# Origins of Legislative Assembly Electoral Division Names

## Albany

The city of Albany, located on the south coast of Western Australia, was officially named by Governor Stirling at the beginning of 1832. It is named after Frederick, the Duke of Albany and York, and the favourite son of King George III. The city is located on King George Sound which was discovered and named "King George the Third's Sound" on 28 September 1791, by Captain Vancouver. Albany was the site of the first settlement in WA when Major Edmund Lockyer of the 57th Regiment, under instructions from the NSW Government hoisted the British Flag on 21 January 1827 on the site of "The Residency". The city was more often referred to as King George Sound or King George's Sound for about the first 40 years of settlement. Portion of it was originally named "Fredrickstown" by Major Lockyer in 1827 in honour of the Duke of York and Albany, Commander in Chief of the British Army. This name disappeared about 1831 and the name Albany was retained for the whole town.

## Alfred Cove

This small suburb takes its name from the sheltered cove that forms its northern boundary. The cove was named after Alfred Waylen, the original grantee of Swan Location 74 which took in most of the present day localities of Myaree and Alfred Cove.

## Armadale

The suburb of Armadale derives its name from the railway station of Armadale which was established there in 1893. It is named after either of two Scottish towns of this name, one west of Edinburgh and the other on the North coast of Scotland.

## Avon

Avon is named after the river in the area. It was discovered by Ensign R. Dale 63rd Reg. It was probably named by Stirling after the Avon River in England. It is approximately 290kms in length. The first use of the name Avon River appears to be in Dale's journal of 28 October 1830. He had travelled with the Governor to the district, and then explored further after Stirling had left to return to Perth. It is most likely that Stirling named the river when he visited it in October 1830.

## Balcatta

The area now known as Balcatta was once contained in the northern half of Perth Shire location granted to T.R.C. Walters on the 10th March 1840. The name Balcatta was recorded by Alexander Forrest in 1877 as being the Aboriginal name for the northern position of Careniup Swamp and the name was used on an offer of sale by Mr Mews in 1888. A later owner, James Arbuckle, named his house Balcatta after the area it overlooked.

## Ballajura

Ballajura is the name of the farm originally pioneered by Kerruish and Eaton and was held by Kerruish until his death in 1947. E.M. Kerruish migrated to Australia in 1903. The property was located about five kilometres south-west of the present suburb. The farm was actually named "Ballajora" after Kerruish's birth place, a small village on the Isle of Man.

## Bassendean

The name "Bassendean" was first recorded by Surveyor J.W. Gregory in 1841 as the name of 1455 acres for Mr P. Brown, who had his homestead on the West Bank of Swan River. Peter Brown (or Broun) was WA's first Colonial Secretary in 1832 and apparently named his property on the Swan River after a family property in England, Bassendean in Berwickshire. This area was also previously known as West Guildford. A competition to choose a new name for the area was held in 1922; two school children nominated the name "Bassendean" after Peter Brown's property.

## Belmont

Most of the suburb of Belmont island was assigned to Captain Francis Henry Byrne in 1931. It is believed that Byrne named his land "Belmont" after his estate in England. The land was not developed, until 1882 when Shepherd Smith of Sydney purchased it, and in 1897 and 1898 instigated the major subdivision of the area. For many years the lots were quite large due to the development of the area for training racehorses, and because of the proximity to the Belmont Park Racecourse.

## Bunbury

The City of Bunbury is named in honour of Lieutenant Henry William St. Pierre Bunbury (1812-1875) of the 21st Fusiliers. Bunbury carried out explorations in this area in 1836, and in a book of his letters and papers published in 1930 he wrote of Bunbury " A township has been formed, or at least laid down on the maps, comprising the southern promontory and part of the north beach at the entrance of Port Leschenault Inlet, which the Governor named "Bunbury" in compliment to me ..." In 1830 Lt Governor Stirling caused a military station to be established at Port Leschenault under the command of Lt McLeod, but it only lasted six months. Bunbury township was mentioned in the Government Gazette in 1839, but lots in the town were not surveyed until 1841, and these were declared open for selection in March 1841.

