

HERITAGE TRAIL



– CLAREMONT –



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HOW TO GET THERE

The trails commence at the Claremont Museum on Victoria Avenue, approximately 10km south-west of the Perth city via Riverside Drive, Stirling Highway and Bay Road.

The **Claremont Heritage Trails** are three routes which trace the historical development of the area and include significant sites and riverside walks.

1. Riley Road Walk

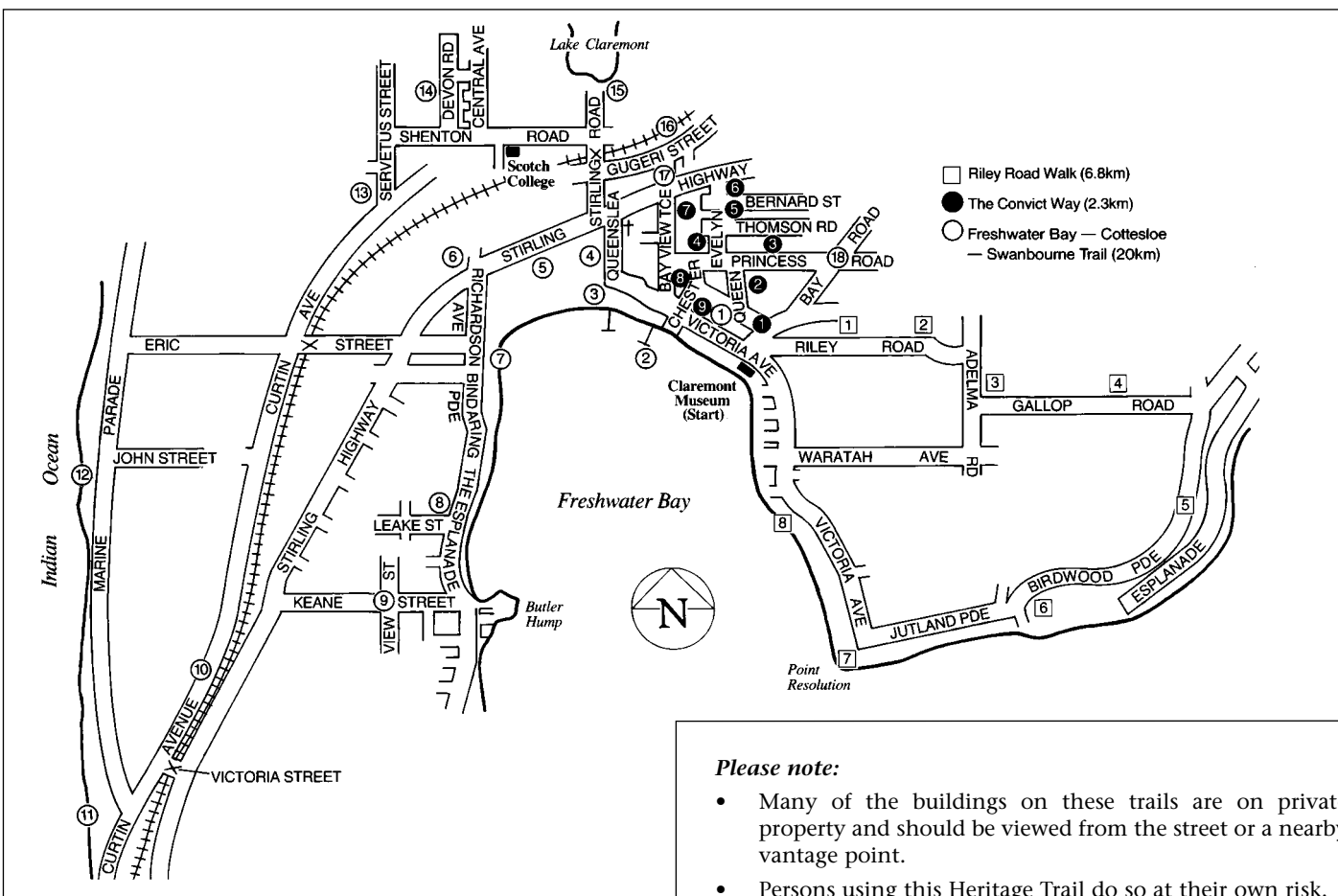
This 6.8km walk or cycle passes along the foreshore and highlights the fine buildings of this area. It should take about 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

2. The Convict Way

This 2.3km walk or cycle traces in part the original track that convicts may have used on their weekly visits to church services at the Fresh Water Bay School.

3. Freshwater Bay Cottesloe - Swanbourne Trail

This 20km drive trail takes about 2 1/2 hours, allowing time for walking in certain sections. It traces the spread of the settlement outwards from the Perth to Fremantle Road, as well as including the Vlamingh Memorial, the site of the first European contact with the Swan River.



Please note:

- Many of the buildings on these trails are on private property and should be viewed from the street or a nearby vantage point.
- Persons using this Heritage Trail do so at their own risk.

