

Walking Subiaco

The Triangle



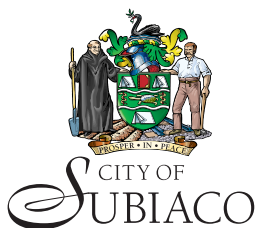
A self-guided walk of approximately 4 kms - allow 2 hours

The Triangle



St. Andrews Church Tennis Club, 1917





The Subiaco Story

The Nyungah people of the Swan River and Swan Coastal Plains inhabited the area now known as the City of Subiaco before and during the early days of white settlement. They are the traditional landowners, keepers of knowledge, custodians and carers of the land and waterways.

The first European residents were a group of Benedictine monks who came to the area in 1851 and established a settlement called New Subiaco north of the present boundary of the City of Subiaco. They named the settlement after the Italian town of Subiaco, founding place of the Benedictine order. By 1881 when the Perth to Fremantle railway opened there were still very few European settlers. In 1883 the first survey was carried out by George Rotton and a map of 'Suburban Allotments near the City of Perth' was produced. This map included the areas now comprising Subiaco, Shenton Park and Crawley.

Subiaco's population increased dramatically in the 1890s due to the combination of a depression in the eastern states and the gold rush in the Kalgoorlie area of Western Australia. Families clustered in makeshift dwellings around water sources near the railway line and the present site of the Subiaco Primary School. Sub-division of the original allotments occurred during the 1890s and early in the new century, encouraging many settlers to purchase land and build a home.

Rokeby Road, named after a hero of the Battle of Waterloo, Baron Rokeby of Armagh, rapidly became Subiaco's focal point, and remains so.

Park Street, to the east of Rokeby Road, lies at the heart of the triangular area of early sub-division between Thomas street and Rokeby Road. Park street has a number of iron-roofed timber cottages, c1900. The owner/builders of some of these cottages ordered their pre-cut timber from Whittakers of Hay Street in preparation for a weekend of house construction – hence the saying that 'Subiaco was built on a Sunday'.



Welcome to Walking Subiaco – The Triangle

The walk begins at the Council Chambers and Administration building, which is situated in the Rankin Gardens. The gardens were named after Alexander Rankin, Subiaco Town Clerk and Engineer from 1898 to 1911. Rankin was also an enthusiast for the planting of gardens and street trees.

Proceed northwards from the front of the Council Chambers to Bagot Road. Turn right, crossing at the lights and walk eastwards to Rupert Street, passing the Cloisters Apartments.

1 Cloisters Apartments - 2002



The history of this site, where the Subiaco Methodist Church once stood, is reflected in the architecture of the apartments. The last service was held in the Church in 1997. Two semi-detached cottages on the site were preserved during the redevelopment.

Beyond the closed end of Rupert Street stands a building of considerable social importance to the City of Subiaco.

Continue eastwards along Bagot Road, then turn into Salisbury Street and walk through to Hamersley Road. Observe on your right, across Hamersley Road, numbers 105 and 109 which have the decorative plaster work and chimney moulding favoured by Victorian architect Norman Hitchcock in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Number 107 is a small, very simple timber cottage of the same era. Continue to walk along Salisbury Street where the architectural style of the older homes is typical of the period - for example, the use of 'bull-nosed' verandahs with decorative wooden features. Salisbury Street is notable as a substantially intact streetscape of the early 20th century.

Cross Heytesbury Road, which is lined with mature *Agonis Flexuosa* or peppermint trees. Walk westwards to Rupert Street, which takes you through to the Nicholson Road Reserve.



2 Subiaco Community Centre - 1967



The Subiaco Senior Citizens Association built the Subiaco Community Centre after many years of voluntary fund-raising. It has become a centre for recreational and social activities. The City of Subiaco provided the site and later undertook the management of the centre. The City's 'Meals on Wheels' kitchen is based here, providing approximately 520 meals per week, of which about 400 are delivered to

people's homes by volunteers. The remaining meals are served at the dining room in this centre and at the Shenton Park and Tom Dadour Community Centres.

The contribution of volunteers has been an important factor in the development of community centres and the provision of many other services in the City of Subiaco.

Nicholson Road Reserve

The Subiaco Bowling Club's facility at the Nicholson Road Reserve was active until 1988 when Subiaco merged with the Hollywood Bowling Club. The club-house was redeveloped by the City to become The Palms Community Centre. The Subiaco Croquet Club's pavilion and greens, now used by the Petanque Club, were adjacent to the bowling greens. Croquet was played there until the club's closure in the early 1980s. The original Subiaco bowling and croquet greens were established in the Rankin Gardens in the first decade of the 20th century, later moving to the Nicholson Road Reserve.

The reserve also accommodates tennis courts, a play group, BMX and skateboard ramps and the Subiaco Police and Citizens Youth Club. The Scout Hall is found across Rokeby Road, a short distance north of the intersection with Nicholson Road.

