

# Doncaster Tower



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Westfield

Thank you to our project partners:

Box Hill Institute – Graphic Design and Audio students and teachers from the Centre for Creative Industries

Doncaster Church of Christ

Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society Inc.

Doncaster Primary School



#### Manningham City Council

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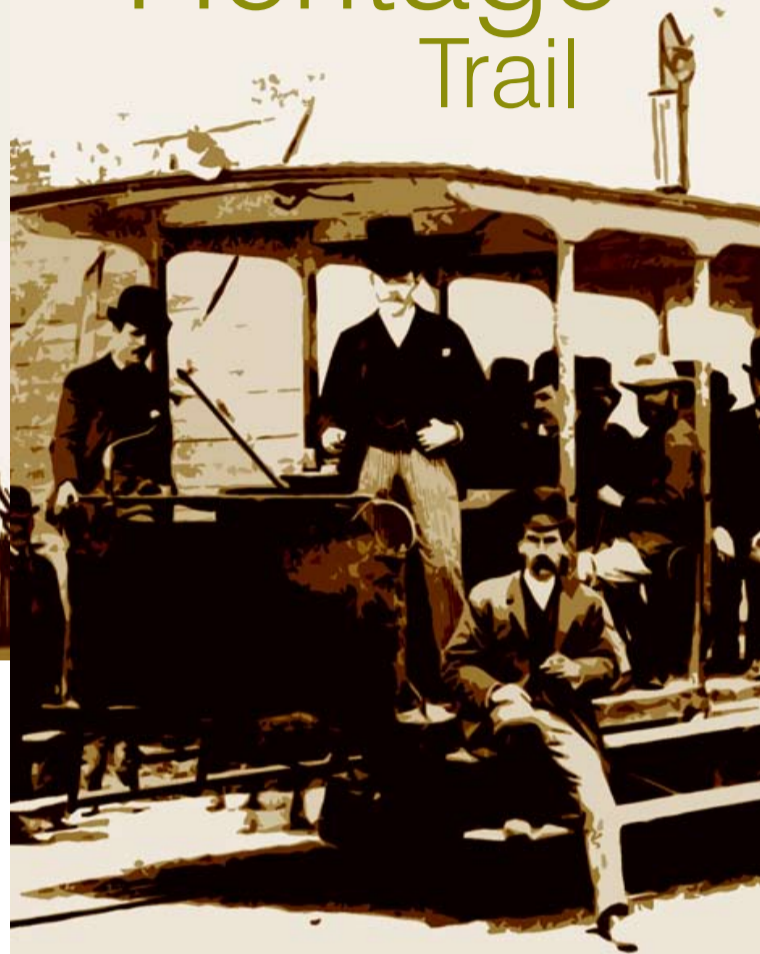
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Manningham City Council has made every effort to ensure that the information in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing – June 2010.

*Images courtesy of Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society Inc. Printed on 100% recycled paper using vegetable based inks.*

## Doncaster Hill Heritage Trail



## Doncaster Hill Heritage Trail

Explore Doncaster Hill's rich history through a series of engaging interpretive signs and soundposts that reveal stories about people, places and events that have shaped the area and provide a strong link to the past as Doncaster Hill continues to evolve.

Doncaster Hill, the civic heart of Manningham just 14 kilometres from the City, is one of the highest points in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

This natural elevation has long brought people and activity to the area. It even inspired Alfred Hummell to construct a lookout tower in 1878. From various vantage points visitors can take in views of the Dandenongs, Kinglake Ranges and the city skyline.

More recently the Hill's potential has been identified through its classification as a Principal Activity Centre, and Manningham City Council's vision to create a mixed use sustainable urban village with a strong sense of place and a community focused lifestyle.

Doncaster Hill is an attractive urban village for people to live, work, visit and meet, providing for everyday lifestyle needs and leisure activities in a friendly, safe and accessible setting.

An integral part of the Doncaster Hill vision is to retain strong connections to Doncaster's past. It's by telling the stories of our history and enhancing the experience of visiting heritage landmarks like the Playhouse (Old Doncaster Primary School), former Shire Hall and Doncaster Church of Christ that we can create a greater 'sense of place'.

Prior to the arrival of Europeans the area now known as Manningham was inhabited by the Wurundjeri people with the Doncaster region being settled in the 1860s and 1870s, mainly by German orchardists.

At the end of the 19th Century the Hill was surrounded by fruit orchards and gaining attention and popularity with weekend visitors from town, many coming via the Southern Hemisphere's first electric tram along Tram Road.

A main store was built on the north east corner of Doncaster and Williamsons roads, long known as 'White's Corner', and has remained the area's focal point for shopping to this day with the construction of Westfield Doncaster in 1969.

A number of buildings including the Doncaster Primary School have retained their original use from the settlement era.

The Doncaster Hill Heritage Trail brings to life the rich culture of the area's past for the local community and visitors.

The trail also includes more recently installed points of interest like the Public Art Fence and pedestrian underpass transformed into an art feature. It is further enhanced by the boulevard treatment along parts of Doncaster Road and the shared path along Council and Goodson streets that make walking around the Hill an easier, more attractive experience.





**1 Westfield Doncaster/White's Corner Interpretive Sign**

Since 1890, this site has been the central location for shopping in Manningham. The original two storey main store was replaced in 1969 following the construction of Westfield Doncaster.



**2 Former Shire Offices Soundpost**

The Shire Hall officially opened on 3 June 1892, with the first Council meeting held on 6 June 1892. The building stopped operating as a Shire Hall in 1956 and is now the home of the Doncaster Templestowe Artists' Society.

**Audio Buttons**

- Architectural Style 1 minute 10 seconds
- New Shire Hall 2 minutes 15 seconds
- All Creatures Great and Small 1 minute 55 seconds



**3 Doncaster Tower/First Electric Tram Soundpost**

Constructed in 1878 and measuring 87 metres high, the Doncaster Tower was a magnificent structure. From 14 October 1889 visitors were able to travel to the tower on the first electric tram in the Southern Hemisphere.

**Audio Buttons**

- Architectural Style 1 minute 18 seconds
- Tram Trip to the Tower 1 minute 44 seconds
- Climbing the Tower 1 minute 46 seconds

# Trail Map

PUBLIC TOILETS

WALKING TRAIL

PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASS

RESTAURANTS/CAFÉS

HERITAGE SOUNDPOSTS AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

APPROXIMATE WALKING TIME: 7 MINUTES POSTS 1 TO 6



**4 & 5 Doncaster Church of Christ Soundpost and Interpretive Sign**

Since 1889, the Doncaster Church of Christ has made a significant contribution to the local community and continues to play an important role today.

**Audio Buttons**

- Architectural Style 1 minute 25 seconds
- Harvest Thanksgiving 1 minute 25 seconds
- Contribution to Community 1 minute 38 seconds



**6 Playhouse/Doncaster Primary School**

In 1886, State School No. 197 was opened by the Victorian Government. While the building has since been converted into a small community theatre, the current Doncaster Primary School is located just next door.

**Audio Buttons**

- Architectural Style 1 minute 05 seconds
- Head Teachers 1 minute 49 seconds
- The Swimming Pool 1 minute 32 seconds