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HISTORICAL WALKING TRAIL

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MENTONE

★ *a pocket guide* ★



City of
KINGSTON

HISTORICAL WALKING TRAIL

MENTONE

SUGGESTED TRAIL

Distance approximately 4 kilometres
Duration approximately 1 hour 10 minutes

LEGEND



MAP LOCATION



DATE OF ORIGIN



PHOTO CAPTION



PHOTO CREDIT



SPECIAL NOTES

PARKING

Parking is located at Mentone Railway Station and at the rear of Mentone Shopping Centre behind Mentone Parade

START

The Start of the Trail is Mentone Railway Station, Como Parade and finish Mentone Hotel, Beach Road

AMENITIES

Public Toilets are located at Mentone Railway Station, Granary Lane, City of Kingston Mentone Offices

Drinking Fountains are in Mentone Railway Station Gardens and Keith Styles Reserve

REFRESHMENTS

Food and refreshments can be bought from Mentone Parade Street cafes at the beginning of walking trail.

STRICTLY NO ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY OR SCHOOL PREMISES

welcome to

MENTONE

The Mentone Historical Walking Trail is intended to be an introduction to the rich history of Mentone, celebrating both its charming architecture and enduring village character.

Unlike other towns which grew from pioneer settlements, Mentone was founded during the prosperous land-boom of the 1880s.

Developer, Sir Matthew Davies, envisaged the town as a stylish new Riviera. Embracing Mediterranean themes, the concept unfolded with Italian street names and extravagant buildings. The most impressive of these was the luxurious Mentone Coffee Palace, which is now Kilbreda College.

Styled as a 'salubrious' destination, holiday-makers flocked to the town to enjoy its hot sea baths and prestigious racecourse. Although the boom period was short-lived, Mentone was endowed with a lasting architectural legacy, which was complimented by the classic Edwardian styles of later development.



MENTONE STATION & GARDENS

The railway line was first extended to Mentone in 1881. At the time, it was known as Balcombe Road Station. In 1914, a devastating fire destroyed the platform structures located on Como Parade. In its stead, this simple but attractive weatherboard building was erected. Featuring simply adorned gable-style roofing and decorative timber trim, it is a well-preserved example of an Edwardian station.

The gardens date back to 1910 and include a stunning Norfolk Island Pine, Peppercorn and Palm trees. In 1990 a commemorative horse trough was relocated to the gardens in honour of 'Garryowen', the champion race horse, and his courageous owners who attempted to rescue him from a burning stable.



CORNER COMO PARADE
WEST AND BALCOMBE
ROAD



CLASSIFIED HERITAGE
VICTORIA 2007



ESTABLISHED 1881



VIEW OF THE STATION
FROM KILBREDA
TOWER 1928



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



MENTONE TRIANGLE

2

CORNERS MENTONE
PARADE, COMO PARADE
WEST AND FLORENCE
STREET



BUILT 1906



SMALL & EDWARDS
ESTATE AGENTS c.1918

i

IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

This triangular piece of land was once a picturesque garden, designed to enhance the grand entrance to the Mentone Coffee Palace (now Kilbreda College).

In 1896, during the height of depression, the small isle of land was sold. Small and Edwards established an estate agency on the site in 1906 which they maintained for over 50 years.

This unique red brick building is regarded affectionately by locals for its intimate size and location. Four raised pediments and an elegant Edwardian-style veranda give this quaint structure an unmistakable charm.



KILBRED A COLLEGE

The Mentone Coffee Palace marked the pinnacle of Sir Mathew Davies' grand vision of Mentone. Featuring an imposing spire-tower and ornate design, the lavish guest-house offered sumptuous food and accommodation

Enjoying only ten prosperous years, economic downturn and competition from the Mentone Hotel forced the unlicensed Palace to close its doors in 1898.

In 1904 the disused property was sold for a bargain price to the Brigidine Sisters who opened a school with only three pupils. Now known as Kilbreda College, the school presently houses over 1,000 students.

Incorporating Greek and Romanesque styles, the building was conceived by Reed, Henderson & Smart. The design is especially significant for its elaborate contrasting brick-render and iron lace work.

