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## SUBIACO MUSEUM

239 Rokeby Road SUBIACO WA 6008  
Open Tuesday - Sunday 2pm - 5pm  
Enquiries to the museum on 9237 9227



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

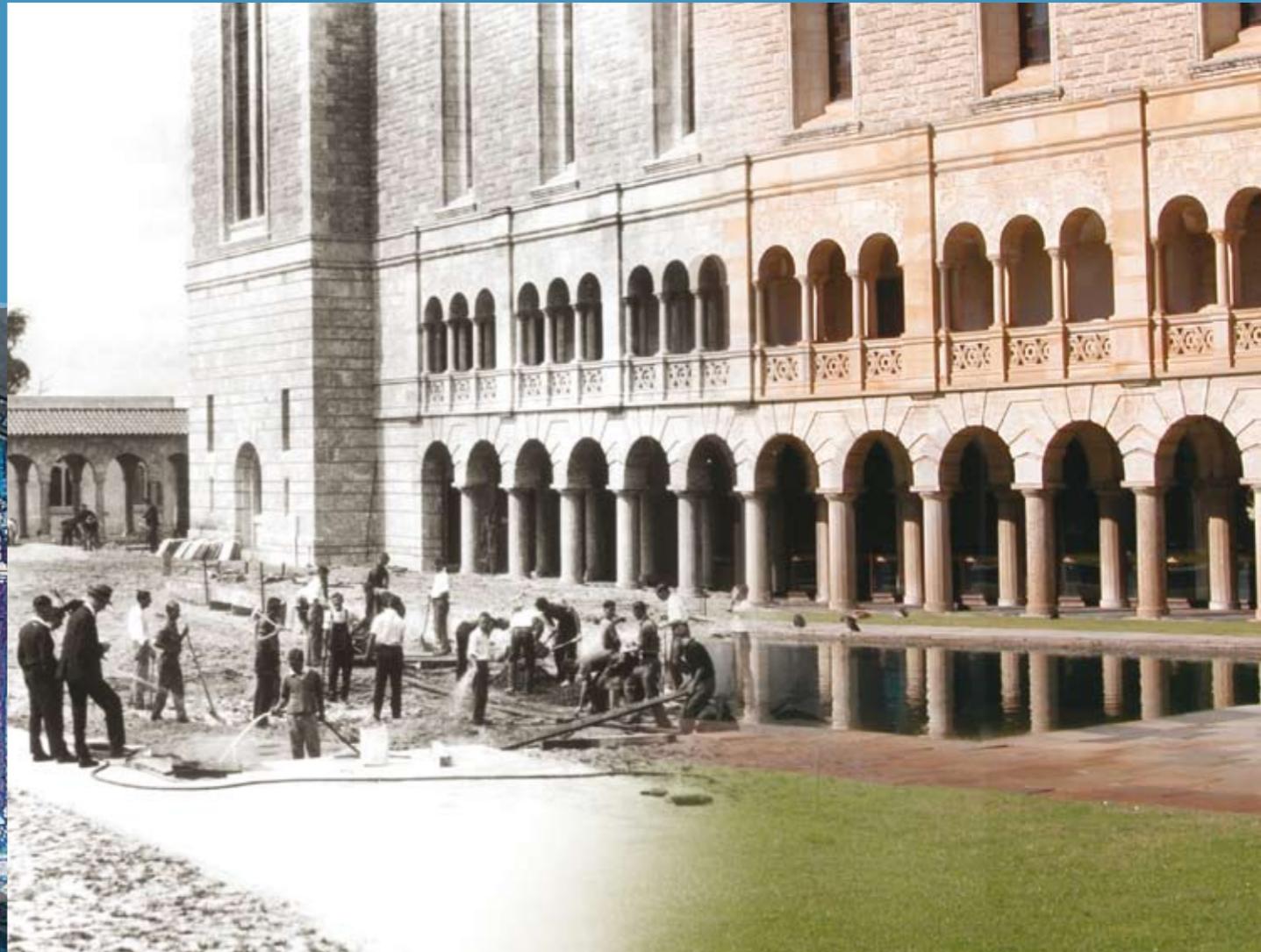
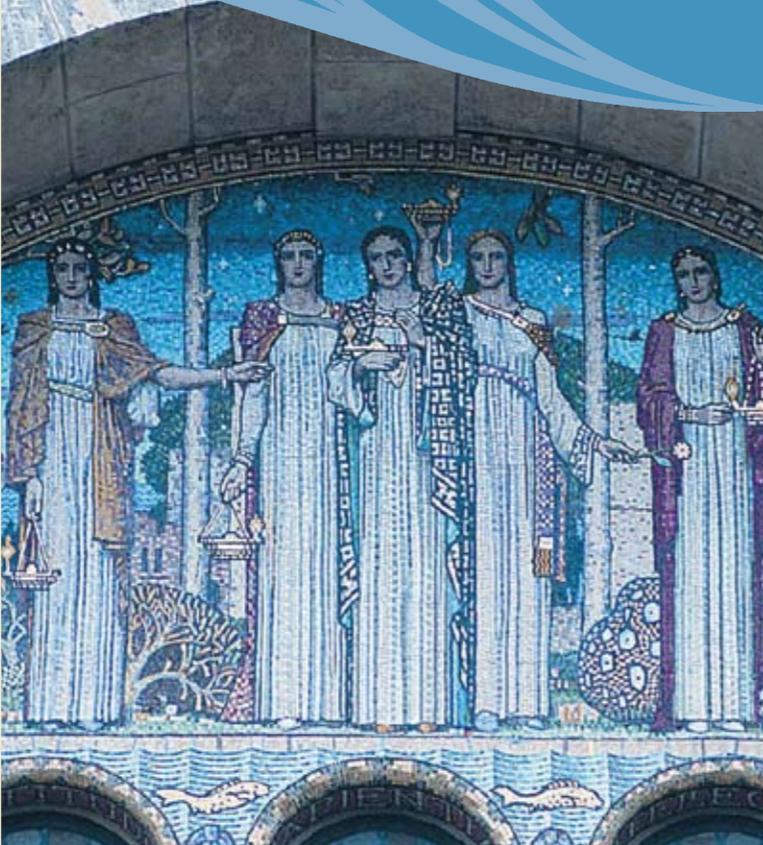
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# Walking Subiaco

