A landscape photograph showing a power pylon in the foreground, a road, and rolling hills in the background under a clear sky.

# YOUNGTOWN ABCDE LEARNING SITE REPORT

2020/2021

Learning Sites enable communities to identify their assets, build connections, and create change in the heart of the community with a focus on 'what's strong, not what's wrong'.

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Cover: Melanie Kate Photography

I am pleased to deliver the City of Launceston's Youngtown ABCDE Learning Site Report. The report is reflective of the City of Launceston's commitment to building stronger communities at a grassroots level through a strong partnership with the Bank of I.D.E.A.S.

The City of Launceston remains committed to ensuring members of our community are respected, listened to, encouraged to bring new perspectives, and know they play a meaningful role in our community. Council commends the work of the Youngtown community in participating in and identifying their assets, initiatives and projects as part of this Learning Site. Their engagement has been influential in informing and advising both local government and the broader community about what is important to them, and this information is utilised to create future prosperity in their suburb.

The City of Launceston provides the resources to implement a Learning Site within a nominated community, with past sites including Rocherlea, Ravenswood and Mowbray, located within the northern suburbs. It gives me great pleasure in seeing this program continue in Kings Meadows in 2021/22 and across Launceston into the future.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

**Albert van Zetten**

Mayor, City of Launceston



# From Peter Kenyon



2020 was the fourth year that the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. have had the privilege to work with the City of Launceston on their ABCDE neighbourhood renewal initiatives. From all reports and updates, the community engagement project in the community of Youngtown was another awesome initiative with amazing outcomes.

Unfortunately for me, COVID-19 meant that my input was limited to facilitating the Community Planning Day for the Youngtown Learning Site via digital connection rather than being physically present. Yet, the passion, creativity and commitment of the Youngtown community builders was still so real and vivid. The diversity of ideas and community insights contributed throughout the planning day were so useful in the community planning process in terms of their diversity and relevance to both community assets and needs.

Once again, this City of Launceston project illustrated two simple observations and truths about the importance of local community builders. Firstly, designing a positive community future, must begin by identifying and connecting the assets, resources and ideas of its residents; and secondly, great communities do not just happen they are created, nurtured and sustained by caring, connected and involved local residents.

Thank you Sarah for your wonderful leadership and facilitation of this ABCDE Learning Site, and congratulations to the community of Youngtown for what you have already initiated and will continue to evolve and develop. Youngtown is so much richer and interesting because of your efforts.

#### Peter Kenyon OAM

Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S.



Images of Youngtown Community Workshop



# About the ABCDE Learning Sites

The City of Launceston has collaborated with Bank of I.D.E.A.S to deliver four Asset Based Community Driven Effort (ABCDE) Learning Sites in the northern suburbs of Rocherlea, Ravenswood and Mowbray and now Youngtown.

Learning Sites enable a community to identify their assets, build connections, and create change in the heart of the community to benefit those living within the area.

The approach is about focusing on 'what's strong, not what's wrong' and empowering local citizens to make change.

As one of the first local governments to embrace this approach, the City of Launceston has worked with local leaders within each location to identify, connect and mobilise their assets in order to take action, make positive change and directly shape their own community's future.



## How it works

The core strength of the ABCDE Learning Site approach is that it enables people to change practice, by practising the change. In essence, the approach operates around the following principles:

- Every context is different, the challenge being to learn what works best for each unique location. It is not a defined 'cookie-cutter' model – it is place-based, adaptive, responsive, and innovative in a way that closed models cannot be.
- The wisdom of local people always exceeds the knowledge of the experts.
- Relationship building is viewed as the fundamental activity of community building.
- The starting point for community building is 'what's strong, not wrong', focusing on assets, capacities, abilities and possibilities, rather than needs, deficiencies and problems.
- The challenge is for community members to move from being treated as customers, consumers, clients, and patients in others' programs and services, to co-owners, co-producers, and citizens in the design and implementation of actions that build their communities as healthy, caring and inclusive places and groups.

The City of Launceston Learning Sites occur over a 12-month period, and are based on eight touchstones. As part of each Learning Site, Council has engaged a permanent Community Connector to guide the community through the process.

The Eight Touchstones for each Learning Site are;

- Provide a community connector;
- Finding a community builder team;
- Hosting conversations to discover assets and what people care about;
- Engaging local groups and associations;
- Building connections through social interaction activities and shareable community opportunities;
- Visioning and planning by asking 3 key questions:
  1. What can we do?
  2. What do we need outside help with?
  3. What do we need outside agencies to do for us?
- Implementing change (doing and reviewing); and
- Foster celebration.



# Community Connector Reflections



Connection seemed even more important when the Youngtown Learning Site began in July 2020. At the time, the community was rapidly responding to the Covid-19 outbreak, a serious pandemic which disrupted the feeling of connectedness within close and broader communities. Covid-19 changed our way of life, and left us needing to adapt to a new way of living. However, it also provided a timely opportunity to give people in Youngtown a safe way to reconnect with their community. We facilitated a way for the community to talk about Covid-19, particularly around sharing how it has affected their life, the aspects they missed and what have they discovered during this time. I remember people expressing how they felt grief, they really missed their usual way of life and recognised they needed to build more resilience. Deaine Coyle, Principal of Youngtown Primary School, expressed her delight in the opportunity to be involved in the Learning Site as students hadn't been able to do a lot with the community due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Deaine said it was a perfect way for the school community to reconnect at a local level and continue their renewed focus on gratefulness.

You never really know a community until you live and breathe it so the Community Connector is hosted within a community to be close to it. I was fortunate to secure two temporary offices, one at the South Launceston Football Club and the other at Youngtown City Mission. Surrounding these organisations were loyal communities who made me feel very welcomed. I was in Youngtown, discovering assets, meeting locals, walking through parks and reserves, drinking their coffee, observing their way of life and being present. It's vital to get to know a community and its history before offering opportunities to others for connection within it. The community was once again appreciative that Council provides this opportunity of engagement and saw it as a genuine investment in Youngtown. I asked people what they cared about and if they could do anything to build an even stronger community what would that be. These people came together, celebrated their place, developed and made change through delivering their innovative projects.

