

Walking Subiaco

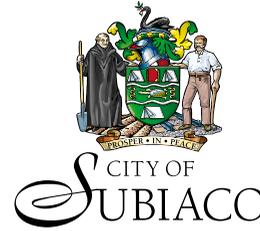
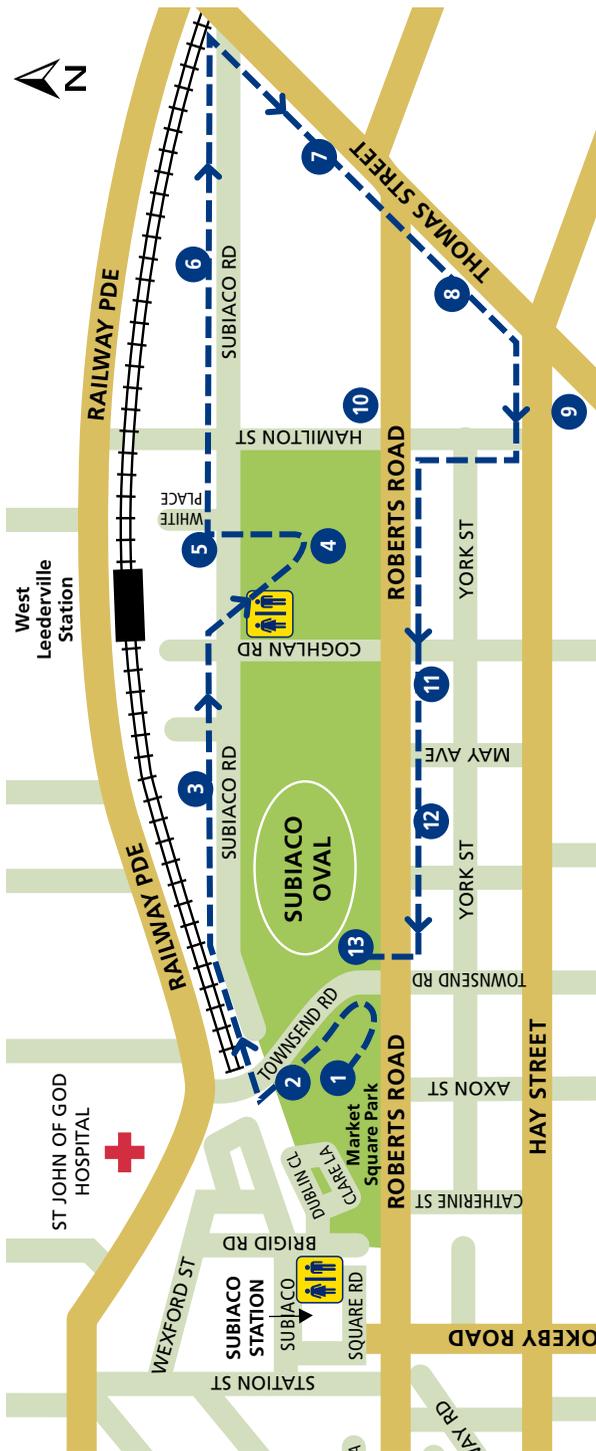
The Commonage



A self-guided walk of approximately 2.5 kms - allow 1¼ hours
Please respect the privacy of residents whose homes you pass on this walk.

The Commonage





The Commonage

Perth Modern School
and Princess Margaret Hospital

The history of this area begins with the tradition of Indigenous spiritual dreaming. The Nyungah people of the Swan River and the Swan coastal plains are the traditional owners, keepers of knowledge, custodians and carers of the land and waterways. The natural bushland provided a source of food for Indigenous groups who lived in and around this area.

The first European settlers in this vicinity were a group of Benedictine monks led by Dom Joseph Serra and Dom Rosendo Salvado. Serra built a monastery named New Subiaco a short distance beyond the northern boundary of the present City of Subiaco while Salvado established the inland monastery of New Norcia. The Italian town of Subiaco was the founding place of the Benedictine order.

The earliest maps of Subiaco during European settlement show a strip of crown land called the Commonage, lying from Thomas Street to the east, westwards along the railway to the present Subiaco station. The maps show the elevated eastern end as reserved for a public school and children's hospital.

The Commonage was initially used as a camping ground for newcomers to Subiaco, many of whom were attracted by the gold rush and moved west, away from the 1890s recession in Victoria.

The settlers purchased water from a well put down by the Jones family who built Subiaco's first permanent house on Roberts Road in 1886.



Welcome to Walking Subiaco – The Commonage

The walk begins at the rotunda in Market Square Park, between Roberts Road and the railway line, an area set aside in 1922 as a market place.

1 Market Square Park

Following the underground placement of the railway in 1998, the park was redeveloped. With its skateboard bowl, children's playground and concert venue at the rotunda, the park is a popular recreation area.

