

8 REDEMPTORIST MONASTERY

Woodstock St



You might have heard of the German-born architect, Frederick Menkens, who designed a number of public buildings in Newcastle. Menkens designed this monastery as well, dedicated in 1887. Quite an imposing building, isn't it? Set high on about 5 hectares of land that extended down to Maitland Rd, the Monastery was once the 'mother house' of the Redemptorist Order in Australia.

At one time the complex housed more than 20 priests, brothers and novices training for the priesthood, who would rise at 4.55am to begin a day of prayer, meditation and domestic duties. Food, advice and assistance were given to those in need.

Let's keep walking down Woodstock St. Unlike many other streets in Mayfield this one has street trees. The older streets are narrower and were laid out at a time when street trees were not valued. Turn left into and continue along Crebert Street. Keep a lookout in the first hundred metres for a remnant of the original iron bark forest, which once covered the suburb.

Take a rest under the butcher shop awning.

9 DESIRABLE LIVING

Heritage Bliss



As you now know, up until the arrival of BHP in 1913, Mayfield was a highly desirable place to live. From 1901 it was connected to the city by steam tram, as well as train, and it possessed what estate agents today would call 'rural charm'.

The *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miner's Advocate* in 1898 described the suburb as the 'Toorak of Newcastle', and a number of wealthy and prominent business families took up residence.

It was a place for the social elite, some of whom built their villas along the ridge lines where they could admire the views, as well as take symbolic advantage of their elevated positions. 'Delightful surrounding scenery and easy access to the city by rail' spruiked an 1851 advertisement. By 1915, however, posters were advertising land for worker's housing as 'the heart of the manufacturing district'.

Continue walking along Crebert St.

10 CREBERT STREET

An Exclusive Address



Crossing Kerr St we come across a row of houses built in 1888 which were home to some of the wealthy families who once lived in Mayfield. 147 Crebert St was built for the Rogers family who owned a foundry; 145 was built for Nelson Creer from Creer and Berkeley Real Estate agents and who was Mayor of Waratah three times.

That house was then owned by the Dean family who had a pottery works on the riverbank. The lions that you can see on the front steps were made at the works. 143 Crebert St was owned by Sam Arnott, the second son of William; 141 Crebert St was the home of Mr. Chinchin, a surveyor who gave his name to a street in Islington.

Across the road you will see the entrance to Mayfield Park. This land was a gift from the Lysaghts Company to the families of Mayfield and was the venue for many a sporting challenge. The British migrants who lived in 'Pommy Town' formed the Orb United Soccer Club in 1922, later playing in the church soccer competition.

Cricket was popular, too, with the Mayfield Methodist Church having several teams. Why not take a break here for a few minutes?

This park was central to the social life of many of the local residents. Carefully cross Hanbury St and continue along Crebert Street.