## Capel

The Capel River was discovered by F. Ludlow in1834, but no name was applied, and it was not until Lt. H W Bunbury on the 17th December 1836 quotes crossing a considerable river with steep banks, hitherto unknown to colonists which he says was afterwards named the "Capel" by Mr Bussell after a cousin, Miss Capel Carter. Plans to establish a townsite here were first noted in 1844, and the place was given its Aboriginal name "Coolingnup". The townsite was surveyed in the 1870s, but lots were not sold until 1897. The townsite name was changed from Coolingnup to Capel in 1899.

## Carine

This suburb was formerly included in Hamersley and Waterman. The name "Carine" was suggested by the Stirling City Council and the name was approved in December 1973. It is derived from two swamps in the area, the larger having been recorded as Carine Swamp by R. Quin during 1865-1866. These swamps are now known as Big Carine Swamp and Little Carine Swamp.

## Central Kimberley-Pilbara

Kimberley - Following exploration of the far north of W.A. by the expedition led by Alexander Forrest in 1879, it was decided to open the new district for settlement. The Governor, Sir William Robinson, sent copies of suggested land regulations to the Earl of Kimberley, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and in his dispatch said that it was proposed that the new country should be called the Kimberley District. This name was approved by the Earl of Kimberley in a telegram dated 26/8/1880.

Pilbara - Name derived from Pilbara Creek, a name first recorded in 1888. Sometimes referred to as being an Aboriginal name for the mullet (fish), but the source of this information is not known, and another more likely meaning in the Kariyarra language is 'dry-dried out' (source; Manny Lockyer of South Hedland and the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre).
Pilbarra Creek, and sometimes Pilburra Creek, is referred to a number of times in the "West Australian" 1/1/1888 to 16/8/1888, and the "Pilbarra Goldfield" was proclaimed in the Government Gazette 1/10/1888. Beasley's survey was in October 1888. There was no

official change from the Pilbarra spelling to the Pilbara spelling, it gradually coming in between 1905 and 1910. However, the reason for the change of spelling appears almost certainly to have been the adoption of "Rules for the Spelling of Native Geographical Names" by the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Department widely circulated a booklet on these rules in 1901. The rules were produced by the Royal Geographical Society in England, and adopted by the Foreign & Colonial Office, Admiralty etc. The double "R" spelling would have meant a pronunciation like Pinjarra, that is, the vowell is lengthened, whereas the single "R" shortened the vowell. It is presumed the current spelling identifies the correct pronunciation.

## Churchlands

The area which today comprises the suburb of "Churchlands" was originally granted to Henry Trigg in 1831. In September 1891, this area was acquired by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Perth, the Right Reverend Matthew Gibney. Gibney was far sighted in his acquisition of land for the Church, and this area became known as "Church Lands" as a result of it being owned by the Church. The City of Perth referred to an area just south of here as "Churchlands" as early as 1924.

## Cockburn

Cockburn Sound was named by Captain James Stirling in March 1827, after Admiral Sir George Cockburn, born in London, 22 April 1772, died at Learmington, England 19 August 1853. He served at the reduction of Martinique in 1809, and assisted at the capture of Washington 1814. It was he who took Napoleon to Saint Helena after the Battle of Waterloo.

## Collie-Wellington

Collie - The townsite of Collie is located in the south west agricultural region, 202 kilometres south south east of Perth, and about 50 kilometres east of Bunbury. It is situated on the Collie River after which it is named. The river, which rises in the Darling Range and flows into Leschenault Estuary near Bunbury, is named after Dr Alexander Collie. Collie, a Royal Navy surgeon, and Lt. William Preston of HMS Sulphur, explored this country and discovered the river in 1829, and Captain James Stirling, the Lieutenant Governor, named it in Collie's honour. Collie was appointed the first Resident Magistrate at Albany in 1831, was later appointed Colonial Surgeon, and died at Albany in 1836.