3

118 MENTONE PARADE



STRICTLY NO ACCESS
TO SCHOOL GROUNDS



BUILT 1887



MENTONE COFFEE
PALACE



IMAGE FROM THE
LEADER COLLECTION.
COURTESY KEVIN
WILSON



MENTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



6 CHILDERS STREET



STRICTLY NO ACCESS
TO SCHOOL GROUNDS



BUILT 1889



CHILDREN AT MENTONE
PRIMARY SCHOOL 1910



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

During Mentone's rapid land-boom growth, the need for a school became clearly apparent. After some lobbying by townsfolk and developers, the new school building was officially opened in 1889. The launch was celebrated in style, with 60 enrolled students invited to sip tea at the Mentone Coffee Palace.

Depression in the 1890s forced the school to merge with Cheltenham Primary School, sharing just five teachers between them. By 1934 students at Mentone numbered 530 and additional land was acquired from an adjacent timberyard to create a playing area.

Despite subsequent additions, the character of the original single-storey building is still intact, denoted by the main entrance with its steeply pitched tiled roof and timber shingles.



ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

St Patrick's was the first Catholic primary school in the district. Established in 1904 with just 25 pupils, the school was originally housed in the old timber church built in 1885, next to the Coffee Palace.

By 1928 the school had grown to include 150 students and this new redbrick building was erected in Childers Street. Incorporating religious statues and cement decorative dressings, the two storey edifice is an attractive example of the unique architectural style adopted by early Catholic schools.

During the 1940s the school doubled as the church while St Patrick's new parish building was being erected on the site next door. The church was finally completed in 1960.

5

6 CHILDERS STREET



STRICTLY NO ACCESS
TO SCHOOL GROUNDS



BUILT 1928



ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY
SCHOOL 1929



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



VILLA D'ESTE

6

58 WARRIGAL ROAD
CORNER WARRIGAL
ROAD AND COMO
PARADE EAST



PRIVATE PROPERTY



BUILT FROM 1890



VILLA D'ESTE 1950s



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

One of the most remarkable houses in Mentone is the Villa d'Este, located on the corner of Warrigal Road and Como Parade East.

Featuring a corrugated iron ogee shaped roof (double curved), the house reflects the fashion in European architecture during the late nineteenth century to incorporate oriental decorative devices with Italianate trim.

The name, meaning Villa of the East, is likely both to reference its appearance and the famous Italian building by the same name which is situated on Lake Como in Italy.

For some years occupied by the Catholic Church, the weatherboard house is extensively decorated with ornate stained glass, ogee shaped archways and attractive bay windows.



41 COMO PARADE EAST

FIRST TWO-STORY RESIDENCE

This classic Victorian brick home raises local interest for two distinct reasons.

The first is for its architectural significance. It is the only double-storey example of a nineteenth century dwelling located within the City of Kingston.

Of mildly classicised style, it is characterized by an asymmetrical projecting bay window and double storey balcony.

The second reason is far more perplexing, as conversation turns to answer an unsolved mystery: Why had no occupant ever remained in the house for more than three years?

The first known occupant was G. Waghorn in 1889, followed by a long list of successive buyers. By 1965 the house had been turned into rental flats and is now a medical practice.



41 COMO PARADE EAST
CORNER COMO PARADE
EAST AND WARRIGAL
RD



BUILT c1887



41 COMO PARADE EAST
2003



IMAGE COURTESY
HERITAGE STUDY,
CITY OF KINGSTON



ST AUGUSTINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

8

90 COMO PARADE
WEST



FOUNDED 1888



ST AUGUSTINE'S
CHURCH c1945



IMAGE COURTESY
LEADER COLLECTION,
CITY OF KINGSTON

The foundation stone for St Augustine's church was laid in 1888 on land donated by the Davies family. Modest in size but beautifully adorned, the church building was extended in the 1950s to comprise a traditional cruciform floor plan. The original redbrick building was retained to form the nave of the church and transepts of contrasting grey brick were added.

Surmounted by steeply pitched slate roofs, St Augustine's exudes the quiet charm of a village chapel, replete with stunning stained glass windows and a Finchum pipe organ.

The church is associated with author Manning Clarke. His father, Reverend Clarke, is fondly remembered as being the vicar from 1934 until 1951, where he tended not only to his parishioners but also to the vicarage geese.



COMBERS BUILDING

In 1908 a prominent local man, Mr H. Peterson, built a confectionary store and café on this site. Like many other stores in Mentone erected after the land-boom collapse, the small timber structure was a vast contrast to the lavish Coffee Palace building located opposite.

The existing two-storey redbrick building was constructed in 1925-6 by the Comber family. Comprising several shopfronts, each store is divided by decorative stucco columns and crowned by contrasting semicircular pediments.

