



City of Belmont:

Our heritage, our story



Ascot Waters



This photograph from 1989 shows the site of the future Ascot Waters residential marina development. Belmont's iconic landmark, the Bristle Kilns and Stacks can be seen in the background.

Ascot Waters residential marina development was a \$50 million development on a picturesque, but largely undeveloped, area bounded by Grandstand Road, Stoneham Street, Great Eastern Highway and the Swan River. The area included a rubbish tip, drive-in theatre, tennis and bowling grounds as well as a rugby ground, which later became Parry Field for baseball.

It was opened with much fanfare in 1998 with a trip across the river in a rowboat for Premier Richard Court and Belmont Mayor, Peter Passeri.



Ascot Waters in 2008. The kilns and stacks can be seen in the foreground.

Hill 60, Invercloy & Tampina

Named after a World War I battleground in France, *Hill 60* is a large brick and tile house famous for its size and beauty, as well as some of its notable owners. These included racing personality Thomas 'Meekathara' Ryan, society dame Madam Heaney, and the St John of God Hospital.

Originally built around 1900, the Federation style house was in near ruin and a victim of vandalism before an ambitious restoration was undertaken in the 21st century.



Drawing room at Hill 60 (c.1915)



Hill 60 (2010)

Built in 1904, *Invercloy* is a grand two-storey Federation Queen Anne style house. The impressive design shows the wealth which followed the gold boom, and it remarkably retains most of its original detail.

A landmark in the City of Belmont due to its prominent location just off the Great Eastern Highway, *Invercloy* has prominent Norfolk Island pines and Canary Island date palms in its grounds.

During World War II, *Invercloy* was used as accommodation for the RAAF. Later, renamed Nulsen Haven, the building was used to care for 'mentally incurable' children.

Today, *Invercloy* is once again a private residence.



Invercloy (1975)



Invercloy (2014)



Tampina (2015)

In 1904 John Frederick Gary Robinson built his residence, *Tampina*, on Guildford Road, now known as the Great Eastern Highway, where he trained a number of thoroughbreds. Near *Tampina*, Robinson's stables had a distinctive hexagonal design, and were described as the most up-to-date of their kind in Australia.

Robinson had a fair degree of success on the turf, with his stable winning several important races.

During World War II, *Tampina* was occupied by the RAAF as an operations centre for the defence of Perth. From 1955 to 1964, the house was renamed *Dear Brutus* after a well-known horse, and used as a hostel for disabled children. Today, *Tampina* has been converted to serve as private offices.

Ascot Racecourse

Although horse racing started shortly after the Swan River Colony was founded, it was not until 1887 that a number of sports lovers banded together and decided to hold a Perth Cup at Ascot Racecourse.

Races had been held at Ascot since 1848, when the land originally belonged to local farmer John Wall Hardey. With the formation of the Western Australian Turf Club in 1852, Ascot became the foremost track in the State.

Until the early 20th century, Ascot racegoers would picnic on the 'flat' (the centre of the track). However with the erection of a new grandstand in 1903, the flat was finally closed to the public, ending a long-standing local holiday tradition.

Ascot Racecourse attracted trainers into the Belmont district, who built houses with stables around the racecourse. Naturally, hotels sprung up to quench the thirst of both those in the racing industry and customers who came to the races.

Not far from Ascot Racecourse was one of the most famous hotels in the area, the *Ascot Inn*. Sitting alongside the Swan River, this Inn became home to those in the racing industry seeking a drink.

After being closed for a number of years, in 2014, the *Ascot Inn* reopened as the opulent *International on the Water Hotel*. A large mosaic of the original Inn is on view in the hotel's café and bar as a reminder of the building's history.



Ascot Grandstand (c.1909)



Ascot Grandstand (2009)



International on the Water Hotel (2015)



Administration Offices, Ascot Racecourse (1984)



Sunspeed Bar at Ascot Racecourse (1984)



Ascot Grandstand (1920s)



Ascot Inn, then known as Hotel Belmont (1920)



Ascot Inn (1984)



Ascot Inn (1977)



Racecourse Hotel, corner of Hardey Road and Great Eastern Highway (1890s)



Army Wireless Station, Belmont (1968)



Clean up of Tomato Lake (1974)

Signal Hill & Tomato Lake

In the 1830s, Signal Hill was part of the land owned by John Wall Hardey, one of the area's most prominent residents. By the mid-1870s, the Hardey family owned most of what is now the City of Belmont.

