



Footscray Suburban Profile

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FACTS & FIGURES

- Footscray at a glance.
- Suburban Profile: Statistics, & demographics.



Footscray at a glance...

- An inner-city suburb in Melbourne, **5 km west** of the **CBD**.
- Located within the City of **Maribyrnong**.
- Recorded a population of **17,131** at the 2021 census.
- There are **9,873** private dwellings.
- In a period of rapid growth and expansion.
- One of Australia's most multicultural suburbs.
- **41.2%** of Footscray is aged 15-34.

Data according to 2021 Census.



INDIGENOUS FOOTSCRAY

- Traditional Owners: Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Bunurong peoples and clans of the Kulin Nation.
- Creator Spirit: 'Bunjil', who formed their people, the land and all living things.
- Maribyrnong is an anglicised version of the Aboriginal term 'Mirring-gnay-bir-nong', which translates as 'I can hear a ringtail possum'.
- 0.7% of Footscray identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. (National: 3.2%)



Cultural Diversity

- 63.5% of people had at least one parent born overseas. (National: 48.2%)
- 49% of people were born overseas.
- The top countries of birth outside of Australia were: Vietnam, India, England, China and New Zealand.
- Other top countries in the surrounding area include: Somalia, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Phillipines, Colombia, North Macedonia and Greece.



Language

“In the west of Melbourne, across the Brimbank, Wyndham and Maribyrnong municipalities, over 54% of people use a language other than English at home. In the City of Maribyrnong alone, we speak 82 different languages in our homes, with our families, friends and neighbours. Which helps explain Melbourne’s status as the fifth most ethnically diverse city on the globe.”

- Top languages spoken other than English: Vietnamese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Spanish and Nepali.
- 43% of households speak a non-English language at home.



Religion

- 77.8% of secondary students attend government schools. 13.3% attend catholic, and 8.1% attend other non-Government schools.
- While the majority of Footscray residents do not follow any religion, the most commonly practiced religions are Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam.



Education

- Over 20,000 post-high school students study in Footscray.
- 2,342 people are attending Tertiary education (44.1%)

Level of highest educational attainment:

- Bachelor's Degree level and above: 43.2%
- Year 12: 15.4%
- No educational attainment: 1.6%
(National: 0.8%)



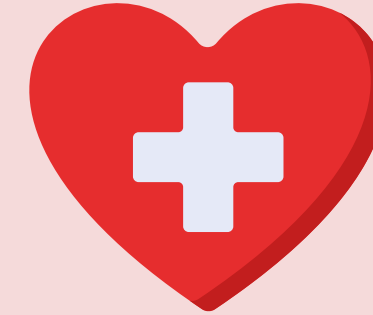
Income & Work

- 68.7% of the population is in the labour force (15yrs+). 56% of which are employed full-time.
- The top 5 industries are Cafes & Restaurants, Hospitals, Higher Education, Computer System Design, and State Government Administration.
- The personal weekly income average is \$916.
- As of 2025, 47% of residents in the wider Melbourne area reported food insecurity, with 28% skipping meals and 20% running out of food.



Health

- People in Footscray experience higher rates of asthma, dementia, and mental health conditions (including depression and anxiety), than the national average.



Housing

- 52% of Footscray residents live in an apartment or flat (14%, the national average).
- 56% of Footscray rent (30%, the national average).
- Footscray ranks 6th out of 88 Victorian electorates for the highest number of homeless people.
- There were 162 young people (aged 12 to 24) experiencing homelessness in Footscray as of 2022. (Victoria Wide: 7600)
- There are approximately 694 people experiencing homelessness in the Footscray area on any given night.





COMMUNITY CAPITAL

- Resources and Community Assets
- Community Mapping
- Needs Analysis





**Community
Services**



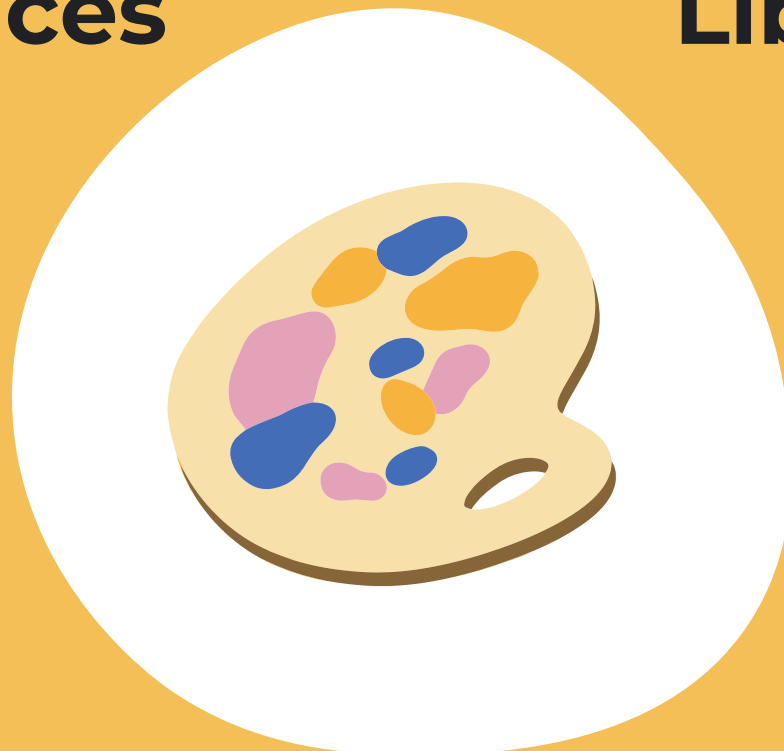
**Education &
Libraries**



Infrastructure



Spirituality



**Arts, Sports &
Recreation**



Health



Housing Support

Community Centres and Neighbourhood Houses

- Braybrook Community Hub
- Maidstone Community Centre
- Marybinong Community Centre
- Yarraville Community Centre - Footscray
- Angliss Neighbourhood House
- Braybrook and Maidstone Neighbourhood House
- Duke St Community House
- West Footscray Neighbourhood House
- Phoenix Youth Hub
- Wyndham CEC
- Laverton Community Hub
- Youth Garage (Anglicare)



Other Services

Volunteer Organisations & Community Services

- Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- McAuley Community Services for Women
- MacKillop Family Services Community Programs Footscray
- Migrant Workers Centre
- Working Women's Centre Vic. - Westjustice
- commUnity+
- Australian Multicultural Community Services
- Network West
- Friends of Newell's Paddock
- Friends of Footscray Park
- Wild Action Biodiversity Workshops



Initiatives & Collectives

Footscray Community Response

- a grassroots community organisation that is committed to maintaining Footscray as a place that values diversity, friendship and solidarity. *#footscraybelongstoeveryone*

The People's Plan for Footscray

- activate democratisation in public decision making, and build community capacity and institutions that will sustain popular power.

