



CITY OF GOSNELLS

# Kenwick and Maddington Heritage Trail

DRIVING



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## City of Gosnells

2120 Albany Highway  
Gosnells WA 6110

9397 3000

[council@gosnells.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@gosnells.wa.gov.au)  
[www.gosnells.wa.gov.au](http://www.gosnells.wa.gov.au)

## City of Gosnells Museum - Wilkinson Homestead

34 Homestead Road,  
Gosnells

9490 1575

Open Wednesdays 10am to 2pm  
and Sundays 2pm to 5pm

Group bookings and tours can be  
made by appointment

The City's Local History Collection  
can be seen at the  
Knowledge Centre @ The Agonis,  
Albany Highway, Gosnells  
9398 2551

**This suggested route is a  
self-guided drive and people  
take part at their own risk**



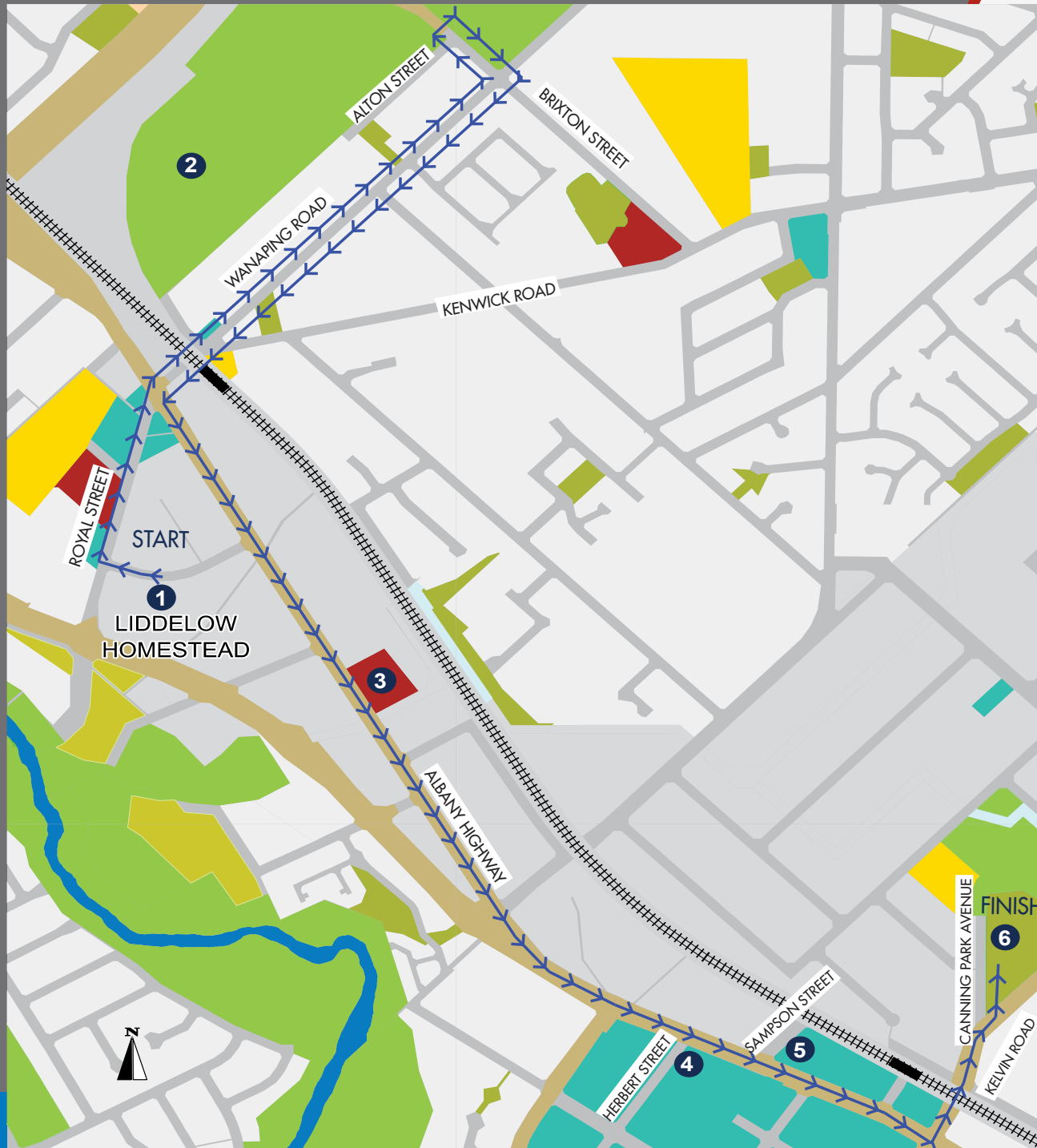
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## Maddington and Kenwick Heritage Trails

This brochure outlines a drive trail through interesting heritage places in Kenwick and Maddington.