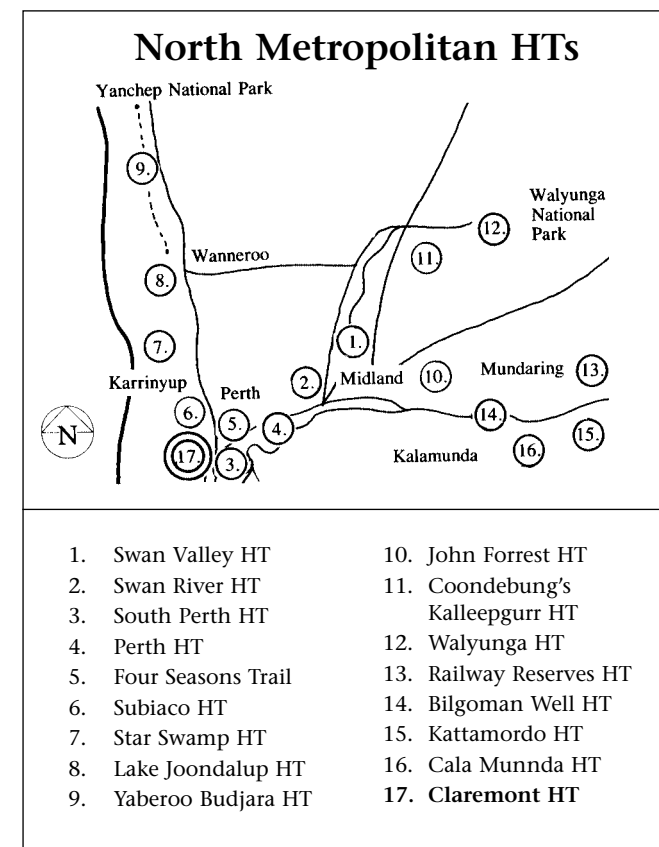
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE TRAILS NETWORK

History

The **Claremont Heritage Trails** is part of the Heritage Trails Network, a project for community participation originally devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee (now known as the Heritage Council of Western Australia) in commemoration of the 1988 Bicentenary.

The Heritage Trails Network which was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments under the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program was established to provide the Community with a Statewide network of "Heritage Trails" - routes designed to enhance awareness and enjoyment of Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The map below indicates Heritage Trails in the North Metropolitan region of Western Australia.



In the 1840s many believed that the only solution to the economic problems of the Swan River Colony was to import convicts as a source of cheap labour. When the first convicts arrived in 1850, the construction of a road between Perth and the port at Fremantle was a priority. Small parties of convicts worked on clearing the track until 1853. The arrival that year of two ships bringing the first convicts from Ireland led to the creation of a permanent convict depot at Freshwater Bay in what is now Claremont Park. The buildings remained in use by convicts until mid-1875.

The community of Freshwater Bay was formed by the Pensioner Guards, retired soldiers who served as guards to the convicts transported to Western Australia. The land to the west of the Claremont Museum site was divided into half-acre allotments for the guards; this section of what is now Victoria Avenue was originally known as Pensioners' Row. They were also allocated large blocks at Butler's Swamp (now Lake Claremont).

As the community grew, the need was felt for a school and church. The Fresh Water Bay School was completed in 1862 for the children of Pensioner Guards and other local residents. On Sundays it was used as a church for residents and convicts.



Bay View Terrace from the Railway Station, 1898 (courtesy Battye Library, 3024B-1).

With the coming of the railway in 1881 the main focus of settlement in Claremont shifted to Bay View Terrace and the Fresh Water Bay School ceased to be central to the community.

Fresh Water Bay School

(Claremont Museum)

Victoria Avenue

Open Monday - Thursday 10am to 4pm

Sunday 1pm to 4pm

All other times by arrangement on (08) 9386 3352

After a decade of requests from Freshwater Bay residents, this building was constructed in 1861/1862 to serve as a school and a church. Prior to this, Mrs Herbert, who became the first teacher at the school, had conducted classes in her cottage. The original simple limestone building accommodated 16 pupils and on Sundays groups of convicts and local residents worshiped together. In the early years, Bishop Hale rode on horseback from Perth to conduct the services.

Following construction of the present state school in Bay View Terrace in 1892, and Christ Church in 1893, the building became known as "Appy 'Ome" - a boarding house for young men.

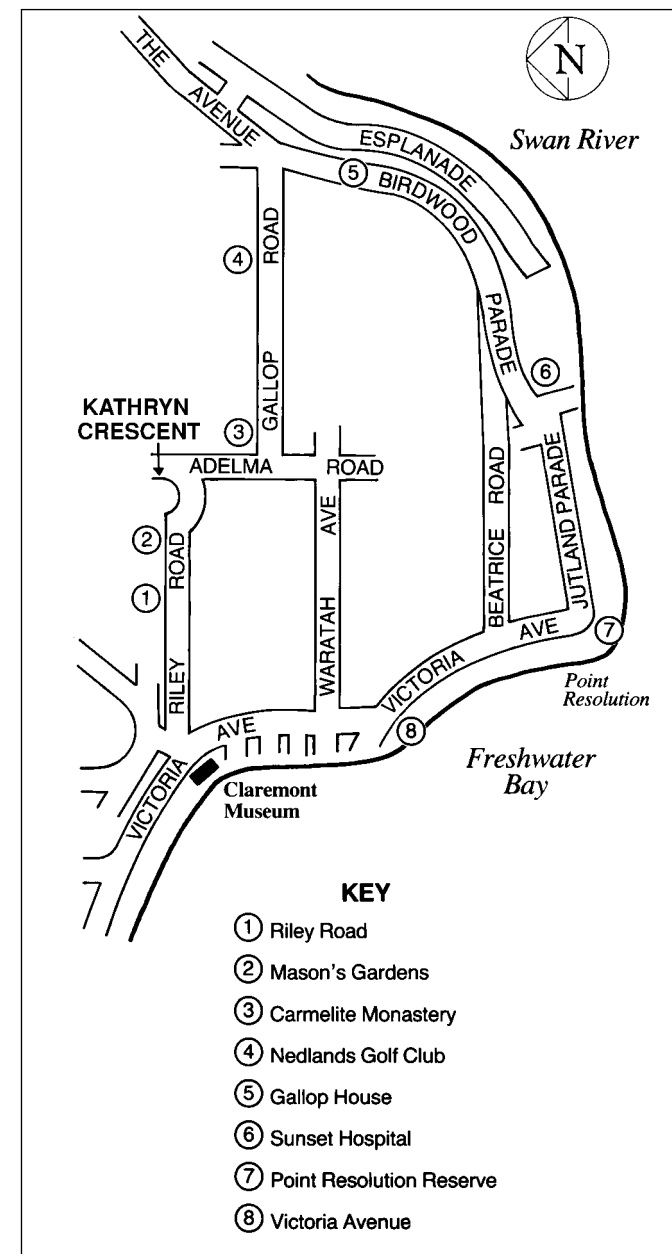
Around 1900 it became the property of the Police Department, which used it as a police station and residence until 1972. In 1975 the building became the Claremont Museum and was officially opened by Sir Paul Hasluck.



