

Claremont Meanders

EXPLORING THE PAST



REDISCOVER THE TERRACE

A self-guided walk trail
Approx 1 hour duration

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.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Town acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, and pays its respects to Elders past and present.

Map illustrator: Mary Yates

INTRODUCTION

In the early 1870s Claremont, the midway point on the Perth to Fremantle Road, began to attract speculators and investors who bought up large tracts of land. One such investor was James Morrison who ran a livestock business on his land and sold a piece of this land for railway purposes.

It appears that Morrison also gave Claremont its name, however it is unclear whether he named it after his wife Clara and the hilly location 'Mont' or whether the area was named after an English Royal Palace.

The heart of Claremont lies between the railway line and the Perth to Fremantle Road. It was in this area that the residential and business districts became concentrated.

The influence of the railway station played an important part in the settlement of Claremont, the expansion of its commercial heart and encouraged investment in the area. Early advertisements marketed Claremont as 'the Toorak of Perth' and its proximity to the railway line was touted as a major attraction.

CLAREMONT DRAPERS - 44 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 8)

This building had been a tailor or a drapery from 1914/15 to 2006. Owing to the building being sold and rising rents, the Claremont Drapers closed in 2006. In 1965 Norman Palmer acquired an interest in the business and named it the Claremont Drapers. The business was so successful that the name remained.

BOVELL'S - 24 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 4)

During the Depression Millie Bovell began this famous business by selling her homemade sponges, pies and pasties from a pram she pushed around the streets of Claremont.

By 1932 Bovell's opened at 24 Bay View Tce in front of her house where three generations of the family made the famous pies.

At one point the pies became so popular that a large wicker basket full of pies was sent by train each day to be sold at the Fremantle Train Station dining rooms. Unfortunately, the increased rents along Bay View Terrace forced the longstanding business to sell its last pie in November 1987.



Bay View Terrace,
c1915

ST QUENTIN AVENUE (REF. 10)

Originally called Divers Street, it was re-named St Quentin Avenue in 1925 to commemorate an Australian victory during the First World War. The street was originally mainly residential although Tom the Cheap Grocer was trading there. Competition from Coles supermarket in the early 1970s forced Tom the Cheap to close its doors and the next 25 years would see the expansion of businesses into what had, up until then, been mainly a residential street.



FURNISS BUILDING - 43 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 6)

Built in 1927, the Furniss Building was owned by Mr W. Furniss, known to many by the name of 'Cocky: On the ground floor of the building was the Furniss Cycle Shop which retailed its own bicycle called the "Scarlet Runner". However, it is remembered chiefly for the large life-size figure in sheet metal, seated on a bicycle, mounted on a beam above the laneway next door. This brightly painted figure was known as the 'tin man', although the Furniss family maintains that he signified their motto "A Square Man for a Square Deal". The Square Man is now in the Claremont Museum collection. The Furniss Building was demolished in 1973.

JACOBSON'S PHARMACY - 21 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 5)

Jacobson's Pharmacy was built by Mr A.E. Golder in 1925 and his daughter, Miss Golder, also a pharmacist. They could be summoned down to the shop by the night bell to the right of the doorway to dispense emergency prescriptions. In 1945 Edith Adlard, nee Jacobson, acquired the pharmacy and lived in the quarters upstairs. She qualified as a pharmacist in 1927 and co-founded the WA Womens' Pharmacy Association. She worked for fifty years in her profession and was the first female pharmacist in WA to manage a pharmacy. She was awarded the Member of Order of Australia in 1987. After retiring, she wrote 'Tincture and Tact' published in 1982, covering her career as a pharmacist, and containing light-hearted anecdotes of characters in Claremont.

THE TOWN HALL - 327 STIRLING HWY (REF. 11)

Claremont Town Hall's history began in 1922. It was in this year that the Methodists laid the foundation stone of a new building to replace their old weatherboard church which stood next door.

By 1977 the size of the Claremont Parish had reduced, and it was decided that the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches would combine and become the Uniting Church, now located at St Aidan's on Princess Road. Town of Claremont later bought the church and converted it into Claremont Town Hall. Sir Richard Trowbridge, the Governor, officially opened it in October 1983.

CORDIN'S MEAT CO. - 47-49 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 7)

Cordin's Meat Co. located at 47-49 Bay View Terrace, was a two-storey building built in 1914. It contained a butcher's shop and a handy foods shop; and living accommodation for the family was located above. A gold bull's head was mounted on the upper balcony. The ice works was situated in a large building at the rear of the shops, with access from Stirling Highway. The huge ice making machinery was brought in by George Lucas on a horse-drawn lorry and was so heavy that his horses went down on their knees pulling it up the slope from the Highway. Ice was delivered to the district by large horse-drawn carts and later motor vans. Cordin's meat delivery cart, dating from the early 1900s, was restored in 1979 and is now in the Claremont Museum collection.