In 1913, Signal Hill was gifted to the Belmont Roads Board for recreational purposes.

It remained in use as a park until World War II when the hill was used as a signal station to communicate with aircraft coming into Guildford Airport. After the war, the Commonwealth Government retained Signal Hill for Air Force, and later Army, use.

It was not until the 1970s that the land was once again acquired by the City of Belmont.

In 1992, the City proposed developing the Hill for housing, but a subsequent referendum overwhelmingly indicated that residents wanted it to stay as natural bushland. It is now designated a natural bush reserve.

Tomato Lake was originally called Smith's Lake, then later Craig's Swamp after Stephen Craig, a local poultry farmer.

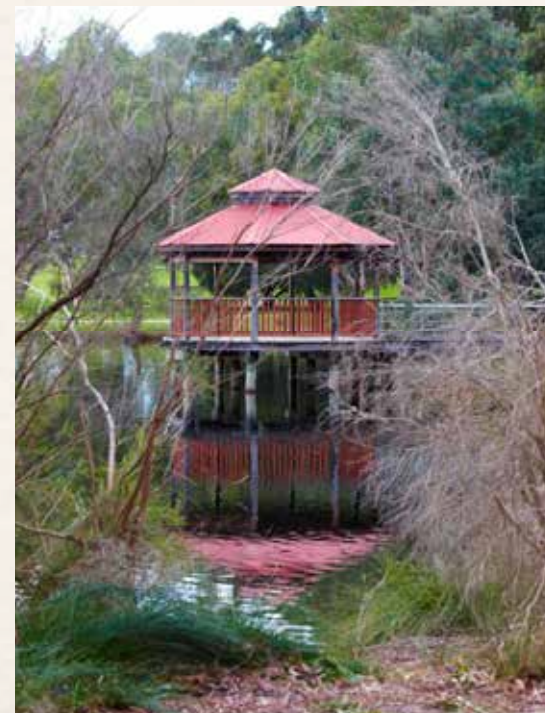
There is a local legend that an attempt to sink a well in the 1920s accidentally struck a spring and created a lake where a swamp had once been.

Reclaiming the area began in 1971 as a result of a local campaign to save the lake. Don Tyler, a Belgravia Street pharmacist, stood for the council on the issue and won a seat.

In the mid-1970s, aquatic weeds covering the lake had to be removed by the council with the invaluable assistance of local residents. It was at this time that the place was officially renamed Tomato Lake.

Over the years, the site has been redeveloped, doubling its size and now offering visitors a wetland, lake, walking trail and boardwalk.

The lake is home to a diverse range of birdlife including ducks, ibis and swans.



Tomato Lake (2012)

The Springs, Rivervale

The Cracknell Park foreshore has long been a popular bathing site for Belmont residents. Originally known as 'The Springs', it was later called 'Hawksburn Road Swimming Baths' and then 'Riversdale Baths'.

Belmont Young Men's Club was formed in 1919. They organised improvements to the bathing sheds at The Springs and planted flame trees along Hawksburn Road as an entry to the swimming spot.

From World War I the area became a social centre for the Belmont district with picnics, rowing regattas and swimming carnivals. During the 1930s, the land around the swimming area was upgraded by the Belmont Roads Board.

After World War II, a jetty was installed for the Belmont Swimming Club, and by 1964 the area was reticulated and renamed Cracknell Park in honour of Ron Cracknell, a longstanding member of the Belmont Roads Board and Shire President from 1966.

The large home overlooking the park, built as a private residence in 1906, was run as 'Homelea Convalescent Home' from 1948 to 1968, and subsequently occupied by St Columban's Mission Society.

With its proximity to Perth's Central Business District, the potential for redeveloping the area around The Springs for residential and commercial use was first suggested in 1993.

Belmont Council spent the next eight years developing options for the future of The Springs area. However, a lack of landowner support for the project resulted in the Minister for Planning rejecting the proposals.

The Council recognised the potential of the area and was determined to press ahead. It persuaded the Government to allow LandCorp, the State Government's property development agency, to take the lead on the redevelopment.

In 2015, The Springs is now a 12.5ha estate, and one of Perth's first inner suburban urban renewal projects, with mixed use and higher density housing.

The overall estimated cost of proposed development is around \$457 million, and includes multiple dwellings, offices, a hotel, cafe and a convenience store.



