

7.4 CHRONOLOGY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROBERTSON PARK

The following section offers a chronological account of the various events that have had a major impact on the form and use of the area that is now Robertson Park. A thematic interpretation of this history is provided in chapter 2.

- 40,000BC to 1829 The Boorlo area (now Perth) is inhabited by the Wajuk Nyungars who fish, forage and hunt in the Swan coastal area in a routine that follows the seasonal changes in the environment.⁴² The area of the future Robertson Park is part of a chain of freshwater lakes stretching from what is now East Perth up through Perth, West Perth, North Perth and finally Joondanna.⁴³
- 1829 A settlement is founded at Boorlo by a group of English migrants from the recently arrived ship the "Parmelia". The settlement is called Perth.⁴⁴
- 1833 The boundary of the Perth townsite is defined to align approximately with what is now the Town of Vincent and the City of Perth, thus locating the future Robertson Park area within the centre of the new town.⁴⁵
- 1838 A map, published by the colonial administrators of the townsite of Perth in Western Australia, shows the street system over the original lake system, including the location of Lake and Brisbane Streets in relation to Lake Henderson.⁴⁶
- 1838 Local Government for the town of Perth is established to administer roads and other works, including most public reserves.⁴⁷
- 1860 Alfred H. Stone takes a series of photographs of Lake Henderson.⁴⁸ One photo shows the lake and sandy shore, while the second shows a stereograph image of several indigenous men in the same scene. The photographs give a clear idea of the original form and flora of the area of Robertson Park prior to any significant Western development of the area.
- 1860s The area of Lake Henderson is subdivided into lots of 1.2 acres (0.5 hectares) with a drainage reserve established down the rear sides of all the lots. Randell Street and Fitzgerald Street are defined adjacent to the lake as part of the subdivision.
- 1872 To facilitate the draining of Lake Henderson, the City of Perth purchases Lots N 45 N50 and Y248 that were later to become Stuart Street, the Stuart Street Reserve, the Electrical Sub Station and the Maltings Office, and Lot Y232 which was to become part of the tennis courts. These lots are amalgamated into Reserve No. 21.

⁴² Claremont Museum, *Dan-Joo Together*, Claremont Museum, 1996

⁴³ Seddon, G., *A Sense of Place. A Response to the Environment, The Swan Coastal Plain*, UWAP, Perth, 1972.

⁴⁴ City of Perth, *Souvenir of the City of Perth 1829 to 1929*, City of Perth, Perth, 1929, p66.

⁴⁵ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth, A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*. City of Perth, Perth, 1979.

⁴⁶ City of Perth, *Souvenir of the City of Perth 1829 to 1929*, City of Perth, Perth, 1929, p21.

⁴⁷ City of Perth, *Souvenir of the City of Perth 1829 to 1929*, City of Perth, Perth, 1929, p25.

⁴⁸ Batty Library Photographic Collection, *Photographs 21483P and 21448P*
Batty Library WA, Perth.

- 1873 The Government sets aside land at Third Swamp to create what is now Hyde Park
- 1874 Lakes in the vicinity of Hyde Park (including Lake Henderson) are drained on the grounds of health and revenue. The new land is subdivided after draining and taken up by various people, many to develop farmlets and market gardens to supply the town.⁴⁹
- 1874 Perth City Council votes to request the Commissioner of Crown Lands to allocate the required land to continue the drainage line from Lake Henderson to Three Island Lake (now Beatty Park) "to secure the best flow of water possible, being conducted into the city, for sanitary as well as domestic purposes".⁵⁰
- 1876 A new ward in the Perth City Council is created called North Ward for the area north of Roe Street, in an area known as "Perth Newtown" where many ex-convicts lived.⁵¹
- 1877 The first known map showing the subdivision of the Lake Henderson area is published. It shows the lake area surrounded by Fitzgerald, Randell, Newcastle and Palmerston Streets and divided into two rows of 13 equal sized lots of 0.5 hectares. A drainage reserve is located down the central spine. Two of the lots and two further lots on the east of Palmerston St. are designated as part of a single crown reserve. This reserve corresponds with the path of the newly created Claisebrook Drain.⁵² Map 87C
- 1880 The Perth to Fremantle railway opens in Perth. It ran through the northern quarter of town partly because that was where the poorer people lived.⁵³
- 1900 to 1908 Privately operated electric tram services are extended to North Perth via William, Bulwer, and Fitzgerald Streets.⁵⁴
- 1900 to 1930 The City of Perth sets aside an annual sum of money to purchase additional land to facilitate "adequate recreation space for the citizens of the future". This period saw the area of open space in "the original city " of Perth increase by 38.2%.⁵⁵
- 1901 A City of Perth map is published showing the subdivision of Lots Y227 and Y228 in smaller lots and a new street called Carrick St.⁵⁶ The street appears to be named after an owner of the land in the 1890s called W. Carrick.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ Pitt Morrison, M. *Settlement and Development in Western Towns and Buildings*. (Pitt Morrison, M. and White, J. editors) University of Western Australia press, 1979

