

## Pipe makers park

Hume pipe was the biggest concrete pipe making factory in the southern hemisphere.



It is near the Maribyrnong River



- 1 & 2 BLUESTONE BUILDINGS 3 VISITORS CENTRE  
4 WHARF 5 PIONEER WOMENS SHELTER  
6 HISTORY OF THE LAND 7 THE TOP FACTORY  
8 KOORI GARDENING TEAM 9 & 10 WETLANDS

Here is a map of Pipemakers park.







**WOMINJEKA MARIN-BULLUK**

There is a garden down the hill from the factory.



My dad thinks there was a meat processing plant down the hill from the factory.

## The Pipe Story

THE HUME BROTHERS CEMENT IRON COMPANY LIMITED OCCUPIED THIS SITE FROM 1912 UNTIL 1979 AND PRODUCED PIPES WITH A REVOLUTIONARY TECHNIQUE THAT IS STILL THE BASIS FOR PRODUCING CONCRETE PIPES TODAY.

The process itself was based on the principle of spinning frames in a beekeeper's extractor when the frames are spun to release honey. The Hume brothers first applied this technique to painting metal fencing and then advanced to using it to producing pipes, with a few other innovations. Wet cement was shovelled into a spinning mould which contained a wire re-inforcement, which formed a strong and durable pipe.



Photo: Pipe Mesh, Museum of the Living West

This new technique gave the world a new means of constructing water supply, sewerage and drainage systems in a more efficient and more economic way. Effectively making cities as we know them today possible. Melbourne's sewerage and drainage systems in the early 20th Century depended heavily on these cheaper pipes.

The Humes pipe firm was the only Australian company of the pre-World War 2 period to pioneer a new technology and export its innovations throughout the world. This involved the sale of patent rights to companies in Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and the Islands of the Pacific. It also involved exporting specialised machinery. So this is the site of Australia's first major contribution as a clever country to industrial progress on an international level.



Photo: Humes Ltd 1920  
Museum of the Living West



Photo: The Pipe making process,  
Museum of the Living West

The Humes Pipe Company expanded its operations around the world however the Maribyrnong site of the company was the largest concrete pipe maker in the southern hemisphere in 1951 and produced machines, spare parts and moulds for Humes factories around Australia.

Pipes made by  
Hume pipe





You can play on the pipes.



It is very old.

