

TOWN of CLAREMONT

Claremont Meanders

EXPLORING THE PAST



THE YARGINE TRACK

YARGINE – Nyungar word for turtle

A self-guided walk trail
Approx 1.5-2 hour duration (4.5km)

Information and resources from Claremont Museum and local residents. Photographs courtesy of Claremont Museum Collection.

We gratefully acknowledge the donors of information and photographs used in the development of this map.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Town acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pays its respects to Elders past and present.

Map illustrator: Mary Yates

INDIGENOUS HISTORY

Lake Claremont (previously Butler's Swamp and Galbamaanup) belongs to the complex wetland systems of the Swan River and Swan coastal plains. According to Nyungar tradition, the wetland was created by the Waugal and continues to be of religious significance to Nyungar people. The area was traditionally used for camping and hunting. Nyungar families continued to camp here until they were moved on by the government of the day in 1951.

"It was an ancient camping ground - beautiful place."
– **Koori Bodney** (born near Butler's Swamp in 1932).

"And mother, she was uneducated. She used to come all around the Claremont, Swanbourne and Cottesloe areas washing and ironing for different European ladies to get a few shillings."

– **Koori Bodney**

"Me and my uncles and Koori used to go out the back of the asylum and cut props and take them over Stirling Highway down towards Freshwater Bay and sell these props. They used to get four shillings a prop, and I used to get two and six a prop because my props were smaller."

– **Toopey Bodney**

ANZAC COTTAGE (REF. 4)

Volunteers from the Ugly Men's Voluntary Workers' Association constructed this small timber cottage in 1917. It was built as a memorial to the ANZACs and specifically as a residence to accommodate a war widow and her family. Formed in WA in mid 1917, The Ugly Men's Voluntary Workers' Association took the lead in a number of districts in assisting the wives/widows and families of servicemen. From August 1917, as well as carrying out repairs and maintenance to existing homes, volunteers built homes for a number of war widows and their families.

The land where ANZAC Cottage was constructed was donated by M Walters & Co. and the cottage was designed by Honorary Architect T W Powell. No fewer than 85 willing volunteers were involved in its construction which occurred over the course of two weekends. ANZAC Cottage was vested in Council the year it was built and was used for the purpose for which it was built until 1973.

ANZAC Cottage is of significant historic and social value and is listed on the State Register of Heritage Places. When the cottage was under threat of sale and/or demolition in 1999 the public outcry that occurred is evidence of its importance to the local community.

2 & 4 DEVON ROAD (REF. 3)

The Swanbourne Veterinary Clinic is situated in a building that was once stables and a garage. The stables were built in 1906 for the house next door known to locals as "McKenzie's Folly" because of its association with the Honorable Robert McKenzie, businessman and Member of the Legislative Council, and his wife Emma. The stables and garage were well suited for use as a veterinary practice as the double doors enabled the access of cars and large animals. The Swanbourne Veterinary Clinic, established by Thomas W Hogarth in 1939, was the first veterinary practice in Claremont and it continues to service the local community.

SWANBOURNE VILLAGE (REF. 1)

At a time when private vehicle ownership was not widespread most early Perth suburban shopping centers, like the Swanbourne shopping village, were built within close proximity to public transport. In an oral history, Walter Vivian, a Swanbourne resident and poet, describes the train station as *"a much grander edifice than it is now"*. It was staffed, had its own chocolate machine on top of the bridge, signals which were manually operated to let trains pass and a goods room where freight was dropped off.

In a book of poetry titled 'Not a Proper Shop', Vivian Walter describes some of the colorful characters that ran businesses in the Swanbourne Village during his childhood. One of these was the Ishmail Brothers Butchers whose *"floor was covered in sawdust... and there were these great blocks of trees around which they used for cutting tables"*.

Although businesses have come and gone over the years the Swanbourne Shopping Precinct still retains its village atmosphere. Demolished in 1999, the Swanbourne Hotel, an impressive art deco building, also formed part of the group.

LAKEWAY DRIVE-IN SITE (REF. 9)

The Lakeway drive-in opened to the public in 1957 at a time when drive-in movie theatres were extremely popular and considered a 'romantic alternative' to traditional movie theatres.

The drive-in offered cheap family entertainment, a place where parents could take the kids without paying for a babysitter or worrying about them bothering other patrons. Kids were always excited about going to the drive-in, and for teenagers the drive-in was a place for dates and a place to congregate with friends. As entry fees were related to the number of people per car it was common for people to be snuck in by covering them with blankets in the back seat or even putting someone in the boot. Patrons would park their cars next to a pole where a speaker was hung and watch the movie on the large screen. The Lakeway Drive-in was closed in 1985.



PENSIONER GUARDS (REF. 6)

Pensioner Guards were military pensioners who were paid by the British Government to serve as guards on the convict ships. Many had served in the military for more than 15 years and had been decorated in battle, while some had been retired early from service because of wounds or illness.