Crawley and  
The University of  
Western Australia

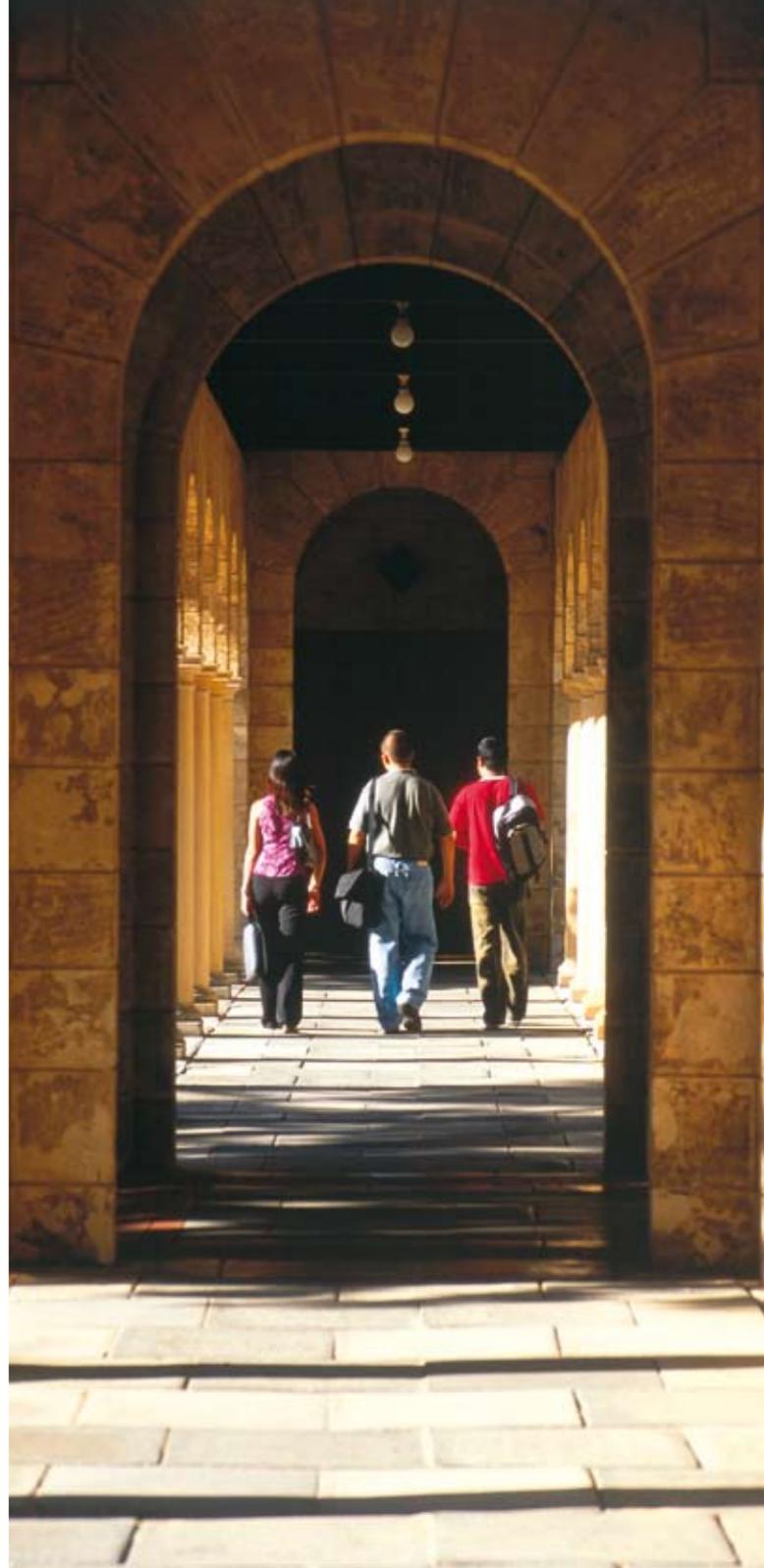


# Crawley & UWA



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

Approximately 4 kms - allow 2 hours





## Crawley and The University of Western Australia

Pelican Point and the Matilda Bay area were among the traditional homes and hunting grounds of the Nyungar, the Indigenous people of the area. Nyungar groups moved along a chain of wetlands which were created by the Rainbow Serpent through spiritual dreaming. The wetlands are of religious significance to the Nyungar people, the traditional landowners, keepers of knowledge, custodians and carers of the land and waterways.



Aborigines at Crawley, c.1865

Henry Charles Sutherland, one of the colony's first surveyors, acquired some of the land comprising the suburb of Crawley in 1837. Sutherland named his property Crawley Park after his mother Maria's maiden name. The land was later purchased by Sir George Shenton. On his death, the state government purchased the property and later granted a portion to The University of Western Australia (UWA).

The University of Western Australia, established by an Act of Parliament in 1911, was the first free university in the British Commonwealth of Nations. Lectures commenced in 1913 for 184 students in corrugated iron and weatherboard buildings



known as 'Tin Pot Alley' in Irwin Street, Perth. The university moved in stages to its present location on Matilda Bay, Crawley, its first building being Natural Sciences, Biology and Geology in Park Avenue (1925), followed on the foreshore by Mining and Engineering (1927). Historic Shenton House, built as a private dwelling circa 1846, is also on the site.

The university was the inspiration of the first chancellor, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, who was also the owner and editor of *The West Australian*. The Hackett bequest in 1926 provided the means for the creation of the Mediterranean-style Hackett Memorial buildings designed by Victorian architects Rodney Alsop