⁵⁰ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth, A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth, 1979, p170.

⁵¹ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth, A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth, 1979.

⁵² Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth, A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth, 1979.

⁵³ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth, A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth, 1979, p172

⁵⁴ Boylen, L. & McIlwraith, J., *Power for the People - A history of gas and electricity in Western Australia*, p29, State Electricity Commission of WA, Perth, 1994.

⁵⁵ City of Perth, *Souvenir of the City of Perth 1829 to 1929*, City of Perth, Perth, 1929.

⁵⁶ City of Perth, Tax Map, Perth, 1901

⁵⁷ Wise, *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory 1893-1896*, Perth.

- 1901 Nov. W.E. Bold becomes Town Clerk of the City of Perth. He advocates modern ideas of municipal administration discussed in books such as Adna Weber's "The Growth of Cities"(1899) and the London "Municipal Journal" which advocated town planning, garden cities and strong municipal services.⁵⁸
- 1902 Malting commences in Palmerston St. on Lots Y249 and Y250 under the name "Perth Pneumatic Malting Coy " with D.W. Harwood as Managing Director.⁵⁹
- 1903 The first full malthouse (Malthouse No 2) is established on the Maltings site.⁶⁰
- 1903 A building licence is issued for Daniel Kenny on Lot Y 229 in 1903. Data shown on the maps of 1896 and 1907 indicate that this licence is for the house at No. 176.⁶¹
- 1907 The former home of Edward Keane on Palmerston Street is opened as a school called Ormiston College. A Miss Wilson and her two sisters open the school.⁶² The Building is rented from the estate of E.G Lacey.⁶³ Rent was two pounds per week.⁶⁴
- 1908 The State Government completes a large storm-water drain from Lord Street in East Perth to Smith's Lake in North Perth⁶⁵. This appears to be the point at which the open drain through the Lake Henderson area is enclosed for the Stuart Street section.⁶⁶
- 1909 to 1917 Carrick Street is built between Fitzgerald and Palmerston St.⁶⁷
- 1909 The Maltings is listed as "Harwood's Malthouse" in P.O. directory⁶⁸
- 1910 The Maltings becomes "Harwood Brewery Company Limited" at 59 Palmerston Street. Albert Muddock is listed as Company Director.⁶⁹
- 1912 Feb. The City of Perth purchases the Perth Gas Company from private operators and assumes control of gas and electricity supplies to the City of Perth area.⁷⁰
- 1912 Lu Joy and Ah Fan are reported to be operating Chinese gardens in the drained Lake Henderson basin.

⁵⁸ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth , A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth , 1979,p294

⁵⁹ Hocking Planning and Architecture, *Conservation Plan Union (Joe White) maltings, Stuart Street Perth*, Hocking P& A, Perth , 1996

⁶⁰ Hocking Planning and Architecture, *Conservation Plan Union (Joe White) maltings, Stuart Street Perth*, Hocking P& A, Perth , 1996

⁶¹ Town of Vincent record of Perth City Council Building Licences.

⁶² Whiteford, N., *Presbyterian Ladies College, The Story of a School*, PLC, Perth, 1975

⁶³ City of Perth, *Perth City Council Rate Books*, City of Perth, 1884 to 1946.

