

⇒ **Turn left into Wonoka Street, and right into Eurilpa Street. Enter Watiparinga Reserve and follow path to the fence above the railway line.**

Watiparinga Reserve (5)

Extending north to Gloucester Ave in Belair the 32 hectare Watiparinga Reserve was bequeathed to the National Trust by Alison Ashby in 1957. It provides an early example of nature conservation efforts in the state exhibiting a diverse range of flora and was added to the Register of the National Estate in 1996.

Railway Tunnels and Viaducts (5)

View the remnants of the 1880s buttresses of the viaducts. The tunnels (visible from Shepherd's Hill Res) were blasted by dynamite and the rubble was cleared by spade, barrow and horse and cart. Bricks to line the tunnels were produced locally at brickworks on site using clay from the cuttings. The access road can be seen.

900 men using 100 horses were employed to construct the viaducts which were imported from the US. They were used for many years despite great concern by local travellers about their safety. They were dismantled in 1919 and were blown up by the army for demolition practice during World War II.



Sleeps Hill Viaduct Eden Hills 1907, Courtesy CV&DNT

⇒ **Return to Wonoka Street and turn left.**

Gibbs Tennis Courts and Park (6)

The land for recreational use by the community was donated in 1914 by the Ashby family of Wittunga. Working bees were held to develop the tennis courts.

'Every male inhabitant of Eden Hills over 2 years of age is expected to attend bringing scoops, picks and shovels, horses and energy.' (Blackwood Magazine May 1914).

Mrs Gibbs was long remembered for the afternoon teas which players collected from her house.

15 Wonoka Street - Bonkowskis' Store (7)

This house with a store attached operated for a decade after World War II selling drapery and greengroceries.

6-8 Wonoka Street - Gibbs properties (8)

The Gibbs family were builders and the workshop can still be seen at number 8.

4 Wonoka Street - Friends' Meeting House (9)

The land for the Meeting House was donated in 1912 by the Ashby family, prominent Quakers. Prior to the building of their own churches, other denominations held services at the Meeting House and the Eden Hills Dramatic Society performed there regularly.

At the corner of Wonoka and Wilpena is a triangle of land where people attending the Quaker Meeting House parked their horses and drays.



Friends' Meeting house

⇒ **Follow Wilpena Street signs south then west**

42 Wilpena Street - Rosewynn (10)

Rosewynn operated as a maternity hospital during the 1920s. It is a fine example of the solidly built villas which made up the early 20th century development of Eden Hills.

Reference Sources:

Blackwood Magazine 1914
Mitcham Heritage Research Centre
Janet Callen's Publications – available at Butterfly Press

Produced by Blackwood Action Group 2018
www.blackwoodactiongroup.org.au

Eden Hills

A Mountain Suburb



HSSA Inc

Beginnings

The Kaurna people were the original custodians of the land now occupied by Eden Hills. The first European landowner in the area, in 1838, was William Detmar Cook, the master of the barque 'Eden', hence the name of the suburb. The house still stands at 19 Kinedana St, but is beyond the area included in this walk.

Other land sections were purchased from the Crown by Watts, Kelly and Shephard. Many of the unusual street names were derived from the names of properties in the north of the state owned by the original syndicate of buyers. In 1854 Shepherd's Hill Road opened.

For the next few years, there was little settlement. With the arrival of the Adelaide to Nairne railway in 1883, a syndicate was formed to develop a town of 150 acres. The preferred route from the city was up Shepherd's Hill rather than via the steep track from Mitcham to Belair. In 1913 the district began to expand from farming properties when a syndicate formed by Messrs Saunders and Ashby purchased land which they named A Mountain Suburb.

'The township of Eden Hills is fast taking foremost position as a place of residence for city men. With an altitude of more than 800 feet above sea level, the air is clear and bracing. The vistas of glen and gully, and the more distant city and blue waters of the gulf obtainable from a large proportion of the building sites are rarely, if ever, equalled. Bricks of the best quality are obtainable from the brick companies in the adjoining section.' (Mail 27 December 1913)

The suburb remained a rural community and it was common for residents to keep poultry, a horse and even a cow on their large allotments. Due to the difficult access, steep terrain and muddiness, services like water, sewerage, electricity and sealed roads, were a long time coming.

⇒ **We encourage you to take the opportunity whilst walking to capture views to the sea, enjoy the bushland, birdlife and find the many solidly constructed old homes built in the early 20th century.**

⇒ **Walk directions are in red for easy identification.**

Eden Hills Railway Station (1)

The station was built in 1911 when the required number of 12 residents travelling to work in the city was reached. The nearby roads were muddy so travellers left their boots under the seats at the station, exchanging them for city shoes. Hurricane lamps were left too for the hike home. Travel on the 8.20am express began with a bell rung vigorously by the station master as the train left Blackwood, giving Eden passengers seven minutes to get to the station.

The station master lived at the south end of the station and railway cottages were built on the bank (visible to the north, and also from Railway Lane). Later additions were a turntable south west of the station and the existing bridge to the south built to enable sheep to cross over the railway track.



Eden Hills Railway Station c1950

⇒ **Exit Eden Hills station onto Willowie Street to view the building opposite.**

22 Willowie Street - Post Office and Store (2)

The post office and store operated from 1912-1986. Early owners, the McIntosh family, provided home deliveries, a service which continued until the 1970s. A later owner recalls weighing out groceries such as sugar, sultanas and flour which came in bulk by train and were packaged at the store.

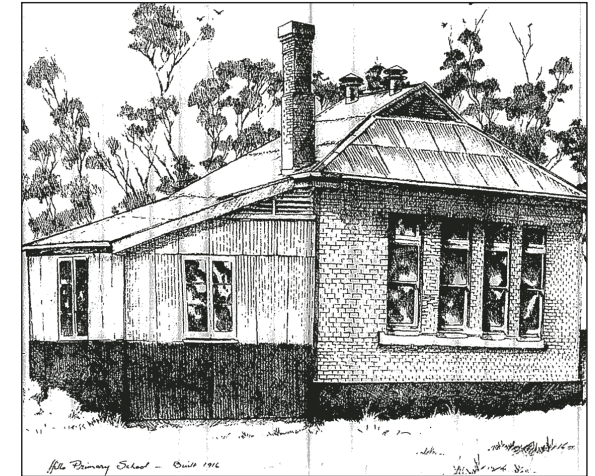


Eden Hills Post Office and Store 1978. (Courtesy J Callen)

78 Wilpena Street - Eden Hills Primary School (3)

The school opened in 1916 with 28 pupils and the first headmaster moved in to the new school house. Two of the original buildings are still in use.

Parents' occupations included dairy workers, farmer, shoemaker, railway workers and brick burners.



EHPS, Sketch by M Arnold, 1986

56-60 Wilpena Street - Kenny Park (4)

Kenny Park is named after Margaret Kenny, a former resident and well-known botanist. The park was planned to be the site of a town hall, which was never built because improved roads made the existing facilities in Blackwood easier to reach.

⇒ **Walk through the bushland park to Wonoka Street via the track known as Lovers' Lane, found on the eastern side of Kenny Park. (Or see map for an easier route along the road)**