and Conrad Sayce. The buildings are comprised of Winthrop Hall, Hackett Hall and the Administration building, and were constructed between 1929 and 1932 from Tamala limestone with dressings of Donnybrook sandstone. The gothic-style St George's College, also funded from the Hackett bequest, was completed in 1931. Subsequent buildings around the campus have, on the whole, maintained the limestone colour and terracotta theme. The main exceptions are several utilitarian Public Works Department constructions, including Chemistry (now demolished) and Physics and Civil Engineering, which were built during times of reduced funding.

Early planning was driven by an appreciation of the landscape. There are thousands of trees on the campus consisting of over two hundred species, 50 per cent native to Australia. The original layout of the campus followed the 1927 plan of Sydney architect Professor Leslie Wilkinson. Subsequent development of the campus was influenced by the principles laid down by architect Professor Gordon Stephenson in the 1960s and followed by the university architect Arthur Bunbury during his term. Perth architect Gus Ferguson has designed many of the university's buildings since 1985.

The beautiful grounds and a number of the buildings are heritage-listed and are a source of pleasure and inspiration to staff, students, interstate and overseas visitors, and members of the Western Australian community. In addition to academic programs, many other activities are conducted on campus, including theatrical and sporting events, concerts, conferences, the Perth International Arts Festival, continuing education courses, weddings and balls.

The walk is approximately 4 kilometres in length — allow two hours.

Cover photograph: Napier Waller, *The five lamps of learning*, 1931



## Welcome to Walking Subiaco

The Visitors' Centre in the Administration building at the north end of the campus is the best starting point. Walk south, along the paved road beside the colonnade of the Administration building, towards Winthrop Hall.



