Stirling

By the Kyra Edwards, Local History Officer, Mount Flora Regional Museum

Photos courtesy of the City of Stirling Library Local History Collection.

Balcatta

- The name Balcatta derived from the Aboriginal words 'Bal' meaning 'His' and 'Katta' meaning 'hill'. First recorded by Alexander Forrest in 1877, Balcatta was the Aboriginal name for the northern portion of Careniup Swamp.
- 780 acres were granted to Samuel Moore in 1844 as part of the original crown land grant. On the Death of Mr Moore in 1875 the land was sold to John Charles Mews. The first mention of the name 'Balcatta' was on the offer for sale by Mr Mews in 1888.
- Another section of Balcatta was a part of an extensive grant given to T.R.C Walters in 1840.
- Prior to the 1960's the area was mainly used for market gardens and rural activities.
- Residential development rapidly progressed in the area in the late 1960's, but it wasn't until the 1970's that industries movement began in the area.

Balga

- Balga is an aboriginal word for the grass tree.
- The Balga locality was originally part of a grant given to T. R. C. Walters in 1840. It was used primarily for market gardens and poultry farms.
- In 1954 Balga was chosen as a suburb name for a portion of what was then known as the Mirrabooka Project Area.
- Work commenced on the street layout in 1959, and most of housing was constructed between 1964 and 1973.

Carine

- The name 'Carine' was derived from the two swamps in the area, 'Big Carine Swamp' and 'Little Carine Swamp'.
- The suburb of Carine was formerly a part of the suburbs of Hamersley and Watermans Bay.
- Carine was originally a part of the Hamersley Family estate acquired in 1837.
- The larger swamp originally ''Carine Swamp'' was first recorded by R. Quin in 1865 – 1866, during the survey of Swan locations 185 and 189.
- On the 10 December 1973 'Carine' was suggested as a name of the area that was created from the amendments of the boundaries of Hamersley and Watermans Bay. The name Carine was approved on the 18 December 1973.
- Carine Open Space is a significant landmark. Big Carine and Little Carine Swamp are located in the large area of the Carine Open Space. The regional open space was used for market gardening prior to the development of the suburb.
- Prior to the development the area was used for market gardening and there was at least one dairy.

Churchlands

- The suburb became known as 'Churchlands' after the land was purchased in 1891 by the Catholic Church.
- The land that makes up Churchlands today is combination of two original crown grants, Swan location 'Ao' and 'An'. Swan Location 'An' was granted to Henry Trigg in 1831 and Swan Location 'Ao' was granted to the Hokin Family in 1834.
- William Strickland acquired Swan Location 'Ao' in 1860. He then acquired Swan location 'An' in 1874.
- In September 1891 both Swan locations were acquired by the Right Reverend Matthew who was the Roman Catholic Bishop of Perth.
- Residential development began during the 1970's and accelerated in the 1980's.
- Herdsman Lake is a significant landmark in Churchlands. The lake was very significate to the Nyoongar Mooro People. An Aboriginal Heritage site has been registered with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on the edge of Herdsman Lake.

Coolbinia

- The name Coolbinia was adopted from the name of a school in the area in 1953. 'Coolbinia' is the aboriginal word for Mistletoe.
- In 1953 the Nomenclature Advisory Committee met to consider a name for the new school being built on Bradford Street. Coolbinia was later adopted for the name of the suburb.
- Development in Coolbinia mainly occurred in the late 1940's and early 1950's
- Coolbinia was once regarded as being a part of Mount Lawley.
- Many of the Street names in the suburb commemorate towns and districts in Western Australia, such as Carnarvon and Armadale crescent.

Dianella

- Dianella derived from the name 'Dianella revolute' which is the botanical title of a small blue lily which was plentiful in the area prior to residential development.
- Originally known as North Inglewood, the Nomenclature Advisory Committee approved the name 'Dianella' out of 26 different names in 1958.
- The area that is now Dianella was originally a part of the crown grants given to Robert Thomson, George Darby, James Drummond and James Birkett between 1829 and 1930.
- The soil in the area was considered unsuitable for agriculture purposes. Due to this development in the area was slow.
- The Intercolonial Investment Company and Building Company of Sydney subdivided the area in the 1880's and 1890's
- Many of the street names honour the early setters, including Birkett, Drummond and Drake.

Doubleview

- This name is derived from the extensive views it offered of the coast in the west, and to the east the hills and city.

