

Alfred Cove

The suburb is named to recognise Alfred Waylen who arrived in the Swan River Colony on the vessel "Skerne" from Capetown on 17 January 1830. He applied for a land grant of thirty-six acres at Point Walter and received a further grant, Swan Location 74 at what is now Alfred Cove on 29 May 1830. He subsequently purchased all riverfront grants from Point Walter to the Canning River. Alfred Waylen also bought land at Guildford where he lived until his death in August 1856, aged 51 years.

The Alfred Cove area was known to the traditional custodians as '*Marradungup*' and was a favourite meeting place as it was rich in fish, water fowl, shell fish and edible roots. The area was also used for various ceremonial purposes.

Suburban development began along the Canning Highway, between Chesson and Clydesdale Streets, with five 'spec' houses built by Plunkett Homes in 1930 – 1931. These are still standing. However, in the 1940s, activities were mainly rural, predominantly poultry farming, along North Lake and Rome Roads, with a few dairy farms and piggeries. Streets were named mainly after Federal and State politicians of the era.

During the Second World War an Army camp was set up in the bush off North Lake Road, approximately where Davy Street and Stirk Road are located.



P449 Atwell House, Canning Highway 1970's

Alfred Cove is serviced by eleven community groups covering the arts, sporting bodies and craft groups. There is also a kindergarten and Nursing Services Australia. Two heritage buildings in the area are Atwell House and The Cove. Atwell house was originally built by Walter David Atwell as a farmhouse but is now used as an Arts Centre. W.D. Atwell was Master of Hounds for the Western Australian Hunt Club and kept the hounds at his property until the Club moved to Belmont. The Cove was a rural homestead, part of a dairy property owned by Arthur and Muriel Groves and now has a new lease of life as an Indian restaurant.

Alfred Cove shoreline has a pocket of estuarine marshland and mud flats which provide a breeding area for thirty one species of bird life and is the termination point for the annual migration of some forty eight avian species from Siberia and northern China. The water area is part of the Swan River Heritage Marine Park.