Administration building from Irwin Street, c.1920

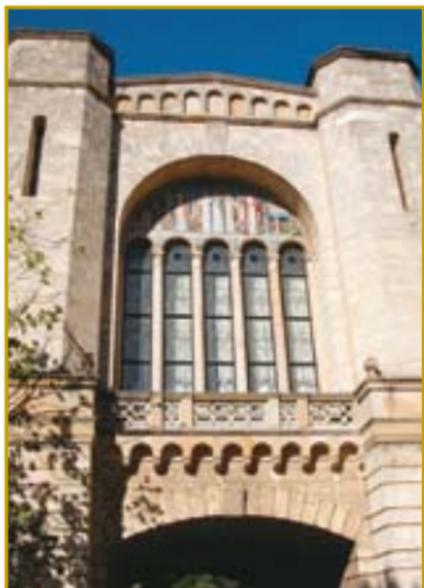
### Whitfeld Court

1

The offices of the vice-chancellor are on your right. Nine opus sectile medallions above the arched windows represent some of the subjects taught at the university. A further eleven on the rear of this building can be viewed later from Whelan Court.

Whitfeld Court on your left was named after the university's first vice-chancellor, Professor Hubert Whitfeld (1913), who was also inaugural professor of mining and engineering. The reflection pond, designed to create an impression of even greater height for the tower, was completed by students in 1932 in time for the opening ceremony in Winthrop Hall. There are inscriptions on the busts of Socrates (Paul Monford 1932) and his mentor Diotima (Victor Wager 1937) on the northern side of the hall overlooking the pond.

The undercroft of Winthrop Hall was originally intended as an open place of learning and discussion for students but was enclosed in 1960. There is a frieze of winged lions under the eaves of the roof and a balconette in the Italian style.



Above the entrance arch to Winthrop Hall are the *Five lamps of learning*, created from Venetian glass tile mosaics in 1931 by Napier Waller. The five women represent five gifts of the Holy Spirit: counsel, courage, wisdom, understanding and knowledge. Beneath the mosaic is the Senate Room where the governing body of the university meets.

## 2 Winthrop Hall

Winthrop Hall is the centre of university life. Graduation ceremonies, lectures, concerts, balls, exhibitions and theatrical events are often held here. The marbled mosaic floor in the foyer was constructed from marbles brought from Carrara, Verona, Rome, Belgium and England.

If the building is open, you may be able to climb the marble stairs to the hall, which is dominated by the McGillivray organ (installed in 1959) and the rose window inspired by the San Francesco Basilica in Assisi. Coats of arms of universities from around the world are mounted on the walls. The wooden beams on the ceiling were decorated with Aboriginal motifs by George Benson in 1931.

**Go through the archway and, turning right, walk along the path on the south side of the Administration building. At the corner of the building, turn right again and walk towards the grassed area of Whelan Court.**

## 3 Whelan Court and Sunken Garden

Immediately to your right and hidden behind the bushes by the west face of the Administration building you will find Robert Juniper's steel sculpture *Plant form* (1974). Note the eleven medallions above the windows. Follow the path along the west side of the Administration building through Whelan Court to the Sunken Garden. Whelan Court was named after a former vice-chancellor, Professor Robert Whelan. The Sunken Garden is a very popular site for wedding ceremonies, theatre productions and

photographers. In 1948, Sir Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh attended a performance of *Oedipus Rex* in the Sunken Garden—the first production in the venue.

The garden was originally a pit created to provide sand for construction of the Hackett buildings. Oliver Dowell, foreman gardener in the 1930s, saw its potential and proceeded to develop the garden as an amphitheatre. The sundial is a memorial to Edward Shann, the foundation professor of history and economics. His favourite Maori prayer is inscribed at the base of the semicircular stone seating.

## Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

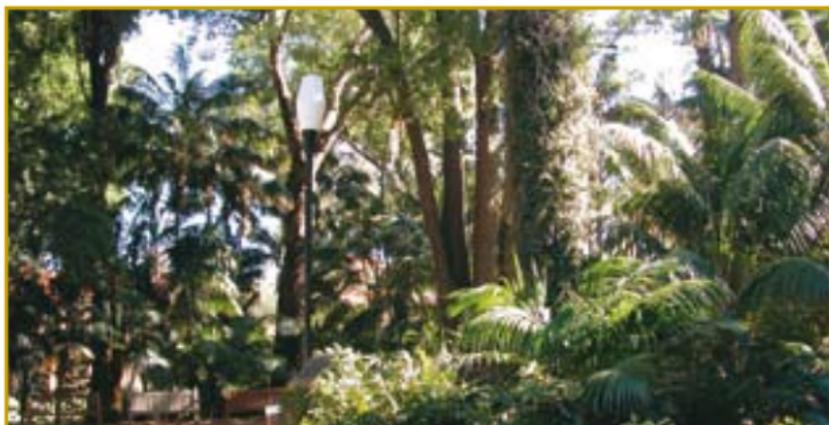
4

If you leave the Sunken Garden by the ramp at the western end you will come to the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery to the west. Lawrence Wilson was the principal benefactor of this gallery, which was completed in 1990. The university collection holds over 2,500 works, including paintings by Sidney Nolan, Arthur Boyd, Rupert Bunny, Fred Williams and Lloyd Rees. The sculpture *Homo fallible* by Hans Arkeveld (1990) stands at the entrance. Arkeveld has created a number of artworks for the university.



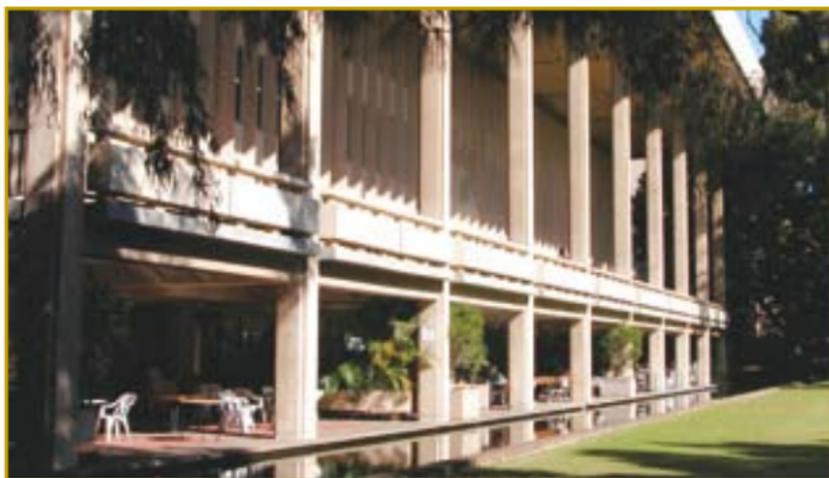
Walking back towards Winthrop Hall you will pass the E de C Clarke Geology Museum on your right. The museum is housed in the Geology-Geography building (the Physics and Chemistry building in 1935) which has some architectural similarities to the Hackett buildings. Outside the museum is a prehistoric garden from the Eocene and Jurassic periods, which includes one of the most extensive collections of cycads in Western Australia.

**Continue eastwards and turn south down Gillett Promenade. Two panels by George Benson (1935) in bas-relief are set in the wall on your right depicting scientists of great renown. Under the Geology tower you will find Archimedes, Galileo, Newton, Kelvin and Einstein. Further south and outside Geography, are the chemists Priestley, Dalton, Boyle, Faraday and Perkin.**



## 5 Tropical Grove

Down the slope to the east is the Tropical Grove in the centre of the Great Court. The grove was originally the site for the gardeners' shed, which was surrounded by plants to camouflage its existence. The plants were never removed though the shed has long since gone. Today, it is one of the most beautiful locations on the campus, with benches to recline upon, especially on hot summer days. It is often used for wedding ceremonies and university functions. At the entrance to the grove, former curator of grounds George Munns (1955-72) is honoured with a plaque for his outstanding contribution to the landscape.



## 6 Reid Library

South of the grove and overlooking the Great Court is the Reid Library, named after a former chancellor, Sir Alexander Reid. It is one of eight libraries on the campus. Designed by Gilbert Nicol and Gordon Stephenson, the building was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects' Bronze Medal in 1964. The library's elevated walkway affords a panoramic view of the Great Court. To the west of the library is the Mathematics complex and the functional high-rise Physics building.

Follow the steps down on the south side of the library to James Oval, home ground of the University Cricket Club and named after a former chancellor, Sir Walter James. In 1933 some of the original university buildings from Irwin Street, Perth were transplanted to the Crawley campus and in 1987 one of these buildings was placed on the west perimeter of the oval, restored and renamed the Cricket Pavilion. A replica of the original Senate Room was included in the reconstruction and many photographs of early graduates are on display. An extension to the building, modelled on another section of the original city building, was constructed behind the pavilion in 2000.



