the building [from Compass Candelles Ballroom 570 Victoria Street 'A four storey rendered brick building. Built in 1914 as offices for the Locomotive Drivers, Fireman and Cleaners Association. Included in the construction was a cinema which became known as the Loco Cinestar Theatre. The cinema was converted to a ballroom and a reception centre in the mid 1970's.'] (pink and blue)
- Stanly Park – where you see the trains at the end of the Park- Hawke Street (orange)
- Imperial Theatre, Errol Street [110-114] (pink)

#### Orange (your special places)

- Catholic Ukrainian Church (orange)
- Childcare centre 35 Canning Street (orange)
- Cast iron verandahs in Errol Street are iconic (orange)
- Big climbing trees – Pleasance Reserve, Gardiner Reserve (orange)
- Spider park (metal spider), across from north Melbourne pool (orange)
- Warwick Street – my great grandmother was born in this street in 1852 [2 marked on map]. I now live in Abbotsford. (orange)

#### Yellow (Distinctive places -places that make North Melbourne different)

- There used to be a creek on Harris Street running from Errol Street Reserve to Moonee Ponds Creek [see map]. The area beneath the public housing is a rich archaeological opportunity. We talked about the potential for interpretation. (yellow)
- New individual precinct – at location of the Benevolent Asylum. Elm, Curzon, Abbotsford. Housing is 1920s as a result of asylum demolition. Extent of precinct runs outside study area but is within HO3. Mary Kehoe for more information and see map. (yellow)
- Legions Hall since 1940 and keeping it real [no location given but post-it is on Leveson Street in vicinity of 73-77] (yellow)

#### Miscellaneous

- Happy Valley Precinct (drawn onto map corner Abbotsford and Haines)
- Old cable car tracks are under Abbotsford Street at Victoria Street end [extent not indicated]
- Victoria Street as a whole – need to look at the contributory places

## 5.2 22 October Public Records Office

The heritage consultants presented an overview of the Heritage Review to Hotham History Group and chaired a discussion 5.30pm – 7pm. Participants also marked places on a map.

Attended by 10 people.

The following information was transcribed from the post-it notes and written comments on the map and from notes taken by the heritage consultants and council officers during the meeting.

- Indigenous natives [sic] held corroborees in Royal Park
- North Melbourne Football club as an important element of/to the character of North Melbourne – nothing physical left
- Levers Creek changes (marked on map)
- Recognition of public housing estate
- Was previously a slum. Cleared 1930s. Very important area. Lots of oral history about the residential area [ area around the public housing circled on the map]
- Roy Grounds development '60s (slum development) – brief with the design for environment ... (cannot read) considerations Eucalyptus Maculata, Peppercorns, Liquid Ambers. [post-it places below O'Shanassy Street]
- 1854 building on Villiers Street – strong oversight – 50 Villiers – part of new development [not in study area]
- Next to town hall in Queensberry Street – access Lane – old bluestone building
- 1 wooden house left on north Leveson [92 is marked on map but this is a block of flats]
- [opportunities for] heritage trails/plaques – gold rush travellers; stock routes
- 6 single storey cottages in a terrace including 63 Capel Street
- The last remaining 1850s weatherboard house in the northern end of Chetwynd Street must be protected
- Asylum Estate [marked on the map]
- HO301 – Melbourne College printing and graphic arts – demolished; Bastow Centre – Queensberry Street – old school and additions on the graphic arts site.
- HO283 Abbotsford Street (Queensberry and Victoria Streets) – tram tracks under the road surface

### Notes from consultants and council officers

#### Streets/ streetscapes:

- Street fabric e.g. bluestone lanes – make sure precinct citation/s reference and recognise
- Cobblestones – no cement between cobblestones to prevent drying of foundations
- Streetscapes – character and broader values reflected in precinct Statement of Significance (SoS) e.g. Height
- Erosion of streetscape character e.g. single and double storey streetscapes being transformed by larger buildings, good to reinforce that character through the SoS
- Canning St – various façades reflecting diversity of housing styles, not uniform but still heritage. Diversity reflects historical patterns and changing demographical patterns. Doesn't mean not intact.
- Re-look at streetscape gradings on streets like Erskine St, Dryburgh St, Brougham St where some parts of the streets were graded Streetscape 1, other parts Streetscape 2, - do they

deserve to have streetscape 1 along the extent of the street, especially now that streetscape 2 no longer exists through C258?

