



City of Perth

ICONS  
of  
INFLUENCE

BARN BIDI  
WALKING TRAIL

2 HOURS

This self-guided trail will take up to two hours. You can join in or depart from the trail anywhere along the way.

The trail intersects with the city's free CAT buses servicing East Perth, Northbridge, West Perth, central Perth and the foreshore (except Good Friday, ANZAC Day and Christmas Day).

The iCity Visitor Service in Murray Street Mall (near Forrest Place) offers a free guided tour of this trail, led by our qualified iCity volunteer tour guides. For further information and bookings, email [walking.tours@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:walking.tours@cityofperth.wa.gov.au) or phone 08 9461 3333.

Other self-guided walking trails can be accessed by going to [www.visitperth.com/walking-tours](http://www.visitperth.com/walking-tours)

**Acknowledgement**

The City of Perth would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this region, the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar Nation, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

This document is available in other formats or languages on request.

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When John Septimus Roe, naval officer, surveyor and explorer, first laid out the City of Perth in 1829, he envisaged a powerful city at the centre of a strong economy. St Georges Terrace was the focus of this design, a broad avenue running parallel to the shores of the majestic Swan River. Today, St Georges Terrace continues its role as the city's powerhouse. Follow this trail to discover the history of the city through its iconic places of influence. As you walk along, keep your eyes out for plaques placed in the pavement that recognise the many people who have influenced the growth of Perth and Western Australia.

**1 PERTH TOWN HALL  
CORNER HAY & BARRACK STREETS**

The Perth Town Hall was designed by Richard Roach Jewell and James Manning. It took three years to build using convict labour and had its formal opening on 1 June, 1870. Jewell designed many other prominent Perth buildings including Wesley Church and parts of the Central Government Offices adjacent to the Town Hall. The Perth Town Hall was designed in an aesthetically pleasing, almost whimsical style as a showplace for the colony. The undercroft formed a covered marketplace that operated for a few years before it became too costly. The space was later used to house the city's firefighting equipment, including a 12-man fire carriage. Aside from these practical uses, charity events, balls, and civic ceremonies were held in the Perth Town Hall. The man who became known as 'Father of the Kimberley', Alexander Forrest, was sworn in as Mayor of Perth at the Town Hall in 1892 and held office for six years (1892-95 and 1897-1900). Forrest had extensive business interests in gold mines, newspapers, timber, retail, butchering and cattle—you will find out more about this fascinating pioneer later on in the trail. The Perth Town Hall upper and lower foyers are open for public viewing Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm, except when closed for private hire.

One of the more unusual uses of the Perth Town Hall was as a camel stable! Explorer Ernest Giles used the undercroft as a resting place for his camels on his epic journey from South Australia in 1875, creating much excitement among Perth's residents.

Make your way towards the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace. The Central Government Offices are on St Georges Terrace across from Stirling Gardens.



**2 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
CORNER BARRACK STREET & ST GEORGES TERRACE**

The Central Government Offices or Treasury Group is a group of three buildings including the original General Post Office (1889), the Lands Department (1893) and the Titles Office (1897), which reflect the 19th century custom of keeping government departments centrally located. The Titles Office, designed by George Temple Poole, was built in 1897 and has been described as one of Australia's finest and most dramatic Free Classical buildings. The corner of Cathedral Avenue and St Georges Terrace marks Point Zero, the point from which all measurements of distance from Perth are still taken.

Walk east along St Georges Terrace and up the steps to St George's Cathedral.



**3 ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL  
38 ST GEORGES TERRACE**

You are welcome to wander inside the striking St George's Cathedral. Completed in 1888, this was where many of Perth's prominent people worshipped on Sundays. Next to the Cathedral is Burt Memorial Hall, a gift from the family in 1917 in memory of two sons of Septimus Burt who were killed in World War 1. The Burt family played an important role in Perth's history—the first Chief Justice was Sir Archibald Burt and, a hundred years later, so was his descendent, Sir Francis Burt (see stop 6). Tours of St George's Cathedral and Burt Memorial Hall can be arranged by contacting the Director, Cathedral Education Centre on 08 9325 5766.

