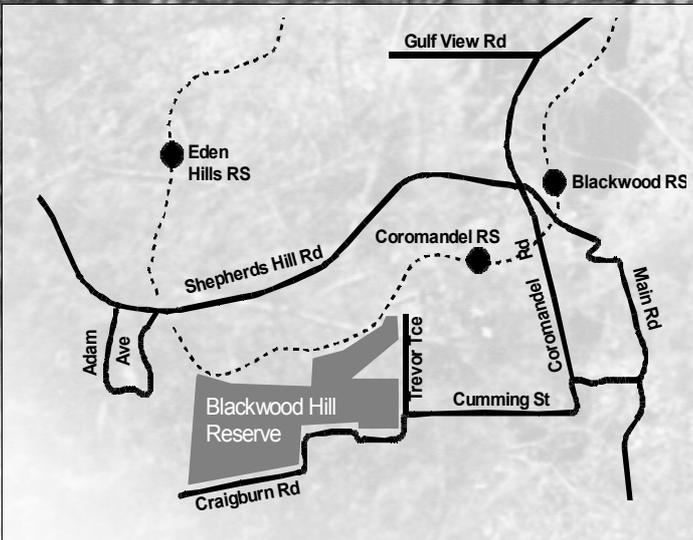
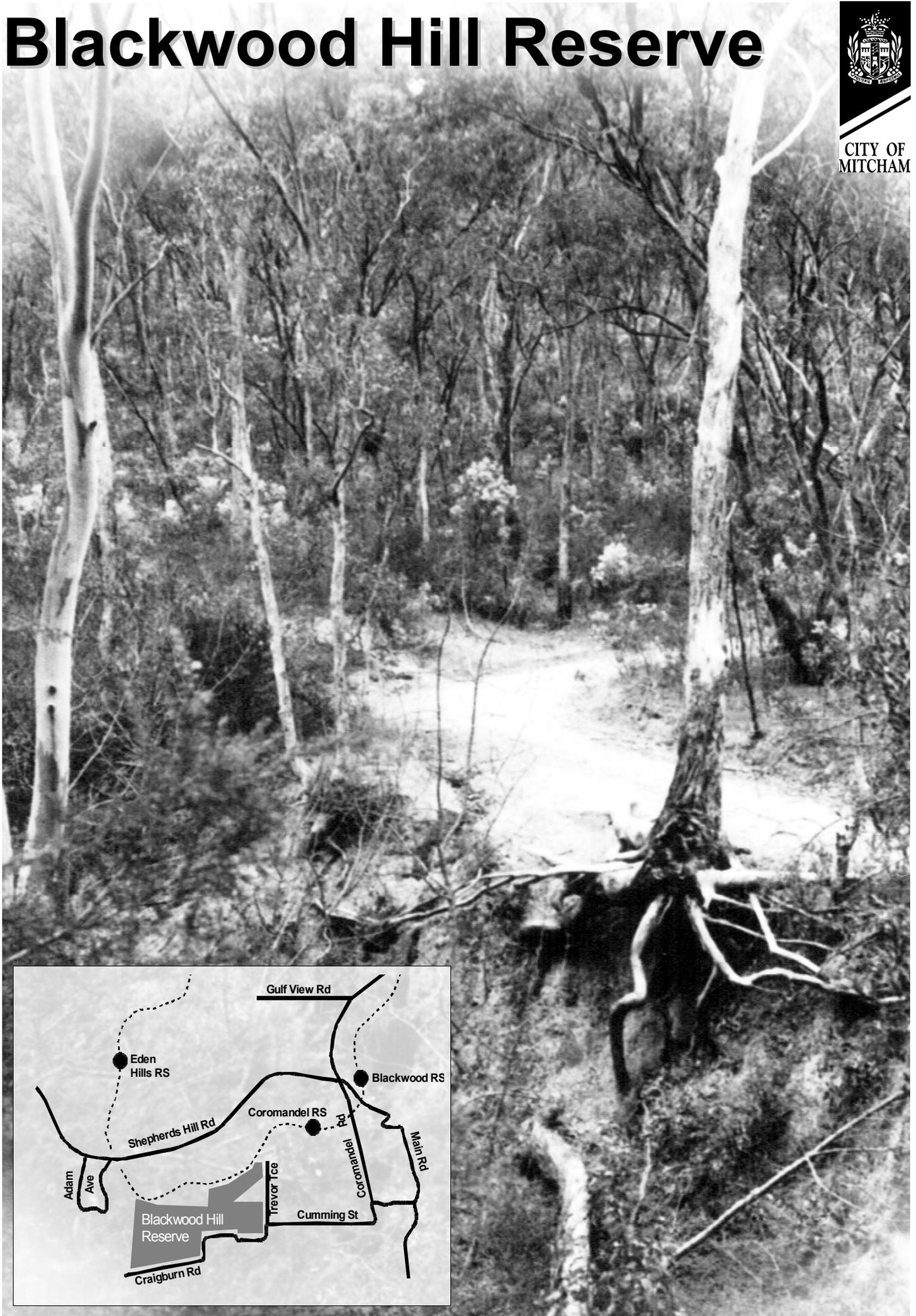