The suburb of Kenwick gets its name from Kenwick Park, the farm of early settler Wallace Bickley. In 1858 Kenwick Park consisted of 1602ha on both sides of the Canning River.

The suburb of Maddington is named after Maddington Park, the home of John Randell Phillips. Established in 1832, Maddington developed as an agricultural area with market gardens, poultry farms and orchards. From 1907 to 1973 Maddington was home to the administration buildings of the Municipality of Gosnells.



## Kenwick and Maddington Driving Trail

Due to the distances between the significant places in Kenwick we've created a driving trail, which also includes some places in Maddington.



1

## Liddelow Homestead

9 Cooper Avenue, Kenwick



Kenwick Estate poster. Courtesy City of Gosnells.

Liddelow Homestead is set on a portion of land known earlier as Kenwick Park. It was developed by successful businessman Wallace Bickley and his wife Elizabeth, following Wallace's return from years of work in India. By the 1860s grain, hay and milk were being produced and horses were bred on the property.

Today, the property is home to the Liddelow Homestead Arts and Craft Club where classes are held in pottery, painting, wood turning and handcrafts.



John Liddelow. Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.



Liddelow Homestead, c1925. Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.





## Brixton Street Wetlands

Brixton Street, Kenwick

The Brixton Street wetlands cover 19ha and provide the opportunity to discover 307 types of wildflowers, rare and endangered plants and animals. The dense wetland vegetation provides shelter, food and a place to nest, and more than 40 bird species have been sighted here.

Many varieties of frogs and reptiles also live here and you may even spot small crustaceans, insects and tadpoles. The Brixton Street Wetlands brochure is available from the City of Gosnells Civic Centre or libraries for more information.



Picture: Brixton Street wetlands. Courtesy City of Gosnells.

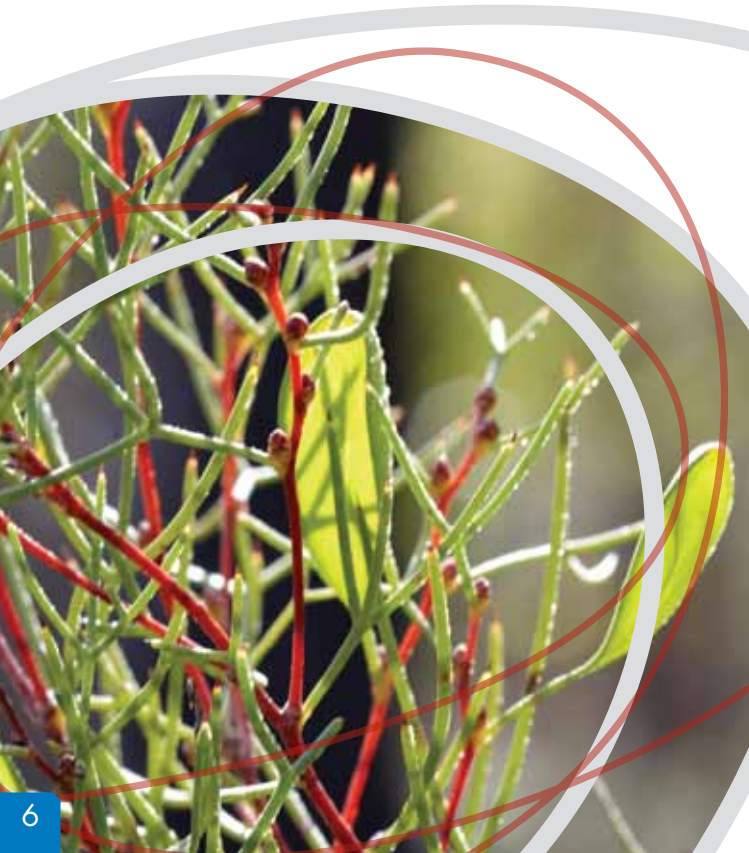
## Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery

1762 Albany Highway, Kenwick

Parking on site

The Gosnells Historical Society has created a short historic walk through the cemetery. Look for the pathway marked with large rocks displaying plaques.