- Most of Doubleview was originally part of the land grant given to John Daniel Manning, a South Perth dairyman in 1895.
- The first subdivision to occur was in 1910, but blocks were slow to sell.
- In 1926 developers called Dudley & Dwyer acquired the unsold lots in both the northern and southern parts of Doubleview. Seeking an attractive name for the area they chose Doubleview Estate.
- After the Second World War the Government wanted to use part of northern Doubleview for Returned Soldiers homes, and an agreement with Dudley & Dwyer saw many of these homes built.

Glendalough

- Glendalough was named after a well-known Catholic centre in the country of Wicklow, Ireland.
- The name means "valley of the two lakes", which is significant as the suburb is located between Lake Monger and Herdsman Lake.
- Glendalough was originally part of land which was granted to Thomas Helms in 1837. He named his property "Helmsville", which it was known as until 1882.
- The northern portion passed through several orders of the Roman Catholic Church until 1921, when it was used by the Little Sisters of the Poor as the site for a rest home.
- In 1949, The State Housing Commission purchased part of the land and subdivided it.
- In July 1954 the name and boundaries were approved.
- Five of the early streets surveyed in the locality, including Leeder Street and Powis Street, were named after passengers on the ship "Rockingham".

Gwelup

- The name 'Gwelup' refers to Lake Gwelup which is a small swamp located within the suburb. It was derived from the Aboriginal word 'Gwelgannow' meaning 'to shift position' which is why it was referred to as 'the lake that shifts position'.
- Land near Lake Gwelup was first granted to Thomas Mews in 1831. It passed through several owners before being acquired by Henry Bull of Sydney, in 1891.
- Development was relatively slow, and the land was mainly used for market gardens in the early years.
- From the 1970's Gwelup transformed from a rural area to a modern residential suburb.
- Lake Gwelup is significant to the local Mooro Nyoongar people as an ancient ceremonial site. The Lake was used for hunting, water source, camping, and a meeting place.
- Lake Gwelup Primary School opened in 1914.

Hamersley

- Named after the Hamersley family who arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1837.
- The low-lying areas within Hamersley were used for market gardening during the early years and the remaining land was largely undeveloped.

- Hamersley was the first suburb in the region to be guided by the principles of cul-de-sac design, which later formed the basis for other subdivisions within the northern corridor.
- Edward Hamersley's daughter Margaret married Sir John Forrest, who was an Australian explorer, and the first premier of Western Australia.
- The locality of North Beach is also associated with the Hamersley family.

Inglewood

- The origins of the name Inglewood are uncertain. It is thought that the name derived from a Norwegian barque called 'Inglewood' who called at Fremantle in the 1890's and was mentioned in an article in the Western Australian in 1904.
- The Inglewood area included portions of land granted to John Gregory in 1833 and Mary Hutton in 1844 as part of the original crown grants.
- The suburb was originally regarded to be a part of Maylands in the early years, until the Gold Estate of Australia subdivided the area renaming this section of land as the Inglewood Estate.
- There were two residential growth booms. First was between 1904 and 1920 and the second was around World War II between 1935 and 1940.
- The Inglewood Clock tower is a significate landmark and can be seen on the corner of Beauford Street and Dundas Road.

Innaloo

- Njookenbooroo which is the aboriginal name for Herdsman Lake was the original name of this suburb. This name was too difficult to pronouns and spell, so the name was changed to Innaloo, which is aboriginal word for 'Native women'.
- The suburb was originally part of land that was bought by Thomas Mews in 1831.
- The northern section of Innaloo was subdivided in 1898 followed by the southern section in 1916. However, the demand for the land was low with majority of it being used for gazing.
- The Education Department attained land in 1915 and erected the Njookenbooroo School on the north east corner of Odin Road.
- In 1927 the Local Progress Association requested the suburb name be changed to 'Innaloo'.
- Extensive development occurred in the 1940's due to the Post World War II population growth.

Joondanna

- 'Joondanna Height' was originally the name selected for this suburb in a competition that the Perth Road Board organised. It is believed to have been the name of a farm in the area.
- The area was originally part of a grant given to T. R. C. Walters in 1840.
- In 1954 the name Joondanna and the postal district boundaries were approved.
- It is believed that the name Joondanna was the name of a farm owned by Mark Banks and was located on land within Osborne Park.
- Joondanna is one of the highest points within the City of Stirling.

Karrinyup

- The name "Karrinyup" was derived from a local swamp known as "Careniup".
- "Careniup" is an Aboriginal word apparently meaning "the place where bush kangaroos graze".
- Land at Karrinyup was first granted to Samuel Moore in the early 1840's.
- For many years the Lake Karrinyup Country Club was the only significant development in the area. Rapid growth in Karrinyup did not begin until 1957.
- The Karrinyup Shopping Centre that is on site today was first opened in 1973.

