



CITY OF PERTH
City of Light

ROGUES & REBELS
REMARKABLE LIVES

BARN BIDI
WALKING TRAIL

2
HOURS

This self-guided trail will take up to one hour. You can join in or depart from the trail anywhere along the way.

The trail intersects with the city's free CAT buses servicing East Perth, Northbridge, West Perth, central Perth and the foreshore (except Good Friday, ANZAC Day and Christmas Day).

The City Visitor Service in Murray Street Mall (near Forrest Place) offers a free guided tour of this trail, led by our qualified iCity volunteer tour guides. For further information and bookings, email walking.tours@cityofperth.wa.gov.au or phone 08 9461 3333.

Other self-guided walking trails can be accessed by going to www.visitperth.com/walking-tours

Acknowledgement

The City of Perth acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land we are situated on, the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation and Aboriginal people from other lands.

We celebrate the continuing traditions, living culture, and the spiritual connection to Boorloo and the Derbal Yerrigan.

We offer our respects to Elders past and present.

Cover Image Credit: People of Perth during World War II c1945, City of Perth Cultural Collections

This document is available in other formats or languages on request.

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Discover Perth's early characters. Step into the past and hear the extraordinary stories of the people who shaped our city's boldest moments, from daring escapes to ambitious dreams.



For over 160 years Yagan's remains were lost overseas. However the Nyoongar people fought to bring them home, and in 1997 Yagan's skull was returned to Western Australia. In 2010, he was given a respectful burial in the Swan Valley, close to his ancestral land.

Head south through Yagan Square, cross Wellington Street and continue along William Street turning right into Raine Place and into Raine Square.

Image Credit: Lance Chad, Wirin, cast iron/steel public artwork, image City of Perth



1 WALTER PADBURY
FORREST PLACE

'Padbury Walk once ran parallel to Forrest Place and is named after early industrialist and philanthropist Walter Padbury who arrived in the colony in 1830 aged 12. After the death of his father, destitute and without a guardian, Walter worked around Perth as a shepherd, fencer, shearer and drover, gradually building his wealth.

By 1845 Padbury had opened his own butchery and soon after had bought several large properties north of Perth. He also established the colony's first tallow factory and tannery and bought ships to service quickly developing trade in the north-west. By 1898 he had built the Peerless Roller Flour Mill in Guildford and began exporting flour internationally.

Also active in civic life, Padbury was elected to the Perth City Council in 1864, served on the Legislative Council for the Swan River Colony from 1872 to 1878 and was the first Mayor of Guildford. Vocal on matters of trade, immigration, education and justice, Padbury and his wife Charlotte also volunteered their time doing work for churches and other charitable organisations. Upon his death in 1897, without any heirs, Padbury's estate of £156,000 was donated both to the Church of England and to trustees of hospitals, asylums and poor houses.

Cross Wellington Street to the north and walk past the train station to the Horseshoe Bridge as it runs alongside Yagan Square.

Image Credit: Max Dupain, View of Forrest Place looking south from Wellington Street 1946, City of Perth Cultural Collections

2 ROBERT HOWARD
CORNER OF WELLINGTON STREET
AND WILLIAM STREET

The Horseshoe Bridge is both a distinctive landmark and a vital link between the city centre and Northbridge. Designed by Public Works Department draughtsman Robert J Howard, it addressed the problem of traffic congestion at the William Street railway crossing, where trains would frequently block the road. Limited space in the city centre meant that a straight bridge would require the demolition of buildings and alterations to the railway layout, so curved ramps were designed for a more compact yet efficient crossing.

Fearing he would not be paid for his work, Howard privately copyrighted the plans before presenting them. He then resigned from the government and sought payment for his designs. Howard took legal action in 1903 and was awarded £1,527, a significant sum at the time. His case remains one of the earliest examples in Western Australia of a government employee asserting intellectual property rights over their own work.

Also in 1903 a contract was awarded to HW Vincent and Son, and construction on the bridge began. The bridge was completed and opened to traffic in June 1904 at a cost of £40,000, far exceeding the original £25,000 estimate. The curved design proved controversial but over time the bridge became an accepted part of city life. Today, it is recognised as a heritage structure, and a testament to early twentieth century engineering and urban planning.

Walk north and west either up the stairs and through Yagan Square, or around the complex, to the public artwork Wirin.