⁶⁴ Whiteford, N., *Presbyterian Ladies College, The Story of a School*, PLC, Perth, 1975

⁶⁵ City of Perth, *Souvenir of the City of Perth 1829 to 1929*, p45, City of Perth, Perth, 1929.

⁶⁶ Perth District Metropolitan Sewerage (PDMS) maps,

⁶⁷ Wise, *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory 1893-1896*, Perth.

⁶⁸ Hocking Planning and Architecture, *Conservation Plan Union (Joe White) maltings, Stuart Street Perth*, Hocking P& A, Perth , 1996

⁶⁹ Hocking Planning and Architecture, *Conservation Plan Union (Joe White) maltings, Stuart Street Perth*, Hocking P& A, Perth , 1996

⁷⁰ Boylen, L. & McIlwraith, J., *Power for the People - A History of gas and electricity in Western Australia*, State Electricity Commission of WA, Perth, 1994. p32.

- 1913 The Town Clerk of Perth W. E. Bold, recommends to Council that it purchase various Chinese Gardens within the city, for parks and gardens.⁷¹ Bold also initiates the construction of Perth's first children's playground on the Stuart St. Reserve.⁷²
- 1914 As part of a major upgrade of the city's electrical system, the City of Perth build the "Perth City Council Sub Station No 4" on reserve 21 on the corner of Carrick St. (now Stuart St.) and Palmerston St.⁷³
- 1914 Following a visit of Charles Read to Perth (sent to Australia by the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association of Great Britain), Bold is sent on a fact-finding trip to the USA. He returns with a blueprint for the city along "City Beautiful" principles which include the major expansion of open space in Perth.⁷⁴
- 1914 The City of Perth buys a further ten-and-a-half acres of the Robertson Park area as part of a large-scale purchase of land by the city that also included land for nearby Birdwood Square and Hamilton Square for recreational purposes.⁷⁵
- 1915 Aug. The Presbyterian Church buys Ormiston College on Palmerston Street. The school goodwill was purchased for 250 pounds, and the furniture at valuation. The School is re-named Presbyterian Ladies College (P.L.C.). The school has 80 students including 13 boarders who are mainly accommodated on the building's verandahs.
- "Ormiston House was typical of the type of houses built in Perth's early years. It had very thick walls, probably of solid brickwork built with hand-made sun-dried bricks of the period. Early pupils of P.L.C. recalled the very deep window openings where children could, and sometimes did, stand on the window sills and hide behind curtains."⁷⁶
- 1917 Part of the Robertson Park Street block is re-subdivided to make way for the establishment of Robertson Park.⁷⁷
- 1917 Aug A Jewish congregation of mainly Yiddish background members, formed in Perth in 1907⁷⁸ ⁷⁹, buys one of the new blocks of land on Palmerston St. for its new Synagogue.
- 1917 Union Brewery takes over Harwood's Brewery.
- 1918 June The foundation stone is laid for the construction of the new Perth Jewish Association synagogue in Palmerston St. The building constructed is described as an "unpretentious one-storey brick structure, capable of

⁷¹ City of Perth, *Mayors Annual Report* Perth, 1913, p10.

⁷² Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth , A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth , 1979, p298.

⁷³ Observation of Building, and Wise's Directory.

⁷⁴ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth , A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth , 1979, p298

⁷⁵ Town of Vincent , Draft Notes –Robertson Park, 1997.

⁷⁶ Whiteford, N., *Presbyterian Ladies College, The Story of a School, PLC*, Perth, 1975, p2-6.

⁷⁷ Town of Vincent , Draft Notes –Robertson Park, 1997.

⁷⁸ Mossenson , D. , *Hebrew , Israelite, Jew*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 1990

⁷⁹ Mossenson , D. (editor), *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, Vol XI, 1992