The site was first used as a cemetery for the Canning district which, in 1866, included the region from The Causeway to beyond Kelmscott and including Kalamunda, Pickering Brook and Jandakot. In 1990, the cemetery was renovated and burials restricted to pioneer families. In 2001 the cemetery was closed to burials altogether. The early graves remain as a reminder of the people whose hard work helped to establish the district.







View of trail through cemetery. Courtesy City of Gosnells.

4

## Site of St Luke's Anglican Church

Herbert Street, near Albany Highway,  
Maddington

St Luke's was built in 1926 and incorporated the foundation stone from the original Church of St Michael and All Angels, which once stood next to the Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery. Once considered the best of the district's early churches, St Luke's was demolished in 1987 when the Anglican Parish of Maddington relocated.



Laying of foundation stone at St Luke's Church, 1926. Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.

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

## Site of Uniting Church/ Congregational Church

Corner Albany Highway and Sampson Street,  
Maddington

The Uniting Church in Maddington celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1962 with services being conducted by past ministers. Three years later, a new chapel was built on the back of the existing chapel through voluntary labour. This enabled the older part of the building to be used for a Sunday school. In 1967, the Shire of Gosnells donated and transported a wooden building to the church site which was renovated and opened as a kindergarten hall.

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



Picture: Uniting Church, 1982. Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.

Continue along Albany Highway, then turn left into Kelvin Road at the intersection.

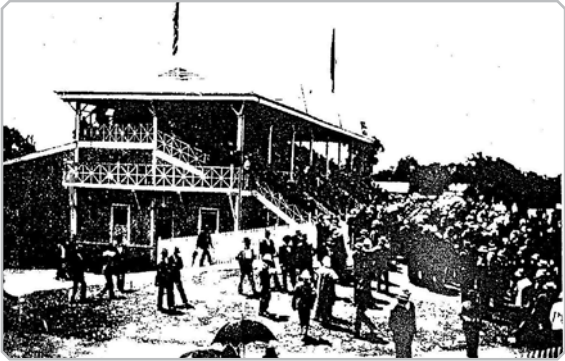
## Canning Park Turf Club

Canning Park Avenue, Maddington

The first race meeting was held in 1868 on land owned by James Roe, steward and secretary of the WA Turf Club. The race meetings were held around Christmas time each year and became an important social event. The race course was also used by the Cricket Club, which played its first match there in 1872.

The last race at the Canning Park Turf Club was held in June 1942. It was considered that race meetings were a luxury during the Second World War and race meetings did not resume after the war.

The remains of an avenue of majestic Sugargums (*Eucalyptus gladocalyx*) off Kelvin Road still exist.



Picture: Canning Park Grandstand Maddington c1898 Courtesy McNamara collection.



Picture: Avenue of trees. Courtesy City of Gosnells.



## Sources

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

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

City of Gosnells Municipal Heritage  
Inventory 1998

Heritage Council of Western Australia  
Assessment Documentation





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# Maddington Heritage Trail

WALKING



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## Maddington and Kenwick Heritage Trails

This brochure outlines a walk trail past some of the significant heritage places in Maddington.

The suburb of Maddington is named after Maddington Park, the home of John Randell Phillips. Established in 1832, Maddington developed as an agricultural area with market gardens, poultry farms and orchards. From 1907 to 1973 Maddington was home to the administration buildings of the Municipality of Gosnell.

The suburb of Kenwick gets its name from Kenwick Park, the farm of early settler Wallace Bickley. In 1858 Kenwick Park consisted of 1602ha on both sides of the Canning River.

## Maddington Walking Trail

There is a lot to see so make sure you allow at least one and half hours to walk the trail. Follow the pavement marker:

### Maddington Kenwick Heritage Trail

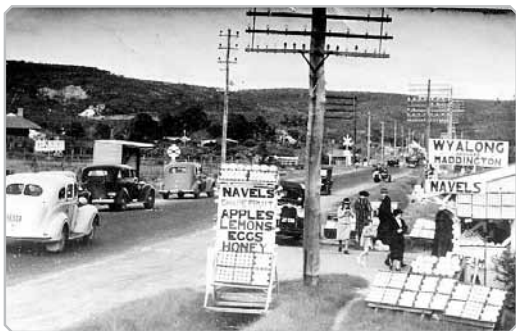


Wallace Bickley and family. Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.