Collie is a coal mining town, coal having been discovered near here by George March, a shepherd, in the early 1880s. The coalfields were developed in the late 1890s, and land set aside for a townsite. The name Collie was generally used from the beginning, and when lots were surveyed and the townsite gazetted in December 1897, it was named Collie. However, the selection of name was immediately a problem, as there was already a railway station near Roelands named Collie. Collie townsite was therefore renamed Colliefields in January 1898. The Colliefields Progress Committee immediately protested at this decision, and after further consideration the Collie railway station was renamed Roelands and Colliefields townsite renamed Collie in 1899.

Wellington - Gazetted Land District in the South West Land Division. Originally an old County shown on a map of the colony drawn by John Arrowsmith on 31st May 1833. Wellington Locations were first registered in 1848. Named after Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. (one of the early features of the area was a Waterloo townsite - now deleted).

## Cottesloe

In September 1886, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, John Forrest, announced his intention of subdividing an area of crown land between Perth and Fremantle into suburban lots and asked His Excellency, Governor Sir Frederick Napier Broome, to suggest a name. The Governor suggested "Cottesloe" on 21 September after "the title lately bestowed on a member of the Fremantle family". "Cottesloe" was named after Thomas Francis Fremantle, Lord Cottesloe, first Baron of Swanbourne (in 1874), the older brother to Captain Charles Howe Fremantle who, on 2 May 1829 raised the first British flag at Fremantle.

## Darling Range

Named after the Darling Range. The Range was named General Darlings Range by Captain James Stirling in March 1827 after General Sir Ralph Darling, the then Governor of New South Wales. "General" was soon dropped from the name.

## Dawesville

Named after the suburb of this name. It was an unofficial name used by developers in the 1950s. Land subdivided in this area was owned by L.S. Dawe and R.L. Dawe after whom "Dawesville Estate" was named. This unofficial name became widely accepted by residents of the area and was approved on 16 May 1980.

## Fremantle

Named after Captain Charles Howe Fremantle who arrived at the Swan River Colony on 2 May 1829, on the HMS Challenger. Fremantle had been despatched from the Cape of Good Hope on 20 March of that year, by Commodore Schomberg, of the Indian Squadron, and after anchoring off the mouth of the Swan River, hoisted the British flag on the South Head, and took formal possession in the name of His Majesty King George IV, of "all that part of New Holland which is not included within the territory of New South Wales." The name Fremantle has at times and in various records been incorrectly spelt as 'Freemantle'.

## Geraldton

The largest city in Western Australia north of Perth, Geraldton is located on the coast 424 kilometres north north west of Perth. The city is located on Champion Bay, discovered by Commander D. Dring in the colonial schooner Champion in January 1840. The bay was named by the Royal Navy hydrographic surveyor, J.L. Stokes, who surveyed it later in 1840.

The Geraldton area was first explored by George Grey in 1839. In 1848 copper and lead were discovered on the Murchison River, and later that same year the Governor, Charles Fitzgerald, inspected the mineral deposits himself. On this trip he was speared in the leg by local Aborigines. The first exports of ore from the Murchison mines was made from Champion Bay in 1849, and soon after in 1850 surveyor Augustus Gregory was instructed to survey a townsite at this place.

By March 1850 Gregory had surveyed 40 half-acre allotments, and on June 3 1851 the townsite of Geraldton was declared. The name was most probably given by Surveyor General J.S. Roe, and honours the colony's Governor at that time, Captain Charles Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was born in Ireland in 1791, and joined the Royal Navy in 1809. He rose to the rank of Captain in 1840 , and was Governor of Western Australia from 1848 to 1855.

## Girrawheen

Development of this predominantly public housing suburb commenced in 1970. "Girrawheen" is an eastern states Aboriginal word meaning "place of flowers".

## Greenough

The locality of Greenough is located 24 kilometres south east of Geraldton in the northern agricultural region. It derives its name from the Greenough River, the river being named by Captain George Grey in 1839 after George Bellas Greenough, President of Royal Geographical Society. Grey noted that the flats around the Greenough River were very fertile, and in the early 1850s pastoralists moved into the area. In 1857 the area was subdivided into small farms, and the place soon became renowned for its abundant crops. The 1860s were the boom years for Greenough.

