

*St Just,
Miss Annie's
&
The Cliffe
Heritage history*

The Shire of Peppermint Grove started in the 1835 when an innkeeper named John Butler was given a grant of 150 acres, which led to the formation of the suburb. The shire is only 5 streets wide, which promotes a community feel and gives the residents a sense of belonging. The many Peppermint trees which line the streets give the suburb its well known name. The area has many heritage and old homes, which date back to the 1840's and are still enjoyed by the vibrant community.

One of the jewels of the area is St Just, a well known house built in the 1900's. The house is located on the corner of View and Keane street and is a block away from the stunning Swan river. The builder of the house was Richard Strelitz and his wife Bessie who prospered during the 1890's gold boom. In 1919's they decided to sell the house to William Grant Forrest and his family. The Forrest's became well known for holding entertaining functions and were frequently mentioned in the social pages. The sociable and generous hosts became renowned for the events they held during their time in St Just. These functions included luncheon, dinner, bridge and mar-john parties. The house was then sold to Jody Lennon and Michael Henderson, who have a family of four. The estate is kept in exceptional condition and looks the same as it did over 100 years ago.



Just down the road from St Just, there is a traditional and beautiful two storey home at 29 Irvine Street. With the growing population in the 1890's Misses Annie and Jane Nisbet decided to open a "high class" boarding school for girls and boys and in October 1897 the school was opened and named Avonmore. The school took off and in February 1900 it opened its doors to 52 pupils. Utilising 12 rooms and two bathrooms for the boarding students. Numbers grew quickly and soon gained academic excellence and offered music tuition and physical education. They had expanded to a tennis ground for the girls and a cricket team for the boys (under 10). The old school house is now a prominent residence surrounded by beautiful grounds.

The Cliffe, one of the first residential dwellings built in Peppermint Grove, located at 25 Bindaring Parade was erected in 1894. The original owner was Neil McNeil, who bought the land in 1892. In 1927, the house was sold to a prominent West Australian industrialist named Lance Brisbane. The house was then lived and loved by many people including Dr Harold McComb (who owned the house from 1960 to the 1995), Christopher Sellabear (June 1995 to July 1995) and Sharon Creasy and her husband Mark. The house contains seventeen generous sized rooms, amazing gardens, extensive verandahs, servants wing, summer house, stables, original interiors and large mature grounds. The Cliffe is one of the most significant places in Western Australia with exceptional historic, technical and social significance.

These three iconic heritage houses, maintains both the tradition and appeal of the shire. Due to the character of these three landmarks, it creates a relaxed and time-honored atmosphere among Peppermint Grove and surrounding suburbs. The area has prospered due to its location and the many large heritage homes which create a sense of prosperity and a community feel.

Photos of the houses.



The cliffe, 1894



The cliffe, today



St Just, 1980's



St Just, today



Misses Annies 1980's



Misses Annies, today.