- seating 250 worshippers with a wooden partition separating the men's and women's section."⁸⁰ The Building becomes known as "The Little Shule".⁸¹
- 1918 Dec The Palmerston Street Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) closes and moves to its new home at Peppermint Grove.
- 1922-23 The City completes many tasks at Robertson Park such as the erection of a cyclone fence and planting of trees at the entrance to the park.⁸² At this time the entrance to the park was off Palmerston Street.⁸³
- 1926 Robertson Park tennis courts are officially opened⁸⁴, after infilling of part of the former Lake Henderson land owned by the City of Perth. A photograph later taken of the tennis courts showing a layout of 6 courts at an oblique angle to the tennis pavilion.⁸⁵
- 1926 Jan. The City of Perth sell the lot(s) adjacent to the Electrical Sub-Station in Stuart Street to Dairy Farmers Cooperative Pty. Ltd., who were later to be taken over by Westralian Farmers Ltd (Wesfarmers Pty Ltd).
- A building already exists on the site. The new owner converts this, and by June 1926 the plant is operating and accepting its first arrivals of milk. The milk produced was the first pasteurised milk commercially produced in Perth.⁸⁶
- 1927 A letter is sent in April from the City of Perth Town Clerk to the Telephone Department notifying them of the City's intention to level the Municipal Reserve bounded by Palmerston, Randell and Fitzgerald Streets.⁸⁷
- 1928 A letter is sent from the Town Clerk to the City Engineer further to the compulsory purchase of the Chinese gardens on the land between Stuart Street and Robertson Park.⁸⁸
- 1928 A.O. Barrett purchases the Union Brewery, and makes an agreement with the Swan Brewery to stop brewing on the Palmerston Street site.
- 1926 to 1928 Carrick Street is re-named Stuart Street (so as to become an extension of the existing Stuart Street adjacent to the Stuart Street Reserve)⁸⁹
- 1927 May. The site of F.M. Middleton, a general engineering and safe manufacturer on Stuart Street (Lots &10) is purchased by the City of Perth. The lot remains a foundry until 1965 when it is demolished to extend the park.
- 1927 Nov Council resumes a large lot on Stuart Street adjacent to the Middleton Factory⁹⁰. A letter from the Town Clerk to the City Engineer states that the lot (an "old market garden ") is ready for filling to extend Robertson Park.⁹¹

⁸⁰ Mossenson , D. , *Hebrew , Israelite, Jew*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 1990

⁸¹ Mossenson , D. (editor), *Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, Vol XI, 1992

⁸² Town of Vincent , Draft Notes –Robertson Park, 1997.

⁸³ *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory*, various years, Perth

⁸⁴ D'Arcy, R, *Report on the Heritage Places of the Hyde Park Precinct* , National Trust (WA), Perth, 1990

⁸⁵ City of Perth, *Souvenir of the City of Perth 1829 to 1929*, p45, City of Perth, Perth, 1929.

⁸⁶ Smith, K.P., *A Bunch of Pirates- The Story of a Farmer's Cooperative- Wesfarmers*, p148-150, Westralian farmers Cooperative Limited, Perth, 1984.

⁸⁷ City of Perth, *Letter from the Town Clerk City of Perth to Telephone Department dated 22.4.1927*

⁸⁸ City of Perth, *Letter from the Town Clerk City of Perth to the City Engineer dated 2.8.1928*

⁸⁹ *Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory 1925 and 1929*, Perth.

⁹⁰ Lands and Surveys Tax map 1927 to 63

⁹¹ Letter from the City of Perth Town Clerk to the City Engineer 2.8.1928

- 1928 The levelling of Robertson Park is completed and the northern section of the Tennis Courts is laid out to the current alignment, in line with the surrounding road system. The plan provides for the eventual laying out of 34 courts.⁹²
- 1928 to 1933 The tennis pavilion is moved to a location further west so that it closes off the end of the axis set up by the new women's playing field.⁹³
- 1929 20.9.1929 The Maltings is registered as "Union Maltings".
- 1930~ The western public section of Robertson Park is landscaped with a formal cathedral-like composition of trees around a central open pavilion and a single row around an adjacent sports ground. A children's playground is established in this part of the park around the same time.⁹⁴
- 1934 to 1945 Seven new grass courts are added to the southern edge of the existing grass courts, cutting marginally into the original park area of the park.⁹⁵
- 1940 Perth's first "Children's Library" opens in an old house owned by Perth City Council at the corner of Stuart Street and Fitzgerald St.⁹⁶
- Mrs J Bromfield had owned the house from somewhere between 1910 and 1917 to 1932 when the house was purchased by the City. Mrs Bromfield continued to live in the house for many years.⁹⁷
- 1946 The Union Maltings' site is extended south.
- 1946 The State Government establishes the State Energy Commission which takes over the Stuart Street substation from the City of Perth.⁹⁸
- 1946 The first government aerial photographs are taken of Robertson Park. The photos show the full extent of planting and other developments in and around Robertson Park, including the original lines of trees as established in the 1920s and the location of the original tennis and park pavilions.⁹⁹
- 1949 At the Union Maltings, malt-house No 4 and Kiln No 3 are built.
- 1951 Westralian Farmers Dairy is amalgamated with Masters Dairy and a new plant is built at Claremont. The remaining Stuart Street "Pascomi Milk " factory is re-used as a freezing plant and despatch centre for country milk supplies.
- Part of the Stuart Street property is also converted to become the Wesfarmers' printing plant. The plant produces the Wesfarmers News from