The Good Neighbourhood Project

- collaborating with our local community to create innovative and imaginative solutions for their specific challenges. e.g. food security, fostering community bonds, advancing education, or creating a strong sense of place.



Initiatives & Collectives



Africause

Empower African and refugee communities through social inclusion, education, justice, & wellbeing. E.g. community development, education and training, youth mentoring, and employment skill development.

The Racial Justice Learning Collective

A monthly discussion space run by and for First Nations and People of Colour (FNPOC).

The Neighbourhood Collective

Kindles stronger, resident-led communities where everyone belongs.

The Footscray Collective

A new organisation aimed at reviving Little Africa and making it safer and more welcoming.

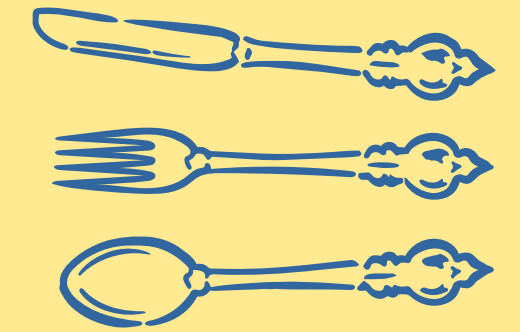
Footscray Rubbish Runners

Monthly community clean-up initiative.

Footscray University Town (FUT)

A joint initiative between Maribyrnong City Council and Victoria University.

Food Relief



1. Reaching Out In The Inner West Of Melbourne

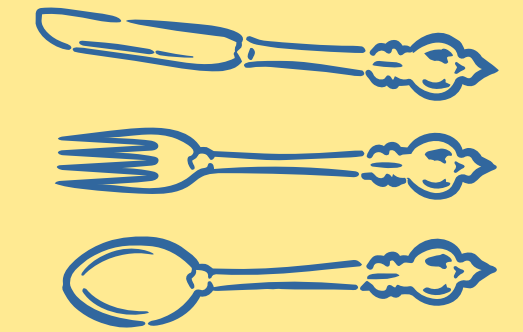
- Nicholson Street Mall, Footscray.
- Mondays, 5.30pm.
- A local non-for-profit organisation that provides home cooked vegetarian meals, non-perishable food items, fruit and vegetables, clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to people experiencing homelessness or in need.

<https://reachingoutintheinnerwestofmelbourne.com.au/>

2. St John's Anglican Church (on Borderlands site)

- 77A Paisley St, Footscray VIC 3011
- A food support program that provides produce and non-perishables.
- Trucks arrive Friday morning, around 9-10am and remain there until food runs out.

Food Relief



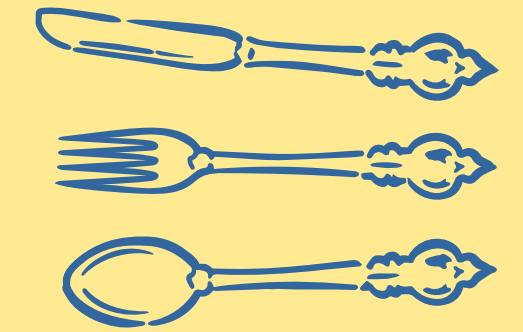
3. Braybrook & Maidstone Neighbourhood House

- 113 Melon Street, Braybrook. 9317 5610
- Free bread for the community on Mondays (excluding public holidays) 9am-12pm.
- Emergency Relief Program every Tuesday from 12:00 PM until 2PM. Bookings only. Frozen meals can also be collected Monday to Thursday until 2.00 PM

4. YCC Food Relief Program (formerly The Nourish Project)

- Yarraville Community Centre, 59 Francis Street, Yarraville. 9687 1560
- Monday - Friday, 9am-5pm.
- Nourish meals are prepared weekly at the YCC kitchen. Call to arrange a time to collect food.

Food Relief



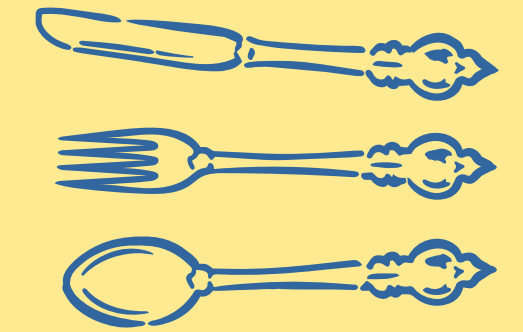
5. CoHealth Yakeen Tharn Food Share Program

- Braybrook Community Hub (Sports Pavilion), 107-139 Churchill Avenue. 0418 222 401 (Jaimee) or 0492 346 214 (Tim)
- Thursdays, 10am-12:30pm.
- Yakeen Tharn Foodshare Program will finish on 4 December 2025 and resume on 15 January
- Weekly service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

6. Duke Street Community House

- 27 Duke Street, Sunshine. 9311 9973
- Central West Shopping Centre Shop D4 (Next to Flip out), 67 Ashley St, Braybrook. 9311 9973
- Food Relief Program for residents living in one of the following postcodes: 3012, 3019, and 3020. \$5 donation, but support is still offered if the participant is unable to make a donation.

Food Relief



7. Westgate Baptist Community Church

- Braybrook Community Hub, 107-139 Churchill Avenue. 9188 5800
- Emergency food relief frozen meals available in Braybrook on Tuesdays from 1pm.
- Weekly nutritious dinners provided at 16 High Street, Yarraville on Mondays, 6.00pm.

8. Vinnie's Western Soup Van

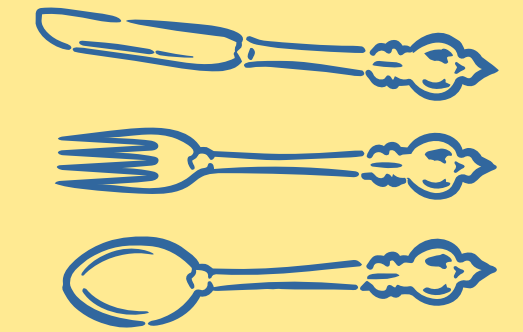
- Operates Tuesday to Saturday across various Braybrook, Footscray, West Footscray and Maidstone locations.
- Western Soup Van will pause operations between 23 December 2026 and resume on Sunday 4 January 2026.
- Vinnies will offer a limited mobile pantry van service on Christmas Day:
- Braybrook Library 6.30pm
- Footscray Library 7/15pm
- Whitten Oval - 7.45pm

Food Relief

9.300 Blankets - Soul kitchen

- Braybrook Community Hub, 107-139 Churchill Avenue. 0459 294 980
- Sunday, 6.30-7.30pm
- Free nutritious meals for individuals and families
- Bookings essential.