Bachelors outside the 'Appy 'Ome (now Claremont Museum) in 1892 (courtesy Claremont Museum Collection, 78.1).

Riley Road Walk

Turn right into Riley Road



1. Riley Road

Riley Road was part of the Glebe Estate owned by the Church of England. It was subdivided and sold in 1895 when it became clear that the centre of the settlement would be closer to the railway. Charles Owen Leaver Riley, for whom the road was named, became first Archbishop of the Province of Western Australia. Parker, Stone and Loton streets were named after prominent diocesan members.

The original houses in the Glebe Estate are easily recognised by their gracious dimensions and attention to detail. The house at **3 Riley Road** was built in the early 1900s by Mr George Rae, who named it 'Raeburn'.

Early in the 20th century the grocer called once a week on the residents of Riley Road for household orders. Fruit, vegetables and meat were all delivered to the door by horse-drawn cart. Wooden props for clothes lines were sold by mission-schooled Aborigines, while Jimmy 'Four-Eyes' - so called because of his thick spectacles - sharpened scissors, axes and knives at his barrow to which he attracted customers by ringing his bell.

Homes at **numbers 29 and 33** are excellent examples of original limestone residences. The stone may have come from 'The Quarries', the term used locally for the Point Resolution quarry. The garden of **number 32** is of interest for its early recognition of the beauty of native plants.

2. Mason's Gardens

Riley Road

Early development in Claremont extended to the corner of Stone Road, but the area beyond was bush except for the gravel track that led to Mason's Gardens, a flourishing market garden and orchard established by the Mason family, who settled here in the late 1890s. They originally occupied a small claybrick cottage built for a guard in charge of convicts working the Point Resolution quarry.

At its peak the garden not only produced fruit and vegetables for Perth markets but also grapes for Singapore. Local children were sent in with buckets converted from kerosene tins to collect mulberries, grapes and other fruit and vegetables from the gardens. When

the rising water table swamped the trees and plants Mason abandoned the gardens and the property was sold in 1939 to the Nedlands Road Board. Part of it was used as a rubbish tip until the 1960s, when it was landscaped to become a park.

Turn right into Adelma Road.

3. Carmelite Monastery

Adelma Road

This site was originally part of the land owned by the Mason family. The monastery was founded in 1935 by seven sisters from Sydney, and has a stable population of 14. The Carmelite Order was founded by Sister Teresa in the 15th century to provide a peaceful environment for contemplation. She established some 70 monasteries in only 10 years. At present, the Carmelite Order is one of the largest in the world with over 400 monasteries. It is a 'closed order', which means that the sisters have no contact with the outside world and do not accept visitors.

Turn left into Gallop Road.

4. Nedlands Golf Club

Gallop Road

Although it had been gazetted as an A-class reserve, the Nedlands Golf Club was the site of a grazing paddock for dairy cattle until 1928. The Tennis Club was not opened until around 1925.

Turn right into Birdwood Parade.

5. Gallop House

Birdwood Parade

Open to the public on Sundays 1pm to 5pm.



Gallop House (top right) and market garden, c.1902 (courtesy The West Australian).

From its earliest days Gallop House has been a prominent riverfront landmark. It was built for the Gallop family in the 1870s from limestone which probably came from the Point Resolution quarry. The stairway leading to the river is evidence of the importance of the waterway for transport of produce from the estate.

Part of the recreation reserve was originally a market garden, which supplied fresh produce to markets in Fremantle and the north of the estate. Sarah Gallop is thought to have been the first child born in the district, and was one of Mrs Herbert's first school pupils.

Between the 1930s and 1960s Gallop House was derelict and a demolition order was issued in 1963. An arrangement was made between Nedlands City Council, the historical society, and the Anderson's, who agreed to restore it in exchange for a 21 year rent-free period. Further restoration in 1986 returned the property to fine condition.

6. Sunset Hospital

Birdwood Parade.

Though the Hospital is on public land, access is discouraged in consideration of the elderly residents.

When the first convicts arrived, a depot was built to house them on Mount Eliza Flats, near the Swan Brewery site. After transportation ceased the depot was converted to a pensioner barracks but during the goldrush the need for housing was greater than the barracks could supply. Sunset Hospital was built as a home for elderly men in 1906 to replace the barracks. Access was from the river, and a long jetty was built for landing. Limestone for the buildings came from the nearby Point Resolution quarry.

The hospital originally housed only men: exconvicts, ill-fated miners and alcoholics. Female occupants have been admitted since 1965.

The foreshore near the hospital was popular for summer camping in the 1930s. Bathing in the hot pool was a favoured pastime and gave the name of 'Naughty Nedlands' to the district.

Continue into Jutland Parade. Now commonly known as 'Millionaires' Row', this street is home to some of Perth's wealthiest families.

7. Point Resolution Reserve

Jutland Parade



The ruins of the convict depot at Point Resolution, c.1900 (courtesy Battye Library, 5549 B/36).

