

## **Welcome to The AFTS Conference 2024 in Newport**

- Our conference is held on the sovereign lands of the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung of the Kulin.  
<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/visit/Experience/Culture-Heritage/First-People>
- The Newport Storytellers made a podcast about their patch – history, stories and songs ... and some familiar voices!  
<https://www.nffc.org.au/storytellers> \_ENJOY!

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

- Companion Card and Victorian Carers Card holders are eligible to receive a free companion ticket when purchasing their ticket.
- The venue has a bathroom with wheelchair accessible toilet with LH transfer and shower. <https://toiletmap.gov.au/59238>
- Some sessions are live Auslan interpreted. Please check the program.
- Guide and assistance dogs are welcome
- We want you to enjoy the conference. If you have specific access requirements e.g. seating arrangements, please get in touch with Jackie 0412 210 098 or Em 0424 578 153

## **GETTING TO THE CONFERENCE**

- The Newport Community Hub: 13/15 Mason St
- Enter the conference from Paine Reserve.
- Lost or late? Call Jackie 0412 210 098 or Em 0424 578 153

### **By Car**

- There is parking behind the Hub. Enter from Derwent Street or there are lots of parks behind the Substation in Market Street (the big brick building).

### **By plane and train**

- Catch the bus shuttle to Southern Cross Station.
- At Southern Cross you can buy a myki (ticket).  
<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/buy-a-myki-and-top-up/where-to-buy-and-top-up/>
- Once you have your MYKI, ask for directions to the platform you need. Williamstown, Laverton, Werribee trains all stop at Newport – even the express. Remember to check the boards.
- Hop off at Newport and head west towards Mason Street and you're on the way. The Community Hub is 250 metres from Newport Station, on the left by the park.

### **Coming from interstate by train**

- You will arrive at Southern Cross so just follow the above

### **By Bus**

- This should help you <https://moovitapp.com/index/en-gb/public-transportation-Newport-Melbourne-site-7125239-2803>

## **ACCOMMODATION**

The conference is in Newport close to the Newport Train Station. Williamston, Spotswood, Yarraville, Seddon and Footscray are all on the line. Further out, and not far (also on a train line) - Altona and Seaholme might be an option and less expensive. Check out wotif.com, booking.com, and stayz.com

There are Backpackers and Hostels in Melbourne CBD – a quick search and you're spoiled for choice.

If accommodation is still a problem for you – please contact the AFTS conference committee at [afts.conference@gmail.com](mailto:afts.conference@gmail.com) with "SUBJECT: Conference accommodation" and we will do our best to help you.

## **FOOD**

Newport has many cafes, restaurants, a wine bar and a hotel within the conference zone – along Mason Street, Melbourne Road (south of the station) and Hall Street (east side of station). There is also a small supermarket in Mason Street, The Happy Apple (opposite the Community Hub).

## **ATMs**

You'll find them along Mason and Hall Streets and outside the Seagull's Nest Club Hotel, 1 Mason Street (around the corner).

## **FRIDAY NIGHT – August 2nd**

We will not be formally organizing a get-together on the Friday night but if you'd like to make plans, please do!

Not sure how to connect to others? Contact the Ring Maiden in your State and find out who else from your group is coming OR contact us and we'll hook you up with the AFTS community. Don't be shy.

**NAARM (MELBOURNE)** There are choices galore in the city. Here are some suggestions that our committee members have enjoyed:

- Merrywell Burger Bar  
<https://www.crownhotels.com.au/melbourne/restaurants-bars/the-merrywell>
- There are plenty of options along Southbank - cross the river from Flinders St Station and head down the steps and you will find everything from the cheap and cheerful food hall to more up market possibilities.
- Swanston Street and Little Bourke is great for those who love Asian cuisine. <https://chinatownmelbourne.com.au/>

## **Closer to Newport**

There are restaurants and hotels galore in Footscray, Williamstown, Yarraville. All on the train line.

### **IDEAS FOR CURIOUS TRAVELLERS**

**Getting around on public transport**, you will need that MYKI card mentioned earlier. These can be purchased at several places including 7-elevens and at all staffed train stations.

<https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/buy-a-myki-and-top-up/where-to-buy-and-top-up/>

### **THINGS TO DO IN NEWPORT AND SURROUNDS:**

**Newport, Williamstown, Yarraville, and Footscray**

#### **NEWPORT**

If you're a bird watcher, bring your binoculars, as Hobsons Bay is a well-known destination for nature lovers.