## Hillarys

This suburb is named after Bertram John Hillary, a Gallipoli war veteran who died in 1957 at the age of 62, and who set up the first beach shack on a lonely stretch of beach in 1930. That beach eventually came to be named after its best known inhabitant, courtesy of the Army which had use of the land during World War 2. The name was suggested as a suburb name by the Shire of Wanneroo, and was approved in 1971.

## Joondalup

This suburb is named after Lake Joondalup, situated on the eastern side of the suburb. Joondalup is an Aboriginal word first recorded in 1837, and possibly means "place of whiteness or glistening". Another account states that a 'joondal' is a creature that can only move backwards.

## Kalgoorlie

Kalgoorlie is the major city in the eastern goldfields region, and is located 596 kilometres east north east of Perth. It was gazetted a townsite in September 1894. Paddy Hannan, Daniel Shea and Thomas Flanagan made a rich gold find near Mt Charlotte in June 1893. The find soon led to a gold rush with thousands of diggers prospecting the rich alluvial field.

When the government decided to declare a townsite here in 1894, the place was locally known as "Hannan's Find", and at first the name "Hannans" was nominated for the townsite. In suggesting the name Hannans to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the Under Secretary for Lands, R. Cecil Clifton, noted that the "native name of the place is "Calgoorlie" but this is rather too much like Coolgardie and if adopted is, I fear likely to lead to postal mistakes". R. Cecil Clifton supported "Hannan", but Cabinet chose "Kalgoorlie" in August 1894. Although local preference was for Hannan's Find, Kalgoorlie soon came to be accepted as the name of the rapidly developing town. An alternative spelling of "Kalgurli" was also used unofficially on occasions.

Just when the name Kalgoorlie was first recorded and the precise meaning of the name is unknown. Various sources give it as either meaning: Aboriginal dog chasing a kangaroo; the Aboriginal name of a shrub from the area ("Galgurli"); or the Aboriginal name for the local edible silky pear ("Kulgooluh").

## Kenwick

Named after "Kenwick Park" the estate of Wallace Bickley. Bickley's original property was Canning Location 3 which he called "Craigie". He purchased other lands in the vicinity including Canning Location 11 in 1854. In 1860, he advertised for sale or lease, the "Kenwick Park and Springs Estates". Kenwick was included in a list of official postal districts compiled in May 1959 and the original boundaries were defined in the 1959 metropolitan road guide. In an article on Kenwick, it is suggested that Bickley named his homestead "after an estate in England he very much admired".

## Kimberley

Named after the Kimberley District. Following discovery of the district by Alexander Forrest in 1879 it was decided to open the new district for settlement. The Governor, Sir William Robinson, sent copies of suggested land regulations to the Earl of Kimberley, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and in his dispatch said that it was proposed that the new country should be called the Kimberley District. This name was approved by the Earl of Kimberley in a telegram dated 26 August 1880.

## Kingsley

The suburb of Kingsley is named after the village of Kingsley which is near Winchester in Hampshire, England. The name was chosen for the historical association with the first owner of land in the area, William Kernot Shenton. Shenton was born in Winchester in 1802. The suburb name was approved in 1974.

## Leschenault

Leschenault is derived from Leschenault Inlet. Leschenault Inlet - French expedition 1801-03 - named after Jean Baptiste Louis Claude Theodore Leschenault de la Tour, 1773-1826, botanist and naturaliste on the 'Geographe'. On the 11th of March 1803 the Geographe' anchored at midday, west of north from Casuarina Point, and Midshipman Bonnefoi was sent in a boat to survey and chart the area. Bonnefoi not only charted Koombana Bay, which he found to be a shallow but satisfactory shelter for small boats, but also discovered and partly mapped Leschenault Inlet to just beyond Middle Island, which he named. The inlet itself was named Port Leschenault after the ship's botanist. Historical Plan 404 shows Bonnefoi's survey. This name now applies only to the inlet west of the harbour. The body of water at Australind is now known as Leschenault Estuary.