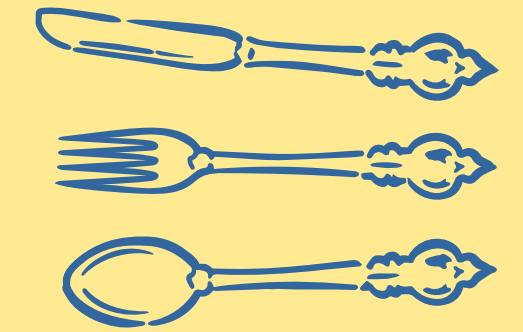
Food Pantries



1. Gordon Street Little Pantry

- 252 Gordon Street, Footscray
- Basic food and sanitary items, open 24/7 for donation or collection.
- Hampers and BBQ available each Friday from 11am.

Food Pantries



2. Yarraville Community Centre Pantry

- 59 Francis Street, Yarraville (opposite the main entrance). 9687 1560
- Fresh veggies, fruit, bread, pantry items, sanitary products and pet food.

3. Helping Hands Mission Inc. Emergency Food Pantry

- 14 McIntosh Street, Airport West. 1300 892 010
- Monday to Friday 10am-3pm by appointment.
- Health Care Card required – \$5 donation per visit.

Education & Libraries

Secondary Schools

Footscray

- Caroline Chisholm Catholic College
- Footscray High School

Western Suburbs

- River Nile School
- Catholic Regional College St Albans
- Maribyrnong College
- Kensington Community High School
- St Aloysius College



Education & Libraries

Post-High School Education

- Victoria University - Footscray, Footscray Park, Sunshine, St Albans.
- ACU - CBD
- Melbourne - CBD
- RMIT - CBD
- Central Australia College (TAFE)

Libraries

- Footscray Library
- Braybrook Library
- Maribyrnong Library
- West Footscray
- Yarraville

Learning Centres & Classes

- Free Financial Counselling (BMNH)
- City of Melbourne Libraries English Learning Clubs
- WCEC Community Education Programs
- Surrender Leadership Program



Infrastructure

Parks & Community Gardens

- Footscray Community Garden and Learning Place
- Anders Park Community Garden
- Footscray Gardens
- Footscray Park
- Newells Paddock Wetlands
- Maribyrnong River Trail
- Grimes Reserve
- Yarraville Gardens

Transport

- Footscray Train Station (Metro Lines: Sunbury, Werribee, Williamstown)
- 13 bus routes via Footscray station
- 1 tram route to and from Footscray station



Infrastructure

Markets

- Footscray Market
- Maribyrnong Farmers Market
- Slow Food Edgewater Farmers' Market

Council Programs

- Maribyrnong Youth
- Maribyrnong Youth Network

Other Assests

- Old Footscray Hospital



Faith and Spirituality

Places of Worship

- Church of Christ (non-denominational Christians)
- Melbourne Indigenous Church
- Uniting Church (Protestant)
- St. John's Anglican Church
- St Andrew's Anglican Church
- Vietnamese Evangelical Church
- Footscray Baptist Church
- St Matthew's Lutheran Church
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- Graceway Baptist Church
- Holy Family Parish (Catholic)
- St. Monica's (Catholic)

Religious Groups

- Surrender co.
- ENTER CYAG (Catholic Young Adults Group)



Arts, Sports & Recreation



Arts

- Braybrook Community Hub Access Gallery
- Footscray Community Arts
- Footscray Community Arts Centre
- The Art Room
- StreetWORKS
- Maribyrnong Creative Places

Sports

- Sports Club Hub
- Big Bang Sports and Rec Program
- Mission Whitten Oval
- Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre
- Footscray Youth Club

Health and Family Services

Health

- Braybrook Maternal and Child Health Centre
- Cohealth, Footscray
- Yooralla
- Community Plus Care
- Gateways Support Services
- Western Health
- Women's Health West

Family

- Supported Playgroups (Braybrook Community Hub & Footscray Playgroup)
- MacKillop Family Services



Housing Support

- Renters & Housing Union (RAHU) - West Branch (Maribyrnong, Brimbank, and Hobsons Bay)
- UniLodge Victoria University
- Student Housing Australia
- Unison Housing
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- VincentCare Community Housing (VCCH)
- McAuley House
- Westside Lodge
- Buckley Street Supportive Housing Project



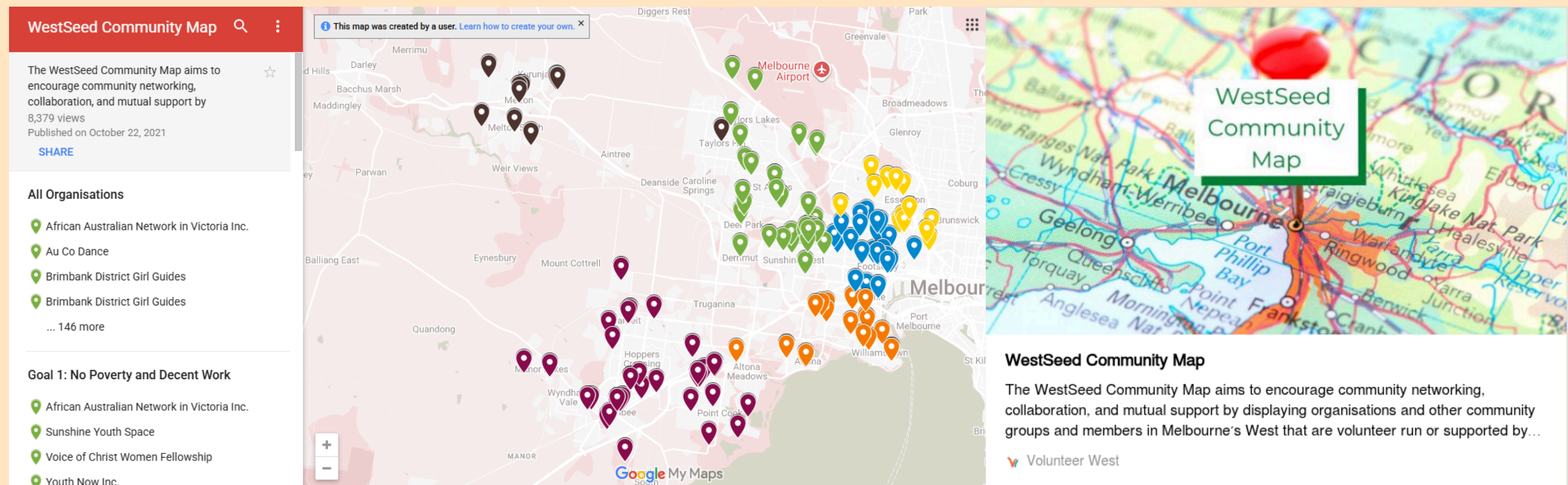
Organisations beyond the West

- Migrant Workers Centre
- DWELL
- Renters & Housing Union (RAHU) - West Branch
(Maribyrnong, Brimbank, and Hobsons Bay)
- Good Neighbourhood Project



