

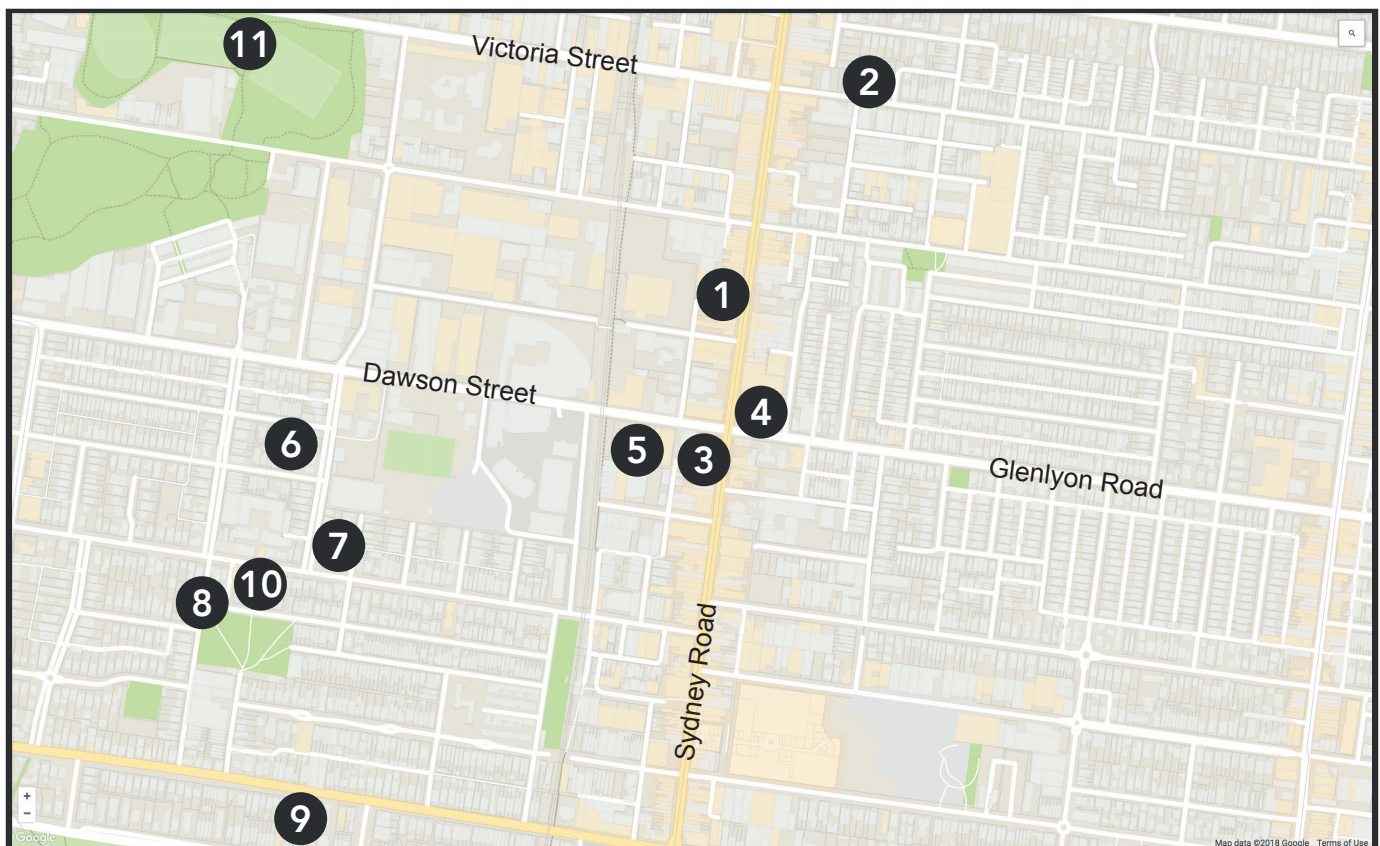
Walking Map of Brunswick:

sites of the anti-conscription campaigns of World War One

This map is intended to be used in conjunction with the online digital story

Against the Odds: The Victory over Conscription in World War One

cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/against-the-odds-the-victory-over-conscription-in-world-war-one



1. High School for Girls (first site)

327 Sydney Road

Bella Lavender (née Guerin) was a prominent Brunswick anti-conscriptionist. Initially in Vida Goldstein's Women's Political Association, in 1914 she joined the Labor Party.

