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MEDIA RELEASE

STEP BACK INTO MANNINGHAM'S YESTERYEAR AT THE DONCASTER HILL HERITAGE TRAIL

A new heritage trail on Doncaster Hill is offering residents and visitors the opportunity to step back in time and experience life from the early days when the first pioneers settled in Doncaster.

Officially opened on Wednesday 28 July by Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee Cr Graeme Macmillan, the Doncaster Hill Heritage Trail consists of a series of two interpretive signs and four sound posts which identify six key areas of historical significance within Doncaster Hill.

The Trail tells the story of our community's founders in the mid-1800s and how they settled the area. Locations include the Playhouse/Doncaster Primary School, Doncaster Church of Christ, the former Shire Offices, Doncaster Tower/first electric tram and White's Corner/Westfield Doncaster. "The Doncaster Hill Heritage Trail reminds us of the past, and records the endeavors of the early settler families." Cr Graeme Macmillan said.

Funding of \$37,727 for this project was contributed by the Federal Government through the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, with Westfield Corporation also contributing to the cost of the development and installation of a sign located on Westfield's site on the corner of Williamsons and Doncaster Roads.

"On behalf of Council I would like to acknowledge and thank the Federal Government for its contribution." Manningham Mayor Cr Charles Pick said. "We acknowledge Westfield Corporation's contribution, Box Hill Institute, the Project's Steering Committee, the dedicated volunteers who provided in-kind support and the descendants of pioneering families who shared their stories.

The funding program has also built on Manningham Council's Memorandum of Understanding with Box Hill Institute by providing valuable 'real life' experience for 30 students. Students were involved with the preparation of the accompanying trail brochure and audio component of the sound posts.

An interpretative Heritage Trail brochure is available from the Council's Customer Service counter, Doncaster Library or download a copy at www.doncasterhill.com

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