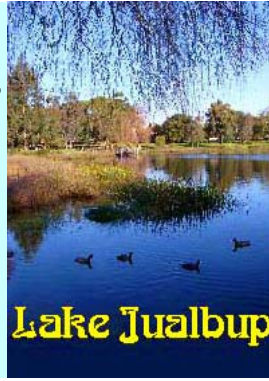


One controversy after another

A chronological history of **Lake Jualbup**



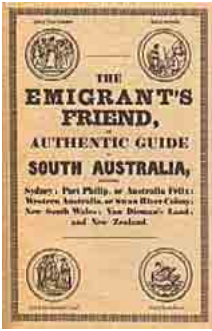
By **Geoffrey Dean**
with 90 pictures
and 15 diagrams
May 2011

An update of the
original version
September 2009

If you are reading this version on screen, you can search it with your reader's Find function

- 02-13 **To 1900**
- 14-30 **1900-1955**
- 31-39 **1956-2000**
- 40-51 **2001-2011**

- Aberdare Road lake 43
- Aborigines see Nyungar
- Aerators 36,50
- Aerial view of lake 28
 - adjusted to o/head 31
- Aerodrome 24
- Agreement Nyungar 40
 - legality of 47
 - mischief over 47
- Algal bloom 39,42
- Archaeology 40
- Arguments for/against
 - dry lake 43
 - perimeter wall 43
- Benedictine monks 7
- Birds and trees 27,39
- Bore water top up by 36
- Bottles in lake bed 31
- Botulism 36,39,42,43
- Briggs memoirs 8
- Bropho memoirs 25
- Bulldozing lake 31-33
- Buses early 22 pic
- Butler's swamp 26
- Canoes 19 pic, 22
- Church Derby/Onslow 29
- Collapse of wall 38
- Community issues 52
 - 2011 consultation 48
- Compensating basin 35
- Controversy see any page
- Convicts 6
- Cricket 13
- Daisy Bates 4,16,17
 - pic of 17
- Depression years 24
- Dredging 34
- Ducks dead 43
 - shooting of 25
- Dyson, James 8,12
- Dyson's swamp 8
 - did it dry up? 9
 - Nyungar at 35
 - thefts from 11
- Eastern end grading 41
- Environment issues 42,52
- Fare, UK-Aus 5,12
- Fish in lake 22
 - Gambusia 22
 - koi 29, 42
- Flooding 20,21,23
 - of footy 15
 - pumps fix 24
- Food prices 7,8,12,25,27
- Football 13
 - where played 31
- Fountain 35 pic
- Frederick Flood 18
- Friends of LJ 38
- Guy Fawkes night 29
- Hailstorm (2010) 48
- Hasluck poem 23
- Heritage status? 52
- House prices 12,27,30
- Hyde Park lake 2,7
- Island grading of 45 pic
- Island is man-made 31
- Jolimont swamp floods 28
 - pics of 17-19
- Jones folly 11
- Kings Park 27,34
- Lake Jualbup
 - aerial view c1940 28
 - area of 8
 - before grading 28,31
 - Class A reserve 29
 - contour map of 23,32
 - depth of 32,33
 - drown in 15,19,20,21,24
 - early pictures of 16, 17,23,24,30,34
 - early plans for 27,28
 - early water levels 32
 - floods 22,26,27
 - of 1928 pic 23
 - Friends of 38
 - future of 51
 - grading of 31-33
 - maintenance cost 41
 - management plan 39
 - objections to 46
 - model boats 27
 - naming of 36-37
 - options re water 46
 - reports on 45,46
 - stink (2010) 49
 - swimming in 20
- Lakes in Perth city 9
- Land, cost of 5,10,12
- Mabel Talbot Park 42
 - naming of 33
 - see also Jolimont
- Mail carrying 8
- Maps 8,12,21,31
- Mud pic 44
- Migrants guidebook 2
- Mosquitoes 3
- Nyungar
 - Agreement 40,47
 - at Dysons swamp 35
 - beliefs 4
 - calendar 5
 - camps 7,8,35
 - conflict with 6
 - corroborees 14,15
 - food 4,39
 - in 1829
 - life as children 25
 - names 16,24
 - pictures of 2,15
 - sign at lake 38
 - spiritual links 5,38
 - population 3,12,36,40
 - shanties 22
 - spelling of 4,24
- Observ platform 42.43
- Papyrus reeds 43
- Perth, founding of 4
 - climate 14
 - floods 14
 - lakes 9
 - population 12
- Pianos in early days 6
- Pit sawyer 7
- Poem by Hasluck 23
- Pros and cons
 - dry lake 43
 - perimeter wall 43
- Railway opening 10
- Railway sleepers 21,24
- Rainfall flood years 15
- Rainfall 1852-1950 9
- Reeds removal of 33
- Registry DIA 44
- Rents 12
- Replanting 31,42
- Reports on lake 45
- Residents objections 41
- Residential survey 46
- Revegetation 42,43
- Roads re-survey 25
- Rosalie Park 30
- Rotunda 36, 46 pic
- Rubbish tip 19,29
- Sand pervasive 3,17
- Servants roguery 6
- Serventy naturalists 33
- Settlers early 4
- Shenton, George 8,10,13
- Shooting 25,31
- Skeletal remains 44
- Stamps ex dump 29
- Steering Committee 38
- Street names 10
- Subiaco
 - flying club 24
 - football club 13,33
 - naming 7
 - population 12.13
 - railway station pic 11
 - tent city 13
 - WWTP 35
- Swamp vs lake 9
- Swan River scenery 3
- Swans number of 40
- Swimming 20
- Tents in early Subi 13
- Topping up lake 36
- Tortoises 39
- Trams 14
- Translating Aboriginal names 36-37
- Trees big 17,20 pics
- Tribal fighting 6
- Turtles 2,25,46
 - pics of 39
 - ramps for 34
- Ute accident 30
- Visitor survey
 - Lake Jualbup 38-39
 - Mabel Talbot 42
- Wages average 5,12
- Wall built 34
 - collapse at E end 38
- Water table rise 15,32
- Weeds 49
 - removing 43
 - spraying 5
- West Subiaco 17
- Wildflowers 17
- Willows 41,47
 - early plans for 27,28
 - pics of 34,52



◀ This 40-page guide for prospective settlers was published in London in 1848. The section on Western Australia is brief (1.5 pages), candid, and unfavourable:

"This Colony is ... far inferior to the other [Australian] Colonies ... In winter strong and boisterous gales from the South West are frequent, ... the soil is thin, the herbage scanty, the water bad, the droughts great and frequent, and the cattle subject to fatal and sudden disease. ... Swan River [Colony] has little or nothing to recommend it." (pages 18-19)

Which would have been news to WA's original inhabitants.

The **original inhabitants** of what is now Perth's western suburbs are the Nyungar, an Aboriginal society of small family groups and twelve language groups living in the South West from south of Geraldton to Esperance. They survive the climate by moving to wherever food is in season and have been here for at least 50,000 years. They live by hunting, fishing, and gathering, and are so efficient that finding food and making shelter takes on average less than four hours a day (Hallam 1991).



Left and right, Nyungar men 1890s. Centre, camp at Crawley 1860s with glimpse of bush in background.

Camps like this were seen by the early white settlers in the Subiaco area. From *Historical Images*

Every bush as well as every sheet of water supplies their commissariat [food department]. Their rivers abound with fish and their forests with game. Their time is therefore entirely spent in moving from place to place, as hunting or fishing may require; or in paying and receiving visits from the neighbouring tribes. The kangaroo, the opossum, the pelican, the duck, the emu, the wild-turkey, the cockatoo, the pigeon, the quail, the frog, the zamia, the boorn, and the bean booraberang [yam], each furnishes its number of repasts at the proper season. Their rivers too are in many places easily forded, and admirably adapted to spear fishing. (Robert Lyon, *Perth Gazette* 1833).



Camp at Crawley c1865. From Spillman (1985:5)

Chains of lakes and swamps provide an abundance of ducks, turtles, fish, and gilgies (marron), and are therefore popular camping places. They include today's Lake Jualbup and Mabel Talbot Lake, but both are minor compared to places such as Lake Claremont, Perry Lakes, Hyde Park (where several hundred Aborigines could gather for corroborees), Lake Monger, and Herdsman's Lake. The history of Lake Jualbup is necessarily tied to the early days of Subiaco, and in turn to the early days of Perth. So the scene set by the early days of Perth occupies the next four pages.

1827 HMS *Success* arrives at the Swan River carrying Charles Fraser, Colonial Botanist of NSW, who after two weeks of explorations pronounces the area "superior to any I have seen in New South Wales, Eastward of the Blue Mountains", with "evident superiority of the soil", open country with "trees not averaging more than ten to the acre", and "fresh-water springs of the best quality". This was in March, at the end of summer. This glowing report differs in almost every respect from the above unfavourable report of 1848, but it led to settlement two years later in 1829. A full account of the exploration can be found in Seddon (1972:177-183).

1829 Foundation of Perth and white settlement.

The Aboriginal population of the entire south-west is probably less than 10,000, or more than three square kilometres per person (Green 1984:8). About 800 natives lived in the Perth area, and for fifty years they would outnumber new arrivals.

Concerted action on the part of the natives could easily have resulted in tragedy for the few white newcomers, but concerted action of that nature was not possible amongst a people who ever lived within narrow limits in mutual fear of their fellows. Split up into numerous hordes, divided again into family groups, concerted action by any considerable body was not feasible and even corroboree assemblies were limited to members of tribes friendly disposed towards each other. Differences of dialect, too, assisted in maintaining this disunity, so it will be seen that from this point of view the migrant race was perfectly safe. (Neville, Relations between Settlers and Aborigines in WA, *Journal and Proceedings of the Western Australian Historical Society*, 1936:10. Neville was Chief Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia).

One of Governor Stirling's first acts was to issue a proclamation requiring natives to be treated like any other of His Majesty's subjects. Offences would be punished under British law.

From the very beginning the natives assisted exploring parties, guiding them and showing them native paths. ... The newcomers were as yet too few to impress the natives with the significance of their invasion. (Neville 1936:12)

What sort of landscape did the first arrivals see? In many places the Nyungar tradition of burning the land had created open grassy areas with large shade trees where kangaroos and yams were abundant. But bush is thick in the Perth area, and for most people the Swan River is the only route they can travel. In early spring there is "splendid scenery on both sides of the river, although the soil is nothing but white sand. The foliage of the trees is exquisite" Mosquitoes are a pest, and flies and fleas are "beyond description annoying" (Hasluck 1933:39-40)



The Swan River was first surveyed by Captain James Stirling in spring 1827. This watercolour of his camp (at what is now Claisebrook Cove just north of the Gloucester Park racing track) was the only image of Swan River released to English newspapers in 1828-1829. Officers and crew are visible among the trees on the left.

In the foreground are idealised images of natives, swans and kangaroos. From Statham-Drew (2004:00)

Sand is a dominating influence. Fremantle is "the vilest place on earth – nothing, in fact, but a huge mass of white sand" (Hasluck 1933:42). In Subiaco it would become a source of discomfort, much weary walking, and watering of roads. And it provides no stones for laying at Perth's foundation.



Left, detail from a famous painting by George Pitt Morison. Mrs Helen Dance finds Perth by cutting down a tree because the sandy terrain provides no stones suitable for laying. **Right**, typical WA bush today.

Interestingly, if we imagine that the founding of Perth took place around midday, and that the picture is a faithful rendition of events (it was painted a century later), we would be wrong. The longboats carrying the parties up river from their camp at Garden Island were hindered by head winds and sand bars, so it was a desperate race against time. The best eyewitness account I could find in the Battye Library is this letter by a writer unknown but probably Captain Irwin, military commander of HMS *Sulphur*. It contains details about the ceremony not found in history books:

On the 12th of August, being the King's Birthday, the ceremony of naming the town of Perth took place; accordingly the Governor and all the officers went up the river, and fixed upon a spot near Mt Eliza, about 15 miles from its mouth, and at half-past four [roughly one hour from sunset] the ceremony commenced. Mrs Dance [wife of HMS *Sulphur's* captain], the only lady who ventured so far up the river, was proposed by the Governor to christen the town, which she did by holding an axe, and the Governor guiding her hand, she then gave a blow with it upon a large tree [larger than in the painting?], which was cut down for the purpose [not standing as in the painting?]; the soldiers fired a volley, and all present gave three cheers. The Governor made a speech upon the occasion, and thus ended the ceremony; after which he gave a dinner to all the officers. (*Extracts of Letters from Swan River Western Australia (up to November 1829)*. J Cross, London 1830, page12.)

The letter does not say, but the dinner probably took place on the spot prior to an overnight camp, since a lengthy benighted return to Garden Island would no doubt have been resisted even though the full moon on 15 August 1829 was only three nights away. In any case, such a return would have been contrary to the aim of getting the new town started.

Aboriginal people in 1829

Each tribal group has their preferred camping area within a much larger hunting and foraging area. They hunt over an area more plentiful than most in Australia (Green 1984:3). According to an early interpreter F. Armstrong (1836), on an average day just a few hours of hunting and gathering (at most 15 miles of travel) is enough. Food is so plentiful that hunger is unknown. They have no concept of a Supreme Being. They firmly believe in the existence of evil spirits, and that

certain individuals among them possess the power, by magic, or enchantment, of healing any severe wounds, pains or diseases, and also of inflicting, at their pleasure, upon other any maladies or distempers, of which rheumatism and ulcerous sores are the most common. These sorcerers are further supposed to have the power of raising or changing the wind, and of bringing on thunder and lightning, and of conducting the thunder to strike their enemies. But they do not know whether this power is an acquired faculty or natural endowment. ... Allied to this magic power is another, which they attribute to some amongst them, of dooming or devoting others to a sudden or violent death. ... They have several minor superstitions, – viz, that a fire must not be stirred at night with a pointed stick, or any spears (except night-fishing spears), otherwise some young child is sure to die.

In due course Daisy Bates would try to bring the various tribal groups together under the name Bibbulmun (or Bibulmun or Bibbulmen or Piblemen), but the name they eventually accepted was *Nyungar*, meaning "Aboriginal man". Here I use the spelling **Nyungar** preferred by Perth-born historian Dr Neville Green (1979, 1984). The spelling **Noongar** (from a different dialect) has been adopted by the WA Education Department and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Other spellings include Nyungah, Nyoongah, Nyoongar, Noongah, Noonga, Nungar, Nunga, Nungga, Nyugah, Noogar, Yungar, and Yunga. The name is pronounced with a soft g as in hanger.

Mythology. Absolutely central to Aboriginal life was their mythology. It linked man with the land and the Dreaming, provided a purpose for living, and justified the laws and customs passed down through the generations. But it was not the way of the white man, whose invasion permanently shattered Nyungar society within the span of one human lifetime (Green 1984:Chapter 1).



Connections with nature

Their sensitivity to nature led Nyungars in the Swan River region to divide the year into at least six seasons (Green 1984:10). Seasonal changes were portrayed in ritual, mime, and lore. Nyungars lived in a world of meaning. They believed that ritual influenced their surroundings and helped to maintain the balance of nature. The land was not ripe for the taking; it was part of the Dreaming, which taught people how to coexist with nature. Some special places had spiritual powers able to renew resources on which the Nyungar depended. Such places were sacred.

This depiction of the six Nyungar seasons in the wheatbelt is from *Ballardong Noongar Budjar 'Healthy Country – Healthy People'* prepared c.2006 by the Ballardong NRM Working Group, Northam. Summer is at 1 o'clock, winter at 7 o'clock

1830 By mid-year nearly 980,000 acres of freehold land have been sold, equivalent to about three-quarters of what is now the Perth metro area. Each acre costs 1s 6d, so an average weekly wage buys about 15 acres. But early settlement is slow. By the end of 1829 a total of 850 settlers (with 204 cattle, 106 hogs, 57 horses and 1096 sheep) have arrived on a total of 25 sailing ships, roughly one a week (*Western Australian Year Book* 1979:21). There are also 440 transients, mainly the crews of ships in port. By the end of 1830 a total of 1770 settlers have arrived, after which the flow virtually stops. Only in 1844 does the population reach 4000.: But relations with the natives are worsening:

The natives were constantly visiting the settlers and the settlers gave them food. This surprised the blacks, who took great delight in watching the whites work, and examining the results of their labour. As time passed the natives came to depend upon the white man's food and began to beg. The settlers suffered for their liberality and ultimately sent the natives away without their usual gifts. ... The natives began to be cunning thieves, and when they acquired a taste for beef and mutton, speared instead of the kangaroo and emu the sheep and cattle of the settlers, thus a more serious position was brought about. (Neville 1936:12)

The rest of 1830 is based on Staples (1961), Kornweibel (1973), and Statham-Drew (2004):

In its first ten years WA had attracted 2000 people, whereas South Australia had attracted 25,000, and NSW many more. WA stagnated because settlement was a private enterprise and insufficient people arrived to provide a market for goods or labour (the problem was not insufficient labour but insufficient employers). But in the Eastern States everything was booming due to better soils and climate, and because settlement in the Eastern States was assisted by the British Government. Settlers in WA took up land under British Government regulations, but no help was given in transport to the colony, and no help was given once settlers had arrived.

A century later Subiaco would be largely a working man's suburb. But most of the earliest settlers were not working men. The records indicate that the average pioneer family at that time consisted of the grantee and 4-5 dependents and servants. The voyage to the Swan River Colony took about four months and, cost about £15-20 for the cheapest accommodation (a place in the steerage room) and £60-75 for the best cabins, both including food, The average weekly wage was then just over £1, so taking 4-5 dependents and servants would have been affordable only by the well off. Precisely the kind of people (as distinct from say farm labourers) who were poorly suited to making

a new colony self-sufficient in food. Indeed, although the above 1848 guide was to advise "take nothing cumbrous, no large agricultural implements, no furniture" (page 39), most did exactly that. Some even brought pianos.

Their pianos would have been small to reduce shipping costs. Their wooden frames would have expanded and contracted between cold wet winters and hot dry summers, thus keeping the piano more or less permanently out of tune (and piano tuners permanently in business, one of whom advertised his services at £6.6s *a year*). The cheapest cost £25, then about half the average annual wage. Only after 1850 were wooden frames displaced by iron frames resistant to climate effects.



◀ Picture shows a Broadbridge (not Broadwood) wooden-frame piano, made in London in 1836, that would have arrived at the Colony in a sailing ship. It ended up as a mouse-eaten weather-beaten wreck in a Mt Lawley junk shop, and was restored by me in 1994 to full playing condition (albeit not to full pitch, which was beyond the capacity of the aged wrest pins). It may be the only surviving playable example of the 200 or so wooden-frame pianos that eventually arrived in WA.

Contrary to what one might imagine, servants are a mixed blessing. It is the law that part of a servant's wages could be paid in rum. "Because of the desire of servants to be supplied with rum oftentimes many times a day, the serious evil of intoxication became very prevalent" (Neville 1936:15). Early Fremantle is "a very bad place owing to the idleness, roguery and thieving of those people brought out as servants, and also of some others of a higher designation". (Hasluck 1933:38)

1831 Relations with the natives continue to worsen:

They [the natives] began to realise that they were becoming dispossessed. Their group waters were taken over by the white men, their spirit places desecrated, their totem foods destroyed, so they became homeless and foodless. They could not join other groups outside their tribal boundaries. They had enemies of their own colour all around them. Their laws broke down, unlawful matings occurred followed by inevitable retribution, hundreds died lacking the will to live, or affected by sorcery, and the decimation of the race began in earnest, not so much because of the evil deeds of the white man but simply because of his presence and his gradual acquisition of what had been for time untold the happy hunting grounds of the Aborigines. As a body the natives rarely killed stock. The outrages were mostly attributable to certain well-known individual natives. They begged and stole, and would help themselves when they found a settler absent from home. (Neville 1936:72)

1832 Attacks by natives on livestock continue. Reprisals increase with loss of human life on both sides. But only in the more settled areas:.

In other parts natives were peacefully and respectfully conducting the white observers through the country showing them their waters, name places and customs, or assisting them to till the land. But the natives no longer feared the weapons of the whites. Some of them even secured firearms and learned their use. (Neville, 1936:18-19)

Where conflict occurs, it is ultimately due to a militant minority on both sides:

We may, I think, acquit the great majority of the early settlers or any intentional or unnecessary cruelty towards the Aborigines. But, as [Governor] Stirling complained, there were amongst the early arrivals, the great majority of whom were highly respectable and independent persons, many outcasts of the English parishes possessing habits of the loosest description. These, he said, caused great inconvenience to their masters and endless trouble to the authorities. In the main it was [for the settlers] largely a matter of self-defence and the protection of property against a people who largely outnumbered them. (Neville 1936:30)

The newly-arrived settlers are so inexperienced, and progress is so poor, that eventually ten thousand convicts (previously not admitted on principle) have to be introduced in 1850 (Neville 1936:39). As a result WA's roads, buildings and bridges forge quickly ahead. But the population

increases only slowly by about 1000 a year over the next 40 years. WA's prosperity is well behind the Eastern States and does not catch up until the discovery of gold around 1890.

At this point we can at last focus on Subiaco and Lake Jualbup.