Turning eastwards, walk along Nicholson Road towards Thomas Street. Avro Clinic occupies the corner position at the intersection of Salisbury Street and Nicholson Road.

4 Avro Clinic



The building was originally called Hamel House and was the home of hotelier Fred Jacoby. His son Wilson Jacoby flew an Avro Anson which was shot down during the Second World War. He survived and salvaged the plane's brass name plate which was later fixed to the front of his father's house, changing its name to Avro. The house later became a private hospital and is now a community health centre and outpatient psychiatric clinic.

Walk through to Finlayson Street via the laneway behind the Avro Clinic. Follow Finlayson Street northwards and cross Heytesbury Road. Continue to walk northwards along Chester Street. Many interesting variations of early Subiaco housing can be seen in this street. Most of the houses have multi-coloured leadlight glasswork in their front doors. Subiaco is reputed to have the finest domestic examples of early 20th century leadlight windows in Australia. They are a magnificent sight when back-lit at night, especially during the Leadlight Festival, a biennial event held in late October.

The plaque in the footpath at the entrance to 'Stratmore', 18 Chester Street, was placed there in Australia's bi-centennial year. The house is a well-preserved example of a large single storey family home in Subiaco.

5 Stratmore, 18 Chester Street – 1905



The Durack family, well known as explorers and pastoralists, owned 'Stratmore' for many years. The tennis court is now a rare sight in an urban residential environment.

Cross Hamersley Road at the end of Chester Street and enter Robinson Street. At number 18, the chimneys, decorative plaster work and wall niches indicate that the house was probably designed by Norman Hitchcock. This house also has its red brickwork marked

by fine white lines known as 'tuck pointing'. At the Bagot Road end of Robinson Street, the Mayflower Homes occupy the corner position on your left. This was formerly the site of the Subiaco Congregational Church.





Congregational Church, Bagot Road, c.1906

Mayflower Homes

6

The Rev. AC Hawke, father of former Australian Prime Minister the Hon. RJ Hawke, was the last minister of the Subiaco Congregational Church which stood on this site. It closed in 1975. The Mayflower Homes were built in 1976 by the Uniting Church, formed in that year by the uniting of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches of Australia. The complex is now named Mayflower Lodge.



Turn right and after proceeding just a short distance along Bagot Road, stop to note the elaborate decorative features of number 155. When you reach Proclamation Street you will see the unusual gothic revival architecture of the façade of 'Eynon House' built c1897. Return to Hamersley Road via Proclamation Street. At the Townshend Road intersection you will see the Brightwater Care Group's Onslow Gardens facility, formerly known as the Home of Peace.

7 The Home of Peace – 1901



The triangular location bordered by Hamersley Road, Townshend Road and Thomas Street was the site chosen in 1901 for the Home of Peace, a hospital for the chronically ill and frail aged. The hospital was extended during the twentieth century eventually occupying the entire area. In 1997 the name Brightwater was adopted and in 2001, the organisation's centenary year, an entirely new facility was opened, occupying part of the original site.

Modern two storey housing now occupies the remainder of the former Home of Peace site, contrasting with the century-long tradition of single storey homes in Subiaco. Continue along Hamersley Road to its junction with Thomas Street.

8 Kings Park

The bushland of Kings Park lies on the opposite side of Thomas Street, which is the eastern boundary of Subiaco. Originally called Perth Park, the name was changed to Kings Park in 1901 following the accession of King Edward VII to the British throne. An area of 412 hectares (or approximately 1,000 acres) of gardens and bushland, Kings Park is highly regarded for its aesthetic, recreational and scientific value.

Turn left when you reach Thomas Street. Walk a short distance northwards to 103 Thomas Street where you will find the three storey block of flats called 'Attunga'.

9 Attunga Flats – 1937

The building was erected at the height of the architectural style known as art deco. The design combines several characteristics which typify the style – rounded corners on a strictly symmetrical facade and an appearance of vertical thrust accentuated by a tall, narrow, centrally placed lead light window of clear glass. The 'stepped' façade and zig-zag patterning are also art deco features.

When you reach the busy intersection of Bagot Road and Thomas Street, cross Bagot Road at the traffic lights with care. Turn left after crossing, then right into Coghlan Road. Number 129, an unusual two storey house, retains much of its original design as shown on the architects plans drawn in 1908. The house was built for Mrs Ball, whose family owned the Ball and Logie motor garage on Rokeby Road in the 1950s.

Across the road, several multi-storey red brick buildings comprise the Wandana Apartments. This extensive complex is a notable part of the wide range of housing options available to the residents of Subiaco.

Opposite: Attunga Flats, Thomas Street, 2004





Wandana Apartments – 1956

10

Built in the Post War International Style, the Wandana Apartments were entered into the Heritage Council's Register of Heritage Places in 2000. This large public housing complex, consisting of 242 apartments, was designed by architect Harold Kranz.