Menora

- Menora traditionally has a strong association with the Jewish community. This is reflective in the name "Menorah", which is a seven branched candlestick considered the symbol of good.
- Menora was a part of the original crown land granted to Charles Bourne in 1840.
- The name Menora was chosen in 1954 and was influenced by the location of the Menora Picture Theatre in Walcott Street.
- A Jewish synagogue was opened on Plantation Street in 1973 and remains a significant spiritual focus for Perth's Jewish community.
- The area was designed on the principles of the Garden Suburb, and thus incorporated green streets, parks within walking distance of all residents, and a curvilinear street system.

Mirrabooka

- Mirrabooka" is the Aboriginal name for the constellation known as the Southern Cross.
- In the 1960's Mirrabooka was planned to be a satellite city (smaller metropolitan areas which are located near larger cities but are mostly independent) to accommodate the increasing post-war population.
- The area was envisaged to contain over 16,000 dwellings.
- The Satellite city concept was revised several times resulting in changes to suburb boundaries.
- By 1982 the proposal for a complete satellite city was abandoned and the suburb of Mirrabooka was formally created from an area previously known as Yirrigan.

Mount Lawley

- Named to honour Sir Arthur Lawley, Governor of Western Australia from 1901-02
- The area became renowned as a stopping place for travellers in the 1830s, when John Gregory established the Pineapple Inn.
- Mount Lawley is largely characterised by Federation and Colonial style dwellings.
- Many of the older character homes are of heritage value and have been renovated and preserved.
- The Astor Theatre situated on the corner of Beaufort Street and Walcott Street, built in 1911 is one of the suburb's significant landmarks.

- The Beaucott Building situated across the road from Astor Theatre, was constructed in 1938.

Nollamara

- Nollamara is an aboriginal word meaning "black kangaroo paw".
- Prior to the Second World War land in the southern sector of Nollamara was used mainly for market gardens and poultry farms.
- Development in Nollamara did not commence in earnest until the late 1940s.
- The State Housing Commission (now Department for Housing and Works) resumed construction in the area in 1950.
- The suburb was named in 1954, and more than 2,500 homes were built in Nollamara by 1969.

North Beach

- The name originated when Charles Crossland, a surveyor referred to Samuel Richard Hamersley's owner of the coastal lease as "his North Beach Coast run". For convenience the name was accepted.
- North Beach was originally part of the suburb of Balcatta.
- In 1837 Edward Hamersley settled in the area and built a home known as the "Castle". The land was passed on to Samuel Richard Hamersley after the death of Edward Hamersley in 1874.
- The name 'North Beach' was officially accepted in 1888 but wasn't formally approved until 1954.
- The area became a quarantine station during the gold rush era for camels entering the country for work in the goldfields.
- During the 1940's and 1950's the suburb became a vacation destination with many coastal shack and holiday home being built.
- Residential development occurred in the late 1950's and early 1960's. The town site was gazetted in 1964.
- Star Swamp in a significate landmark extending across 96 hectors of land. It is believed that the local Nyoongar people travelled from Star Swamp in North Beach to Trigg, where they once laid Fish Trap along the coast of Trigg. There is evidence of the local Nyoongar people having used the area of Star swamp before colonisation.

North Beach car park in the 1930's

Osborne Park

- The suburb was named after William Osborne, who was an early landholder in the area.
- The suburb of Osborne Park was part of an original crown grant given to T.R.C. Walters in 1840. William Osborne bought part of his estate after Mr Walters' death in 1874.
- The land was primarily used for markets gardens, firstly by the Chinese and then later by Italian settlers.
- It transformed from a rural area into a residential suburb in the post-war years, and later incorporating industrial use.
- The industrial area developed in the 1980's becoming dominant in most of Osborne Park. Only a small area remained predominantly residential.
- Osborne Park Primary School opened in 1903.

An aerial view of Osborne Park market garden's in 1961.

This cow yard was in Osborne Park on the property of Mr William Edward Robinson.

Scarborough

- It is believed the name originated from a road in the area named Scarborough Road, later to become Drabble Street. It is thought the road was named after the beach resort town "Scarborough" in Yorkshire, England.
- Due to the land being too sandy and isolated it was never a part of the earlier Crown grants.
- In 1869 John Hughes, Jesse Golding and Mark Hoyne were granted land in the area. Mr Hughes later sold to James Corbett in 1878 and Mr Golding sold to John Manning in 1885.
- The real estate firm Laurence and Cooke bought Mark Hoyne grant in 1885 and subdivided, after a Sydney Journalist gave publicity to the high quality of the beach.
- Other land owner and company acquired land and subdivided but the land didn't sell. After World War II development increased reaching its peak in the 1960's.
- Scarborough Beach has become one of the major beaches in Perth due to its long stretch of clean white sandy beach.