1833 Mr J H Monger (after whom Monger's Lake is named) establishes a saw pit at Mt Eliza. Pit sawyers work in pairs sawing logs into planks, one above the log pulling the saw up, the other in a pit below the log pulling the saw down in a fog of sawdust. Similar saw pits were later established near what is now Subiaco Oval, and were the first signs of white settlement in the Subiaco area (Schlatter 1979:2). Wholesale prices at the market are potatoes 6d per pound, onions 9d, melons 1s to 2s depending on size, pumpkins 9d to 1s, fresh butter 3s. "A shilling's worth of cabbage or carrots, etc, will supply a family of four persons". (*Perth Gazette* February 1833)

1834 Market prices include ale and porter (a dark brown malt beer) 24s per dozen bottles, tea 8s 6d per pound, milk 8d per quart, salt beef 5d per pound, fresh beef 1s 6d, kangaroo 1s. (*Perth Gazette* March 1834)

1837 According to Markey (1977), market prices in 1837 relative to income are 5-6 times what they would be in 1975. They have fallen slightly since 1834. I have added the figures in red:

	1837			1975	
Unskilled labour per day	5s to 7s	7s=100	\$25 *	\$25=100	
Skilled labour per day	10s	143	\$35 *	140	
One pound	flour	4d	5	30c	1
	mutton or beef	1s 4d	19	\$1.00	4
	bacon	2s	29	\$1.50	6
	butter	3s 6d	50	75c	3
	fish	3d	4	\$1.50	6
	coffee beans	1s 6d	21	\$1.80	7
	tea	7s	100	70c	3
	sugar	8d	10	15c	0.6
One dozen	eggs	2s 6d	36	\$1.00	4
	beer	18s	257	\$8.40	34
	Average excluding tea and beer		22		4

Coffee beans, tea, sugar, beer are imported. * Averaged over a five-day week

1839 Rottnest Island is proclaimed a public prison for natives. (Neville 1936:30)

1846 Benedictine monks arrive to spread the gospel and educate the natives. The first shelters are built in 1851 between Lakes Herdsman and Monger about two kilometres northeast of the present Subiaco, and are given the name "New Subiaco" after their home town Subiaco in Italy. Five years later it is a thriving settlement with an orchard, vineyard, olive groves, and a garden. By 1859 a stone-walled monastery is built. But most of the monks decide to move to their mission at New Norcia where missionary work had priority over building. By 1864 all are gone. (From Schlatter 1979:2-4, and Spillman 1985:37-50)

1850 The lake area is granted to Thomas Helms and Alfred Hawes Stone. (Landgate records)

1850s Five months before he died, Perth-born James Kennedy (1848-1927) describes what it was like to be a schoolboy in Perth (Kennedy 1927). In 1856 he started at the Perth Boys' School in St George's Terrace, which cost his parents 2d a week.

In those days the water-front, where the Esplanade is now, was a field of mud. I have seen natives there in dozens spearing cobblers. The natives swarmed in Perth in those days. Most of them camped at the Third Swamp (now Hyde Park). Other camping places were at the Brandy Keg (near Monger's Lake), at the swamp on the present site of Mt Lawley station, and at Dyson's Swamp (Shenton Park). I have seen 300 camped at the Third Swamp at one time, waiting for a corroboree. There were tremendous paper bark tress there, and the natives used to tear down slabs of bark to make their huts. All the native camps were swarming with dogs.

He provides no other details, nor does he mention other known camping places such as Matilda Bay (where Jane Currie's diary of 1831 records 40 natives camping), Lemnos Street in Shenton Park,

Jolimont (now Mabel Talbot Reserve), Butler's swamp (now Lake Claremont, where about 20 natives were permanently camped), Swanbourne, and Mt Eliza. (O'Reilly 2007).

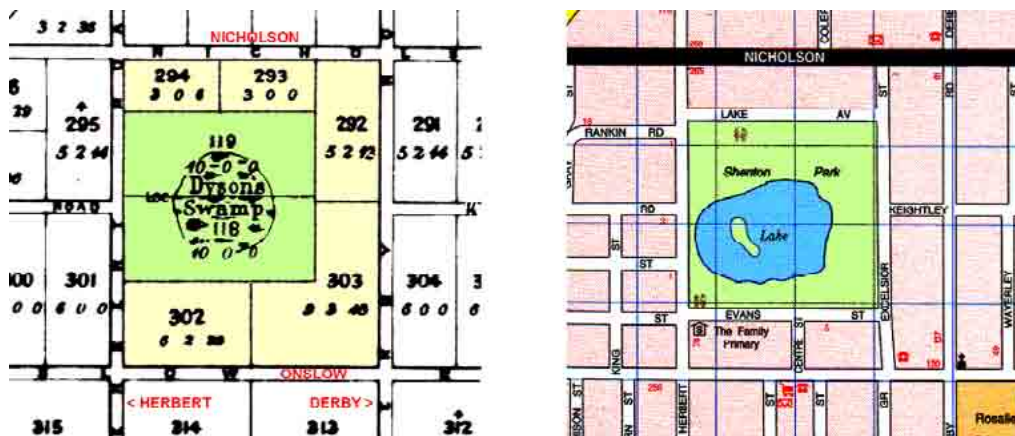
1854 The area is transferred to George Shenton senior, who sells it to James Dyson under an agreement drawn up in 1858 and finalised in 1871 (Landgate records). James Dyson (1810-1888) is usually described as a pit sawyer (eg by Spillman 1985:55), but he is actually a logging contractor who organises many saw pits but never does any sawing himself. He has 21 children (14 survive), wins contracts to supply timber for building St George's Tce, and becomes a Perth City councillor (Dyson 2009). In 1877 Dyson will sell his swamp to George Shenton's son, see later details.

1860s T.J.Briggs, then a boy, was later to describe local life in his memoirs *Life and Experiences of a Successful Western Australian* published by Sands and McDougall, Perth (at 2s 6d, illustrated). It will be reviewed in *The Western Mail* 7 September 1917 page 38, with lengthy quotes. Thus the author describes how the first road from Fremantle to Perth was a "bush cut track quite innocent of road metal". From Karrakatta it "passed through what is now called Shenton Park, but in those days was plainly dubbed Dyson's Swamp", from which it went through King's Park to St George's Terrace via Mount Street. "A man on foot carried the mail. This primitive method of mail carriage was, of course, long before my time, but I have many times passed along this road when a boy" (late 1860s). "He cadged rides from the solitary mailman and, on occasions of glorious boyhood memories, he was allowed to take the reins of the four-in-hand." In those days "A basket of peaches could be bought for a shilling, and about 20 pounds of figs or grapes for a mere song. ... Good beef ranged from 2d to 3d a pound, sheep's head and fry 3d, bullock's head with tongue included cost 2s. ... Flour was also cheap, but there was comparatively little baker's bread sold because nearly every house had its own brick oven for baking the home-made staff of life."

1869 James Dyson elected to Perth City Council, then Treasurer in 1870. (Stannage 1979:162)

1872 T.J.Briggs in his memoirs recalls that "The biggest flood ever known in West Australia followed the torrential rains [lasting 6 weeks, and on 22 July] The water in the Swan was well over the Perth Causeway and parts of Guildford were clean washed away."

1874 The lake area is shown on early maps as Dyson's Swamp after its owner, who hires it out as a paddock and watering hole for stock.

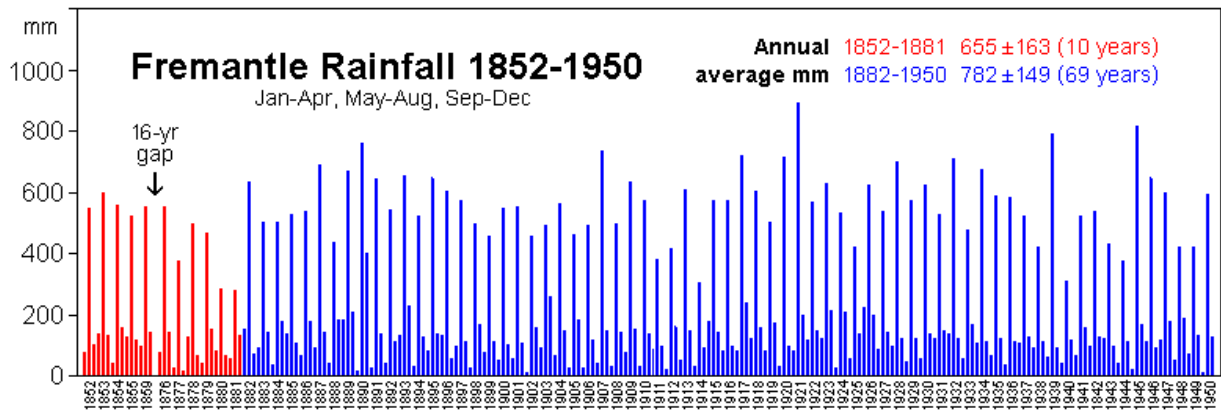


Left: Detail from the earliest known survey made in 1883 by George Rotton, with colours added by me. The lake edge is schematic and does not show the actual edge. The numbers are the lot numbers followed by its area in acres, roods, and perches, where 1 acre = 4 roods, 1 rood = 40 perches, 1 perch = 5.5 yards x 5.5 yards, and 4 x 5.5 yards = 1 chain, the basic linear measure used in surveying up until the 1980s. One acre was originally the area that a yoke of oxen could plough in a day, but was later defined as 4840 square yards, so 1 acre = 4047 square metres = 0.4047 hectare (a hectare is one hundredth of a square kilometre). Rotton's area of the reserve is 20.00 acres. Today it is 8.92 ha (22.04 acres), including a nominal lake area of 2.34 ha.

Right: The same area from a 1997 road map showing modern roads including those not existing in 1883, whose creation evidently led to the small increase in reserve area..

Did Dyson's swamp dry up in summer?

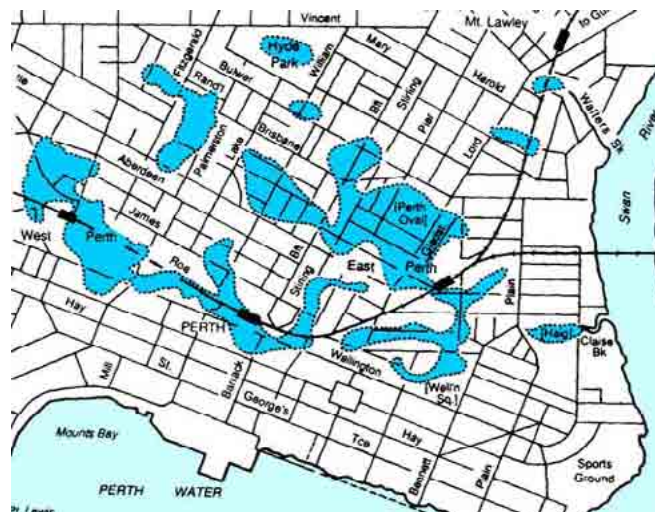
Without citing evidence, Spillman (1985:104) states that the swamp was "like a large reedy puddle", and that in a long hot summer it would "dry up completely leaving only a flat of mud and brownish reeds", possibly because this is what Australian swamps tend to do. But the early surveyors and map-makers were from England where swamps were permanently marshy and wet. There was no recognised distinction between swamps and lakes in terms of permanence, at least not in England. So the choice of name merely reflects the surveyor's personal taste and tells us nothing about the permanence of the water. Also, until he sold it in 1877, Dyson had hired out his swamp for watering stock, which would hardly be viable if it dried up completely during the summer months. Indeed, there were heavy rains and much flooding in Perth in 1830, 1842, 1845, 1847, 1853, 1862, 1871 and 1872 (Bekle and Gentilli 1993; Western Australian Yearbook 1898-1899); and in 1905 a surveyor told Subiaco Council that Dyson's swamp "has always been considered as a permanent water basin" (see entry under 1905); none of which is consistent with a frequent drying up in the early days. Even if a surveyor did attempt to indicate impermanency, we cannot tell whether this was a genuine long-term feature or merely the result of temporary low rainfall. So did Dyson's swamp really dry up in summer? We cannot know for sure, but the records suggest not.



The earliest rainfall data available on the Bureau of Meteorology website is from 1852 in Fremantle.

The first ten years on record, shown above in red, average less rainfall than later years. But they have gaps totalling nineteen years, so we cannot tell how representative they were.

North of Perth's river frontage are numerous small lakes, lagoons and marshes. After heavy rain they flood and seriously interfere with the town's expansion, for example they prevent the extension of Wellington Street west of William Street. Urgent works spanning fifty years eventually drain and infill the lakes. Today you would never know that the main Perth area was once one-fifth lake.



Perth's lakes in the early days. Centre top is Third Swamp. It is a camping ground for natives and homeless people, a popular spot for duck shooters, and thick with paperbarks. In 1873 it is reserved and subsequently reshaped. In 1899 it is renamed Hyde Park Lake. (Bekle and Gentilli, *History of the Perth Lakes*, 1993)

Eligible Land for Sale.**G. F. WILKINSON & CO.**

HAVE been favored with instructions from Mr. James Dyson, to offer for sale by Auction at their new rooms, St. George's Terrace, Perth, on **FRI. DAY, April 6th, at 2 o'clock p.m.**

THE following very valuable lots of Land and Buildings thereon:—

LOT 1.

All that North West portion of Perth Town Lot, G 15, containing 18 perches, perches, and the North West portion of Perth Town Lot G 14, containing 33 perches, having a frontage in Murray Street and King Street, together with all buildings thereon: a first class 2-storey House, containing Shop and good Cellerage, Bakehouse and Oven; also a 4-roomed Cottage, good Stable and Kitchen, and Shed to stable 4 horses; fine Well of Water and a trellis.

LOT 2.

Swan Locations, Nos. 118, and 119, containing 10 acres in each; the whole fenced with three rail fence, and good stockyard, known as Dyson's swamp.

Full particulars and Terms at Sale
A SPLENDID INVESTMENT.

Time of Sale 2 o'clock p.m.
March 26.

1877 James Dyson sells his swamp to George Shenton's eldest son, also George (later Sir George), a Perth business man and politician, after which it eventually becomes known as Shenton's Lake. Notice of the auction appears in *The Western Australian Times* for 27 March, 30 March and 6 April 1877, where it is described as two lots "containing 10 acres in each, the whole fenced with [a] three rail fence, and good stockyard, known as Dyson's swamp. Full particulars and Terms at Sale. A **SPLENDID INVESTMENT.**" The auction is at 2 pm on 6 April 1877.

Also for sale by James Dyson was his one-third-acre property on Murray and King Streets "and all buildings thereon: a first-class 2-storey House, containing Shop and good Cellerage, Bakehouse and Oven; also a 4-roomed cottage, good Stable and Kitchen, and Shed to stable 4 horses; fine Well of Water and a trellis." Today a one-third-acre of land in this location would be worth about \$15 million. Dyson was selling up to get out of what his obituary (next page) called "reduced circumstances".

◀ Lot 1 is the property, Lot 2 is the swamp

The *Police Gazette* 2 May 1877 reports that William West was sentenced to three months in prison for stealing from near Dyson's swamp, 6 wedges, 1 axe, and 2 maul rings, which are adjustable rings for strengthening the heavy wooden hammers (mauls) used with wedges for splitting logs.

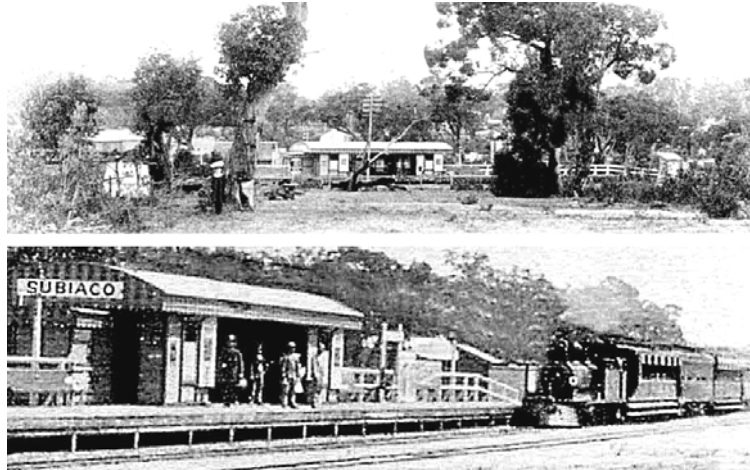
1881 The Fremantle-Guildford railway line opens. It is WA's second railway line after the 1879 line between Geraldton and Northampton. It passes through the Subiaco area just 0.4 km from Shenton's Lake, and ends in Guildford near the Governor's residence at the limit of safe navigation up river. It is instantly popular, and white residents of Perth average eleven journeys each in the first ten months. In 1897 the single line is upgraded to two lines. (Spillman 1985:51-58)



Bridge over the Swan River at Guildford c1857. From *Western Australian Year Book* 1979: plate 5

1883 The railway has two stations between Fremantle and Perth. One is half way at Claremont, the other is near the former Benedictine settlement and is named Subiaco. The Government announces that the land west of Perth and south of the railway line will be surveyed, classified Suburban, and auctioned off to developers, who would then divide the mostly 2-hectare blocks and resell them for housing. (Spillman 1985:64). The survey by George Rotton is dated October 1883. Soon the whole area is known as Subiaco.

Most of today's streets appear on his survey ready named. Those near the lake are named after Australian statesman William Nicholson, Colonial Surgeon Dr A R Waylen, Attorney General Sir Alexander Onslow, and Colonial Secretaries Henry Herbert and Edward earl of Derby. Keightley Road is named but its origin is unknown. Later streets will be named after Bill Evans, Excelsior, and Councillor Joseph Lake (Lake 2007). *Subiaco: Papers on Local History*, 3rd article.



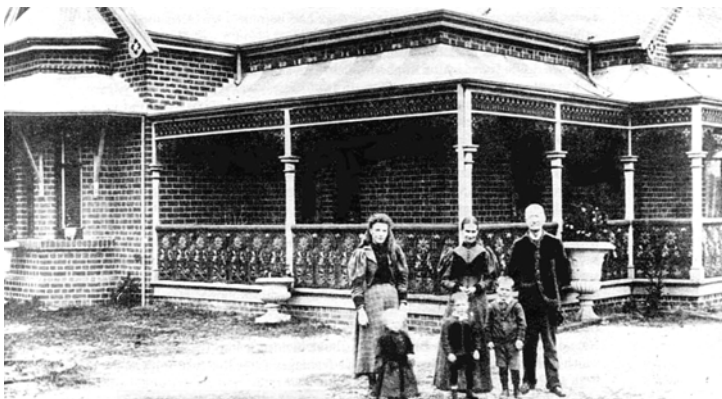
Cheap and reliable rail transport helps the development of Subiaco years before motor vehicles take over. But a more important factor is the influx of people during the gold rush period of the 1890s and 1900s. (Pictures from Spillman 1985:57, top, and *Seeds of Subiaco* 1979:10)

1885 Dyson's Swamp is attractive to thieves. Six years earlier *Police Gazette* of 11 June 1879 had reported a brown pony stolen from "James Thompson's paddock, Dyson's Swamp, near Perth". A year later it reported clothing stolen from "James Thompson's hut, Dyson's Swamp, near Perth". Another year later it reported the theft of a load of firewood "between Perth and Dyson's Swamp ... the property of James Thompson." Yet another year later in July 1882 it reported the theft of a "pair trace chains" from a horse while grazing near Dyson's Swamp, Perth, "the property of James McKenzie", who later featured in the *West Australian* 2 February 1885 page 3 as follows:

"James McKenzie, who described himself as a gatherer of gum and bark, was charged with being drunk [in Fremantle's] the Emerald Isle hotel. The constable who arrested him said he looked like "a wild man" who had never in his life been introduced to soap and water, much less a razor or comb. The prisoner himself did not deny the charge, but ... said he lived in the neighborhood of Dyson's Swamp, and not being used to indulge in alcoholic beverages, a few glasses of beer had overpowered him. [The magistrate] discharged the wretched creature, and told him to go back to Dyson's Swamp, and to keep himself aloof from the seductions of the port [ie Fremantle, not port as in sherry] for the future."

James McKenzie died in September 1893. *The Western Australian Times* 14 April 1894 page 15 describes him briefly as "woodcutter, late of Dyson's Swamp".

1886 The first private house in Subiaco is built by Mr John Jones, temporary editor of *The West Australian* and the only *Hansard* reporter of the time, on Rokeby Road between Hay Street and Roberts Road, then all heavy sandy tracks. It has nine rooms and is called "Jones Folly" because of its isolation and 3-km distance from Perth. (Spillman 1985:66-67)



◀ To build this house many difficulties had to be overcome. A well was sunk over 60 feet deep and lined with bricks made in the Belmont area. They were shipped by river to the William Street jetty, transferred to horse carts and pulled up to the intersection of Hay Street and Thomas Street, and from there carried through scrub to the building site. This was the route of all building materials. Once finished it was a great "mansion" with nine rooms. It was built on land which was purchased from Bishop Gibney, and in those days stretched from Rokeby Road to Axon Street and from Mueller Road (now Roberts Road) to Hay Street.

In later days the well supplied water for three neighbours, and with the increasing population many great parties were held in the home, two rooms of which were separated by folding doors and could be turned into one for a dance floor. The house stood for 73 years [until 1959] and was last occupied in 1958 by a daughter of the original owner." (Schlatter 1979:7). Today Jones Folly would be a two-minute walk from Subiaco railway station. From Spillman (1985:67).