Maddington Park Homestead (front). Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.





McNamara's Fruit stall late 1930s. Courtesy McNamara collection.

1

## City of Gosnells Museum – Wilkinson Homestead

Homestead Road, Gosnells

Parking on site

Visiting the museum is a great way to find out more about the area's history including that of Maddington and Kenwick. More information on the homestead and the Wilkinson family is available on the City's website, at the museum or the Knowledge Centre.

The museum collection includes paintings by early Kenwick resident Kathleen Liddelow and some of her personal items. The agricultural shed is made from material salvaged from former local buildings, including the Maddington Centenary Hall and 1929 Gosnells Roads Board building.

Wilkinson Homestead is open Sunday 2pm - 5pm and Wednesday 10am - 2pm. Minimal admission costs apply.



Citrus Orchard in Gosnells c1930 Courtesy V Wilkinson.

After your visit to Wilkinson Homestead walk about 300m west along the footpath along Homestead Road. Stop when you reach a large Pine (*Pinus radiata*) on the edge of the park and a large commemorative boulder on your right.

2

## Grave of John and Frances Davis.

### Homestead Road, Gosnells

John Okey Davis was one of the original settlers in the Canning area and was allocated this land in 1829. Davis, his wife Frances and seven children travelled from London, arriving in 1829. The Davis family named their farm Chenies and planted wheat and vegetables.

After John and Frances' death, their sons continued to farm the property as well as nearby Stoke Farm in Maddington which they leased from John Randell Phillips. The property was sold in 1862 to Charles Gosnell, the owner of a well known English perfume and soap making company, who bought it as an investment.

One of the area's oldest trees, a heritage listed 500 year old jarrah tree, marks the nearby location of one of the Wilkinson's early farm structures.

Follow the path towards the river, turn right and stop on the small bridge.

3

## Southern River

The Southern River is known as the Wungong River in its higher reaches. Paperbarks (*Melaleuca* sp) and Flooded Gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*) are the most prolific trees in the area.

Aboriginal people traditionally used the paperbark leaves for medicinal purposes, including chewing the young leaves to alleviate headaches and other ailments. It was used for cradles, as bandages, sleeping mats, as a building material, for wrapping food and as a disposable raincoat.

Just south of Burslem Road Bridge the Southern River joins the Canning River.





Junction of Canning and Southern Rivers, c1920. Courtesy L Wilkinson.

Continue walking on the footpath until you get to Burslem Road Bridge.

Diagonally across the river is Maddington Park Homestead. In October 1867, William Blower was washing sheep, prior to shearing, in a deep pool behind Maddington Park Homestead when he was attacked by a ram and later died.

The trail continues on to Burslem Road Bridge. Stop on the bridge over the Canning River.

#### 4

### The Canning River

Noongar people call the Canning River Djarlgarra. The river provided plentiful food to the Beelias and Beloo people. As hunters and gatherers they made the most of wild food resources. The men concentrated on capturing larger animals and the women dug for roots, collected fruits, seeds, bird eggs, insect larvae and trapped small reptiles.

The Canning River is about 100kms long and flows from the Darling Scarp as a major tributary to the Swan River. Growing up in Maddington, Irene Coulthard, recalled that during the 1920s and 1930s the river in flood contained oranges that had been washed in from citrus orchards located along the river.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Canning Dam was built near Araluen which stopped the river from flooding so frequently.

Continue to travel across Burslem Road Bridge and walk along Burslem Drive. Stop outside the Arcadia Waters estate, opposite Maddington Park Homestead.



Picture: Canoeing on the Canning near the Railway Bridge in 1924. Courtesy Frank McNamara collection.



## Conflict along the Canning

This area was once the site of conflict between local Beeliar people and local settlers. Historians Dr Gil McDonald and Bill Cooper summarise the situation in *The Gosnells Story*:

“By the late 1830s, two very different social systems were locked in a violent struggle for survival along the river. The Aboriginal people, whose complex and efficient system of land use had been refined over a period of at least 40,000 years, were not slow to perceive that the white invasion was rapidly destroying their traditional way of life. The settlers, struggling to establish farms in this alien environment, failed to realise that the firing of the bush, the stealing of potatoes and the spearing of livestock in the back country were all in keeping with the Aboriginal hunting and gathering economy and was by no means always wanton acts of vandalism or revenge.” *The Gosnells Story*, page 36.