Stirling

- This Suburb was named after Admiral Sir James Stirling who is known for establishing the Swan River Colony and becoming the first Governor of Western Australian.
- For the use its swamp lands Stirling was originally part of the Osborne Park market garden area.
- It remained a part of Osborne Park until 1976 when it was officially gazetted at the request of the City of Stirling council.
- In 1978 subdivision commenced and continued through the 1980's. In 1990's small pockets of land continued to be built upon.
- The City of Stirling Council building and chambers are located on Cedric Street.
- The Osborne Park Hospital is located on Osborne Place and was established in 1962.

Trigg

- Trigg was named after Henry Trigg, who was appointed Superintendent of Public Works for the Swan River Colony in 1842.
- Prior to European settlement the Mooro Nyungar people fished, camped and enjoyed leisure time in Trigg.
- Residential development in Trigg is largely dominated by single detached dwellings on individual lots.
- Trigg has a large proportion of public open space, the most significant area being the Trigg Bushland Reserve, which runs through the centre of the suburb.
- Trigg Island is a focal point for Trigg Beach and a popular fishing spot.
- Before European settlement, the local Nyoongar people built large rock pools at Trigg Beach with rocks and branches. At high tide fish would swim above the man-made pools and as the tide slowly went out the fish would become trapped in the pools. Once the tide was low the people from the tribe would gather what they needed from the pool. It is believed that the local Nyoongar people travelled from Star Swamp in North Beach, where there is evidence of them having used the area before colonisation.

Tuart Hill

- Tuart Hill was named after the Tuart Tree which once grew extensively throughout the area.
- The timber of the Tuart Tree was a valuable resource for millwrights, shipwrights, and wheelwrights as it is one of the strongest woods known.
- The area was originally part of a grant given to T. R. C. Walters in 1840.
- In 1905 developers purchased land in Tuart Hill from Mr Walters. However, development of the area was slow due to the perceived remoteness of the area.
- Prior to World War II the area was used for rural purposes. After the war the development of a residential building began to accelerate, and by the 1960's the suburb was fully developed.
- Robinson Reserve is a significant recreational area. The Osborne Park Agricultural Society has used the reserve to host the annual Osborne Park Show since 1914.

Watermans Bay

- This suburb was originally known as Waterman Bay and named after Alfred Waterman who in 1908 built the first house in the area known as "Zephyr Villa".
- In 1954 the Postal District of Watermans Bay was approved. Then in 1962 the suburb name was shortened to Waterman. In 2003 a successful proposal was put forward to change the name back to its original name.
- The suburb was originally a part of the Hamersley Family estate acquired in 1837. The land was subdivided in 1918 becoming the Mount Flora Estate.
- Development was largely limited to holiday shacks until after World War II when the pace of growth increased.
- Landmarks include Star Swamp which covers an area of about 96 hectares, and Mount Flora Regional Museum which is housed in a c1940 water tank.
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- Many of the street names honour members of the Hamersley family, including Margaret, Mary and Flora Terrace.

Wembley

- The suburb was named after the Greater London Suburb in England.
- Wembley was a part of the 100-acre original Crown grant Ah Lakes Perthshire, which was granted to Thomas Hunt in 1842.
- In its early days of settlement, the area was known as Herdsman Lake and Lake Monger area, due to the area being located between the two lakes.
- The name Wembley was approved and gazetted in July 1924.
- The area around Herdsman Lake was mostly used for market gardens. During the 1960's and 1970's, market garden owners were asked to give up part of their lots to the crown so that the land could be used as a Regional Open Space.
- A great potion of the suburb of Wembley is within the Town of Cambridge.
- Herdsman Lake is a significate landmark within the area. The aboriginal name for the lake is Njookenbooroo. Areas around the Lake have been registered as Aboriginal Heritage Sites.

Wembley Downs

- The name 'Wembley Downs' was derived from the nearby Wembley golf course
- The golf course was named after the Wembley area located in England.
- Parts of the land which now form Wembley Downs were originally granted to Henry Trigg and Mary Ann Hokin in 1842.
- In 1927 City Beach Land Company of Perth acquired the land and subdivided into about 90 lots varying in size.
- Development was slow due partly to the thick virgin bush, and limestone outcrops which made building difficult. The limestone was quarried for several years.
- Growth accelerated in the 1950's, especially with a stretch of houses along Weaponess Road, and the residents used the former quarry tracks to travel out of their suburb.
- When a water main was laid along the line of the quarry tracks it made such travel difficult, and the roads weren't really improved until the Perth City Council built more in preparation for the Empire Games (now Commonwealth Games) at Perry Lakes in 1962.
- By the 1970's the area was almost completely developed.

