

Overton Ward



Above: These buses operated along South Road during the 1920s



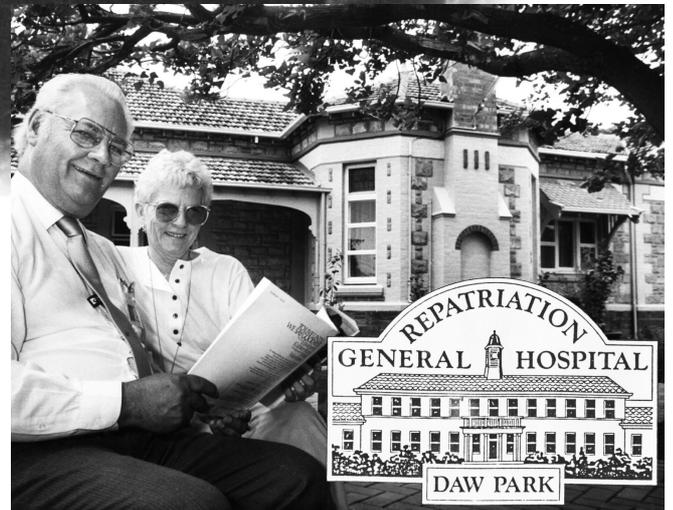
Valerie, Peggy & Ken O'Neill helping to dig out an air-raid shelter at 76 Kingston Ave. Mitcham Park (now Daw Park) c1940



Above: Blacksmith William J. Rowell and his assistant - Price Street Melrose Park, 1910s



Above right: The 'Repat' at Daw Park was established in 1942 to care for service personnel and continues in operation as a public hospital to the present day. Volunteer Thelma Henker and Chaplin Graham Wade in the new garden - 14th November 1989. **Left:** Teacher Winifred Fleming c1910



Overton Ward

Named after Thomas Overton 1804-1869 who served on the first Mitcham Council. He leased and later owned 'Grange Farm' which covered the present suburb of Colonel Light Gardens. He was an original trustee of the Goodwood Road Wesleyan Methodist Church. By 1856 he had left the colony for New Zealand.

He was born in Lincolnshire and married about 1827 having two children before being widowed in 1832. Thomas remarried in 1834 and migrated with 7 children in 1846. Four more children were born after arriving. Quickly taking out a 21 years lease on land between Willunga and McLaren Vale he became involved in the Methodist Church movement and was an original trustee for the church by 1849 and the following year was on the Willunga Preaching Plan.

A year later he moved to the Edwardstown area and in 1852 began leasing a large property from Robert Liddell Hall. This became the 'Grange Farm', covering the present day suburb of Colonel Light Gardens. He was required to spend 150 pounds erecting buildings on the land within a year and not to cut timber except for fuel for his own use, not to take more than two successive white crops from any part of the land and to insure the dwelling to its full value. In the Council's first assessment in 1853-4, the homestead for 'Grange Farm' was rated as a mansion, one of five in the district at the time.



'Clanfergeal' in what is today Daw Park painted in 1868 by James Shaw

Two others, 'Clanfergeal' of Captain Wm. Lj. O'Halloran and 'The Rosary', home of Council chairman Ben H. Babbage were in sight of 'The Grange' at present day Daw Park and St Marys.

When the first council elections were held he scored the highest vote, possibly being well known already in the Methodist Church circles. It is thought that some of the earliest services were held in his barn and by 1854 he was again an original trustee of the Church, this time the Goodwood Road Wesleyan/Methodist/Uniting Church.

In the middle of 1855 he transferred his lease of 'Grange Farm' to John Fisher a pioneer of Gumeracha and resigned from his community responsibilities. After his eldest daughter married Henry Haywood a bricklayer of South Road Black Forest, Thomas and the rest of his family moved to Otahuhu in the Auckland District of New Zealand.

(Extracted from *A History of the Colonel Light Gardens Communities* by Robert J Miller. 1993)

Features

'Miroma Home' at Daw Park is one of only two surviving 'mansions' listed among five in the district's first assessment in 1853-4.

Popular almond variety the Chellaston was developed by the Jose family at Melrose Park.

The Fleming family lived opposite Kegworth Tce and the daughters ran a private school at Brighton and St. Marys for over 40 years.

Aviation hangers and Nissen huts from WW II are still providing buildings as premises for local industry.



'Miroma' is possibly the oldest surviving building in Daw Park although the original 1840s structure is largely hidden by later additions.

Historic Extract

'Space for new industries is adequate for orderly arrangement. The Council insists that every factory must have a masonry front. Not all buildings have complied with this requirement yet, because of the shortage of materials, but as time goes by the regulation will be enforced. Already some factories have most imposing fronts, and some are of impressive design and appearance. It is evident that the Council is aware that an industrial area need not be unsightly.....As roads are made, fences erected, and all factories are brought into line with Council requirements, the area will become one of which the district need not feel ashamed.'

