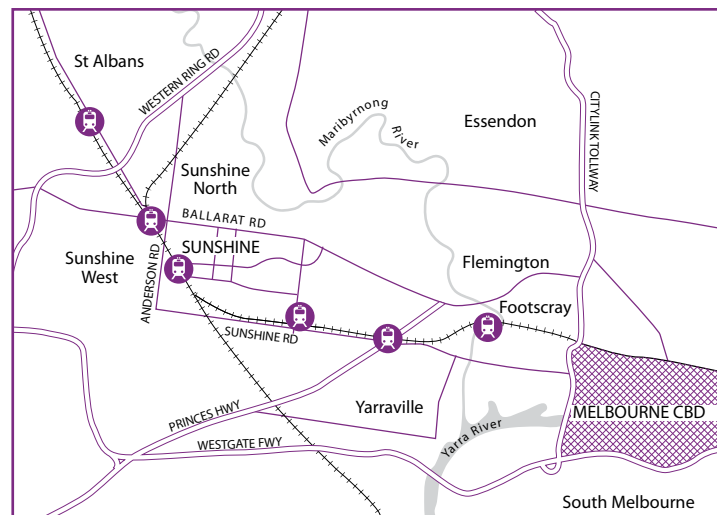


Sunshine

In 1906 industrialist Hugh Victor McKay moved his Sunshine Harvester Works from Ballarat to Braybrook Junction on the western edge of Melbourne. Braybrook was soon renamed Sunshine and, by the late 1920s, the factory had become a huge industrial complex, spanning more than 30 hectares and employing up to 2500 men and women.

Throughout the early decades of the 20th century, McKay and his workers struggled with each other over how, and to whom, the profits of the Sunshine Harvester Works should be distributed. McKay resisted attempts by the courts and government bodies to regulate pay in his factory and, as many of his workers called for better wages, he was targeted with industrial action by trade unions.

McKay sought to secure his employees' loyalty by building a company town around his factory. Staff with sufficient income could buy land and build a house in the Sunshine Estate. The Sunshine Harvester Works closed in the 1980s and most of the buildings were demolished, but the factory site, now redeveloped as community facilities, continues as a centre for the suburb of Sunshine.



Staff at the Sunshine Library, built on the redeveloped factory site, Melbourne 2011
 photograph by Dean Golja
 National Museum of Australia

Sunshine, with the former offices of the Sunshine Harvester Works in the background 2010
 photograph by Antony Cirocco
 National Museum of Australia