Westminster

- This suburb came about at the request of residents who in 1994, requested the City of Stirling to rename the southern portion of Balga to Westminster, after the name of the original estate in the area.
- Between 1936 and 1955 a limestone road named Westminster Boulevard passed through the suburbs then known as Nollamara and Westminster Estate.
- Westminster Estate was subdivided prior to World War II, though development of the area remained limited up to the late 1940s because the area was perceived to be relatively isolated.
- Early use of the land included market gardening and poultry farms. Due to the area's extensive Jarrah and Banksia woodlands, timber cutting was also popular.
- The Westminster area was resumed, along with the surrounding suburbs, by the State Housing Commission in the early 1950s to form the basis for the Mirrabooka Regional Centre.

Woodlands

- Woodland was originally part of the "Woodlands Estate" that belonged to John Daniel Manning.
- The eastern portion of Woodlands was a part of the original crown grant Location At. The 1084 acres was first assigned to Thomas William Mews in 1831, however Mr Mews was unable to fulfil the location duties, so the grant was given in 1840 to Thomas Richard Carey Walters. It later became under the ownership by John Daniel Manning.
- Jackadder Lake is a significate landmark in the suburb. The lake was first records as "Mews Lake". In 1842 the lake area was named lake "Jackadup", which was the aboriginal name of the area. It was later recorded as "Jack-Adder", before being changed to its current name "Jackadder", which is an adaption of the aboriginal name.

- Growth in the area didn't begin in earnest until the 1960's. Development in the area was still occurring with land still being vacated up until the 1990's.
- Many of the streets have been named after trees to maintain the theme with the name of the suburb. Streets such as Oakwood, Pinewood and Elmwood Avenue.

Yokine

- 'Yokine' is derived from the Aboriginal word meaning 'native dog', as the area is close to Dog Swamp.
- Yokine was approved as a Postal District name on 30 July 1954.
- It was originally part of the land grant given to T. R. C. Walters in 1840.
- Western Australian Golf Limited was the owners of the Mount Yokine estate from at least 1927.
- After the Second World War a housing boom began in Yokine, where much of the area around the golf course was developed by the early 1950's.
- The southern section experienced rapid growth in the 1960's, and by the late 1970's Yokine was almost completely developed.
- Yokine Hill, also known as Mount Yokine, was originally used as a survey point and is a significant landscape feature.

Mount Flora Museum and Stirling History Collection

Community History Enquires

The community History Collection is made up of oral histories, books, booklets and ephemera. For further details on how you can access this collection please contact the Museum Curator on (08) 9205 8946, visit our web page: www.stirling.wa.gov.au/history or visit the Inglewood Libraries Community History Centre, Beaufort Street and Tenth Avenue, Inglewood WA 6052.

Photograph Collection

The Stirling Photograph Collection gives a fascinating insight into the development of the City of Stirling, and how early families lived. Many of these photographs have been digitised and are available online. Copies are available, service fee maybe applicable.

Mount Flora Museum

The museum is housed in a former water tank, built in the early 1940's to supply water for domestic use to the local area. Go up the stairs on the outside of the water tank to enjoy one of the best panoramic views of the northern suburbs and coast. During WWII this building and its view were utilised as an observation post of our coast.

Come and explore the varied exhibits which tell the story of our market gardens, land and road development, our coastal history and schools. See displays of memorabilia, equipment and furniture used by our early settlers.

Watch 1950's film footage of market gardeners at work on our digital screen.

Location: Elvire Street, Watermans Bay.

Entry fee: gold coin per person

Opening hours: 1st Sunday of each other 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Wednesday 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Museum can be opened by appointment. Phone (08) 9205 8946.

School Program

The Mount Flora Museum offers educational programs for school excursions.

- Stories told in the words of our early settlers on how they lived, worked and played
- A history of your suburb including how the landscape has changed
- Programs tailored to your requirements (service fee may be charged)
- Aboriginal History
- What is this item? A show and tell from the collection.

Gold coin entry per person

For more information contact Museum Curator on (08) 9205 8946.

Community Group Tours

The Mount Flora Museum is also available by appointment to welcome community groups with a program of histories, local stories and memories, followed by a tour of the museum. Your group is welcome to stay for morning or afternoon tea, and further enjoy the views and facilities. Hot water and crockery provided, but you will supply your own coffee or tea. Gold coin entry per person.

An aerial view of the Native Dog Swamp in 1966.