## Mandurah

Mandurah is a coastal city in the south west, 74 kilometres south of Perth. Land was originally reserved for a townsite named "Peel" on the west side of the entrance to Peel Inlet in July 1831 but no development took place and most early settlers took up residence on the east shore, the Aboriginal name of which was "Mandurah". The name is believed to be derived from the Aboriginal word "mandjar", meaning "trading place". Thomas Peel, an early settler in the area, named his residence "Mandurah House".

In July 1855, Thomas Peel surrendered to the Crown the area now bounded by Mandurah Terrace, Peel, Sholl and Gibson Streets to settle outstanding debts. It is likely that this area would have eventually become a townsite under the Land Act, but in 1898, it was discovered that the same area was included in lands held under Certificate of Title by G.C. Knight of Fremantle. The Registrar reported that the land had passed beyond the reach of caveat and consequently the Crown was unable to regain possession. As a result, Mandurah, although a fast growing settlement worthy of government interest, was developed purely by means of private subdivisions. The area was declared a townsite under the Local Government Act in 1950.

## Maylands

The suburb of Maylands was developed in the 1890s around the railway line built through the area in the 1880s. The origin of the name is uncertain, but two possibilities have been suggested. One possible origin is that the name relates to the purchase of the land in the month of May by Mr E.W. Hamer, the other origin is that it was named by Mr Mephan Ferguson after his daughter, May. Ferguson ran an early business in the area.

## Merredin

The townsite of Merredin is located in the central agricultural area, 260 kilometres east of Perth. The townsite is located on the Great Eastern Highway, and a little south of the original road to the eastern goldfields. When the Yilgarn Goldfield around Southern Cross was declared in 1888, the road to the goldfield passed just to the north of "Merreden Rock". A well at the rock made it an important stopping place, and in 1890 the Lands Department surveyed 20 lots there, and the following year, 1891, gazetted the townsite of Merriden. None of the lots ever sold, although a hotel was built just to the south of them. In 1895 the railway to Southern Cross was opened, and a station named Merredin was established a short distance south west of the original townsite. In 1903 a decision was made to establish a locomotive barracks at this station, and it was felt there would be demand for land. Lots were surveyed in 1904, and in 1906 the area around the railway station was added to the townsite of Merriden, and lots made available for sale.

In 1906 the Chief Draftsman in the Lands Department commented that Merriden was now spelt 3 ways - Merreden for the nearby state forest, Merredin for the railway station and Merriden for the townsite. It was decided to adopt the railway spelling for all names, and all plans were corrected, but it was not until 1907 that official gazettals were using the Merredin spelling. Merredin is an Aboriginal name which means "the place of merritt's", a locally abundant tree, the trunks of which were used for making spears. The name was first recorded in 1889 for Merredin Rock.

## Midland

Midland is named after the Midland Railway Company, which in 1886 was contracted by the state government to build a railway line to Geraldton in return for grants of land. The company established its headquarters at the present site of Midland, and the town grew around the Midland Railway and the government's Eastern Railway. A railway station of Midland Junction was opened here in 1894, but when the municipality was named in 1895 it was named Helena Vale. The railway station kept its name and so much confusion arose that the town was renamed Midland Junction in 1901 and finally shortened to Midland in 1961.

## Mindarie

This suburb is named after Mindarie Lake, an Aboriginal name first recorded by Alexander Forrest in 1874. The Aboriginal meaning for the name is possibly "the place near which is held a ceremony". Another meaning has been given as "green water" The suburb was to have been named Clarkson prior to development, but the two names were transposed in 1985.

## Moore

Named after the Moore River, which discovered by and named after George Fletcher Moore, Advocate General 1830. It was named by Mr Hefferon, a police constable who accompanied him. Moore was a prominent settler of the early days of the Colony, and also a member of the Legislative Council.

