

TOWN of CLAREMONT

Claremont Meanders

EXPLORING THE PAST



COBBLERS & CONVICTS

A self-guided walk trail
Approx 1.5-2 hour duration (5.3km)

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

CLAREMONT'S HISTORY

Prior to European settlement the district of Claremont was associated with Aboriginal people of the Whudjuck Nyungar group. The Swan River Colony was established in 1829 and in the 1850s land was subdivided in the Claremont area to provide accommodation and land for the Pensioner Guards who had accompanied convicts to the Colony.

From 1875 onwards large tracts of land were acquired by speculators and in the 1880s and 1890s these lots were further subdivided for housing lots. Initially the people who took up these lots were the moderately wealthy and the merchants of the day. In 1881 the Perth to Fremantle railway line was opened and this was the catalyst for growth and development in the Claremont area.

The name 'Claremont' was chosen in 1880 by Stock and Station Agent James Morrison, wanting to market the land to a class of people who may not have been attracted to a place called 'Butlers Swamp'. Claremont Railway Station was built in 1886, and the commercial centre of Claremont subsequently developed along Bay View Terrace to Stirling Highway.

PENSIONER GUARDS

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

In 1850 the first contingent of convicts arrived in Western Australia, accompanied by Enrolled Pensioner Guards, who were allocated land at Freshwater Bay and South Perth. The land at Freshwater Bay consisted of blocks of nine and a half acres around Butler's Swamp and half an acre along the Swan River on Pensioners Row (now Victoria Ave).

CLAREMONT JETTY (REF. 13)

The Claremont Jetty was constructed in 1898 near the foot of Bay View Terrace.

On hot nights it was a place to promenade in hope of catching the breeze across the bay and to check on the catch of those using it to crab and fish. Soon an attached boatshed had boats for hire and bait for sale.

In summer the jetty was frequently thronged with happy groups waiting to board a river ferry for their annual school or staff picnic and, for a shilling (10c) adults and sixpence (5c) children, families could take the 'River Queen' to the popular picnic spot of Point Walter.

At night the bigger 'Emerald' or 'Zephyr' might berth with lights blazing and dance band playing. After a suitable stay, repeated blasts of their whistle could be heard throughout the district as they summoned their revellers back from the nearby Hotel Continental.

By the late 1980s the jetty had deteriorated. In 1991 the structure was totally removed and a new jetty constructed of same width and length and wooden decking. At the official re-opening, a piano at the end of the jetty was played by a member of the family which had operated the boatshed for many years.

KOEPPE'S STORE

The store, run by the Koeppe family, was the first shop in Claremont and opened in 1888. The original shop was located on Stirling Hwy between Leura Ave and Mary St before moving to the corner of Bay View Terrace and Stirling Highway.

HAMMOND ROAD (REF. 6)

Hammond Road was first subdivided in the late 1890's however, unlike other Claremont Streets, it remained underdeveloped for a significant period of time. During the 1930s there were still large vacant lots, one of which was a paddock with grazing horses. During the 1960s sheep could still be seen grazing in a vacant lot during Royal Show week.

At number 2A & 2B stood a small wooden church built around 1915. The Church of Christ, apparently built in a day, was a home away from home for many residents of Claremont and Dalkeith with 120-150 children attending Sunday School there in the early years. The church was demolished in the 1960s.

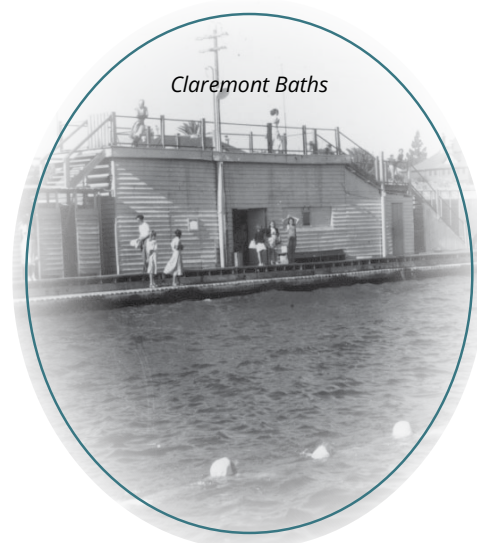
CLAREMONT BATHS (REF. 13)

By 1900, the practice of young men 'skinny dipping' in Freshwater Bay was frowned upon. In 1901, a tender was accepted by Claremont Council for the construction of the Claremont Baths. Mixed bathing was unacceptable but separate facilities for women were added in 1903.