This image, taken in 1927, features the prominent bay window overlooking the busy street corner. At the time it was S.J. Hendy's - 'Mentone's Leading House for Books, Gramophones, Records, Wireless and Sporting Goods'.



CORNER OF MENTONE
PARADE AND FLORENCE
STREET



BUILT 1925-6



COMBERS BUILDING 1927



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



ABBOTT BUILDINGS

10
133 MENTONE PARADE
CORNER OF MENTONE
PARADE AND FLORENCE
STREET

CONSTRUCTED 1923

ABBOTT & SONS 1918

IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

When others were suffering from the Depression of the land-boom collapse in the 1890s, Scottish printer, John Harkins was purchasing significant properties in Mentone. Among them were three retail outlets on the corner of Mentone Parade and Florence Street - the 'Mentone Emporium', Teahouse & Bakery and a general store.

In 1904 the shops were sold to Abbott and Mason. Abbott eventually built the brick shopfront which is visible today, operating a successful grocery firm until the 1930s.

It was during this time that the prominent corner is remembered as being the site of political debates, where election candidates would make campaign speeches from their soapboxes.



OLD BAKERY BUILDING

HAHN'S BAKERY & POST OFFICE

This understated building once housed ovens for a bakery on Florence Street. It was among several structures which were essential to the local baking industry located on Granary Lane, including a round store-house for grain and stables for delivery horses and carts.

From 1928 the bakery was operated by A. E. Hahn who provided the community with bread throughout the lean years of the Depression and rations during the War.

Constructed of solid redbrick, this rustic building retains some of its original rough timberwork.



GRANARY LANE
(REAR OF MENTONE
DRY CLEANERS)



BUILT c1928



OLD BAKERY BUILDING
2003



IMAGE COURTESY
HERITAGE STUDY,
CITY OF KINGSTON



STATE SAVINGS BANK BUILDING



44 FLORENCE STREET



PRIVATE RESIDENCE



BUILT 1926



STATE SAVINGS
BANK 1928



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

This building was constructed in 1926 for the State Savings Bank, which occupied it for almost 50 years.

Like other banks of this era, the building adopts a Free-Classical approach. An elegant rendered façade adorns the two-storey building, with graceful rectangular columns rising from a simple, banded base. Elaborate cornice pieces create an unusual staggered effect at the roofline, while a hint of Art Deco influence can be traced in the patterning of the railings, balustrade and geometric motifs.

In 1974 the building was acquired by Mordialloc Council for the Citizen's Advice Bureau and was later sold to Hodges Real Estate in 1995.



LAURA & CHARLES FERGUSON MUSEUM

The original Mentone Bakery was established on this site in the early 1890s by George Barnett. However the charming building which now stands here was constructed in 1922-4 by bakers, John Murphy and William Oliver.

Considered a very modern establishment in its time, the bakery is composed simply of two-storey redbrick with a gable-ended roof. Complete with original wood-fire ovens, the old bakery now serves as a local museum and centre for the Mordialloc & District Historical Society.

Featuring a unique collection of photographs and local memorabilia, the museum was renamed in 1999 to honour two well-loved local history enthusiasts.



OLD BAKERY LANE
(ENTER VIA FLORENCE
STREET)



OPEN SUN 2-4PM OR
BY APPOINTMENT.
A SMALL ENTRY
FEE APPLIES.



BUILT c1922



INTERNAL VIEW
OF W.H. OLIVERS
BAKERY 1920s



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



C. H. SOPPETT PAVILION

MENTONE RESERVE GRANDSTAND

14
MENTONE RESERVE,
REMO STREET
PUBLIC ACCESS FROM
BRINDISI STREET


BUILT 1928


MENTONE SPORTS
PAVILION,
1928


IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

During the land-boom of the 1880s, Davies' designated this area for sports and amusements. At considerable cost, the swampy paddocks were drained and a recreational hall, skating rink and tennis courts were established.

In 1926 a committee was formed to raise £1200 to build the grandstand. It was opened in 1928; the same year the Mentone Tigers won their first premiership in forty years. The celebrations lasted for weeks.

The pavilion was named after Sol Soppett in recognition for his involvement with the football club. Of typical design, the grandstand is comprised of elevated seating under a simple gable-ended roof, and set with pressed metal ends and a smaller traverse gable.