Image Credit: The Horseshoe Bridge looking north from Wellington Street, about 1925, City of Perth Cultural Collections

4 MARY RAINE
RAINE SQUARE, VIEW AND ENTER FROM
WILLIAM STREET

Raine Square is named after one of the city's most astute businesswomen and philanthropists, Mary Raine. Born Mary Carter in London in 1877, she was the eldest of 13 children. Mary and her sister Daisy booked passage to Australia and after working in hotels in Queensland and New South Wales arrived in Western Australia in 1904.

Perth's booming gold rush economy provided fertile ground for Mary's entrepreneurial spirit. She ran boarding houses catering to travellers and workers, and steadily expanded her property portfolio. Her most significant acquisition was the Wentworth Hotel on Murray Street, purchased in 1923.

Raine had no children, and made it clear that her wealth should serve the public good. She left her entire estate, valued at over £1 million, to establish the Raine Medical Research Foundation at the University of Western Australia. Raine specifically requested that no money be used to build monuments to her or her husband Joe, preferring that all proceeds go towards improving health outcomes through medical research.

Mary Raine passed away in 1960, but the Raine Medical Research Foundation continues to fund vital research into health and medicine, a lasting tribute to her vision and generosity. The Raine Study, funded by the Foundation and established in 1989, remains one of the largest studies of pregnancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood health to be carried out anywhere in the world.

Continue through Raine Place to view a mural of Mary Raine on the south facing wall nearest to Queen Street. Then walk south to Murray Street, turn right, and head west to the corner of Murray and King Streets.

Image Credit: Jerome Davenport, Mary Raine, painted mural, image City of Perth

5 DYSON'S CORNER
CORNER MURRAY STREET AND KING STREET

James Dyson was a convict who arrived in Perth in 1841. By 1848 he had purchased land on Murray Street for £12, the beginnings of a business empire that included Dyson's Hotel.

Dyson also began supplying materials for public works, including major construction projects such as Wesley Church and the original Rotttnest Island prison. His civic status grew alongside his business success, becoming one of the few ex-convicts permitted to serve on a jury, and in 1871 being elected to the Perth City Council.

Among James' many children was Andrew 'Drewy' Dyson. Known around town as Perth's fattest man, Drewy was also known for his generosity, affection for animals, theatrical outbursts and extramarital affairs.

Appearing in court was not uncommon for Drewy, as either defendant or a distraction. In one case in 1915, he denied responsibility for an 'accumulation of offensive matter' on his Charles Street property. Insisting the house belonged to his son, who was fighting in WW1 at the time, he then loudly declared that he wasn't Drewy Dyson at all, causing confusion and amusement in the court.

However when he died in 1927, *The Mirror* newspaper eulogised him with fondness, stating that in that great frame beat a heart of gold and one of the most generous of souls.

Continue west along Murray Street to the corner of Shafto Lane.

Image Credit: Intersection of Murray Street and King Street looking south east, City of Perth



3 YAGAN
YAGAN SQUARE, ENTER FROM
WELLINGTON STREET

This has been Whadjuk Nyoongar boodjar (Country) for tens of thousands of years. Yagan was a Whadjuk warrior known for his intelligence, bravery, and leadership. Whilst Whadjuk people had tried to understand the British settlers when they arrived, tensions quickly escalated as land was cleared, fences built, and traditional hunting grounds disrupted. When food became scarce Yagan began a series of raids where his group took food from British farms.

To the Whadjuk people this was not theft as all resources were shared, but to the settlers it was a crime, and it led to several conflicts. In 1831 this resulted in Yagan leading a retaliation against the colonists where settler William Gaze was spared. Yagan was declared an outlaw, with a bounty of 20 pounds placed on his head.

Despite offering gestures of peace, in 1832 Yagan was captured and exiled to Carnac Island. While there, he and two other Nyoongar prisoners stole an unattended dinghy and escaped back to the mainland. In July 1833 William Keats shot Yagan in the back. His head was then sent to England as a so-called 'anthropological specimen'.





6 ENOCH BARRETT CORNER MURRAY STREET AND SHAFTO LANE

Enoch Barrett arrived in Western Australia in 1852 as a convict, sentenced to ten years transportation for theft and receiving stolen goods. He was pardoned in 1853 and joined by his family the following year.