St Columban's Mission (1970s)



Cracknell Park with views of the Swan River and East Perth (late 1970s)



The Springs, Rivervale redevelopment, located on the corner of the Graham Farmer Freeway exit and Great Eastern Highway (2012)



The Springs development underway in 2014

The Kilns

Belmont's best known landmark is the group of old kilns and stacks opposite Ascot Racecourse. Built by Brisbane & Wunderlich, the biggest pottery firms in Western Australia, the kilns are thought to be the largest such group left in Australia.

Over the years the company manufactured terracotta tiles, glazed stoneware, sewerage pipes, sanitary ware, crockery, stainless steel sinks, steel shelving, general sheet-metal ware, shop fronts, glass, refractories, crucibles, bricks and steel scaffolding.

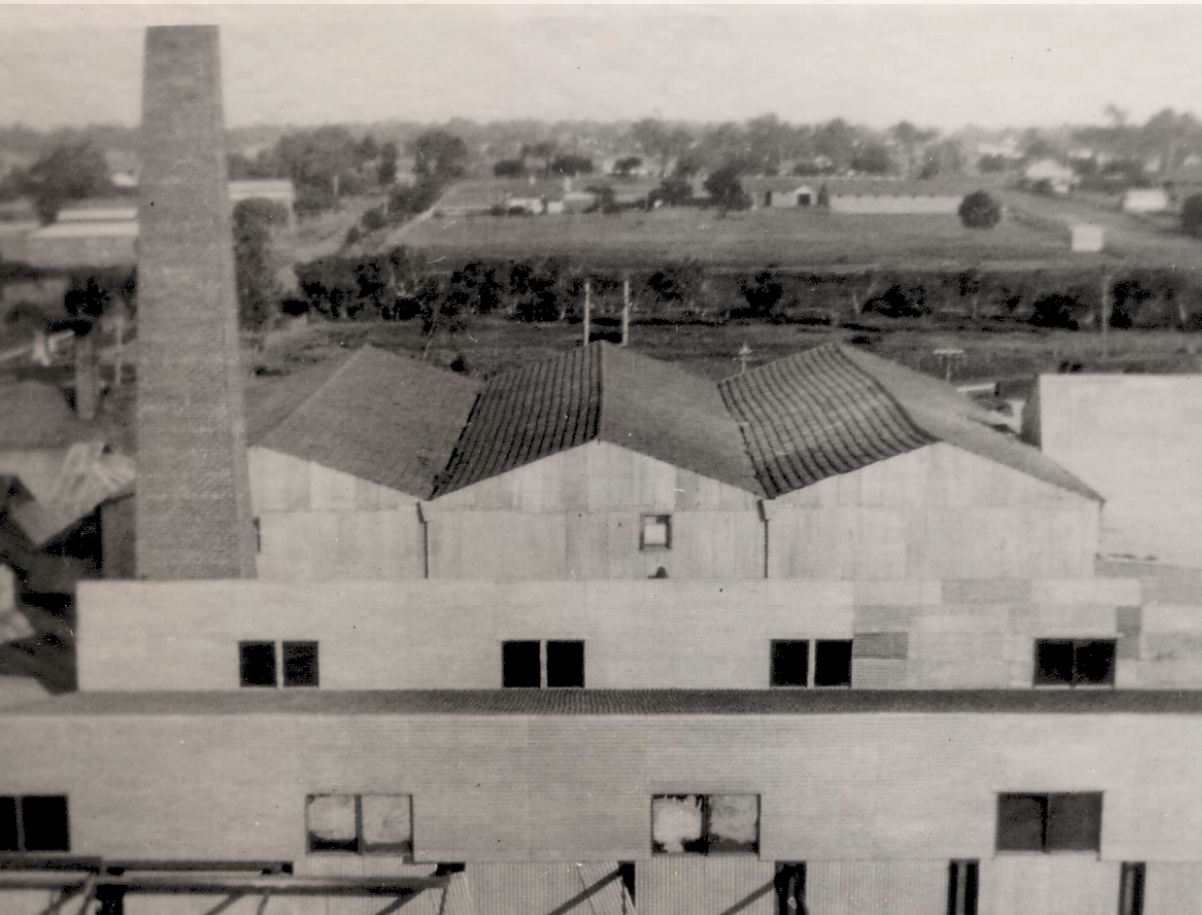
Originally formed in 1929 as H. L. Brisbane & Co, the company started business by purchasing a small terracotta roofing tile factory at Belmont. A year later, it added the production of glazed stoneware sewerage pipes and fittings to its activities.