The notion of focusing on what's strong, not what's wrong, means different things to people. The Youngtown community embraced this and some key highlights were: Youngtown Primary School's Grade 6 Student Leadership ongoing involvement, the South Launceston Football Club's idea of bringing

the community together to utilise their club rooms like a community centre, incredible individuals offering Bollywood and all types of dance style classes, a pharmacy that makes coffee, a café in an op shop - there are too many to mention.

The Youngtown community is proud of their place, their home and certain of what they want. I was able to carry their dreams and hopes by facilitating, supporting, mentoring and organising for the community to own and sustain the practice. This program gives people hope through sometimes small changes which can make a big difference.

Moving to the adjoining community of Kings Meadows will enable the work done with Youngtown to flourish as connections and projects overlap. During this Learning Site we will also celebrate the City of Launceston's 5<sup>th</sup> ABCDE Learning Site.

Thank you to the Youngtown community for embracing the program and allowing me to support your aspirations.

## Sarah McCormack

Community Connector  
City of Launceston

# Consultation & Engagement



People from any background, gender, age, ability and culture are welcome to be involved in a Learning Site, everyone in the site is invited to participate. The program offers structure based on the eight touchstones and is flexible in how people choose to be involved.

A really important part of each Learning Site is to host a Community Workshop with Peter Kenyon, which we did at the South Launceston Football Club rooms in October 2020. The workshop was for anyone who enjoys living, working, going to school and spending time in Youngtown. Participants made local connections, discovered assets they may not have known about and imagined their big ideas for the community.

*"I learnt that if you have an idea, all you have to do is speak up."*

Noah Colgrave, 2020 Student Leader  
Youngtown Primary School

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Tasmanian borders were closed and Peter couldn't facilitate the workshop in person. Round Table Studio created magic through streaming and projecting Peter from Western Australia with Sarah facilitating on the ground. Over 60 people attended the workshop including Grade 6 student leaders from Youngtown Primary School with many community members.



Participants were invited to share what they would love and keep, change and start in Youngtown then voted on their favourites from each category. By inviting community members to have a direct say in this sends an important message; that Council values what people want their future to look like. Activity in the community can then be focused on the key trends and guide organisations and business working in Youngtown into the future.

The new City of Launceston Learning Site Facebook Group was launched in 2020, providing a way for the community to connect beyond the official 12 month program.

*"It was fantastic, great to meet other people in our area who want to work together to develop our community."*

Philip Atkins, SLCD Southern Launceston Community Development



ENGAGE LOCAL  
GROUPS &  
ASSOCIATIONS



## What we heard from workshop participants



- 27% ● Volunteer Opportunities
- 16% ● City Mission
- 16% ● School Markets
- 14% ● Knowing Our Neighbours
- 4% ● Footy Club
- 4% ● Friendly People
- 4% ● Franklin House
- 5% ● Diversity of Services
- 5% ● Businesses
- 5% ● Self Help Workplace

- 19% ● Use Footy Club for Markets, Car Boot Sales, School
- 19% ● Welcome Sign
- 11% ● Instead of Graffiti have Public Art
- 9% ● Community Garden
- 10% ● More Bins
- 8% ● Rename Footy Club to Community Centre
- 8% ● Wayfinding Signage
- 8% ● Blue Gum Park Update and Clean-up by the Community
- 4% ● Better Street Lighting
- 4% ● Modify Streets BBQ Area



- 17% ● Toilets in Parks
- 18% ● Night Market
- 14% ● Community Garden
- 12% ● More Sports Opportunities
- 10% ● BBQ and Toilets in Alma Park
- 8% ● Fence Dog Park
- 6% ● More Space for Children and Families
- 6% ● New Community Area (developing open spaces) to Encourage Gatherings
- 5% ● Cafe near Parks
- 4% ● Outdoor Movie Nights

## Learning in the Learning Site

An important element of the Learning Sites is that they are a hothouse for learning about shifting ways of thinking and doing from a deficit to strength approach. This occurred informally through mentoring and structured educational programs.

The Community Connector hosted and mentored 14 TasTAFE CHC42015 Certificate IV in Community Services students for six months. These learnings were part of their assessment process and contributed to their qualification.

*"The TasTAFE students learnt so much from working on the Youngtown Learning Site project. The real hands on experiences that Sarah trusted us with were an integral part of the student learning in Community Development. The students supported community members during Builder Time, consulted with community members outside the Op Shop and were a part of the Peter Kenyon workshop. We can't wait to work together again in the future!"*

Jane Chapman, Teacher  
Community Services | TasTAFE

Throughout the Learning Sites, the Connector regularly collaborated with City of Launceston staff to work on community projects, shared skills and worked from an asset-based approach. The community learnt how to collaborate with the City of Launceston through their connection in the program.





# Asset Map

DEVELOPED BY THE YOUNGTOWN COMMUNITY IN 2020

Host conversations to discover assets within the community and what people care about.



## PEOPLE ASSETS

- Rosemary Armitage
- David Cleaver
- Tobitha Samuels
- Retirees
- Local musicians and artists
- Mrs Allen
- Mrs Sheogag
- Mr Clayton
- Cooks
- Gardeners
- Sports people
- Retailers
- Business owners
- Volunteers
- SES
- Tasmania Fire Service
- Franklin House volunteers
- Wayne from SLFC
- Football club members
- Primary school students



## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT ASSETS

- City Mission shop volunteers
- Self Help workshop people
- Long-term residents of Youngtown
- Family day-carers
- Community professionals
- Charlie - fundraising
- Donna - Self Help workplace
- Mike - IGA store owner
- Youngtown community
- Melissa Wimmer - Dance school
- City Mission garden centre
- Eduardo Bataha
- Glenara Lakes - residents and staff
- Aunty Dann - Aboriginal Elder
- Jeff McClean
- Kirby Nesbit
- Georgia - dog groomer
- Ted Burton - Rotary Club
- Martin George -Astronomer
- Experienced gardeners
- Kate Reed



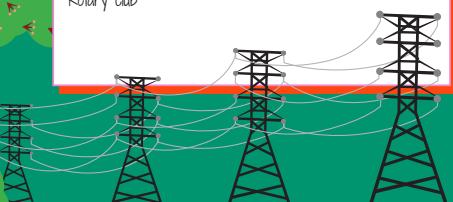
## CULTURAL ASSETS

- Community Co-op
- Anglican church
- St Peters Catholic Church
- Heritage garden
- Franklin House
- Jingler's Creek
- Underpass
- Rotary Peace poles at YTPS
- Cemetery
- Aboriginal cultural knowledge and art and painting
- Diverse Youngtown Primary students
- Christmas lights
- Chalk art
- Youngtown School fair
- Convict bridge
- Football Club