⁹² Town of Vincent , Draft Notes - Robertson Park, 1997.

⁹³ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth , A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth , 1979, p300

⁹⁴ D'Arcy, R, *Report on the Heritage Places of the Hyde Park Precinct* , National Trust (WA), Perth, 1990

⁹⁵ Department of Land Administration, *Aerial Photograph 1946* and Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth , A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, p 300, City of Perth, Perth , 1979.

⁹⁶ Leniartek, M.K., *Survey of historic Sites in the Central Area of Perth*, Perth City Council, 1992

⁹⁷ City of Perth, *Perth City Council Rate Books*, City of Perth, 1884 to 1946. & Wise's Western Australian Post Office Directory 1909 to , Perth

⁹⁸ Boylen, L. & McIlwraith, J., *Power for the People - A History of gas and electricity in Western Australia*, p55, State Electricity Commission of WA, Perth, 1994.

⁹⁹ Department of Land Administration, *Aerial Photograph 1946*

1952, which is an eight-page market report. This later evolves in the 1970s into the full paper "Western Farmer and Grazier".¹⁰⁰

- 1964 The Metcalf E & I Engineering building on Stuart Street is demolished and the newly vacant land added to the Robertson Park area.¹⁰¹
- 1964 to 83 Fitzgerald and Randell Street are widened and the street trees on the edge of Robertson Park removed. The mature Eucalyptus street trees are also removed from Palmerston Street during this period.
- The first four of the new hard tennis courts are also constructed during this period over the southern grass courts constructed in the 1933 to 1946 period.
- 1965 Feb The Director of Parks and Gardens sends a letter to the Town Clerk, suggesting the purchase of the large house on Palmerston Street for a further extension of the park.¹⁰²
- 1965 June Council resolves to buy Ormiston House, the old Edward Keane house, in Palmerston Street to consolidate Robertson Park. The building is demolished soon after purchase.
- 1968 Aug Following a long decline in the Perth Jewish Association's membership, the custodians of the Palmerston Street Synagogue (The Little Shule) decide to amalgamate their congregation with the Perth Hebrew Congregation during their transfer to Mount Lawley, and consequently to sell the Palmerston Street property. The City of Perth is known to be eager to purchase the property for the consolidation of Robertson Park.¹⁰³
- 1970 Halverston Hall is opened. The Premier Sir Charles Court and Lord Mayor Sir Thomas Wardle attend the opening. The hall was constructed to accommodate the City of Perth Band and was named after the leader of the City of Perth Band (see biographies).¹⁰⁴
- 1972 The Children's Library House on the corner of Stuart and Fitzgerald Street is demolished to extend Robertson Park.¹⁰⁵
- 1972-73 Stage 1 of the Fleximalt plant is constructed at the Union Maltings.
- 1973 Mar. The City of Perth purchases the Synagogue in Palmerston Street for \$19,600. The Building is quickly demolished and the land amalgamated into Robertson Park.¹⁰⁶
- 1973 High-level power lines are erected down Palmerston Street to feed power into the CBD.
- 1980-81 Stage 2 of the Fleximalt plant is constructed at the Union Maltings
- 1982 The original timber tennis pavilion is demolished and replaced by the current pavilion.

