

HISTORY & HERITAGE

ABBOTSFORD CONVENT IS LOCATED ON THE TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE. THE NEARBY JUNCTION OF THE BIRRARUNG CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT MEETING PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE KULIN NATION.



1900

ABBOTSFORD CONVENT BECAME THE LARGEST CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OPERATING IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE. IT WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST CATHOLIC COMPLEXES IN AUSTRALIA, HOUSING OVER 1,000 WOMEN AND CHILDREN.



1997

THE UNIVERSITY DEPARTED. A MAJOR PROPERTY DEVELOPER PURCHASED THE LAND WITH INTENT TO REDEVELOP INTO AN APARTMENT COMPLEX.

LOCAL RESIDENTS OPPOSED THE PROPOSAL AND THE ABBOTSFORD CONVENT COALITION FORMED.

2017

THE MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SACRED HEART PRECINCT WAS COMPLETED.

ABBOTSFORD CONVENT IS INSCRIBED ON THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST.



1842

EDWARD CURR BUILT ST HELIERS HOUSE.

1863

FOUR NUNS FROM THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PURCHASED ABBOTSFORD HOUSE AND THE NEIGHBOURING ST HELIERS HOUSE TO ESTABLISH A CONVENT.



1975

DUE TO DECLINING NUMBERS, THE NUNS SOLD THE SITE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHO DIVIDED THE LAND.

THE SITE BECAME A CAMPUS FOR THE LINCOLN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES (MERGED WITH LA TROBE UNIVERSITY IN 1989).

2004

THE COALITION WON THE CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE CONVENT. THE STATE GOVERNMENT GIFTED THE SITE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE PURPOSE OF ARTS, CULTURE AND LEARNING.



DISCOVER MORE



Winter
LIVE.

Abbotsford
Convent.

 OPEN HOUSE
MELBOURNE



OPEN HOUSE AT ABBOTSFORD CONVENT.

OPEN HOUSE AT ABBOTSFORD CONVENT: ACTIVITY MAP





TO BEGIN

ALL WELCOME

- 1 Welcome to Country
2.30pm | Hospital Lawn

GUIDED TOURS


3PM | MEET AT INFO DESK

-  Birrarung Walking Tour
-  Gardens and Grounds Tour
-  Sacred Heart Restoration Tour
-  Magdalen Laundries Tour

- 2 Panel Talk
4.30pm | Community Room

FREE EVENTS

ALL WELCOME

-  Social History Tours
1pm and 2pm
Meet at Info Desk

- 3 St Heliers Street Gallery
8am — 10pm

- 4 Heritage Display
1pm — 4.30pm | Salon

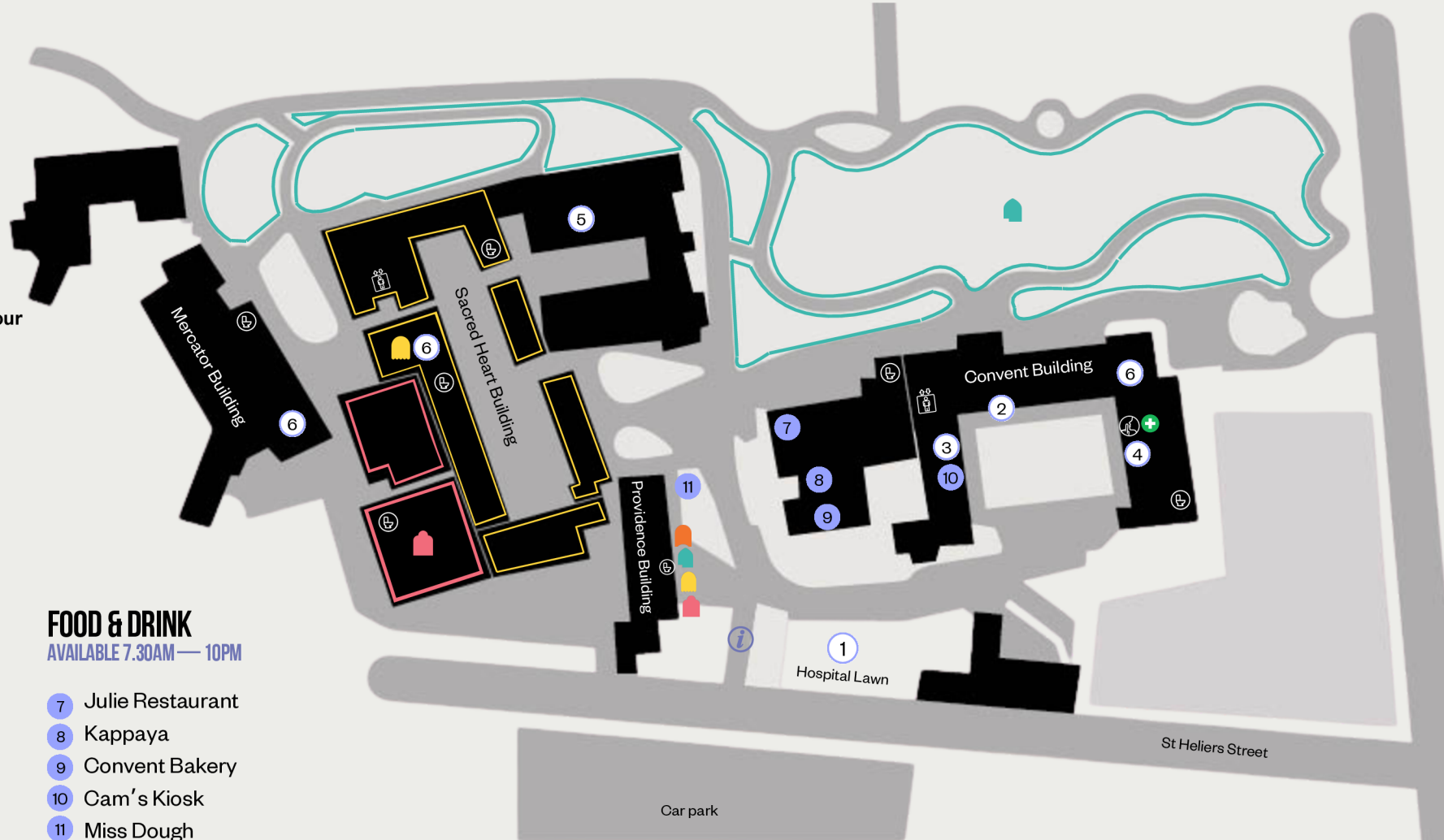
- 5 ANAM Performances
12pm — 4pm | Rosina Auditorium

- 6 Open Studios*
Open 2pm — 4pm
Guided tour Mercator Building: 2pm
Guided tour Convent Building: 3pm
Meet at Info Desk

FOOD & DRINK

AVAILABLE 7.30AM — 10PM




- 7 Julie Restaurant
- 8 Kappaya
- 9 Convent Bakery
- 10 Cam's Kiosk
- 11 Miss Dough



* DISCOVER
WHO'S HERE
Open Studios



INFORMATION

-  Info Desk
-  Quiet Room
-  For assistance: 0438 380 833

ACCESSIBILITY



View accessibility
map

Abbotsford
Convent.