• A correspondent, writing of the late Mr. James Dyson, who had resided in Western Australia for nearly fifty years, and whose death we recorded last Tuesday, says:— James Dyson was born in Lancashire, in October, 1810, and arrived in this colony in the early part of 1841, in the barque "Napoleon." Shortly after his arrival he commenced business as a pitsawyer—a laborious occupation, but of a most lucrative nature in days previous to the application of steam machinery. After about twenty years or so he established himself in town as a timber merchant and general dealer, and in those days was amongst the largest employers of labor in the colony. He succeeded in business and made a competency, but later on he met with reverses and became somewhat reduced in circumstances. He was one of the oldest surviving members of the Sons of Australia Benefit Society, and the incidence is worth recording that he was buried on the fifty-first anniversary of its formation. Mr. Dyson had a numerous family of no less than twenty-one children—14 of whom are still living, besides twenty-two grand children. The deceased filled office in the City Council as a representative of the West Ward for nine years in succession, and it is his due to add that he worked hard in the interest of his constituents and for the citizens in general.

1888

◀ Dyson obituary *Inquirer* 27 January 1888 p.5.

1893 Subiaco's population is about 100 (*West Australian* 19 September 1952), but a tiny fraction of Perth Municipality, which the April 1891 census puts at 4239 males and 4208 females, "not so large as it was generally thought to be" (10,000), but the balance of the sexes is "extraordinarily even" (*Western Australian Year-Book* 1893-1894, which is also the source of what follows). Total deaths in 1893 are 278. Total area of Perth is 3850 acres, not including a park reserve of 980 acres. The state has twenty main rivers including Swan, Murray, and Blackwood, but "most of these are mere storm-water channels, filled only during the rainy season, and very few of them are navigable even for small boats for any distance". Between Darling Range and the coast "are numerous salt and fresh water lakes and lagoons, but many of them are nothing more than swamps during the dry season". Except after heavy rain, lakes in the interior "are mostly dry, being in reality only immense salt marshes or clay pans". In Perth there is good demand for tradesmen at an average wage of about £2 10s a week, half this for domestic servants.

To roughly relate what follows to an average wage of \$1000 a week, use 1d = \$2, 1s = \$20, £1 = \$400.

Postage is 1d within Perth, 2d within WA, 2½d to UK. Telegrams within WA are 6d for ten words, Europe a ruinous 4s 9d per word. Rail fare to Fremantle is 1s one way, 1s 6d return. Freight averages 10s/ton per 100 miles, or 35s/ton to the UK. Passage to London takes 40-45 days, fares are £15 steerage class (the cheapest), twice this for saloon class. An acre of land costs £1 in Mt Barker, £5 in Busselton, up to £20 in Perth suburbs. Weekly rent in Perth is 7s to 10s for a 3-room house, 12s for a 5-room house, board and lodging for single persons is 15s to 20s. Prices per pound: bread 2d, cheese 10d, beef 6d, mutton 6d, pork 9d, rice 2d, tobacco 5s. Colonial beer 3s a bottle, wine 4s gallon, brandy 35s. £15 will buy a horse, or 15 goats, or 25 sheep, or a ton of flour. The discovery of gold in Coolgardie (1892) and Kalgoorlie (1893) brings a rush of people from the Eastern States and overseas. Some find work in the Perth area and stay behind.

1896 Thanks to the gold rush, Subiaco's population increases dramatically to 1300. A year later it is 2700. (Van der Straaten 1959:7) Settlement moves outward into Jolimont and West Subiaco.



From the original 1883 survey on **left**, Subiaco is now officially the area shown on **right**, with settlement continuing to move outward into Jolimont and West Subiaco. The only change to these boundaries occurred in 1907 with an extension south to the river via the "Nedlands corridor". From Spillman (1985)

1897 Shenton gives permission for part of his property to be used as playing fields and it becomes a popular venue for picnics, foot racing, cricket and football. More significantly, it becomes home to the Shenton Park Cricket Club, which leads to Shenton's Lake becoming Shenton Park Lake, and (by the 1930s) the whole of West Subiaco becoming Shenton Park.

Subiaco population in 1897 exceeds the 2000 needed to become a municipality, and is so gazetted on 26 March. The first Council is formed with three councillors for each of three wards (increasing to four wards in 1905), and a presiding mayor. The first post office opens where the Library stands today. But Subiaco remains predominantly bush with scattered tent communities and only several hundred houses under construction. The typical Subiaco family is a youngish couple born in the Eastern States with several small children. (Spillman 1985:177)



It is common for a new land owner to erect a tent, replacing it later with a wooden hut to be improved as time and money allowed. So the earliest Subiaco is mainly a tent town. From *Seeds of Subiaco* (1979:9)

1898 Subiaco Football Club and Subiaco Cricket Club merge with the Shenton Park Cricket Club. In a municipality that was still mostly bush, it was one of the few areas where sport could be played. The most popular family outings were picnics, and walking in the rapidly disappearing bush picking orchids and wildflowers.



Staff of Whittakers' timber yard and their families on a picnic at Dyson's Swamp in 1898. Location unknown, but possibly at the western end where people played football and cricket. From Spillman (1985:103)

The West Australian 10 October 1898 page 7 reports a meeting of the Subiaco Municipal Council at which "a letter was received from Sir George Shenton declining to exchange the land known as Dyson's Swamp for certain other lands vested in the municipality".

1899 Before white settlement the lake had abundant wildlife and was a meeting place for local Aborigines, who hold occasional corroborees at the lake until 1908. But by 1899 they can just as frequently be seen drinking at an old saw-pit next to what is now Subiaco Oval. Subiaco has less than 5 km of roads and lots of dusty energy-sapping sand tracks. (Spillman 1985:108)

1900 An electric tram service begins up Rokeby Road connecting with the Perth-Thomas Street line. They stop at every street, a great convenience. The fare to Perth costs 3d. (Spillman 1985:127)



Tram at the corner of Rokeby Road and Hay Street. A stationary tram is visible further up Rokeby Road. The sign to its right says "M Morgan Fruit and Vegetable Mart". From Spillman (1985:179)

The Government Astronomer WE Cooke describes Perth's climate as "probably one of the most enjoyable in the world". The average maximum is 31C in January and 18C in July. "The summer generally extends well into April (a delightful month) and then come the first rains which usher in the winter season." The average annual rainfall is 840 mm. "By the end of August or the beginning of September most of the heavy rain is over, and then come a couple of months of absolutely perfect weather. Day after day is magnificently fine, the thermometer ranging from about 70° [21C] in the daytime to 50° [10C] at night, and the parks and surrounding country enchant the senses with their luxurious display of wild flowers." (*Western Australian Year-Book* 1898-1899 page 113)

The same Year-Book lists the main events for each year from 1829, which include severe winter storms in 1830, 1847, 1862 and 1872. The Swan River overflowed its banks (something that never happens today), causing great damage to gardens and growing areas. In 1862 Mount's Bay Road was under two feet of water, and even more in 1872 after it rained continuously for six weeks.

1903 Subiaco Council finalise a swap, begun in 1897, with George Shenton whereby they acquire his property in exchange for a similar area just to the northeast that was more suitable for building houses. All streets have piped water and street watering to reduce dust.

By this time the swamp's low-lying location, its poor drainage, the clearing of vegetation and removal of timber for houses, and good rains had transformed the dry areas into an ever-increasing permanent lake. Thus by 1901 the football oval was a sea of mud and slush, and was so hated by visitors that no matches were played there during 1902-1904. Originally the flooding is attributed to more rain, but the rain is not significantly more (see 1908), and today the flooding is attributed to a rise in the water table caused by clearing native vegetation (not just in Subiaco), which reduced transpiration and interception and increased runoff areas such as roads and roofs (McFarlane 1981).

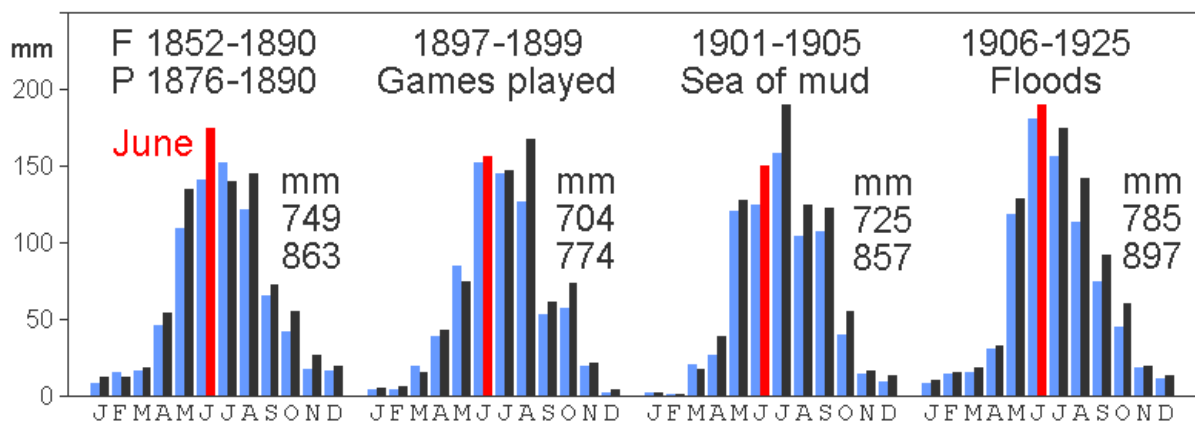
1905 Plans to resume football are abandoned when the oval becomes a quagmire in May and underwater in June. The 1905 Aborigine Act is passed. Aborigines now need permission of the Chief Protector of Aborigines to marry, work, open a bank account, travel, buy goods, or attend a hospital. They could be prohibited from entering designated areas after dark or from leaving an Aboriginal reserve. (Perth City was a prohibited area 1927-1954). But in general they are tolerated by settlers and police provided they cause no trouble. There are no more corroborees at the lake.

SUBIACO RECREATION GROUND.
IMPROVING SHENTON PARK.
PROGRESSIVE POLICY ADOPTED.
DETAILS OF THE SCHEME.

Mr. Hargrave, who was the surveyor approached by the Council, supplied the following details of a scheme for improving the Park:—"I take it that the Council wishes a scheme prepared that will admit of portions of the work involved being carried out from time to time as funds permit. Levels to permit of a complete scheme being prepared are provided. The most important question to be dealt with is drainage. According to the Government contour plan, the natural surface level of the lowest part of the reserve is about 10ft. only above the low-water mark at Fremantle, and I understand that Dyson's Swamp, by which name the reserve was originally known, has always been considered as a permanent water basin. It

Excerpts from a report in *The Western Australian Times* of 30 March 1905 page 3 that describes a special meeting of Subiaco Council held to consider the issue of "improving Shenton Park, the local recreation ground". A surveyor tells Subiaco Council "I understand that Dyson's Swamp, by which name the reserve was originally known, has always been considered as a permanent water basin."
 See pages 23 and 32 for a later version of the contour plan he is referring to.

1908 Drier turf created by the 1905 clearing of undergrowth at Mueller Park (now Subiaco Oval) becomes available, and footballers never again play at Shenton Park Lake. Subiaco Council erect a high picket fence around the lake area to protect children and pets.



F = Fremantle rainfall, P = Perth rainfall. Perth rainfall was not notably higher during the mud and flood years than during the earlier years, showing they were caused not by high rainfall but by the clearing of vegetation (refer 1903). Data from Bureau of Meteorology.

1909 *The Western Australian Times* 7 January 1909, pages 4,5, refers to "the recent affair at Shenton Park, when two lads were nearly drowned". The Council decides to erect warning posts indicating the depth of the water and other necessary notices in prominent places. So the lake, even in early summer, is deep enough to drown in. More drownings occur later, eg in 1916 and 1931.



1909. Aborigines in Perth for a corroboree. Picture from National Library <http://nla.gov.au/> White settlement has existed for eighty years, but aboriginal culture is barely surviving. Since the earliest days, efforts are made to record it by historians, none more famous than Daisy Bates, whom we are about to meet. Among other things she was the first to record the Aboriginal name for Dyson's swamp.

The Western Mail for 25 December 1909 pages 16-17 features an article by Daisy Bates (1863-1951), the first government recorder of Aboriginal information. Her articles had been appearing in Perth newspapers since 1907, but this was the first to mention Dyson's swamp. Its subject is "Oldest Perth: The Days before the White Men won". Its long opening sentence is as follows:

Who that looks down up [sic] our populous city of Perth from the glorious vantage point of the King's Park, noting its suburbs stretching ever outwards north, south, east and west, can realise that just a little over eighty years ago the spot where Perth and its suburbs now stand was just a tangle of tree, scrub, and swamp in the undisputed possession of a few tribal families of aborigines, who wandered hither and thither, following the laws of their nomadic ancestors, over its now closed-in surface and valuable acreages.

She goes on to describe native life and especially names:

In those days every little spring or special root or fruit ground, or patch of red ochre, or lime, or any product whatever, had its distinguishing appellation. The present Perth site had fifty such names. The line of hills which we designate the Darling Range had a thousand characteristic spots, all known and named.

She notes that a few native names such as Balkatta have survived, but most have not, for example Wandaraguttagurup (part of Subiaco), Goordan'dalup (Crawley), Mindeerup (South Perth), and Jin'jeejerdup (Mt Lawley). "Dyson's swamp was called Joo'alub, and was a good place for wild duck in its season, and also for goonok [jilgies]." Butler's Swamp (now Lake Claremont) was called Beereegup. But she is unable to give meanings for place names because:

All aboriginal names of places have not got a meaning, or if they have, it is not known to the owners. Certain spots having some special root or fruit or other product will probably be named from these, but naming from such circumstances is not general amongst the South-Western aborigines.

For example, is Koo'yamulyup (below Mt Eliza) named after Koo'yarr, the large noisy frogs that lived there? (Her ' indicated that the pronunciation was Koo-Yah not Kooee-Ah). Is the Karr'gatta waterhole named after Karr, a species of crab? Nobody could say for sure. Contrary to her claim, some meanings of place names are discovered later. See 1996 for more on Lake Jualbup's name.



This photo of "Shenton Park Lake, Subiaco" by E. Parish (? surname illegible) appears in *The Western Mail* for 8 May 1909 page 29. It is the earliest photo of the lake that I have been able to discover. The bushes and (in the background) trees do not live permanently in water, so even in early May the lake is evidently in flood. Rain in 1908 is slightly below average, and up to early May 1909 it is average, so the flood shown here is also average.

For more early (but equally unhelpful) pictures of the lake see 1911, 1928, 1931.

1910s

From 1912 to 1945 Daisy Bates (1863-1951) lived among the Aborigines of WA recording their customs and language. The following brief excerpts from her book *The Passing of the Aborigines* (1938, reprinted in 1966 and 2004, see Bridge 2004) give a glimpse of her bush life in the 1910s, and how it was transformed by Aboriginal legends and dream-time:



A circular tent, 14 ft in diameter, sagging about me in the wet, and ballooning in the wind, was my home for two years in that little patch of bushland bright with wild flowers, overlooking the beautiful valley of Guilford and the winding river. There by a camp-fire when the dampers were cooking ... I would be on duty from night till morning, collecting scraps of language, old legends, old customs ... (page 68)

As the sun came up ... I would eat my tea and toast in absolute content, while outside [my tent] the blue smoke of the fire changed to grey in the bright sunlight. ... I knew every bush, every pool, every granite boulder, by its age-old prehistoric name, with its legends and dream-time secrets, and its gradual inevitable change. There was no loneliness. One lived with the trees, the rocks, the hills and the valleys, the verdure and the strange living things within and about them. My meals and meditations in the silence and sunlight, the small joys and tiny events of my solitary walks, have been more open to me than the voices of the multitude. And the ever-open book of Nature has taught me more of wisdom than is composed in the libraries of men. (page 116)

Daisy Bates ▲ was a prim Victorian lady and always dressed accordingly. From a 1948 photo by Douglas Glass, frontispiece to *Bridge* (2004).

West Subiaco is now a small, closely-knit community with frequent social gatherings (Mitchell 2004). But it is probably the least inviting of the land within greater Subiaco. Houses are scattered along dusty roads. The bush is everywhere, just as in Kings Park today, and in spring there is a captivating variety of wildflowers. Aborigines are surviving in huts or stables or bush camps. They deliver mail, help with roads, gardening, washing, fishing, fetching wood and water, and minding horses. A copy of *The West Australian* costs 1d. The lake and its surroundings are a source of adventure and delight for local children. In 1911 the earliest photographs of the lake in the Subiaco Museum archives were taken, but they convey little of the "delight for local children":



Shenton Park Lake in 1911. **Left**, in the water are rushes before a sandbank with straggly trees. Beyond is an open space backed by thick bush, possibly the football area. **Right**, trees and thick rushes frame a stretch of open water with a similar sandbank and straggly trees in the distance. Subiaco Museum P85.335, P85.360.

A better idea of "a delight for local children" is shown by these pictures of Jolimont Swamp c1910-1920, below and on the next page. From Laurie (2005). Did Dyson's swamp look like this?



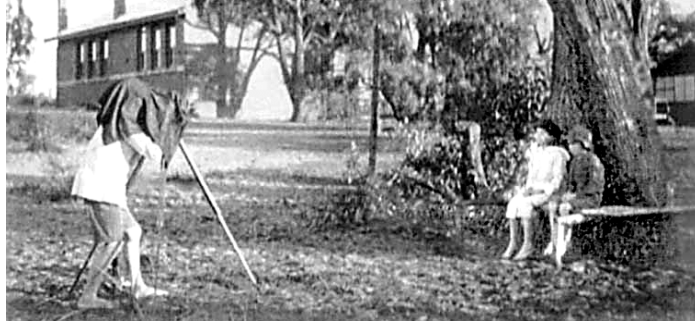
Almost hidden in the mist is a row of houses, showing that the camera is looking south across what is now Mabel Talbot Reserve. From Laurie (2005)



Watering cows at Jolimont Swamp c.1920. Perhaps similar to the scene at Dyson's Swamp

in 1874 when James Dyson was using it for watering stock. From Laurie (2005)

The lack of good early pictures of the water at Shenton Park Lake is unfortunate. The negative process in general use from the 1860s allowed an unlimited number of prints to be produced from a single negative., and by the 1890s photographic societies were well established. The above four photographs of Jolimont Swamp show what was routinely possible. They were taken by the aptly named Frederick Flood who lived in Jolimont from 1912 to about 1921.



Here Frederick Flood is photographing children in the grounds of Jolimont school c1910. Before each shot was taken on a glass plate, the image had to be focussed on a ground-glass screen, hence the shroud to keep out stray light. Flood later became a photographer for *The West Australian*. From Laurie (2005)

Back in Shenton Park, as one resident later reminisced:

"Shenty Park", as we called it, was our territory. The usual method of entry was under the fence like rabbits, where the sand had been scooped away. The more agile went over the top, aided by rope ladders or propped-up logs. (Muriel McCallum, *Reflections on a Lake, Tom's Weekly*, 21 July 1969, quoted by Spillman 1985:239)

Wrote another:

Summer time the lake was a real attraction to the local lads; somehow they would manage to get inside the fence to catch leeches and tadpoles and a sly swim, although swimming was strongly forbidden and there were noticeboards around the lake. (Edna Power, *A Happy Childhood at Shenton Park, West Australian*, 3 October 1979, quoted by Spillman 1985:239)

Boys built canoes from flattened sheets of corrugated iron, folded over, wired closed, and water-proofed with tar. The rubbish dump provided a ready source of raw materials. The canoes provided hours of fun in naval battles and duck chasing. But they could be hazardous, see 1917 and 1931.



Canoeing c.1920 on the floodwaters of Jolimont swamp, now Mabel Talbot Lake. The flood reached from Jersey to Peel Streets, and up both Rosebery and Lansdowne Streets, covering perhaps three-quarters the area of a flooded Shenton Park Lake. The road sign says Rosebery Street. From Spillman (1985:236) See page 42 for a view of the same area today.

The West Australian 6 November 1916 page 7 reports the inquest on Thomas Grier, an elderly man found drowned in Shenton Park Lake at least 5 days after time of death, estimated to be 23 October. The body was found about 15 feet from the shore, where the lake was about two feet deep.

<p>A SHENTON PARK MYSTERY.</p> <p>ELDERLY MAN'S DEATH.</p> <p>THE INQUEST.</p> <p>In the No. 3 Police Court yesterday, the Coroner (Mr. T. F. Davies, P.M.) and a jury concluded their inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of an elderly man, named Thomas Grier, whose body was recently found in the lake at Shenton Park, West Subiaco.</p>	<p>George Emery, a carter in the employ of the Subiaco Council, said that about 8.30 a.m. on October 23, he was carting sand to the rubbish tip at Shenton Park, when he noticed a body in the water. It was lying face downwards, and a hat lay just behind the feet. There was a depth of about two feet six inches of water at the spot, which was about 15 feet from the edge of the lake. It would not be possible for the body to have drifted to the spot, because there were rushes all round it. The hat rested on the bottom, near the man's feet, and could not have drifted.</p>
--	--

The report mentions Henry McKenny, employed by Subiaco Council to tip rubbish into the lake, and George Emory, a carter employed by Subiaco Council, who found the body when he was carting sand to the rubbish tip at the lake. This puts the start of the rubbish tip at 1916 or earlier. The sand was commonly added to make the rubbish less offensive, not a direct attempt to fill in the lake (which would have been optimistic, since about 100 wheelbarrowfuls every day 24/7 for five years would have been required to fill its 50,000 cubic metres).