CLAREMONT HOTEL - 1 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 3)

Edward Massey established the hotel in 1902. Originally the hotel was residential and its proximity to the railway station made it an attractive place to stay. There is no doubt that the hotel's busiest period was during Royal Show week when it would literally burst at the seams. When private motor vehicle ownership became more common the hotel lost its residential component evolving into a local pub and more recently a trendy meeting place.

TRANSPORTATION (REF. 14)

Claremont was very isolated and for many years the river remained the main mode of transport until convict labour was employed to build the road linking Fremantle to Perth. In 1881 the railway line opened and many of the Claremont businesses used the railway service to transport goods. In 1924 a tram car service was opened with trams travelling regularly between Claremont Railway Station and Waratah Avenue. The tram service closed in 1935 as it was unable to compete with trolley buses which were introduced in 1931.

POST OFFICE - 2 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 2)

The Claremont Post and Telegraphic Office was constructed in 1896. The building, designed by Government Architect George Temple-Poole, incorporated residential quarters for the postmaster. Susan Commerford, one of the first women to make a career in the postal service, was the first Postmistress appointed to the new Claremont Post Office. The Post Office was located directly opposite the railway station which enabled the regular and quick dispatch of bags of mail to the city and other centres.

CLAREMONT RAILWAY STATION (REF. 1)

The Perth-Fremantle railway line opened in 1881 and the station master's house, designed by George Temple Poole, was constructed in 1886.

Temple Poole is considered the most eminent architect working in WA during the federation period. When the Royal Show moved to Claremont in 1905 the railway station was expanded to cater for the increase in traffic. A new signal cabin was built in 1906 and the signalmen were responsible for ensuring that trains went to the correct platforms. At that time there were five platforms, a goods yard and sidings. These were demolished in the 1980s. The signal cabin is now the only surviving, traditional all-lever signal cabin still in its original location in the Perth metropolitan area.

Claremont Railway Station was important for the movement of troops during World Wars I and II. During WWII virtually all enlisted troops passed through the Claremont Showgrounds and most military trains departed from Claremont Railway Station. Olive Copley resided at the station master's house during WWII and recalls the troop trains passing through. Soldiers would drop envelopes with coins onto the platform and Olive and her sister would collect them, buy postage stamps with the coins and post the soldiers' letters.

DRILL HALL - AVION WAY (REF. 12)

From 1912 to 1914, Mr Bernard Stein operated a roller-skating rink. After 1914, it became a drill hall and headquarters of the Claremont Citizen Force. After WWII, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) had an Air Training Corps based here. In 1986, the RAAF transferred to Belmont and the land was sold. In early 1990, the site was turned into European style individual shops with a large car parking area on the upper levels. As a result of a newspaper competition, won by Mrs Andrea Saunders of Grange Street, the new street was named Avion Way, to reflect the earlier connection with the RAAF.

MYOLA CLUB - 6 STIRLING RD (REF. 13)

Myola is an Aboriginal word meaning 'place of knowledge' or 'meet and learn? The Myola Club began in 1921 to coach a group of women in the art of speech making and chairing meetings. In 1935 they moved into their own building at 6 Stirling Road Claremont. The club had a choir, a reading circle and a drama group and held craft classes, formal dances and wedding receptions as well. From 1946 the club began to also concentrate its efforts on humanitarian work and furthermore established a fund to create a Myola Scholarship for Aboriginal students. Declining numbers, an aging membership and the high cost of maintaining the building forced the club to close in 2004.

DRABBLES - 46-48 & 50 BAY VIEW TCE (REF. 8)

Born in 1875, Walter D. Drabble went into trade as a signwriter in a shop located on the west side of Bay View Terrace between St Quentin Avenue and Stirling Highway. In 1907 he began a new shop at 46-48 Bay View Terrace importing ironmongery and stocking general hardware. In 1924, the business moved to the new two-storey Drabbles located at 50 Bay View Terrace.

W. Drabble Ltd Hardware Merchants was a wholesale and retail establishment, stocking and distributing household and builders' hardware, crockery, glassware and fancy goods, agricultural tools and sporting goods. The large retail store was the largest commercial business in Claremont until it was taken over by Sims Hardware in the 1970s.

