

Murdoch

The suburb was part of the Somerville Pine Plantation which was University of WA Endowment land and subdivisions occurred from the mid-1980s. Murdoch is named from Murdoch University located within its boundaries. The university site is also significant for the Aboriginal people, as it was a burial ground and graves were discovered during initial construction. On the lower south east corner the area was used for men's business relating to burial procedures and women's business was designated in the south west corner of the university grounds.

This University is named after Sir Walter Logie Forbes Murdoch, Foundation Professor of English at UWA, 1913 -1939 and the Chancellor from 1943 to 1947. When asked if he minded having a university named after him, he replied '*No, but it had better be a good one*'. Planning for the second university in Western Australia commenced in 1970 with the opening ceremony taking place on 17 September 1974 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Murdoch. 510 undergraduates were enrolled in the first year in 1975.



A216 Student guild court, Murdoch University

An important natural feature in Murdoch is the Quenda Wetland found next to the intersection of South Street and Murdoch Drive. Although located near to two major roads, it is a rich source of fauna, including the Fairy Wren, the Southern Brown Bandicoot or Quenda and the Long Necked Tortoise. The Wetland formed part of an Aboriginal transport route during the past 38,000 years and would have been used as a source of food and water.

Many of the street names in Murdoch are named after people who lived or worked within the City of Melville. For example, Zuvella Court is named after Anthony Zuvella who was a Willagee teacher from 1956 – 1969. Withers Close is named after Laurie Withers who, with Ron F. Carroll pioneered the South Suburban Bus Company which served the Melville District in the 1920s. O'Rourke Close was named after Kevin O'Rourke who was a Head Teacher at Bicton Primary School. Burdett Retreat is named after an early Melville resident. Frawley Gardens is named after Edward Frawley who was a Head Teacher at Attadale Primary School in 1973.

The 643-bed Fiona Stanley Hospital is being built in Murdoch, and is due for completion in 2013. The hospital's location between the Murdoch train station and St John of God Hospital will ensure excellent infrastructure services to residents in this corridor.