MEMORIAL GATES & DRINKING FOUNTAIN

MEMORIAL GATES

The gates were built in 1923 in tribute to “the glorious men of Mentone who gave their lives for our freedom” during World War I. Assembled from coarsely hewn granite to resemble ancient monoliths, the gateway is formed by two columns etched with honour rolls and capped with a triangular stone, similar to a classical temple entrance.



FOUNTAIN

This obelisk-shaped drinking fountain is thought to be the earliest existing monument in Mentone. It was erected in 1910 by the Mentone Progress Association. Shaped from granite with a bluestone base, the fountain was originally situated at the corner of Mentone Parade and Venice Street.



KEITH STYLES
RESERVE, MENTONE
PARADE



GATES ERECTED 1923
FOUNTAIN ERECTED 1910



TOP: WAR MEMORIAL
GATES
BELOW: DRINKING
FOUNTAIN



IMAGES COURTESY
HERITAGE STUDY,
CITY OF KINGSTON



MABERNOUL

SIR MATTHEW DAVIES' DWELLING

16
86 MENTONE PARADE

★
PRIVATE DWELLING

🕒
BUILT c1900-1

📷
MABERNOUL 1940s

📄
IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

During his impressive career, Sir Mathew Davies worked energetically to realise his vision of Mentone; creating a fashionable resort from rural swamp lands.

Knighted at the age of forty, Davies was an active member of Victorian parliament, solicitor, and philanthropist. However, just as Davies' riches had peaked with the land-boom of the 1880s, they collapsed just as suddenly.

Despite owning many mansions during his lifetime, Davies ended his days in this classic Victorian bungalow in 1912. Modest but elegant, it is typical of the Italianate style; featuring a hipped roof with bracketed eaves and attractive bay windows.



DAVIES MEMORIAL UNITING CHURCH

Mentone was moved by news of the passing of Mrs Mary Davies in 1887. Mother to nine children, she had been a tireless worker for the community and devoted member of the Presbyterian church. In honour of her name, her husband, the brother of Sir Matthew Davies, donated land and raised funds for a new church. The foundation stone was laid in 1889.

The church was styled after the Gothic Revival approach by architect Charles Figgis, who also created the Mentone Hotel. Comprising a steeply pitched roof, pointed arches and stained glass windows; the redbrick structure is augmented by an elegant steeple with parapets and separate bell tower.



74 VENICE STREET



FOUNDED IN 1889



DAVIES MEMORIAL
UNITING CHURCH, 1970s



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



FROGMORE HOUSE

MENTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

18

63 VENICE STREET



STRICTLY NO PUBLIC
ACCESS TO SCHOOL
GROUNDS



BUILT c1910



FROGMORE HOUSE, 1960s



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC AND
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Inspired by English medieval homesteads, Frogmore House incorporates elements of the Tudor revival and the Arts and Crafts styles of architecture. The two storey residence comprises roughcast walls set with decorative Tudor-style timberwork. A steeply pitched roof clad in Marseilles tiles, features dominant projecting gables, while striking timber arches frame a broad corner veranda and deeply recessed entrance. Floor length stained glass windows and leadlight glass doors add delicate elegance to the otherwise heavy edifice.

The house was initially built on six acres of land sometime before 1891 as the residence for Reverend Robert Fergus. A charming manse, Frogmore House was later sold to Mentone Boys Grammar in 1923.



MENTONE RSL

RIVIERA GUEST HOUSE

This striking Italianate building is one of five tower houses built in Mentone during the land-boom of the 1880s. Elaborately decorated with ornamental balustrades and urns, the large octagonal tower commands an impressive view of the bay.

For many years, the house was the residence of the Dawson family, but after World War I it was purchased by John Anderson who generously hosted dances to support returned servicemen. In 1946, the property was operated as the Riviera Guest House before being bought by the Mentone Returned Services League (RSL) in 1952.

A stunning view of the RSL and adjacent war memorial is available from Mentone Parade.



9 PALERMO STREET



PALERMO GATES OPEN
10AM DAILY
MEMORIAL PARK GATES
CLOSE 4PM



RIVIERA GUEST HOUSE
BUILT IN 1884-6



ONE OF FIVE TOWER
HOUSES BUILT IN
MENTONE IN THE 1880s



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



MENTONE HOTEL

19

CORNER BEACH ROAD
AND MENTONE PARADE



OPENED 1889



POSTCARD OF THE
MENTONE HOTEL c.1900



IMAGE COURTESY
MORDIALLOC &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Mentone Hotel is an enduring icon on Mentone's foreshore. Drawing crowds from the nearby beaches, its location opposite the former hot sea baths ensured that it was always a popular destination. Operating since 1888, the hotel was the first licensed venue in the area and provided significant competition to the Coffee Palace.