The extent of flooding at the lake is such a concern that the government water authorities begin measuring the lake's water level. The measurements are discussed later under 1957.

1917 *The Western Mail* 16 March 1917 page 44, in an article on "Old Time Memories", refers briefly to Dyson's Swamp, "being originally the property of an old city councillor named Dyson, the respected father of Perth's heavy-weight "Drewey" now of West Perth.

The Shenton Park Lake water now extends beyond the picket fence on three sides. Bill Poor (b.1913), who had lived all his life in Cuthbert Street 500 metres south of the lake, recalls:

Shenton Park Lake was a football ground ... In one corner there was a little spring and as they chopped the trees down for building up came the lake. I can remember it coming through the fence they had around it [the lake]. It was gradually coming, getting bigger and bigger. It crossed over Herbert Road, and also past Excelsior Street that was all bush and went towards Derby Road. They had to keep building up the road on Herbert Road with planks, sand and put planks on top and keep building it up and building it up until it got to a certain height. And they had to reclaim the land on the other side of Herbert Road there. Where those houses are, that's all reclaimed because it was all under water. Then they put a drain through to come out into Daglish where the main water drains from Subiaco are connected. [It] drained seven feet of water from the lake so that's how high it was.



A huge trees near Jolimont swamp with thick bush in the background.
Photographed by Frederick Flood probably c1910. From Spillman (1985:149)

Between 1912 and 1914 more than 30 houses are constructed on lots adjacent to the lake's northeast quadrant. Weekends are noisy with hammering and sawing, and the occasional gunshot as wild duck is added to a struggling family's menu. As for people swimming in the lake. Poor continues:

Yes, yes. And one fellow drowned there, a fellow named Bill Johnson. He was out canoeing and he turned over and he couldn't swim. They found his body among the reeds. ... Oh yes it was quite deep in those days. [But not many swam

there.] The water was sort of dirty. The roads around the place, there wasn't that many roads and roads were only sort of half built you know. Like Derby Road was only built down to the end of the school. Lilac [?] Road was only half way built. ... Evans Street wasn't built ... There was houses there but no roads. (Poor 1984).



An early cottage in Jolimont. No road, no garden, bush on the doorstep. From Spillman (1985:100)

1920 The lake has spread across Herbert Road, which for several winters is up to 45 centimetres under water. Houses on Herbert Road, and on the other side of Excelsior Street near Keightley Road, are occasionally flooded.

Leonard Preedy (b.1923) remembers what the lake was like:

The Shenton Park Lake was originally a much bigger water than it is now [1984], but of course before that there was no water. It was a football oval and my father used to play football on it. But a spring seemed to come up in the middle of the football oval and there was a constant puddle there – which didn't stop them from playing footie for quite a while. [It] had a wooden picket fence round it and it had wooden [goal] posts ... the council had an animal pound in the Keightley Road end of the lake area. Then this spring seemed to get bigger, then they had to abandon the football. And then the lake grew and grew until it ran right across the other side of Herbert Road. In fact Herbert Road was a causeway. ... The lake came right up to houses fronting on to Derby Road. ... Excelsior had one end fronted on to Onslow Road and the other piece of Excelsior was on to Nicholson, but in the middle there was no road because the lake used to interrupt it.

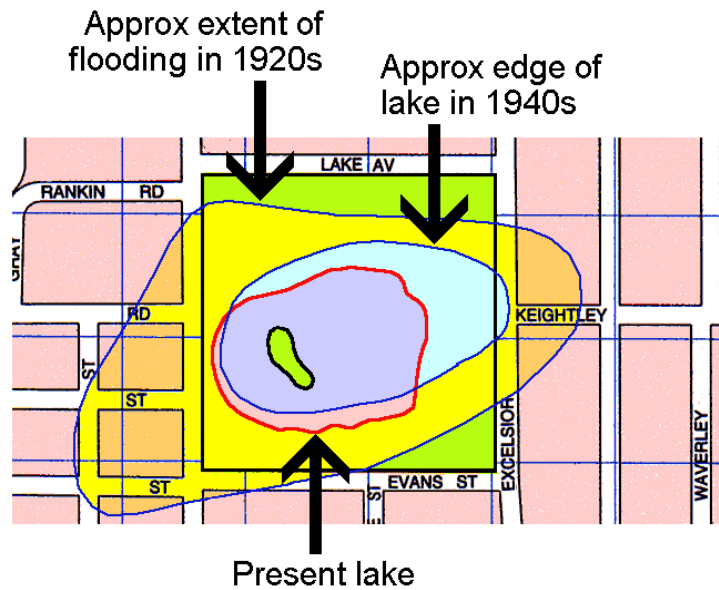
Herbert Road had this causeway, and where houses were built on the other side of Herbert that was all lake, they decided they had to try and stop it in some way. They put an overflow pipe in there, in the lake, which restricted the water level. Then they filled in the land on the west side of Herbert Road and began the business of dumping rubbish in the lake. One time ... a chap by the name of Joss jumped in the water on the Herbert Road side and it was pretty damn deep and he got drowned. Even though in those days it was a marvellous place for kids who used to swim. There was one place that was quite a sandy beachy area on the Onslow side of the lake that you could swim in.



Today this is about as flooded as it gets. But compare this view with the diagram below.

Preedy continues:

"It was a pretty common swimming area. There was a lot of rubbish thrown in there but it was still a lot of water, and around the Onslow beachy area, it wasn't too bad. ... Now of course it's been all filled in with rubbish, and it was a bit of a mess there at one time." (Preedy 1984:19-21)



◀ Extent of flooding estimated from eyewitness accounts, c1940 aerial photograph, and 1924 contours. Today, to experience how large the floods were, stand on the footpath and imagine a lake twice as wide, twice as broad, without an island, and six metres deep in the middle. Imagine also thick bulrushes around the edge, and an abundance of ducks.

1921 In an effort to keep houses habitable and roads trafficable, Subiaco Council begin bringing in thousands of railway sleepers to raise road levels, and hundreds of tonnes of infill for the lake. Council also encourage all residents to dump their domestic and building rubbish at the lake's eastern end to try and hold back the rising water (City of Subiaco 2000:7).

1923 Clock tower on Rokeby Road is unveiled (Spillman 1985:214).

1925 Walter Sefton (b.1913) describes what the lake was like when he was about 11 years old:

The lake was one of our main sort of hunting grounds you might term it. We had a lot of fun on there. Then the lake was much bigger than it is now [1983] because it came right up practically to Keightley Road. ... There was a landing ... where a dray could go down and dump its load of rubbish into the lake for filling. ... The lake went right across Herbert Road and there was a lake on the other side of Herbert Road where the first two houses are, it took up all that area. In winter time of course the lake filled up a bit higher and the road would be anything up to 18 inches under water. And the lake was full of reeds, full of birds, full of insects, fish. Quite good fish in there too. Right down from the little zambezi up to what I suppose was a carp. (page 2)

The zambezi (more properly called *Gambusia*) are about 5 cm inches long, the carp are up to 20-25 cm long. The big ones would be eaten, the little ones would be brought home like tadpoles (Sefton 1913 pages 20-21). *Gambusia* are non-native, aggressive, and hard to see. Their eggs, and therefore the fish, survive drying up. In the 1920s and 1930s they were deliberately introduced into creeks and lakes throughout WA to keep mosquitoes (whose larvae they eat) under control, but their effect was minimal because mosquito larvae form only a small part of their diet. Sefton continues:

We used to get out on the lake in canoes and they were quite worthy canoes too. The easy way to make a canoe was to look around for a piece of [corrugated] iron. You'd stick it on the road and after trucks had run it over a few times she was flattened out nicely. Then you doubled it up to make a canoe, put a sliver of wood down one end and a stump down the blunt end. Tack them together. Then you'd wander down to where they were making the new roads which were only made of stones with bitumen or tar over the top. And of course this would be summer time and the tar got nice and soft and wet, so you only had to pick it up with a stick and fill up all the gaps. You'd stick your canoe in the water, which was cold, and boom she'd seal up and you had your canoe. ... there was many a neighbourhood battle fought and lost on that lake with these canoes. You learnt a lot about wildlife and nature, and you learnt a lot about how to look after yourselves. (pages 2-3)

He remembers that the Aborigines had a camp about half a mile directly west of Daghish station. They did not suddenly leave but

just gradually disappeared as the homes went out through Daghish, say from around Selby Street to under the Nicholson Road subway, close to where the paraplegic place is today. ... I think they went up bush through Bayswater, Bassendean,

North Perth because there were no houses up there. The only other Aborigines you used to see then were chaps that came round selling clothes props. ... They were dressed, they weren't in native clothes, they had ordinary clothes even then. They lived out in little tin shanties made with a bit of tin and a few palm leaves, that style of thing. (page 21)

Paddy Baker (b.1898) lived on Rokeby Road from 1916 and remembers the Aborigines as few in number: "Never too many ... Yes, one or two, but not many." Where? "Oh you could never tell that, they'd come out of a day begging." Asking for food? "Oh yes, always catching us. They [the Government] didn't give them any assistance those days. There weren't too many out here though, one or two." (Baker 1984).



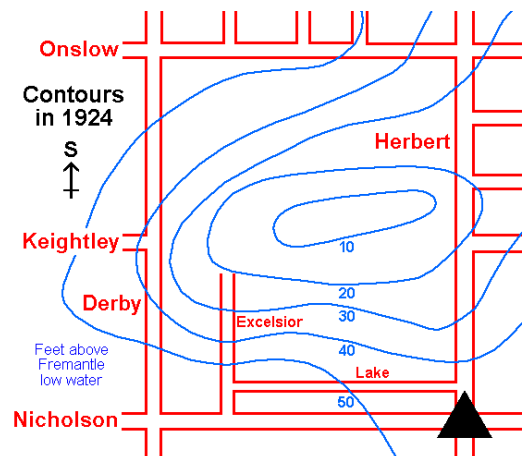
Three Emu buses on Herbert Road in 1928. They are facing east with Shenton Park lake in the background. This is the first known photograph to give a panoramic glimpse of the lake, which is clearly large and (here at least) fringed by sand. The buses have uncomfortable wooden seats that faithfully transmit every bump in the road. There are no bus stop seats or shelters. Children under 14 pay 1d. Subiaco Museum P85.35

1928 A series of reports in *The West Australian* during the last half of 1928 describe the progress made in alleviating flooding:

22 August 1928 page 7. In the Legislative Assembly, the member for Subiaco Mr Richardson "urged the Government to drain the lake at Shenton Park, Subiaco, which would cost about #35,000 otherwise the Subiaco Municipal Council could be mulcted [fined] in very serious damages. During the last thirty years the water level had risen 18 feet and if it went much higher the people would be unable to live in West Subiaco. [The Council] had already had to pay considerable sums. On one occasion a sick woman had had to be carried from her house because there was 6 inches of water in it, and two feet of water in the yard. The whole family had to go to a hotel, and it cost the council a considerable amount to clean the place when the water receded."

25 August 1928 page 18. "The rising of the water in the lake at Shenton Park is causing the residents some anxiety". Councillors and the Acting Minister for Public Works had visited the lake. Would the government make money available to drain the lake into the ocean outlet of the Subiaco sewerage scheme? The Minister said he would consider it.

8 December 1928 page 20. At a meeting of Subiaco councillors, the Minister for Works (Mr A McCallum) pointed out that problems due to flooding affected many other parts of the metro area besides Subiaco, so it would be best tackled generally not piecemeal, for which plans would soon be released. "Dealing specifically with the problem of Shenton Park lake in West Subiaco, the Minister said that in his opinion no attempt should be made to drain the lake completely dry. During his travels abroad it had been brought home to him how other cities were spending large sums in schemes of beautification by making artificial lakes to get advantages such as Nature had provided here [in Subiaco]. All that was required to be done in the case of Shenton Park was to check the increase in the level of the lake, and to convert the area into a park, when it would become a really attractive botanical garden."



Left: Photo in *The West Australian* 14 September 1928 page 22 "shows the extent to which Shenton Park Lake has encroached on Herbert-road, Subiaco, which is closed for traffic. The road is not expected to be passable until November." Rainfall in July+August+September is 320 mm more than the average. The photo has been taken from the high ground of what is now Lake Street, looking south. The lake is immediately to the left. The high roof in the left distance is a hall on the corner of what is now Evans Street.

Right: My triangle on this PWD 1924 contour map with modern roads added, shows the area from where the photo was taken, possibly near the 40-foot contour, which when followed (allow for some reclamation up to 1928) suggests the extent and depth of flooding. Herbert Road is clearly the road most at risk

It was possibly about this time that Paul Hasluck (b.1905), later Sir Paul, Governor-General of Australia 1969-1974, wrote a poem about Dyson's Swamp. It was before or during the war years 1939-1945 that he wrote most of his poems, which were later brought together in his book *Collected Verse* (Hawthorn Press, Melbourne 1969). The poem on Dyson's Swamp is undated but the name (Dyson's not Shenton) suggests it was written earlier rather than later. But it tells us little about the lake other than it had water, weeds and wildlife. Even the lake's prominent bulrushes fail to get a mention. The rhyming scheme is non-traditional and not immediately obvious, so I have indicated the rhymed words in colour:

At Dyson's Swamp

Truth did not come in the laborious night
By lamp, or pen, or the deliberate **clock**;
But where the weeds were turning brown
And purple pigface and the yellowing **dock**
Clashed colour cymbals in my echoing **brain**.
—Heat on the pine trees and the still pond,
The sudden dart of tadpoles in a **drain**,

A whistling bird—from this impermanent arc
The spark of knowledge flashed. Mortality
Fell suddenly away, flesh from the **bone**.
Existence lay, a vast map seen by lightning,
With nutrient rivers and great ribs of **stone**.
—Beside a pond, where tall grass acrid in the sun
Sang of the season's end and tillage over**grown**.

Which might boil down to:.

It was season's end. Weeds were turning brown.
But there was water and tadpoles to bring inspiration

1929 *The Western Mail* 4 July 1929 page 70 features an article by Daisy Bates on "Aboriginal Perth". It has much the same content as her 1909 article, but is shorter, and this time the name for Dyson's Swamp is "Ju-albup" (in 1909 it was "Joo'albub"), but again no meaning is given.

By now many hundreds of tonnes of infill have been deposited in the lake, plus thousands of cartloads of rubbish via Keightley Road, plus thousands of old railway sleepers to keep the roads in service. But the floods are finally brought under control only by the erection of a pump house in the southwest corner. (City of Subiaco 2000:7).

On 8 October 1929 the West Subiaco Aerodrome opens as part of Hermann Ittershagen's business selling tractors (he needs to fly spare parts direct to farms). He had taken a lease on 66 acres of land where the UWA Sports Park (previously McGillivray Oval) now stands in Mt Claremont. It had taken two years to clear, level, and grass, largely because the occupying Tuart trees were tough and had to be blasted from the ground. (Subiaco Museum archives)

The West Subiaco Aerodrome is the first private aerodrome in WA licensed for light aircraft. Ittershagen has two planes, both low-wing monoplanes that could carry one and two passengers respectively. Before his Aerodrome opened there were only twelve aeroplanes in WA, all operating from the government aerodrome at Maylands, now a golf course and housing estate. For the first three years 1929-1932 Ittershagen's service prospers, but it is not to last.

1930 Subiaco Flying Club is formed at the West Subiaco Aerodrome. Subiaco's largely working-class population is affected by the worldwide depression. 600 married men become unemployed.

1931 *The West Australian* 18 February 1931 page 6. William Jones (25) was drowned when a canoe in which he and Alexander William Savage (15) were paddling on the lake at Shenton Park turned over. They had gone out during the afternoon of 30 January in a canoe that was capable of

holding two persons comfortably. They were on their way home about 5 pm when the canoe capsized, but they were able to keep it afloat until 15 yards from shore, when it sank. As did the deceased. The deceased's brother recovered the body shortly after 6 pm. The Acting Coroner said the municipal authorities should erect a sign indicating the depth of water, since "it is a dangerous pool". So even in mid-summer the lake was deep enough to drown in.



This poor quality photo of "Shenton Park lake, West Subiaco" is from *The Western Mail* for 25 December 1931 page 30. It shows two swans taking off. Sparse bulrushes are in the foreground. Unlike earlier photos, this one shows the considerable the extent of the water body. What seem like huge trees or mountains in the far distance are merely imperfections in the newspaper original. The photographer is not identified.

1932 Poverty is widespread. The Government introduces unemployment relief. Ittershagen's business falters, so he builds a car racing track around the perimeter as a fund raiser. But that too falters. His two planes suffer accidents, and there are no flights after 1933. It is not until 1935 that the economy shows good signs of recovery.

The West Australian 14 March 1932 page 12. Two boys aged 14 and 15 were charged with unlawful possession of firearms at Shenton Park lake. They were shooting wild ducks when a bullet glanced from the water and entered the window of a house almost 150 yards away where two women were sleeping. So at the end of summer the lake had enough water for duck shooting.

In the late 1930s a gliding club bungee-launches its one-seater glider on 10-second flights around the landing field. Longer flights are not feasible. In 1942 one of Ittershagen's damaged planes is restored and takes off, which leads the RAAF and police to plough the entire area to prevent the possibility of enemy planes landing. In 1944 the buildings and hangar are destroyed by fire (arson is suspected). In the 1960s the area is converted to what is now the UWA Sports Park. Today traces of the original tarmac and sandstone car racing track are still visible. (Woodings 2009)



Motor bike on Ittershagen's racing track in 1954. Subiaco Museum P97.22

1933 *The West Australian* 18 October 1933 page 11. Owners of lots facing Lake Avenue are asked to agree to a re-survey of the street to make the present street a laneway, and a new street between

Excelsior and Herbert. So their frontage, presently facing north away from the lake, will now face south overlooking the lake. "A state of affairs similar to that now being rectified formerly existed on the south side of the lake, before Evans-street was re-surveyed." "One owner of lots in Lake-avenue is so impressed with the desirability of the change that he is willing to bear his proportion of the cost of the re-survey."

1933 The metropolitan water authority install a permanent drainage scheme for the lake, followed in 1935-36 by drains in the streets between the lake and Hamersley Road. Although officially abandoned by footballers in 1908, the dry areas are still used by locals for games including cricket.

1930s Life for an Aboriginal child is described by Robert Bropho (born 1930 in Toodyay) in his 1980 biography *Fringedweller*. He lived by Lake Claremont in a camp made from old galvanised tin and wheat bags, with furniture and beds made from old railings. His father walked miles to find straight trees for making long props for clothes lines (they sold for 5 shillings each), or bamboo and bulrushes for making straw brooms (4 shillings each), or smokebush from coastal sandhills for making artistic bunches (6 shillings each). A shilling would buy two loaves of bread, a kilo of sugar, or enough meat for a meal. Robert and his siblings went to the local school but hated the name-calling. So they preferred to hunt for turtle eggs and turtles, or search the Shenton Park tip for rags and bottles they could sell to the ragman and bottle-oh. Often they were hungry and penniless, walking "miles going to places where we'd think we could cadge a bit of tucker". His mention of the tip at Shenton Park lake is brief but is perhaps the only first-hand account in print:

What bit of money my grandmother had she'd send us to the shop to get some food. She lived in the scrubs at Daglish. It was no house, it was a camp made up of old sheets of tin and bags that was carried a mile away from the local tip in the Shenton Park area [this was the tip at Shenton Park lake], but it was her home. She was proud of it. She loved us the same as we loved her. Sometimes we used to walk with her to the local tip to pick up old sauce bottles and cool drink bottles and old rags that had been dumped on the tip to sell to the bottle-oh and the ragman. Some days we'd be lucky. In raking through the rubbish that had been thrown on the tip we'd find some old clocks or watches. Some would be good. We'd take them to the secondhand shop and sell them. Some days we'd walk around other parts of the scrub round the dump and we'd find greengrocery loads that had been dumped and we'd find specks; specks would be oranges and apples and cabbages, greengrocery in boxes that the vege man couldn't sell. We'd take them home to eat. The reason why we did this is when people become desperate, they're really destitute. They've got to find some way to survive when all roads to assistance are blocked. Granny would always say to us "*When you're desperate and the white bastards don't want to help you, then you've got to do things like this.*" When we wasn't doing this we'd go to the swamp [Lake Claremont] near our camp with Peter and Kitty Jackson and their son and daughter. We'd be making fires on the edge of the swamp while they'd be finding turtles, ready to cook 'em. (From Bropho 1980:12)

Robert Bropho goes on to describe what being desperate was like:

It was really desperate times. We'd walk miles the other side of the Claremont Asylum, along the sandhills of the coast ... gathering up smokebushes ... [which we would bundle up] and sell them on the streets or in the shops for six shillings each. Out of this would come some bread and meat and some vegies and there'd always be the white man's poison there among those bag of stores, a few bottles of wine to give us courage to go around asking for stake [sic] bread from the baker's shop. ... When anybody's destitute, he can't get work, he can't get help, he'll turn to crime. Looking back on my past since turning the age of 16 I'd say I spent 20 years of my life in prison on a number of occasions. When a fringedweller is desperate he'll steal. All crimes have been paid in full by the black man. He'll start stealing fruit. When there's no food around he'll steal from houses. But the biggest crime I'd say was the coming of the white man with his bad habits, and he is yet to pay in full for the biggest crime of all time. I'd say that he's broken nearly all of the ten commandments in the beginning. (page 13)



This picture of two children at Lake Claremont (then Butler's Swamp) is from a postcard, probably around the 1920s. From Bolton and Gregory, *Claremont: A History*, 1999.

