Changes to the semi-rural nature of the suburb occurred rapidly, and air and water pollution soon became established as characteristics of the River. You might have even seen the white sands of Shelley Beach, a popular recreational spot for locals. It’s buried too, though the happy memories of the old timers remain. In fact, up until the 1920s, the river at Mayfield was used for all resources. These original occupants were displaced early to the margins of the flood plain. Stand behind the bus shelter and take in the view. Windeyers, like other wealthy families of the time, had indentured goori people (a local name for Indigenous people) who lived here for many thousands of years, and who were of the wealthier people moved away from Mayfield around this time, which will enable you to have a better idea of where the walk is going to be. We have tried to weave together stories that show that there are many layers to the history of Mayfield, but we have aimed to give you a good overview of some of the major aspects of Mayfield’s past, please remember that there are many other stories that have been left out.

The walk should take a comfortable 2 hours to complete, and it is a great way to explore the history and culture of the area. If we have whetted your appetite for making your own explorations, please visit the Mayfield Web Site: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/collections/archive/visit/mayfield.html

Further Information Correspondence to be addressed to: Mayfield Mainstreet P.O. Box 235, Mayfield 2304

"...discover some interesting things."

Yes, that’s right. Mayfield was one of Newcastle’s most desirable and fashionable places to live, especially from the 1870s until the arrival of the BHP steelworks in 1913.

This brochure has been produced by The University of Newcastle’s Cultural Industries and Practices Research Centre (CIPS) with funding from the Australian Research Council through its Linkage Projects funding scheme (LP110100452). Many hours went into the production of this brochure, and difficult decisions had to be made about what to include and what to leave out. As such, the walk can include and what to leave out. As such, the walk can