The area was named after Captain Cook's famous ship *Resolution*, which was used in his Pacific voyages of 1772 and 1776. There is evidence to support that this point was named *Resolution* before *H.M.S. Resolution* and her crew surveyed the area in the 1800s. Although it was declared an A-class reserve in 1890, limestone quarrying continued into the early 1900s. This quarry was the source of stone for many buildings in the neighbourhood and stone was loaded at a jetty and ferried along the river. The area was beautified in the 1920s after quarrying ceased.

8. Victoria Avenue

Victoria Avenue was named for Queen Victoria, but the section of the Avenue from Bishop Road to Bay View Terrace was originally called Pensioners' Terrace due to the fact that Convict guards and pensioners settled there. The later extension beyond Bishop Road Reserve was named George Road. The two oldest houses in Victoria Avenue are **numbers 93 and 63**. Both belonged to the Oliver family, well known in swimming circles as a result of the feats of Percy Oliver, who represented both State and Commonwealth. The house at **number 63** was originally dominated by a handsome roofed tower which provided fine views over Freshwater Bay.

The park adjacent to the Museum was named for Mrs Herbert, wife of a Pensioner Guard and from 1862 the first teacher at the Fresh Water Bay School.

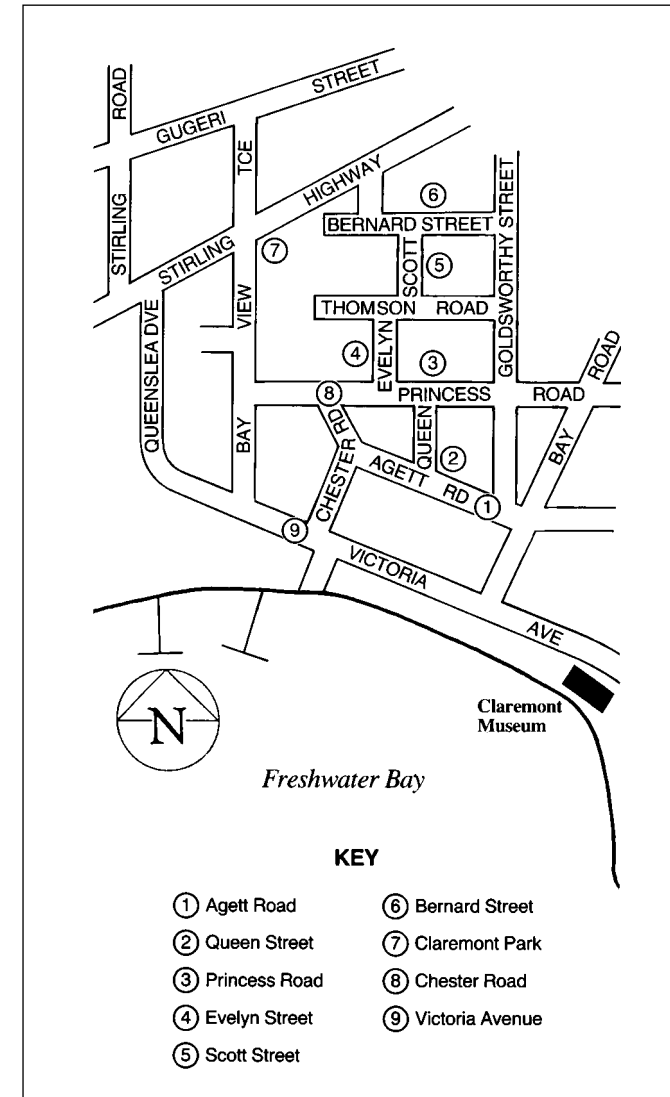


63 Victoria Avenue, the Oliver family home, c.1906 (courtesy Mr G. Parker).

The Convict Way

This walk traces in part the original trail that convicts may have used on their weekly visits to church services at the Fresh Water Bay School.

From the Claremont Museum, proceed up Bay Road then turn left into Agett Road.



1. Agett Road

At this end of Agett Road, in front of the former Claremont Teachers College, is a fine copse of Canary Island date palms, blackboys and eucalypts. Along Agett Road stand many gracious homes built in the 1900s. 'Hillside' (number 32) was built before 1903 and has its name inscribed in the front gable. It originally had a croquet lawn. Number 19 has a tennis court which dates from roughly the same period. Recent additions have complemented the front entrance and beautiful verandah. The terracotta gable on the home at number 18 is extremely rare, while the Marseilles roof tiles were probably brought to Perth as ships' ballast.

The double-storey residence at number 16 was built in 1905 and reflects the architectural influences of the Arts and Crafts Movement of the period.



Croquet and tea on the lawn of 'Hillside', c.1910 (courtesy Mrs C. Quin).

Turn right into Queen Street.

2. Queen Street

This street is shaded by an overhanging canopy of peppermint trees. Allotments and houses in this street are noticeably smaller than those in Agett Road. Examples of original homes are found at numbers 14, 10 and 5.

3. Princess Road

A pleasant cluster of homes built early in the 20th century is located opposite the end of Queen Street on one side from number 49 to 41. Number 49 has intricate detail on its gable, with ornate lintels and delicate woodwork on the verandah. Simple weatherboard cottages at numbers 34 and 39 were built before 1903. The detailed woodwork of number 34 presents a facade obviously meant to simulate blockwork, and the original cast-iron posts have been partly hidden by the addition of more substantial foundations.

Turn right into Evelyn Street.

4. Evelyn Street

Cape lilacs predominate over the box and fiddlewood trees which shade this little street. The limestone home at number 10 is a charming example of a late 19th century residence.

Turn right into Thomson Road then left into Scott Street.

5. Scott Street

Planted with box trees and cypress, this street effectively frames the old timber house at its Bernard Street end. The timber home at number 5 has a charming bay doorway leading onto the verandah. This home and the limestone home opposite at number 2 provide a contrast of building styles at the street entrance.

