THE YARGINE TRACK
(YARGINE – Nyungar word for turtle)

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

Claremont Meanders
glimpsing the past

TOWN OF CLAREMONT
Est 1898

Claremont Meanders
glimpsing the past

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 T W 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".

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.

Lake Claremont c1939
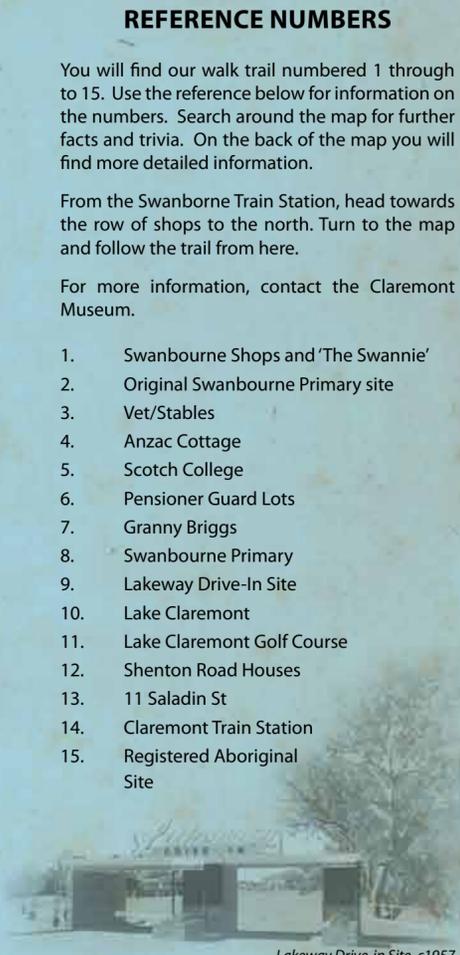
LAKE CLAREMONT (REF. 10)

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.

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

Lake Claremont c1939

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.

Lakeway Drive-in Site, c1957

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 or LAKE CLAREMONT IN THE EARLY 1900s — QUEEN JINNY · KING BILLY

100s of tiny whisk flowers

Aboriginals used the flowers for nectar and flower stems for tinder

Rosin was used to cement the spear barb to the shaft

The BALGA tree has numerous other uses

BALGA 'GRASS TREE'

· MULTI - USE WAR PLANT ·

Ghost moth larva

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

WEEKLY RENTAL 2/6d — No 16 ANZAC COTTAGE. BUILT BY UGLY MEN ASSOCIATION: 1917

Saunders St

ROADS NAMED AFTER STEAMSHIPS: Australind · Saladin · Rob Roy · Otway

ROB ROY

Beer Shortages '42 '43 1939. — THE SWANBOURNE HOTEL

THE 'SWANNIE'

SWANBOURNE WAS FIRST KNOWN AS 'COTTESLOE BEACH'

Plank and limestone track

ALFRED

BARINI HILL (Ab) — KEROSINE — Old clothing bedding

Clothes props & cobweb brooms made & sold 4/- 4/-

ABORIGINAL CAMP USED BY NEIL

· MYTHOLOGICAL PLACE ·

SAND TRACK TO ALLEN PARK

(15) REGISTERED ABORIGINAL SITE

(8) Swanbourne Primary School NOW HERE

OLD MAN SEEDY HAD PIGGERY (children used to steal his fruit)

NARLA

1897 2400 KG HONEY 113 HIVES — 'NYLEETA' house in Central Ave means 'place of wild honey'

LATE 1950s — A brothel once thought to have operated on Devon Rd

CORNWALL

The 'P' before a LOT number indicates it was initially allotted to a Pensioner Guard e.g. P1060 — (6)

MITFORD

NO BITUMEN NORTH OF MITFORD ST BEFORE 1950s

BRASSEY

'NORTH CLAREMONT' (EST 1905) became SWANBOURNE PRIMARY School Rebuilt and moved to Narla Road - 2001

SWANBOURNE SCHOOL

WOOD

The Swanbourne VETERINARY CENTRE were stables. Built 1906 — (2)

FRASER — McKenzie's Folly · VET — (3)

SHENTON

Look for this interesting GATE

STOP FOR COFFEE + YUMMY CAKE ! — (13)

OTWAY — Peep your walk — Bank vault door — BOOKCAFFE

CARL'S HAIRDRESS '16

LOTS SOLD EACH 1882 · SWANBOURNE STATION SHOPS

ROB ROY — **DEAKIN**

(1) START ★

Latest model CLEVELAND taxis at your service...