During World War II Brisbane & Wunderlich leased the Calyx pottery works at Subiaco to supply crockery to the armed forces. As a result, the company also found itself manufacturing the famous Wembley Ware range.

In 1982, the factory on Grandstand Road closed, and today the remaining kilns and stacks have some protection by being listed on the WA State Register of Heritage Places.



Brisbane & Wunderlich Ltd (c.1948)



Bristle Factory (1940s)



Kiln and Stack (2014)



Aerial view of Bristle Factory (1940s)



Bristle Kilns (2014)



Bristle Kilns (2014)



The Bristle Stacks (2008)

Great Eastern Highway & Adachi Park

Colonists regularly complained about the condition of the road to Guildford through Belmont. Various efforts were tried to make the road usable, especially in winter, but little improvement was seen by travellers.

Convicts started to arrive in the Colony from 1850. A camp for road parties was established in Redcliffe at 'Depot Hill'.

These convicts cut down trees and, after placing them over sawpits, cut the trunks into discs about 30cm thick. These were positioned alongside each other, and the space between compacted either with soil or crushed limestone. The discs were known as 'Hampton's Cheeses' after the then Governor.

In 2012, during an upgrade to the Great Eastern Highway, engineers uncovered a 20m stretch of the original Hampton's Cheeses. After archaeological investigation, a number of the discs were transferred to the City of Belmont's museum for display to the public.

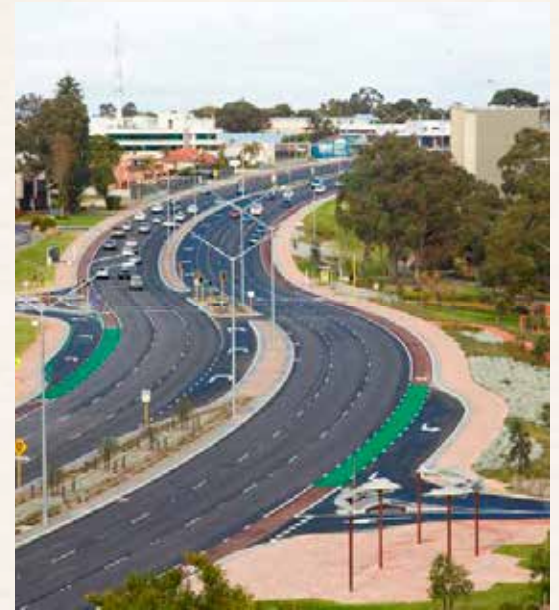
A small park located alongside the Great Eastern Highway was first created in 1936. H. L. Brisbane & Co wrote to the council proposing that some land be put aside for ornamental and display purposes, for which the company would pay.

H. L. Brisbane continued to lease part of the area, and developed several display items there, one of which—'The Doll's House'—can still be seen today.

Adachi Park has Japanese themed gardens. It is a favourite local spot for picnics and picturesque walks. The park is named after Belmont's sister city, Adachi in Japan. There is also a Belmont Park in Adachi.



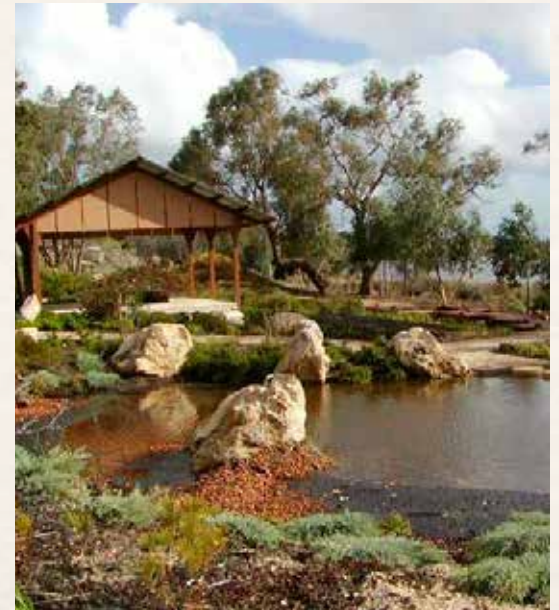
Great Eastern Highway at Belmont (1953)