6. Bernard Street

Nestled behind a large pepperina tree, the home at number 16 was built between 1895 and 1900 by John Watson, a civil servant in charge of the Aboriginal Prison at Rottne. Watson's property originally included the adjoining lot in Bernard Street, where his orchard and garden were located. Watson also built the home at number 14. Opposite, at number 13, is a gracious limestone home, an example of Federation style architecture. Other homes dating from the 1900s are seen at numbers 8, 2, and 5. A Mr Summerhayes, an architect, built the unusual home at number 5. Its bay window with overhead medallion and delicate timber entrance presents a handsome street frontage inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement. Summerhayes subsequently designed and built number 7 and lived in the home at number 3.

Proceed west to Bay View Terrace.



Looking south along Bay View Terrace towards the river, c.1910 (courtesy Royal Western Australian Historical Society).

7. Claremont Park

Bay View Terrace/Stirling Highway. Follow the footpath leading to the Council Chambers.

To the right is a large limestone rock with a plaque commemorating the Fresh Water Bay Depot for convicts which was established in 1853. The original Depot consisted of a barrack hut to accommodate convicts, three portable houses and a cook house and oven. The buildings were of wood covered with painted canvas. In 1863 they were replaced by a stone barracks accommodating 40 men, and a small two-roomed warden's cottage. The last convict usage of these buildings was in 1875.

From the plaque follow the path to the Council Chambers, and turn left taking the path to the southern end of the park, keeping the bowling green on your right.

Cross Princess Road into Chester Road

8. Chester Road

This road leads to the river's edge and is planted mainly with box trees, with some large eucalypts on private property. Its dominant feature is the Uniting Church complex.

The stone church was built in 1903 as the Presbyterian Church of St Aidan and the red brick hall was added in 1911. The organ at St Aidan's was the first built in Western Australia, in 1878.

On the corner of Chester and Agett roads is an old building, formerly Bennett Brothers' grocery store. The homes at **numbers 11, 13, 15, and 17** are a pleasant cluster of buildings dating from 1904. The castellated facade of **number 13** is a rare combination of brick and limestone. The double-storey house at **number 14** was built around 1890-1900 and was the residence of medical practitioner Andrew McNeil before it became a private hospital.

At the river end of Chester Road is a plaque commemorating the old Claremont Baths, which were demolished in 1972. Built in 1901, the baths were the venue for state and national swimming competitions.

A pleasant alternative to the Victoria Avenue route is the walk along the foreshore, which offers fine views across Freshwater Bay to **Butler Hump** (the site of the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club) in Mosman Park.

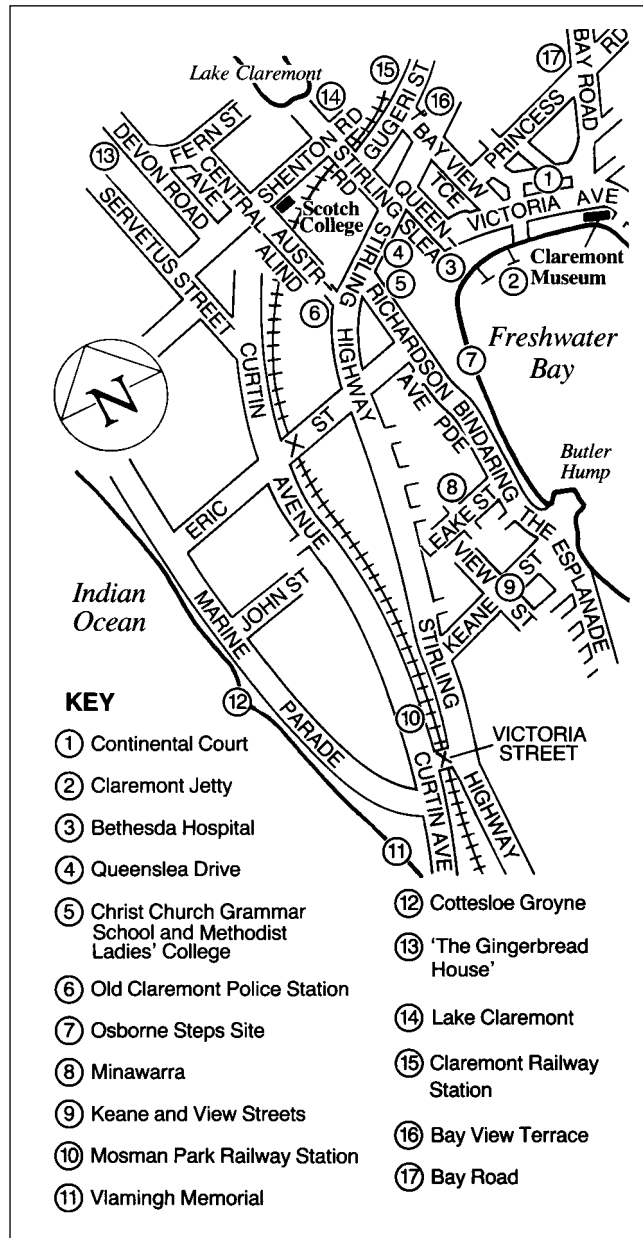
9. Victoria Avenue

The large houses at **46 and 50** Victoria Avenue are remnants of an era of grand waterfront homes. The roof on **number 50** is an excellent example of Federation-style slate with decorative ridge capping. Built by the Gunning family, the interior contains many fine examples of timbers from South West forests.

37 Victoria Avenue has a rare turret-style verandah with lattice work. The homes at **43, 47, and 49** form a beautiful cluster of Edwardian style residences. '**Riverside**', (number 51) has a delicate facade of turned posts and a cast-iron entrance gable.