¹⁰⁰ Smith, K.P., *A Bunch of Pirates- The Story of a Farmer's Cooperative- Westfarmers, Westralian farmers Cooperative Limited*, Perth, 1984.

¹⁰¹ Department of Land Administration, *Aerial Photograph 1964*

¹⁰² City of Perth. Letter from To the Town Clerk from the Director of Parks and Gardens 3.2.65

¹⁰³ Mossenson, D., *Hebrew, Israelite, Jew*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 1990

¹⁰⁴ Court, CW, A letter from the Premier to the Sir Thomas Wardle, the Lord Mayor of Perth, 1970

¹⁰⁵ Department of Land Administration, *Aerial Photograph 1973*

¹⁰⁶ Mossenson, D., *Hebrew, Israelite, Jew*, University of Western Australia Press, Perth, 1990

Four terrace units are built at No 107 Palmerston Street replacing a 1920s house.¹⁰⁷

- 1983 The City of Perth commissions a study of the open space of the residential areas of Perth. The study identifies the bottle yard adjacent to the existing Robertson Park as a suitable site to target for purchase for improving the open space of the inner areas. This was because it was:
- 1) likely to become available;
 - 2) of a suitable size;
 - 3) located in a strategic position suitable for fulfilling recreational needs.¹⁰⁸
- 1985 The first City of Perth town planning scheme is gazetted, with all the Robertson Park street block zoned for Parks and Recreation.¹⁰⁹
- 1986 The State Planning Commission and The Perth City Council publish the Central Perth Policy Document. This recommends establishment of a rail station at the end of Palmerston Street - Milligan Street and development of a major pedestrian and bicycle route along Palmerston St, to link the CBD and river to the northern city areas.
- Joe White Maltings Ltd. of Victoria purchases Palmerston Properties (owners of Union Maltings)¹¹⁰
- 1987 At the PCC meeting of 10 November 1987 the City agrees to purchase Perth Town Lots Y246 and 247 (No 73) Palmerston St, corner of Stuart St, Perth from the Bond Corporation for \$876,000
- The Old Bottle Yard land was purchased under a clause in the Town Planning Scheme under "Reserved Land" that allows Council to purchase land in lieu of paying compensation for Council's decision to zone the site "Parks and Recreation."¹¹¹
- 1989 The City of Perth decides to demolish the Old Bottle Yard's surviving building, but to retain the bitumen area for re-use in any recreational facility that may be established on the site.¹¹²
- 1989 Ward Councillors, Jack Marks, Michelle Roberts, and Alannah Mac Tiernan, propose that the Old Bottle Yard site be used for "a community-cum-ethnic centre."¹¹³
- 1989 The City of Perth issues a paper on the city planning scheme review of the Hyde Park Precinct, recommending that:
- The Old Bottle Yard Site be "put to an appropriate recreational use" and that Robertson Park in general be examined for "better usage".
 - For the precinct "Improved pedestrian and cycle facilities and links with the central city should be studied";

¹⁰⁷ Department of Land Administration, *Aerial Photograph 1982*

¹⁰⁸ City of Perth, *Perth Public Open Space Study*, City of Perth, 1983.

¹⁰⁹ City of Perth *City Planning Scheme Map 1985*. City of Perth, Perth. 1985

¹¹⁰ Hocking Planning and Architecture, *Conservation Plan Union (Joe White) maltings, Stuart Street Perth*, Hocking P& A, Perth, 1996

¹¹¹ City of Perth, Minutes of full Council Meeting, City of Perth 10.11.1987, City Of Perth.

¹¹² Community Newspapers, *Guardian Express Community*, p5, 13.6.89

¹¹³ Community Newspapers, *Guardian Express Community*, 28.11.89

- "Existing open space now available to the general public should be retained: expansion or intensification of restricted uses of public open space should not be supported".¹¹⁴

1990 The City of Perth removes the three remaining grass courts from the southern side of the tennis courts and replaces them with two new hard courts and a new parking area, thus further widening access between the northern and southern sections of the park.

1990, June The National Trust (WA) releases a "Report on the Heritage Places of the Hyde Park Precinct". It recommends that Robertson Park and its immediate environment be designated a "Precinct / Conservation Area". The area includes the buildings of Randell, Palmerston and Stuart Streets immediately opposite the Robertson Park street block.¹¹⁵

The Report also recommends 21 individual Grade A and B classifications of buildings within the Robertson Park Precinct/Conservation Area, including three within the actual Robertson Park street block.