Follow the path that leads you from the rotunda to the brick archway on the corner of Haydn Bunton Drive and Roberts Road, near the entrance to the Subiaco Oval.

2 Haydn Bunton Drive

The drive was named after two outstanding footballers, Haydn Bunton Senior and Junior, who coached and played for the Subiaco Football Club during the mid 20th century. Tiles commemorating the winners of the West Australian Football League's Sandover Medal are laid in the pavement beside Haydn Bunton Drive.



Subiaco Oval, Grand Final 1949

Turn left and walk uphill. When you have passed the skateboard bowl, leave the footpath beside Haydn Bunton Drive, walk down the grassy slope on your left and through the underpass on the cycle way, close to the railway line. You will emerge near the Subiaco Oval car park. Here you leave the cycle way and take the footpath that circles around the northern side of the Oval, where you will enter the western end of Subiaco Road.



Caretaker's House at the Oval, 1932

Kitchener Park

3

The broad expanse of open space on the eastern side of the Subiaco Oval was named Kitchener Park after British soldier Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. At the end of the 19th century newcomers to Subiaco chose to camp in this area due to its proximity to the railway line and the Jones' well. In the early days of the Municipality the residence of the Subiaco Oval caretaker was located at Kitchener Park with other buildings and sporting facilities, now removed. They included the Kitchener Park Tennis, Bowling and Croquet Clubs.

Continue to walk along Subiaco Road until you reach Coghlan Road. This is the boundary between Kitchener and Mueller Parks. Mueller Park is valued for the number of mature trees that shade its paths and lawns. Notable among the trees is an unusually large paperbark and an aged eucalypt from which bark has been cut by the Indigenous people of the area to make a shield. You will see the tree protected by a ring of posts near Coghlan Road.

Walk to the centre of Mueller Park, where the diagonal paths cross. A plaque commemorates the achievements of Ferdinand von Mueller, after whom the park is named. The street on the southern side of the park was originally called Mueller Road, but the name was changed to Roberts Road in 1916 due to war-time patriotic fervour. In 1981 Mueller's name was restored to the eastern end of Kitchener Park.

Mueller Park

4

Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller was a pharmacist, botanist and explorer who migrated to South Australia from Rostock, Germany, in 1847. He explored vast areas of the continent, contributing greatly to the botanical knowledge of Australia. This work included a survey of the forests of Western Australia. Von Mueller was created Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George by Queen Victoria and appointed Baron by the King of Wurttemberg. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society and in his time was probably the most famous scientist in the Southern Hemisphere. He died in 1896 in Victoria.



Return to Subiaco Road by walking due north across the grass to the intersection of White Place and Subiaco Road, halfway along the northern boundary of Mueller Park.

118 Subiaco Road – c.1910

5

White Place, originally an extension of Kimberley Street Leederville, is named after Mr. Shirley White, Mayor of Subiaco 1908 – 1910. The architecture of the White family home, 118 Subiaco Road, with its bay windows and return verandahs, is typical of medium-sized single storey Subiaco homes built in the early twentieth century. Shirley White was noted for his active support for the inclusion of the riverside area of Crawley, where the University of Western Australia now stands, in the City of Subiaco.



Continue to walk eastwards along Subiaco Road pausing at Hamilton Street to note the Graduate College of Dance.

As you proceed further along Subiaco Road you will see on your right the grounds of Perth Modern School. Teaching commenced in the school's original red brick building in 1911, although 1909 is the date that appears over the front entrance, and 1910 in the stained glass fanlight windows, suggesting that the building took longer to complete than anticipated. The school's fine architecture may be viewed from Subiaco Road, across the playing field.

Perth Modern School – 1911

6



Etching of Perth Modern School

Until the opening of this state run High School, secondary education in Perth was largely provided by church run schools. Most of the students were admitted on a scholarship

basis, and the school was 'modern' in several respects including the teaching of science, the equal opportunity offered to girls and boys in most areas of study, and in dispensing with corporal punishment. Perth Modern School broadened the socio-economic range of students qualified to enter the University of Western Australia which opened to students in 1913.

State Government architects George Temple Poole and Hillson Beasley designed the original Perth Modern School building in the style of Federation Arts and Crafts. Its many distinguishing features include Art Nouveau stained glass windows and fanlights.

On reaching Thomas Street, at the end of Subiaco Road, turn right and take the uphill walk towards Roberts Road. Before you reach the Roberts Road traffic lights, you will come to the former site of Thomas Street Primary School, now part of the campus of Perth Modern School. Memorial gates were built by the school community following the First World War.

7 Thomas Street Primary School – 1904-1979



Thomas Street Primary School, Subiaco's second state school, opened in 1904 with 188 children. The first headmaster was Mr. John Tucker. The number of school age children in the area was unexpectedly high, reaching 464 by the end of 1906. When the school closed in 1979 the numbers of students had dwindled, as residential land in this area was adapted to business and professional use.