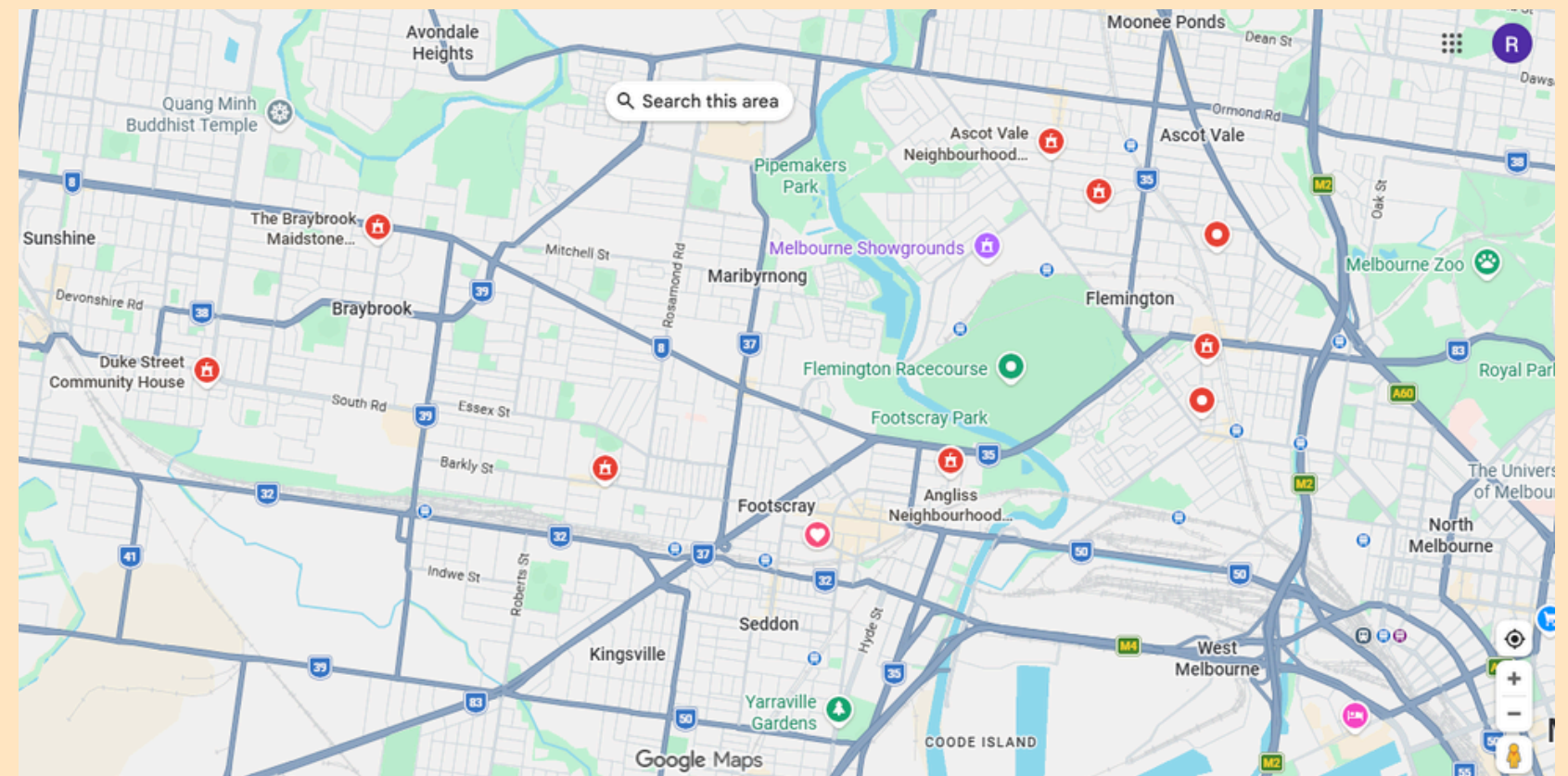
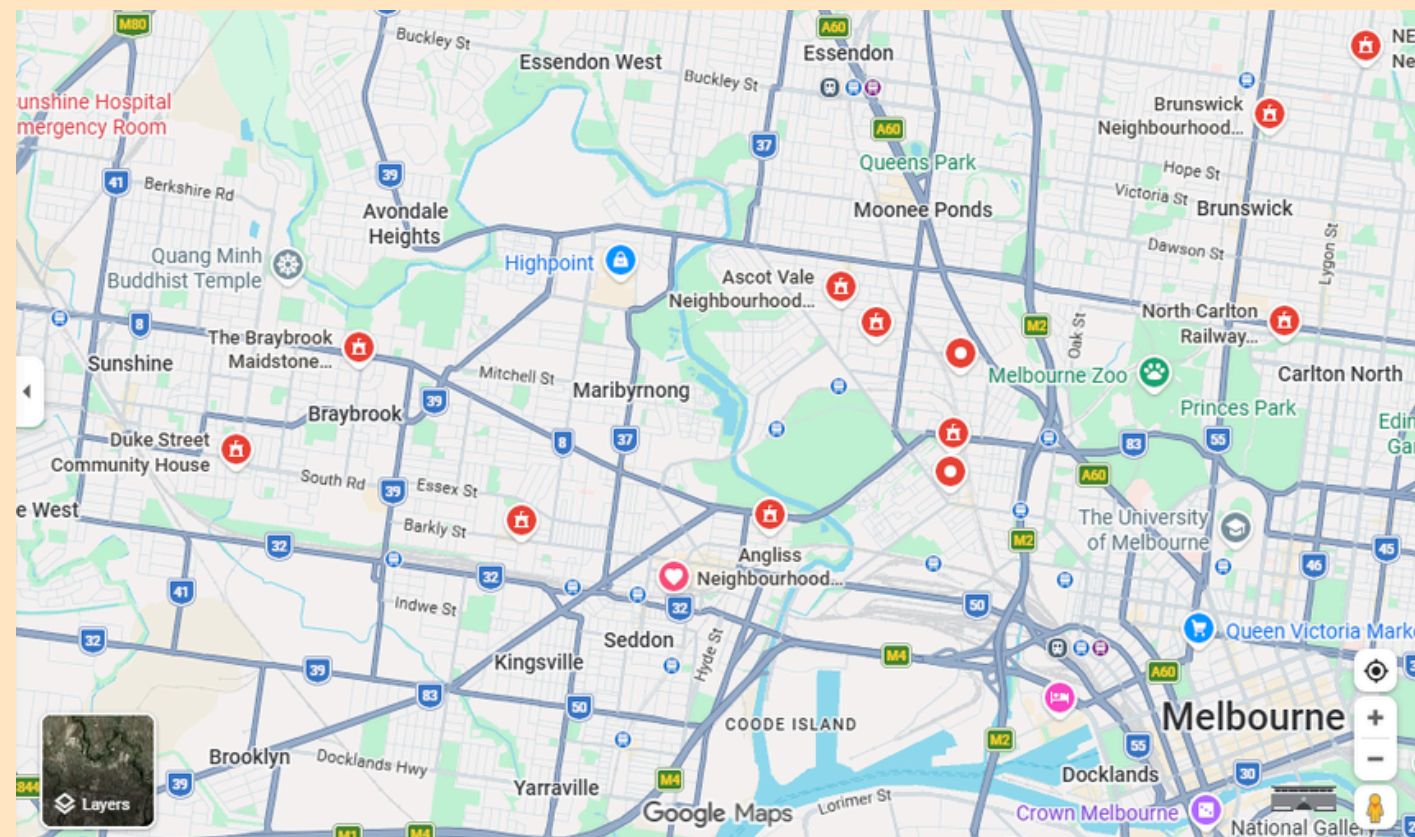
COMMUNITY MAPPING