1934 *The West Australian* 19 January 1934 page 22 gives this update on the drainage saga:

Two important drainage schemes were put in hand by the Government during the year – the drainage of Shenton Park Lake, the water level of which is to be reduced and drained to the sewerage ocean outflow – and the drainage of the Nedlands area." ... "With regard to reserves, Subiaco now has areas larger, perhaps, than any municipality outside of the City of Perth. A great deal of work was carried out on these areas during the year. The council recently allocated #8,000 for expenditure on road works, improvements and maintenance during the present financial year, and this should result in a big improvement being made in the municipality.

The West Australian 3 November 1934 page 2 reports on recent meetings of the Society of Model and Experimental Engineers. The Society sees the lake as a potential centre for model boats:

Correspondence has passed between the society and the Subiaco Municipal Council regarding the conversion of Shenton Park lake into a model yachting and power-boat centre on the lines of the ponds so popular in Britain. If this proposal can be carried into effect the model regattas should prove great attractions, as the model fleet in Perth and suburbs is attaining considerable proportions..

1935 A series of reports in *The West Australian* during 1935 describe the further progress made to alleviate flooding at Shenton Park lake:

29 May 1935 page 12. "The ocean outfall from the Shenton Park lake had been completed last year, since when stormwater rates had been levied by the department in the area."

11 July 1935 page 15. Minister is prepared to meet with Council officers to see what can be done about drainage.

13 August 1935 page 12. Announces the decision by the Water Supply Department "to undertake the first portion of the Subiaco stormwater drainage system ... The new works will involve laying a concrete pipe drain 30 inches in diameter west from Shenton Park in King-street, Evans-street and Herbert-road. The Subiaco drainage system provides for the delivery of stormwater from two main drains into the Shenton Park lake, from which an ocean outfall main was constructed a few years ago. ... When asking that the work be undertaken the Subiaco Council pointed out that the growth in buildings in West Subiaco and the construction of new roads had considerably increased the volume of stormwater to be handled in the area ... The council has now decided to proceed with the reconstruction of a number of roads in the area which in the past have been considerably damaged by water, including Onslow-road" Onslow Road would have been reached by the same flood shown in the 1928 newspaper photo.

A two-pound loaf costs 4d, milk 7d a quart, petrol 1s 8d a gallon. 2d buys a postage stamp or a copy of *The West Australian*. An average house costs £900. Basic wage is £3.11s a week, a brickie gets 2s 5d an hour. (Campbell 2004)

1936 *The West Australian* 17 August 1936 page 18. A correspondent writes about swamp hens, coots, and other water birds that can be seen at Shenton Park lake:

This bird [swamp hen], also known as the blue bald coot, is plentiful in all the swamps around Perth but is secretive and therefore not obvious. One of the most accessible of its haunts near the city is Shenton Park lake, in Subiaco, where it is a delight to see these splendid birds skulking in the reeds within earshot of Perth-Fremantle traffic. This little lake is a remarkable natural sanctuary and those who are interested may see many native water birds here of which it is usually difficult to get a view. The common coot is very abundant and those of English upbringing may be interested to know

that it is the same bird exactly as the English coot – one of the few cases of specific identity between Australian and European birds. The black moor-hen is also likely to be seen and several species of ducks. On occasion one may hear the call of the bittern. In spite of the fact that all around is a closely-built residential area the birds continue to hold their own, though sorely pressed in the nesting season by raiding small boys.

1937 *The West Australian* 15 May 1937 page 24. A Perth ornithologist criticises Kings Park for putting cars before people, and early planners for not including Shenton Park lake in Kings Park:

The motor roads are not easy to walk on, and the pathways that do exist are sand tracks which are exhausting in summer and take the edge off the pleasure of a walk." On the parks birdlife: "A factor which contributes to the comparative lack of birds is the absence of any surface water, and the swamps and springs which used to exist around the park in the past are now drained or shut out from the birds. ... It is a matter for regret that when the park was originally established it was not extended westwards to include the Shenton Park lake. We would then have had a wonderfully complete representation of the various types of landscape and scenery which comprised Perth before 1829.

1938 *The West Australian* 19 February 1938 page 21. Subiaco mayor replies to complaints about roads and the lake: Work on roads has already started, and "As for Shenton Park lake, the council was considering improvements by way of reclamation and possibly the improvements would begin in the near future." Details were duly released in *The West Australian* 28 July 1938 page 5:

The Shenton Park lake and its surroundings will be converted into botanical gardens under a scheme which the Subiaco Municipal Council adopted on Tuesday night. The first stage of the work has already begun on the eastern end near Derby-road, where rubbish is being dumped and covered with sand. This step was necessitated when the Metropolitan Sewerage Department recently closed the council's rubbish dump in West Subiaco, and the need to find a new dumping site was the opportunity for beautifying the swamp. It is expected to be at least ten years before the scheme can be completed, but it can be carried out bit by bit.

The proposal was to deepen some parts and use the removed material to divide the lake into three main sections connected by "rustic bridges over the narrow water channels". One island will be a bird sanctuary with bamboos and bushy trees to protect the birds. The rest was even grander:

The two other islands will be fairly heavily wooded, with willows, beech trees, and other water-loving varieties. Between the trees lawn can be planted and if, in the future, the district develops sufficiently to warrant it, a small tea house, arbours, and a rotunda can be built of rustic material.. The immediate task of the council ... is to commence filling with rubbish, covered by sand, along Excelsior-street, working outwards from Keightley-road. This would include filling in the back yards of a number of houses backing on to the right-of-way parallel to Excelsior-street and north of Keightley-road. The fences of these houses would have to be lifted. ... Keightley-road should be extended with a gentle slope down to the level of Excelsior-street.

The plans also included lawns, playgrounds, and a bandstand. But the problem of flooding at Jolimont remained. *The West Australian* 19 August 1938 page 18 reports that a deputation including the mayor had met the Minister for Works and Labour over the nuisance caused by flooding, which had become widely known as the Jolimont swamp. The swamp was a breeding ground for mosquitoes in the summer, and was quite unfit for bathing, although a number of children in the district did bathe there. It would assist the district greatly if the swamp were made into a lake or filled in and made a playground.

The mayor stated that they did not want to do this

"as we have already commenced the beautification of Shenton Park lake, and as this will take over 20 years to complete, Jolimont swamp would continue an eyesore for that period. It would make an ideal pleasure spot if it were cleaned up, and I think that the Government should act in the matter".

In response, the Minister stated that "the Jolimont swamp was a natural depression, and he failed to see that the Government was responsible for its condition. The Government would certainly not meet the expense of beautifying it."

The West Australian 23 November 1938 page 8 includes an update on Shenton Park lake by the Mayor: "Reclamation of Shenton Park lake was making rapid progress, and within a few years the value of all properties in that locality would be greatly increased by the scheme."

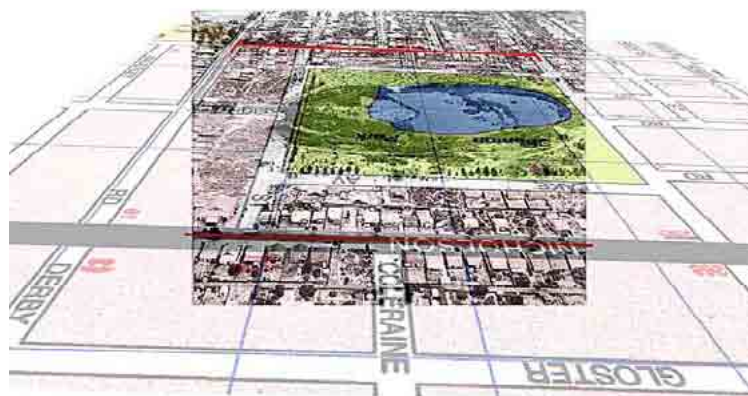
1939 *The West Australian* 13 February 1939 page 19. A 12-year-old boy playing with other boys on a raft fell into deep water and became entangled with weeds at the bottom. A passer-by dived in

and brought the unconscious boy to the bank, where three policemen applied artificial respiration. "He was taken to the Children's Hospital suffering from the effects of immersion and shock and later in the day went home."

1940 The Council continues to dump tonnes of rubbish and sand as part of its plans to divide the swamp into three smaller lakes, each cleared of reeds, planted with water lilies, surrounded by willows, and with rustic bridges, a small tea house, a playground, a rotunda, and a bird sanctuary on a small island in the largest lake. But the war effort intervenes and the plans are forgotten. It was about this time that the following remarkable aerial view was taken:



Aerial view of Shenton Park Lake looking south. Date unknown but between 1932 when the church visible at the corner of Derby and Onslow Roads was built, and 1941 when the first then-vacant block was built on (the first on the south side of Nicholson Road going east from Excelsior Street). The water level is very low, which suggests the year is 1940 – it had the lowest rainfall since 1915, barely 60% of the average. At left are the many tracks made by vehicles dumping rubbish from Keightley Road. The photo was probably taken on a hired flight from Maylands by someone who wanted to fly over their house, or by an aerial surveyor taking time off from his regular area (probably the Goldfields). Subiaco Museum, A3 print.



The same aerial photo superimposed on an (angled) modern street map. The red lines are Onslow Road (top) and Nicholson Road (bottom), The area occupied by the modern lake is shown in blue.



Church on the corner of Derby and Onslow Roads. Onslow runs left to right. Foundation stone was laid by Sir William Lathlain (after whom Lathlain Park is named), Lord Mayor of Perth, on 7 May 1932.

1940s The lake continues as before. Raymond Delamare remembers:

we spent many happy hours climbing through the reeds and bulrushes, bending them down to keep us above water, often climbing right out to the centre of the lake. Small fish were netted with fly wire, to be taken home in large jars.

Guy Fawkes night (5 November) usually provided huge bonfires:

The lake always had a big one, as the council used the north side as a dump for tree prunings, providing endless fuel (Delamare 2006)

The west side is close to Herbert Road and is not used for dumping. The main rubbish dump is on the east side, accessible from Keightley Road and Excelsior Street. From time to time the dumped rubbish is levelled and pushed into the lake. The front is about ten metres high and not exactly a children's playground. Nevertheless it provides a wide assortment of wood, bricks, bottles, roofing iron, tar, copper wire, lead sheeting (left over from roofs), and discarded papers and envelopes, with none of today's engulfing packaging to dilute the potential treasures. (Neil Hunt, Stan Rudrum)



Stamps collected c1950 from discarded envelopes including commemorative and high-denomination issues (in this case all British). Other countries were equally well represented. Picture Stan Rudrum.

1948 Department of Lands and Surveys registers the lake area as an "A" Class Reserve.

1949 *The West Australian* 18 May 1949 page 8. A ute driving east on Waylen Street drives across Herbert Road, plunges down a 6 ft embankment, and travels 60 ft before ending upside down on the brink of Shenton Park lake. The driver is a stranger to the area.

1952 Onslow Park Reserve is renamed Rosalie Park. Subiaco becomes WA's third City, having reached a population of 20,000 and a gross revenue of £20,000. Celebrations include a huge parade with five bands. Many thousands of people line the streets. Nevertheless Subiaco is not a place where many Aborigines are able to live (Spillman 1985:108).

CARGEG BROS. OFFER.
SHENTON PARK.
 Lake views, bk/t., very attract..
 4 rms., 2 lge. s/outs, h.w., gas
 range, lawns, gardens. Only
 £4.100 or £4.500 fully furn.

The West Australian 4 December 1952 page 24
 In classified ads, a house is for sale overlooking Shenton Park lake. Yours for only £4100.

1955 Although flooding is now under control, the lake remains surrounded by deep gullies from uncontrolled dumping. One woman who lived opposite the west end of the lake recalls "it was filled with rubbish, old cuttings from peoples' lawns". There were "relics of an old wooden fence still around it", and people used to pull down the pickets to light the fires under their coppers. (Interview with Irene Greenwood by Spillman 1985:312)

The lake's condition was so bad that only one earthmoving company could be persuaded to tender for a cleaning-up operation (Spillman 1985:312).



View from the lake's southeast corner in 1955 before earth grading was completed. The far bank is covered in prunings dumped by Subiaco Council. Lake Street is in the background. Subiaco Museum P2006.38a.

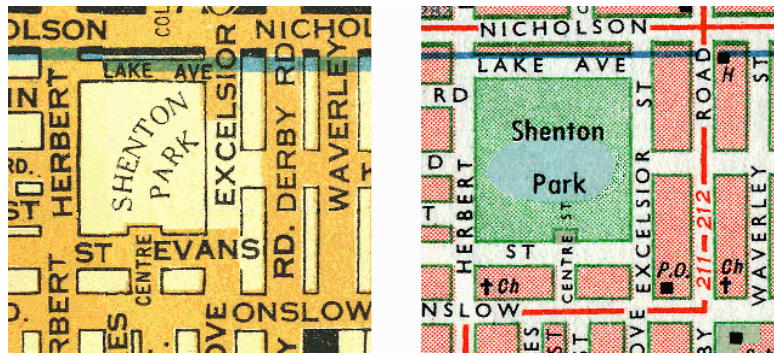


View from 8 Lake Avenue looking southwest over the lake area before earth grading was completed. The lake itself is obscured by trees and dumped prunings. Subiaco Museum P2008.19c.

1956 Considerable earth grading work is completed. Walter Sefton (b.1913) remembers it well:

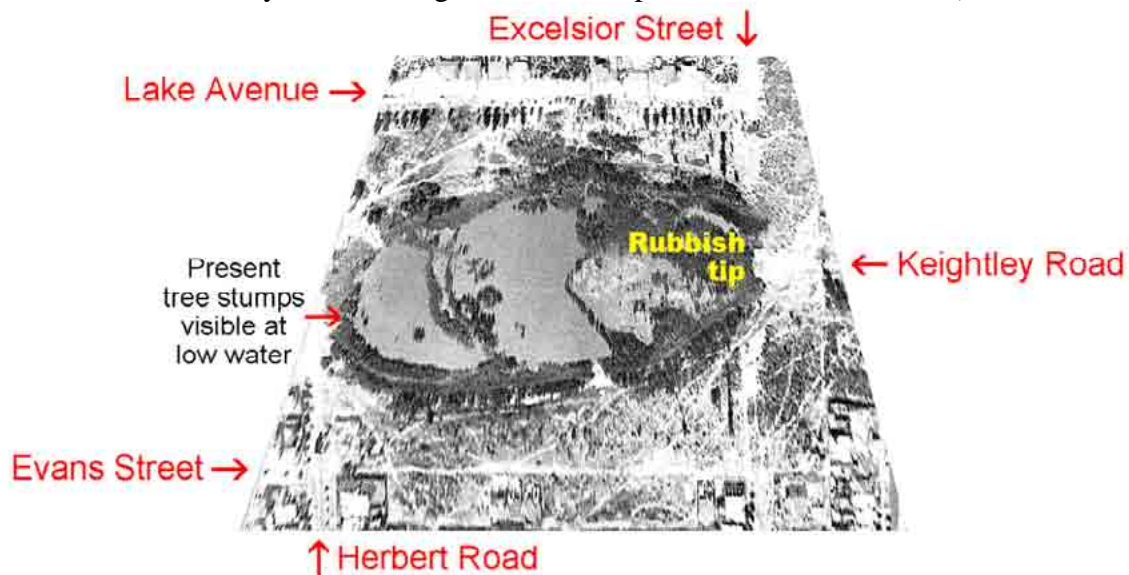
They were digging with their front-end loaders and they found a lot of old rubbish with old bottles ... I can remember a cider water bottle with the marble still inside it. The old purple castor oil bottles. They were all down there. (page 2)

1957 There is further filling and grading. A reticulation system is installed, lawns are established, and trees are planted. The surroundings are transformed from an eyesore to a delightful traditional recreational park. But many wildlife and birds leave as their food, shelter and nesting grounds disappear. Larrikins shoot ducks and catch fish, causing a public outcry. (Spillman 1985:312)

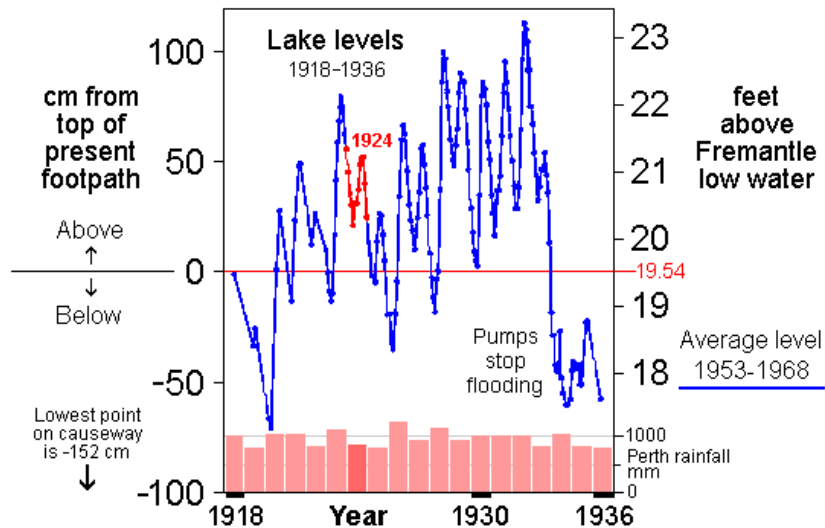


The lake as shown on street directories in 1955 (left) and 1964 (right). The main differences are the paving of Excelsior Street, and the emergence of a named lake (as opposed to a rubbish tip).

Grading has interesting consequences beyond mere beautification. To control flooding the Subiaco Council had encouraged domestic and industrial dumping in the lake since the 1910s. By 1955 the amount of dumped rubbish was far too large to simply cart away. Graders had to push it somewhere, and that somewhere was the immediate lake. As a result, the lake area presently west of the island now became the lowest part of the lake, whereas it had previously been among the highest part (and therefore where football and cricket had been played). West of the island the present tree stumps in what is now the lake bed are clear proof that it was previously neither under water nor buried by infill. East of here the entire area is reclaimed land including the island, the lake bed, most of Excelsior Street, and the grand avenue of Moreton Bay fig trees. (In 2007 when the power to Excelsior Street was being undergrounded, the workmen were astonished by the number of bottles and other infill relics they were finding. Brian Cross, personal communication.) .



Aerial view of page 28 with its perspective corrected. We are now looking at the lake directly from above, probably about 1940. For 30 years rubbish has been dumped from Keightley Road and pushed into the lake. In 1955-57 the rubbish and the surrounding land is bulldozed and graded into the shape it is today. Residents who as boys canoed on the lake do not remember any island, so the patch of vegetation roughly (but not exactly) where the island is today may not be significant (Neil Hunt, Hugh Richardson, Stan Rudrum). The extent of bulldozing at the lake can be gauged from the following measurements of lake level that began in 1918 until they were discontinued in 1939 at the start of the war years.



Shenton Park lake levels 1918-1936. Diagram below explains why 1924 is highlighted.

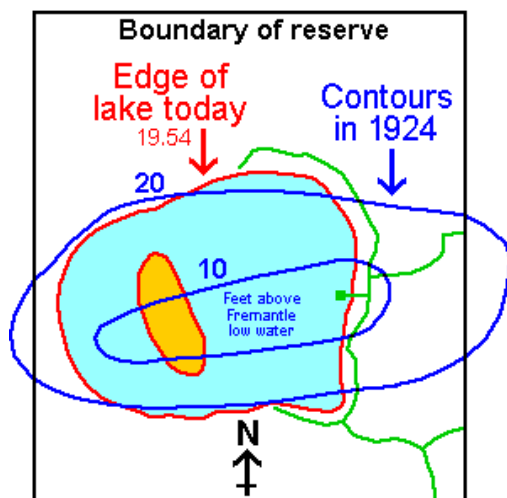
The scale on the left shows lake level vs the average height of the present footpath excluding the eastern end. The footpath is accurately level (90% is within 10 cm of the average height). The scale on the right shows the levels in feet above Fremantle low water, which was then the standard datum. Levels today are usually referred to a similar but not identical datum, the Australian Height Datum (AHD), which is mean sea level in 1966-1968. Their relationship is given by

$$(\text{feet above Fremantle low water} - 2.48) / 3.28 = \text{AHD in metres} \quad (\text{Rich 2004:2.13})$$

In 1918 the measurements of lake level are too few to allow proper comparison with the years that follow. In 1919-1922 the measurements are made every quarter, and after that every two months.

Look at the blue line. The lake levels each year show marked fluctuations between summer and winter that reflect seasonal fluctuations in the water table. There is a clear upward trend (so the lake is never drying out) due to a rising water table caused by clearing and residential development. On average the lake level rises 0.7 m every ten years before pumps bring the floods under control. The average difference between lake levels in summer and winter is 0.8 m. Today the difference between a full lake and a dry eastern half is 2.0 m, which means the lake leaks more than it did then.