MATHESON'S TERRACE - 16 VICTORIA AVE (REF. 15)

As a pensioner guard, Private Henry Herbert was granted land on the intersection of Pensioners Terrace (Victoria Ave.) and Humble Road (Bay View Terrace) in 1850. While he went to work monitoring the convicts stationed in Freshwater Bay, his wife Anne was the local schoolmistress at the School, later to become the Claremont Museum. The land was bought in 1896 by Alexander Matheson, a Senator for WA in the First Federal Parliament who began work the following year building 5 town houses designed by Architect Archer William Hoskins. The buildings, known as Matheson's Terrace, made a mockery of the street name Bay View Terrace for they blocked the very outlook it was named for.

PRINCESS THEATRE AND CONCERT HALL - OLD THEATRE LANE (REF. 9)

Princess Theatre and Concert Hall was built in 1914, by Mr W. Drabble. The building was designed by Claremont architect, D. McClure. It was used as a cinema and concert hall for dances, school prize-givings and other functions. The building featured two halls; a large hall, which accommodated up to 650 people, included a gallery and dress circle and a 'lesser hall' on the first floor.

A grand polished jarrah staircase led to the gallery. The cinematographer's room was fire-proof and was concealed so that it was of 'no annoyance to the audience'. There was also an outside picture garden behind the theatre off Leura Avenue. The site was redeveloped in 1977 and is now known as Old Theatre Lane.

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.

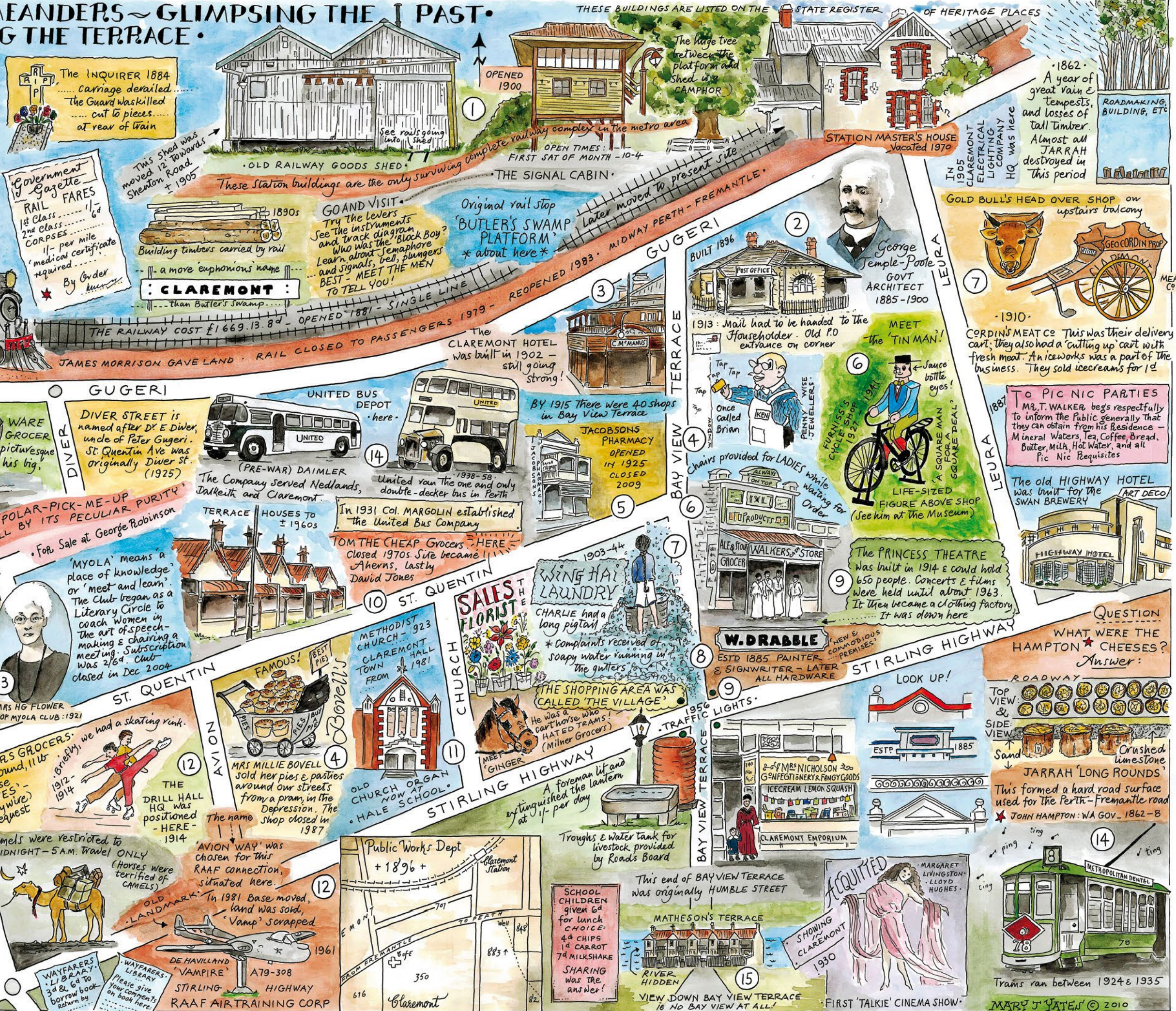
From the Claremont Train Station, head south towards the Town Centre and explore the current shops whilst rediscovering the town's fascinating social history.

