

Pioneer History
(as at 18 March 2011)

1839	<p>Land described as situated on the banks of a stream 8 miles south of the gorge of the Murray River, and with mention of a considerable waterfall, was granted to John Randal Phillips. Esq., of Stoke Farm, Canning River, colony of WA.</p> <p>On October 14, 1839, there was conveyance agreement between John Randal Phillips and Louis Samson, Stock Exchange, London, Gentleman, by Lionel and William Samson – signed by Lionel as attorney for his brother, Louis.</p>
1844	<p>George Fletcher Moore took up Leschenault Location 57 at Lake Clifton. He was a member of the Irish Bar and arrived on the “Parmelia” in 1829, and was second Advocate General for the Colony from 1834 to 1846, then Acting Colonial Secretary 1846-47, after which time he returned to England. Apparently he never lived on or worked the land at Lake Clifton.</p>
1847	<p>William Henry Drake, who with two other men (W.J. Lawrence and B.U. Vigors) was granted Murray Location 26, an area of 2000 acres (800 hectares), was the man whose name become the basis for Drakesbrook. At this time Drake was Assistant Commissioner General at later, after 1869 when he returned to England, he was appointed Director of Supply and Transport at the War Office and received many British and foreign decorations.</p>
1849	<p>Louis Samson, of London, Gentleman, was granted Murray Location 10 on May 1, 1849. Louis never came to Australia but his brother, Lionel Samson, who was a member of the Legislative Council, apparently made investments within WA on behalf of Louis. Samson’s name is remembered in Samson Brook and Dam.</p>
1852	<p>John Fouracre built a house on G.F. Moore’s Location.</p>
1854	<p>John Fouracre built a Wayside Inn and change for coach horses on Wellington Location 205, about 500 metres from the signpost marking the turnoff to Waroona from the Old Coast Road. The remains of the building are still visible at what is known as Peppermint Grove.</p>
1857	<p>Jack Hyde established a camp at North Drakesbrook and grazed a flock of about 2000 sheep.</p>
1870	<p>John Bancell took up land in what is now the Wagerup area on the brook that bears his name.</p>
1871	<p>John Fouracre purchased Drake’s 2000 acres (800 hectares) at Location 26 for £500 and the first homestead away from the Old Coast Road was later established.</p>
1874	<p>Robert Holmes and his three sons established a homestead on Lake Clifton and grazed cattle. Later the sons paid £80 for a meat supply business, later known as Holmes Brothers.</p>
1872-80	<p>Cattle camps were established by Mr M.B Smith in the Yalup Brook area and at the same time Charles Cornish has a cattle camp on Samson Brook. The land was leased by those men.</p> <p>George Jackson, who has been a shepherd for M.B. Smith, established a homestead on Yalup Brook.</p>
1886	<p>W.J. Eastcott settled in the Wagerup area. He was a foundation member of the Drakesbrook Road Board.</p>
1887	<p>The District was incorporated in the Murray Road Board.</p>
1893	<p>The Perth to Picton railway was opened on August 22, 1893. The North Drakesbrook area saw settlement by O.H. Bowles, Jean Wealands and Billy Williams.</p> <p>The Harvey Agricultural area opened for selection and settlers included Patrick and Timothy Fitzpatrick, Timothy Corrigan, John Hall, Charles Landwehr, Patrick McPeck, J.C. Richards and sons and Tom Richmond.</p> <p>The Haub homestead was built some 10 miles (16km) west of Waroona on the Harvey River.</p>
1895	<p>Samuel H. Whittaker at “Hilla Waters” introduced the first Jersey cattle to the district from Victoria.</p> <p>McDowell’s mill built in Waroona</p>