Nineteen of the guards on board the Scindian, the first convict transport ship to arrive in Western Australia in 1850, were provided with two lots of land - half an acre of land along the river and nine and a half acres around Butler's Swamp (now Lake Claremont).

The government provided a £10 cash grant for tools and seeds but this cash had to be mostly spent on provisions. The terms under which they were allocated the land required them to occupy it for seven years before being granted title. But for the inexperienced Pensioner Guards it was a difficult place to make a living from farming as the land was swampy with many large jarrah trees to be felled. They supplemented their incomes by cutting firewood and wives often worked as washerwomen as far away as Fremantle.

By 1857 only nine of the nineteen Scindian Pensioner Guards who had been granted land at Freshwater Bay between 1850 and February 1851, still occupied their land and qualified to apply for its ownership. The hardship and struggle of the early years had taken its toll.

SHENTON ROAD HOMES (REF. 12)

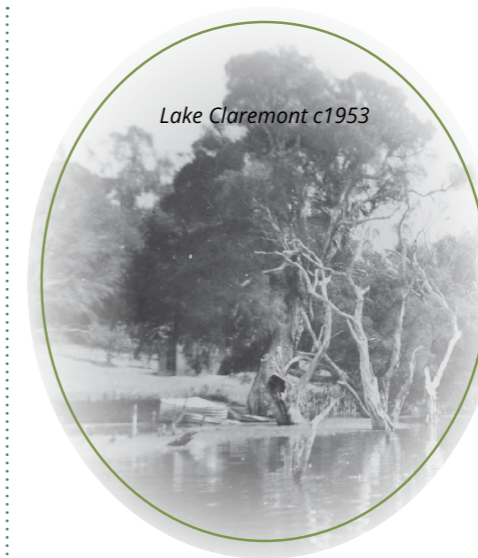
The following extract is taken from a Real Estate Agents advertisement for the sale of homes and land on Shenton Road around 1906.

"The properties and land are sandwiched between the Society's (Royal Agricultural Society) magnificently laid out grounds, destined to be this colony's cardinal carnival for old and young, rich and poor, and the imposing important and costly Scotch College and not only so, but they are almost midway between Claremont and Congdon stations. A rare juxtaposition. Further, Claremont can claim pre-eminence, proudly indeed for its scholastic renown. It may be fitly called the 'Oxford' of W.A. As it is also the equipoise, or equidistant suburb, it is the fulcrum between the metropolis and our chief maritime port. Shall it not become a veritable St. Kilda by virtue of all these adventitious adjuncts of incomputable importance."

LAKE CLAREMONT (REF. 10)

The first recorded reference to Lake Claremont was in 1831 when Mr. John Butler wrote to the Surveyor General requesting a grant of land in the area. Although there is no record of a Certificate of Title to this land being issued in his name it is possible that he did use the land and that his farming activities gave rise to the name 'Butler's Swamp'.

In 1850 Pensioner Guards were granted plots of land around the swamp but many struggled and only a few of the original guards remained on their land. The opening of the Fremantle to Guildford Railway line in 1881 was the catalyst for development in the Claremont area and Butler's Swamp became a popular picnic spot. Around the turn of the century orchards and market gardens flourished around the swamp.



Rising waters eventually destroyed many of the market gardens and rendered Stirling Road, which passed through the middle of the swamp, impassable.

Between 1964 and 1970 the area around Lake Claremont was used as a rubbish tip, the rubbish used to fill in the marshy areas around the waters edge. An island bird sanctuary was built and planted with exotic trees and shrubs. Claremont Council then constructed a golf course and in 1955 changed the name from Butlers Swamp to Lake Claremont.

OLDHAM RESIDENCE - 11 SALADIN ST (REF. 13)

11 Saladin Street is a fine and rare example of a two-storey weatherboard residence and a visible reminder of the substantial and decorative residences built during the Federation period. For nearly fifty years it was the home of internationally recognised landscape architect John Oldham and his wife Ray Oldham, journalist and author, heritage advocate and foundation member of the National Trust of Australia (WA). It is currently (2010) the home of Jan Oldham, cookery editor, writer and illustrator.

In 2009 the house caught fire and was fortunately saved by a prompt response from firemen who were alerted by a neighbour.

