

# Memorial Signs, Oakden

## Fosters Road, Oakden



(Photos: H.Stein 2014)



## Regent Gardens Reserve, Sir Ross Smith Blvd, Oakden



(H.Stein 2014)

NOW Harry Wierda Reserve



(Google 2019)

## Hillcrest and Oakden Walking Trail

**The Trail**  
This walking trail has been developed to enable residents and visitors to the district an opportunity to gain an insight into the community's past and a broader history of the original inhabitants, the Kaurna people.

The trail is a celebration of the Centenary of Federation, winding through local parks and streets within the community. Approximately six km long, it can be followed by the footprint markers on the pathways, or by using the walking trail brochure.

The trail will take you to the unique wetland area of Roy Amer Reserve and the Old Gilles Plains School built in 1907. You will learn about traditional Kaurna life and the original vegetation of the Adelaide Plains.

Further sites of interest include heritage buildings that were once part of the Hillcrest Hospital, the landing site of the Smith Brothers and the history of the Department of Agriculture in this community.

Women from the Kaurna people, George French Angus (watermark) courtesy of the South Australian Museum

Gilbes Plains School, c. 1900. Courtesy of the Fieldfall and History Historical Society Inc.

The Smith Brothers landing at Northfield, 1920. Courtesy of the State Library of South Australia

Shavers at Northfield in the 1930s. Courtesy of the Glenide Hospital Historical Society Inc.

**Early History**  
The history of Aboriginal people in Australia dates back at least 40 000 years and there was great diversity among the many groups across the country. Prior to the arrival of Europeans in Australia, the Kaurna people lived in the area that ranged from Crystal Brook in the north, Cape Jervis in the south and was bordered by the Mount Lofty Ranges and Gulf St Vincent.

The first European settlers arrived in 1836 after an Act was passed in England that allowed for the establishment of a colony and government in South Australia. Under this Act, all land was considered the property of the Crown and was to be surveyed and sold at a minimum price to encourage people with capital to make South Australia their new home.

The Hundred of Yatala, County of Adelaide, in which this area lies, was proclaimed on 29 October 1846 and within a short time the district developed as a farming community. The name *Yatala* is derived from the Kaurna word *Yerlilla* that means water running by the side of a river, inundation and cascade, all relating to the occasional flooding that occurred in this area.

(H.Stein 2014)

**Legend:**

- ① The Old Dairy
- ② Changing Community
- ③ Kaurna use of Wetlands
- ④ Old Gilles Plains School
- ⑤ Original Vegetation
- ⑥ Bush Tucker
- ⑦ City of Enfield
- ⑧ Kaurna People and Settlement
- ⑨ Anchor Foods
- ⑩ Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith
- ⑪ Department of Agriculture
- ⑫ Hillcrest Hospital
- ⑬ Stanley House
- ♣ Toilets
- ⊗ Barbecue
- Reserves
- Walking Trail

Scale: 100 0 100 200 Metres

(H.Stein 2014)