## SOCIAL NETWORKS

- Men's Shed
- School sports
- Glenara Lakes
- Reading club
- Neighbourhood watch
- Community development group
- Probus
- ABCDE Facebook group
- Youngtown network
- Facebook group
- Tasmanian Fire Service
- Walking Groups
- Buses/transport
- Auskick
- Allstar Cheer and dance
- Little Athletics
- Lions club
- Scottsdale bakery staff
- Long-term residents
- South Launceston football club
- Melissa Wimmer Dance School
- Rotary club



## LOCAL ECONOMY ASSETS

- Men's Shed
- BP service station
- Betta Electrical
- Meeva Timbers
- Freight service
- Meeting rooms
- Garden services
- Laundromat
- City Mission op-shop
- Salvation Army op-shop
- City Mission Café
- Scottsdale Bakery
- Self-help workplace
- French's IGA
- Little Library
- Tamar Cars
- Breen's bodyworks
- Kings Furniture
- Able Tasman Motel
- Lockup storage
- Hello Beautiful salon
- Tasse Tyres
- Mind and Body Fitness
- Shaman's fine wines
- Joseph Chromy Wines



## INSTITUTIONAL ASSETS

- St Peter's Catholic Church
- Anglican Church
- Funeral parlour
- Glenara Lakes retirement village
- Able Tasman motel
- Salvation Army op-shop
- City Mission op-shop
- Tasmanian Fire Station
- Meals on Wheels
- Mobile Library
- Supported accommodation
- First Aid training venue
- Council
- Football Club
- Youngtown Primary School
- Before and after school care
- Self-Help Workplace





## Youngtown Asset Map

The Youngtown community identified many assets throughout conversations and during the Community Workshop. Discovering Youngtown's assets is an important part of the process in order to utilise them to make a positive change in their suburb. The Youngtown Asset Map was collated and designed for the community as a resource to collaborate and continue to update beyond the Learning Site. It was inspiring when a Youngtown resident found out the community had a public tennis court so close to her home.

## Launceston Place Brand

During the development of the Launceston Place Brand, the Youngtown ABCDE Learning Site was identified as a great engagement opportunity.

Tourism and Events Officer Claire Campbell attended a Builder Time and, following a short presentation on the project, directly asked attendees how the place brand and its outputs might work in the community, both tangibly and intangibly. Claire then led one-on-one conversations and arranged separate meetings for those Builders eager to discuss the matter in more depth.

From this opportunity has sprung meaningful connections with community members and potential place brand ambassadors, including Eduardo Batalha, who shared his experience as a new resident and is now eager to weave the brand through his community soccer clinics.

Another fantastic outcome was the identification of brand application: we are exploring the installation of place brand creative such as banners and posters around Youngtown.

Overall, this collaboration with the Youngtown Learning Site was an excellent example of utilising and strengthening community networks to achieve an understanding and pride in another major City of Launceston project.

## Youngtown Brand

In 2020/21 we tried a new approach to the Learning Site model and asked the community for their suggestions to create a Youngtown Learning Site tag line, to identify the true sentiment of the place. Twelve suggestions were submitted and the workshop participants voted on their favourite - Youngtown *Growing Together*. The logo was designed into bumper stickers and tote bags by local Graphic Designer Louise Thrush, and featured gum nuts, found in many Youngtown gardens. Community members have used the logo to connect their project to others including Youngtown Community Soccer, Rotary Club of Youngtown Community BBQ, Free2B Girls and the Franklin Village Sign.





Youngtown Builder  
Time: Melanie Kate  
Photography

Find a community builder team and vision and by asking 3 key questions.



## Community Builders

Community builders naturally appear in a Learning Site. They are individuals who understand their community, care about it and want to make positive change. Many have led the way with their own projects and brought others on board to share the experience. Builder Times are a vehicle for this to happen by sharing information, seeking help and advice and simply to enjoy good home cooked food by the football club caterers.

It can be challenging for people to connect with others, meet new people and feel a valued part of society. The Learning Site is a great way to bring people together, providing a tangible way for people to connect.

We continued the regular social catch ups at the South Launceston Football Club called Builder Time. This time provides an opportunity for anyone to attend, chat and collaborate on projects. The venue is ideal for continued use by the public and hopefully the community will keep meeting informally.

Community builders are central to the operation of the ABCDE Learning Site, they help shape and implement community-building initiatives.



Youngtown Builder  
Time: Melanie Kate  
Photography



# Community Projects

A key part of the Learning Site involves the community dreaming about what they would like to see happen in Youngtown and how they can be involved. Throughout the many conversations and workshops over the past year, people shared over 50 big ideas. The common ideas for Youngtown are:

- Public toilets and a BBQ in Alma Street Park;
- More events;
- A movie night or market at the South Launceston Football Club;
- Clean up footpaths, removing litter, installing rubbish bins, mowing nature strips and killing weeds;
- Dog off leash area in Bluegum Park;
- A community centre;
- Sporting hub;
- Basketball courts (indoor);
- A public space to share our creative output;
- An ongoing community group to discuss ideas and collaborate for positive change in the community;
- Youngtown park run; and
- Good places to hang out and a pump track.



*"I would like to see the community as one family. My big idea is providing more opportunity for people in different ages to get together, such as carnivals, food markets and events in the area."*

Community workshop participant

The Community Connector engages with Community Builders to vision and plan their project ideas and asked 3 key questions:

1. What can we do?
2. What do we need outside help with?
3. What do we need outside agencies to do for us?

After many more conversations with the community, here are the Youngtown Learning Site projects which the community got up and running with the support of the Community Connector.

We want your BIG Ideas  
Do you have a really cool idea for your community ?  
What awesome ideas do you have to make the place where you live more fun ?  
What will help make your dreams for the future come true ?  
It can be anything really ... just tell us what you think would make your community a better place for kids to live, play and basically just hang out in.

My BIG idea for our community is ...

And I could contribute to making it happen by ...

