



## Maddington Kenwick Drive Trail

### Introduction

How did Kenwick and Maddington get their names?

The suburb of Kenwick gets its name from Kenwick Park – the farm of early settler Wallace Bickley. In 1858 Kenwick Park consisted of 3960 acres on both sides of the Canning River. A multi-purpose building existed near the Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery in the 1860s.

The suburb of Maddington is named after Maddington Park, the home of John Randell Phillips. Established in 1832, Phillips named his home after a town in Wiltshire, England. Maddington developed as an agricultural area with market gardens, poultry farms and orchards. In the 1950s and 60s Maddington and surrounding suburbs were further subdivided and developed into residential suburbs and the Maddington Industrial Estate.

### 1. Liddelow Homestead

9 Cooper Avenue, Kenwick

Liddelow Homestead is set on a portion of land known earlier as Kenwick Park. Kenwick Park was developed by successful businessman Wallace Bickley and his wife Elizabeth. By the 1860s it was flourishing, producing grain, hay and milk. Bickley also bred horses on the property, worked in Fremantle as a merchant, and was the local agent for Lloyds of London. By the time Bickley sold the extensive property it had become the centre of the local community. Bickley was also civic minded and in 1868 *“formed a committee on the Canning to cooperate with the Governor in the management of the roads, and to settle school and church matters.”* Unknown source, from W.S. Cooper's notes, *Wallace Bickley of Bickley Park*.

Butcher, John Liddelow bought the land in 1883 and replaced the home which was destroyed by fire in 1882. Today Liddelow Homestead is home to the Liddelow Homestead Arts and Craft Club where classes are held in pottery, painting, wood turning and handcrafts.

### 2. Brixton Street Conservation Area

Brixton Street, Kenwick

Catch a glimpse of the original vegetation of Kenwick's unique wetland. Nineteen hectares provide the opportunity to discover 307 types of wildflowers, rare and endangered plants and animals.

The Brixton Street wetlands are a habitat for the rare and endangered Quenda (Southern Brown Bandicoot) and many native terrestrial and aquatic animals. The Quenda likes the dense wetland vegetation as it provides shelter, food and a place to nest.

Crawling, Banjo, Moaning and Quaking Frogs call the wetlands home along with several varieties of reptiles such as Spiny Tailed Geckos, Legless Lizards, Dragon Lizards, Skinks, Goannas and Dugites. Look hard and you may be able to spot small crustaceans, insects and tadpoles.



If you are keen to find out more make sure you get a copy of the Brixton Street Wetlands brochure from the City of Gosnells Civic Centre or Knowledge Centre or from SERCUL.

### **3. Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery**

1762 Albany Highway, Kenwick  
Opposite Freedom Pools. Parking available on site

The Gosnells Historical Society has created a short historic walk through the cemetery. Look for the pathway marked with large rocks containing plaques. The Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery brochure details more information about the cemetery.

In 1863 Wallace Bickley donated this site in Kenwick to the community and a rammed earth building with a shingle roof was constructed by convicts for use as a courthouse, school and police station. The school opened with six students attending. Many community activities took place here. The Canning Park Turf Club held its inaugural meeting in the schoolroom in 1868 as did the newly formed Roads Committee which later became the Canning Roads Board. In 1868 the annual ball was held here after the Canning Races.

This building burned down in 1880 and was replaced in 1884 by the St Michael and All Angels Church which was demolished in 1900 after significant deterioration. In 1866 the adjoining land was first used as a cemetery for the Canning district. In the 1800s the Canning district encompassed land from the Causeway to beyond Kelmscott, stretching into the hills to Kalamunda, Pickering Brook and Jandakot.

In 1990 the cemetery was renovated and burials restricted to pioneer families. In 2001 the cemetery was closed to burials altogether. The early graves remain as a reminder of the people whose hard work helped to establish the district.

Amongst those buried here are Sarah Ann White who died of the measles. Her husband Jabez White is also buried here as are most of their 11 children. Jabez leased several farming properties along the Canning including Maddington Park. In 1862 he purchased land in Orange Grove and set up a farm and water powered flour mill. He named his property Canning Dale Farm.

### **4. Site of St Luke's Anglican Church**

Corner Albany Highway and Herbert Street, Maddington

St Luke's was built in 1926 and incorporated the foundation stone from the original Church of St Michael and All Angels, which once stood next to the Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery.

Once considered the best of the district's early churches, St Luke's was demolished in 1987 when the Anglican Parish of Maddington relocated.

Look to the other side of the road for the next site.

### **5. Site of Uniting Church/Congregational Church**

Cnr Albany Highway and Sampson Street, Maddington

The Uniting Church in Maddington celebrated its Golden (50<sup>th</sup>) anniversary in 1962 with the services being conducted by past ministers. Three years later in 1965 a new chapel



was built on the back of the existing chapel through voluntary labour. This enabled the older part of the building to be used for a Sunday School. In 1967 the Shire donated and transported a wooden building to the church site which was renovated and opened as a kindergarten hall.

Local resident Arthur Coulthard remembered the church holding two services on Sundays in 1928 and 1929 as well as socials and concerts on Friday nights. Records show that in 1977 the Uniting Church was inaugurated, incorporating the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches within Australia. The church was demolished circa 1990.

## 6. Canning Park Turf Club

Canning Park Avenue, Maddington.

The Maddington Industrial Estate is now on the site of the Canning Park Turf Club. The first race meeting was held in 1868 on land owned by James Roe, steward and secretary of the WA Turf Club. Each year the race meetings were held around Christmas time and became an important social event. The Maddington Stakes was a popular event and race meets often attracted up to 3000 people. By 1896 race meetings were held every fortnight and a large grandstand had been built. A railway spur line ran from the Maddington train station to the race course. The race course was also used by the Cricket Club, which played its first match there in 1872.

The last race at the Canning Park Turf Club was held in June 1942. It was considered that race meetings were a luxury during the Second World War, and after which race meetings did not resume. The racecourse area was used for scouting activities and clay pits for brickworks, which filled with water, and were used as swimming holes by local children.

By the 1960s the Canning Park racecourse had fallen into disrepair and English developer William Davison developed the area into the Maddington Industrial Estate.

The remains of an avenue of majestic Sugargums (*Eucalyptus gladocalyx*) off Kelvin Road still exist. They are believed to have been planted around 1870 and formed an avenue leading to the entrance of the race track. Unfortunately the trees have been suffering from a fungal infection which will lead to their eventual loss.

### Sources

McDonald, G. & Cooper, W. S. 1988, *The Gosnells Story*, City of Gosnells.

Information contained in City of Gosnells Knowledge Centre files and oral history transcripts

City of Gosnells Municipal Heritage Inventory 1998

Heritage Council of Western Australia Assessment Documentation