Walk down the steps back to St Georges Terrace.

**4 THE DEANERY  
CORNER ST GEORGES TERRACE & PIER STREET**

This romantic style gothic was built in 1859 by ticket-of-leave men for the cathedral's first Dean and was home to the Anglican Deans of Perth until 1953. The Deanery was funded by Western Australia's first Bishop, Bishop Hale, who also built the Cloisters (stop 15) and an impressive house for himself (stop 12). Before the Deanery was built, public stocks and a whipping post were located here to discourage the people from crime. Following this, it was the site for Perth's first gaol, which was replaced by the gaol that now forms part of the Western Australian Museum.

Midgegooroo, the leader of his tribe and the father of famous Nyoongar warrior Yagan, was executed by firing squad on this site in 1833. The initial friendliness and cooperation between the natives of the Swan River region and the white settlers deteriorated as both groups began to feel their way of life was threatened by the other. A statue of Yagan, who was killed by bounty hunters soon after his father's execution, can be seen on Heirisson Island.

Cross St Georges Terrace at the Pier Street traffic lights to view Government House. Government House is still the primary residence of Western Australia's Governor.

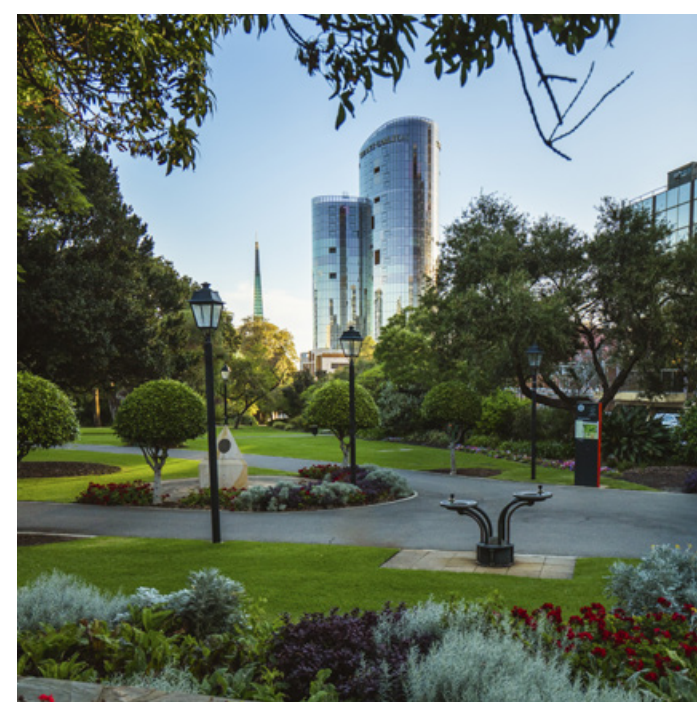


**5 GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
ST GEORGES TERRACE**

This magnificent building was completed in 1864 to the delight of the Swan River colonialists. The building replaced the previous Government House which was deemed inadequate—Governor Stirling drafted official letters under an umbrella to prevent being drenched by the leaky roof! The current building is set in 3.2 hectares of beautiful gardens, lawns and trees. The gardens of Government House are open to the public most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 12noon and 2pm. The Governor hosts open days at Government House a few times a year. Telephone 08 9429 9199 for more information.

The Government House site has been in continuous occupation as the principal vice-regal residence in Western Australia since the city was founded in 1829. The current building is a big improvement on the canvas tents occupied by Governor Stirling and his family for the first four years of settlement, from 1829 until 1832.

Walk west along St Georges Terrace to the entrance of Stirling Gardens at the corner of Barrack Street.



**6 STIRLING GARDENS & OLD COURT HOUSE  
CORNER BARRACK STREET & ST GEORGES TERRACE**

As you enter Stirling Gardens, you are met by the statue of Alexander Forrest. This statue was sculpted by a young Italian sculptor, Pietro Porcelli, to commemorate Forrest's life. Stirling Gardens was first used by colonial botanist James Drummond as an acclimatisation garden in the 1830s, when plants including fruit trees were grown. The reserve then opened as a botanical garden in 1845, and was used by residents of the city for recreation, much in the way that it is by city workers today. The oldest building in the city is located in Stirling Gardens. Now known as the Old Court House Law Museum, this was the only building suitable for public meetings when it opened in 1837 and functioned not only as a court room, but also as a church, school, theatre and community centre in its early days. The museum is open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

Exit Stirling Gardens at the vehicle gates on Barrack Street and cross to The Esplanade at the traffic lights.