#### **North Melb character/ themes:**

- Need to ensure the industrial character of certain areas of Nth Melb is reflected and values in the SoS - not just a focus on residential character
- Women in Nth melb – large number of women signing suffrage petition from Nth Melb – women as political force in the suburb from early on
- North melb as distinctive suburb, reflecting early origins as own town
- Change from 1905 as Nth Melbourne joined MCC, city took over some of the functions of Errol St, went from being the centre of the township to a more suburban function
- Focus on early healthcare provision in Hotham/ Nth Melbourne
- Movement of people to the goldfields through Hotham/ Nth Melb streets.
- Consider how the streets were being used in the 1890s as a theme.
- Stock routes, gold rush route needs to needs to be acknowledged in some way.

#### **Broader planning concerns:**

- Demolition of heritage listed places – Flemington Rd – 3 C graded places identified in city north – now demolished.
- Areas on fringes most vulnerable to development need stronger protection, e.g. Victoria St near Queen Victoria Market and Flemington Rd.
- In early 2000s mandatory height controls (amendment C20) were brought in which have done much to retain the height and character of Nth Melbourne. Could this be reflected and reinforced in the thematic history as part of the reason Nth Melb retains much of its character, thus reinforcing these controls?
- The Hotham Group stated their aim was to strengthen heritage controls and asked if the review would strengthen the heritage controls. It was explained that it would not as it is a review of the assessment and documentation of planning and not of the heritage planning controls.
- Definitions vary between heritage studies. It was explained that this is because the studies are from different periods of time but that all recent and upcoming studies will use the definitions in Amendment C258.
- Comments made by the Hotham History Group will be picked up by the North Melbourne Heritage Review and the review of the C258 Panel report.

#### **Individual places:**

- Henderson Water fountain outside Town Hall – part of VHR registration H2224
- Drainage channel – bluestone pitches, runs under lots of Nth melb.
- Bluff of Blue lagoon, flood plain, running under Nth melb.
- Benevolent Asylum estate – built 1920s after subdivision of estate grounds, unique character, perhaps sub-precinct of HO3 – can it cross over the study area to consider the part on the other side of Victoria St, given both sides are within HO3?



### 5.3 31 October, 54 Errol Street

Drop in 5.45- 7.45 with consultant presentations at 6pm and 7pm.

Spoke with 50 people.

The following information was transcribed from the post-it notes and written comments on the map.

- Canning Street – Plane trees
- Eucalypts planted by Jeff Gillman, council worker c1971 at top of Errol Street where it joins Harker and Flemington.
- stables and a hidden garden [marked on map as 24 Molesworth]
- previously four houses [marked on map as 3 and 9 Harker Street]
- It is not like suburbia: trees and wide streets.
- It's got every [thing] public baths, sports centre. It's not all industrial, it's beautiful
- Small shops and closeness, centrality, convenient, public transport
- Water fountains
- Royal Park
- Feeling of history
- Bluestone
- Different communities
- Tolerates [cannot read]
- Rows of cottages
- Quiet
- Concerned about losing [what we have?]
- North Melbourne Public Housing, Haines Street – keep open space and green vistas. At the moment there are vistas so that you can see grass and trees between the buildings
- Arden Street – beautiful Trees
- Arden Street and O'Shanassy Street – significance of the landscape and the trees. Architect Beryl Mann
- Arden Street – 110 residential that was once slum housing; massive trees that you can see from the town hall; human scale; landscaped environment
- Wide roads
- 86 [?] Errol Street – was a milk bar and [then] a fish and chip shop [133 is the location marked on the map]
- 86 Errol [is 56 marked on the map] toy shop, and pawn brokers [60 marked on map]
- Malrizk coffee shop [34 marked on the map];
- Arden Motel – nice garden in front
- Queensberry Street [81, 83] was Mario's deli. Greek owned [cannot read the name]
- Laneways and cobble pathways – feedback was that these should be retained generally throughout the study area and marked on the map between Errol and Leveson
- Sokol Czech Club and Gallery bluestone building [509,507,503 marked on map]. [The bluestone building is in HO3. Compass description 'Formerly the Lalla Rookh Hotel. A two storey bluestone building built in 1862. In 1925 it was converted to a warehouse/store. In 2002 it was refurbished and converted to ten residential apartments.']
- Victoria Street - In the block between Errol and Leveson sign writing on the old florist shop windows [429-496 marked on map]
- Errol Street/Victoria Street – tram dinging around the corner
- Chetwynd Street– modest scale to the housing e.g. the two storey skinny shoebox place around here somewhere
- What makes it distinctive – food, local people, environment; protect and consider the laneways and original homes. 'the laneways tell the stories'