Volunteering



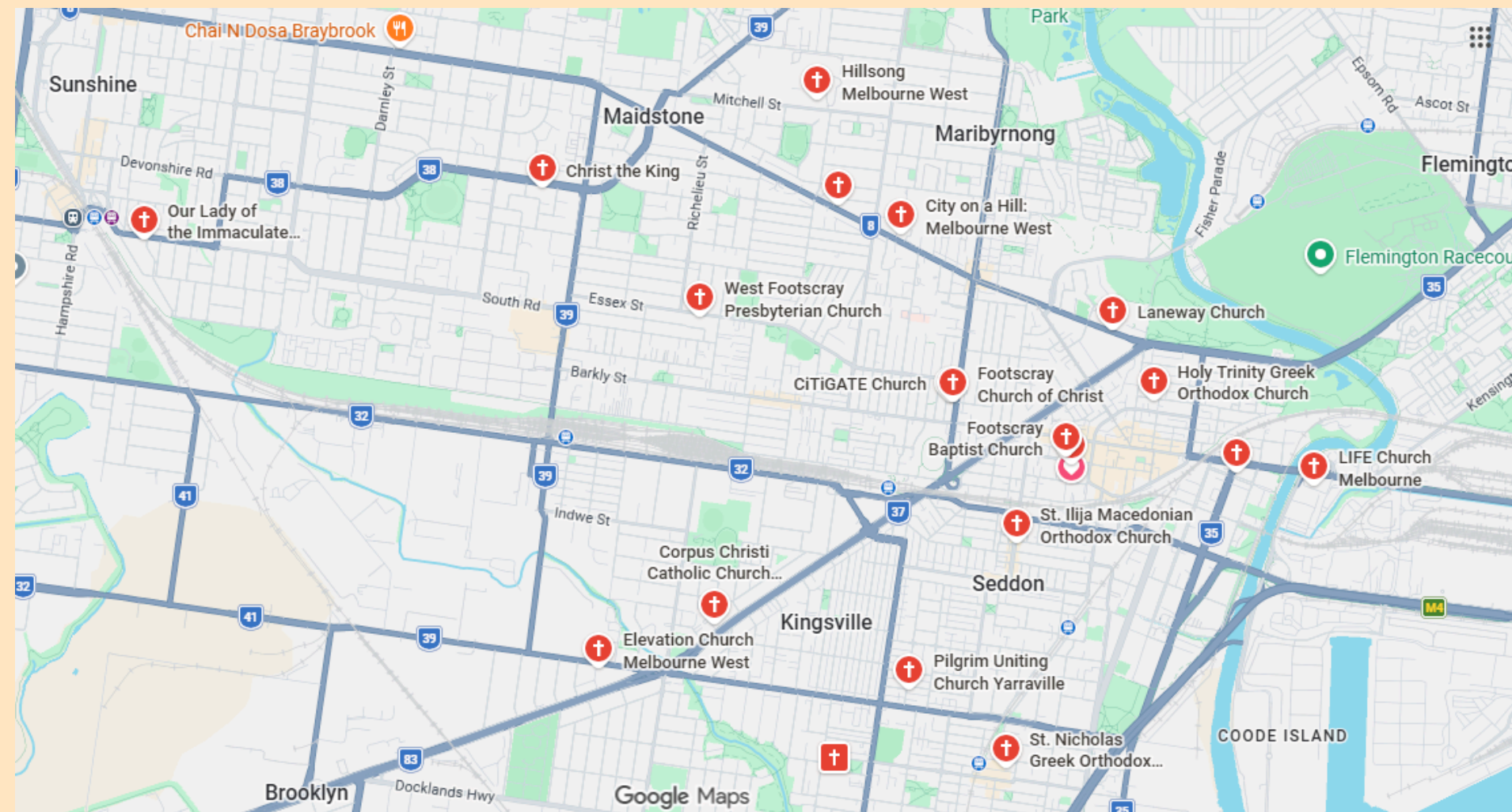
COMMUNITY MAPPING

Neighbourhood Houses