**7 WELD CLUB  
3 BARRACK STREET**

This building was completed in 1892 to house the Weld Club. Named after Governor Frederick Weld in 1871, the Club offered a place for Perth's powerful and influential men to gather in a social setting, play billiards and discuss current affairs. Fifty foundation members, of whom two-thirds were Government employees, made up the original membership of the club, which still operates today. The Working Men's Institute, for the less influential members of Perth society, was located in a squalid area near the Perth Gaol. You may hear the sound of bells in the specially constructed bell tower at Barrack Square. You can visit The Bell Tower any day of the week to enjoy bell ringing demonstrations (see a weekly schedule posted at the tower) or take take in the great city and river views from the Level 6 Observation Deck.

Walk west along The Esplanade and turn up the first street on the right, Sherwood Court.

**8 KARRAKATTA CLUB  
SHERWOOD COURT**

This 1937 Art Deco building is the former home of Australia's oldest women's club. The wives of Perth's influential men founded the Karrakatta Club in 1894, with the intention of allowing members to prepare papers and share information on matters of social and political importance. It clearly succeeded, because in 1921 one of the founding members of this club became Australia's first female Parliamentarian.

Edith Dircksey Cowan was an extremely active member of Perth society. An orphan by the time she married at 18 in 1879, Edith was an active member of 50 community groups and organisations, served as a Justice of the Peace and was elected to the Western Australian Parliament at the age of 60. She was the second woman in the British Empire to be elected as a Member of Parliament. A vocal campaigner for the rights of women and children with an underlying philosophy of community service, Edith Cowan donated her parliamentary salary to charity. The clock tower located at the entrance to Kings Park was built in her memory in 1934, two years after her death. A university was also named after this influential campaigner.

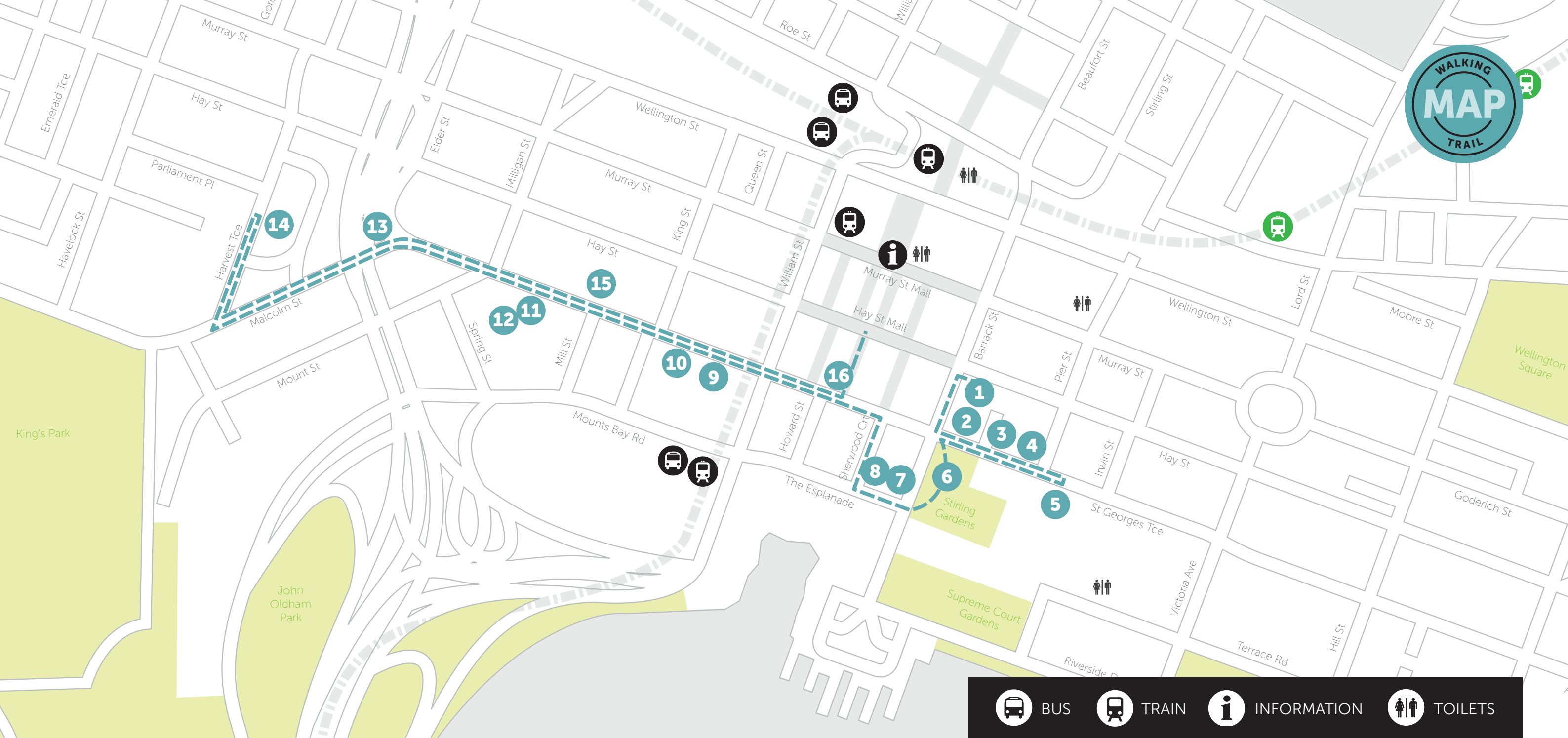
Walk up to St Georges Terrace and turn left. Continue west along the terrace past William Street.