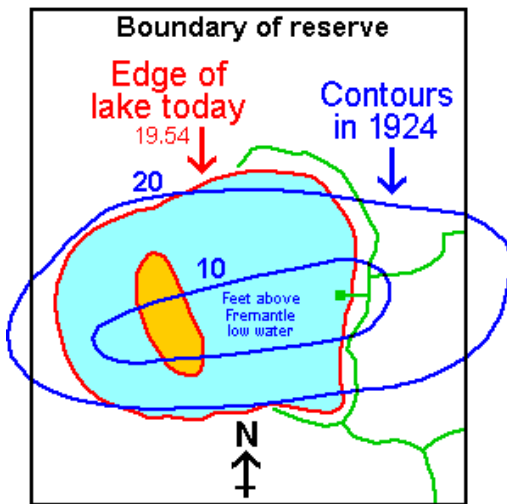
The present average footpath height is 5.20 m AHD, or $(5.20 \times 3.28) + 2.48 = 19.54$ feet above Fremantle low water. To see what this means, we can superimpose contours from the 1924 PWD map (which we previously met briefly on page 23) on to an outline of the present lake at the same scale. We can now accurately compare the lake-before-bulldozing with the lake-after-bulldozing.



◀ Contours from a PWD map of 1924 superimposed on an outline of the present lake to the same scale. These are the earliest known contours of area (Goodchild 2009). Rubbish dumping at the eastern end began in the 1910s, so the contours may not exactly follow the original contours. In 1924, as we saw above, the lake level averaged 21 ft above Fremantle low water, so the 10 ft contour would have been surveyed from a boat, an inconvenience made necessary by the importance of knowing the true extent of what was then an increasingly troublesome lake.

Superimposition by Hugh Richardson 2011

For convenience this overlay is repeated on the next page



The present average footpath height of 19.54 ft is very close to the 20 ft contour, which means that the difference in their shapes approximate the changes in area due to bulldozing. The changes are substantial. But what about changes in depth? The contours are too far apart to tell us what the lowest point on the original lake floor was. But in what is now east of the island it might have been something like 8 ft above Fremantle low water. Here the present lake floor averages 3.5 m AHD or 14.0 ft above Fremantle low water, and is thus about 6 ft (1.8 m) above the original lowest point. This too is substantial. At the westernmost point of the 10 ft contour west of the island, the present lake floor reaches 2.5 m AHD or 10.7 feet above Fremantle low water, in an area about 5 m across.

If there was minimal dumping in this area, and if the dust and sediment build-up on the lake floor since 1924 was around the 0.3-0.5 ft suggested by measurements at Perry Lakes (Rich 2004:2.40), this area would be the only surviving remnant of the original lake floor



View today of one of the five major tree stumps in the western part of the lake. The island is on the left. The stumps are visible only when the water level is low, and are too young to have been around when the Subiaco Football Club played football here in the early 1900s. The area was amply large enough for even the maximum permitted size of a soccer pitch (90m x 120m).

1963 The future of the lake becomes a major conservation issue. Famous naturalists Dominic and Vincent Serventy, former local residents, claim that the lake area is so small that any reduction in its area and reed beds will cause several species of wildlife to disappear altogether. But Subiaco Council removes the reeds anyway. After all, the lake had been a rubbish dump for forty years, and a lake with permanent water is ore useful to wildlife than a rubbish dump. As one resident wrote:

The disappearance of the shy reed warblers (they must be really shy – I have not seen one in 13 years), the cranes, swamphens, moorhens and bitterns will be tolerable to Shenton Park dwellers [in exchange for] the improved appearance of the area. (*Daily News* 8 May 1963, quoted by Spillman 1985:314)

1960s The area becomes part of the Water Corporation's main drainage system. Locals are relieved because the threat of flooding is reduced. The Jolimont Lake area is planted with trees by the Tree Society, and the water body is walled to contain the water and reduce flooding. (Mabel Talbot Reserve Management Plan 2003) In 1966 the Jolimont Lake area is renamed Mabel Talbot Park after the founding president of the Tree Society

1967 Subiaco Sewage Works (later known as the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment plant) on Lemnos Street 1.7 km from the lake begins daily rainfall records. It is the official weather station closest to the lake. Data other than rainfall is not recorded (still true today).

1972 Dr George Seddons, a PhD in geology and then Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of NSW, in his wonderfully readable and beautifully illustrated book *Sense of Place* (1972), describes the view of Perth from Kings Park as "the finest of its kind in all Australia. In no other city is there such a combination of city, suburb, and river, backed by a mountain range. It certainly is a view that no visitor should miss." (p.180 note 40). His book also contains this view of Shenton Park Lake taken around 1971 before the island was built. Herbert Road is in the distance. The same view today would be blocked by the island:



The caption reads: "Waterfowl on Shenton Park Lake. High waterfowl densities on a few lakes may give the impression that the total population is high and increasing. In fact, it is a sign of overcrowding as the alternatives decrease." (page 227). The number of ducks is about 230.

1973 Subiaco Council builds a retaining wall to curb erosion, with special ramps to allow turtles to clamber out at breeding time. The wall is capped with a footpath allowing easy viewing of deep water. As a result the lake becomes one of modern Subiaco's show places. The lake is so well maintained that, in 1972, even Dominic Serventy could say that the Council "is doing a first rate job in managing the lake". (*Subiaco City News* 29 November 1972, quoted by Spillman 1985:314)

1970s In the 1920s, Daisy Bates, the first government recorder of Aboriginal information, had described the local Aborigines "as almost extinct and their culture as something that could never adapt to exist side by side with Europeans". But they were not extinct, their oral traditions survived, and "from the 1970s an increasingly diverse population of Aboriginal people came to associate with Subiaco" (Jebb and Stella 2008:7). Aboriginal artists, performers, workers, students, and footballers slowly reinvigorated Aboriginal Subiaco with their stories, dances, and art exhibitions.



Dredging reeds in 1977. The retaining wall and walkway enters the picture lower left and curves away to the right. Willows in foreground, eucalypts in background. Subiaco Museum P2006.46

1978 Letter from the Department of Conservation and Environment recommends no dredging of lake as it would put the lake bed out of reach of bottom-feeding birds.

1980s Jim McGeogh, Subiaco engineer and town clerk, describes the measures to combat flooding, and the reasoning behind construction of the island:

The lake serves as a drainage basin for stormwater from the surrounding roads and residential areas. Any overflow drains into a pipeline connected to the outfall main from the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant, which discharges into the Indian Ocean at Swanbourne. Before 1975 there was regular flooding of Herbert Road due to inadequacies of the pipeline. In the early 1980s there was a proposal to drain via a tunnel to Kilgour Park Lake near QE2 and use the QE2 system that drains into the Swan River near the rowing clubs. But in the subsequent dry weather the scheme has been forgotten. The island was constructed by council to allow nesting water birds and ducks to be free from cats, dogs, and humans seeking duck eggs. (McGeogh archive, Subiaco Museum,)

1984 Don McFarlane completes his 433-page PhD thesis at UWA on the hydrology of Shenton Park Lake and the smaller lake at Masons Gardens in Dalkeith. In it he measures almost everything that can be measured from lake levels to tree transpiration rates. See my *Secret Life* for details.

1985 Council adopts a management plan for plant species and their location. A survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth and Murray River regions finds that Shenton Park Lake was used as a campsite in the 1850s and 1860s by Perth Aborigines. However:

the researchers were unable to find any record of people camping there or using it as a resource in more recent times. Knowledge of this area is limited among the present Aboriginal population of Perth: a very few older people were aware of its former use as a camping ground. Neither stories relating to the lake, nor names of people who camped there were available; nor was there any knowledge of the original dimensions or location of the campsite. Subsequent to [our] survey, information was received that Aboriginal skeletal material had been found near there in the 1920s, in an area where houses have since been built. This finding may offer an explanation for the abandonment of the area by Aborigines. (O'Connor et al 1985)

But so would the flooding and house building. The WA Musuem, then the receiver of skeletal material unless it was reburied, has no record of such a find. This was at a time when large numbers of people were passing through on their way to strike it rich on the Goldfields, so who is to say the reported remains were not those of an unfortunate visitor? In those days, if the skull was missing, it would have been very difficult.

1986 Lake is dredged to remove silt build-up. The dredged silt is put on the bottom oval at Rosalie Park, effectively keeping light and moisture from the grass. The grass dies.

1987 Area is formally registered as Shenton Park Lake by the Department of Land Administration.

1988 A School of Indigenous Studies is established at the University of Western Australia.



Swans and a full lake in December 1988. What looks like an aerator is a fountain fed by groundwater. It was introduced in the 1970s and discontinued in the 1990s.

1991 Begins with an unusually extended summer but the lake does not dry out. There are 92 indigenous people living in the Subiaco area, with 67 under 30 years old (Jebb and Stella 2008:62).

1992 Aerators are installed in the lake to deal with stagnant water and botulism.

1995 through 1998. Bore water is used without success to maintain water levels in summer.

1996 In June a rotunda is erected on the lawn east of the lake with objections from a minority claiming it defiles public open space and will attract graffiti and vandalism (it doesn't). It was donated by Shenton Park Senior Citizens to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and the centenary of the City of Subiaco. See 2006 for a picture. Subiaco Council adopts a plan to effect environmental improvements, including a progressive reduction in the number of foreign trees and plants.

Research by Mayor Tony Costa and librarian Bill Grayson, together with Aboriginal people and the Department of Indigenous Affairs, uncover two Nyungar names for Shenton Park via the work of Daisy Bates, namely Joolabun (1913) and Jualbup (1929) (*Subiaco Post* 30 April 1996 page 60). On 31 July, on the initiative of Mayor Costa, the name is changed to Lake Jualbup to emphasise its cultural significance to the original indigenous population. Although dual names are generally not accepted by Landgate, a temporary dual name period was allowed up to July 1998 to encourage community acceptance. Within a year, the lake is the venue for a national reconciliation workshop.

Translating Aboriginal names phonetically is difficult

In the early days of white settlement, Lyon (1833) noted that, unlike the many distinct ways that a vowel in English can be pronounced (think of *able*, *apt*, *after*, *any*, *apply*), there were rarely more than two ways in the Aboriginal language. "Pronunciation cannot be acquired by reading: it must be communicated by tuition", and there is a "tendency to an antepenultimate accent" (p.159), that is, to an accent on the last *syll-a-ble* but two. "Where the word consists of five syllables or more, it has a double accent" (p.160). Bindon (1992) agrees on the first point but not on the second:

It is very difficult to obtain the full sound of native names unless one is familiar with the dialect, or one gets the native to repeat it over and over again with one's ear close to his mouth. Take, for instance, the present name *Yuanmi*. The native name is not *Yuanmi* but *Yoon'mirri* ... another mistake has arisen through placing the accent on the wrong syllable, most of the native words having the accent on the first syllable (p.24).

In short, English cannot accurately suggest the correct pronunciation of some Aboriginal names (Glauert 1950). The pronunciation also differs between dialects, as attested to by the more than a dozen spellings of Nyungar listed under 1829. The variants of Jualbup are almost as many: Daisy Bates reports *Joo'albub* (1909), *Joo'al-bun* (1913), and *Ju-albup* (1929), to which can be added *Juwulbup*, *Jewalbup*, and *Jewoolbup* (Chate 1950), plus *Joolabun* and *Joolalbun* (MacIntyre and Dobson 2002). Only *Jualbup* and *Jooalbun* appear in the Landgate nomenclature records (Goodchild 2009), where they appear under "Jualbup Lake" (the preferred nomenclature with lakes is to put "Lake" last).

However, the suffix "un" seems unlikely for a Nyungar place name because it is uncommon even in general usage. Thus Lyon's (1833) vocabulary lists 400 Aboriginal words, of which none end in *un* although two come close (*Goonyan* the palate, *Meelon* Murray River). Moore's (1884) vocabulary lists 2150 Aboriginal words, of which only ten end in *un* and none are place names (*Bambun* yellow-bellied flycatcher, *Bonjun* native knife, *Burdun** a light straight spear made from swamp wattle, *Dardun* uneven, *Dukun* to light fire, *Dumbun* care, *Gurtdun** the heel, *Kangun* uncle, *Wundun* to stare). Words marked * were used only on the south coast. None of Moore's words begin with *Jual* / *Jooal* / *Djual* / *Djooal*, the closest being *Juwul** throwing stick. There are seven words for water including *Djam* and *Djou*, two for the season of spring (*Jilba*, *Menangal*), four for lake or swamp (*Ngura* small lake, *Gotyn* swamp with a little water, *Yalgor* swamp, *Mulyin** swampy place), and one (*Garjyt*) for flowing spring.

Glauert (1950) lists 120 Aboriginal place names and their meanings, collected over many years from many sources. Some meanings are "obviously correct" but others are "only problematical". None of his 120 names end in *un* and none begin with *Ju / Joo / Dju / Djoo*. Names that refer to a swamp include *Benginup* place of a swamp, *Camballup* place of a bulrush swamp, and *Pinjarrup* place of a swamp. He comments:

It may not be out of place to draw attention to the suffixes *up* and *in*, *ine* or *ing*, which denote place or camp, not water – though water, *gabbi* or *kaip*, is often near if the spot has been the site of a native encampment. The distribution of these suffixes is interesting. *Up* occurs on the plain west of the Darling Range from the Moore River in the north to the south coast, and thence eastwards to the vicinity of Israelite Bay. The inner boundary passes through the ranges by the valley of the Collie River to the vicinity of Lake Grace (*Burngup*) and so on to the coast. To the north and east of this line, *up* is replaced by *in*, *ine* or *ing* for many miles, when further changes occur.

Today the most common example of an "un" word is *Bibbulmun* (a distinct language group and the original inhabitants of the area now traversed by the Bibbulmun Track). In contrast, as any road map will confirm, the suffix "up" (meaning "camp" or "place of") is extremely common throughout the South West. Given the difficulty of translating Aboriginal names phonetically, and the otherwise incompatible syllables *al*, *ul*, *ool*, *la*, *lal*, that appear to be equivalent in the above names, as are *bub* and *bup*, it does not seem impossible that an uncommon *bun* may have been mistaken for the common *bup*. Indeed, observers do not even agree on the English letters that do not appear in native dialects – to Lyon (1833) they were C,S,X,Z, to Daisy Bates (1909) they were F,S,V,Z, and to Glauert (1950) it was open whether B or P should be used, or D or T, or C or K. Thus *Benger* is often rendered *Pinjar*, which in English are different sounds. At any rate, "Jualbup is referred to in various documents as the original Noongar name" (*Subiaco Post* 13 July 1996).

But what does *Jualbup* mean? Daisy Bates (1909) was unable to give meanings for place names including *Jualbup* because "All aboriginal names of places have not got a meaning, or if they have, it is not known to the owners. Certain spots having some special root or fruit or other product will probably be named from these, but naming from such circumstances is not general amongst the South-Western aborigines." A point confirmed in Bates (1929). For example, was *Koo'yamulyup* (below Mt Eliza) named after *Koo'yarr*, the large noisy frogs that lived there? Was *Karrgatup* the place of *Kara* (spider) or the place of *Karr* (species of crab)? Nobody could say for sure. Sometimes there is disagreement on the place name, for example Lake Claremont is *Galbomoonup* according to Bekle and Gentilli (1993:444) but *Man'ing'yup* according to Jebb and Stella (2008:22). So it seems unlikely that a reliable meaning of *Jualbup* exists.

Nevertheless the meaning of *Jualbup* has been variously related to *Djulbar* (or *Dulgar* or *Tulga*), a local edible gum collected by the Aborigines from a species of *Hakea* or *Dryandra* that was possibly prevalent in the area in the early days (MacIntyre and Dobson); to *Juwul* (throwing stick) and *Up* (place of) (Chate 1950); to "waterhole for Spring" (Museum records); and to "a place where water rises in the season of spring" (quoted without a reference on the City of Subiaco website and in the *Walking Subiaco: Shenton Park* walking guide). The last two meanings seem dubious since they apply to almost any wetland and would therefore not do what names were presumably required to do – distinguish one place or camp from another. The Curator of the Subiaco Museum was unable to find any primary sources in their archives. An internal memo suggests that *Jualba* is a Nyungar word associated with the season of Spring, and *up* means a waterhole, so *Jualbup* means "the waterhole for the Spring". But *up* does not mean a waterhole, no source is cited, and again the meaning could apply to almost any wetland.

How is *Jualbup* pronounced? According to Denise Smith-Ali (2011), language teacher and project officer at the Noongar learning centre in Perth, it is *Jowlbup* or *Djowlbup* (rhymes with owl). The pronunciation *Ju-AL-bup* suggested in the first version of this History is incorrect. She suggests pronouncing Aboriginal words just as one would in English, for example *Ongerup*, *Gnowangerup*.

In 2008 a local resident recommended that the City "immediately and formally remove the word *Lake*" from the name *Lake Jualbup* because there was no historical evidence that the Nyungar name was ever associated with *Lake*. But this

misses the point. The Landgate Nomenclature Board require all Aboriginal names describing features to have a qualifier to avoid confusion. For example features in the Stirling Range that were formerly just *Quarderwardup*, *Toolbrunup* and *Yetemerup* are now, *Quarderwardup Lake*, *Toolbrunup Peak*, and *Yetemerup Spring*.



1996 A painting by Aboriginal artist Shane Pickett is erected at the eastern side of the lake near the rotunda to commemorate the links with Nyungar people. It depicts local flora and fauna.

The spiritual links that Nyungars have with the land is illustrated by these quotes made in 2002 as part of an indigenous survey of the Underwood Avenue bushland in Shenton Park:

"When those old Nyungars die, their spirits don't die or go away, they go back into those old trees. They're guardians those old fellas." "Stay here for an hour or so and all your life comes back. You feel whole again. It's a healing place, where your spirit comes back to you. Listen, the grass is talking. Listen, the trees are singing. Listen to the birds. Why would you whitefellas want to destroy this place?" "We have a history, we have a culture. Even though white people took it away from us, they didn't take away our feelings for the land and our spiritual attachments to the landscape. Listen, just be quiet and you can hear the old fellas singing with the trees. Their spirits are still in this land. Their spirits are our spirits and we are one with them." "You whitefellas think you know everything with your science but there's deeper things here than you can understand. There's 40,000 years of human souls in this bush. They're everywhere. They're in the trees and all the plants. They're guarding this place forever." (Jebb and Stella 2008:section 6.0)

1997 A five-metre section of retaining wall in the southeast corner collapses. It has been deteriorating for some time, and the adjoining path has been closed as a safety precaution.

This year has the lowest rainfall since the previous low rainfall years of 1984 and 1985. At the end of the year, water levels and water quality are low. The health of young black swans suffers, and prompts the formation of *Friends of Lake Jualbup*, a group of concerned local residents with an executive committee of nine. Exposed areas of the lake bed receive attention from fossickers, who dig holes to recover bottles and other relics from the previous rubbish tip whose infill forms the lake bed east of the island (Rudrum 2009).

1998 Timber ramps are built to help tortoises and young birds access the lake during low water. The *Subiaco Post* (7 March 1998 page 16) has a picture of the collapsed wall.

The City Administration proposes to repair and modify the collapsed wall. The idea is to provide vegetated sloping ground to allow easier access for junior birdlife, and sloping limestone walls in front of the trees. In April the *Friends of Lake Jualbup* suggest that work be minimised so that a comprehensive management plan for the lake can be prepared. Their suggestion is adopted.

1999 At the end of January, after a year of below average rainfall, water is low but the lake is far from dry (*Subiaco Post* 23 January 1999 page 5). The collapsed wall is rebuilt and landscaped. Deteriorated surrounds to incoming drain pipes in the northeast corner are replaced by concrete and limestone blocks (*Subiaco Post* 27 March 1999 page 16). Sand ramps are built opposite each end of the island in addition to the timber ramps already installed.

In March a Lake Jualbup Management Plan Steering Committee is formed. It consists of two Subiaco councillors, three members of the City Administration, and four local residents.

In September the City Administration circulates to residents living within one km of the lake a questionnaire asking for comments on the lake and its management. Ominously, many who live around the lake do not receive a copy. A month later almost 300 of the 1000 questionnaires had been returned, a good result for any survey, confirming that the lake is of high community interest (which will be again confirmed by petitions in the coming years). In October the results are collated by the local-resident members on behalf of the Steering Committee (Steering Committee archives):

Unsurprisingly, given the distribution, 95% of visitors live within 1 km. 82% visit at least once a week for up to an hour. 5% are under 25, 66% are female, 51% are alone (usually walking for exercise, often with a dog). Fewer come before midday than after. Top activities are walking 60%, playground 13%, wildlife and picnics 10% each. Top likes are wildlife 44%, trees 33%, peace 28%, open spaces 18%, grass 13%, tortoises 7%. Top dislikes are run-down state of wall 25%, dog and bird poo 19%, low water level in summer 17%, rubbish in lake 14%, long distance to toilets 5%. Some (no figure is given) seem to have no dislikes at all. (Condensed from Steering Committee archives)

Curiously, the results for some key areas are incompletely reported, so we don't get the full picture:

The future? Keep lake the way it is 34%, make it more natural 19%, make it clean and healthy 13%. Remove willows to allow contouring the banks? One-third said no, one third was uncertain, does not reveal what the rest said, but many like the appearance of willows. Let lake dry up in summer? Uncertain 48% (period). Drying out might (1) improve health by reducing botulism, (2) endanger health of tortoises and birds. It certainly makes the lake unsightly and smelly.

On the other hand, "The responses to the questionnaire suggest that residents do not entirely trust the Council to make all the decisions and would like a degree of consultation in the ongoing management process" (page 7). This lack of trust is justified when the results are reported by the City Administration. For example the City's report says "The majority of respondents want the wall of the lake removed and replaced with natural sand banks and vegetation to allow easy egress for wildlife" (page 1). But this is precisely what many respondents did *not* approve of. Furthermore the original Steering Committee Report is never published. Thus begins a long battle between City administrators intent on having their own way and outraged residents who pay their salaries.