1991 Bikewest publishes a bicycle path plan for Perth that nominates Palmerston Street as one of two "good" bike routes north from the city.

1993 The City of Perth establishes a task force to examine the open-space needs of the residential areas of the then City of Perth. The study identifies the Palmerston Street site as one of only three opportunities to improve the open-space requirements of the Vincent area. The report sets a criterion of 600m as the maximum distance anyone should travel to an active recreation space.¹¹⁶

1994 The recently formed Town of Vincent publishes a paper outlining the proposed Town Planning Scheme for the Hyde Park precinct area. It proposes the Old Bottle Yard site be given a "Parks and Recreation" zoning.¹¹⁷

The document's text states: "...These parks will continue to be used, maintained and enhanced for both passive and active recreational pursuits, and will in some instances accommodate community facilities. Some parkland facilities are restricted in use. The development of any new buildings within these parklands will generally not be permitted unless they are small in bulk and scale and unobtrusive in their setting. Uses permitted will only be those which are incidental to the recreational and community roles. No activity or action will be permitted which destroys the integrity of the recreational areas, including all existing landscaping elements. In addition, future uses and /or development of these parks will not be supported where it is considered that the amenity of the surrounding residential areas will be adversely affected."

¹¹⁴ City of Perth, *Hyde Park Precinct Issues, City Planning Scheme Review*, Map No P22.2B., City of Perth, Perth, 1989.

¹¹⁵ D'Arcy, R, *Report on the Heritage Places of the Hyde Park Precinct Volume 1*, National Trust (WA), Perth, 1990

¹¹⁶ City of Perth, *Minutes of full Council Meeting, City of Perth Meeting 13.7.1993 and Meeting of 15 June 1993*. Item F81/93 Report on the "Public Open Space Study" commissioned by the City of Perth.

¹¹⁷ Town of Vincent, *Town Planning Scheme No. 1. Hyde Park Precinct, P12*. Town of Vincent, Perth, 1994.

- 1995 The Northbridge Urban Renewal Study first draft is completed. The proposals suggest use of the Palmerston Street for prime pedestrian and bike access, and landscape proposals that go as far as Robertson Park.¹¹⁸
- Landcorp commissions a preliminary heritage study for the Maltings site.¹¹⁹
- The Main Roads Department circulates a brochure that discusses the State Government's rationale and program for the northern city bypass should it be built. It promises innovative public transport projects, streetscape improvements and building restoration projects for the Northbridge area.¹²⁰
- 1996 Joe White Maltings announce plans to construct a new maltings plant at Forrestfield and that the Palmerston Street site will close by June 1987.¹²¹
- 1996 June The City of Perth advertises for tenders for a new hall for The City of Perth Band, to be located in Queens Gardens.¹²²
- 1996 The Town of Vincent commissions a Business Plan that examines the real-estate potential of the Old Bottle Yard land, sub-titled "Robertson Park Surplus Land".¹²³
- 1996 The Town of Vincent rejects an application to demolish a large home on the edge of Robertson Park for a unit development. The Minister for Planning later upholds the decision after an appeal.¹²⁴
- 1996 Town of Vincent advertises for submissions on the proposed sale of the Old Bottle Yard land.
- A submission outlining the Hyde Park Precinct Group's objections to the proposed sale of the Old Bottle Yard Land is submitted to Council. A petition of 262 signatures accompanies the submission. The document argues that the land is potentially very useful for recreation purposes, and that an overall study of the Robertson Park area should be undertaken before any decision on the land's future is taken.¹²⁵
- 1996 Street prostitution is reported as being a major issue in the proximity of Robertson Park.¹²⁶
1996. Oct. The Town of Vincent passes a resolution on 14 October 1996 on the future of the Old Bottle Yard land. The resolution orders a study of Robertson Park and its surroundings, and resolves to delay the sale of the old Bottle Yard for 12 months.¹²⁷

¹¹⁸ Forbes and Fitzharding, *Northbridge Urban Renewal Study- Planning Report*, Ministry of Planning and the Main Roads Department of Western Australia. Perth, 1995.