- Harker Street – row of original worker cottages
- Raglan Street – increase the pavement skinny [?] trees
- Towers have been in place for a long time and are part of the neighbourhood
- Public housing shouldn't be privatised

### Notes from consultants and council officers

- Wide streets, trees, central medians
- Suburb has very long standing residents, particularly in Hotham Hill area (houses passed through generations)
- Strong sense of community (different to other suburbs) and mixed/diverse demographics
- Melrose Street shops, significant – as long standing local service shops
- Molesworth Street, Macedon Oak near Curzon Street (possibly in Abbotsford Street housing estate) and other nearer to shops
- Western Mining Corporation started in North Melbourne, first office where Great Australian Bite was located
- Czech club and gallery in Queensberry Street (no. 499)
- Plane trees in Canning Street
- Yellow brick housing in Wood Street/Lady Huntingfield child care centre
- 2006 change to Arden Street oval
- Plane trees planted 1971 by Council, in north-east of study area
- Maltese coffee shop south end Errol Street 30 plus years ago
- Miami Inn, Hawke Street, outside study area
- Redevelopment of North Melbourne oval
- Great Australian Bite (restaurant in former pub, 18 Molesworth Street) now closed and has lost its GAB signage etc.
- Was previously Western Mining offices
- Bluestone surfaces important including laneways
- Public housing in doughnut hole in HO3 was previously worker housing, that's why it was cleared
- Victorian housing in Shiel Street, Canning Street plane trees important, as are other generous tree lined streets, makes North Melbourne different
- Issue of development of scale on perimeter of HO area (see Woolworths development), yellow brick housing opposite Gardiner Reserve, housing commission towers, are these of interest?
- 1-3 Peckville (or Kipling) street, behind a heritage building (addition?)

## 5.4 27 November 2019 North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre

Workshop with students studying of English as a second language.

Attended by 20 people.

Students discussed the heritage of North Melbourne and places that are special to them and presented their thoughts to the group, marking them on the map.

- I like big trees around NMLL - eucalyptus – because they have a good smell and it's good for lungs [outside study area]
- 3 trees over 300 years old in front of the NMLL brought to the area by gold diggers – allegedly from Britain [outside study area]
- St Michael's Catholic Church, Brougham Street – Vietnamese nuns and priests; Vietnam's legacy
- St Aloysius College, Brougham Street
- North Melbourne Town Hall, Errol Street – the building is old, there is a library
- St Michael's Catholic Church and School
- St Michael's Primary School
- St Michael's Catholic Church
- St Aloysius College
- Pleasance Gardens, Canning Street – fresh air and beautiful trees, the houses around the park are pretty
- Pleasance garden and park and Gardiner reserve
- Pleasance Gardens, Gardiner Reserve, Errol Street reserve
- North Melbourne Primary School
- North Melbourne Primary School
- St Michael's Church
- North Melbourne Public Housing, Abbotsford Street
- Town Hall [Errol Street]
- Ukrainian Church, Canning Street
- St Marys Uniting Church
- Community gardens [marked as Harcourt Street – outside study area]
- Errol Street heritage buildings, library
- North Melbourne library

Other comments:

- Less high rise development
- More hard rubbish collections
- An indoor swimming pool

Tallia Gillary, community engagement partner, provided contact details at Council for any items that people would like to raise.