A Lake Jualbup long neck tortoise *Cheloniada oblonga* at full stretch (picture Barbara Haddy). Warning signs on Herbert Road going north (left) and south (right). As a bonus, those going south can expect more than one. The signs are necessary – *Subiaco Post* of 22 January 2008 page 4 has four sequential pictures showing a tortoise crossing park, road, footpath, and rockery in order to lay eggs in a nearby garden.

Long neck tortoises are also found in Mabel Talbot Lake (Ecoscape 2003:13). Their inclusion among park attractions might be less if people knew they can drown small ducklings by seizing their legs from below. In the early days the Nyungars cooked them:

shell and all, in hot ashes. When they are done a single pull removes the bottom shell, and the whole animal remains in the upper one, which serves as a dish. They are generally very fat, and are really delicate and delicious eating. The natives are extremely fond of them, and the turtle season is looked forward to by them as a very important period of the year (Hallam 1999:325-326)

As well as turtles the Nyungars had dozens of other animal species on their menu. But their staple was carbohydrate – fruits (four sorts), seeds (several sorts), fungus (seven sorts), nuts and gums (six sorts), roots (twenty-nine sorts). They lived well. (Hallam 1999).

2000 A draft management plan for Lake Jualbup is prepared by the City Administration for public comment. The lake area is home to twenty tree species and (at various times) thirty bird species. The plan notes that the lake is essentially a holding basin for excess road drainage, that it attracts visitors from all over Perth, that feeding the waterbirds leads to artificially high numbers with consequent pollution (in 1999 about thirty pairs of swans are counted, which is excessive for this size of lake), and that algal blooms often lead to the death of waterbirds. It proposes that the willow


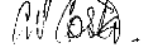
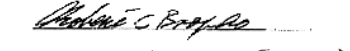
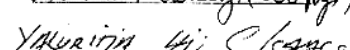



trees and retaining wall be progressively removed in favour of sloping banks with reeds and occasional viewing platforms.

The idea is that the lake should dry up in summer. But no hint of this appears in the plan's summary, nor even in the plan itself until two-thirds of the way through. Advertising for public comment is poor and only three comments are received. The first from a biologist suggests that "for aesthetic reasons the public will always like to see some permanent water present", and disagrees about the swans because "the large expanse of Kikuyu grass is the reason the Lake supports its large breeding population ... Until 1999 twenty-one pairs of swans bred at the Lake (mostly on the island) and raised a total of 82 cygnets." He suggests correcting the list of bird species for one "obvious omission", the White-eyed Duck (it wasn't immediately corrected, possibly because he misspelled the duck's scientific name *Aythya australis* as *Aythaya australis*).

The second from an archaeologist notes that the previous bulldozing of the lake has reduced "the potential of locating an intact archaeological deposit". Nevertheless, should they be located, "work must cease until these have been assessed by a qualified archaeologist". The third from a university lecturer notes that "there are some very important aspects of the plan that cannot be evaluated from the document as it currently exists. [It suggests] that in some places the lake will be filled in [which would] upset many people". He suggests an improved draft be prepared and recirculated (it wasn't).

On 11 July the draft management plan is accepted by the General Services Committee voting 4:0 in favour. Three members of the Committee are absent. The plan is subsequently accepted by Council.

2001 There are 137 Indigenous people living in the Subiaco area, with 100 under 30 years old. Thirty children under 20 are attending an educational institution. Fifty live in non-private dwellings and 57 in private dwellings (Jebb and Stella 2008:62).

<p>NYUNGAH CIRCLE OF ELDERS <small>GI-PO GUILDFORD WESTERN AUSTRALIA T: 08 9377 3550, F: 08 9377 3559</small></p>	 <small>CITY OF SUBIACO</small>
<p><i>The Last of the Nyungah Elders who are standing to Save and Protect our Ancient Religion and Culture and Sacred Beliefs in the Land and not take money to sell our Sacredness</i></p>	
<p>LAKE JUALBUP - SHENTON PARK AGREEMENT</p>	
<p>In a meeting held on Thursday, 29 March 2001, representatives of the City of Subiaco and the Nyungah Circle of Elders have discussed and agreed:</p>	
<p>That the perimeter wall be removed.</p>	
<p>That the edge of the lake to be natural slopes.</p>	
<p>That indigenous reeds, sedges and rushes be planted around the edge of the lake and island.</p>	
<p>That non-indigenous trees around the lake edge be progressively replaced for a more natural setting</p>	
<p>That indigenous trees and bushes (ie paperbark and sheoaks) be planted around the edge of the lake and on the island.</p>	
<p>That litter traps (gross pollutant traps) be installed to stop rubbish entering the lake</p>	
<p>That reeds, sedges and rushes be planted as a filter of pollutants from drains that flow directly into the lake.</p>	
<p>That the water, soil and surrounding lawn area (fertiliser use), continue to be monitored to check on the health of the lake.</p>	
<p>That Nyungah association with the lake and surrounding area is acknowledged</p>	
<p>That opportunities for input by Nyungah people on signs or artwork, and opportunities for aboriginal people to do work at the site (so the lake could later join up to an aboriginal heritage trail) be provided.</p>	
<p>The City, in acknowledging the Elders' concerns in retaining the integrity of the lake bed, will review those aspects of the concept plan proposals which involve disturbance of the lake bed, particularly driving poles into, or digging within the lake bed.</p>	
<p> (AV) TONY COSTA, JP MAYOR CITY OF SUBIACO</p>	<p> William Rodney (Joseph)   </p>
<p></p>	

In March 2001 the CEO Chester Burton and Mayor Tony Costa meet with the Nyungah Circle of Elders to seek approval for the management plan that had been accepted nine months earlier by the Subiaco Council. Approval is granted for work as set out in this signed agreement.

◀ The agreement of 29 March 2001 on Nyungah letterhead signed by the then Mayor and CEO (left) and five Nyungah Elders (right).

It says the signers have agreed that vegetated slopes will replace the walls, that native trees will progressively replace non-native trees, that Nyungah links with the area are acknowledged, that Nyungah people will be given opportunities to work at the site, and that the lake bed will not be disturbed.

The concern for not disturbing an already bulldozed and excavated area is not explained.

But the agreement is made apparently without the knowledge of Subiaco Council. It is not mentioned in Council minutes. Nor is it mentioned in the Council minutes of 10 April 2001 when questions were asked about the lake. In reply the CEO mentioned the obligation to consult with the Aboriginal community, but (amazingly) said nothing about the agreement. He says the plan will cost about \$500,000 to implement, and that the main concern is not to disturb the lake bed, but does not explain the concern for not disturbing a bulldozed rubbish tip. Nor was the agreement mentioned in the minutes of 24 April, 8 May and 29 May 2001 despite more questions being asked by four local residents about the management plan and its implementation.

Later that year the eastern retaining wall is replaced by a sloping bank and (in 2004) a viewing platform. In November a local resident writes to the *Subiaco Post* (24 November 2001 page 14) accusing the Council of making a wrong decision:

"Please leave [the lake] as it is. It is a beautiful park that will be degraded so much, and for such a very long time, by removing the lovely willows and changing a lovely park lake into a swampy wetland." He then complains about the poor public consultation: "please put in place the same consultative process with Shenton Park residents that was put in place for consulting groups who live outside the suburb.". His letter was accompanied by this picture:



Picture shows the eastern end of the lake during the changes. Eight mature trees that were in the way are gone, and earth embankments are where the wall used to be. (*Subiaco Post* 24 November 2001 page 14).

Below, the same area in 2010 when the lake has dried out.



In December Subiaco Council receive a petition with 470 signatures. The petitioners "strongly object to the recent work ... particularly the destruction of eight healthy, mature and beautiful trees". They request that no further work be done for at least three summers to allow the recent work to be properly assessed, and that residents then be consulted to determine what the majority want the lake to look like.

The following summer the lake dries out completely, leaving no wildlife to view, and of course no fish. Before 2001, *koi* (non-native fish resembling thick goldfish up to 60 cm long) are thriving in the lake. After 2001 they are all dead (Mark Wilshusen 2007).

2002 In May, 240 students from Rosalie Primary School help to plant vegetation on the regraded bank. A year later further plantings by 20 residents bring the total plantings to about 5000.



On the right is the platform for viewing the lake, its wildlife, and improvements.
But what lake? What wildlife? What improvements? (Picture Mark Wilshusen)

2003 In March a management plan for Mabel Talbot Park is released (Ecoscape 2003). Public consultation includes a survey of 104 park visitors made between August and November 2002. The results are consistent with the views of a steering committee and with opinions canvassed by residents during an Open Day. (The residents did not trust the City Administration and did the canvassing themselves):

73% live within 1 km, 63% visit at least once a week for at least half an hour, 8% are under 25, 58% are female, and only 38% are alone. Top activities are walking 74%, picnics 49%, meeting friends 42%, childrens play 41%, exercise 35%, bird watching 30%, walking the dog 22%. Top likes are space and tranquillity 50%, wildlife 45%, lake and walking around it 27%, play equipment 26%, trees 19%, BBQ 10%, well maintained 5%. Top dislikes are dogs without leads 8%, litter 6%, weeds and poor water quality 5%. 24% had no dislikes at all. Some opinions differed – 6% liked its naturalness, but 2% felt the wall was unnatural; 2% specifically wanted the wall retained, 1% wanted it removed.

The lake in Mabel Talbot Park is one-third the area of Lake Jualbup. Local streets are mostly cul de sacs so the lake is less visible to passing traffic than Lake Jualbup, and it less directly accessible. But the results are similar to those of the Lake Jualbup visitor survey in 1999.



Mabel Talbot Reserve from the bottom of Rosebery Street, where the floodwaters c1920 were deep enough to canoe on, see picture on page 19. The above picture was taken in August 2008.

Lake Jualbup faces the same environmental and community considerations that exist at Mabel Talbot Lake. If the lake is allowed to dry out:

fish will disappear and tortoise populations may decline. Waterbirds will not use the lake in summer and so there will be no resident birds, although some species will likely still loaf and nest on the lake in winter-spring. The surrounding park will be quieter in summer without the background calling of the resident waterbirds. The vegetation structure will likely change as species needing permanent water are replaced by those tolerant of summer drying. [It] will avoid the high risk period for algal blooms ... and outbreaks of botulism ... however these problems may arise for a brief period as the lake dries in late spring - early summer. (Ecoscape 2003:22-23)

Community opinion is now divided on two issues, namely water level and perimeter wall. Points for and against a dry lake in summer (Ecoscape) and a perimeter wall (community comment) are:

Lake dries out

Loss of fish
Lake quieter in summer
Declining tortoise numbers
Less flora/fauna needing water
Dry lake not visually attractive
Lower risk of summer botulism
Vandalism/fire threat to island
Easy access for maintenance

Lake has permanent water

Maintain fish population
Sounds of waterbirds in summer
Stable tortoise numbers
More flora/fauna needing water
Permanent water visually attractive
Higher risk of summer botulism
Island a refuge for wildlife
Less easy access for maintenance

Lake with perimeter wall

Beautiful walking by deep water
Can peer into water everywhere
Especially OK for kids in pushers
Path and walls need maintenance
Walls limit leakage

Lake with platforms and sloping banks

Vegetation a visual barrier but more natural
Can peer only from observation platforms
Vegetation less interesting for kids in pushers
Vegetation needs frequent maintenance
Sloping banks increase leakage

2004 In April the observation platform is built on concrete footings to avoid disturbing the lake bed (*Subiaco Post* 17 April 2004 page 15), even though the area consists entirely of bulldozed landfill, Seventy ducks killed by botulism and water polluted by rotting bread are taken from the lake west of the island (*Subiaco Post* 24 April 2004 page 15). The Council Minutes for 28 September 2004 include a report from the City Administration that says, among other things, that "the original [unfavourable] responses [from the community] were unrepresentative. All of the issues now being raised were largely addressed within the Plan and its recommendations." Which is news to the local residents on the Steering Committee.

In November Council receive a petition with 504 signatures objecting to the plans to remove more retaining walls. "The native vegetation planted on the eastern bank has already formed a thick and impenetrable barrier ... we believe that the majority of the community wish to retain significant direct access to deep water in the lake, not just access via one or two platforms" (from petition).

Impenetrable barriers do not form only on the banks. When the lake dries up, weeds quickly take hold. Papyrus reeds are a special worry because they are thick, fast growing, ultimately head high, and impenetrable by water birds. The lake at Aberdare Road is infested with them despite periodic removal by Council workers, and the water pumped to Lake Jualbup carries their seeds. By 2004 their growth is starting in Lake Jualbup. In 2006, in the absence of action by the City, about 20-30 green-waste-bagfuls of papyrus reeds are removed from the dry lake bed by alarmed residents. Any reeds that escape are removed by residents the following year (Mark Wilshusen).



Council workers removing weeds (*Subiaco Post* 12 July 2008 page 4)
The water is so shallow it might have been easier to walk.

Additional complaints are received from members of the former Steering Committee:

Council has been selective in publishing only those aspects of the survey that are consistent with its proposed improvements to Lake Jualbup. ... I therefore urge the Council to review the manner in which it conducts community consultations, to be open and honest about the decisions it has made, and to provide justification for those decisions.

Another notes that the objections made in the 2001 petition with 470 signatures are confirmed by the latest petition with 504 signatures. In the survey only 25% (75 people) made comments on the wall, mostly about its disrepair or the barrier to wildlife. But "even if we say most of these did not like the aesthetics of the wall, it is only 75 compared to 500 who do. ... [It seems that] the compiler of the findings had a preconceived idea of what form the lake should take."

Stop calling the development plan 'the plan devised by a committee including community reps, from 1998 to March 2000'. The current plan is an emasculated version following financial and Aboriginal considerations. ... The Aboriginal people were brought in to discuss a burial site, not a lake ... The lake bed has already been desecrated by dredging and pipes and fountains. [The plan] is hardly going to re-consecrate the lake. (Steering Committee archives)

Re the last point, the Department of Indigenous Affairs, on its Site Registry, describes the status of Site 3794 Shenton Park Lake 24 May 2004 as:

Site type "Skeletal material/burial". Additional information "Camp".
Permanent register, open access, no restriction.

The Register can be permanent, lodged, stored, or insufficient information. Access can be open, vulnerable, or closed. Restriction can be none, male only, or female only. The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Section 17* says anyone who, without consent, "in any way alters any Aboriginal site" or treats "any object on or under an Aboriginal site" in ways contrary to Aboriginal custom, commits an offence. Three years earlier, at 2 January 2001, the entry for Shenton Park Lake was "Insufficient information, interim register". In neither case is there a note explaining that the unspecified skeletal material found in the 1920s was not found in the existing lake area or surrounding reserve, but in a nearby area on which houses have since been built (see my page 35).

For comparison: Site 3736 Jolimont Swamp is described as:

No special site type. Additional information "Camp, Hunting place, Water source".
Permanent register, open access, no restriction.

and Site 3211 Rosalie Park is described as:

Site type "Artefacts / Scatter" [= no definite location]. Additional information "None".
Stored data [= stored for reference, register is not relevant], open access, no restriction.

Rosalie Park required extensive landscaping to get a level playing field (so any scattered artefacts are now lost), but there were no objections from the Nyungar or the Department, which makes their objections to disturbing Lake Jualbup's infill seem even more artificial (comment by Leigh Alver).



A dried-up lake is not an eyesore if you love glorious mud. The mud is generally ankle deep with occasional knee-deep pockets, and is very black and very hard to wash off. The little boy is in it up to his waist but is eventually rescued by his older friends. (Picture Mark Wilshusen)

2005 Over the next three years a total of eight reports are commissioned (costing \$111,580.00 or about \$400 a page) looking at options for the lake's future.

In January a \$10,000 report by Rockwater says the lake intercepts groundwater moving south from the Gngangara Mound towards the Swan River. Groundwater seeps in along the northern side and out along the southern side. Lake levels could be maintained by (1) adding groundwater, (2) injecting chemical grout along southern side to reduce outflow, (3) storing winter rains in off-lake ponds, (4) raising walls by one metre to increase winter storage and top-dressing lake bed with 100 mm of sand-and-bentonite to decrease outflow, (5) excavating the lake bed to below the summer water table. But the feasibility of each option needs to be determined.

In February a \$10,680 report by ATA Environmental says the changes so far are satisfactory except on the island (foreign species such as willows need replacing with natives), along the eastern end (not enough reeds and sedges), and around the lake edge (plant paperbarks).

In April, in a letter to the *Subiaco Post* of 16 April 2005, Tony Costa confirms that "In March 2001, the City and the Nyungar Circle of Elders signed an agreement that Lake Jualbup would be returned to a more natural form and that no excavation of the lake bed would be done." But in January Council workers dig into the lake bed to remove more than 200 turtles to a fauna reception centre in Malaga (*Subiaco Post* 22 January 2005 page 39). And a month later giant blocks are invading the lake bed, and bulldozers are regrading the edges of the island, as pictured below:



February and March 2005. Is this conforming to Aboriginal custom? Pictures Mark Wilshusen.

In August a 13-page \$14,500 report by Rockwater, based on very limited data, says that 140,000 cu metres of water per year (enough to fill more than 50 Olympic-size swimming pools) are needed to maintain water to base of retaining wall. Or 50% more for a minimum depth of one metre,

2006 Three more reports are received

In April a \$12,140 report by Ecoscape suggests having three educational features explaining the water cycle (\$90k), water table (\$75k), and water gauge (\$75k). None are adopted.

In June a \$14,500 report by GHD says feasible sources of water for topping up the lake are treated wastewater from the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant, or stormwater from the Herdsman main drain. In each case the capital costs approach \$1m. Groundwater is out because fully allocated.

Also in June, a \$4830 report by ATA Environmental says treated wastewater needs more treatment to achieve acceptable quality. The amount available from Herdsman main drain is unknown.

In August the latest City of Subiaco Residential Satisfaction Survey is released by Data Analysis Australia. It involves 400 telephone interviews covering 33 facilities and services, but parks and reserves are not included. 85% of respondents rate Subiaco as good or very good. One of the most

common themes is how much residents enjoy living in Subiaco. The location is convenient and provides great facilities. Its worst feature is the car parking.



The lake in 2006 looking west past the rotunda (GHD 2006 report)

2007 In September a \$39,930 report by ENV Australia assesses fifteen options for keeping the lake full in summer. Ten involve topping up with water obtained from elsewhere. Five involve conserving water by raising the walls, lowering the lake bed, or preventing leakage by treating part or all of the lake bed. It prefers topping-up with groundwater but this is unlikely to be allowed by the water authorities. Preventing leakage might reduce water quality. So it favours pulling down the walls and letting the lake dry out in summer.

2008 In February two petitions of 50 and 362 signatures are received in favour of permanent water or for obtaining more information on leakage prevention, respectively. In addition, a record 42 individual submissions are received. They break down as follows:

Permanent water? Yes 25, No let it dry up 14. *Reduce leakage?* Yes 7, No 2, Investigate further 4. *Preferred vegetation?* Native 6, Existing 4. *Effect of drying up on wildlife?* Bad 7, Beneficial 1.



The summary of responses brings the total number of reports to eight and their total cost to \$111,580.00. For comparison, the 433 pages of McFarlane's (1984) PhD thesis on Lake Jualbup could have been had for free.

Some comments are very much to the point:

"When I first bought my house in 1988, I used to tell people I live opposite a lovely lake, now I tell them I live opposite a swamp". "There are increasing developments in the metro area all of which appear to have large man-made lakes full of water and birdlife" "Holding water in an earth depression is not difficult, mining companies and farmers do it all the time." "The community has made it clear every time they have been asked – they do not want what your administration tries to force upon them" (All from April 2008 Council minutes)

On 7 April 2008 the Subiaco Council resolves 6:4 that the walls and pathways be repaired and that no further destruction of the banks occur as at the eastern end. The reasons are:

The walls and pathways need repairing. The people want the walls and pathways retained. The plantings (multiple attempts) at the eastern end of the lake are not a brilliant example of survival or beauty. The whole thing has gone on far too long against huge opposition. Just start maintaining it now. (Council minutes page 45)



How the *Subiaco Post* saw the Council decision (26 April 2008 page 18).

The *Subiaco Post* reported: "After years of arguments, the concrete wall and path are to be fixed around Lake Jualbup in Shenton Park". "The council meeting was crowded with 100 people, about half of them interested in the Lake Jualbup issue ... Lake Jualbup has taken up hundreds of hours of arguments and \$110,000 in consultants' reports." Views expressed at the meeting ranged from "People want walls and willows. Pulling down the walls is flying in the face of public opinion" to "Tonight will end an era when this city has shown very strong commitment to its environment". The *Subiaco Post* (pages 18 and 78) concluded with this summary:

Arguments about the lake's condition first erupted eight years ago when the path's concrete slabs were first noticed being lifted and broken by roots from willow trees – and the walls, made from old sections of concrete kerb, began to collapse. The council decided then to remove the path and wall at the eastern end and plant rushes and other native plants, install gently sloping beach, and then let it settle for two years before going ahead with similar treatment around the rest of the lake. But the change caused uproar that went on for years. Some people argue that the lake should follow the rhythm of nature and dry out in summer. Tortoises would aestivate – burrow into the mud and sleep through summer – and water birds would fly away to other, better water sources. But others say it should have water in it all year because that is nice to look at and it would support water birds, including ducks and swans, all year.