1. Claremont Train Station
2. Post Office
3. Claremont Hotel
4. Bovell's (24 Bay View Tce)
5. Jacobsons Pharmacy (21 Bay View Tce)
6. Furniss Building (43 Bay View Tce)
7. Cordin's Meat Co. (47-49 Bay View Tce)
8. Drabbles (46-48 Bay View Tce)
9. Princess Theatre and Concert Hall
10. St Quentin Avenue
11. Town Hall (327 Stirling Highway)
12. Drill Hall (Avion Way)
13. Myola Club (6 Stirling Rd)
14. Transport
15. Matheson's Terrace

CLAREMONT MEANDERS ~ GLIMPING THE PAST ~ REDISCOVERING THE TERRACE.

HIGHLIGHTS

USE THIS MAP AS A GUIDE TO REDISCOVERING THE TOWN CENTRE'S FASCINATING SOCIAL HISTORY. THE LOCATION OF ORIGINAL SITES ARE NUMBERED - MORE IN-DEPTH HISTORICAL INFORMATION IS ON THE REVERSE MAP NOT TO SCALE.



1 The INQUIRER 1884
..... Carriage derailed
..... The Guard was killed
..... cut to pieces.....
..... at rear of train

Government Gazette
RAIL FARES
1st Class 1/6
2nd Class 1/4
CORPSES
1/- per mile
'medical certificate
required'
By Order



OLD RAILWAY GOODS SHED
These Station buildings are the only surviving complete railway complex in the metro area



THE SIGNAL CABIN
OPENED 1900
OPEN TIMES: -
FIRST SAT OF MONTH - 10-4



STATION MASTER'S HOUSE
Vacated 1970



GOLD BULL'S HEAD OVER SHOP on upstairs balcony



MAJOR DERAILMENT 1944 HERE

This Shed was moved 12' towards Shenton Road + 1905

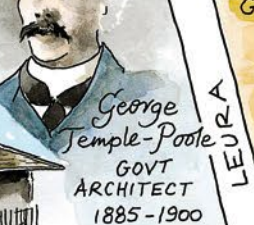
1890s
GO AND VISIT
Try the levers
See the instruments
and track diagram
Who was the 'Block Boy'
Learn about Semaphore
and signals, bells, plungers
BEST - MEET THE MEN
TO TELL YOU!

Original rail stop
'BUTLER'S SWAMP PLATFORM'
* about here *

Later moved to present site
REOPENED 1983 - MIDWAY PERTH - FREMANTLE



BUILT 1896
POST OFFICE



George Temple-Poole
GOVT ARCHITECT
1885-1900



CORDIN'S MEAT CO This was their delivery cart; they also had a 'cutting up' cart with fresh meat. An iceworks was a part of the business. They sold icecreams for 1d

Common sounds in days past
'RABBIT-O.'
'FISH-O.'
1930s
Depression
Jimmy came young with his knife-sharpening cart



HING-GREEN
The most of all... with black-wooded cart

WARE GROCER
picturesque his rig,
DIVER STREET is named after DY E Diver, uncle of Peter Gugerri. St. Quentin Ave was originally Diver St. (1925)



UNITED BUS DEPOT here.



(PRE-WAR) DAIMLER
The Company served Nedlands, Dalkeith and Claremont.