To the west of the oval is the Civil Engineering building built by the Public Works Department in 1961. More recent engineering buildings are located on the west side. The state-of-the-art multi-level Molecular and Chemical Sciences building designed by Gus Ferguson is south of the old chemistry lecture wing.

To the east of the oval are the Economics and Social Sciences buildings. The latter has an inner courtyard with the large mural, *Emergence*, by Leonard French (1976). There is a plaque on the left of the mural. Just east are sliding doors which lead to the Berndt Museum of Anthropology. Unique displays of Aboriginal cultural material from Western Australia, the Northern Territory and South Australia are housed here. Eventually, this museum may move to a new gallery next to Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

To see the heart of student life, turn right and head to the Guild Village which contains a number of shops and facilities on several levels. Student activities were centred around Hackett Hall at the northern end of campus until the 1970s, when they were transferred to the village. The nearby Oak Lawn is so named for its variety of oak trees and is the scene of many outdoor student concerts and fairs.

**Walking south from the Guild Village you will pass the Psychology and Anatomy buildings and then arrive at Prescott Court.**

8

## Prescott Court



The court was developed in 1982 and is named after a former vice-chancellor, Sir Stanley Prescott (1953-70). It was sown with many red-flowering species to attract birdlife. On the perimeter of the court near the Science Library, is the analemma – a sundial designed by Robert Collins in 1978. It can be read easily without having to apply a calculation to the reading, and varies only one minute every twenty-five years.

9

## Agriculture

The original Institute of Agriculture, with its many art deco features, was designed by Baxter, Cox and Leighton (1938) and received an art deco award in 2002. There is a Kohler bas-relief, *Spirit of progress* (the goddess Ceres, 1938), at the entrance to the old building facing Prescott Court. In 1993 a large complex with landscaped gardens designed by Steve Woodland was grafted onto the south side of the original buildings.

**Keep walking south with the Taxonomic Garden and the glasshouse complex on your left. When you are past Child Care Services, turn right into Parkway. Follow this road towards the river, past the pool at Sports Science on your left, to the intersection of Princess Road, Hackett Drive and The Avenue.**

**Using much caution, as this is a busy intersection, cross over to JH Abrahams Reserve on the foreshore.**

10

## Trams and the JH Abrahams Reserve

Crawley was once served by two tramways. One line followed the river from Perth and serviced Matilda Bay, Crawley Baths and the Nedlands Park Hotel (Steve's). It ran from 1915 and ceased operations in 1942. The other tram service, which ended in 1958, came from

Subiaco via Hampden Road and Broadway. This served as the boundary between Subiaco and the eastern end of Claremont, which later became Nedlands. The laying of this line in 1908 and the building of the Nedlands baths and jetty at the terminus was funded by Colonel Edward Bruce, who was developing a residential estate nearby. Subiaco and Claremont shared the cost of building a road to carry the new lines. Bruce also donated land which later formed part of the JH Abrahams Reserve, named in 1980 to honour the former long-serving mayor of Subiaco.

**Near the eastern end of the reserve is the site of the former residence of artist Elise Blumann.**



Elise Blumann, *On the Swan, Nedlands*, 1942

## Elise Blumann

11

The German Expressionist artist Elise Blumann (1897-1990) made her home (now demolished) at 1 Hackett Drive after escaping from pre-war Germany in 1938. She drew inspiration for *On the Swan, Nedlands* (1942) and other works from the nearby Swan River.

**From the reserve, walk past the children's playground towards the river and follow the path at left, heading for the boat ramp. Inserted into a large granite rock is the Qantas Catalina memorial plaque.**



One of the Bofors 40mm/36 guns of 8 battery, 2/3rd light anti-aircraft regiment, in a prepared position at Crawley Bay. Perth, 1942

## 12 Pelican Point and Catalinas

During World War II, ‘... communication between Australia and Britain had been severely restricted ... in June 1943 Qantas Empire Airways inaugurated a Catalina flying boat service between Australia’s western coast and Sri Lanka ... At the time this air route was considered one of the most dangerous in the world; it was flown unarmed and in complete radio silence, the flight path navigated by ‘dead reckoning’ alone. They travelled a distance of five thousand six hundred kilometres, twice as far as any previous regular air service, and the journey took between twenty-three and thirty-two hours’.\* The Qantas Catalinas operated from their moorings at this point on the Swan River.

\*Ken Spillman, *Identity Prized: a history of Subiaco*, University of Western Australia Press, 1985, pp. 268, 269.

