

Gault Ward



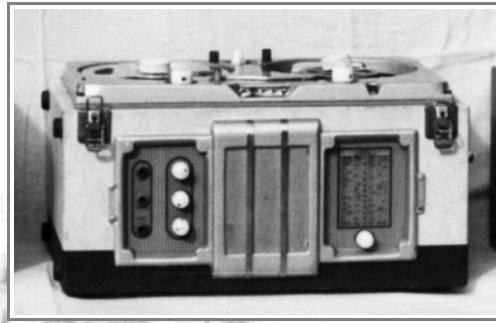
Dr Arthur Gault at the wheel and Dr F Steele-Scott beside him on the 'New Orleans' c1901

The Doctors Gault

The ward was named after doctors, (father and son) who were well known all over the district for several generations. Dr Arthur Gault (1864 – 1917) was Health Inspector for Council and established 'Nunyara Sanatorium' in 1902 for consumptive patients. He suffered from animal allergies and when he travelled to England in 1901 imported the first car in the district, a New Orleans. His son Kyle had a number of baby boys named after him in the district even though he swore like a trooper and unofficially carried out abortions. The doctors lived at 'Ardmeen' now the Lenzerheide Restaurant.



Mrs Mary Gault at 'Ardmeen'



Tape recorder and radio receiver built by Ferry at Clapham about 1954



L Foureur demonstrating the making of Apple Cider c1910

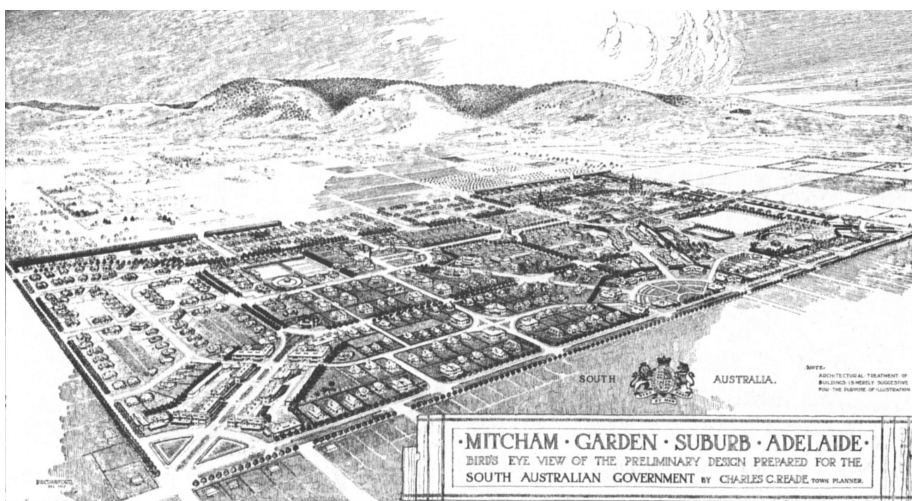
JH Foureur and company made aerated waters, cordials, 'non-intoxicating tonics', oils and cider in the Clapham/Lower Mitcham area from 1894 until 1935 when the business was sold to Williams Beverages.

Gault Ward

This ward is bounded by Cross, Goodwood, Belair and Springbank Roads and includes suburbs, Lower Mitcham, Hawthorn, Westbourne Park, the northern half of Clapham and the eastern part of Colonel Light Gardens. It is crossed by Brownhill Creek and the railway, both features influencing its settlement.

The southern half of Hawthorn and Lower Mitcham were held by the SA Company until released for small farms in the early 1850s when the Victorian Goldfields were providing financial opportunities. The northern half of Hawthorn, Westbourne Park, the portion of Clapham and Colonel Light Gardens were rented by small farmers from absentee landlords like pastoralists in the south-east, Henry Seymour and Henry Rymill, William Mortlock of the west coast and John Reay 'of parts beyond the seas'.