#### **Newport Fiddle and Folk Club**

If you're a folkie (bring an instrument or a song), the local folk club is a supporter of the AFTS. The NFFC has a Celtic Session on Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The venue is the same as the conference. Check out the NFFC events calendar for August.

<https://www.nffc.org.au/>

#### **The Substation**

Location: 1 Market Street, Newport – the big brick building west side of the train tracks – you can't miss it.

The Substation champions contemporary and experimental arts. Housed inside a former industrial building steeped in the rich history of Melbourne's inner west, The Substation is an arts destination unlike any other in Australia.

<https://thesubstation.org.au/>

#### **Sandy Point Nature Reserve**

Location: A kilometer (east) from Newport Station.

Along the mud flats, migratory shorebirds visit here seasonally – the most endangered bird species in the world. These important feeding areas are crucial to the long-term survival of shorebirds across the East Asian - Australasian flyway. <https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Parks-Reserves/Sandy-Point-Nature-Reserve>

#### **Newport Lakes Park**

Location: One kilometre, or a 15-minute walk or bus, west from Newport Station along Mason Street.

Newport Lakes is a bushland oasis created from a former bluestone quarry and rubbish tip site in the middle of busy Newport.

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Parks-Reserves/Newport-Lakes>

## **WILLIAMSTOWN**

- This is a place with place with historic architecture, beaches and parklands boutique shopping precincts and modern funky cafes and rich maritime history. Main strip is Nelson Place.  
<https://www.visitwilliamstown.com.au/>
- Williamstown is accessible by train on the branch line. Pick up the line at Newport Station on the east side and make sure the train is going to Williamstown! There are only three stations: North Williamstown (shopping centre, library), Williamstown Beach (Botanic Gardens), Williamstown (Nelson Place).

### **Lantern Ghost Tours**

Visit abandoned morgues, forgotten burial grounds and hidden laneways in Victoria's most historic seaport.

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/visit/Experience/Things-to-do/Lantern-Ghost-Tours>

### **Williamstown Wetlands**

There are wetlands and beaches dotted around the coastline and throughout Hobsons Bay. The local community has energetic friends groups and strong citizen science projects led by a team of rangers.

### **Williamstown Botanic Gardens**

Location: 97-99 Osborne Street, Williamstown - accessible by train from Newport to Williamstown and then a walk.

Edwardian gardens established in the mid 1800s. Superbly maintained. The Friends site has the best information

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Parks-Reserves/Williamstown-Botanic-Gardens/Friends-of-Williamstown-Botanic-Gardens-Inc>

### **Nelson Place Williamstown – walk from Williamstown Station**

The old town by the water – historic buildings and maritime history, restaurants, cafes etc.

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/visit/Experience/Culture-Heritage/Nelson-Place-and-the-Strand>

## **YARRAVILLE VILLAGE**

- Yarraville is 2 train stops from Newport towards the city.
- Yarraville is famous for its narrow streets, quaint Victorian and Edwardian cottages, gift shops and cafes - a popular destination for its uniqueness. Famous for its restored art deco Sun Theatre: a modern-day icon of Melbourne's film community, it shows cult films, classics and recent releases. <https://www.yourcityyourvoice.com.au/yarraville-village>

## **FOOTSCRAY**

- By train - Footscray is half way between Newport and the CBD, Footscray is loved by locals for the vibe and the food: S.E. Asian, Ethiopian,

Sudanese, Indian, Middle Eastern and Chinese mixed in with bars and some wild shops.

- Footscray has one of the premier arts venues in the inner west, **The Footscray Community Arts Centre**. FCAC develop and present contemporary arts in collaboration with their communities of focus: First Nations, culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTIQ+ and artists with disability and connect with an engaged audience.  
<https://footscrayarts.com/>

### **THINGS TO DO IN NAARM (MELBOURNE)**

The City of Melbourne by the Birrarung (Yarra River) respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land they govern: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung, peoples of the Kulin.  
<https://environmentvictoria.org.au/2018/01/25/indigenous-perspective-birrarung-river-mists-shadows/>

**Getting around Naarm on public transport**, I'll say it again - you will need a myki card if you travel beyond the CBD to neighbouring spots.

**All the places listed below are within the free tram zone (no MYKI needed) and with the exception of the Fairies Tree and Village, are probably within a kilometer of Flinders St Station.**

#### **The Fairies Tree**

Location: Fitzroy Gardens

No 75 Tram (you can pick up opposite Flinders Street Station in Flinders Street) Stop 10 for the Fairies Tree, Village and cafe.