Cross Roberts Road at the lights and continue along Thomas Street. On your right you will pass some of the original buildings of the Children's Hospital, re-named Princess Margaret Hospital in 1948.

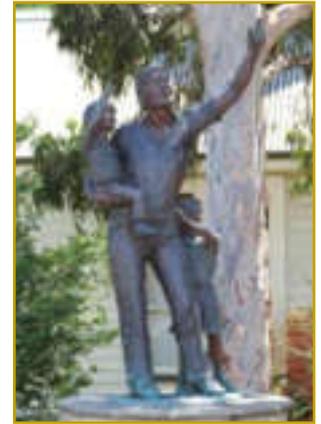
8 The Children's Hospital – 1909

The hospital opened in 1909 after twelve years of fund raising. Charles Moore, the proposed hospital's greatest enthusiast, engaged significant community support – a feature that survives today in the supporting activities of the PMH Foundation. When the Faculty of Medicine was opened at the University of Western Australia in 1957 Princess Margaret Hospital became a teaching hospital. Since 1994 Princess Margaret Hospital has combined with King Edward Hospital for Women in the field of Women's and Children's Health Services. The hospital undertook a major rebuilding project in the 1980s.





Within the hospital grounds as you approach Hay Street is a bronze statue of a male figure with two children. The statue, titled 'Hope,' was sculpted by Owen Davies in 1999. Close to the sculpture stands a single storey timber building on the corner of Thomas and Hay Streets. This was one of the original hospital buildings. It is now used as a chapel and multi-faith centre.



At the intersection of Hay and Thomas Streets turn right and proceed westwards down Hay Street for a short distance.

Hay Street Terraces – c.1900

9

Across Hay Street note the line of two storey terrace houses c. 1900. Most have retained their original cast iron lace. The decorative aspects of this row of terraces suggest the work of Victorian architect Norman Hitchcock who practised in Perth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Liquidamber trees that line Hay Street produce a brilliant variety of autumn colours in season. Turn right into Hamilton Street then walk through to Roberts Road. At the intersection of Hamilton Street and Roberts Road, stands the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.



Telethon Institute for Child Health Research – 1990

10

Founded in 1990, the institute is internationally recognised for its multi-disciplinary research programs. Professor Fiona Stanley was appointed foundation Director of the organization which has established resources such as the Maternal and Child Health Research Data Base. The Institute's new building was completed in 2000.

9

Turn left into Roberts Road and walk westwards to the intersection with Coghlan Road, where the building that was originally the Subiaco Freemasons Hall stands on the corner. The building combines several architectural styles.

11 Subiaco Freemasons Hall – 1929



The architecture of this essentially neo-classical building includes elements of 1930s art deco, in the rounded edges and stepped formation of the façade, while the entrance arch suggests a Romanesque influence. The architect was P.W.Harrison and the builders, W.H.Ennis and son. The Freemasons ceased using the Hall in the 1980s.

Continue a little further down Roberts Road, noting the houses on your left, some of which are a century old. The open space of Kitchener Park lies to the right.

12 187 Roberts Road – 1905

Built as a private residence in 1905, the house was used by the Royal Flying Doctor Service as its Perth headquarters from 1972 to 1982. The building, which has remained in use as business premises, has been extended and renovated in sympathy with its original materials and style. The beautiful leadlight windows of multi-faceted clear glass were possibly installed in the 1920s when clear glass leadlight windows were favoured over the multi-coloured stained glass of Victorian and Edwardian times.



On your right, Kitchener Park gives way to Subiaco Oval, the headquarters and major venue for Australian Rules Football in Western Australia



Subiaco Oval c1912

Subiaco Oval 13

Football was played on this site as early as 1896 by the Subiaco First Rate Juniors, prior to Subiaco entering the Western Australian Football Association. The ground, known in the early days as 'the sand patch,' was abandoned for several years in favour of a playing field near Lake Jualbup, then called Shenton Park Lake. In 1908 football returned to Subiaco Oval, now fenced, levelled and grassed. A small grandstand was erected on the northern side and nearby, early in the new century, a large white screen was built for the showing of open-air movies. In 1997, a century after the first football games at Subiaco Oval, lighting was installed and night matches commenced.

Cross Roberts Road at the intersection with Townshend Road and return to your starting point, the rotunda in Market Square Park. A continuous strip of green along Roberts Road and Centro Avenue connects this park with Subiaco Common at the western end of Subi-Centro.

We hope your walk through the area once known as the Commonage has been enjoyable and that you will take other self-guided walks through Subiaco. Coffee shops and cafes are nearby at Subiaco Square and on Rokeby Road.

References

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Photographs

Subiaco Museum Collection:

Subiaco Oval, Grand Final, 1949

Caretaker's House at the Oval, 1932

Etching of Perth Modern School

'Greetings from Subiaco' post card





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SUBIACO MUSEUM

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Open Tuesday - Sunday 2pm - 5pm

Enquiries to the Curator on 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