Blackwood Hill Reserve



CITY OF
MITCHAM



Location

Blackwood Hill Reserve is a public reserve owned by the City of Mitcham. It is located south of the railway line in Blackwood, also bordering the suburb of Craighburn Farm. To the west is the Sturt Gorge Recreation Park, to the south is Craighburn Road and to the east is Trevor Terrace. Entrances to the reserve are on Trevor Terrace and Craighburn Road. Blackwood Hill Football Oval also adjoins the reserve.

Principal Landowner

Though owned by a number of farming families during the latter half of the 19th Century, one of the notable owners of the land now known as Blackwood Hill Reserve, was William Archibald Jones. W.A. Jones was born in Coromandel Valley on May 3rd, 1881, and educated at the Coromandel Valley Public School and, later, at a private school in Glen Osmond. Jones was also a local butcher and very active in the Mitcham community. He served as a local councillor, a member of the Board of the Master Butchers Ltd and the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board. Jones was also chairman of the parents' committee of the Blackwood Junior School when it opened in 1929. Jones lived on Garnet Avenue, Blackwood, which is a short distance from the present day reserve. He lived there with his wife, Alison, and sons Fred, William and Clarence. Archibald Street, Alison Avenue, Trevor Terrace and Clarence Street, Blackwood, were all named after members of the Jones family. William Archibald Jones died in 1938 at the age of 57. The land he bought in 1923 was sold by Alison Jones in the 1940s. The western part of the reserve was bought by the City of Mitcham in 1958.



William Archibald Jones



Ashby's Dam - cattle grazing on section 1048 - c1930s (see aerial photo)

Edwin Ashby purchased Section 1048 in 1902. He migrated to Australia from Surrey, England, in 1888 and was a land and estate agent, well-known naturalist and peace-worker. One of his daughters, Alison, was a noted botanical artist.

Uses of Land

By 1881, the main section of land on which the reserve is situated, Section 1047, had a 5 room house owned and occupied by farmer and builder, Thomas Elsegood and, after 1927, by the Jones family who operated a slaughterhouse opposite the junction of Trevor Terrace and Cumming Street. Other sections of Blackwood Hill Reserve include section 1041, section 19 and section 2204.

Principally used for farming, these sections of land were owned by John Crothers (section 1047 in 1850), George Pile (section 2204 in 1850), James Cole (section 1041 in 1852) and William Waters (section 19 in 1849).

The reserve land was also used for horse agistment. A pony trail riding course was created in 1993 and is still used today. It is known as the Tom Roberts Horse Trail. A number of sporting groups also took advantage of the land, including the Blackwood Football Club, Coromandel Cricket Club and Sheoak Pony Club.

Special Features

Blackwood Hill Reserve is a place of natural beauty, from its open space to the bushland through which a number of trails pass. The highlight is the Tom Roberts Horse Trail, which guides the rider or walker through the best parts of the reserve. There are many species of bush and plant to be seen, including Blue Gum, Christmas Bush, Rock Fern, Hollyhock and River Bottlebrush. Magpie Gully runs through the reserve and there are excellent views of the surrounding Mitcham Hills.