Later the Council resolution leads to a quite extraordinary example of mischief:

A supporter of removing walls and willows is upset by the decision. He writes to the Department of Indigenous Affairs telling them that, contrary to the Nyungar agreement, Council has resolved to reconstruct the walls (which is not true – in effect Council has resolved to do nothing). The Department advises the City Administration that such an action would make them liable to a \$50,000 fine, and Councillors individually to a \$20,000 fine and possible imprisonment. The Administration ignores the mistake, passes on the advice, and requests the by now distraught Councillors to reverse their resolution.

Fortunately a number of ratepayers, myself included, call the DIA and discover the mistake. The DIA believed the letter and did not check the actual resolution. We also discover (1) the agreement was never ratified by Council, (2) two of the five Nyungar signatories are in jail, (3) two more are dead, and (4) there is no time limit for honouring the agreement (always assuming it is legal).

When Council learns this information, a motion to accept the Administration's request is defeated 2 votes to 6. A counter motion to reject the request is passed 6:2. (Council Minutes 15 July 2008) Later, in the *Subiaco POST* 2 August 2008 page 22 "Lay off Subi staff – I wrote the letter", Shenton Park resident Daniel Boase-Jelinek admits he was the mischief-maker, but makes no apology.

2009 No work is planned for the lake until the legality of the Nyungar agreement is resolved by the Department of Indigenous Affairs. By mid-year the Department has indicated in writing that, where safety is an issue, repair of the lake walls is permitted. Some legally-informed residents suggest that the Department has a vested interest in matters involving the Nyungar agreement, so an independent legal opinion should be obtained.



Why visitors with children like the lake the way it is. July 2009 and October 2010

2010 In February 2010 Subiaco Council resolves to (1) engage a consultant to determine "community views on how they want the lake to look", (2) engage afterwards a consultant to devise an appropriate management plan for the whole reserve, and (3) endorse its April 2008 resolution to repair the walls and pathways, and to not destroy any walls "by any re-landscaping like the eastern end of the lake".

On 22 March a freak storm dumps hailstones and 52 mm of rain into a dry Lake Jualbup. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the golfball-sized hailstones that pulverised the western suburbs fell at 180 kph from a single cloud 5km wide, 7km high, and racing southwards at 60 kph.



Lake Jualbup playground at the height of the storm. Icy hail has caused the lake's humid air to condense into thick mist. Hailstones, leaves and branches litter the ground.



Blocked road drains send torrents of water across the lawns into the lake



Water floods in from all directions. In just two hours the lake goes from bone-dry to nearly half full. The daily decrease in lake level is initially very high, as expected, but after a few days it settles down to its more usual rate for that depth.

But there is far more to the storm than the sudden dumping of water into a dry lake, because the dry lake had been invaded by South American barnyard grass *E crus-pavonis* as shown below:



Left: by February 2010 the invading South American barnyard grass (a species of millet) is already waist high. **Right:** it can easily reach shoulder height, as here at Mabel Talbot Reserve.



The barnyard grass, smashed and inundated, is duly rotted by bacteria to form a rich soup from which its sulphur content is exhaled as hydrogen sulphide.



Left: ankle deep in stink. **Right:** suspended solids make the lake water opaque if deeper than 10 cm.

The stink of hydrogen sulphide persuaded residents downwind to keep doors and windows closed. The odour threshold for hydrogen sulphide is about 0.1 ppm using laboratory observers specially alert to detect odour (1000 ppm breathed continuously is fatal), and in practice a *permissible* level might be 1-3 ppm (Thistlethwayte 1972:55). In this case the actual level might be ten times higher, which for the lake is beneficial since it represents the removal of substantial amounts of sulphur, which (as sulphuric acid) would otherwise lead to an acid sulphate soil component in the lake bed. Furthermore, despite health warnings, the smashed weeds attracted lots of ducks:



Around 400 ducks feed on smashed weeds in water shallow enough for the weeds to be easily reached

The bacteria-driven rotting of weeds causes a sharp decrease in dissolved oxygen, which is not good for aquatic health, and leads to the emergency installation of aerators operating eight hours a day with a pumping rate of around 35 cu metres an hour (personal communication from the operators).



Left: It may look impressive, but looks are deceiving. The problem is that diffusion of oxygen across an air/water interface is slow. Even if the aerator oxygenated all of the pumped water, which is not the case, it would take about 6 weeks to treat a half-full lake, during which time a few reasonable rains (or a few strong winds) would do a better job.

2010 continued. Excavations below the water table at QEII Hospital require the pumping of ground water to Lake Jualbup (enough to fill the lake about seven times) over a period of six months from August 2010, which temporarily keeps the lake from drying out.

2011 But by February 2011 the lake is a wet mudflat, then a dry mudflat.



In February 2011 Subiaco Council engages a consultant to determine community views on the future of the lake. There will be an Integrity Team of people such as JPs to ensure the process "meets the standards of quality engagement". The Integrity Team will also select an anonymous Citizen's Jury to judge the submitted views and decide the future of the lake. A Technical Panel will advise the Jury on technical issues. There is no provision for making sure people are informed before they submit their views. None of the above helpers will be paid, but the consultants will get a staggering \$130,952 (not a misprint) plus \$203.05 per hour for any extra work.

Ratepayers are outraged and deluge the POST (14 and 21 May 2011) with angry comments such as "a disgrace", "a joke", "a sham", "outrageous fees", "wasteful bureaucratic nonsense", and "a Yes Minister style farce". The process is seen as imposing a secret jury between ratepayers and Council, and thus lacking transparency. On 17 May 2011 the Corporate Community and Technical Services Committee recommends that the consultation process be put on hold to allow revision to something more acceptable. A week later the Subiaco Council accepts the recommendation.



Exploring a newly-dry lake bed seems to be fun. But is it safe? March 2011



In April the Subiaco Council sprays the entire dry lake bed with herbicides to prevent another invasion by barnyard grass (see page 49).



It kills the weeds – and also the plants needed by bottom feeders



So when water returns in May, there is nothing for hungry ducks to feed on...



except the fast food provided by a concerned resident

The future of Lake Jualbup?

It seems hard to disagree when someone claims that "a natural lake is more natural than an artificial one" when it is so obviously true. But notice how your view has been pre-determined by a sneaky choice of the word "natural". Nobody disagrees that a red balloon is more red than a blue balloon,

Look at it this way. It is equally true that (1) wide verandahs are more natural than ducted air conditioning, (2) in hot climates bug-infested brown rice is more natural than treated bug-free rice, (3) a headache is more natural than paracetamol, and (4) historically a lifespan of 20 years is more natural than one of 80 years. But today most people prefer what is desirable over what is natural.

The same applies to Lake Jualbup. Here the supposedly natural alternative (swamp) is just as artificial as the supposedly artificial one (lake). No natural lake receives massive amounts of piped drainage water, nor the weeds and pollutants this introduces from afar. No natural lake has a narrow

biodiversity of man-planted natives, especially when they are not necessarily native to the area. No natural lake has suffered decades of rubbish dumping and a complete makeover by bulldozers. In environmental terms Lake Jualbup will necessarily remain man-made and artificial regardless of what is done to it. There is also a further consideration:

Even if rainfall doubled, it would still take decades to restore water tables to former levels. If rainfall continues to diminish and human demands on groundwater continue to increase, wetlands will continue to disappear with significant impact on biodiversity and social amenity. Lake Jualbup is not a large water body. But because it receives such a large amount of water every year, it may be one of few wetlands that, in a drying climate, can be saved. That is a real bonus.

But the issue is not exclusively environmental. It is also a community issue. Whatever outcome is chosen (lake or swamp), it will be paid for by ratepayers. And whoever pays the piper should call the tune. Provided of course that the call is made by informed ratepayers, not by ratepayers misinformed by propaganda and inattention to detail. Controversy thrives on incomplete or one-sided information. Provide impartial information and controversy tends to disappear – and the title of this history may become an overstatement.

Finally, given the rich history of the area, the magnificent effort by successive councils to improve the landscape and plant trees, and the obvious depth of community interest, there could be a case for recognising multicultural connections by seeking heritage status for the lake reserve.



Subiaco's "jewel in the crown" in July 2008

Acknowledgements

This May 2011 update of the original September 2009 version is 16 pages longer. For helpful comments I thank Ron Congdon (Violet Grove), Jim Dyson (Nollamara, descendant of James Dyson of Dyson's Swamp), Ted Evans (Operations Manager, Water Corporation), Brian Goodchild (Manager, Geographic Names and Addressing, Landgate), Neil Hunt (Aberdare Road), Dr Craig Lawrence (Fisheries), Jean LeQuesne (Friends of Lake Jualbup, Herbert Road), Peter MacDonald (Nicholson Road), Dr Don McFarlane (CSIRO), Dr Roger Passmore (Rockwater P/L), Allan Stoney (Evans Street), Bill Till (Department of Water), Professor Terry Woodings (Nedlands), and various visitors to Lake Jualbup.

Leigh Alver (Waylen Road), Hugh Richardson (Hilda Street), Stan Rudrum (Morgan Street), and Mark Wilshusen (Evans Street) provided much archival material and helpful comments. City of Subiaco planners checked building plans to help date the aerial photograph. At the Evelyn Parker Library the sections on history, oral histories, and local history awards were an essential resource, as was the website of the National Library in Canberra for its searchable database of early Perth newspapers. Elizabeth Hof and staff at the Subiaco Museum were unfailing in their efforts to locate relevant material especially photographs.

References and bibliography

More than seventy sources are listed below. Not all are cited in the text but all have been consulted. Most of the historical photographs have been scanned from existing publications and then improved in Photoshop. The result is usually better than the original

- ATA Environmental (2005). *Environmental Improvement Assessment – Stage 1, Lake Jualbup, Shenton Park*. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 27 pages.
- ATA Environmental (2006). *Environmental Assessment of Water Supply Options Lake Jualbup*. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 34 pages.
- Alver L (2009). Personal communications.
- Armstrong F (1836). Manners and Habits of the Aborigines of Western Australia. *Perth Gazette* October-November 1836. Reprinted in Green (1979) pages 186-206.
- Baker P (1984). *Subiaco oral histories*. August 1983 and April 1984
- Bates D (1909, 1929). Articles in *The West Australian*. See entries under 1909 and 1929 for details.
- Bekle H and Gentilli J (1993). History of the Perth lakes. *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. 10(5), 442-460.
- Bindon P (1992). Preface to Bridge (1992), page 24.
- Bolton G and Gregory J (1999). *Claremont: A History*. UWA Press, Nedlands WA.
- Bridge PJ (1992) (ed). Reprint of *Aboriginal Perth and Bibbulmun Biographies and Legends by Daiisy Bates*. With an introduction by Peter Bindon. Hesperian Press, Carlisle WA 6101
- Bridge PJ (2004) (ed). *My Natives and I*. Reprint of *The Passing of the Aborigines: A Lifetime spent among the Natives of Australia* by Daisy Bates. John Murray, London, 1938 and 1941. With an introduction by Bob Reece. Hesperian Press, Carlyle WA 6101. Has many pictures of Daisy Bates.
- Bropho R (1980). *Fringedweller*. Alternative Publishing Co-operative, Sydney NSW. Chapter 1 (pp.5-17) describes "The camp life of the fringedwellers of Swanbourne – 1938". Other chapters are further away.
- Chate AH (1952). *History of Subiaco*. Q994,11 Sub. Cited by Schlatter (1979), page 8.
- City of Subiaco (2000). *Lake Jualbup Management Plan*. The history of the lake on pages 7-9 was the starting point for the present work. It is aptly described as a "history (condensed)". According to Mayor Heather Henderson, the City Administration has no uncondensed version.
- City of Subiaco website. Lake Jualbup, Mabel Talbot Park, and Rosalie Park. Accessed 17 April 2009.
- Congdon R (2009). Personal communication.
- Couzens RR (2006). *Memories of Subiaco and Jolimont 1940s-1960s*. Entry for Subiaco Local History Awards.
- Crowley FK (1960). *Australia's Western Third*. Macmillan, London, page 108 (goldrush).
- Delamare R (2006). *Subiaco in the 1940's: A child's view*. Entry for Subiaco Local History Awards.
- Department of Indigenous Affairs (2009). *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* Sections 5 and 16-18.
- Department of Indigenous Affairs (2009). *Heritage Survey Reports for Subiaco area*. Heritage Survey Reports include over 50 reports covering the area from Yanchep to Mandurah and out to Toodjay and York.
- Department of Indigenous Affairs (2009). *Site Registry Status*
- Dyson J (2009). Personal communication.
- ENV Australia (2008). *Technical Response to Comments on the Lake Jualbup Feasibility Study*. By Margaret Dunlop, Senior Environmental Engineer. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 6 pages.
- ENV Australia. *Feasibility Study for Maintenance of Permanent Water in Lake Jualbup*. September 2007. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 121 pages.
- Ecoscope (2003). *Mabel Talbot Reserve Management Plan*. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, March 2003, 48 pages.
- Ecoscope (2006). *Lake Jualbup, Shenton Park, Proposal for Consulting Services*. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 46 pages.
- GHD (2006). *Lake Jualbup Water Source Investigation*. June 2006. By G Tandle, I Munir, R Connolly. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 41 pages. Neither the report nor the GHD website indicates what GHD stands for (Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey).
- Glauert L (1950). Provisional List of Aboriginal Place Names and their Meanings. *Journal and Proceedings of the Western Australian Historical Society* 4(2), 83-86.
- Green N (1979). *NYUNGAR – The People: Aboriginal customs in the southwest of Australia*. Creative Research, North Perth WA. Describes Nyungar society at the time of white settlement in WA. Nothing specifically on Shenton Park. No index.

- Green N (1984). *Broken Spears: Aborigines and Europeans in the southwest of Australia*. Focus Education, Cottesloe WA 6011. Describes the interaction of native and white cultures during the first 25 years of white settlement in WA. Nothing specifically on Shenton Park. No index.
- Guilfoyle D, Babidge S and Lamond T (1998). *Aboriginal Heritage Study UWA - Shenton Park: Report of the Archaeological and Ethnographic Survey*. Centre for Western Australian History, University of Western Australia, June 1998. A survey re a proposed development of UWA bushland bounded by Underwood Avenue and Selby Street. The authors briefly summarise O'Connor et al but give no new information.
- Hallam SJ (1991). Some little-known Aborigines of the 1930s in the Perth area. *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. 10(3), 316-334. Only a quarter is about particular Aborigines. The rest is about Aboriginal food and how it is obtained. Hallam is an archeologist. The statement about 50,000 years appears on page 316 without supporting references. Green (1984:3) puts it as "beyond 40,000 years".
- Historical Images*. Downloaded from <http://www.mcc.murdoch.edu.au/multimedia/nyungar/index.htm> (www.mcc not www.mcc). Once on site: Enter > Boodjar > Historical images. Accessed August 2009.
- Hunt N (2009). Personal communication.
- Jebb MA and Stella L (2008). *Aboriginal Histories in the City of Subiaco*. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco. Essentially a collection of existing material covering Perth and greater Subiaco. No new information, not much on Lake Jualbup, no index.
- Kornweibel AH (1973). *Apollo and the Pioneers*. Music Council of WA, 100 pages. Chapter 1 is "Pianos on the beach". Kornweibel was the music journalist "Fidelio" for The West Australian for nearly fifty years 1916-1965. His account is based mostly on old newspapers, letters, journals and other records in the Battye Library, and on reminiscences of descendants of early settlers. It has much of general interest. Most of the early settlers camped in tents on Garden Island while their land grants were being organised. Pianos were shipped like other furniture, in packing cases, that were parked near their tents on the beach, hence his chapter title. *Apollo* is the roman god of music.
- Hasluck P (1969). *Collected Verse*. Hawthorn Press, Melbourne.
- Lake P (2007). *Joseph Lake: A Subiaco Builder*. Entry for Subiaco Local History Awards.
- Laurie M (2005). *A History of Jolimont Primary School and its Community 1905-2005*. Entry for Subiaco Local History Awards. Contains some excellent pictures, some are also in Spillman (1985).
- Lyon RM (1833). A Glance at the Manners and Language of the Aboriginal Inhabitants of Western Australia; with a short vocabulary. *Perth Gazette* 20 April 1833, reprinted in N Green (ed), *Nyungar – The People*, Creative Research, North Perth 1979, pp 148-180.
- MacDonald P (2009). Personal communication.
- Markey D (1977). *More a Symbol than a Success: Foundation Years of The Swan River Colony*. Westbooks, Bayswater WA.
- McFarlane DJ (1981). The effects of urbanisation on groundwater levels and chemistry in Perth, Western Australia. In BR Whelan (ed). *Groundwater Resources of the Swan Coastal Plain*. CSIRO, Perth, pages 243-262, with questions through page 265.
- McFarlane DJ (1983). *Effects of urbanisation on groundwater quality and quantity in Perth, Western Australia*. PhD thesis, Department of Geology, University of Western Australia, 433 pages. UWA library records show I was the first person since 2001 to look at this thesis, so none of those expensive reports that cited it had actually read it. Before 2001 about 14 people had looked at it, mostly in earlier years.
- McGeogh archive (1988). On file at the Subiaco Museum.
- Mitchell J (2004). *One House Five Generations*. Entry for Subiaco Local History Awards. The house at 227 Nicholson Road was bought by the Mitchell family in 1912.
- Moore GF (1884). *A descriptive vocabulary of the language in common use amongst the Aborigines of Western Australia*. First published 1842. Facsimile 1978, UWA Press, Nedlands WA.
- Neville AO (1936). Relations between settlers and Aborigines in Western Australia. *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. 2(19), 10-46. A detailed account by the Chief Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia.
- O'Connor R, Bodney C and Little L (1985). *Preliminary Report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth metropolitan and Murray River regions*, Heritage Survey Report 059/85. Dept of Indigenous Affairs, Perth WA. Updated (but with no new information re Lake Jualbup) in next entry:
- O'Connor R, Quartermaine G and Bodney C (1989). *Report on an Investigation into Aboriginal significance of wetlands and rivers in the Perth-Bunbury region*. Water Resources Council, Leederville WA.
- O'Reilly T (2007). *AK Reserve Redevelopment Plan: Aboriginal Consultation Part 1*. Report for the Department of Sport and Recreation. A consultation before drawing up plans for the re-siting of the existing basketball, athletics and rugby facilities at Perry Lakes. Detailed and thorough. Includes reference to the previous two entries but has no new information re Lake Jualbup. Available online.
- Perth Gazette* (Swan River Colony newspaper). As cited by other sources.
- Poor B (1984). *Transcription of oral history*. November 1984, 54 pages including index.

- Preedy L (1984). *Transcription of oral history*. May 1984, 82 pages including index.
- Rawlins T (1983). *Transcription of oral history*. August 1983, 83 pages including index.
- Rockwater (2005). *Hydrogeology of Lake Jualbup, Shenton Park, and options for maintaining lake levels*. By AD Allen Principal Hydrogeologist. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 44 pages.
- Rockwater (2005a). *Water Requirements for maintaining lake level, Lake Jualbup, Shenton Park*. By PH Wharton Principal Hydrogeologist. Report commissioned by the City of Subiaco, 13 pages.
- Rudrum S (2009). Personal communications.
- Schlatter F (1979). *The early days of Subiaco*. From his "Research Essay: A History of Subiaco & A Short Historic Walk through Subiaco" In "Subiaco: Papers on Colonial History" in Subiaco Library.
- Sefton W (1983). *Subiaco oral histories*. August 1983
- Smith-Ali D (2011). Personal communication.
- Spillman K (1985). *Identity Prized: A History of Subiaco*. UWA Press for City of Subiaco. The first source for information on Subiaco's early history but poorly referenced and poorly indexed. The excellent 26-page index prepared by Anne Batt is essential (eg 37 page-references to the lake vs Spillman's 14).
- Spillman K (1998). *Diehards: The Story of the Subiaco Football Club 1896-1945*. Subiaco Football Club.
- Spillman K (2006). *Tales of a Singular City: Subiaco since the 1970s*. City of Subiaco 2006.
- Statham-Drew P (2004). *James Stirling and the birth of the Swan River Colony*. 64 pages. Pandorus, Swanbourne WA.
- Stannage CT (1979). *The People of Perth: A social history of Western Australia's capital city*. Perth City Council, Perth WA.
- Subiaco Post*. Letters and articles as cited in text. An excellent archive of cuttings on Lake Jualbup is held by the Subiaco Museum.
- Taran M (2004). *Jualbup Lake*. Entry for Subiaco Local History Awards. An illustrated survey of flora and fauna. Only one page on the lake itself, mostly on history.
- The Emigrant's Friend* (1848). No author. Published by J Allen, London "May be had at all booksellers". Reader's Digest facsimile edition, Sydney 1974.
- The West Australian*. As cited by other sources.
- Van der Straaten M (1959). *A History of Subiaco*. Q994,11 Sub. Cited by Schlatter (1979), pages 4 and 7 (page 7 for goldrush).
- Western Australian Year Book* (1979). Australian Bureau of Statistics, Western Australian Office. Government Printer, Perth WA.
- Wilshusen M (2009). Personal communications.
- Woodings T (2009). Personal communication (West Subiaco aerodrome).
- Yapp J (2005). *Jolimont The Early Years*. Entry for Subiaco Local History Awards. Includes Jolimont Lake.
- Dr Geoffrey Dean can be contacted at PO Box 466, Subiaco WA 6904.