

Attadale

Named after a Scottish village situated on Loch Carron, a subdivision of Alexander Perceval Matheson's Melville Water Park Estate in 1896 it was known as the Attadale Town Site Estate. At the time, prospective buyers were taken to view waterfront residential blocks by ferry to the Attadale Jetty, situated near the foot of the current Page Street, and then along the foreshore on a horse-drawn tram line to Alfred Cove. Here they could view the different plants that could be grown at the Attadale Gardens, run by Matheson's gardener, John Muir. The tram line was also used by the brick clay quarry at Alfred Cove to take goods to the jetty, which became known locally as "Brick Landing". The sub-division proved to be too isolated for the settlers and remained sparsely populated for many years. T.M. Burke & Co. prepared a new town plan in 1936 but it was only in the 1950s that the suburb was really developed.



A424_09 Attadale shops, Davies Street 1980's

Many of Attadale's streets were named after people associated with Matheson and the London and West Australian Investment Company of which the Melville Park Estate was a project. Other streets were named after men on the muster list of HMS "Challenger", Captain Charles Fremantle's ship in 1829.

Attadale was part of the Wadjuk Beeliar culture area used for seasonal movement, hunting game and ceremonial purposes. Burke Drive was an area where Aboriginals mined quartz. The river foreshore provided a plentiful supply of fish, shellfish and birdlife for food purposes and thus became a favoured camping place.

Attadale is home to numerous parks and reserves including Attadale Reserve, Troy Park and Alfred Cove Nature Reserve along by the Swan River which is a bird sanctuary and is part of an ongoing foreshore regeneration scheme. It is also part of the Swan River Heritage Marine Park.

Santa Maria College, a Catholic girls' secondary school in Stoneham Road, opened in February 1938. This was in response to the increased demand for boarding places so the Sisters of Mercy decided to expand from their original site in Perth (now Mercedes College). The original structure (now the administrative building) was the result of a design competition and based on the Spanish influence, which connected the arrival of the Sisters and the Spanish Benedictines in 1846. 'Santa Maria' is Spanish for Holy Maria, and the college is listed on the Municipal Inventory List of the City of Melville.