## Murchison-Eyre

Murchison is from the Murchison River - the mouth of this river was discovered by George Grey on 01/04/1839 following the wrecking of his 2 boats the previous day when an attempt was made to beach the crafts at Gantheaume Bay. It is assumed that this river was named after Sir Roderick Impey Murchison who was then the Secretary of the Royal Geographic Society (England) and elected as President of this society in 1843.

Eyre is named after the explorer Edward John Eyre who in 1841 became the first white person to travel from South Australia to Western Australia across the Nullarbor Plain. The Eyre Highway, Eyre Telegraph Station, Eyre Sand Patch and Eyre River are named after him.

## Murdoch

This suburb is named after Sir Walter Murdoch. Murdoch was born in 1874, and in 1912 was appointed Professor of English at the new University of Western Australia. He was Chancellor of the University from 1943 to 1947, and died in 1970 shortly before Perth's second university was named in his honour. The suburb was named in 1974.

## Murray

Murray comes from the Murray River and Murray Land District, both named after Sir George Murray, Secretary of State for the Colonies 1828-30. Murray was born in the historic Royal Burgh of Perth in Scotland and represented his birthplace in the House of Commons.

## Nedlands

In 1854, Colonel John Bruce, Military Commandant of the Colony, bought land in this area, intending the land to be the heritage of his son Edward. He is said to have referred to the estate as "Ned's Land". Edward Bruce, later Major Edward Bruce of the 19th Bengal Lancers, visited Western Australia in 1883 and on a mortgage dated 29 June in that year, the various locations left to him by his father are described as being the land "known as Nedlands". Development of the area mainly occurred between 1910 and 1920.

## North West Coastal

This name was attributed to the coastal area extending from the Murchison River to Onslow by the Electoral Distribution Commissioners in the redistribution of 2003.

## Peel

Named after the Peel Inlet and Peel District. The name honours Thomas Peel, colonial promoter and landowner. Peel settled in Mandurah in the early 1830s.

## Perth

The story of the naming of Perth begins with the instructions given to Captain Stirling, Lieutenant Governor designate of the proposed colony of Western Australia, regarding the foundation of the colony. Stirling received a letter from the Secretary for the Colonies, Sir George Murray, which read:

"Amongst your earliest duties will be that of determining the most convenient site for a Town to be erected as the future seat of Government. You will be called upon to weigh maturely the advantages which may arise from placing it on so secure a situation as may be afforded on various points of the Swan River, against those which may follow from establishing it on so fine a port for the reception of shipping as Cockburn Sound is represented to be...".

Stirling was therefore given the choice of establishing the chief town on Cockburn Sound, or "on various points on the Swan River". It has been established that Murray actually gave Stirling more explicit instructions, and advised him that failing the establishment of the town at Cockburn Sound, he was to fix the site for it at the confluence of the two rivers, the Swan and the Canning, or in other words, at Point Heathcote. Stirling had good reasons to disobey Murray, but briefly they were that it was that the Perth site was "decidely preferable in building materials, streams of water, and facility of communication".

Stirling did however gladly comply with Sir George Murray's command that the new town be called Perth. Murray's reasons for choosing the name, Perth, were purely sentimental and quite understandable, for he was both a Perthshire man and represented his birthplace in the House of Commons. The choice suited Stirling, himself a Scotsman, although it is recorded that at least one early settler, William Leake complained to the Home Office about the name. August 12, 1829 marked the day of the founding of the town, when Mrs Helen Dance cut down a tree. August 12 was also the birthday of King George IV.

## Riverton

This suburb derives its name from its location on the banks of the Canning River. The area was subdivided in 1914, and Riverton was referred to locally as Riverton Bridge in 1937 to avoid confusion with the South Australian suburb of Riverton. This name was never formally approved and officially the suburb has always been Riverton.

## Rockingham

Rockingham is named after the ship Rockingham which ran aground in 1830 on the beach which fronts the suburb. The ship was the last of three ships to bring Thomas Peel's settlers to the new colony, and although initially salvaged, was eventually sunk in Cockburn Sound. The site of Rockingham was identified by J.S. Roe, Surveyor General, in 1846, and a townsite was surveyed here by Alfred Hillman in 1847.