Name :  
Contact phone/email :

*"The best way to get great ideas is to have lots of them." (Thomas Edison)*

Right – Ross Smith and Andrew Parsons from QVMAG looking through the football clubs' archives  
Below – Youngtown Memorial Oval:  
Melanie Kate Photography



## South Launceston Football Club Community Space

The South Launceston Football Club's home is at the Youngtown Memorial Park, a Council owned asset. Wayne Mitchell, President of the Club, offered Sarah a space to work from and club rooms for various programs. Sarah and Wayne meet regularly throughout the year to chat about the Committee's vision for the future which is to create a bigger sports and community precinct with more facilities for the community. The Learning Site in Youngtown was perfect timing for this grand vision as Sarah was able to share it and brought people to the venue to utilise it more. It's an incredible asset with a rich history, rooms and a bar with weekly counter meals, a grand stand, kiosk area and well maintained facilities by the club's volunteers and Council. Builder Times were held bi-monthly in the club rooms as well as the Community Workshop with Peter Kenyon with over 60 community members. Over the period of the Learning Site, Council has managed a cost effective upgrade of the existing Youngtown Oval Memorial Change Rooms. It achieved an improved internal design layout to the sports complex, its amenities and ablution facilities. This project has provided male and female participants, umpires, junior and senior players, trainers and other staff at the Club with a modern upgrade that will serve for many years to come.

*"The future is looking bright, the fact that the Youngtown community has a place to attend and feel comfortable to do so is a win itself, it is more than just a footy club."*

Wayne Mitchell, President, South Launceston Football Club



## Archiving South Launceston Football Club Memorabilia

The South Launceston Football Club has precious memorabilia from City South and East Launceston Football Club and their amalgamation. Consisting of old photos, score boards and media, the Football Club Committee values this material and wanted it preserved. When Sarah met with Terry Coghlan, long standing volunteer at the club who sadly died in 2020, he was passionate about preserving the memorabilia. Ross Smith, Museums Collections Officer and Andrew Parsons, Librarian - Archivist from the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG) met Terry and Sarah on site to look at the materials and gave advice on archiving possibilities. A working bee occurred in October 2020 and the treasured history was packed up, awaiting QVMAG to have the resources to accept it and archive it online for the community to access. This will keep the memories alive and accessible for the community.



## Women's Workshop at Footy Club

Angela Dionysius' vision for Women's Workshop is a community space for women to come together to create, make, build, fix and learn. A place of connection and belonging, to enhance women's independence at any stage of their life, an opportunity to learn new skills, to promote sustainability and wellbeing and give back to the community. By connecting Angela to the South Launceston Football Club, Women's Workshop now has a home.





## Franklin Village Signage

Franklin Village began as a relatively small but significant Van Diemens Land settlement in early colonial times. Its importance stemmed largely from being on the main road between Hobart and Launceston and a noteworthy staging post on that highway. It was also a centre of a rich and developing farming area. Originally known as Long Meadows it was re-named Franklin Village to honour Sir John Franklin (1786-1847) when he succeeded Sir George Arthur as Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemens Land in 1837. Much of the early development including the erection of inns, houses and other commercial and service buildings occurred during Franklin's governorship which ended when he was recalled in 1843.

Over two centuries this early colonial village has evolved to become a light industrial, commercial and residential suburb of the City of Launceston. To rationalise communication and administrative services the area has been absorbed by the suburb of Youngtown (when postcodes were introduced in Australia in July 1967) and lost a great deal of its distinctiveness as an identifiable locality and historically significant precinct in its own right. However, the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania has confirmed that Franklin Village remains a legally recognised name but the boundaries are not presently defined.

In 2009 the Franklin Village Heritage Committee was formed to re-establish the identity of Franklin Village as a location in its own right and to identify, interpret and promote the historical elements of the Village. One of the projects proposed by the Committee was for the fabrication and erection of "Welcome to Franklin Village" signs in the vicinity of the Alma Street/Hobart Road junction (City of Launceston) and future plans to the south of the Kerry Lodge Bridge (Northern Midlands). It was timely that we were able to work together with Franklin Village to bring the sign to life in June 2021 on Alma Street in Youngtown.

## Launceston Tool Library

Did you know the average power drill is used for 13 minutes in its lifetime? Yet, many households have at least one in their garage. There are many more examples like these where resource intensive and expensive tools and equipment are being under-utilised. The Launceston Tool Library idea aligns with the concept of a circular and sharing economy, keeping products in use, and the sharing economy in promoting the distribution of underutilised resources. A Tool Library will provide Launceston an opportunity to reduce resource consumption, divert waste from landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to social equity, build community resilience and offer a great way to learn new skills and engage with the community.

The Shed (Veterans and Community Wood Centre Incorporated) and the City of Launceston are now working together to begin the inaugural Launceston Tool Library. The Shed has secured funding for an extension to their existing building to house the tools, and the project will continue to be developed throughout the Kings Meadows Learning Site.

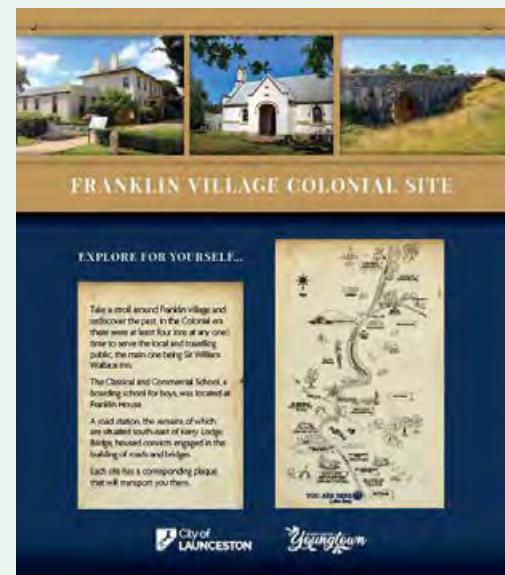


Image by Louise Thrush



Jason Martin, Owner/Pharmacist Youngtown Pharmacy in front of the new community noticeboard

## Youngtown Community Soccer

Local resident, Eduardo Batalha, was passionate about starting community soccer training with young people in Youngtown and was looking for support. Eduardo was connected with the Youngtown Primary School and now uses their school oval for soccer training 4-8 year olds on a Saturday morning. Eduardo has new skills in project management, basic soccer equipment and participants who are really enjoy the regular community soccer activity.

