

Winthrop

Winthrop was the middle name of Sir John Winthrop Hackett, founding editor of *The West Australian Newspaper* and first Chancellor of the University of Western Australia (1912 – 1916). He was also a significant early landowner in the Canning Bridge area and one of the group that persuaded, in 1898, the government to declare Melville a separate Roads Board District in 1900. Winthrop is bounded to the north by Booragoon and Brentwood, to the east by Bateman, westward by Willagee and Kardinya, southward by Murdoch and is situated 15.1 kilometres from Perth and 9.7 kilometres from Fremantle.

The area around Piney Lakes is a very significant site for the traditional custodians. It is a sacred place for women, where they performed ceremonies and discussed women's business as well as being the place where young boys went through their level one initiation.

The area on which the suburb was established was university endowment trust land, much of which was developed as the Applecross Pine Plantation, later known as the Somerville Pine Plantation. For over seventy years the University of Western Australia was one of the largest landowners in Melville. The University Trust's main objective was to manage the endowment to provide funds towards developing higher education. As much of the land was beyond the established suburban area, there was very little generated income in the early 1910s. The land was considered too poor for farming and to prevent squatters a pine plantation was mooted and together with the Forests Department an agreement was finally reached in 1926. In the early twentieth century there was a piggery to the western side of Piney Lakes, where the foresters used the old farm house and stables from the piggery to live in. Pines were gradually removed as development occurred from the late 1970s to the mid 1980s.

Most of the streets in Winthrop are named after former university officers, professors, members of senate, benefactors, employees and past students. Examples include Frederick W. Burrows who was a member of the Senate UWA 1912-1918, Leonard Jolley was the University Librarian from 1959 -1979 and Rolf Ten Seldam who was the Foundation Professor of pathology, UWA 1977 – 1988.

A major feature of the area is the Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, which is situated on sixty-eight hectares of bushland. The Centre operates using renewable energy sources and is not connected to mains power, mains water or sewerage. It showcases the use of renewable energy technologies and sustainable building practices. Winthrop Primary School opened in 1991 and offers a course in English as a second language, designed for students with limited English proficiency.

If you have any items, photographs, or historic information relating to the City of Melville or our suburbs please contact us.