The Baths were constructed on piles with boardwalks surrounding the pools. These were separated from the river by open picket fencing and all woodwork immersed in water became heavily encrusted with sharp barnacles.

Not only were the Baths a centre where generations of Claremont children learned to swim, they were a major venue for contesting national, state and school swimming titles. The Baths were also a social meeting place for young people on weekends, when most rode there and left bikes in racks at bottom of Chester Road.

Eventually, the baths became inadequate for aquatic events and storm damage in 1971 led to their demolition. A plaque to mark the site was installed by the Council on the foreshore at the end of Chester Road in 1979.



HALF WAY TREE

The half way tree was a very tall Tuart tree which once stood where the cast iron pillar box stands today in front of 256 Stirling Hwy. Until 1881, before the establishment of the railway line, the postmen, on horseback from Perth and Fremantle, would meet under the tree to exchange their sacks of mail. The pillar box on site today is a memorial to early postal services and the men who carried the mail.

CLAREMONT PRIMARY (REF.16)

In 1893 the Claremont Government School was established on this present site with 40 children enrolled. Since its establishment the school has developed from a single roomed school to a larger complex over a number of development stages.

THE MEWS BOATSHED (REF. 11)

The Mews Boatshed is the last remaining historic boat building shed on the river. It was originally built by George Cooper around 1906 and used for his boat building business. He also ran the boat hire at Claremont Jetty. In 1943 the boatshed and house were bought by the Mews family who had been involved in boat/shipping building in Western Australia since the 1830s. The boatshed and its contents were moved to Claremont Museum in 1996.

There are approximately 700 artefacts associated with the Mews Boatshed, representative of boat building and boating on the Swan river from the early 1900s. It also has connections to the Broome Pearling Industry as pearling luggers were built in the Mews Boatshed.

CHRIST CHURCH (REF. 20)

This church, dating from 1893, was the first church to be built in Claremont and is an example of a parish Church in the Victorian Gothic revival style. The strong religious theme engendered by its design and the quality of its fittings invokes an emotional response which makes it extremely popular for baptisms, weddings and other religious gatherings.

46 PRINCESS ROAD (REF. 14)

This little shop with attached residence was built in 1898 and has serviced the community continuously since then. Initially it was a grocery shop and the grocer kept a horse, which he used to make his deliveries, on a vacant lot next door. The place has recently been beautifully restored in a way that retains and reveals the early fabric of the building.

BENEDICTINE MONKS

In 1873 Ignatius Boladarius, a migrant from Spain, arrived at Perth with a party of Benedictine monks bound for New Norcia, and purchased lot 621, for twenty pounds. Included in this large lot of land, south of the Perth-Fremantle Road, was the area which was plotted and named Bernard Street.

50 VICTORIA AVENUE — COLWYN HOUSE (REF. 12)

Colwyn House, built by Bunning Bros. Ltd for Arthur and Evelyn Bunning in 1911, illustrates the highest quality of building and accommodation erected in Claremont during the Federation period. It is a visible reminder of the Federation period residences which formerly graced the river front at Freshwater Bay.

CLAREMONT TEACHERS COLLEGE (REF. 9)

The former Claremont Teachers College was built in 1902 and was Western Australia's first Teachers College. The building has architectural and social significance as an example of the Federation Free Medieval style of architecture and arising out of the expansion of services in the gold boom period.

BERNARD STREET (REF. 5)

Bernard Street is one of Claremont's oldest residential streets and has one of Claremont's most intact heritage streetscapes. Edwin Summerhayes, a prominent Perth architect lived on Bernard Street and is responsible for designing and building several houses on the Street.

CLAREMONT COUNCIL OFFICES (REF. 2)

The Claremont Council Offices and surroundings have been the civic heart of the Town since Claremont became a municipality in 1898. The building has evolved over time and a number of prominent Western Australian architects were involved in the various stages of design and construction.