Present day Angas Road, (named after George Fife Angas, member of the SA Company) and Grange Road, (so named because that was the name of the farm it led to), were surveyed by 1852.



1917 Concept for a 'Mitcham Garden Suburb' later to become Colonel Light Gardens.



'Wattle Blossom' from a function at Westbourne Park Primary School c1936

Many of the pioneers of this era intermarried. Some of their descendants lived close to their ancestral land. Lower Mitcham contains some mid-nineteenth century heritage treasures, hidden amongst the suburbia. The water from Brownhill Creek encouraged many small dairies to operate from this area.

The railway cutting across Gault Ward in 1883 encouraged subdivision of Hawthorn over the next 50 years. In 1894 part of Westbourne Park

('Cottonville') was purchased by the government for 'working men' to support their families in depressed times; largely as a result of canvassing by George W Cotton, MP. Under the Act the land was to be 'cultivated for seven years with vines or fruit trees, in manner prescribed and to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the holder of such block shall be allowed the sum of Two Pounds, for every acre so cultivated, off the purchase-money covenanted to be paid by him for such land.'



Bosleyware Garden Gnomes - Thomas Bosley lost his job as manager of the Metropolitan Brick Works at Blackwood when the depression came in the early 1930s. Together with his son Alfred he began making small pottery items for sale at the Unemployed Sales Depot. From this they developed a business producing kitchenware, household ornaments, glazed bricks and tiles and garden gnomes. The pottery was located in Abbotshall Rd Lower Mitcham (now Vinnies).

'Wattlebury' - Lower Mitcham c1908
Built in 1865 for Henry Parker,
South Australia's first Judge



Several members of parliament lived in the area. Philip Santo 'Clapham Farm', Thomas Price in Hawthorn, Philip Laffer at 'Ashleigh', William Townsend at 'Pellatt Villa' in Lower Mitcham. Then there was the Hawkstone Arms hotel where Council conducted meetings for a time on Price Ave, neighbouring TJ Richards who built carriages, and the Wesleyan Church and Cemetery served the people from 1865 to 1995.

World War I changed the lifestyle of many people and land occupied by 'Grange Farm' played an important part. The government purchased it soon after war was declared for an anti-slum garden suburb housing development but it was delayed for many years. Meanwhile many young men who voluntarily enlisted were introduced to the rigours of a military life



at the Mitcham Camp as it became known. Housing was an urgent need after the war and the 1000 homes scheme took up some of the area; pre-dating the SA Housing Trust by many years. Some of these houses were built on the southern portion of the Mitcham Garden Suburb, now known as Colonel Light Gardens.

Below: Soldier at Mitcham Camp - now Colonel Light Gardens. World War 1

Trams from the 1870s, trains from the 1880s, and later motor buses have served the area for public transport as the suburbs developed.