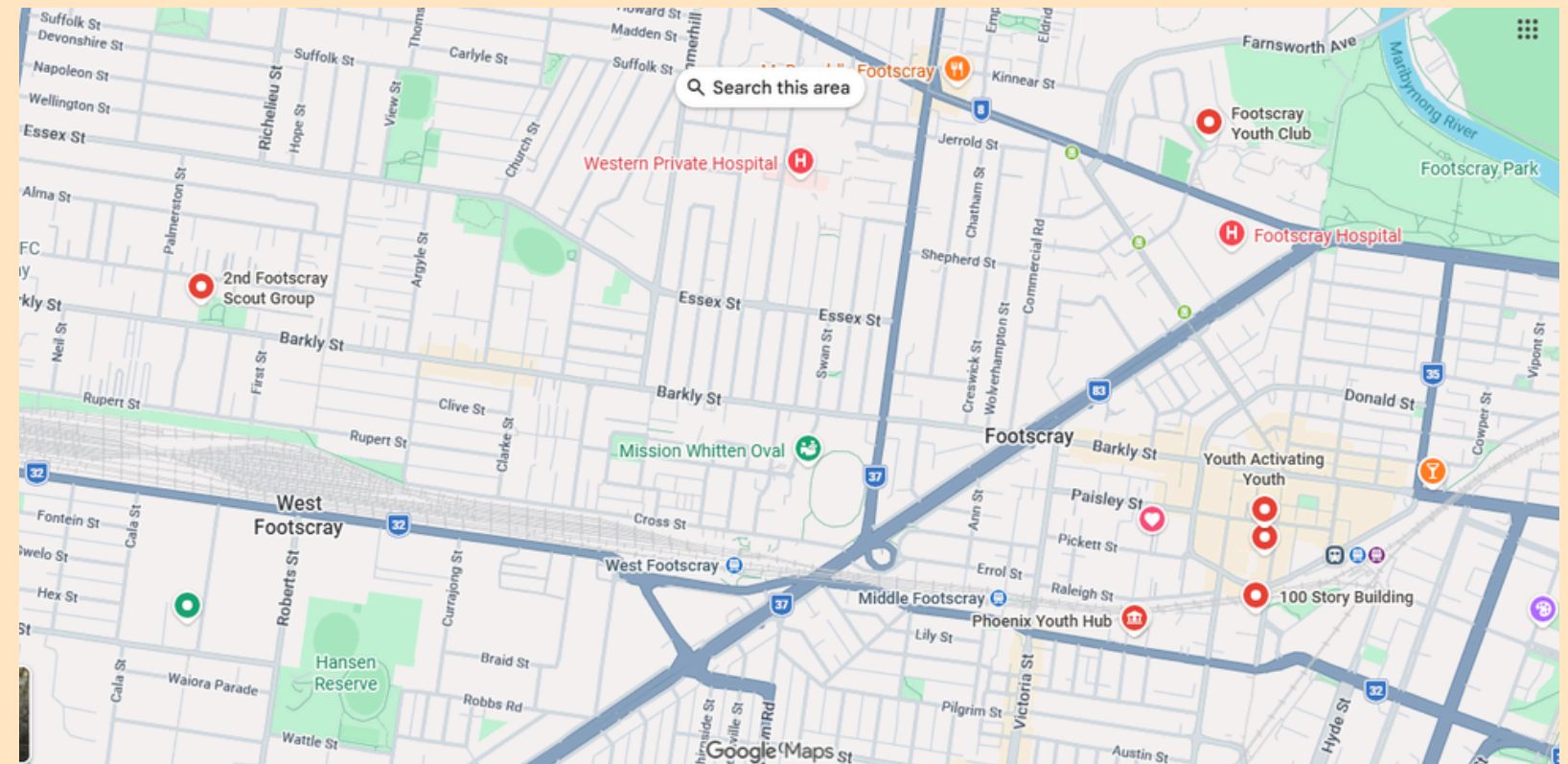
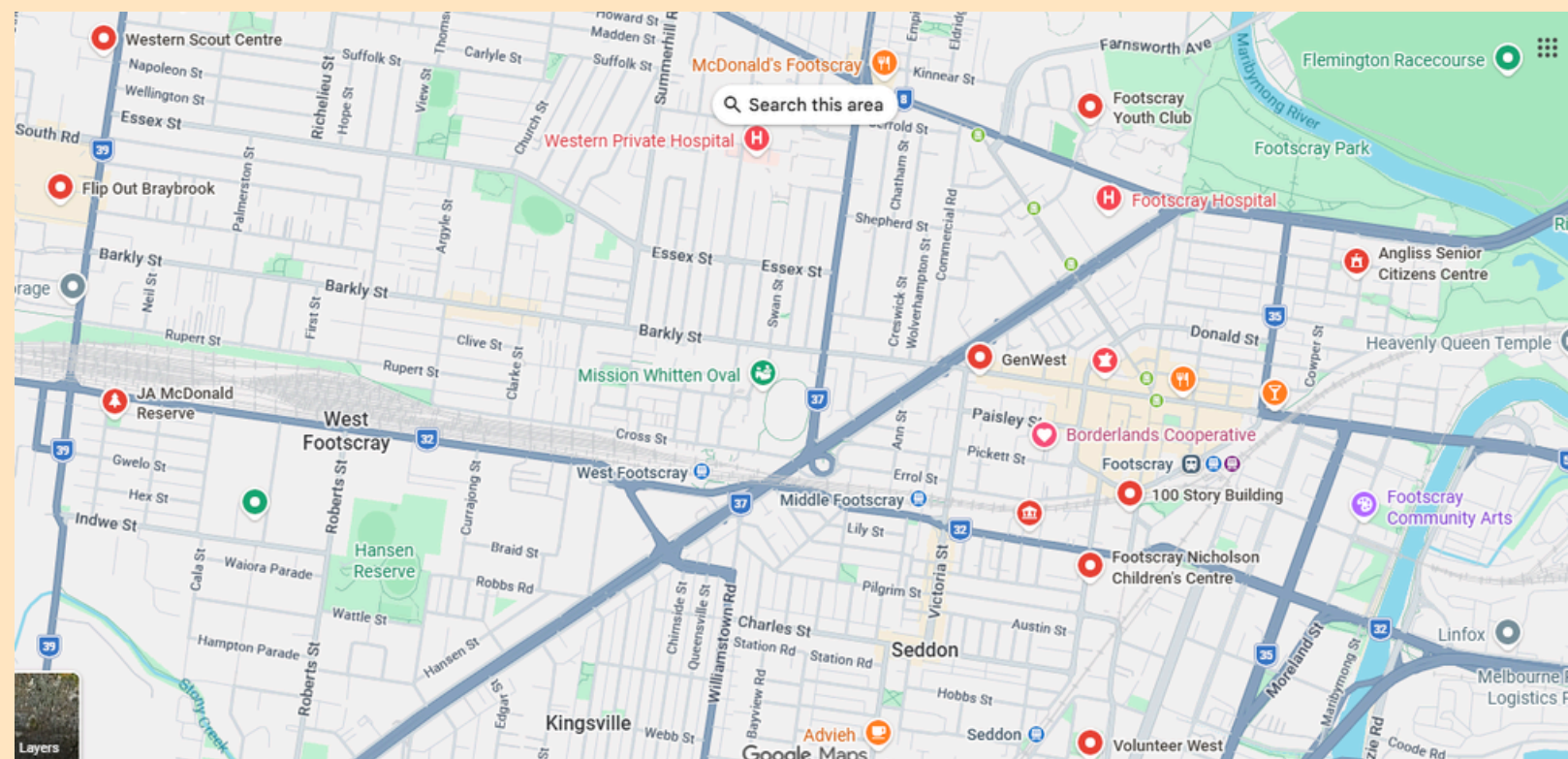
COMMUNITY MAPPING