*"The Learning Site will teach me more about community engagement and the promotion of healthy and friendly environments for people. I will also take as a learning outcome how to have self-initiative and commitment with volunteer initiatives, giving back and doing my part to the community that I live in."*

Eduardo Batalha, Youngtown resident

## Community Noticeboards and Little Library

A big need identified in the Community Workshop was the need to find out what's going on in Youngtown. This resulted in two large outdoor weatherproof noticeboards installed outside the Youngtown Pharmacy and at the South Launceston Football Club. The community can utilise these to connect with each other and share events and information about what's going on.

The City of Launceston's Little Libraries is a loved initiative and now the community has its very own outside the Youngtown Pharmacy.



## Revitalise Bluegum Park

Patrick Farrington and local residents told us at the Community Workshop they would love to see Bluegum Park freshened up. The land is owned by State Government with the asset licenced to the City of Launceston. Council removed the fallen tree limbs resulting from the snowfall last year, weeded the tennis court and installed a new tennis net. The community treasures this park and will continue to take pride in looking after it.



## Youngtown Flash Mob

Melissa Wimmer, owner and teacher of Melissa Wimmer School of Theatrical Dance in Youngtown had always wanted to do a Youngtown Flash Mob. We supported Melissa to make this happen in the Youngtown Primary School in December 2020 with a performance at the school and in the Launceston Mall.

Following was a community call out to dance the Youngtown Flash Mob with over 30 dancers joining up. The community version was performed at Harvest Market and Crazy Day in early 2021 with hopefully more performances to come.



## Rotary Club of Youngtown Annual Community BBQ

The Rotary Club of Youngtown was instrumental in providing playground equipment in the Alma Street Park in Youngtown. This is a space which is utilised regularly by the community who would love public toilets and a BBQ installed and to come together more often and connect. In March 2021 the Rotary Club hosted a free Community BBQ with local singers, games and basketball in the half court. Rotary is now intending to make the Community Barbecue at the Alma Street Park an annual event.

*"As a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Youngtown we are intending to make the Community Barbecue at the Alma Street Park in March an annual event. Thank you Sarah and the LCC for your assistance in the inaugural event. It was a great day."*

*The Rotary Club in conjunction with the Men's Shed are looking forward to seeing the Tool Library come to fruition."*

Viv Rainbow, Rotarian, Rotary Club of Youngtown

## Free2b Girls

Launceston's inaugural Free2b Girls began in Youngtown at the South Launceston Football Club rooms in April 2021. This program provides a space for girls, aged 10-16 years, once a week, to come and feel safe and engage in various activities. It assists in generating of imagination and creativity, enabling hope where it otherwise may not exist. The program will be led by a facilitator and other volunteers to deliver various activities including; cooking, arts and craft, outdoor play, volunteering and journaling. The group aims to build girls' confidence, creativity and independence. Free2b Girls will continue during school terms into the future.

Image of Melissa Wimmer with a Grade 6 Youngtown Primary School Film Crew



## Youngtown Community Film

An important part of the City of Launceston's ABCDE Learning Sites is a film project led by Evi van der Nett and David Adams from Action Crew. The purpose of the film is to hear people's stories about their connection to Youngtown and what they care about in their community. Twenty Grade 6 Student Leaders (2020 and 2021) from Youngtown Primary and Grade 7 students at Kings Meadows High School participated in a mentoring process to make the film in March 2021. We invited over 15 community members to be in the film. To access the 11 minute film please visit <https://vimeo.com/554046971>

*"It has been a wonderful opportunity for everyone who has had any involvement. Thank you for your fantastic commitment and the way that you have worked so closely and professionally with us."*

Deaine Coyle, Principal Youngtown Primary School



## Youngtown History

Tony McCormack, Youngtown resident and writer has collated stories and key facts about aspects of Youngtown history which is included on the reverse of the report.

## Youngtown Jinglers Creek Restoration

The aim of this project is to repair areas of erosion and slumping, undertake some weed management and to then revegetate the area with native flora. In choosing the plant list, Council have identified some colourful local natives which should provide an exciting splash of colour in the spring. Council intends to work with Youngtown Primary School students for the planting day in the near future.

## Youngtown Community Fair

The community would like to have an event at the South Launceston Football grounds and are working on how this may happen. The event will include local produce, entertainment, sports and dance demonstrations.

## Hobart Road Refuge

We heard that it's sometimes hard for Glenara Lakes and other residents to safely cross Hobart Road. It's a busy main road and one of the road refuges will be made slightly bigger for safer crossing in the not too distant future.

## Where to Next

The ABCDE approach is about empowering residents as co-creators of their future. Council is being recognised by the community for giving confidence to others to make the change they want to see happen.

The City of Launceston has cultivated significant relationships throughout the Learning Sites by fostering the approach of learning and collaboration. One of the most important aspects of the project is to empower people to feel like they can take action and build stronger communities. Although the Learning Site program ends in a place, the relationships and project development in these places continues.

Youngtown has stronger connections and new initiatives with their own future project list and a perfect asset at the South Launceston Football Club rooms to continue to connect. The concept of the community deciding what's important to them and being involved directly in achieving their ideas creates the foundation for the work to continue.

It's important for Council and the Community Builders to check in with each other and keep encouraging the strengths based work. The community is capable of continuing the work they do after the formal structure of a Learning Site with Council support and ongoing tools to assist with this. In the 2021/22 Learning Site we will celebrate 5 years of the program and will host Community Builders from past Learning Sites with other key community leaders to participate in a special City of Launceston Community Builders Workshop Peter Kenyon from Bank of I.D.E.A.S..





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Self Help Workplace  
South Launceston Football Club  
TasTAFE  
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Tony McCormack  
Women's Workshop  
Youngtown Pharmacy  
Youngtown Primary School

Thank you to the community members who met with Sarah and to the City of Launceston staff who assisted with the community projects.

City of Launceston Youngtown Learning Site Project Team: John Davis, Yvette Harmey, Sarah McCormack, Dana Lester and Racheal Wheatley.