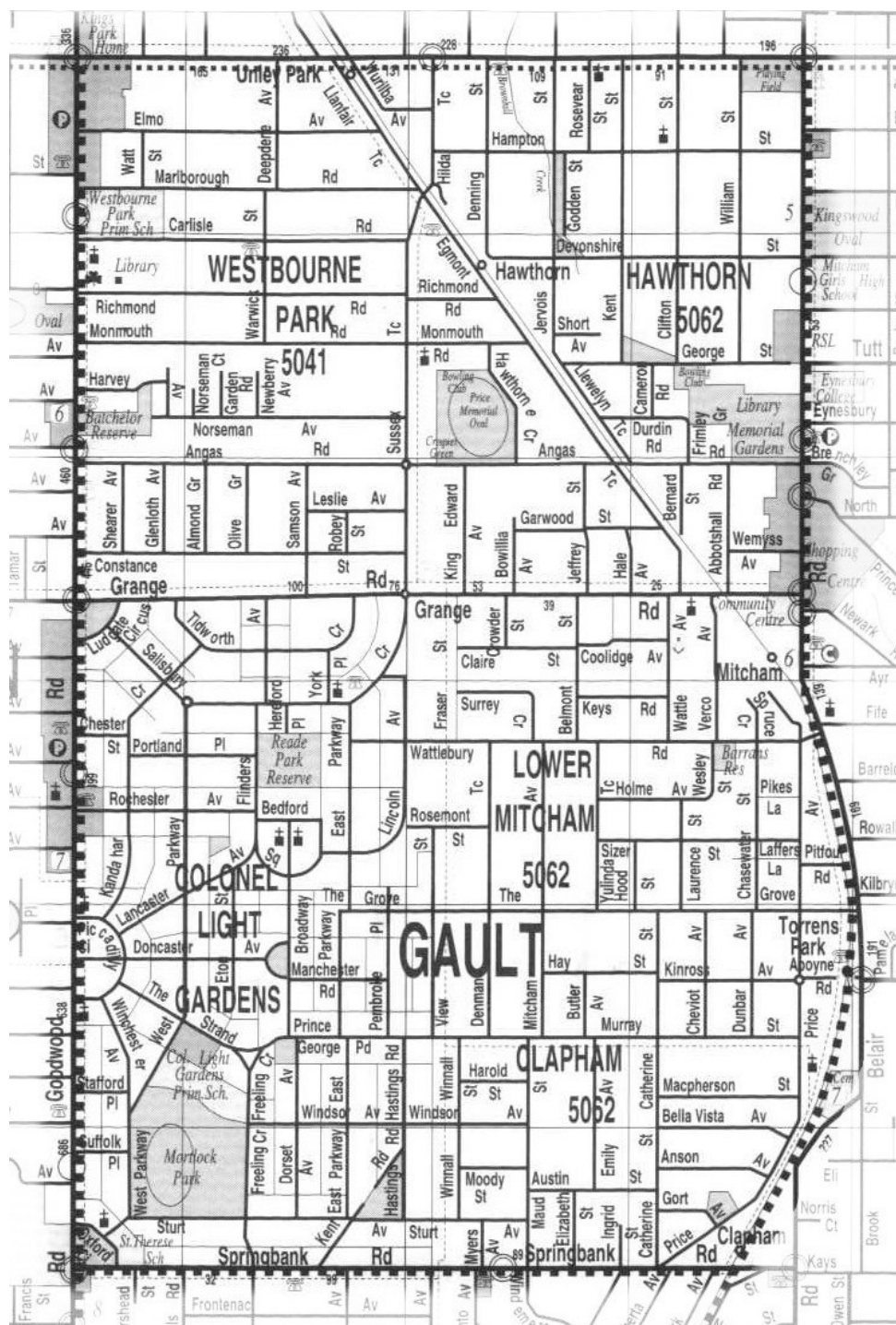
Above: First tram to run on the Colonel Light Gardens line 11th September, 1932



Left: TJ Richards & Sons coach builders and later motor body builders (at Keswick). 34 Price Ave. Lower Mitcham c1885

'In the 1940s there was a "really amazing shop" in Monmouth Road where children used to go after school. It was Maggie Martin's. She had an underground shop behind her house. Children would go through the hedge and knock at her door. She would come out, wiping her hands on her apron, and lock the door behind her. She lit a candle and took them down the stairs to the cellar. She'd get behind the counter and serve a penny or tuppence worth of lollies.' (Westbourne Park Primary School pg12 1989 Sue Scheiffers)

Gault Ward Map



Gault Ward includes the suburbs: Lower Mitcham, Hawthorn, Westbourne Park, the northern half of Clapham and the eastern part of Colonel Light Gardens.

Until the introduction of postcodes in the 1960s parts of the area had many different names.

Clapham: - St James Park, Springbank East.

Hawthorn: - Dellwood, Frimley, Joyce Park, Audrey Park.

Lower Mitcham: - Hawkeston (Hawkstone), Mitcham Estate, Torrens Park West, Lower Mitcham Extension.

Westbourne Park: - Cottonville and Unley Park.



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