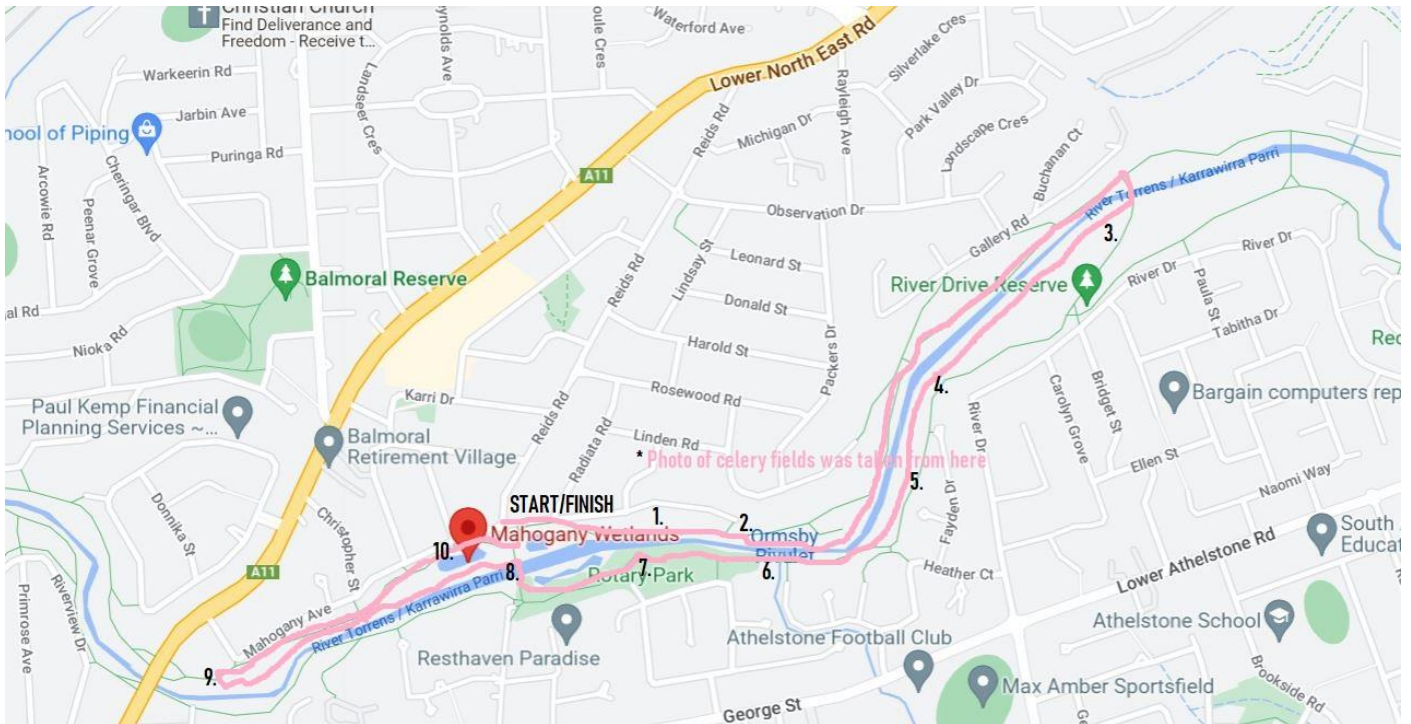


## U3A Mahogany wetlands Monday Stroll - directions and information (4.4km)



Park along Mahogany Avenue in Dernancourt close to the roundabout with Reid St

Meet near the roundabout on the footpath

Start

1. From the meeting spot go east, with the river on your right. This area used to be **Celery Fields \*1**
2. At the end of Mahogany Ave on your left there will be a metal staircase and on your right a safety barrier, follow the barrier. Once the barrier stops you can enter on the grass to follow the river on your right. The grassed area will get you back to the main path just before an incline. People who prefer to walk on asphalt can stay on the main path (but don't take the right turn asphalt path; it goes nowhere)
3. Cross over the first bridge and turn sharp right to walk on the grass along the river. You will see a faint path further on. The path will pass a black painted "mystery" machine (**an old pump \*2**) and later a fallen tree with a colony of disc mushrooms
4. Continue on that wild path; do not take any left turns. At the narrowest spot on the path stop to listen to water cascading over rocks
5. Towards the end the path will lead between the river on the right and a pond on the left
6. Join the asphalt path at the Ormsby Rivulet (there is a little bridge here)
7. Continue along that path passing a playground with a toilet
8. When you get to the big white bridge cross it and turn left into an earthen path
9. Continue to the **Dernancourt's French connections memorial \*3** keeping the river on your left

10. Turn back to follow the asphalt path all the way back to the cars, stopping when you see the benches and Mahogany Wetlands on your right. Continue on the asphalt path until you see the Duck Pond and the cars

FINISH

## Annotations

### **\*1 Celery Fields**



Harvesting a celery crop on the Packer Bros land in Dernancourt. The photo was taken in about 1950. Left to right: Dudley Packer, unidentified Packer brother, Ron Packer, unidentified Packer brother. There were six Packer brothers, William (Bill), Thomas, Joseph, Frank, Frederick and Edwin.

### **\*2 An old pump**

Force pumps can be seen dotted along the river. They were used to irrigate the crops in the market gardens.

### **\*2 Dernancourt's French connections memorial**

A memorial has been built by the City of Tea Tree Gully to record the naming of the suburb of Dernancourt, which honours the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Dernancourt during the First World War in France. Soil from the battlefield in France was interred in a metal cylinder within the memorial wall at an opening ceremony in late August 2022. "To avoid it being just a set of stone and bricks, we decided to send a little earth from Dernancourt to give it a soul. That way will make a little more sense to those who visit," said Lionel Lamotte, president of the Association of Remembrance in Dernancourt, France.



Photo on the left: French dignitaries watch a child putting soil from the French battlefield into a metal flask. Photo on the right: The flask was sent to Australia and is now bricked up in the Dernancourt memorial

TTG Council Deputy Mayor Lucas Jones describes the memorial as a meaningful project. *"It honours the soldiers who fought in Dernancourt, France while also fostering stronger ties with the French village that our suburb was named after,"* said Deputy Mayor Lucas Jones.

History tells us that South Australian soldiers played a crucial role in the 1918 Battle of Dernancourt by defeating German attacks. An estimated 1,600 Germans and 1,230 Australians died during the battle, which also left just three of the 110 houses in the village standing.

In 1923 an Adelaide suburb was created by Richard Arthur Hobby on land owned by him. It was named Dernancourt in recognition of the Battle of Dernancourt and our soldiers' ultimate sacrifice. In 2009 Mr Lionel Lamotte, then Mayor of Dernancourt, visited Adelaide. He told a reception that the village school is named Pavilion Adelaide and that every classroom has a sign reading 'N'oublions pas les Australiens' - Let us never forget the Australians.