¹¹⁹ Hocking Planning and Architecture, *Conservation Plan Union (Joe White) maltings, Stuart Street Perth*, Hocking P& A, Perth, 1996

¹²⁰ Main Roads Department, *City Northern Bypass- An Essential Element of the City for the People Project*, Main Roads of Western Australia, Perth, 1995

¹²¹ Community Newspapers, *Guardian Express Community*, p7, 16.7.96.

¹²² Business News, May 30-June 12 1996, P2., 1996.

¹²³ Town of Vincent, *Business Plan, Proposal to Dispose of Land, Lots Y246, PartY246 and Y247 cnr of Palmerston /Stuart Streets Perth (Commonly Known as Robertson Park Surplus Land)*, Perth, 1996

¹²⁴ West Australian Newspapers, *The West Australian*, 30.5.96

¹²⁵ Hyde Park Precinct Group, *Submission on the Proposal by the Town of Vincent to Dispose of Land: Lot Y246, PartY246 and Y247*. Hyde Park Precinct Group, Perth, 1996

¹²⁶ Community Newspapers, *Guardian Express Community*, 18.6.96.

¹²⁷ Town of Vincent, *Letter to Chris Hair*, 1996

- 1996 Nov The Hyde Park Precinct Group is invited by Council Executive to complete a Robertson Park Improvement Plan.
- 1997 Sep. After a public tender, the tennis courts at Robertson Park are leased to the Veterans' Tennis Association of Western Australia.

7.5 CHRONOLOGY OF THE CLAISEBROOK CATCHMENT

The following section offers a chronological account of the various events that have had a major impact on the form and catchment area of the Claisbrook Waterway

40,000BC to 1829 The Boorlo area (later Perth) is inhabited by the Wajuk Nyungars who fish, forage and hunt in the Swan coastal plane area in a routine that follows the seasonal changes in the environment. The area includes a series of freshwater lakes that stretch from what is now East Perth to North Perth and Leederville.¹²⁸

Prior to western settlement Claisebrook was a scenic short stream draining a small group of lakes in the Inner Perth area into the Swan River.

The current Claisebrook catchment covers an area that was originally a valley of sandy soils occupied in its lowest parts by largely seasonal lakes and wetlands. Apart from the actual Clause's Brook, their hydraulic connection appears to have been mainly by underground water seepage.

1827 One of the original English visitors to the Swan River describes the stream at the east end of Boorlo as "... a small creek of fresh water issuing from an extensive lagoon closed with arborescent species of *Metosideros* (paperbark) of great beauty. The banks are covered with the most interesting plants"¹²⁹

1829 A site for the new capital of the Swan River Settlement is founded at Boorlo by a group of English arrivals from the recently arrived ship the *Parmelia*. The settlement is named Perth.¹³⁰

The new townsite is located between the river bank at the Causeway Islands and the hill of Mt. Eliza. The site is selected in part by Stirling because of the ready supply of fresh water offered by the lakes.

1829 A plan for the Perth townsite is developed, locating the city on a long thin peninsula of land between the Swan River and the string of lakes behind. The town grid is oriented to be parallel with the ridge, river and lakes. The intent appears to have been (at least up to the 1848 Roe report on the lakes) that the lakes were to remain as a permanent backdrop to the town.¹³¹

1830s In her assembled memoirs Ms E Shenton describes the area at Claisebrook in the 1830s in the following way. "There were beautiful vegetables and strawberry gardens, and it was a common thing for riding parties of ladies and gentlemen to go there for "strawberry afternoons"". In her accounts of living in Perth she adds "Mosquitoes were a pest and flies and fleas were beyond description annoying".

¹²⁸ Claremont Museum, *Dar-Joo Together*, Claremont Museum, 1996.

¹²⁹ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth, A Social history of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth, 1979.

¹³⁰ City of Perth, *Souvenir of the Centenary of the City of Perth 1829 to 1929*, City of Perth, Perth

¹³¹ Stannage, CT, *The People of Perth, A Social history of Western Australia's Capital City*, City of Perth, Perth, 1979.