

## Brentwood

Named after a town in Essex, England, the original home of the Bateman family of Bull's Creek, now shortened to Bull Creek. The suburb was developed in the early 1950s for the State Housing Commission. Streets in Brentwood are named after sailors on the Muster List of H.M.S. Sulphur commanded by Captain W.T. Dance in June 1829. Other names are of Aboriginal origin or those of the Bateman family.



A294 Bateman's House, Grasmere

The suburb borders the waters of Bull Creek and would have been a camping and fishing area for the Aboriginal inhabitants. The river area near Grasmere is a culturally significant site to Aboriginal people as the water creator is said to have passed through there to create Piney Lakes and Booragoon.

Proximity to Bull Creek ensures a variety of birdlife and river bank sedges provide food and habitat for native fauna.

Brentwood is also the site of the historic Bateman homestead "GRASMERE". The homestead was built in 1886 and is a one storey brick and iron building with a surrounding verandah. The outbuildings are a variety of brick and/ or iron structures. Originally it was built as a holiday retreat by John Wesley Bateman on 514 hectares of land.

It is a typical homestead of the period, being one of the oldest and few remaining substantial dwellings with a direct link to one of the early pioneering families in the Melville district as well as Fremantle. Its location and proximity to the river reflects a way of life for the early pioneers of the district, when the only means of transport was by means of the water. In 1910 William Augustus Bateman and his family set up full time residency at the house. The family has the distinction of being one of the families with the longest continuous association with the Melville District. For these reasons the home has been classified in the City of Melville's Municipal Heritage Inventory 2004.

The suburb is serviced by various sporting and social clubs. Brentwood Primary School opened in 1956 and was one of the twelve schools selected in Education Department's Technology trial, and has an e-learning co-ordinator as well as offering Japanese language to students from Year 3 through to Year 7.

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