From 1909 until 1917 Lavender ran a private school for girls. First at the Congregational Hall (no longer extant), when that was sold in 1910 she moved to the Spiritual Lyceum Church.

2. High School for Girls (second site)

259 Victoria Street

3. Brunswick Town Hall

233 Sydney Road

Inside the foyer is the Remembrance Board. It lists alphabetically the 3,575 Brunswick men who enlisted and the 510 who were killed, from a Brunswick-wide population of around 30,000.

Throughout the war, the Brunswick City Council was pro-war and pro-conscription. However one major anti-conscription meeting was held here on 23 October 1916 with speakers including Adela Pankhurst and Fred Riley.

The Town Hall was also a polling booth for the referenda.

4. Brunswick Mechanics' Institute

233 Sydney Road

After coming under the control of the pro-war Council in 1915, this was used as the main recruiting depot in the area. In all, 3,575 Brunswick men enlisted. The conscription referenda were introduced following a downturn in recruitment after the huge casualties at Gallipoli, Fromelles, Messines and Ypres.

5. St Ambrose's School & Hall

1-3 Dawson Street

This was the site of three major anti-conscription speeches by Catholic Archbishop Daniel Mannix. In November 1916, Mannix gave one of his first speeches opposing conscription, just before the first referendum. On 22 April 1917, before the 1917 federal election, Mannix opened the hall at St Ambrose's. On 18 November 1917, before the second referendum, Mannix opened another fete and spoke again against conscription.

After it was opened, the St Ambrose Hall was the main venue for anti-conscription meetings.

6. John Curtin's Home (1899–1902)

1 Munro Street

This was the first Brunswick house that the Curtin family lived in. By this stage the family was dependent on Curtin's mother Kate's income from sewing, and Curtin had left school to find work.

7. John Curtin's Home (1913–1915)

2 Fallon Street

This was the second last home that Curtin lived in in the area.

8. John Curtin's Home (1903–1908)

28 Gray Street (originally 60 Gray Street before change in street numbering.)

The Curtin family moved into this house after Curtin found regular employment as a clerk at the Titan Manufacturing Co. It was while living here that Curtin joined the Brunswick Football Club, met Frank Hyett, joined the Victorian Socialist Party and became associated with Frank Anstey.

Curtin's biographer, David Day, notes: "With Curtin occupied in a regular job, his family could now enjoy a return to relative security. It seems that almost all of his weekly wage of some 35 shillings... went into the family kitty... Kate could now confidently answer the rent collector's knock on the door of their single-fronted brick terrace at 60 Gray St where they would remain for five years, the longest period Curtin had spent in any one house".

9. John Curtin's Home (1915–1917)

302 Brunswick Road

This was the last house that Curtin lived in in Brunswick before moving to Western Australia to take up editorship of the *Westralian Worker*.

It was here that Curtin was arrested for refusing to obey the call-up for military training proclaimed by Prime Minister Hughes: "Curtin was arrested at his parents' house by a plain clothes member of the Brunswick constabulary" and sent to Melbourne Gaol. He served three days before being released.

10. Union Hotel

302 Brunswick Road

One of John Curtin's favourite watering holes as Secretary of the Timber Workers Union. According to Day, "Timber workers' visiting from the bush expected to be taken to the pub by their secretary... it seems he could not do without the comfort of a drink, and the male companionship that went with it, even for a day." In 1916, he entered a clinic as a result of his drinking. Frank Anstey supported him throughout this period of heavy drinking, urging him not to "hate yourself, despise yourself or be ashamed of yourself or ashamed to face others" and affirmed that drunk, Curtin was "a better man than thousands sober" and to be "proud of the good you yet will do".

11. Brunswick Football Club

Gillon Oval, 133 Hope Street (off map)

A lifelong political friendship was formed here when John Curtin met Frank Hyett. At the time Frank Anstey was Vice-President of the Club (he would later serve as President) allowing him to form a close association with both men, for whom he would act as a political mentor.

Against the Odds was created for the Culture Victoria website (cv.vic.gov.au) by the Australian Living Peace Museum with the support of the Brunswick Coburg Anti-Conscription Commemoration Campaign and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria. cv.vic.gov.au/stories/a-diverse-state/against-the-odds-the-victory-over-conscription-in-world-war-one