*From 1931 to May 1934 - Ola Cohn carved likenesses of fairies, dwarfs, gnomes, a marvelous jackass, koalas, flying foxes and more into a the trunk of a 300 year old river gum.*

*"I have carved in a tree in the Fitzroy Gardens for you, and the fairies, but mostly for the fairies and those who believe in them, for they will understand how necessary it is to have a fairy sanctuary - a place that is sacred and safe as a home should be to all living creatures." - Ola Cohn* [http://www.fitzroygardens.com/Fairies\\_Tree.htm](http://www.fitzroygardens.com/Fairies_Tree.htm)

The gardens are one of Melbourne's best and include a rotunda, fountains, and a superb conservatory and there is a café open seven days a week.

More about Ola Cohn ([ABC podcast](#))

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/hindsight/the-word-in-the-stone-sculptor-ola-cohn/3186912>

#### **Tudor Village**

Location: Next to the Fairies Tree

*The Village was a gift to the City of Melbourne through the City of Lambeth, England, in appreciation of Melbourne's generosity in sending food to Britain, during the Second World War.*

[http://www.fitzroygardens.com/Tudor\\_Village.htm](http://www.fitzroygardens.com/Tudor_Village.htm)

### **StoryVille**

Location: 185 Lonsdale Street.

*StoryVille is a hybrid entertainment venue ... this is what to expect...*

*Cocktail Theatre goes from 5pm~11pm (NEW: 3pm on Saturdays) and then it's time for StoryVille After Dark 11pm - until the wee hours of the morning ...*

<https://www.storyvillemelbourne.com.au/>

### **Spellbox and Babushka Shop are both in the Royal Arcade**

*Built in 1869, Royal Arcade is Melbourne's oldest arcade and the longest standing in the country. Look up to see the famous statues of Gog and Magog*

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/gog-and-magog>

### **National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)**

The NGV is spread across two campuses and a third is one is on the way.

- NGV International: 180 St Kilda St
- Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia: Federation Square (the Australian collections. <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/>)

### **Young and Jackson Hotel**

Location: Opposite Flinders Street Station and diagonally opposite Federation Square.

*Young and Jackson is Melbourne's most iconic hotel. Heritage listed, established in 1861, it has a permanent display of black and white photos of old Melbourne and is the home of Chloe.*

More <https://www.youngandjacksons.com.au/>

Chloe [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlo%C3%A9\\_\(artwork\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlo%C3%A9_(artwork))

### **Arcades and Laneways**

Melbourne is famous for its laneways and arcades, street art, cafes, bars and boutiques, all with their own individual character.

<https://whatson.melbourne.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/attractions-and-sights/laneways-arcades>

### **State Library Victoria**

Location: 328 Swanston Street

*State Library Victoria is one of Melbourne's founding institutions, established in 1854, it is not only Australia's oldest public library but also one of the first free public libraries in the world. '... open to any citizen over the age of 14 – provided they had clean hands ...' –*

<https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>

### **Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria**

Over the Birrarung (Yarra River) and opposite the arts precinct

Royal Botanic Gardens is over 170 years old and extends over 38 hectares and houses a collection of more than 8,500 species of plants from around the world. \*The children's garden is a 'must see' for anyone working with the young and young at heart <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/melbourne-gardens/discover-melbourne-gardens/melbourne-gardens-living-collections/the-ian-potter-foundation-children-s-garden/>

### **BOOKS: Melbourne City of Literature**

In 2008, Melbourne joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network when it was designated the first and only City of Literature in Australia, and the second in the world. <https://cityofliterature.com.au/> Visit Readings Bookshop in Carlton, Hares and Hyenas in St Kilda (see below).

### **OTHER PLACES YOU MIGHT LIKE TO VISIT: St Kilda, Carlton, Fitzroy, Brunswick, Gisborne**

#### **ST KILDA**

- A short tram ride from the city (can pick up outside Flinders Street Station), St Kilda is famous for its beaches, penguins, Luna Park, Palais Theatre, Ackland Street (cakes!).
- The **Victorian Pride Centre**. Worth visiting for the architecture alone, the centre houses a theatre, gallery space, Joy FM and Hares and Hyenas Book Shop - Melbourne's queer and intersectional bookshop.
- Website has detailed info on how to get there <https://pridecentre.org.au/>

