

A self-guided walk trail
Approx 1-1.5 hour duration
4.5km

(YARGINE - Nyungar word for turtle)

THE YARGINE TRACK



Town of Claremont

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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.

Illustrator: Mary Yates

This map is printed on recycled paper



Lake Claremont, c1953

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 TW 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.



Lakeway Drive-In Theatre Advertisement 1957

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.

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)

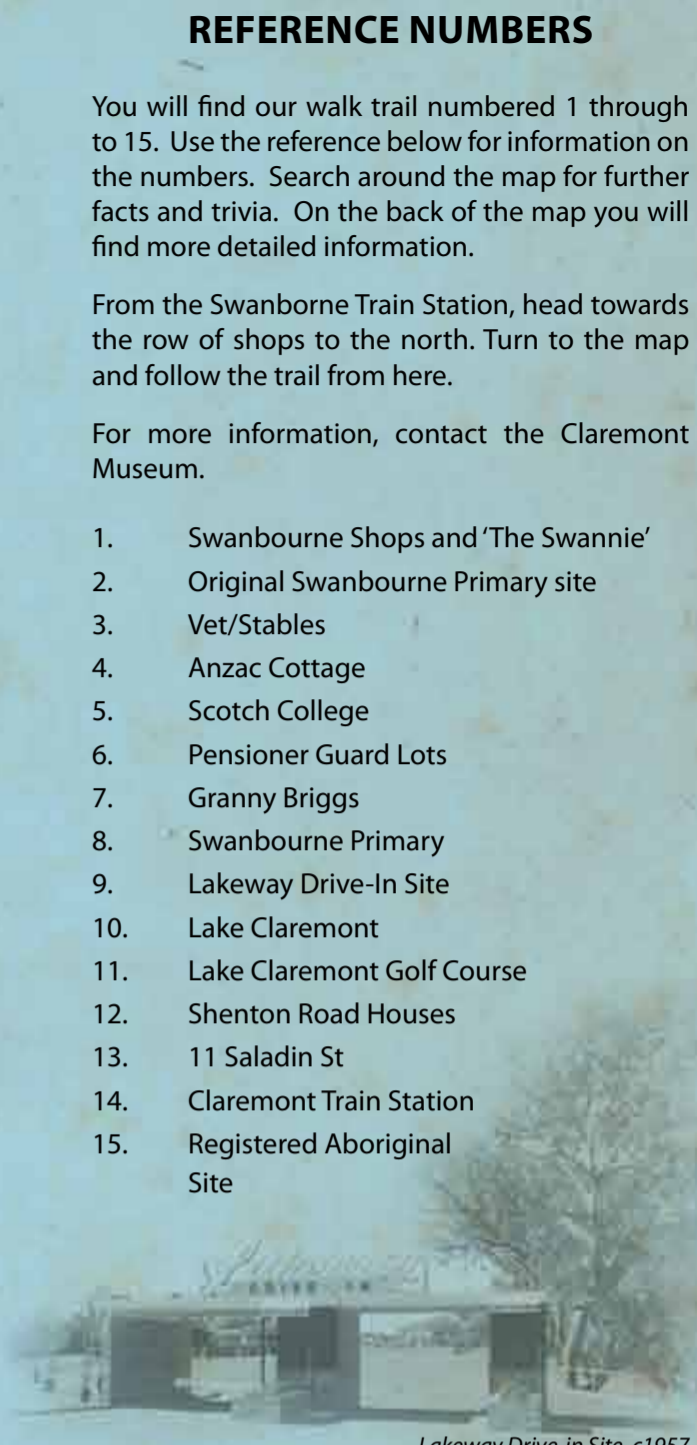
The first recorded reference to Lake Claremont was in 1831 when Mr. John Butler wrote to the Surveyor General requesting a grant of land in the area. Although there is no record of a Certificate of Title to this land being issued in his name it is possible that he did use the land and that his farming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



Lakeway Drive-in Site, c1957

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. Turn to the map and follow the trail from here.

For more information, contact the Claremont Museum.

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

Persons following the route suggested on this map do so at their own risk. The Town advises walkers to be sun smart and to carry a water bottle when walking the trail.

This map is available in alternative formats from the Town of Claremont Administration Building, 308 Stirling Highway, Claremont.

This project is supported by:



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 baby sitter or worrying about them bothering other patrons. Kids were always excited about going to the drive-ins 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.

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.



Granny Briggs, c1930s

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

NYUNGAR COUNTRY

UNOFFICIAL
LEADERS
OF THE
ABORIGINALS
AT LAKE CLAREMONT
IN THE EARLY 1900s

QUEEN TIPPY KING BILLY

100s of tiny white flowers

Aboriginals
used the
flowers for
healer and
flower stems
for tinder

Resin was used
to cement
the spear barb
to the shaft

The BALGA tree
has numerous
other uses

Bush Tucker: →
The BARDI GRUB
is either eaten raw - or roasted on camp
fire coals. lives inside Balga tree.
(Tastes good!)