CONVICT DEPOT (REF. 4)

This was once the site of a convict depot. The depot was established in 1853 to house convict work parties during the clearing and construction of the Perth-Fremantle Road. Initially it consisted of 5 wooden buildings and a well. In 1862 two stone buildings were added which may have replaced some of the earlier wooden structures. In 1875 it stopped functioning as a convict depot. The stone buildings were occupied by the 'Freshwater Bay School' from 1882 until 1893 when the school moved to its current location on Bay View Terrace.

EAST CLAREMONT PRAC (REF. 8)

East Claremont Practising School was established in 1905 for the purpose of training the students at the Claremont Teachers College. A Rural School was established in one of the rooms of the Practising School in 1908. It provided short training courses for teachers who would work in isolated one-teacher schools.

HOTEL CONTINENTAL

Built by Ansell Freecorn in 1896 overlooking Freshwater Bay, the large two storied federation style hotel was at 25 Victoria Avenue opposite Jetty Road, where Continental Court units now stand. It was demolished 1970 and replaced by the high-rise apartment building. In the 1990s, Claremont Hotel, on corner of Guger Street and Bay View Terrace, assumed this name causing confusion for future researchers!

CLAREMONT MUSEUM (REF. 10)

Claremont Museum is housed in a heritage listed building that contains within it connections to some of the most enduring historical threads that have shaped contemporary Claremont.

It was built with stone quarried by convicts at Freshwater Bay School and church in 1862. Subsequently it has functioned as a boarding house for young men, Freshwater Bay Police Station and a police quarters.

The Town of Claremont took over management of the site when the Police Department relinquished the building in 1973. Since opening in 1975, Claremont Museum has grown to include an administration building, a collection storage area, an education centre and the relocated, intact Mews boatshed.

Claremont Museum is the custodian of approximately 11,000 artefacts, relating to the history of Claremont. It holds domestic equipment, household items, materials associated with the businesses of Claremont and artefacts important to the railway history of the state.

REFERENCE NUMBERS

You will find our walk trail numbered 1 through to 20. 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 Council Administration Building take the pathway on your left and follow it through the park. The Convict Depot stone and plaque will be on your left. Continue along this path towards the play equipment which will lead you to Bernard Street and follow the trail from here.

1. Town of Claremont War Memorial
2. Council Administration Building
3. Claremont Park
4. Once Convict Depot
5. Bernard Street
6. Hammond Road
7. Bay Road Pantry
8. East Claremont Prac
9. Teachers College
10. Museum
11. Mrs Herberts Park & Boat Shed
12. 50 Victoria Avenue - Colwyn House
13. Claremont Baths & Claremont Jetty
14. 46 Princess Road
15. St Aidan's Church
16. Claremont Primary
17. Bethesda Hospital
18. Christ Church Grammar School
19. Stone Pine
20. Christ Church

MAPHINTS! You will find our walk trail

ARROWED AND NUMBERED 1-20
 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

CONVICT DAILY RATIONS:
 Breakfast: 10 oz bread 1/2 oz treacle (if avail)
 1 pt sugared tea
 Lunch: 14 oz meat 12 oz potatoes 4 oz bread
 Supper: Same as breakfast but less bread
 Plus: 2x week - lime juice & vegetable soup



Planted 1880-90
 OUR LANDMARK TREE
 QUEENSLA-STIRLING HIGHWAY CORNER
 STONE PINE
 19

1897 CYCLE RACE
 NORTH FREMANTLE - CLAREMONT RETURN
 14 COMPETITORS

1900 ARBOR DAY
 50 TREES PLANTED
 but WHERE?
 46 locals living under hessian, calico and canvas in 1901

PARROTS CAUGHT AND SOLD TO CREWS IN FREMANTLE
 * ORGAN built by Robert Cecil CLIFTON in 1878 - bought for £280 in 1911
 * LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL PATTERN & COLOUR OF PLANE TREE BARK
 * VERANDAH BRACKETS

PERTH TO FREMANTLE ROAD BUILT BY CONVICTS
 BELL AT CLAREMONT PRIMARY IS ONE OF LAST STILL RINGING IN PERTH TODAY
 * THIS IS NOW CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL
 * VERANDAH BRACKETS

COBBLERS live in seagrass on river floor - have venomous barb
 * COBBLERS CAUGHT & SOLD FOR 1d EACH - 1930s
 * FRESH WATER SEEPAGE BELOW CLIFFS
 * COBBLERS CAUGHT & SOLD FOR 1d EACH - 1930s

