

Melbourne Heritage Walk

Distance: 2 kms. Rating: Easy/Mild.
Walking time estimate: 1 hour, one way. From: Flinders Street. To: Little Lonsdale Street.

Explore the labyrinth of lanes and marvel at the history of the city - from the oldest flourmill in Victoria at 277 Flinders Lane, to the grandness of the Block Arcade (built 1891) and the oldest surviving shopping hub, the Royal Arcade (1869).

Merri Creek Trail

Distance: 21 km. Rating: Easy with some on road sections. Cycle time estimate: 3 hours.
From: Dights Falls. To: Flinders Street

Located in the northern suburbs, this winding route begins where the Merri Creek enters the Yarra River (and connects with the Yarra Trail) through Moomba Park and on to the Western Ring Road Path. Sights along the way include Dights Falls, Brunswick velodrome and Coburg Lake park.

Royal Botanic Garden Trail

Distance: 3 kilometers. Flat.
Walking time estimate: 2 – 3 hours. Start/Finish: Any gate.

See how many of the 12,000 different species of plants you can spot as you walk around this 89 acre garden, established not long after Melbourne was founded. Highlights of this picturesque and lush sanctuary include the Ornamental Lake and the Old Melbourne Observatory.



Shop: Make Designed Objects

There's one rule of thumb that Pat Coppel, owner and founder of Carlton's two-story style emporium, abides by before he'll stock an item in his shop: it has to be, "good".

"It's all about finding what's good," he explains. "And that can mean a whole lot of things: aesthetic, theoretic, beautifully-made, well designed, environmentally sound... I have a few Melbourne makers, but I won't stock something purely because of place of origin. It has to be good."

Coppel, who studied architecture and worked as a jewellery designer before opening the shop in May 2003,

currently stocks over 16,000 good products (bags, books, vases, clocks, lampshades etc) over 100 square metres of floor space. Four different rooms showcase fabulous items from the best design names in the world: Alessi, Iittala, Acme, Marimekko, Stelton and more. An upstairs room is filled with dangling, rotating Flensted mobiles, which range in price from \$15.95 for the basic Expecting Fish, to \$946 for the giant Black Rhythm. Your gift worries are over. Possibly forever.

Make Designed Objects
194 Elgin Street Carlton. 9347 4225
www.makedesignedobjects.com.



Eat: The Boathouse

Great location, tasteful interior, friendly staff, lovely river views, delicious wood fired pizzas ... a restaurant like the Boathouse doesn't really need to give away free puddings on Tuesdays, or let kids eat free Tuesdays to Fridays, but that's the kind of place it is - you can almost feel the love in the room!

Set on the banks of the Maribyrnong, this Moonee Ponds eatery is clearly a treasure to both locals and visitors, all happy to eat good food in a nice spot. In summer there are plenty of outdoor tables and bi fold doors to open up, while in winter you can toast your cheeks by the roaring log fire. The menu here is simple and homey but not lacking flair, with Gourmet Pizza's (such as the Thyme Roasted Chicken with Gorgonzola and Field Mushrooms or the Spiced Lamb, Hummus,



Yoghurt and Coriander, both \$16.50) the house specialty. Otherwise pick the seared salmon, braised beef pie, wood roasted chicken or the crispy belly roast pork options (for around \$28), and be sure to leave room for the poached Quince crumble.

The Boathouse.

7 The Boulevard, Moonee Ponds 9375 2456
www.theboat-house.com.au



Red First Grows

Hocking Stuart's ground-breaking Red First property matching system continues to go from strength to strength with the number of registered members steadily rising.

Latest figures show that there are now 50,000 buyer members and 20,000 tenant members participating in the real estate industry's most innovative buyer alert program.

Red First's success can be attributed to the fact that buyers find it easy to use and highly effective. Put simply, when somebody registers with Red First they will be emailed information about properties they might be interested in buying or renting.

Because the properties they receive match the criteria they submitted, the benefits to the househunter are considerable.

Members are only sent relevant property details and don't have to worry about 'missing' a property.



They receive information on auction and inspection times and they'll be informed should an offer be made on a property in which they've shown interest.

Members also enjoy the special privilege of VIP inspections of properties they like. And they'll know about properties new to the market before they're advertised.

The benefits to the seller and landlord are also significant, with their property landing in the inbox of a large number of pre-qualified househunters.

Backed by a distinctive marketing campaign, and with so many benefits for its users, Red First should continue to grow in the coming year.