This report was prepared by Sarah McCormack, Community Connector, City of Launceston

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*"Great to be part of the energy and excitement the project generated and seeing a bigger picture of Youngtown community. The impact on building positive culture in our workplace and community will benefit our organisation into the future."*

Wendy French, Team Leader Administration - Social Enterprise, City Mission

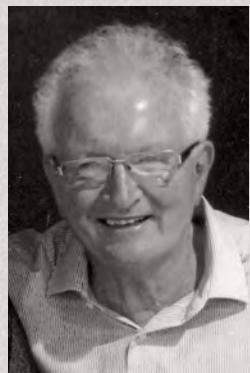




# ASPECTS OF YOUNGTOWN HISTORY

BY TONY McCORMACK





## About the Author

Tony McCormack grew up on his Dad's farm at Evandale. His father Eddie and Eddie's father Ned grew up on farms in the foothills of Ben Lomond at Blessington. Like his father Tony had a childhood ambition to be a farmer but he accepted a student- teacher scholarship and completed a B.Sc. degree (1965) at the Tasmanian University in Hobart. Later he obtained an M. Ed. (1984) followed by a Ph.D. (1990). Tony taught Years 11 and 12 students Physics and Mathematics for 32 of his 47 years in education.

From 1981 Tony has been equally passionate in researching the history of his forebears in Tasmania. Having compiled the Blessington McCormack Family Tree in early 1982, Tony was part of a small committee that organised McCormack family reunions in the 1980s. Tony published "The Blessington McCormacks" about his father and grandfather farming in 2013.

Along with other retirees, Tony has been passionate about visiting farms and meeting farmers in recent years. Tony published three volumes sub-headed: "Stories of Farmers and Their Farms" Volume 1 "Reaching Out from Trafalgar" (2015), Volume 2 "Reaching Out from Evandale" (2017) and Volume 3 "Reaching Out from Ben Lomond" (2019).

A member of the Franklin Village Heritage Committee for over a decade and currently Chair of the Glenara Lakes Archives Committee, Tony has developed a passion writing about key historical developments in the "Gateway to the North" - Youngtown.

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# 1

## Introduction

# An Outline of Development in the Last 65 years

When riding on the Barnes School Bus from Evandale during 1957 – 1961 to attend Launceston Technical High School, Wellington Street, I would pass through Youngtown about 200 times each year. In this way I became familiar with the suburb as I grew up.

Youngtown was a much smaller suburb in the 1950s. Prior to secondary school, I attended Evandale Primary School and played sport against Youngtown Primary School at the “old” oval where Savoy Place now has its cul-de-sac (2006). For the past 65 years I have been aware of the increase in housing and factory developments in the Youngtown suburb.

My father and mother, Edward and Edith McCormack, died in the first half of the 1990s. They would have found it hard to believe that Norwood had been linked to Youngtown via Poplar Parade. Indeed, I was amazed when I first found out!

The Glenara Boys Home was once situated at Glenara Lakes, where I now reside. This Retirement and Lifestyle Village opened in mid-2002. In the 1950s several boys from Glenara Boys Home caught the bus to attend Launceston High School. Later they attended Kings Meadows High School, which opened in 1960.

My first teaching practical was at Kings Meadows High School prior to attending second year University. It was for the first month of the 1963 school year and this is when I first observed the athletic ability of a now famous member of the Glenara Boys Home, namely Derek Peardon.

# 2

# Youngtown named after Tasmanian Governor Sir Henry Young

Youngtown is named after Sir Henry Fox Young (1803 – 1870), who was technically the “First” Governor of Tasmania (1855 to 1861). Previous Governors of the Colony / State were Governors of Van Diemen’s Land. The name changed to Tasmania in 1856. Prior to accepting his Tasmanian appointment, Sir Henry Fox Young was the fifth Governor of South Australia (1848 – 1854).

---

# 3

# Glenara Boys Home Product Derek Peardon and “Dreamtime at the ‘G”

## Derek Peardon Sparked Kevin Sheedy’s Instigation of “Dreamtime at the G”

Born an Indigenous Australian on Flinders Island in 1950, Derek Peardon firstly lived at Cape Barren Island before moving to the Youngtown Glenara Boys Home where he lived from c1957 – 1965.

Peardon attended Youngtown Primary School and later Kings Meadows High School from where he was picked in the Tasmanian Under-16 Schoolboys Football Team that played in the 1965 West Australian Carnival where Peardon tied for best player at the Carnival and was selected for the All Australian Team. He was subsequently recruited to Richmond Football Club.

Derek Peardon played for Richmond in the Victorian Football League (now Australian Football League) from 1966 – 1971; he was on Richmond’s Senior List from 1968 - 1971.

Andrew Mathieson, in The Examiner on 5 July 2019 writes:

*... the influence of five years (Kevin Sheedy, a legend in the football world) spent with Peardon at Punt road ... sparking the concept behind Richmond and Essendon embracing Dreamtime at the ‘G that began in 2005.*

*“Sheedy does reckon I inspired him to do that – he told me,” Peardon says. “He went from meeting me , to get and meet other (Indigenous) players and travel around the Top End to those little towns, to the Dreamtime at the “G. So I am very proud of my part.”*

The Examiner 5 July 2019 article written by Andrew Mathieson included:

*The elusive Peardon had been knocking the advances from the Tigers back for six years until his sister Annette, a Tasmanian reconciliation advocate, finally intervened.*

*“She rang Richmond up to book us in otherwise I would have said no again – so it was a homecoming (in 2015),” he (Peardon) says.*

---

## Sir Doug Nicholls and the Indigenous Round

In *The Examiner* on 10 April 2021 Brian Wightman wrote that Sir Douglas Nicholls played 52 games in the VFL for Fitzroy and was the first Indigenous Australian to represent Victoria; he was Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and became Governor of South Australia. Wightman continued: "The Sir Doug Nicholls Round, culminating in Dreamtime at the 'G, is played in his honour." Derek Peardon thus has a shared honour with Sir Douglas Nicholls. Just prior to the deadline for this publication I was given a copy of an article written by Martin Flanagan on Derek Peardon in *The Age* (29 May 2015) entitled: "The man who sparked Kevin Sheedy's fascination with Aboriginal Australia".

Derek Peardon returned to Tasmania and played in two Premierships for the City-South Football Club in 1972 and 1974. He won the NTFA Best and Fairest Award in 1973 and represented Tasmania.