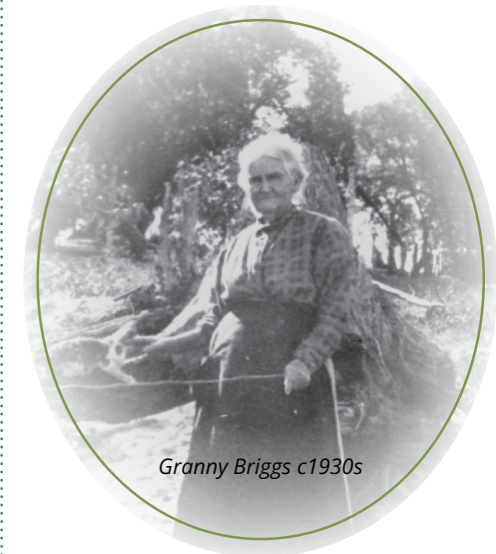
ROME'S DAIRY

In 1897, John Rome established a dairy on swampland on the eastern side of Lake Claremont. An article in Progressive Westralia dated 1 November 1905, acknowledged Rome's Dairy as *"one of the most up-to-date establishments of its kind in the Commonwealth"*.

150 cows grazed on the native pasture around the swamp and were often released for grazing in the bush as far as Wembley. Fourteen acres of swampland were also cultivated each year for feed. The cows were milked in a 32-stall shed which was reputedly *"as clean as the deck of a British man-of-war and as sweet as the boudoir of a refined lady"*. Rome's 'Pure sweet milk from the cow to the consumer' was delivered around Claremont and Cottesloe by 4 delivery carts.

GRANNY BRIGGS (REF. 7)

Known as Granny Briggs, Annas Briggs was the local midwife who used to get around town in a horse and sulky. Annas, born in 1851, was the daughter of John Atkinson one of the original Pensioner Guards serving in Freshwater Bay. Her home at Butler's Swamp is said to have been a limestone building with an earth packed floor. Annas allowed Noongar people to camp on a section of her property near the site of the former drive-in. The house was demolished in the early 1950s.



REFERENCE NUMBERS

You will find our walk trail numbered 1 through to 15. Use the reference below for information on the numbers. Search around the map for further facts and trivia. On the back of the map you will find more detailed information.

From the Swanborne Train Station, head towards the row of shops to the north and follow the trail from here.

1. Swanbourne Shops and 'The Swannie'
2. Original Swanbourne Primary site
3. Vet/Stables
4. Anzac Cottage
5. Scotch College
6. Pensioner Guard Lots
7. Granny Briggs
8. Swanbourne Primary
9. Lakeway Drive-In Site
10. Lake Claremont
11. Lake Claremont Golf Course
12. Shenton Road Houses
13. 11 Saladin St
14. Claremont Train Station
15. Registered Aboriginal Site

MAP HINTS

YOU WILL FIND OUR WALK TRAIL ARROWED & NUMBERED 1-15 FURTHER FACTS & TRIVIA MATCHING THESE NUMBERS ARE DOTTED AROUND THE MAP - WITH MORE DETAILS ON THE REVERSE FOR YOU TO DISCOVER!
• MAP NOT TO SCALE.

CLAREMONT MEANDERS ~ GLIMPING THE PAST • THE TURTLE TRACK

NYUNGAR COUNTRY

UNOFFICIAL LEADERS OF THE ABORIGINALS AT LAKE CLAREMONT IN THE EARLY 1900s
QUEEN TINNY KING BILLY
100s of tiny white flowers
Aboriginals used the flowers for rosettes and flower stems for bender
Resin was used to cement the spear barb to the shaft
The BALGA tree has numerous other uses
Ghost moth larva
Bushtucker: The BARDI GRUB is either eaten raw - or roasted on camp fire coals: lives inside Balga tree. (Tastes good!)
WEEKLY RENTAL 2/6d
No 16 ANZAC COTTAGE. 4

SAUNDERS ST. BUILT BY UGLY MEN'S ASSOCIATION: 1917
ROB ROY
Beer Shortages '43 '43. 1939.
THE SWANBOURNE HOTEL
THE 'SWANNIE' 1

15 REGISTERED ABORIGINAL SITE
Swanbourne Primary School NOW HERE *
OLD MAN SEEDY HAD PIGGERY (children used to steal his fruit!)

1897 2400KG HONEY 113 HIVES
'NYLEETA': house in Central Ave means 'place of wild honey'
LATE 1950s
A brothel once thought to have operated on Devon Rd!

CORNWALL
The 'P' before a LOT number indicates it was initially allotted to a Pensioner Guard e.g. P1060 6

MITFORD
NO BITUMEN NORTH OF MITFORD ST BEFORE 1950s

BRASSEY
'NORTH CLAREMONT' (EST 1905) became SWANBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL Rebuilt and moved to Maria Road 2001

WOOD
The SWANBOURNE 2 VETERINARY CENTRE were stables. Built 1906
FRASER
Swanbourne Primary School
MCKENZIE'S FOLLY *
VET 3

SHENTON
LOOK FOR THIS INTERESTING GATE ON
OTWAY
Your walk
CARE'S HAIRDRESSING
ROB ROY
DEAKIN
STOP for coffee + Yummy cake!
Bookcafe
BANK VAULT DOOR
LOTS SOLD 15 EACH 1882
'SWANBOURNE STATION SHOPS'