#### **CARLTON, FITZROY. BRUSWICK**

- All a train ride north of the CBD.
- **Carlton** is known for Readings – Melbourne's premier independent book and music shop. The Nova cinema, good food and cafes.
- La Mama Theatre - Australia's most vital, responsive, inclusive and diverse home of independent theatre making. <https://lamama.com.au/>

**FITZROY AND BRUNSWICK** – both known for cafes, bars, funky shops, murals.

#### **Gisborne**

Myths and Legends

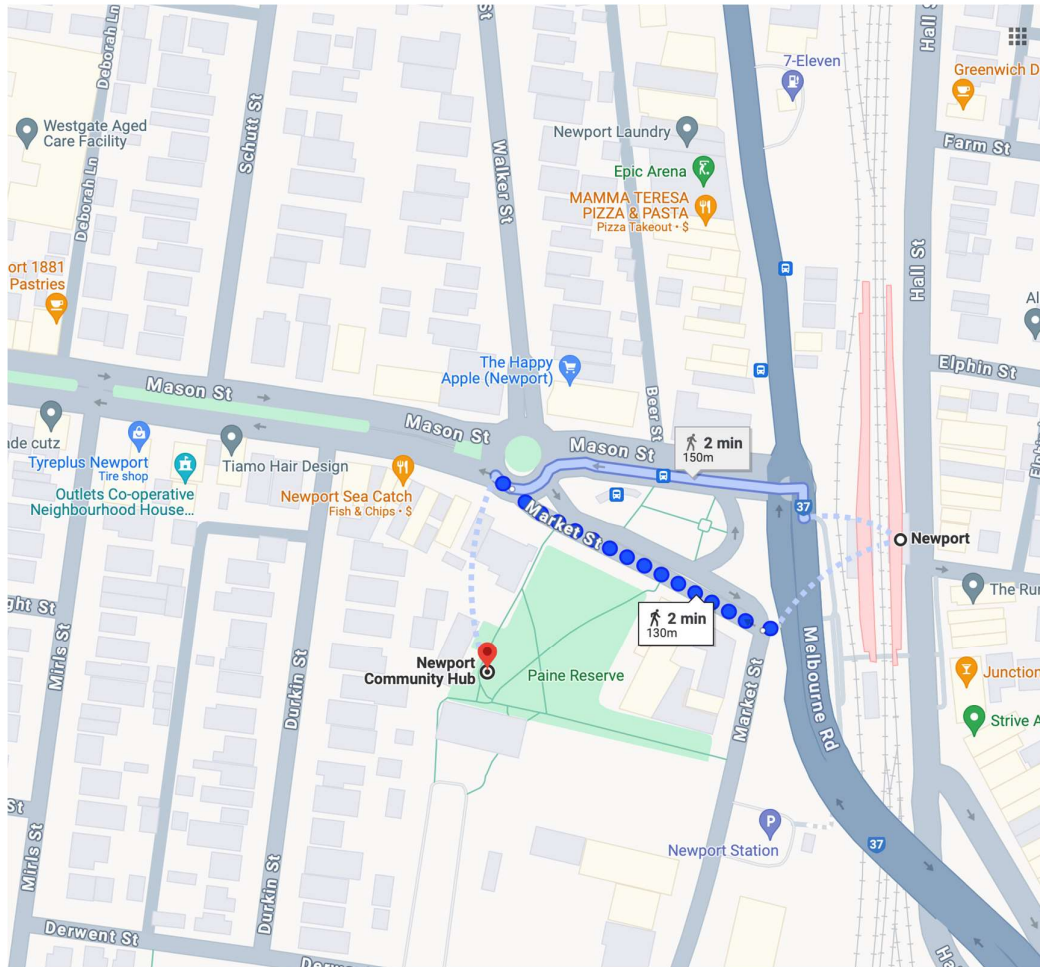
Location: 34 Aitken Street, Gisborne (54 kms north of Melbourne)

*Possibly the oldest Fairy Shop in Victoria. After completing both a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Art and Design and a Diploma of Education, Fairy Dee spent many years teaching Art at secondary schools. Myths and Legends opened in 1993. We suggest calling Myths and Legends and asking about the best way to get there either by car or train.*

<https://www.mythsandlegends.com.au/>

**The AFTS Conference 2024** is supported by Hobsons Bay City Council through its Make it Happen Grants program and the Newport Fiddle and Folk Club.





If you would like these directions to be sent to your phone – please click the following link:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6aHpZYWCgFHUbhXb6>