A majestic building, it features spacious lounges and impressive stairways. A grand entrance tower at the apex of the site is flanked symmetrically by smaller turrets and curved balconies, showing a talented response to the wedge-shaped land.

Architect, C. D. Figgis is responsible for the design. Typical of the land-boom period, Figgis combines an unconventional array of architectural styles and classical elements.



THIS PUBLICATION HAS BEEN COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF KINGSTON

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The City of Kingston wishes to acknowledge the elders and people of the Kulin nation and recognise them as the traditional custodians of this area.

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For more detailed information
about historical sites visit the
Kingston Historical Website

 localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au

 kingston.vic.gov.au

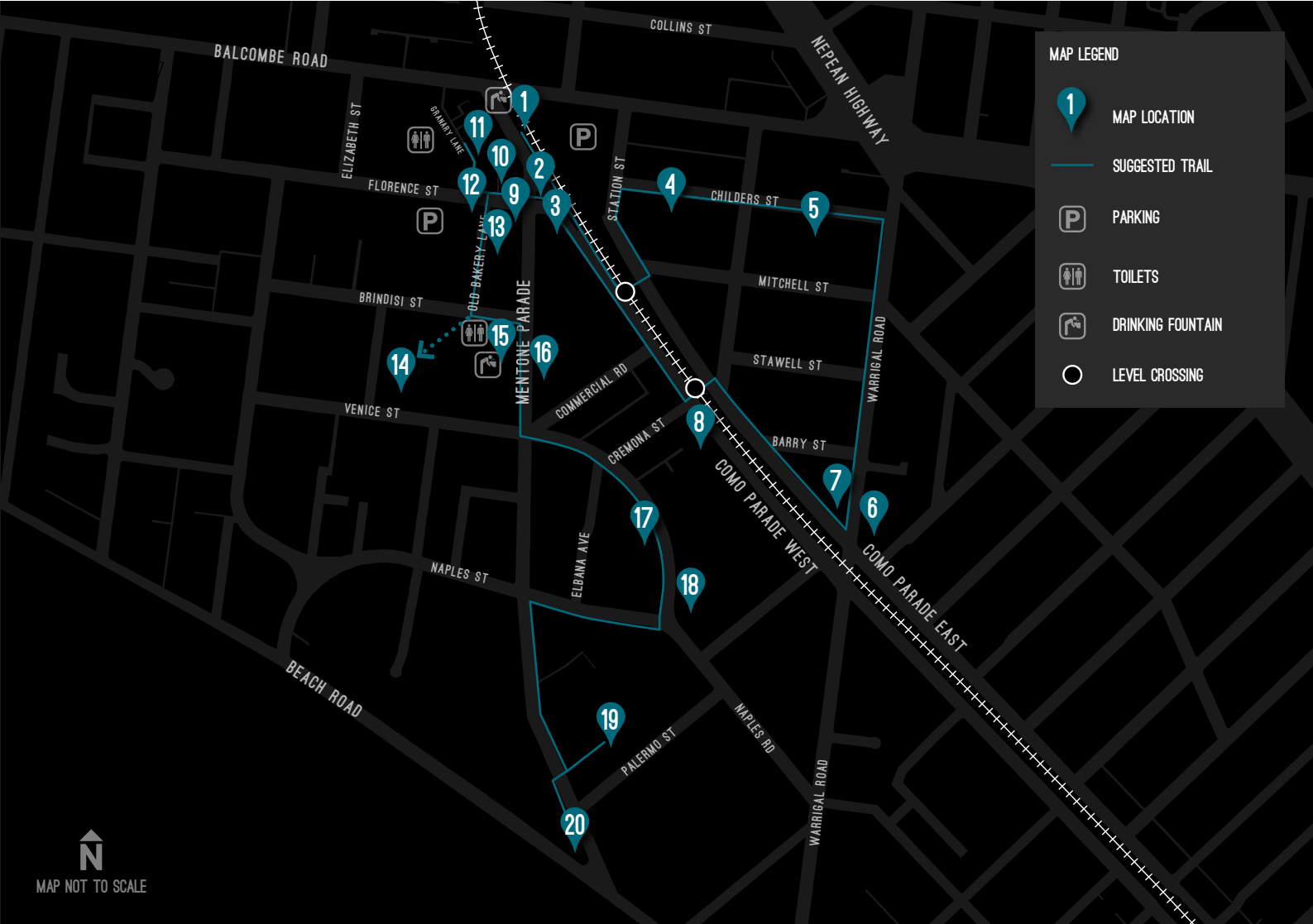
SUGGESTED TRAIL

Distance approximately 4 kilometres

Duration approximately 1 hour 10 minutes

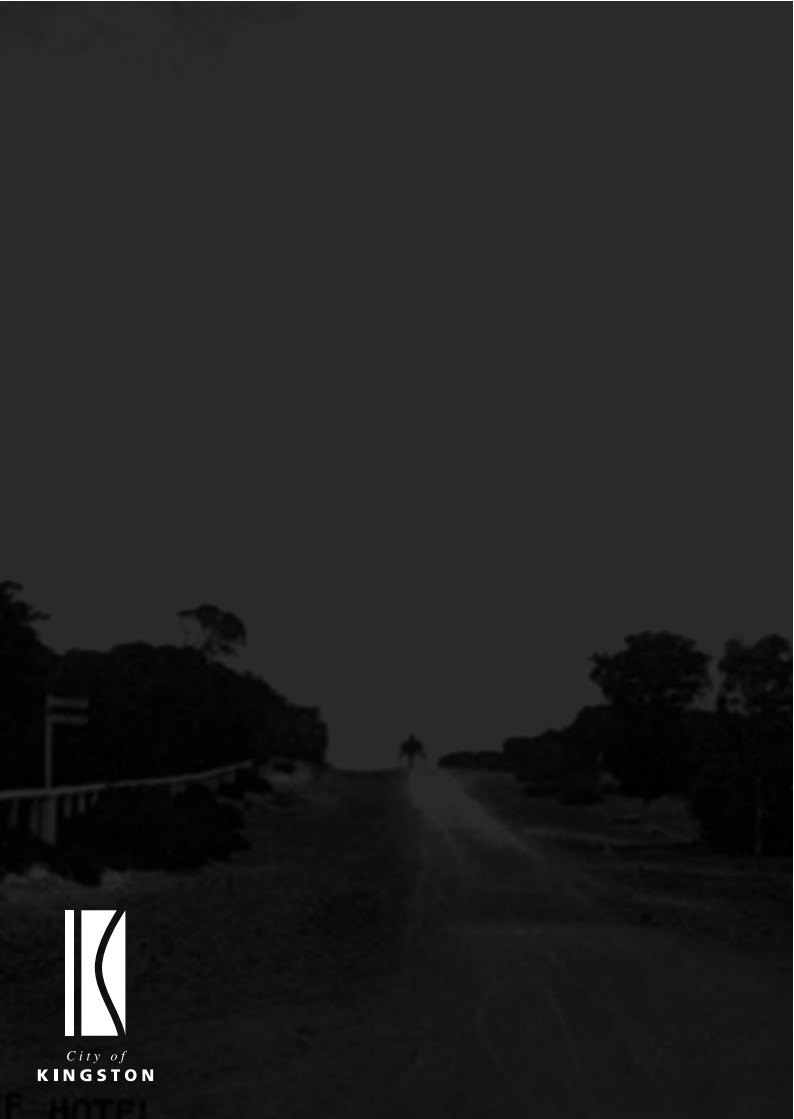
MAP LOCATIONS

1. Mentone Railway Station
 2. Mentone's Triangle
 3. Kilbreda College
 4. Mentone Primary School
 5. St Patrick's School
 6. Villa D'este
 7. 41 Como Parade East
 8. St Augustine's Church
 9. Comber's Building
 10. Abbott Buildings
 11. Old Bakery Building
 12. Hodges Real Estate
 13. Laura & Charles Ferguson Museum
 14. C.H. Soppett Pavilion
 15. War Memorial Gates & Fountain
 16. Mabernoul
 17. Davies Memorial Church
 18. Frogmore House
 19. Mentone RSL
 20. Mentone Hotel
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MAP LEGEND

- 1 MAP LOCATION
- SUGGESTED TRAIL
- P PARKING
- TOILETS
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- LEVEL CROSSING



City of
KINGSTON

F-HOTEL