START
Latest model CLEVELAND taxis at your service

9 TOLD LAKEWAY DRIVE-IN SITE
SHORTER OPTION - STEPS

7 FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT Noticeboard - for news
GLoucester
GRANNY BRIGGS lived here - The family were horse breeders & trainers
TODAY: CRESSWELL PARK
Common Rosegill
Young Old MUSHROOMS

FERN
Very old newspapers under limo of demolished BRIGGS house Fern St
They bury themselves under the mud during the hot, dry summer period

GARDEN
FIRST DINO BONE DESCRIBED IN W.A. OZRAPTOR SUBOTAIL - Tibia found on Scotch field trip near Geraldton: 1966

BELLEVEUE
SCOTCH COLLEGE Memorial Ground dedicated to 73 Old Boys & 6 masters of the School killed in WW1
EARLY RURAL SCENE
SAUNDERS
Butchery 1925 NOW *
MILITARY ANTIQUES

SHENTON
SCOTCH COLLEGE 'BARRETT'S HOUSE' WORCESTER 1903 EVESHAM 1903 OAKHAM 1901 GLOUCESTER 1904 SEVERN 1905 * SEE NAMES BELOW ROOF
The railway was the catalyst for development of this area

CLAREMONT CRESCENT: 'The Working Street'
The railway was the catalyst for development of this area

Swanbourne Rail Station - initially named Congdon (1904) then OSBORNE (1912) before becoming SWANBOURNE
Norfolk Is Pines - opposite shops - when were they planted?
1 BOTTLE per child per day
RETURN TO MASTERS
FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN 1950s

10 BUSH FOREVER SITE
IMPORTANT IN MAINTAINING PERTH'S BIODIVERSITY 'WETLAND'
HOME GONE but see the four tall palm trees. They still mark site of Pensioner Guard Atkinson's Lot

LAKE CLAREMONT was 'Butler's Swamp'
PLEASE DON'T FEED BIRDS OR TURTLES - COULD KILL!
Chelodina oblonga - WESTERN LONG-NECKED TURTLE - (The only turtle species in our Lake)

ALL HERE!
TREES SKELETONS - PAPERBARKS - DROWNED BY RISING WATER
POBBLEBONK / BANTO PROGS
Callis explosive BOY

BEACH SAND
Walk around Lake for exercise
POPULAR PICNIC SPOT: 1881
STIRLING ROAD PARK

THE 'MEMO' Cool-drink made from MARRI flowers/water
SCOTCH COLLEGE MEMORIAL GROUND
AREA HISTORY & STORIES HERE

CLAREMONT CRESCENT
This side of the rail line was known as 'POOR MAN'S CLAREMONT'

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6 OLD STIRLING RD
Each Lot 9.5 acres
15 14 13 12 11 10

11 PENSIIONER GUARD ALLOTMENTS
MOZZIE (Repellent)
Burn cow dung on paths
ERNEST aged 7 dies of...
HENSHAW watermelon food poisoning in 1932
ELLIOTT
LAST Cottage at Swamp
Pensioner Guard on land
HOUSE: LIMESTONE

DAVIES
POSTMAN finds sheep near Swamp - reward: 2/- exhausted carries it
NOTE: They can weigh around 50kg!

DAVIES
MOST FAMILIES had a mulberry tree, vines & chooks
usually also - cows, horses, pigs & grew flowers & vegetables too...

DAVIES
CAMELEERS used to stop in Claremont Crescent on way to Fremantle - from 1895... exotic feature - CAMEL (20000 camels arr. AUST bet 1870-1920) NOSEPEG

SHENTON
This Club had its FIRST major Tournament win in 1926
CLAREMONT LAWN TENNIS CLUB: 1901

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PURE SWEET MILK FROM THE COW TO THE CONSUMER
ROME'S DAIRY
1898 - 1916
John Rome's dairy / farm land here

Town of CLAREMONT
Minutes of Meeting
Permission is Granted to Mr. Pankhurst, Dairyman To drive his cattle herd through Claremont Streets.
Signed: [Signature]
dd: 16th Dec 1929

POSTMAN finds sheep near Swamp - reward: 2/- exhausted carries it
NOTE: They can weigh around 50kg!

usually also - cows, horses, pigs & grew flowers & vegetables too...

CAMELEERS used to stop in Claremont Crescent on way to Fremantle - from 1895... exotic feature - CAMEL (20000 camels arr. AUST bet 1870-1920) NOSEPEG

PROTECT LAKE
Water from road drains marked like this flows into our Lake ONLY stormwater must enter these drains!

1930s Heading for Aboriginal camp...
ALBANY to PERTH on bike handlebar 'shelf'

MARY J. YATES © 2009