1897	State Nursery at Hamel established.
1898	On April 29 the Drakesbrook Road Board was gazetted and an election took place in Wagerup Hall on May 27. The first meeting of the Board was held on July 2, 1898, in the house of Mr J. Sutton at "Wingate" a farm located south of the town of Drakesbrook. Drakesbrook school opened.
1899	On December 1, McDowell's railway siding became attended booking station. The name Drakesbrook dropped from railway maps the following year.
1900	First government experimental farm in Western Australia was opened at Hamel.
1905	First Drakesbrook Road Board office built.
1908	Waroona Main drain dug, which together with Drakesbrook, Samson Main, North and South drains would drain land west of the railway.
1920	Lime works built at Lake Clifton and railway from Waroona to works completed. Improvement of pastures through top dressing with superphosphate, subterranean clover did particularly well. Potatoes grown and more stock carried in the district.
1930	Dairy industry became established but fall in price caused setback.
1931	Drakesbrook Dam construction began and Waroona Irrigation District constituted.
1932	Nestlé and Anglo Swiss Condensed Milk Co. (Australasia) Ltd. Factory opened in Waroona. Potatoes planted October-November and dug March-April produced well.
1933	Second Road Board office erected.
1934	Waroona Electric Light Company station opened December 4.
1940	Whittakers erected timber mill in Waroona.
1941	Samson Brook Dam completed.
1946	Townsite officially changed to Waroona.
1947-48	Waroona town water supply completed.
1958	Wynne Meat Industries Ltd. Waroona abattoirs opened.
1961	Shire name changed from Drakesbrook District Road Board to Municipality of the Shire of Waroona.
1963	Waroona Shire offices on corner of Hesse and Henning Streets completed and opened.
1966	Waroona Dam completed.
1976-77	Many Wagerup farmers left the district, making way for planned Alcoa alumina refinery construction.
1977	Wagerup post office closed.
1979	Alcoa stated construction of Wagerup alumina refinery.
1980	Waroona Anglican church parishioners build a new church using legacy left by Ralph Whettem. St Mark's Anglican Church replaces wooden structures transported from Dwellingup in 1903. Shire office extended. Work began on pig abattoir at Clover Meats value \$700,000.
1981	Nestles site sold to Charles Hull Contracting. Town Planning Scheme 4 (Waroona Townsite) was gazetted on 29 th May.
1982	TPS No. 4 Amendment 1 creating a 'Special Site – Low Density Residential' (Moyanup Heights) was gazetted on 16 th August. Waroona railway station closed. Demolished 1987. Waroona receives 208.4mm of rain in January against average 125.4mm. Waroona Playgroup moved to new permanent premises being part of existing infant health

	clinic in Henning Street.
1883	David Tognela awarded OAM for 31yearsr service to Local Government. TPS No 5 creating 'Lake Clifton Special Rural Zone' (Tuart Grove) was gazetted on 13 th May.
1984	Alcoa of Australia Ltd. Opened Wagerup alumina refinery. Tuart Grove special rural subdivision off Old Coast Road opened for sale with lots ranging in price from \$28,000 (3ha) to \$120,000 (15ha).
1985	Cable Sand Pty. Ltd. Commenced mining mineral sands north of Waroona town. Official opening of Ed and Bonny Brooks Vision Splended Gardens, Sydney Harbour Bridge Scale model having been erected in 1982. Recreation Centre on Hill Street opened.
1986	Quambie Park/ Pam Corker House Hostel and Retirement Centre opened. The result of the legacy of late Tom Corker in commemoration of his late wife Pam. Local Volunteers started restoration of Hamel Hall. Waroona Shire Council took over Preston Beach Golf Course. Sewage plant proposed to be built starting January 1987. Peter Stacey awarded Queens Medal for Bravery for stopping a runaway tractor ay Donnybrook Apple Festival April 1985. Council resolved to have a district-wide town planning scheme prepared by the consultancy of Russell Taylor and William Burrell. Town Planning Scheme No. 6 'Clifton Hills' Special Rural Zone (now Armstrong Hills) gazetted 5 th December.
1987	Greening Australia leased Hamel Nursery. Launch of 'Drakesbrook Days and Waroona Years' an illustrated History of Waroona Shire by Laurie Snell. Severe local flooding (75mm rain fell in 3 hours). Worst hit was the old Wesfarmers (Charlie Carters) supermarket in Fouracre Street. Also affected were the Waroona Hotel, Waroona Shopping Centre Mall and St Joseph's School. Waroona Contracting sold to Emeco.
1988	Primary School, South Western Highway, closed, students and teacher's transferred to Miller Street School. Ravensthorn Mining received approval to extract mineral sands south of town and contributed financially to townscape improvements. Neighbourhood watch commenced in Waroona.
1989	Wagerup 2 nd stage start
1990	Charles Hull Contracting Pty Ltd purchased Waroona Contracting shed on South Western Highway.
1991	Drakesbrook Motel/ Hotel built. Reunion of 160 Hamel Residents at the restored Hamel Hall.