Current Description

Blackwood Hill Reserve remains a less well known reserve between Blackwood and Craighburn. The entrance on Trevor Terrace is well signposted, as are the trails, encouraging walkers and hikers. Near this entrance is a plaque dedicated to the Blackwood Lions Club, commemorating 30 years of service to the Blackwood community. There are also a number of seats nearby for visitors to use.

Blackwood Hill Reserve has been included in the National Estate Register, which recognises areas of natural heritage significance. This is one of the main reasons why the reserve is no longer used for horse grazing.

Resources

Blackwood Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, November, 2002, no.78; Feb 2004.

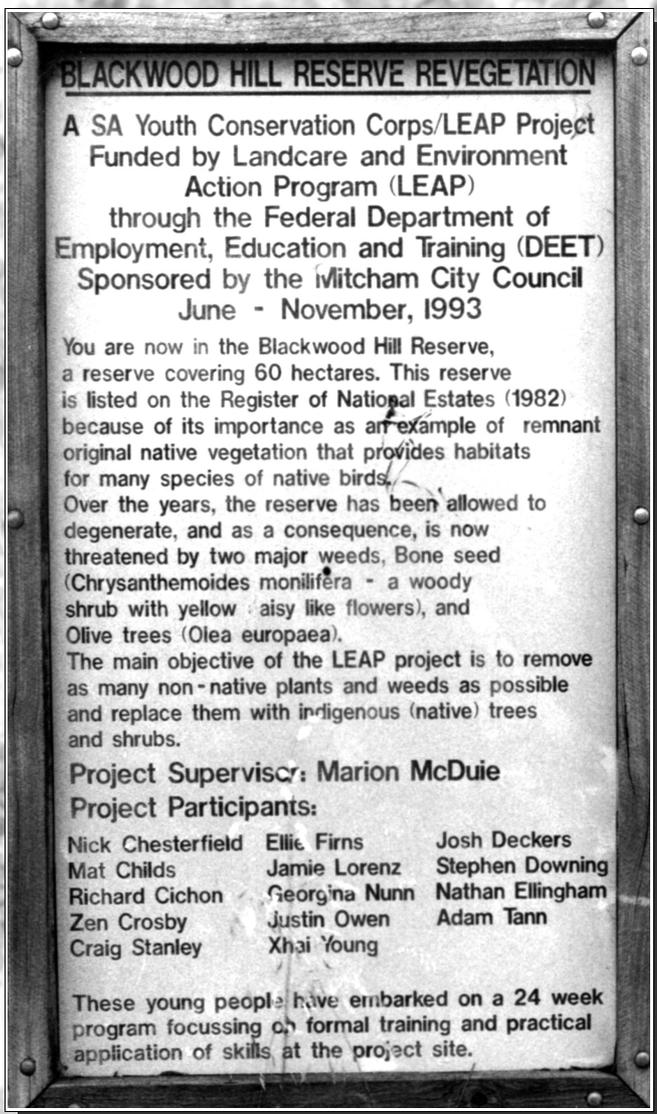
City of Mitcham Recreation and Sport Plan Draft Report, 1992.

Directory of Recreation Areas of Adelaide - National Fitness Council of South Australia, 1959.

Mitcham Local History Collection: MIT PK0003, MIT PL00001, BKW PK00007, BKW BI0008, BKW GI00001, CBF VE00001.

Regional Vegetation Study, 1993.

The Official Civic Record of South Australia, The Universal Publicity Company, 1936.



Tom Roberts, a former British Army Riding Instructor arrived in South Australia in 1925 and served in the Police Force and the second world war. He founded the Adelaide Dressage club in 1959. A whole generation of South Australian riders was influenced by his kindly manner, his generosity and his search for a better understanding between horse and rider. Tom died in 1989 and the trail which now bears his name is tribute to the respect and affection in which his memory is held.



Right: Clarence, Edwin and Fred Jones at the slaughterhouse on Trevor Terrace - 1930s



A modern map and an aerial photograph from 1936 showing the same area which includes the eastern part of the reserve at bottom left and southern Blackwood at right.



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