## Derek Peardon

Born on Flinders Island or Cape Barren Island in 1950  
Lived at Glenara Boys Home from age 7  
Attended Youngtown Primary from c1957–1962  
Attended Kings Meadows High School from 1963–1965

### Football Highlights

1965	All Australian School Boys Team in W.A, where he tied for Best Player at the Carnival
1966–1971	Played for Richmond recruited at age 16 1966 Member of Richmond 4ths Premiership team 1967 Member of Richmond Under 19 Premiership team 1968–1971 Although injured, played 20 Senior games
1972–1974+	Played for City – South Football Club 1972 Member of Premiership Team 1974 Member of Premiership Team Won 2 Club Best and Fairest Awards In 1973 won NTFA Best and Fairest Award Represented NTFA on 9 occasions Represented Tasmania on 2 occasions



*Photo of Derek Peardon from City-South Football Club archives, South Launceston Football Club Rooms, Youngtown*

# 4 Youngtown Oval Home for City – South Football Club (1965) then South Launceston Football Club (1986)

## Reg Walker a Man of Vision

Ken Pinchen, author of the "Redlegs Centenary, City-South Football Club, 1880-1980: History of the City-South Football Club" (1980), wrote that Reg Walker was first elected as President of the City-South Football Club in 1963.

He was a power of strength in that position during the 1965 move from York Park to the Youngtown Oval until 1968, when he stood down.

Reg was elected again from 1972 to 1973 and from 1978- 1980, the Centenary year. Reg Walker included in his Centenary President's Message:

*We should all be proud of achieving 100 years of community involvement, of providing opportunities for our youth to become involved in a great sport for physical and character development.*

*We should all be proud of our successes on the field, second to none in Tasmania, and our successes in developing a club in the true sense of the word, with a tradition and premises also second to none.*

## City-South Football Club moved to the Youngtown Oval in 1965

City-South Football Club moved to the Youngtown Oval, Highgate St. in 1965. South Launceston Football Club was the result of City-South and East Launceston merging in 1986.

## Terry Coghlan an Outstanding Clubman

I was indeed privileged to be introduced to Terry Coghlan, the South Launceston Member renowned for often being the last to leave a function, and the first to arrive next day to unlock the doors to the clubhouse.

Terry assisted me in the room below the South Launceston Clubrooms at Youngtown Oval as I sorted out City-South, East Launceston and South Launceston memorabilia to be offered as archives to the Inveresk Museum.

Sadly Terry died in late December 2020. The large crowd that attended his Memorial Service on Youngtown Oval was indicative of the respect in which he was held. An inspiration to all who knew him, Terry will be missed but his legacy will live on in the community.



Franklin House: by Melanie Kate Photography

## 5 Franklin House Important Tourism Icon in Youngtown

### Franklin House was Built as a Gentleman's Residence in 1838

The document "Introduction of Visitors to Franklin House" is referred to below. From this I read that Franklin House was built as a "... gentleman's modest but genteel residence" in 1838. The Introduction includes:

*In 1842 it was leased and later purchased by Mr William Keeler Hawkes who added a single story schoolroom and established the Classical and Commercial school, an elite boarding school for the sons of wealthy graziers and successful business men and merchants of nearby Launceston.*

*After the school closed in c1866 the family lived in the house until the last member, Charlotte, died in 1888. From 1888 until 1960 a number of different families used the house as their residence but by 1960 it had become dilapidated and in need of major restoration or demolition.*

### National Trust Tasmania Formed to Acquire Franklin House in 1960

Previously known as "The Hollies", Franklin House was re-named in 1961 by the National Trust Tasmania because it is in Franklin Village, which runs south from Alma Street to Kerry Lodge Bridge, which is a) often referred to as "Spiky Bridge" and b) is the boundary for the Launceston and Northern Midlands Councils.

Included in the "Introduction of Visitors to Franklin House":

*... in 1960 the house was offered for auction as a potential industrial or commercial site to cater for such expanding activity in the area. However, a group of concerned Launceston citizens believed that the building should be saved as significant heritage for future generations. This group successfully acquired the property and proceeded to raise funds for its restoration and furnishing. The task was successfully completed and the building opened as a house museum on 28 October 1961. It was named Franklin House due to its location in Franklin Village which at the time was losing its separate identity as it became absorbed in the Launceston suburb of Youngtown.*

The group formed to save the house became the National Trust Tasmania.

# Youngtown Primary School

# History of Youngtown State School



Steve Pearsall, Launceston Library Services Officer, researched Trove and found: Youngtown school started in temporary premises in Napoleon Street in 1887 and it moved to its present site in Victoria Street in 1934



## Driving Around Youngtown with Jim Stewart

Jim Stewart told me that the first Youngtown Primary School plus the Headmaster's residence was built in Napoleon Street. Jim showed me the place where the School stood until a new school was built at its current site in Victoria Street in 1934.



Eutectic, a welding workshop built by Jim Stewart on the corner of Napoleon Street and Hobart Road, was opened in 1974. Part of the Eutectic building covers the old School. Ross Horgan of Kings Meadows Floor Coverings currently leases part of the old Eutectic building.

Images – Top: Image of Youngtown State School, provided by Lance Carroll, Middle: EUTECTIC building, provided by Jim Stewart, and Bottom: Lance Carroll, Jim Stewart and Tony McCormack on the Napoleon Street side of the EUTECTIC building, provided by Martin Le Fevre

# Rotary Club of Youngtown

## Commenced in 1981

Jim Stewart told me that he was an inaugural member of the Rotary Club of Youngtown, which commenced in 1981. Jim was president in 1983-84.

When I met with Jim and fellow Rotarian Ian Smith at the Youngtown Rotary Community Playground at Alma Street earlier in 2021 Ian told me that he joined because he knew the current President Ted Burton. Both of them had previously worked at Savage River. Jim Stewart told me that Youngtown Rotary's exciting plan to erect signs stating "Youngtown – the Gateway to the North" at Kerry Lodge and where SEAROAD is today was aborted. This was because the new Midlands Highway from Breadalbane to Launceston by-passed Youngtown.

All in all, Jim Stewart and Ian Smith breathe life and laughter into any conversation!