Churches



COMMUNITY MAPPING

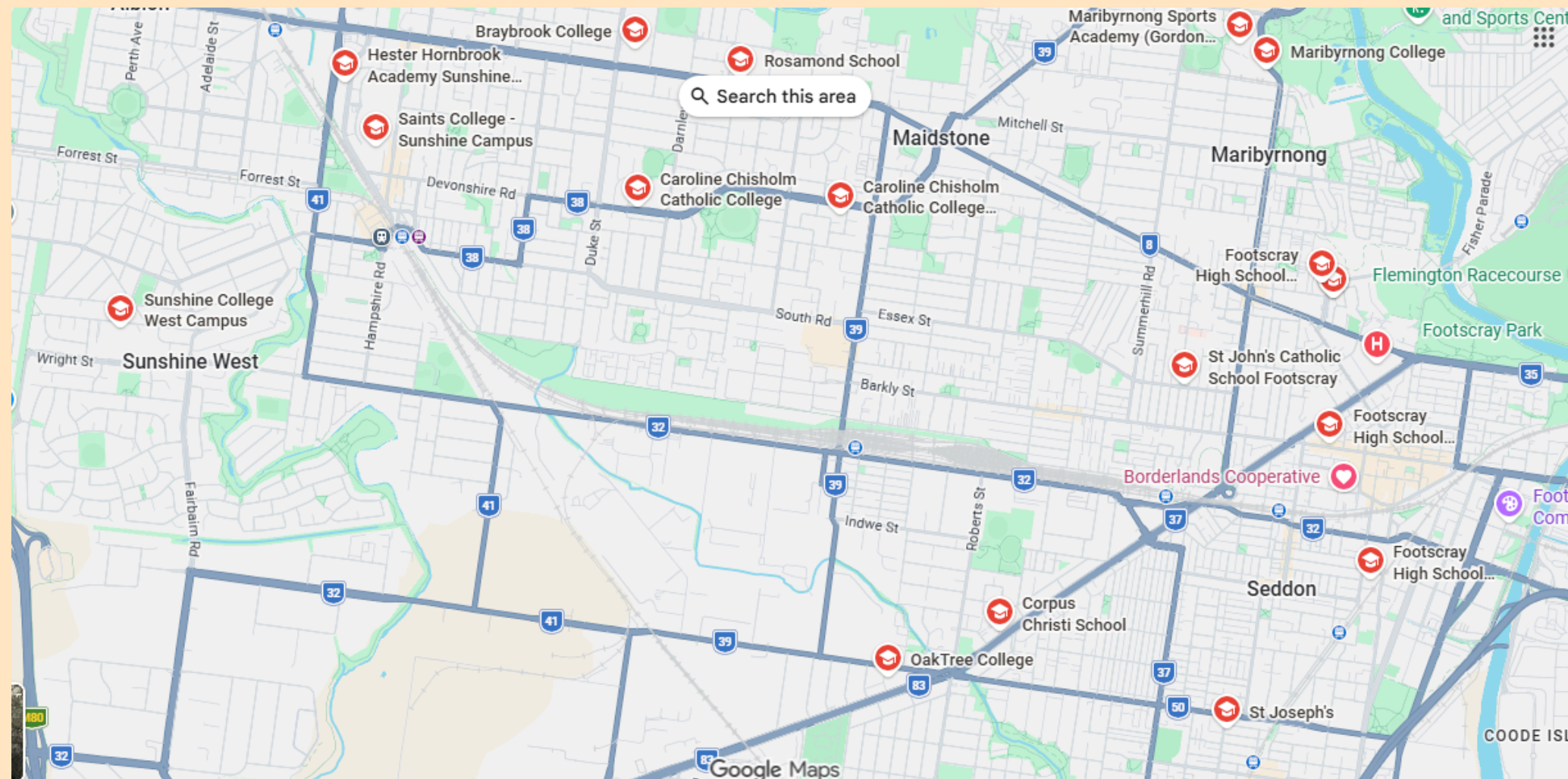
Youth Centres



COMMUNITY MAPPING

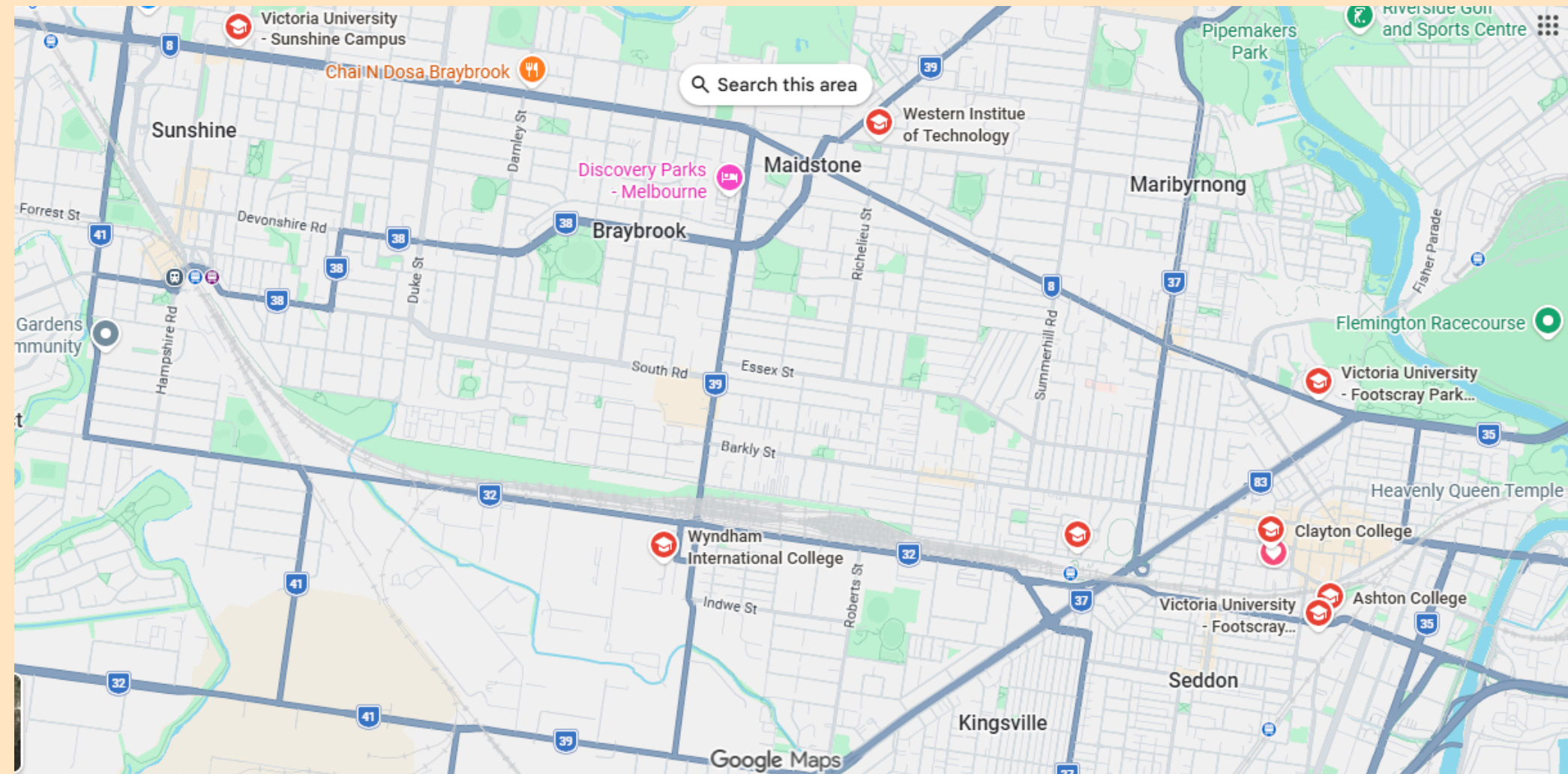


Secondary Schools



COMMUNITY MAPPING

Tertiary Study



NEEDS ANALYSIS

Some of the biggest issues being faced in Footscray

1

Food Access

They have high rates of food insecurity. In Melbourne's west it has risen significantly, with cost-of-living pressures, high housing costs, and low income driving increased demand for food relief.

2

Law Enforcement Patrolling

Council's security patrols program is making Footscray community members less safe and involves serious breaches of human rights and anti-discrimination laws.

3

Housing Prices

With a rapid increase in population of the West, alongside the existing housing crisis, Footscray is struggling to manage the increased capacity.

Based on personal research and the findings of the People's Plan for Footscray.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

4

Gentrification

With rapid gentrification threatening Footscray's working-class migrant character it all comes down to balancing growth while ensuring all existing residents benefit from these changes.

5

Youth Social Isolation

Young people, particularly those aged 15–24, are currently experiencing an "epidemic" of loneliness, with over 50% reporting feeling left out or lacking companionship in Australia.

6

Labour Exploitation

Exploitation of migrants and vulnerable workers, particularly in the hospitality, retail and factory labour sectors.

What gaps can YCW fill?

Community Care

Volunteering our time and support for the betterment of the community

Education

Provide opportunities for learning and understanding the rights and personal experiences of all

Civil Engagment

Bring young people together and promote active participation for the common good



Social Isolation

Developing community, connection and belonging

Safe Spaces

Creating spaces for all young adults to feel safe and pursue personal dignity

Youth Leadership

Encourage individual development and support growth



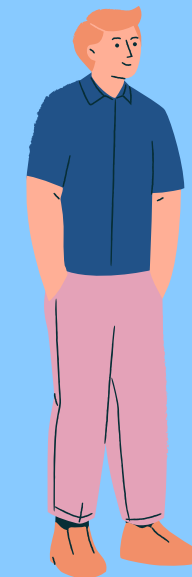
NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

- Key influences and potential allies
- Network map



Key Influences

- Maribyrnong Council
- The Mayor, Mohamed Semra
- Indigenous Community Leaders
- Other Cultural Groups