Directly north-east across Pelican Point is the site of the former US Catalina Base. US and Royal Netherlands Navy personnel occupied many campus buildings between 1942 and 1947. Australia II Drive, on the river side of Hackett Drive, is named after the yacht that won the America’s Cup in 1983 at Newport Rhode Island, USA for the Royal Perth Yacht Club.

Walk along the river, past the car park to the Matilda Bay Reserve. A sign describes the Swan Estuary Marine Park. There is a bird sanctuary at the end of Australia II Drive and a Sea Scout base. This area was a traditional home and hunting ground of the Nyungar people. They were nomadic to the extent that they had a repertoire of precisely-timed movements within their region, reflecting their intimate knowledge of the environment, of winds, fauna, marine life, the ripening of fruit and nuts and the readiness of root foods.



Subiaco Beach, c.1910

## Matilda Bay Foreshore

13

Matilda Bay, known by Subiaco residents and others as Subiaco Beach, was a popular camping spot in the early to mid 1900s. Matilda was the wife of John Septimus Roe, the state's first surveyor-general. There were also tearooms and tennis courts on the foreshore in the 1920s. Today it is still a very popular site for picnics. Follow the path past the rotunda towards the Matilda Bay Tearooms. You may choose to have a short coffee break and enjoy the view over the river.





## Shenton House and the Guild Tavern

14

When you have rested a little on the foreshore, cross Hackett Drive carefully at Hackett Entrance 2 and you will see the heritage-listed Shenton House, the oldest building on campus. Built in the 1840s, it was owned by Henry Sutherland and later by Sir George and Lady Shenton. The house was purchased by the state government in 1910 and allocated to the university in 1914. It is now occupied by the School of Indigenous Studies and the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health.

South of Shenton House is the Clinical Training and Education Centre opened in 2000 by Queen Elizabeth II, where simulated surgery is carried out with links to surgeons around the world. Just north of Shenton House is the Guild Tavern, which was built in 1927 and was once the home of the Engineering Department. This building was used by the US Navy during World War II as a mess and sleeping quarters.

## Arts

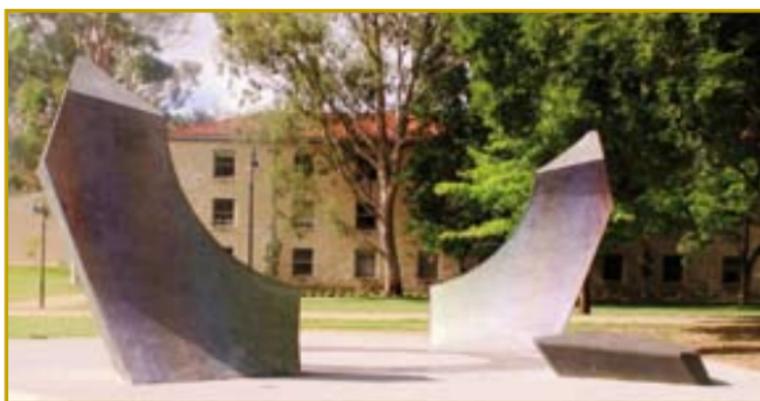
15

Walking north across the Oak Lawn you will see the Law School. In 1969 the building, designed by Gus Ferguson and Gordon Stephenson in off-form concrete, received the inaugural Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Bronze Medal.

Veer left to stroll through the walkway of the Social Sciences building. On the west side, you will see the Japanese Garden, which Sydney architect Peter Armstrong developed by adapting Japanese principles of garden design to local flora.

Across the car park to the north is the University Club designed by Geoff Warn and built on Riley Oval in 2004. Club membership is open to university employees, UWA alumni and the corporate community. It houses lecture theatres and seminar rooms which form part of a state-of-the-art conference centre.

Continuing northwards through the Arts building designed by Marshall Clifton (1964), with Riley Oval to the east, you will pass several lecture theatres named after early professors of the university, namely Walter Murdoch, Fred Alexander, Arthur Fox and Mervyn Austin. In the northernmost courtyard is the New Fortune Theatre which was designed for Shakespearean productions. The resplendent peacocks are permanent residents of the Arts building.



16

## Octagon and Dolphin Theatres

As you emerge from the Arts building, you will see Howard Taylor's immense sculpture entitled *Black stump* (1975) which was relocated from the AMP Tower in St Georges Terrace. Just beyond is the Octagon Theatre, the heart of theatrical life on the campus. It is also a lecture theatre during the day. Designed by architect Peter Parkinson and opened in 1968, the Octagon is a distinctive venue with a removable thrust stage promoting intimacy with the audience. Extensions to the Octagon complex are planned.