Great Eastern Highway (2013)



Bristle's 'Doll House' (2014)



Adachi Park (2004)



Ansett-ANA Boeing 727-77 on the tarmac at Perth Airport (1960s)

Perth Airport

In early 1942, the area on which Perth Airport is now located was converted from the Dunreath Golf Course to an RAAF base, which operated until the end of World War II. Dunreath Golf Course was located within the Belmont Park Road District on the eastern flank of Redcliffe

The Government agreed to allow Australian National Airways Pty Ltd (ANA) and Qantas to operate from this site, known as 'Guildford Aerodrome', as Maylands had become inadequate for their larger commercial aircraft.

Guildford Aerodrome officially changed its status and name to the Perth International Airport in September 1952. A new international terminal was controversially built from second-hand wartime materials.

The main domestic airlines moved out of their separate hangars in 1962 and into the first combined Domestic and International Terminal.

On 25 October 1986, Prime Minister Bob Hawke unveiled the \$60 million International Terminal on the eastern side of the airport, complete with a new control tower.

The site has been continuously upgraded, including T2, which opened in 2013 servicing the regional areas of Western Australia.



Perth Domestic Airport (2000)



Runway at Perth Airport (2013)



Terminal 2 (T2) at Perth International Airport (2013)

Faulkner Park

Paddy Faulkner was a pig farmer and the first President of the Shire of Belmont. He served in local government during the 1930s and '40s. Faulkner Park was named after him in 1965. The area is home to the City's public library, leisure centre, museum, war memorial, skate park, senior's centre and the Council administration building.

Originally located on the Great Eastern Highway, in 1972 the Shire's War Memorial was relocated to Faulkner Park, and an inscription in memory of the Vietnam War fallen added.

Although a pool was first suggested in 1958, it took until 1971 to become a reality. The facilities have been repeatedly enlarged, and the name changed to the Oasis Leisure Centre.

Ruth Faulkner Public Library was built in 1971 and named after Belmont's first female Councillor. It was the first library in WA to install a computerised database.

Belmont Council's first home was on Great Eastern Highway in the 'Belmont Hall'. The current Administration Centre was opened in 1979 by the Governor of Western Australia. During the ceremony he declared Belmont a City.



Belmont Museum under construction (1988)



Belmont Museum, Faulkner Park (2014)



Ruth Faulkner Public Library (1971)



Belmont Senior Citizens Centre under construction, Faulkner Park (1971)



Ruth Faulkner Public Library (2014)



Belmont Senior Citizens Centre, Faulkner Park (2014)



City of Belmont Administration Building (1980s)



City of Belmont Administration Building (2014)



Volcano Playground, Faulkner Park (2012)



War Memorial (2015)



Bart Clayden Aquatic Centre, now known as the Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre, Faulkner Park (1974)



Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre (2006)



Belmont Forum (Silver, Goldberg & Associates, Architects, 1974)

Belmont Forum Shopping Centre

In the early 1970s, the site of Belmont Forum was a small farm with cows in a paddock. Now more than 40 years old, the Forum is one of the State's longest-standing shopping centres.

The centre has grown from its original offering of a Kmart, Moore's Department Store and a modest number of specialty stores. It now has more than 140 stores, some of which have been there for many years.

A redevelopment in 1992 launched the centre's fresh food market, and in 1999 the Forum was extended to the south-east to add another supermarket and thirty-three specialty stores.



Belmont Forum Shopping Centre (2014)



Aerial of Belmont Forum (1974)

References

p. 3: State Heritage Office assessments of Hill 60, Invercloy, and Tampina; Maxine Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward: The Story of Belmont* (City of Belmont, 1999)

pp. 4-5: Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*; *West Australian*, 14 December 1903; *Western Mail*, 2 January 1904

p. 6: T. Robinson, 'Tomato Lake—Swamp', *Looking Back* (Belmont Historical Society, 1983); *Sunday Times*, 12 September 1954; Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*; information supplied by City of Belmont

p. 7: Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*; information supplied by City of Belmont

pp. 8-9: *West Australian*, 4 November 1952; *Sunday Times*, 11 July 1954; Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*; 'Belmont: Places and Faces, 1899-1999' (City of Belmont, 1999); www.kwjacobs.com.au

p. 10: Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*; information supplied by City of Belmont; www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au