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

NEIL'S — Camp Water Supply — BUTLER LAND — Sammy Broomhall camped here for livestock — LOTS OF DOGS

NARLA · **MYERA**

OLD LAKEWAY DRIVE-IN SITE — (9) — SHORTER OPTION — STEPS

BUSH FOREVER SITE — IMPORTANT in maintaining Perth's BIODIVERSITY WETLAND

READ FRIENDS OF LAKE CLAREMONT Noticeboard for news

GLOUCESTER

GRANNY BRIGGS lived here - The family were horse breeders & trainers — (7)

INITIALLY KNOWN AS 'TEATREE SWAMP' (Public Records)

CRESSWELL PARK — TODAY:

Common Rosegill — 1925 Young · Old MUSHROOMS

Very old newspapers found under lino of demolished BRIGGS house: Fern St

FERN · **GARDEN**

EARTH TREMOR 1941 — JURASSIC PERIOD — 'LIZARD OF OZ' · TIBIA

FIRST DINO BONE DESCRIBED IN W.A. OZRAPTOR SUBOTAII - tibia found on Scotch field trip near Geraldton · 1966

BELLEVUE — 'THE MEMO' — Cool drink made from MARRI flowers/water

Coffee & French Patisserie

SAUNDERS

Butchery 1925 NOW MILITARY ANTIQUES — (4) SCOTCH HEAD

Choux Cafe

CENTRAL · **DEVON** · **DERBY**

Swanbourne Primary School — Walk through the entrance & the original

FRANKLIN · **SALADIN** · **AUSTRALIND**

Shopkeeper had BIRD'S NEST hairdo

CLAREMONT CRESCENT · 'The Working Street'

Scotch College 'Barrett's House' — WORCESTER 1903 · EVESHAM 1908 · OAKHAM 1901 · GLOUCESTER 1904 · SEVERN 1905 — SEE NAMES BELOW ROOF

BARNFIELD

Swanbourne Rail Station - initially named Conodon (1904) then Osborne (1912) before becoming Swanbourne

The railway was the catalyst for development of this area

RAIL LINE LAID 1881

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

RETURN TO MASTERS — (12)

PARKLAND · **STRICKLAND**

THREE CARVED TREE SEAT & WHEN — WHO

UP! for this TUART with its 'BURL' granite along the path — (10)

SEE OLD FENCE POSTS IN LAKE — Old rubbish dump 1945-1965

LINKS · **LAKEWAY**

Washingtonia Palms — 32 MEN 1 WOMAN FARMING AT SWAMP 1897

GALBAMAANUP 'Place of black water' or BARINI BURA (Aboriginal)

HOME GONE but see the four Tall palm trees. They still mark site of Pensioner Guard Atkinson's Lot

· LAKE CLAREMONT · was 'Butler's Swamp'

GAZEBO

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

ALL HERE! — Gouan

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

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

... leaving lake to lay eggs on land

TREE SKELETONS · PAPERBARKS - DROWNED BY RISING WATER

POBBLEBONK · BANJO FROG — (11)

MOZZIE (Repellent!) — ERNEST aged 7 dies of watermelon food poisoning in 1932 — HENSHAW

Burn cow pats — ONLY MALES CALL

· LAST · Pensioner Guard Cottage at Swamp 1850

ONLY EXPLOSIVE ROCKS!! — leave around lake for exercise

HOUSE: LIMESTONE

POPULAR PICNIC SPOT · 1881 — STIRLING ROAD PARK

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

This Club had its FIRST major Tournament win in 1926 — CLAREMONT LAWN TENNIS CLUB · 1901

KOTT · **CEDUS** · **SHENTON**

Market Gardens

SHENTON · **STIRLING**

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

CLAREMONT CRESCENT — **GUGERI** — CLAREMONT STATION — (14)

x This giant tree is a MORETON BAY FIG

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

Underpass built between 1915 and 1916

MR G. BIRKBECK'S MILK DELIVERY SERVICE WITH... — NEDDY

1 BOTTLE per child per day - opposite shops · when were they planted? SUN PROTECTION

3 P 6 3s FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN 1950s

Short - lived fortnightly paper - Late 1930s — Claremont Courier & Swanbourne News

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PENSIONER GUARD ALLOTMENTS — (6)

OLD STIRLING RD

	1
	2
	3
	4
	5
18	7
17	8
16	9
	10

Each Lot 9.5 acres

15' 14 13 12 11 10

OLD STIRLING ROAD THROUGH LAKE

BEACH SAND — Walk around lake for exercise

READ 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 — (5)

SHENTON

STIRLING · **CLAREMONT CRESCENT** · **CLAREMONT CRESCENT** · **CLAREMONT STATION**

DAVIES · **ELLIOTT** · **LAPSLEY**

MOST FAMILIES had a mulberry tree, vines & chooks

... usually also - cows, horses, pigs - & grew 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) — CAMEL · NOSEPEG

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

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 exhausted sheep near swamp - carries it — reward: 2½km · 2/-

NOTE: They can weigh around 50kg!

PROTECT LAKE

I.D. ONLY 'YELLOW PAINT' — Drain ↑

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

ALBANY TO PERTH Heading for Aboriginal Camp... on bike handlebar shelf — BONOX

· MARY J. YATES © 2009 ·