Freshwater Bay - Cottesloe - Swanborne Trail

From the Claremont Museum turn left into Victoria Avenue.



1. Continental Court

25 Victoria Avenue

When the Continental Hotel (1886-1970) was demolished to make way for the building of Continental Court a skeleton was unearthed. It indicated that the site had been an Aboriginal burial ground and carbon dating suggests that the grave pre-dated European settlement by c.200 years. Artifacts were also found in the vicinity.

Turn left into Jetty Road

2. Claremont Jetty



Claremont Jetty in 1903. A band is playing on the end of the jetty and the two gentlemen are collecting for the Home of Peace (courtesy Claremont Museum Collection, 77.109).

Claremont Jetty, built in 1898, can be seen at the end of Jetty Road. When passenger and cargo boats were regularly using the jetty, bands would often play on the jetty itself. Sheep were occasionally off-loaded here and driven up Bay View Terrace to the Showgrounds.

From here can be seen some of the area covered by this trail.

Return to Victoria Avenue and turn left. Opposite Bay View Terrace is 'The Mansions' (number 16), dating from 1898. First known as Matheson's Terrace and later as Bay View Mansions, the building was constructed soon after Humble Road was re-named Bay View Terrace.

Bay View Terrace. It effectively blocked the view of the bay! In the early days this was the site of Mrs Herbert's cottage where the Fresh Water Bay School was first conducted.



'The Mansions', c.1898 (courtesy Battye Library, 3024B/2).

3. Bethesda Hospital

Victoria Avenue

This quiet, tree-shaded group of buildings grew around the home built in 1883 for the Colonial Secretary, R.T. Goldsworthy. The home was named 'Lucknow', probably after the birthplace of Mrs Goldsworthy.

Anglican church services were occasionally held at 'Lucknow' before Christ Church was built.

4. Queenslea Drive

Queenslea Drive's original alignment was made in 1903 but a later owner of 'Lucknow' arranged for its re-routing because he objected to "those so-and-sos on the main road" looking at his property!

Some old homes remain in Queenslea Drive, others have been demolished. The plane trees on the western side of Queenslea Drive were planted around 1920 by 'Ains' Newman (of number 10) and Canon McClemons, then Rector of Christ Church.

On the right can be seen **Christ Church**, which was opened in 1893 and was the first suburban Anglican church in the State. Additions, which would not have been possible without the re-alignment of Queenslea Drive, have been made since that time.



Christ Church viewed from the Perth to Fremantle Road (now Stirling Highway), c.1893 (courtesy Claremont Museum Collection, 75.26).

Turn left into Stirling Highway.

5. Christ Church Grammar School and Methodist Ladies' College

Stirling Highway

This section of the highway was originally known as Claremont Avenue. On the left are the playing fields of Christ Church Grammar School and Methodist Ladies' College. Both schools include original homes among their buildings. Methodist Ladies' College was established in 1910, and Christ Church Grammar School a little later.

Christ Church Grammar School was primarily a preparatory school for Guildford Grammar School until the mid-1920s, when the rapid expansion of the district was echoed in the growth of the school.

Opposite these schools is **St Louis Estate**, a retirement village built in 1987 on the site of St Louis Jesuit College, which dated from the 1930s. A house which pre-dated the College has been retained as the estate's community centre.

6. Old Claremont Police Station

Stirling Highway



Claremont Police Station, c.1896 (courtesy Battye Library, 2039P).

Diagonally opposite the corner of Stirling Highway and Richardson Avenue is the old Claremont Police Station, built in 1896 and now a private home. The six-roomed quarters, stone stables and lock-up were designed by the renowned architect George Temple Poole. The buildings are now almost completely screened by trees.

Turn left into Richardson Avenue.

7. Osborne Steps Site

Richardson Avenue

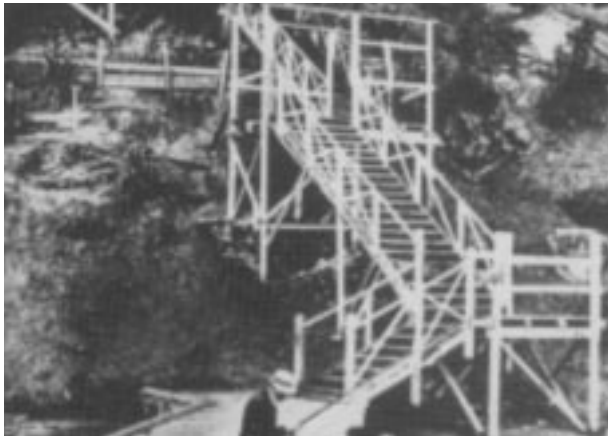
It is understandable that this beautiful site held special significance for the Aborigines. This was Karbomunup, mentioned by Daisy Bates as a place of corroborees. Artifacts have been found here.

It was from this point, at a later time, that the Osborne Steps gave access to and from the river, the Osborne Jetty and the Osborne Hotel.

Built in 1895 by the Grave family, the Osborne Hotel (which now forms part of the W.A. International College, opposite in Richardson Avenue) occupied the land bounded by Bindaring Parade, Anstey Street, Stirling Highway and Osborne Parade. Around a central square tower it had open verandahs offering panoramic views.

The hotel was luxuriously furnished, surrounded by beautiful gardens, and was extremely popular in the 1890s. A feature of these gardens that no doubt delighted several generations of schoolgirls at Loreto Convent, which later occupied the site in 1901, was the 'folly', still standing and visible from Anstey Street. Parts of the hotel building can also be seen. It is interesting to note that the original hotel bar later became the chapel!