WEEKLY RENTAL 216d
No 16 ANZAC COTTAGE. 4

BUILT BY UGLY MEN'S ASSOCIATION: 1917

ROADS NAMED AFTER STEAMSHIPS:
Australind
Rob Roy
Otway

Beer Shortages 42 '43 1939

THE SWANBOURNE HOTEL

THE 'SWANNIE' 1

CLAREMONT MEANDERS ~ GLIMPING THE PAST ~ THE TURTLE TRACK

SWANBOURNE WAS FIRST KNOWN AS 'COTTESLOE BEACH' → Plank and Limestone Track

ALFRED

BARINI HILL (Ab) Clothes props, cobweb brooms made & sold 1-4

NEIL'S BUTLER LAND

THREE SMITHS ONCE LIVED IN THIS AREA: 'HONEY', 'FLOWER' and 'PIG' SMITH

WHO CARVED TREE SEAT & WHEN?

MYERA

STAYCKLAND

UP FOR THIS TUART LOOK WITH ITS 'BURL' GROWTH ALONG THE PATH

SEE OLD FENCE POSTS IN LAKE

Old rubbish dump 1950-1965

PARKLAND

LINKS

LAKEWAY

SEE OLD FENCE POSTS IN LAKE

WASHINGTONIA PALMS

32 MEN 1 WOMAN FARMING AT SWAMP 1897

OLD STIRLING RD

6	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
18	7
17	8
16	9

Each Lot 9.5 acres

15' 14' 13' 12' 11' 10'

HOME GONE but see the four tall palm trees. They still mark site of Pensioner Guard ATKINSON'S LOT

MOZZIE Repellent

Burn cow dung pats

ERNEST aged 7 dies of watermelon food poisoning in 1932

ELLIOTT

HENSHAW

LAPSLEY

ONLY MALES CALL

leaving lake to lay eggs on land

POBBLERONK/BANJO FROG

CALLS 'EXPLOSIVE BOOM'

TREE SKELETONS - PAPERBARKS - DROWNED BY RISING WATER

PLEASE DON'T FEED BIRDS OR TURTLES - COULD KILL!

Chelodina oblonga - WESTERN LONG-NECKED TURTLE - (The only turtle species in our Lake)

They bury themselves under the mud during the hot, dry summer period

LAST Cottage at Swamp

HOUSE - LIMESTONE

MOST FAMILIES had a mulberry tree, vines & chooks

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

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

PROTECT LAKE

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

30s Heading For Aboriginal camp

ALBANY to PERTH on bike handlebar 'shelf'

DRAIN

MR G. BIRKBECK'S MILK DELIVERY SERVICE WITH 'NEDDY' MARY J. YATES © 2009

1 BOTTLE per child per day

FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN 1950s

RETURN TO MASTERS

SWANBOURNE RAIL STATION - initially named Congdon (1904) then OSBORNE (1912) before becoming SWANBOURNE

Norfolk Is Pines - opposite shops - when were they planted?

SWANBOURNE STATION SHOPS

STOP for coffee + Yummy cake!

Bookcafe

Peep over counter

BANK VAULT DOOR

LOTS SOLD EACH 1882

'SWANBOURNE STATION SHOPS'

LOOK FOR THIS INTERESTING GATE ON

OTWAY

YOUR WALK

CAR'S HANDLING

ROB ROY

DEAKIN

FRANKLIN

SALE

Shopkeeper has BIRD'S NEST hairdo

AUSTRALIND

CLAREMONT CRESCENT: 'The Working Street'

RAILLINE LAID 1881

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

CLAREMONT CRESCENT STATION 14

This Club had its FIRST major Tournament win in 1926

CLAREMONT LAWN TENNIS CLUB: 1901

The name of BUTLER'S SWAMP apparently 'lacked class' so was changed to LAKE CLAREMONT in 1955

POPULAR PICNIC SPOT: 1881

STIRLING ROAD PARK

AREA HISTORY & STORIES HERE

SCOTCH COLLEGE Playing fields MEMORIAL GROUND dedicated to 73 Old Boys & 6 masters of the School killed in WW1

SCOTCH PRIMARY EARLY RURAL SCENE

SCOTCH HEAD BUTCHERY 1925 NOW

MILITARY ANTIQUES

COOL DRINK MADE FROM MARRI FLOWERS/WATER

THE MEMO

COOL DRINK MADE FROM MARRI FLOWERS/WATER

SCOTCH COLLEGE 'BARRETT'S HOUSE'

WORCESTER 1903

EVESHAM 1903

OAKHAM 1901

GLoucester 1904

SEVERN 1905

SEE NAMES BELOW ROOF

UNDERPASS BUILT BETWEEN 1915 and 1916

GUGERI

This giant tree is a MORETON BAY FIG

The 'SWAMPER BOYS' used to help the milkman to earn pocket money

CLAREMONT 'Swamper' & Swamper boys

Short-lived fortnightly paper - Late 1930s

GREEN INSECT SUN PROTECTION

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: _____

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 & green flowers & vegetables too...

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

NOSEPEG

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