

## Applecross

The suburb was named after Alexander Matheson's home village in Northwest Scotland. It was part of the Melville Water Park Estate promoted by Alexander Matheson and Company as Agents for the London and Western Australia Investment Company Limited. The area was first surveyed in 1896. Matheson actively promoted the locality to the extent of providing two paddle ferries imported in sections from England and building a small boatyard and slipway at Coffee Point for their service and maintenance.

Following the release of blocks in Attadale in 1896, half-acre lots were advertised in Applecross for "gentlemen's residences" for those who had made their fortunes on the Goldfields. Development was slow and clustered at the western end of Canning Bridge (built 1849) extending along the Canning River.

Before European settlement the Applecross area was part of the Wadjuk Beeliar people's culture region and not only was esteemed on the fishing and shellfish available but had spiritual significance for them. The area bounded by present day Heathcote was of special significance.

Applecross contains some of the early heritage listed precincts, Heathcote complex, Applecross Primary School, Old District Hall (now the Tivoli Theatre) and the former Canning Bridge Hotel (built c.1896) now the Raffles Hotel. This hotel is one of the most significant places in the social history of the City of Melville; here were held meetings instigating independent local government for Melville from 1897 to 1899, the election of the first Roads Board in 1901 and the first meeting of the Board itself.

There are a number of community services, halls, clubs – both sporting and social – as well as community centres catering for those living in the area. The Applecross and Canning Bridge Jetties were of great significance to generations of early inhabitants, the ferries being the only direct means of transport for workers travelling to and from Perth. At the foot of Cunningham Street the Public Works Department, in 1910, built another jetty. Known as "German Jetty" it provided for the loading of equipment, supplied by the Telefunken Wireless Co of Germany, for the construction of the Applecross Wireless Station (1912).

Applecross used to be home to the Hotel Melville originally built by Alexander Matheson as a gift to the State Governor in 1897, but the Governor declined to accept it. The building changed hands many times and was bought by the Stack family in 1924 and re-named the Majestic Hotel. It was used by the Australia II syndicate as a training camp during the 1987 America's Cup defence. In 1989 it was demolished.



A415\_15 The Majestic Hotel 1970's