11 BELLA VISTA (1914)

105 Crebert St



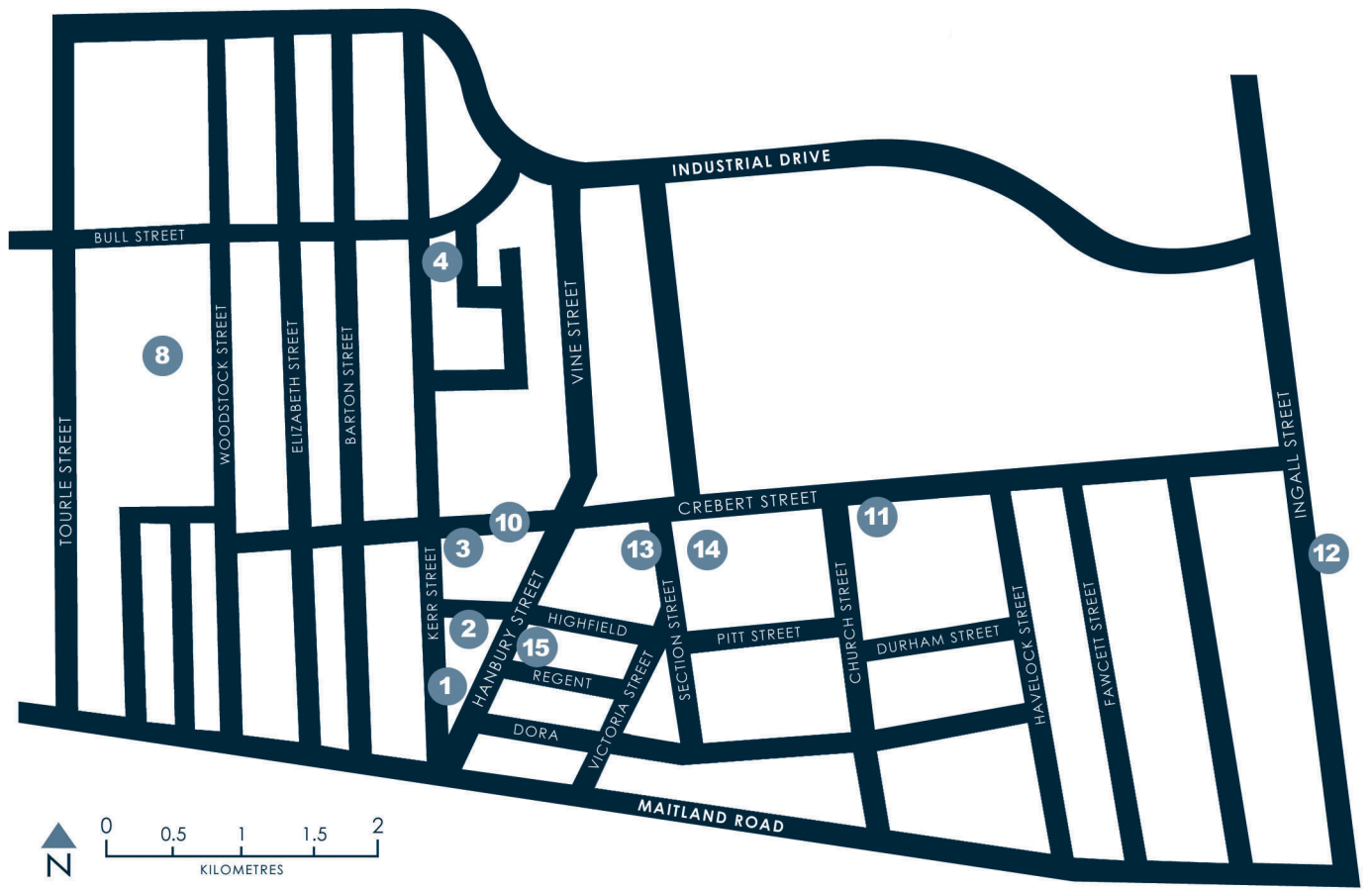
This mansion was built originally as the Work Manager's house for BHP and, at one stage, Essington Lewis, who became Chief General Manager of the BHP company resided here (have you seen the play *Essington Lewis, I am Work*, by local playwright John O'Donohue?).

While not a lot of the house can be seen, it is a 2-storey Edwardian style mansion. And guess what? When Queen Elizabeth II visited Newcastle in 1954, she stayed at Bella Vista, right here in Mayfield.

The grounds included a croquet lawn. As you walk towards the eastern boundary, you can see the remnants of an old terraced vegetable garden.

As you walk further up Crebert St you pass by a bed of exposed sandstone under San Clemente High School. The sandstone that underlies much of this area acted as an aquifer from which the earlier residents used to draw water via wells.

Continue walking towards the traffic lights and cross Ingall Street.