Loreto Convent and St Louis Jesuit College became campuses of John XXIII College, and were subsequently relocated on one site at Mount Claremont. The Loreto facilities were taken over by the Western Australian International College.



The Osborne Steps, c.1910 (courtesy The West Australian).

8. Minawarra

Corner of The Esplanade and Leake Street

Minawarra was designed by Sir J.J. Talbot Hobbs for Sir Walter James. Minawarra is now the residence of the Japanese Consul. The home once occupied a street block and had its own orchard, vineyard and cow paddock, as well as a large garden.

A pleasant walk from the river's edge to the jetty at Butler Hump (also known as Keane's Point) affords views of the bay and the boats. Note the home at **52 The Esplanade**; designed by Sir J.J. Talbot Hobbs and **56 'Chirritta'** was

designed in 1906-1909 for Augustus Roe, son of the first Surveyor-General Septimus Roe.

John Butler once owned 250 acres of land in this area and around to Butler Hump, most of what is now Peppermint Grove.

Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club was designed by Hobbs but has been altered. It was built in 1892-93 as a home for MLA and construction engineer Edward Keane. One of his daughters, Judith Keane, married the composer, Dr C. Edgar Ford. She wrote the words, and he the music, for the song "The River".

Turn right into Keane Street.

9. Keane and View Streets

There are many fine buildings on these two streets - among them those at **Manners-Hill Park**, a sports complex of the late Victorian-Edwardian era. The pavilion was designed by Sir J.J. Talbot Hobbs.

'**The Bungalow**' (38 Keane Street) was designed by Sir J.J. Talbot Hobbs for his own family in 1899. Hobbs had a distinguished military career, and his beautiful home, originally set in grounds even more extensive than those of today, was for years the setting for the Annual Military Ball. (A memorial to Sir J.J. Talbot Hobbs stands near the foreshore in Perth, between William and Barrack streets.)

John Butler's home 'Prospect Place' and the 'Bush Inn' which he ran were on View Street, which follows the line of the old Perth to Fremantle track. Butler went to Sydney in 1835, leaving his wife to lease their properties and follow later. The land was owned by the Butler family until its subdivision in 1891. On the north-west corner of View and Keane streets is '**St Just**', an imposing house dating from 1910. **23 Keane Street** was formerly the home of composer C. Edgar Ford and his wife Judith, nee Keane.

St Columba's Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Keane and Venn streets, was built in 1909. The timber hall behind the church pre-dates it; it was used for classes before Cottesloe State School was built in 1897.

13 Keane Street was the home, from 1940 to 1967, of the author John K. Ewers (1904-78). Thousands of school children in Cottesloe, Claremont and elsewhere in the 1940s and 1950s laboured through successive levels of his "Living English". Ewers' non-fiction book, "With the Sun on my Back", was a prize-winner in the Commonwealth Jubilee Literary Competition in 1952. His other works include poetry, short stories, novels, literary criticism and local histories.

On the left is **Cottesloe State School**, which was built in 1897. The school opened in 1898 with 208 pupils, a principal, and five teachers, and by 1899 additions were needed due to the rapid growth of the district. Further extensions have been made recently. The original design was by George Temple-Poole to his standard School Plan.

Turn left into Stirling Highway.

10. Mosman Park Railway Station

Between Stirling Highway and Curtin Avenue

This station had three different names within the first 50 years of its existence. In 1890 it was known as 'Cottesloe Beach'; it became 'Buckland Hill' in 1931; and was renamed 'Mosman Park' in 1937.

Turn right into Victoria Street, cross the railway, then turn left into Curtin Avenue.

11. Vlamingh Memorial

Curtin Avenue

The McCall Centre was formerly the Cable Station. The submarine cable to Cocos Island ran from here.

The Vlamingh Memorial is built over the site of a concrete air-raid shelter which was used for Cable Station operations during World War Two (1939-45). The shelter has been buried in a man-made sand dune.

This memorial commemorates the landing on Australian soil of Captain Willem Hessels de Vlamingh and his men from their fleet of three ships in 1697, the earliest recorded European visit to this area.



Copper engraving, 'Swartte Swaane drift op het Eyland Rottenest, showing Dutch ships at the mouth of the Swan River, c.1726 (courtesy National Library of Australia).

Vlamingh and his men came to 'New Holland' (as the western third of Australia was known) in a search for the ship *Ridderschap van Holland*, which had sailed from the Netherlands for Batavia (Indonesia) in June 1693. After it called at the Cape of Good Hope neither the ship nor the 300 people on board had been sighted again. (Vlamingh and his crew could shed no light on the ship's fate.)

Among the finds that Vlamingh and his men made was 'Rottenest' (Rats' Nest) Island, where they anchored on December 29th, 1696. They named it for its quokkas, which they mistook for large rats. They saw "a remarkable fish, about two feet long, with a round head and ... arms and legs and even something like hands" presumably a crayfish.

The mainland was explored for over a week. Some nights were spent on shore. No contact was made with the Aboriginal people, although several were seen fleetingly and footprints, dwellings, and even smoking fires were found.

When the tidal nature of the inland 'lake' they discovered was noted, the explorers realised that it had access to the sea, and was in fact a river. Four black swans were captured (two were subsequently taken alive to Batavia) and the river was named by Vlamingh for these birds, previously thought legendary, which contrasted with the white swans of Europe.

The memorial overlooks the Indian Ocean, which has claimed many ships on this coast, including two wrecks - probably *Gareenup* (1923) and *Eagle* (1941) - just north of the North Mole, *Ulidia* (1893) off Straggler Rocks, *Lady Elizabeth* (1878), *Macedon* (1883), *Denton Holme* (1890) and at least 11 other ships on the coasts of Rottneest, and *Elizabeth* (1839), wrecked on a reef about mid-way between the memorial and the closest groyne to the north.