Walking northwards you will enter Jackson Court, named after a former chancellor of the university, Chief Justice Sir Lawrence Jackson (1968-81). Greg James' sculpture, *The dancer* (1988), is nestled amongst the foliage nearby. To your right is the Dolphin Theatre (1975), also designed by Peter Parkinson, which provides a workshop environment for student productions.





## Somerville Auditorium

17

Enjoy the shade from the peppermint trees as you walk around the Dolphin Theatre and past the sports centre to the Somerville Auditorium to the east. Conceived by Senate member Dr William Somerville in 1927, the auditorium was designed to resemble a cathedral of Norfolk Island pines. The first official performance was held here in 1945 and after World War II it became the principal venue for summer school performances. Today, the Somerville is used primarily for the summer film season as part of the Perth International Arts Festival.

## Music

18

Adjoining the Somerville is the School of Music, designed by Tony Brand (1976), where concerts are held throughout the year. When the film season is not in progress you can walk through the back of the outdoor auditorium past the glass-walled Eileen Joyce Studio, with its collection of antique keyboard instruments, on your left. Australian pianist Eileen Joyce donated the studio in memory of her parents. Note Joan Campbell's rock sculpture, *Integrata* (1981) amongst the ferns. Through the gates is a bust of pianist and composer Percy Grainger (1980).



Men's Common Room, Hackett Hall, late 1930s

## Sports centre and Hackett Hall

19

It is now almost time to head for home. To the west of the music complex is the sports centre. It includes a gymnasium, fitness centre, squash courts and a coffee shop.

Hackett Hall, west of the sports centre, was once the home of the UWA Student Guild and the centre of student life. Today, administrative departments occupy the hall. Just north of Hackett Hall is Administration East, fondly remembered by graduates and members

of the public as the former University Bookshop which is now located in the Guild Village.

You are now back at Whitfeld Court, across from the Visitors' Centre. At this point the Crawley walk concludes. The City of Subiaco and The University of Western Australia trust that in *Walking Subiaco* you have enjoyed the past and present of this unique locality in Western Australia.

### Origins of street names used in this guide

Australia II Drive: after *Australia II*, the yacht that won the America's Cup for the Royal Perth Yacht Club in 1983.

Hackett Drive: after Sir John Winthrop Hackett, a major benefactor of the university and its first chancellor.

Princess Road: after the Princess of Wales (1901-1910), who was later queen consort to King George V of Great Britain (1910-1936).

The Avenue: so named as 'a fine thoroughfare near the foreshore'.

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### Image acknowledgements

Detail from *The five lamps of learning* (1931), Napier Waller, Venetian glass, The University of Western Australia Art Collection. *Reproduced with permission of the Trustees of the Waller Estate*.

The University of Western Australia Archives image 1969P *Students digging the pond in front of Winthrop Hall* - March 1932. Courtesy West Australian Newspapers Ltd.

Aborigines at Crawley, c.1865, courtesy Royal Western Australian Historical Society. Administration Building, Irwin Street, c.1920, Illustrations Limited 41P, reproduced by permission of The University of Western Australia Archives.

Hans Arkeveld, *Homo fallible*, 1990, lost wax cast bronze on Donnybrook stone base, 300 x 120 x 80 cm, The University of Western Australia Art Collection, gift of the Friends of The University of Western Australia Art Gallery 1990

Elise Blumann, *On the Swan, Nedlands*, 1942, oil on composition board, 56.6x66.4 cm (h,w), The University of Western Australia Art Collection. Acquired with the assistance of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council and the Dr Albert Guild Fund, 1976, © The University of Western Australia. Photo: Victor France

Greg James, *The dancer*, 1988, bronze. Acquired with the assistance of Jackson McDonald Solicitors.

Members of 2/3rd Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, c.1942, courtesy Australian War Memorial P 01260.019.

Men's Common Room, Guild of Undergraduates, c.1930, West Australian Newspapers Ltd 4348P, courtesy The University of Western Australia Archives.

Shenton House, c.1930, West Australian Newspapers Ltd 1965P, courtesy The University of Western Australia Archives.

Somerville Auditorium Film Season, courtesy Perth International Arts Festival.

Subiaco Beach, c.1910, photograph courtesy Battye Library Pictorial Collection.

Howard Taylor, *The black stump*, 1975, polished concrete and mosaic, 457x500x500 cm (h,w,d), The University of Western Australia Art Collection, Gift of the AMP Society, 1990