**9 NEWSPAPER HOUSE  
125 ST GEORGES TERRACE**

The West Australian newspaper can trace its origins back to 1833, when the first edition of its predecessor, The Perth Gazette was published. In November 1879, it was re-launched as The West Australian. Newspaper House was constructed in 1932 in readiness for the centenary of the paper the following year and was officially opened on 5 January, 1933. The West Australian has been associated with many notable personalities, in particular Winthrop Hackett, who was a proprietor and editor for almost 30 years. After his death, a large portion of Hackett's fortune was given to endow the University of Western Australia. The building is now part of retail and dining precinct, Brookfield Place.

Continue west along the terrace to the Old Perth Boys School.





**10 PERTH BOYS SCHOOL**  
38 ST GEORGES TERRACE

Perth Boys' School was the city's first purpose-built school, constructed by convicts in 1854. The building was constructed to look like a church so as to impose a sense of duty, attentiveness and obedience on its students. Next door to the Perth Boys School is the former Perth Technical School. Enrolments in this Government run school were abundant during the gold boom from the 1880s to 1890s and the building could no longer accommodate the school, which then relocated to James Street in Northbridge.

A lack of educational facilities in the early years of the colony led the newspapers to warn that Western Australia was in danger of becoming a "degraded society". In the end, the threat posed by the increasing popularity of Roman Catholic schools from 1846 led the Anglican Church to urge the Government to establish this school, whose programme of study was based on the teachings of the Anglican Church.

Continue west along St Georges Terrace.

**11 FORREST HOUSE REPLICA**  
221 ST GEORGES TERRACE (BEHIND 219)

A replica of Forrest House, the home purchased by Alexander Forrest on St Georges Terrace in 1895, has been created in the Forrest Centre. When Perth was originally laid out, the price of a block of land on St Georges Terrace was £200—double the price of any blocks on the streets behind. Alexander's neighbours on the terrace included many of Perth's influential people such as Lionel Samson who secured the first liquor license in the State and started a merchant liquor business, George Shenton who was the first chemist in Perth and Walter Padbury a pioneer pastoralist, merchant and humanitarian. Another statue dedicated to Alexander Forrest is found in the Forrest Centre. Notice the difference between this statue, completed in 1999, and the statue you saw earlier on in the trail, completed in 1902.