Walk along Coghlan Road, passing the entrance to Park Street. The family home of world-renowned actress and male impersonator Effie Fellows was at 74 Coghlan Road, but the original house has been replaced by modern home units. Richard Fellows, father of Effie, was an artist and designer of union banners.

Turn into Barker Road then walk westwards, noting numbers 126 and 132, built in the 1940s 'Californian Bungalow' style. Each house has a garage included in the design, illustrating the fact that the family car had become an important consideration in domestic architecture. The street numbers suggest that in order to build houses of this size it was necessary to amalgamate two allotments.

Continue westwards turning left into Olive Street. From Olive Street, turn right into Park Street. Walk along Park Street in a westerly direction. Many of the oldest houses in Subiaco are to be found in this area. Some were built in the 1890s and others in the first decade of the twentieth century.



The Ida Cottages – c1897

11

The four single storey 'row houses' from 102 to 108 Park Street were built by James Gaul using hand made bricks. This structure is the only remaining example of a row of houses of this type and period in Subiaco. Across the street are numbers 101 and 105, built in 1907 by FE Sedgley, whose name is recorded on the western parapet wall of 105.

Several noted writers including Bruce Russell, Dorothy Hewitt and American James Legasse have lived in Park Street. The houses and cottages in Park Street create an atmosphere sometimes compared with Sydney's Paddington.

Originally running from Coghlan Road to Rokeby Road, Park Street is no longer a continuous thoroughfare. Open space with playground equipment occupies an area between Olive Street and Bedford Avenue, while to the west the street ends at a large car park. Midway along the northern side of Park Street, on your right, lies an area of grass with a playground and shade trees.



12 Richard Diggins Park – 1989

The park was named after Richard Diggins JP, Mayor of the City of Subiaco from 1978 to 1989, who actively supported the preservation of the City's historic buildings.



Some of the new houses in Park Street have been designed not to replicate, but to blend sympathetically in terms of materials, colour and design with the older homes.

When you reach Axon Street turn right and walk downhill to the Churchill Avenue intersection, crossing Barker Road en route. Set in a niche, high on the two storey building at the intersection of Axon Street and Churchill Avenue, you will see the statue of a dog called Top.

13 Top Dog Mews – 1995

The apartments, named Top Dog Mews, were built by developer and renovator Jim Halliday, a former shearer and owner of Top, a sheep dog. The statue commemorates the contribution of sheep dogs and the wool industry to Australia.





Retrace your steps, making a detour to your right along Barker Road to see St. Andrews Church, due to celebrate its Centenary in 2006.



St. Andrews Church Tennis Club, 1917

St. Andrews Anglican Church – 1906

14

The western wall features a large stained glass window. The rose window on the eastern wall was dedicated to the memory of Mrs Emily Dowding in 1964. The original pulpit and associated wall panel were handcrafted from jarrah and sheoak at Whittakers of Hay Street in 1905. They are now displayed at the Subiaco Museum. The wall panel features banksias, gumnuts, wheat and grape vines.

Return to Park Street by walking around the western end of St. Andrews Church and along the eastern end of the car park.

At the western end of Park Street several cottages, built c1905, were demolished in the 1970s to make way for the car park. The façade of one of these cottages, number 210, was donated by the Cape Demolition company to the Subiaco Historical Society. The facade was re-erected, complete with bull-nosed verandah and stained glass windows, inside the Subiaco Museum.

Beyond the car park, shops and cafes line Rokeby Road. As you approach Rokeby Road, you will see a large ceramic artwork in the form of a snake set into the pavement.

The Ceramic Snake – 1997

15

The artwork represents aspects of the local history of Subiaco, including Indigenous and European elements. Children from Subiaco, Jolimont and Rosalie Schools and Perth Modern School made the tiles with assistance from artists Jenny Dawson and Sandra Hill. Sandra researched the Indigenous history of Subiaco for the project. Details of the installation are written into the artwork at its eastern end.

As you reach Rokeby Road, turn left and walk towards Bagot Road. The Council Chambers lie ahead, across Bagot Road, beyond the Library and Museum.

Your walk through the area known as The Triangle concludes with your return to the Rankin Gardens. The City of Subiaco trusts that you have enjoyed seeing the range of architecture and streetscapes represented in this historic area.

References:

Nyungah Circle of Elders, Guildford, Western Australia

Beckingham, Diane, *ParkStreet, The Precinct*, unpublished document, 1998.

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Spillman, Ken, *Identity Prized: a History of Subiaco*, UWA Press, 1985.

Photographs:

Subiaco Museum Collection:

Congregational Church, Bagot Road, c.1906

St. Andrews Church Tennis Club, 1917

Attunga Flats, Thomas Street, 2004





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SUBIACO MUSEUM

239 Rokeby Road, Subiaco

For opening hours, visit www.subiaco.wa.gov.au

Groups welcome by appointment

For enquiries please call 9237 9227

Subiaco is easily reached by train or bus
from Perth and Fremantle.

Persons following the route suggested in this self-guided walk
do so at their own risk