Barrett worked as a labourer, but was also a skilled horticulturist, and his passion for plants led him to establish one of the first commercial nurseries in Perth. His Wellington Nursery, located on Murray Street and later Douro Street, became a vital part of the city's development.

Barrett's nursery supplied settlers with the plants they needed to cultivate gardens and establish green spaces. In 1868 Barrett became the Government Gardener, tending Government Gardens (now known as Stirling Gardens) and later became the Head Gardener of Public Gardens and Public Reserves.

This area was originally called Barrett Lane. However, as attitudes in the early twentieth century shifted, there was a growing reluctance to honour former convicts. So, in 1927 Barrett Lane was renamed Shafto Lane after local businessman Thomas Alfred Shafto.

Head through Shafto Lane to Hay Street, then turn left to head east along Hay Street, stopping outside His Majesty's Theatre.

Image Credit: Hay Street and Murray Street looking west from the Perth Town Hall clock tower, 1885, City of Perth Cultural Collections



7 THOMAS MOLLOY AND HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, 825 HAY STREET

Thomas Molloy was one of the largest landowners in Perth, a state member of parliament and Mayor of Perth across two terms. He played a pivotal role in shaping the city, including the construction of His Majesty's Theatre. Molloy saw European culture and entertainment as key to the city's development from rough colonial outpost to thriving cosmopolitan hub.

Having previously built Hay Street's Theatre Royal and Metropole Hotel in partnership with Alexander Forrest, Molloy undertook the construction of His Majesty's Theatre as a solo effort following Forrest's death. Built between 1902 and 1904, it boasted the largest capacity in Australia at 2,500 seats, and featured influences from nineteenth century European and English architecture and design.

Beyond his business and political career, Molloy was obsessed with recognition and status, and his greatest ambition was a knighthood. For years he sought an honour from the British Crown, believing his contributions to Perth deserved royal acknowledgment.

In 1917 he finally received a papal knighthood from the Catholic Church, a significant but religiously conferred honour that did not grant him the title of Sir. However Molloy insisted on being addressed as 'Sir Thomas', signing official correspondence with the title and ensuring he was introduced as such in public. Despite measures of mockery and amusement from the press and the public, without Molloy's efforts the city would not have a grand theatre befitting a capital city.

Follow King Street south then turn left at St Georges Terrace and continue towards William Street. Newspaper House can be viewed across the street at 129 St Georges Terrace.

Image Credit: Workers during the construction of His Majesty's Theatre, 1903, City of Perth Cultural Collections

8 SIR WINTHROP HACKETT NEWSPAPER HOUSE, 125 ST GEORGES TERRACE

Irish born and legally trained Winthrop Hackett arrived in Western Australia in 1882 to manage a sheep station in the Gascoyne. One tough year on the land was enough before he returned to Perth.

In 1883 Hackett joined Charles Harper as a partner in *The West Australian* newspaper, and by 1887 was its editor. With the paper as a mouthpiece, Hackett championed responsible government and supported Federation. He also supported major infrastructure projects, the preservation of Kings Park and the establishment of the library, museum, and zoo.

Passionate about education, Hackett led the charge for free, compulsory, and secular education in Western Australia. He was also the driving force behind the establishment of the University of Western Australia (UWA), which opened in 1913. As its first Chancellor, he cast the deciding vote that made UWA free for students, at the time the only university in the British Empire to do so.

Also deeply conservative, Hackett initially opposed women's suffrage and ensured that Western Australia's Legislative Council remained undemocratic by over-representing country voters. Holding strong anti-Catholic views, Hackett opposed State aid for Catholic schools. He also held racist views towards Aboriginal people, supporting policies of forced relocation and cultural assimilation.

Upon his death in 1916, Hackett donated £425,000 to UWA, funding the construction of Winthrop Hall and Hackett Hall. His generosity continues to support students today through scholarships and bursaries, ensuring that access to education remains part of his legacy.

Continue east along St Georges Terrace to London Court.

Image Credit: Newspaper House clock following restoration in 2025, City of Perth



9 CLAUDE DE BERNALES LONDON COURT, 60 ST GEORGES TERRACE

Claude de Bernales arrived in Western Australia in the 1890s during the gold rush, establishing a business in Kalgoorlie supplying heavy-duty equipment for underground mining. As surface gold ran out, miners had to use de Bernales' equipment to mine deeper down. When miners could not afford to pay, de Bernales took their gold claim instead.

