

WALK TWO: AROUND OAKLEIGH RAILWAY STATION

Sources:

Gobbi, H.G.: *Taking Its Place – A History of Oakleigh 2004*.

Wikipedia.

www.oakleighps.vic.gov.au

shgc.net.au

Australian Dictionary of Biography (for Mannix and Romberg)

www.monash.vic.gov.au

Please note: some buildings included in this walk display modifications and modern signage, so may be somewhat different to their earliest appearance.

We suggest that you start your walk at the corner of Haughton Road and Davey Avenue. Walk over the Hanover Street railway bridge, north along Hanover Street and left down Portman Street.



Bridge over railway at Hanover Street: opened in 1915. Initially it served a useful purpose for commuting golfers in linking the station with the Oakleigh Golf Club in North Road.¹



Oakleigh Railway Station: the line from Bunyip to Oakleigh (as part of the Main Gippsland Line) was opened in 1877, with a temporary Oakleigh terminus. A new station building was built in 1881. The current station building was built in 1913.²

¹ Gobbi, H.G.: *Taking Its Place – A History of Oakleigh 2004* p 148

² *Ibid* pp 51, 52-53, 63-64, 103-104, 156

Turn right into Burlington Street.

Downing, Regent, Westminster and Burlington Streets: as the cost of building materials rose in the early years of World War I, it became cheaper to move surplus houses to locations where needed. A number of such houses was erected in these streets.³

Regent Street: workers' cottages were built here in 1889.⁴



Australian Plaster Industries: At 61 Westminster Street are the remains of the chimney and boiler house of this factory, built around 1946. This was the first factory in Victoria to manufacture plaster board. Originally the site had been a timber mill.⁵

Walk back to Oakleigh Railway Station, then under the Warrigal Road underpass on the northern side of the railway line.



Oakleigh Angling Club: formed 1921, next to railway line on the west side of Warrigal Road (next to the overpass). Fishing was a popular pastime, especially in the Depression years.⁶

Site of former Paramount Theatre 59 Warrigal Road: opened in 1922 for movies, now the site of an apartment building. (Its private foyer depicts old photos of the Paramount Theatre.) The theatre could seat 1500 people and prospered from the movie craze, and it subsequently incorporated an orchestra to add sound to the silent movies.⁷

Turn left at Willesden Road.

³ Ibid p 146

⁴ Ibid p 61

⁵ Ibid pp 162, 210

⁶ Ibid p 195

⁷ Ibid pp 160-161, 190



St Anargiri Church: Willesden Road, opened in 1973, replacing a former chapel of the Greek Orthodox Church in Clapham Road.⁸

Oakleigh Grammar School: Willesden Road, originally the Greek Orthodox College of St Anargyri opened 1983.⁹

Now head back to Warrigal Road, walk over the overpass, continue south, crossing Warrigal Road at the Sacred Heart Girls College pedestrian crossing near the intersection of Kangaroo and Warrigal Roads.

Sacred Heart Girls College, 113 Warrigal Road, opened 1957 by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. The building (on the south-west corner of Warrigal Road and Kangaroo Road) was designed by Frederick Romberg who migrated to Australia from Switzerland in 1938. From 1953 until 1962 he was part of the partnership [Roy] Grounds, Romberg and [Robin] Boyd. Romberg also designed, amongst other things, the octagonal Picken Court building at Ormond College, the ETA food factory in Braybrook, and St George's Anglican Church, East Ivanhoe. He was awarded the inaugural President's prize of the Victorian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.¹⁰



Sacred Heart Church: Archbishop Daniel Mannix laid the foundation stone for this in June 1923 and opened it in March 1925. In 1993 the original Catholic Church, a wooden building, was taken from its site in Dandenong Road to the Sacred Heart school in Thomson Street, to become a school hall. En route it became stuck on the Hanover Street bridge.¹¹

Sacred Heart Primary School, opened 1936 also by Archbishop Mannix, during whose leadership of the Catholic Church the number of students in Catholic primary schools more than tripled. The first Catholic school in Oakleigh was opened in 1858 on the corner of Broadwood (now Dandenong Road) and Atkinson Streets, when its attendance was around forty children. The new Sacred Heart school building was designed to accommodate 300 children and to be light and well ventilated, and thus to be healthy at a time of widespread childhood disease.¹²

⁸ www.monash.vic.gov.au

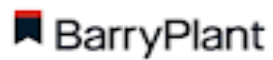
⁹ www.monash.vic.gov.au

¹⁰ Shgc.net.au and Australian Dictionary of Biography: Frederick Romberg

¹¹ Gobbi op cit p. 170

¹² Ibid p 31, 44, 121, 189 and Australian Dictionary of Biography: Daniel Mannix.

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