pp. 11: Gabrielle Flamer, 'My Big Brother: A First History of Perth Airport' (1962); David Webb (ed.), 'Perth Airport, 1944-1994: 50 Years of Civil Aviation' (1994); Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*; Mervyn W. Prime, 'Significant Events relating to Aviation in Perth and Perth International Airport' (2004)

pp. 12-13: *West Australian*, 26 July 2011; information provided by City of Belmont for 40th anniversary of Ruth Faulkner Library; Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*

p. 14: Laurie, *Ever Flowing Forward*

Images (in order as shown in book)

p. 2: Site of Ascot Waters: City of Belmont 1989; Aerial: City of Belmont 2008

p. 3: Hill 60: State Library of Western Australia 011254D; Hill 60 2010: City of Belmont; Invercloy: State Library of Western Australia 361438PD; Invercloy 2014: Helena Waldman; Tampina 2015: Eddie Marcus

pp. 4-5: Ascot Grandstand 1909: City of Belmont M318-01; Ascot Grandstand 1920s: State Library of Western Australia 049988PD; Ascot Grandstand 2009: Moondyne, under GNU; Sunspeed Bar: State Library of Western Australia 313251PD; International on the Water Hotel 2015: Eddie Marcus; Administration Offices: State Library of Western Australia 313252PD; Ascot Inn 1920: City of Belmont M0083-01; Ascot Inn 1984: State Library of Western Australia 312633PD; Ascot Inn 1977: State Library of Western Australia 160352PD; Racecourse Hotel: City of Belmont M0098-01

p. 6: Wireless Station: State Library of Western Australia 266971PD; Tomato Lake 1974: *West Australian Newspapers Group*; Tomato Lake 2012: City of Belmont

p.7: St Columbans Mission: City of Belmont S019-19; Cracknell Park: City of Belmont P0057-01; Aerial photograph The Springs 2012: City of Belmont; The Springs 2014: Nearmap

pp. 8-9: Brisbane & Wunderlich: City of Belmont M0053-01; Aerial Photograph 1940s: City of Belmont M0077-02; Bristle Factory: City of Belmont M0051-01; Kiln and Stack 2014: Helena Waldman; Bristle Kilns 2014: Helena Waldman; Bristle Stacks 2008: City of Belmont

p. 10: Great Eastern Highway 1953: State Library of Western Australia 237202PD; Great Eastern Highway 2013: City of Belmont; Doll House: Helena Waldman; Adachi Park 2004: City of Belmont

p. 11: Ansett ANA: State Library of Western Australia: 215602PD; Perth Domestic Airport 2000: City of Belmont; Runway at Perth Airport 2013: Courtesy of Perth Airport Pty Ltd; T2 2013: Courtesy of Perth Airport Pty Ltd

pp. 12-13: Public Library 1971: City of Belmont S012-19; Ruth Faulkner Public Library 2014: Helena Waldman; Belmont Senior Citizens Centre 1971: s010-14; Belmont Senior Citizens Centre 2014: Helena Waldman; Belmont Museum 1988: City of Belmont M0364-01; Belmont Museum 2014: Helena Waldman; City of Belmont Administration Building c1980s: City of Belmont; City of Belmont Administration Building 2014: Helena Waldman; Volcano Playground 2012: City of Belmont; War Memorial 2015: City of Belmont; Bart Clayden Aquatic Centre 1974: City of Belmont S008-19; Belmont Oasis Leisure Centre 2006: City of Belmont

p. 14: Belmont Forum sketch: State Library of Western Australia 348225PD; Belmont Forum aerial: State Library of Western Australia 265294PD; Belmont Forum 2014: Helena Waldman

Front Cover Images (top and bottom)

Ascot Grandstand 1920s: State Library of Western Australia 049988PD;

Bristle Factory: City of Belmont M0051-01

Back Cover Image

War Memorial 1988: City of Belmont M0060-02



Each part of the coat of arms symbolises an aspect of the City of Belmont. The kiln and stack represent brick making and the cog is a symbol for industry. The wings symbolise flight and the airport, while the horse is the racing industry. The green stands for public space; silver, the sky; and blue is the Swan River. The black swan is the State emblem, and the ducal coronet around its neck symbolises Belmont's relationship to WA.

For further information on the City of Belmont Heritage Series, please contact the Belmont Museum on 9477 7450 or email museum@belmont.wa.gov.au or visit 61 Elizabeth Street, Belmont WA 6104