- Institutional Leaders
- Archdiocese of Melbourne
- Citizens of Footscray



Potential Allies

Key Relationships Developed & Connections Made

- Borderlands - Jorge, Terri & Peter
- Aasha Gray (Administrative Support Officer, Angliss Neighbourhood House)
- Naomi Oakley (Indigenous Cultural Program Manager, Footscray Community Arts)
- Bernie Docherty (CDF)
- Michael McGirr (Mission Director Caritas)
- Josh, Kate, Lily (CSSV Staff)
- Brendan Podbury (State President of the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria)
- People's Plan for Footscray (Many)
- West Melbourne Alliance (Angela Ashley-Chiew)
- Maribyrnong City Council, People & Participation Officer (Maggie Mildenhall)



Potential Allies

Connections to Deepen

- Community and Social Housing
- Angliss Neighbourhood House
- Footscray Community Arts Centre
- Catholic Regional College (in collaboration with Mentors)
- River Nile School & River Nile Learning Centre
- Migrant Workers Centre (Neha Gogia, Community Organiser)
- Wyndham CEC (Theresse Tuiza, Project Officer)
- Working Women's Centre Vic - Westjustice is the Western Agency. Employment and equality law support for women and non-binary people within Victoria.
- Young Workers Centre - education and legal advice for young workers and support in resolving workplace issues.
- Local churches: St Johns Anglican Church, Church of Christ, Vietnamese Evangelical Church, Footscray Baptist Church, St Andrew's Anglican Church, Seddon Uniting Church, St. Ilija Macedonian Orthodox Church. Etc.
- Youth groups e.g. Maribyrnong Youth and other youth hubs/community centre spaces.
- The Zone - program for young people (12-25) with AOD support.
- Spectrum (Sunshine) - support for young people with migrant and refugee backgrounds.
- City of Melbourne Libraries - possible place for meetings or events, Library at the Docks. Community or not-for-profit organisations: \$7.60 per hour. Capacity: 25 ppl.
- VietSpeak - bilingual programs supporting the preservation of Vietnamese language & culture.



Thanks!



Reflections & Questions



RESOURCES

- <https://reachingoutintheinnerwestofmelbourne.com.au/>
- <https://borderlandscooperative.net/tell-maribyrnong-council-to-stop-criminalising-homelessness-mental-health/>
- <https://borderlandscooperative.net/maribyrnong-council-program-making-footscray-less-safe/>