EVERYONE NEEDS TO RESPECT THE RIVER - IT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS PART OF THE WAUGAL DREAMING TRACKS
 * CHURCH OF 1944 CHRIST purchase 'LUCKNOW' and establish BETHESDA HOSPITAL
 * TOM BRIGGS (8) walks goat to Perth for payment - 2/6

TOM LATER BECOMES MAYOR OF CLAREMONT - 1907-9
 * 1867 - Tom Briggs (8) walks goat to Perth for payment - 2/6
 * TOM LATER BECOMES MAYOR OF CLAREMONT - 1907-9

ART DECO CLOCK
 CLAREMONT MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS
 CLAREMONT STATION
 HERE

OUR WAR MEMORIAL was designed by Edwin Summerhayes. It was built of Donnybrook lime stone in 1922
 * ART DECO WINDOW AT CLAREMONT COUNCIL BUILDING
 * MARKS SITE OF ORIGINAL WELL

CLAREMONT PARK
 * 'GREEN SPACE' 1853
 * CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL EST 1893
 * 'CIRCUS AT A TIME' THE BIG TOP

CHILDREN TAUGHT TO SWIM IN BATHS - kept afloat by strings of corks!
 * ST. AIDANS HAS FIRST ORGAN BUILT IN W.A.
 * BENNETT BROS GROCERS 1905

HOTEL CONTINENTAL - CLAREMONT YACHTSMEN and MOTOR BOATMEN should put into our favourite hotel, excel lent cuisine
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THE CLAREMONT BATHS once here, now a 'significant Historical Site' 1901 - 1972
 * MR A. STREET LIVED IN A HUMPY FOR 30 YEARS - here
 * ENTRANCE FEE 1d (increased - 3d)

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ICE: 6d BLOCK
 * YOUR chimney pot here
 * NIGHTSOIL emptied once per week
 * CHIMNEY - SPOTTING' WALK IDEA

MAILMEN RODE FROM PERTH AND FREMANTLE EXCHANGING MAILBAGS HALF WAY - BENEATH THIS HUGE TUART TREE between 1853 - 1865
 * Tree died in 1920s
 * VISIBLE: 2 KM
 * 30 M HIGH
 * 1/2 M WIDE
 * FAMOUS LANDMARK 'HALF-WAY TREE'

SPANISH BENEDICTINE MONKS purchase land in Bernard St for £20 - 1873
 * POP: 1896 - 72
 * 1902 - 469
 * 1905-14 - 2500 - 7000

1899 SCHOOLING FREE for CHILDREN aged 6-14 YEARS
 * KING ROOF CAPPING
 * POPPIES ALWAYS FIRST AT SHOW

THE DANCING TREES OF AGETT PARK
 * THESE TREES ARE SUGAR GUMS
 * OWNED BY UWA FROM 2005

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1868 and 1876 GOLD discovered in Coolgardie brings wealth to Claremont
 * THIS ONE MARKS 'THE SPOT'
 * OUTSIDE MUSEUM ON STIRLING H'WAY

READ ALL ABOUT (West AUSTRALIAN) * front page news
 * Airsdale catches bus to go... FISHING!
 * 'BRAINS' 1937

CHURCH OF CHRIST WAS BUILT IN A DAY HAMMOND ROAD c1915
 * KING ROOF CAPPING
 * POPPIES ALWAYS FIRST AT SHOW

THE ORIGINAL TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE WAS OPENED IN 1902
 * CONVICT BUILDING 1920s - located in Claremont Park
 * DON'T MISS ALL THESE BEAUTIFUL DETAILS...

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PROPERTY FOR SALE IN Goldsworthy - Road - IRON HOUSE WITH WATER TANK only £45
 * HUNGRY CONVICTS steal & roast heifer

RURAL SCENES IN EARLY DAYS - Hammond Road
 * DAIRY COWS
 * HOMELESS 'JIM' GIVEN USE OF RAINWATER TANK IN BYGONE DAYS - IN BERNARD STREET

GREIG'S SAVE-WAY STORE
 * NOW 'BAY ROAD PANTRY' FOR COFFEE & CAKE!

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