1 THE TERMIUS

2 UNITING CHURCH

3 WINNONAVILLE

4 WINDEYER HOUSE

8 THE MONASTERY

10 CREBERT STREET

11 BELLA VISTA

12 INGALL HOUSE

13 MAYFIELD HOUSE

14 ARNOTT HOLME

15 WINAHRA

12 INGALL HOUSE (1894)

Cnr Crebert and Ingall St



Built in 1894 in a classic Victorian Italianate style, this house was originally built for Alfred Ingall, a local tailor and draper. It later became the residence of the first Manager of BHP, David Baker. The country style is reminiscent of the houses in Mayfield during the late nineteenth century and reflects the semi-rural setting in which it was built. BHP seemed to pursue a policy of locating their managers close to the plant and to the worker's housing and recreational facilities such as the former BHP Steelworks Bowling Club (now the Hippocrates Function Centre) and Recreation Club.

Turn now and face Mayfield East School which, by the way, is where the first school in Mayfield was established in 1858. Imagine instead of houses and streets that now exist you are standing in the middle of a patch of cultivated land

A vineyard and orchard were established here in 1853 by German immigrant, Peter Crebert. He produced the first wine in Newcastle in 1859. Industrial emissions, like those from the early copper smelting works established in 1870, caused problems for the grapes, as did grubs and birds.

Crebert's Folly Gardens became widely known and people would visit to buy fruit and wine and to walk through the gardens, which were likened by some to a botanical garden. Cross Crebert St at the lights and take in the Ingall St view of the industrial area.

Head back down Crebert St past the Mayfield Sport and Recreation Club which has the Essington Room named after the Essington Lewis mentioned earlier. The small area bounded by Vine and Arthur St is known locally as Pommy Town, a planned workers estate created in the 1920s.

Why not take the *Mayfield: Living the Life* walk to find out about this aspect of Mayfield's history? Turn left into Section St (after Church St) and you will soon see a grand looking home on the right side of the street.

13 MAYFIELD HOUSE (1884)

view from Section St



John Scholey was a butcher, property developer, businessman and later Mayor of Waratah (which included Mayfield) three times. He chose the highest point on the ridge to build his magnificent house, which was completed by 1884, and the gardens extended all the way to Crebert St. The Scholeys were like the royal family of Mayfield.

It is said that when Mrs Scholey wanted one of her servants to do something, she would simply clap her hands. She and other members of the 'Mayfieldocracy' were sometimes known as the 'Handclappers'.

In 1958 the house was purchased by the Baptist Home Trust to be used as a Hostel for Young Men and was renamed Lewis House again after Essington Lewis. The house retains the original chimneys, marble fireplaces and staircase. Looking across the road you can see another large home which is slightly hidden now.

14 ARNOTT HOLME (1885)

view from Section St



Originally built on a 5 acre block by Charles Uphold, owner of the Soap and Candle Factory which opened in Mayfield from 1886 east of Ingall St. The estate was sold to William Arnott in 1888 and named Arnott Holme. The Arnotts remained here until 1898. The bakery was in Hunter St, while members of the family resided here in Mayfield. The house was then sold to Isaac Winn, who renamed it Winn Court.

Many social functions, including fetes and Bible classes, were held in the home and grounds. In 1921 the house was acquired by the Church of England and became St Elizabeth's Girls Home and, later, St Albans Boys Home. It is now part of Annersley Court. This could be a 'Tim-Tam' stop!

Turn right into Highfield St and pass the rear of 'Mayfield House,' where you can see the Essington Lewis Building.

15 WINAHRA (1890)

21 Highfield St



William Arnott built this home for his daughter and her husband, Isaac Winn, who along with his brother founded Winn's drapery store in Hunter Street in 1878 (which closed in the 1980s). The Victorian manor, built in 1890, has six marble fireplaces, four bedrooms, a slate roof, music room, and a formal dining room.

Turning left into Hanbury Street will lead you to Maitland Road, where we started the walk. On the way down take a look at the mural at the library which was once the site of the blacksmiths shop.

There is still much more of the Mayfield Story to tell, so come back again soon and do the *Mayfield: Living the Life* walking tour.

Most houses along this walk are privately owned. Please respect the privacy of the residents by keeping to the path. Thankyou.