# 8

## Youngtown Cricket Club and Kings Meadows Cricket Association

My good friend Lance Carroll, a keen family historian who excelled at cricket, sent me this photo with the following comment:

*I am sending you a photo of the Youngtown Cricket Club, premiers in the Kings Meadows Cricket Association in 1937.*

*My uncle Richard "Harry" Carroll (Dad's brother) is standing in the rear row, number 7 from the left. He has a patch over his eye. He lost an eye at a very early age after a spring flew out of a clock.*

The photo opposite was in The Examiner on 23 April 2011, where the sports writer Terry Morris wrote:

*The Youngtown Cricket Club played in the Kings Meadows League, which was very popular in the district before World War 11.*

*Where the Kings Meadows High School stands today there was a cricket pitch, (Lance Carroll) said. Altogether there were four pitches on the grounds of the Kings Meadows School, and it shows how popular cricket was in those days.*

*Prior to the High School being built (1960), along with my father Allan, I and a number of players laid the present wicket on the school oval.*

Terry Morris gave due praise to the cricket career of Lance Carroll as follows:

*Carroll himself was an above-average cricketer, graduating from the Kings Meadows Cricket Club to NTCA cricket with Mowbray and South Launceston.*

*He later returned to Kings Meadows and in 1968-69 captained the A grade team to a premiership.*

*There were many very good cricketers around in those days, he (Carroll) said.*

Also in the photo is Ivan Filleul, Superintendent of Glenara Boys Home from 1928.



### The Filleuls were Superintendents and Matrons at Glenara Boys Home

The Filleuls were very popular Superintendents and Matrons at Glenara Boys Home. Former Glenara Lakes Archives Chair and instigator of the Franklin House Heritage Committee Terry Childs wrote:

*In 1928 a new era began with the appointment of an ex-policeman from Devonport Mr. Ivan Filleul as Superintendent and his wife Daphne as Matron. ...They were firm but caring and were affectionately referred as "Mum" and "Dad". The boys were encouraged to play football and cricket and participate in other sports.*

*All boys of primary school age attended Youngtown State School. For the first time in 1956 two boys attended secondary education at Launceston High School and in 1960 ten boys enrolled at the newly established Kings Meadows High School.*

*The Filleuls were succeeded by their son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Filleul who had been their deputies for many years. They resigned in 1967 and were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. R G Willis who served until 1979.*

# Glenara Lakes Streets

## Named From 2002–2008

In the July 2020 Newsletter of the Glenara Lakes Residents Association I wrote:

### **Record Avenue – Named after George Record**

George Record was a highly regarded Launceston accountant and a long-standing member of the Board of the Glenara Boys Home. Record Avenue is named in his memory. As well, Stage 2 of the renovated Leisure Facilities is named:

### **The George Record Block – It contains Club Rooms plus Activities Areas**

The name “The George Record Block” is inscribed in the mantelpiece in what is currently termed “The Clubrooms”. In 1978 the Boys Home was partially destroyed by fire and on 30 July 1979 the “Northern Scene” reported that the building of Stage 1 (the staff and dining quarters) had been completed at a cost of \$5,000. The description fits the area currently housing the Clubrooms and other facilities.



*The George Record Block Mantelpiece*



*Sir Geoffrey Foot wearing his Doctorate attire*

### **Foot Court – Named after Sir Geoffrey Foot**

Sir Geoffrey Foot was a member of the Glenara Boys Home Board for 23 years, most of the time Treasurer. A Member of the Legislative Council from 1972 – 1982, Sir Geoffrey was Knighted on January 1st 1984. In 1988 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (LL.D) by UTAS.

Early in 2006 residents moved into four villas in Foot Court.

Recently (2019 – 2020) Foot Court has been extended and an additional 26 stand-alone Villas have been built and sold to new residents.

**Glenara Lakes Retirement and Lifestyle Village now has a total of 117 Villas.**

It is regularly referred to by Southern Cross Care Executives and residents as equal to the “Best Retirement Village in Australia”.

# 10

# History of Street Developments

I gained information from local sources including Bill Allan who owned several nurseries including one in Youngtown on the corner of Hobart Road and Alma Street. I was delighted to meet Bill on the 19 March 2021 and learned about him owning 35 acres and living in Jubilee Road from 1959 – 1989.

## Redwood Crescent Extended South in the Early 1980s

Rosemary Dixon of Relbia Farm confirmed the following. She and her husband David extended Redwood Avenue and sold large blocks.

In McCormack, Tony, "Reaching Out From Evandale (2017) Stories of Farmers and their Farms" I included:

*Among a continuum of projects: (that is) innovations and developments, David subdivided the southern end of Redwood Crescent leading down to Jinglers Creek into 10a blocks in the (early) 1980s.*

## Richings Estate developed from 1994–2004

Local historian and surveyor John Dent advised me that Leichardt was purchased by Dr N A and Mrs C H Downie in 1980.

In order to confirm the year dates for development and naming of streets in Youngtown, I consulted three folders of City of Launceston "Launceston Street Names", in the history section of the Launceston Library.

From these City of Launceston files I gleaned the information that streets in the Richings Estate were developed and named over the 11-year period 1994 – 2004.

## Completion of Poplar Parade in 1996

As mentioned in the Introduction, my father and mother, Edward and Edith McCormack, died in the first half of the 1990s. They would have found it hard to believe that Norwood had been linked to Youngtown via Poplar Parade.

Sonia Smith, Team Leader - Infrastructure Development, Infrastructure & Assets Network for the City of Launceston, confirmed that Poplar Parade was completed in 1995/6. Thus, Youngtown was connected to Norwood via Poplar Parade by 1996, not long after my parents died.

## Youngtown Primary School Oval moved to Victoria Street

When I played football and cricket for Evandale Primary School the Youngtown Primary School oval used to be where Savoy Place cul-de-sac (off Dundas St) was developed in 2006. The oval is now in the school grounds at Victoria Street.

## Kings Meadows Connector Renamed Kings Meadows Link in c2008

Sonia Smith advised that the Kings Meadows Connector from The Midlands Highway to the roundabout where Quarantine Road commences was renamed Kings Meadows Link in 2005.

## 2021 Developments Now Link Victoria Street and Kings Meadows Link

Streets in the Oakden Park subdivision were named in 2020 and 2021. Motorists leaving Bunnings may travel along Enterprize Drive, turn south to Raglan Street, turn east into Victoria Street and end up at Hobart Road. Sonia Smith stated:

*Enterprize Drive and the other streets located within the Oakden Park subdivision take their names from historical ships that sailed to Australia (and in some cases to Tasmania during early European settlement).*