Head north along Marine Parade.

12. Cottesloe Groyne

Between the road, and the kiosk and changerooms, stands a small limestone obelisk, a memorial to Inspector John Smith (1867-1926), who founded the Surf Life Saving movement in Western Australia in 1909, and who had much to do with the Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club.

The Clubhouse (just south of this point) overlooks the Cottesloe Groyne, built in 1959-60 to combat erosion and restore the beach. It is near the site of the Cottesloe jetty built in 1906-8 but demolished in 1952 because of its dilapidated condition.

Cottesloe was designated a suburban area in 1886. The Gold Boom of 1893 to 1898 saw Cottesloe expand from a population of fewer than 20 to more than 1,000. In 1909 the beach was accessible by train from Perth, with a 'cabby' charging sixpence to take passengers from the railway station to the beach.

Continue north along Marine Parade, turn right into North Street, then left into Kirkwood Road.

13. 'The Gingerbread House'

36 Devon Road

This unique house, late 19th century American in style, was built for himself by a coach-builder named John McQueen in 1901. Its timber is mostly Oregon pine, and it is possible that McQueen used his skills to build the house out of re-cycled packing cases.

Turn right into Fern Street, returning to Shenton Road via Central Avenue. The Scotch College Administration Block, which was, until 1904, the home of R.H. Barrett, can be seen on the corner of Shenton Road and Australind Street.

Proceed east along Shenton Road and turn left at the Stirling Road roundabout.

14. Lake Claremont

A plaque fastened to a rock tells part of the story of this land. In the 1850s the pensioner guards of Freshwater Bay were allocated land which John Butler had been using as an 'experimental farm'. A 1903 map of the district shows Stirling Road continuing straight through this area to Alfred Road on the far side. Some of the posts which marked the edges of the road remain, and are visible from the path beside the lake.

A walk around the lake is recommended in order to appreciate the area and its wildlife.

Return to Stirling Road then left into Gugerri Street.

15. Claremont Railway Station

Guger Street



Sir John Forrest leaving the Railway Station in 1902 to open the new road, North Street, to Cottesloe Beach (courtesy Battye Library, 3055/B31).

The Railway Station and Station Master's House were designed by George Temple-Poole and are among his earliest surviving works. They date from 1886, a few years after the railway line was opened. (An earlier station, Butler's Swamp, was situated on the far side of the Stirling Road subway.) The station buildings have been restored and now contain business premises. They form the only surviving complete railway station complex in the metropolitan area.

The coming of the railway line in 1881 led to the creation of the townsite of Claremont. The name 'Claremont' may have originated with James Morrison, who owned the land between Parry Street and Stirling Road. His wife's name was Clara, and his holding was on rising land, hence 'mount' and he gave the name 'Claremont' to his land sale subdivision.

Claremont Post Office, opposite the station, was also designed by George Temple-Poole. It was built in 1896, but has since been remodelled inside and out.

In the 1920s trams ran from this point down Bay View Terrace and along Victoria Avenue to Westana Road (now Waratah Avenue).



Claremont Post Office in 1898 (courtesy Battye Library, 20393P).

16. Bay View Terrace

The generally slow movement of traffic down Bay View Terrace allows a leisurely look at the street's buildings.

Heading south, on the right is **Jacobson's Pharmacy**, which has the only original verandah in the street.

On the left past the alleyway are the **Bottle Shop and Drabble Buildings**, which were established between 1903 and 1915. (The date 1885, which appears on one facade, is the year of the first Drabble family business in Perth.)

Also on the left is **Old Theatre Lane**; the premises on the lower side once housed the Princess Theatre.

The **Claremont Council Chambers** can be seen on the south-east corner of Bay View Terrace and Stirling Highway. They have altered in size and appearance, but have kept this location since 1899.

Continue across Stirling Highway. Claremont State School, on the left was built in 1892 from a design by George Temple-Poole. It has since been much altered.

David Forrest, brother to the famous early explorer and later Premier Sir John Forrest, built a house on extensive grounds opposite the junction of Bay View Terrace and Princess Road. The house is gone, but the name, 'Mindaroo', is preserved on the site.

Turn left into Princess Road, then right into Bay Road

17. Bay Road

The old large eucalypts which were planted here in 1905 form a streetscape that is classified by the National Trust.

Tucked beneath these trees is the **East Claremont State School**, affectionately known as 'Prac'. The name is an abbreviation of the description 'Practising', bestowed on the school because of its special association with the Teachers' College next door. The story of this school's first 80 years is told in "Prac - East Claremont Primary School 1905-1985" by Michael Berson, one of its principals.



Claremont Teachers' College in 1909 (courtesy Mrs A. Stirling, BL/5816P).

The architect for the **Claremont Teachers' College** (now known as Edith Cowan University, Claremont), was J.H. Grainger, estranged father of the well known composer, Percy Grainger. The original building was opened in 1902 by the Education Department of Western Australia, and was under its jurisdiction until 1972. It was the state's first tertiary institution, "a fine building of Cottesloe stone standing in grounds of eleven acres". The principal's quarters formed the east wing of the building.

The college became a campus of Edith Cowan University. There is an interesting Toy Museum within the old building, which displays the different kinds of toys children played with throughout the history of Western Australia.

Continue down Bay Road towards the river. The Claremont Museum is at the end of the road.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Claremont Avenue, c.1900 (courtesy Battye Library, 5135B).

Photographs

Photographs used in this brochure are courtesy of:

- Battye Library
- Claremont Museum
- Mr G. Parker
- Mrs C. Quin
- National Library of Australia, Canberra
- Royal Western Australian Historical Society
- Mrs A. Stirling
- The West Australian

FURTHER READING

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