The *Perth Gazette* documented this ongoing conflict in the Maddington area. The 16 December 1837 issue recorded the spearing of two boys, aged nine and 11 who had been tending Major Nairn’s sheep near the Canning River. The principal assailant was identified as a man named Buoyeen.



Canning River behind Maddington Park Homestead. Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.

## Maddington Park

Burslem Drive, Maddington

Maddington Farm was established by John Randell Phillips. In 1833 he sold it to Major William Nairn, who renamed it Maddington Park and built a large two storey house that was a fine example of colonial architecture.

The Harris family owned the property from the 1870s until 1983. From the 1950s to 1970 the property was producing an average of 180,000 cauliflowers per year. A portion of the property was sold in 1978 for the Maddington shopping complex and was devastated by fire in 2004.



Maddington Park Homestead (rear). Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.



Maddington Estate real estate poster. Courtesy City of Gosnells.

Look eastwards towards the Darling Ranges and you will see the Gosnells Quarry which began as White Rock Quarries in 1930. It was acquired by CSR Readymix in 1961. Granite blasted from the quarry is believed to be 1000 million years old.

Continue along Burslem Drive towards the roundabout. Turn right into Olga Road and walk to the corner of Olga Road and Attfield Street. Turn right into Attfield Street and walk towards River Avenue.

This area of Maddington was once part of Stoke Farm, established by Phillips after he had sold neighbouring Maddington Farm to Nairn in 1833. The houses in Attfield Street show the residential development during the 20th Century.



Stooks of sheaves on Stoke Farm. Courtesy City of Gosnells Museum.

Turn left into River Avenue.

7

## Cowen House (former)

22 River Avenue, Maddington

This house was built in 1923 and was one of the homes of Robert Cowen, who had also occupied 21 River Avenue. The house used to sit on 4ha and had good water supply for its citrus orchard from a creek that runs through the area. Cowen taught many people how to operate an orchard. He experimented with many crops such as peanuts and apples and recommended that oranges be grown in the district.



Robert Cowen.  
Courtesy City  
of Gosnells.

Cowen served as Chairman of the Gosnells Roads Board from 1914 to 1919. He was the joint owner of Stoke Farm from 1908 to 1913 and lived in an 1830s mud brick home (now demolished) on the property.

Turn towards Attfield Street, and continue down River Avenue.



8

## Avenue of Trees planted by William Orr

Corner River Avenue and Phillip Street,  
Maddington

This avenue of trees was planted by William (Billy) Orr in 1929. Orr was born in 1883 in Sale, Victoria and came to WA in 1906. He was an active member of the Gosnells Roads Board and was Chairman for nine years, before retiring in 1936. He was well known in the community for being an excellent sportsman, with a particular interest in football. He was Secretary of the West Australian Football League and contributed to the Young Australia League which established Araluen Botanic Park.



William Orr.  
Courtesy City  
of Gosnells.

The trees are a combination of mature Peppermint, Flame, Kurrajong and Box trees which line both sides of the road.

Turn around and walk back towards Phillip Street and turn left into Phillip Street. Walk along Phillip Street.



## Tarling House (former) / Timber House

24 Philip Street, Maddington

This was the home of Philip and Annie Tarling, who came to Maddington from the goldfields after arriving from the United Kingdom in 1908. Tarling was the local postman and served on the Gosnells Roads Board. The house was built c1911-13.

The Jacaranda tree (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) at the front of the property was bought by Tarling's daughter Alice at a primary school fete when she was six or seven years old. She planted it herself.



Jacaranda tree at Tarling house (former), Maddington.  
Courtesy City of Gosnells.

Continue walking towards Burslem Drive and retrace your steps to the Burslem Road Bridge. Turn left and walk along the river, retracing your steps. Cross at the bridge over the Southern River and walk along Homestead Road to the City of Gosnells Museum - Wilkinson Homestead.

There are other significant places in Maddington which you can find out about through the City of Gosnells website or the City of Gosnells Local History Collection in the Knowledge Centre.