## Roe

Named after the land district in the area. The district is named after John Septimus Roe, Surveyor General 1829-1870, also member of Legislative Council.

## Serpentine-Jarrahdale

Jarrahdale is a descriptive name, derived from its situation in some of Western Australia's best Jarrah forest. The place came about as a result of the granting of timber concessions here in 1872. The Jarrahdale Timber Company constructed a railway for the transport of timber from Jarrahdale through Mundijong to Rockingham. The rural suburb of Serpentine derives its name from the Serpentine River on which it is located. The river was discovered in 1832, and named because it is such a winding river in its lower reaches.

## South Perth

South Perth derives its name from its location south of Perth. The area was identified as a separate suburb of Perth as early as 1831, and was the site of Perth's first mill in 1833.

## Southern River

Named after the feature of this name which flows through the area. Southern River is a descriptive name, the river being the southern tributary of the Canning River. It was first recorded in 1841.

## Stirling

Named after the Stirling Range. The Range was named in 1835 by Surveyor General Roe after the Governor, James Stirling.

## Swan Hills

This is a made-up name created for the electorate because it encompasses portion of the Swan Valley and the hills area to the east of Perth. The Swan River was named by the Dutch explorer Willem Vlamingh in 1697 because of the number of Black Swans seen on the river.

## Vasse

Named after the Vasse River. The river was named during the French expedition to the southern hemisphere (1800-1803) led by Thomas Nicolas Baudin. It honours the memory of Thomas Timothee Vasse of Dieppe, helmsman on The Naturaliste, drowned near the Vasse Estuary during a gale on 8 June 1801.

## Victoria Park

The suburb of Victoria Park derives its name from Victoria Park Estate, a development that took place here in the 1890's. It is believed the name was given to the estate because Queen Victoria was still on the throne, although it may be connected with the Melbourne suburb of Victoria Park. It was declared a municipality in 1897.

## Wagin

Named after the Town of this name. The name was first recorded for nearby Wagin Lake in 1869, and when the Great Southern Railway opened in 1889 Wagin Lake was one of the stations. The town was gazetted as Wagin in 1898. The name is Aboriginal, meaning roughly "place of Emus".

## Wanneroo

In the early days of the Swan River Colony, the district of Wanneroo represented an "outer" region and it is not until 1834, that an excursion into the area by any explorers or settlers is recorded. In that year, a party of four led by John Butler, travelled about 35 miles north from Perth to search for lost cattle and passed through the area just to the east of Lake Joondalup. Butler stated that the aborigines of the area were "those Wanneroo men who frequent Perth in company with the Yellowgonga tribe." It is not known when early settlers started using the name "Wanneroo", but, as early as 1842, a Surveyor recorded "road to Wanneroo" and in 1844, James Dobbins gave his address as Wanneroo. A government townsite was gazetted as "Wanneru" in August 1907 and it was not until May 1953 that the spelling was amended to "Wanneroo".

## Warren-Blackwood

Named after the two rivers in the electorate. The Warren River was discovered in 1831, and was named by Governor Stirling, probably after Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren under whom Stirling served whilst in action in North America in 1813. The Blackwood was also named by Stirling in 1830 after Captain (later Rear Admiral) Sir Henry Blackwood under whom he served in 1808-09 whilst in action in the North Sea and the Mediterranean.

## Willagee

The suburb of Willagee takes its name from Willagee Swamp, the Aboriginal name of a feature now reclaimed. The area was developed in the early 1950's, and the name approved in 1954.

## Yokine

Named after Yokine Hill and Mount Yokine Golf Course. "Yokine" is an Aboriginal word (Beverley district) for the native dog. The hill situated on Williams Road was named by N.S. Bartlett in 1922 because it is so close to Native Dog Swamp. The hill was an important trig station and the land was referred to before this as part of Osborne Park.

**Sources:**

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