During normal business hours you can walk past Rigby's through the glass doors and along the walkway at the perimeter of St Georges Square to look over the Parterre Gardens to Bishops House. If you are walking this trail on the weekend, walk back out to St Georges Terrace and proceed to Stop 12 on this trail.



**12 BISHOPS HOUSE**  
225 ST GEORGES TERRACE (REAR)

Bishop Hale was the first Anglican Archbishop of WA and arrived in 1858. He was the son of a wealthy English landowner, who had left him an impressive fortune. He won the confidence of people in all classes and his generous and fatherly character earned him the title of 'the Good Bishop'. By the time Bishop Hale left the colony in 1875, he had built a number of grand buildings along St Georges Terrace which are still in use today, including this private residence for his family. Today this building is home to the restaurant, Lamont's Bishops House.

Continue up the hill along St Georges Terrace to Barracks Arch.



**13 BARRACKS ARCH**  
266 ST GEORGES TERRACE

You are now standing at the "top end" of the terrace under Barracks Arch. The arch is all that remains of the Pensioner Barracks, completed in 1866 to house the Pensioner Guards, ex-soldiers employed to guard the convicts. Although convict transportation ended in 1868, some Pensioner Guards remained in the Barracks until it was taken over by the Public Works Department. Public protest stopped its planned demolition in 1962 to clear the view for the parliamentarians at the new Parliament House, but the accommodation wings were eventually removed to make way for Kwinana Freeway in 1966. The Arch preserved as a compromise to the public.

From here you can choose to follow the trail up to Parliament House and Kings Park, or catch a bus back down to stop 15. Please note that all buses within City of Perth boundaries are free.



**14 PARLIAMENT HOUSE**  
4 HARVEST TERRACE

Located at the "top end of town", Parliament House was designed to be the head of an imposing vista. The foundation stone was laid in 1902 and the building opened in 1904. Although a national competition was held for the design of the parliament, it was never completed to specifications because it was too expensive. When construction of the western façade cost £16,000 more than estimated, no more work took place to complete the eastern façade, which faces down town, until 1958. This resulted in two distinctly different façades, built in the styles of their time. Tours of Parliament House are conducted on Mondays and Thursdays at 10.30am. The viewing platform next to the car park allows a splendid view back down St Georges Terrace. The nearby Constitutional Centre of Western Australia, on the corner of Havelock Street and Parliament Place, gives an insight into how the Australian political system works. The only centre of this kind in Australia, the Constitutional Centre is located in the former Hale School building and is open to visitors 8.30am to 4.30pm weekdays. Telephone: 08 6552 6222.

Catch any bus or walk back down the terrace.



**15 THE CLOISTERS**  
200 ST GEORGES TERRACE

The Cloisters were designed by Richard Roach Jewell to house Bishop Hale's School. The "Good Bishop" financed and built this school in 1858, and was responsible for educating many sons of the colonial elite, including Alexander and John Forrest. The graduates from this school formed the core of the governing group in Western Australia to the turn of the century and beyond, reinforcing the ties between the Anglican Church and the powerful residents of St Georges Terrace. The school closed at this site in 1872, moving to a number of different city locations until 1961, when it moved to its current campus in the suburb of Wembley Downs. Today the school is known as Hale School.

Proceed east along St Georges Terrace.



**16 TRINITY CHURCH**  
27 ST GEORGES TERRACE

Two buildings of the Trinity Church are found at this location. Richard Roach Jewell designed the first building, now known as the Trinity Congregational Chapel, in 1865. The chapel is now concealed from St Georges Terrace by the newer Trinity Church (1893), built in a more ornate style to reflect the new found prosperity brought by the gold boom. The Trinity Church housed the Congregationalist denomination, many of whom were 'small business people', including artisans, shopkeepers and other members of the skilled working class. The chapel was a popular venue. Its uses included operating as a Sunday school and Hall. The Karrakatta Club held its first meeting there in 1894. Trinity Arcade, built in 1923, connects St Georges Terrace to the Hay Street Mall.

Have a read of the foundation stone and note the name of the builder, which more than 100 years later is a significant Perth based business and part of contemporary Australian culture.