BY 1915 there were 40 shops in Bay View Terrace
JACOBSONS PHARMACY
OPENED IN 1925
CLOSED 2009

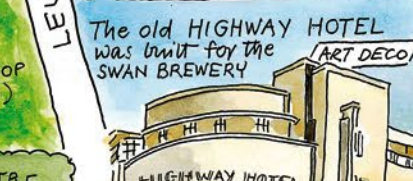


Once called Brian
Pennywise Jewellers

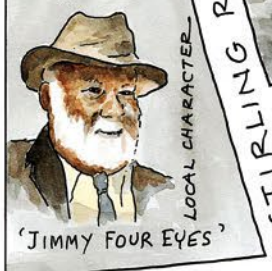


LIFE-SIZED FIGURE ABOVE SHOP (See him at the Museum)

TO PICNIC PARTIES
MR. T. WALKER begs respectfully to inform the Public generally that they can obtain from his Residence - Mineral Waters, Tea, Coffee, Bread, Butter, Milk, Hot Water, and all Pic Nic Requisites



The old HIGHWAY HOTEL was built for the SWAN BREWERY



'JIMMY FOUR EYES'



MRS HG FLOWER
FOUNDER OF MYOLA CLUB: 1921

'MYOLA' means a place of knowledge or 'meet and learn'. The Club began as a Literary Circle to coach women in the art of speech-making & chairing a meeting. Subscription was 2/6d. Club closed in Dec 2004



TERRACE HOUSES TO ± 1960s

In 1931 Col. MARGOLIN established the United Bus Company
TOM THE CHEAP Grocers HERE
Closed 1970s Site became Aherns, lastly David Jones



WING HAI LAUNDRY
1903-44
CHARLIE had a long pigtail
* Complaints received of soapy water running in the gutters



WALKERS STORE
ESTD 1885 PAINTER & SIGNWRITER - LATER ALL HARDWARE

The PRINCESS THEATRE was built in 1914 & could hold 650 people. Concerts & films were held until about 1963. It then became a clothing factory. It was down here

QUESTION
WHAT WERE THE HAMPTON CHEESES?
Answer:
ROADWAY
TOP VIEW & SIDE VIEW
Sand
Crushed limestone
JARRAH 'LONG ROUNDS'
This formed a hard road surface used for the Perth-Fremantle road
* JOHN HAMPTON: WA GOV. 1862-8

CHAS: BOOK BOOTMAKER
Handsewn a Speciality
From 10/6

DO YOU REMEMBER the PNEUMATIC TUBES at Hemwoods? They made a WHOOSH sound with the vacuum, followed by a CLATTER!
TUBES carried money and/or messages to the office



THE DRILL HALL HQ was positioned HERE - 1914



FAMOUS! BEST PIES
MRS MILLIE BOVELL sold her pies & pasties around our streets from a pram, in the Depression. The Shop closed in 1987



METHODIST CHURCH - 1923
CLAREMONT HALL FROM 1981
OLD CHURCH ORGAN NOW AT HALE SCHOOL



MEET 'GINGER'
He was a cart horse who HATED TRAMS! (Milner Grocers)



TRAFFIC LIGHTS
1956



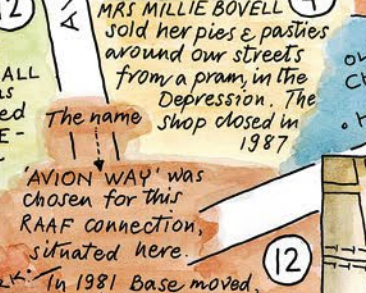
ESTD 1885

NEWS!
RATCATCHER (RESIDENT OF STIRLING RD) HAS BUBONIC PLAGUE! (later found probably due to eating 'bish tomatoes and icecream' - NOT the Plague!)

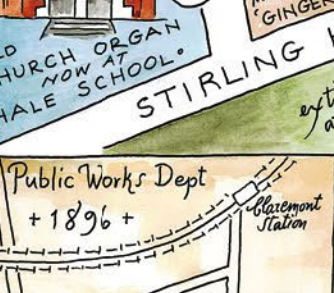


Camels were restricted to MIDNIGHT-5 A.M. travel ONLY (Horses were terrified of CAMELS)

'AVION WAY' was chosen for this RAAF connection, situated here.
In 1981 Base moved, land was sold, 'Vamp' scrapped



DE HAVILLAND 'VAMPIRE' A79-308
STIRLING HIGHWAY RAAF AIR TRAINING CORP



Public Works Dept + 1896 +
Claremont Station

SCHOOL CHILDREN given 6d for lunch CHOICE: 4d CHIPS 1d CARROT 7d MILKSHAKE
SHARING was the answer!



MATHESON'S TERRACE
RIVER HIDDEN
VIEW DOWN BAY VIEW TERRACE IS NO BAY VIEW AT ALL!



ACQUITTED
MARGARET LIVINGSTON LLOYD HUGHES
SHOWING CLAREMONT 1930



Trams ran between 1924 & 1935