He also bought up small mining leases and sold them to eager investors in London. But when prospects went bust, de Bernales was accused of dishonesty, financial mismanagement, and fraud. Adding to his legal troubles, when the price of gold collapsed in the 1920s his empire took a hit, with the Great Depression only exacerbating his financial woes.

With his reputation on shaky ground, de Bernales doubled down, building a grand, extravagant gift for Perth, London Court. Completed in 1937 in the Elizabethan half-timbered Tudor Revival style, it exudes a clear Anglophile influence. However, almost all building and labour was undertaken locally, including the window boxes and rose and gargoyle details, created by local expert in fifteenth century wood-carving Edward G Madeley.

As an extravagant gift to Perth, the arcade was a calculated move to restore de Bernales' popularity, and a ploy to dazzle the financiers of London with a bold display of wealth and confidence. It worked for a time, as de Bernales restored some of his fortune, but he began spending less time in Perth, sold London Court in 1950, and eventually passed away in 1963.

Continue east on St Georges Terrace. Cross Barrack Street and walk diagonally through Stirling Gardens, passing the Supreme Court to arrive outside the Old Court House.

Image Credit: London Court busy with shoppers, 1958, City of Perth Cultural Collections

10 MOONDYNE JOE STIRLING GARDENS, ENTER FROM THE CORNER OF BARRACK STREET AND ST GEORGES TERRACE

The Old Court House is the oldest building still standing in the city. One of the most famous figures to stand trial here was Moondyne Joe, Western Australia's most notorious escape artist.

Joseph Bolitho Johns arrived in Western Australia in 1853 after being sentenced in England for stealing bread, cheese and bacon. After gaining his ticket-of-leave Johns continued committing crimes, including stealing a horse and riding it using the local magistrate's new saddle and bridle. On another occasion he was captured in the Swan Valley at Houghton's vineyard. Joe had found his way into the cellar when police, who happened to be in the area looking for another outlaw, were invited by the manager to enjoy some hospitality. They found Joe mid-drink, and though he attempted to bolt, he had enjoyed too much wine and stumbled straight into the arms of the law.

His reputation grew not only as a criminal but also as an escape artist, leading authorities to eventually build a specially reinforced cell at Fremantle Prison just for him. In managing to escape it, Johns cemented his legend as Western Australia's greatest outlaw.

Moondyne Joe's later years took a sad turn. Having been granted his freedom, he was arrested in his 70s for 'being of unsound mind' and sent to the Mount Eliza Invalid Depot for medical care, where he escaped yet again, thinking he was still an outlaw. His final months were spent in the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum where he died in 1900.

Head back to St Georges Terrace, turn right and head east to the gates of Government House Gardens. The grounds are open to the public most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 12pm and 2pm. Alternatively the statue of Fanny Balbuk Yooreel can be viewed from the footpath on St Georges Terrace.

Image Credit: The Old Court House and Stirling Gardens, City of Perth 2025



11 FANNY BALBUK YOOREEL GOVERNMENT HOUSE, 13 ST GEORGES TERRACE

Fanny Balbuk Yooreel was a Whadjuk boordiya yorga (Elder, woman) born in the early 1840s. She lived through the rapid colonisation of her people's land and became one of the most vocal and determined voices against it.

Fanny was born near Matagarup (Heirisson Island), but as the British built over Nyoongar lands, she refused to quietly accept their claims. Her unwavering determination to follow her ancestral paths saw her trample fences and walk straight through newly built houses.

Fanny would often respond to settlers with a mixture of indifference and sharp wit, challenging a newcomers' claim to the land. When a settler tried to stop her from walking through their property, Fanny would respond by simply saying 'you're on my land'.

The site of Government House was especially significant to her as it was built where one of her ancestors was buried. Stick in hand, she would often rail against the injustices of colonisation here, and reportedly once sat down in front of the Governor's residence in Perth, refusing to move and protesting the removal of land from her people.

Fanny also became an important sharer of knowledge for early ethnographers like Daisy Bates, passing down Nyoongar knowledge and traditions that might have otherwise been lost. Today, she is recognised as a symbol of Aboriginal resistance and resilience.

Image Credit: Joan Walsh-Smith and Charles Smith, Balbuk Yooreel, cast bronze artwork, image City of Perth 2025