

ARMADALE RAILWAY STATION AREA

History and Significance The Armadale Railway Station was erected in 1879 when the link between South Yarra and Oakleigh, and thus Gippsland and Melbourne, was completed. Kings Arcade was erected in 1893 and this was one of the early substantial buildings in this area. A new railway station at Armadale was erected in 1904 and this design was later repeated in both the Toorak and Hawksburn railway stations. The well resolved arrangement of a centre island platform with transverse pedestrian access from the two side streets and the rammed entry platforms provided a superb spacial expression and when the line was duplicated in 1914, side buildings and platforms were also erected. At this time the small shop to the north of the railway station was built incorporating certain decorative motifs also found on the station building itself.

Opposite Kings Arcade, a Savings Bank was erected and on the corner of Kooyong Road, the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney erected their premises (today used as a chemist shop). Coinciding with the present railway station, a group of curved shops were erected with a superb cast iron, post supported verandah, which today still stands and represents the most intact remnant of this type of construction in the municipality. In Kooyong Road a number of residences were erected in the 1880s-90s and this development was continued into this century.

Today the significance of this area derives from the architectural importance of the Armadale Railway Station and its link through to Kings Arcade, itself a building of high architectural significance. The residences in Kooyong Road are largely intact and the landscaping behind these houses, in the vicinity of the railway station is a fine example of Edwardian landscaping featuring several distinctive palm trees. The shops adjacent to the railway station form a notable adjunct to this building, particularly those to the north with their intact post supported verandah and walkway leading to Kings Arcade.