(*Community News* 15 Feb 1952)

Heritage

This has been an industrial area from the days of the 'good portable thrashing-machine of four-horse power' (*SA Register* 29 April 1846) that Hiram Manfull exhibited in England from 'Chellaston Farm' in 1846 to the latest technologies.

If a study was done on the wide variety of businesses in this Ward, no doubt many inventions and significant developments would be discovered.



Above: Anne Rowell stokes the copper on washing day. Edwardstown (now Melrose Park) c1920



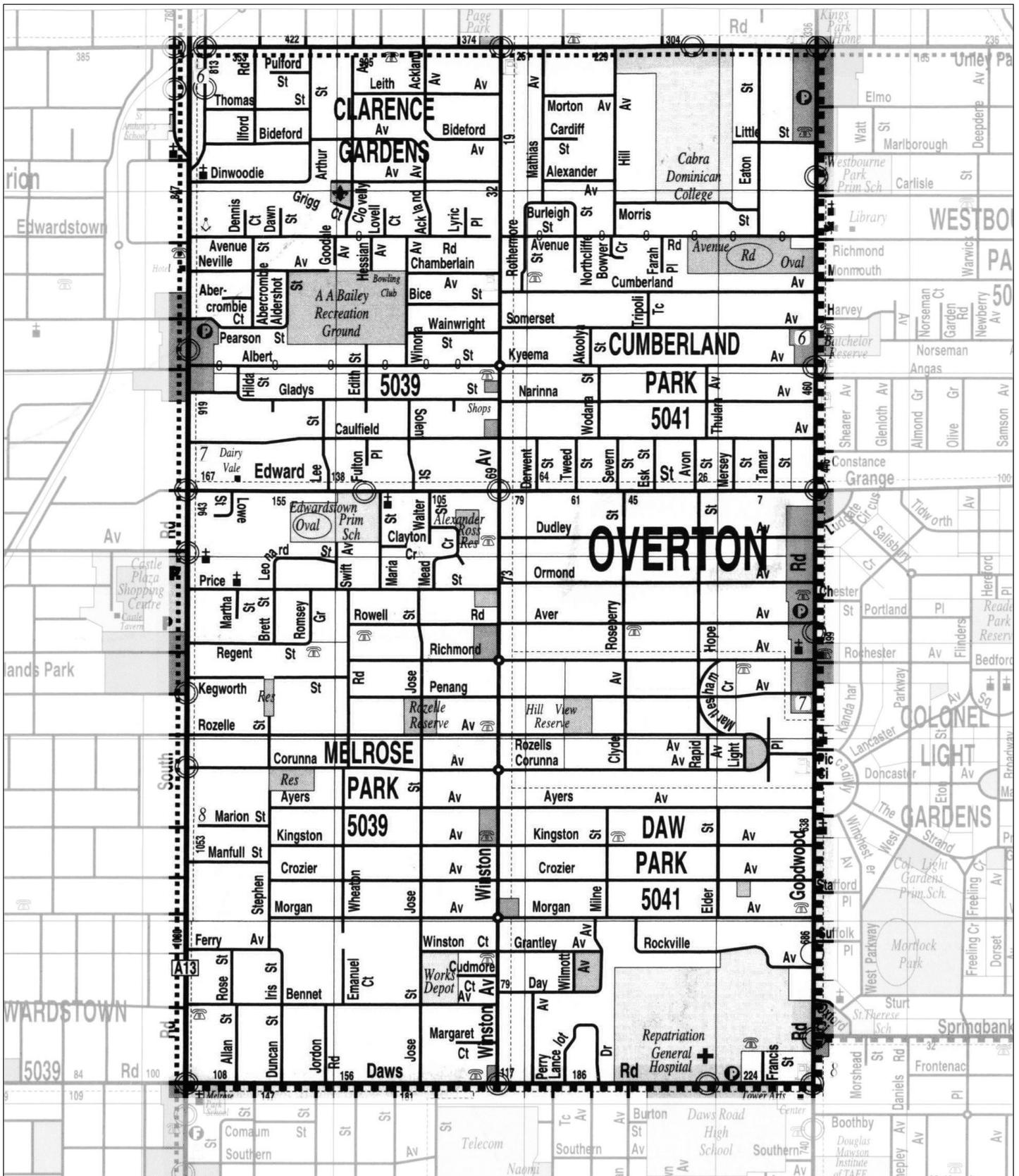
Above: The Edwardstown Institute, Clarence Gardens - built in 1902 and demolished in 1989. This picture from the 'Chronicle' of 30 Nov. 1912 shows the building in its original form apparently on the occasion of a fair or fete.

Right: St. Mary's Dominican Convent Cabra. "View of domestic Economy Class Room, showing the equipment and girls at work." - from 1928 Souvenir of Diamond Jubilee



Inset: The new convent building in 1887.

Overton Ward Map



Overton Ward includes the suburbs, Clarence Gardens, Cumberland Park, Melrose Park, Daw Park and the western part of Colonel Light Gardens.



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