	<p>Mr James Horace Isseppi was awarded Honorary Freeman of the Municipality for 30 continuous years of service from April 1961 til May 1991. Deputy Shire President – June 1964 – February 1966 President May 1966 – May 1974 and May 1983 – May 1986.</p> <p>Mr David Tognela OAM was also awarded Honorary Freeman of the Municipality for 36 years of continuous service from October 1951 til May 1987 including four terms as Deputy President.</p> <p>Population at 30th June Census was 3,010 persons.</p>
1992	<p>The Drakesbrook Primary School building is left as all other school building were demolished. Some materials salvaged and used at Lake Navarino Forest Resort.</p> <p>Boning room facilities established at Clover Meats Abattoirs.</p> <p>Council adopted TPS No. 7 and submitted it to the Department of Planning and Urban Development requesting permission for it to be advertised for public comment. New Waroona community Library opened on corner of Thatcher and Hesse Street.</p>
1993	<p>Alcoa opened Wagerup Unit 2 and a third grinding mill increasing capacity to 1.7million tonnes a year.</p> <p>Waroona Football Club opened new Clubrooms.</p> <p>Survey shows ratepayers in favour of a swimming pool being built. Sporting and community groups hold independent events to raise money for the pool.</p>
1995	<p>Waroona Cricket Club opened new pavilion.</p> <p>Referendum held to seek community's views on swimming pool. Majority in favour. The fund raising committee submitted an application to the Sports and Recreation for funding, which was successful and shire access to match their grant.</p> <p>The oldest building in the Shire, 'Hilla Waters' homestead (Lot 2, Murray Location 892) was demolished following Council consideration of a consulting engineers report advertising that the building was in an advanced state of deterioration and structurally unsound. It was believed to have been constructed in 1986 by the whittakers.</p>
1996	<p>Waroona Shire Council Office extended.</p> <p>TPS No. 7 covering the entire municipal district was gazetted on 17th December. All previous schemes were revoked but the majority of their provisions were carried.</p> <p>Waroona vehicle number plates personalised with "Sea to Scarp" and Shire Logo.</p> <p>Main Roads advertised for comments on the bypass for South Western Highway.</p> <p>Population at 30th June for Census was 3,194 persons, an increase of 6.1% over the 1991 census.</p> <p>RT Golding, Shire Clerk, retired after 25 years of employment by the Shire.</p> <p>Celebrity Cricket Match commenced</p>
1997	<p>Department of Conservation and Land Management and Alcoa cooperated in efforts to reintroduced male noisy scrub birds from Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve to local darling range areas. In 1998 females were released in areas where makes remained. Shire Council purchased former 'Irrigation Offices' from Water Corporation. Shire Council Newsletter "Sea to Scarp" commenced in July.</p>

	<p>Alcoa commenced \$257.5m Wagerup expansion program which has a completion date of mid 1999 and will bring production capacity to 2.19million tonnes per year. Alcoa's operation contributes to the local economy through wealth creation, employment, the development and sharing of expertise. More than 700 families ear their income directly from Willowdale Mile and Wagerup Refinery. Many of these families live locally. In addition, a host of local organisations benefit from the Company's extensive Community Assistance Program.</p> <p>Waroona's First Celebrity Cricket Match held. Earthworks commenced for the new swimming pool.</p>
1998	<p>Drakesbrook Centennial Park established to commemorate 100 years of local government and education in the district.</p> <p>Irrigation assets of the Water Corporation transferred to South West irrigation Asset Cooperative Ltd. Youth Advisory Council commenced (13-25 year olds). Heated indoor pool complex opened 14th February at the Recreation Centre on Hill Street and facilities renamed Waroona Recreation and Aquatic Centre.</p> <p>Wave your Flags Project undertaken</p> <p>Closure of Waroona Abattoirs</p>
1999/2000	Heritage Bush Pole Project undertaken
2000	<p>Drakesbrook Despatch (formerly Waroona Community Newsletter) started</p> <p>Take Your Seat – Concrete Sofa</p> <p>Commencement of Meritorious Community Service Awards</p> <p>Skate Park opened</p> <p>Olympic Torch Relay</p>
2001	<p>Waroona Bypass Proposed</p> <p>Alcoa Buffer zone announced.</p> <p>Waroona Community Marketing appoints Coordinator</p> <p>Blessing of the Roads commenced</p> <p>Trotter Road Reserve is vested in Shire</p> <p>Dancing Daffodils Ball commenced</p> <p>Centennial Park Rotunda completed.</p> <p>Waroona Dam drained for works and upgrading.</p>
2002	Waroona Train Station Upgraded
2002/03	Waroona Visitor Centre Located to new premises.
2003	<p>50 years of Netball Celebration.</p> <p>Development of Hamel Eco-Historic Precinct.</p>
2003/04	Lake Clifton Community Centre completed
2004	New Waroona Community Health & Resource Centre opened.

	<p>Basketball Court Extensions.</p> <p>Wildcats play Adelaide 36ers in Waroona.</p>
2005	<p>Hamel Hall Upgrade commenced.</p> <p>Commencement of Movie under the Stars.</p> <p>Old Waroona School building burnt down.</p>
2005/06	<p>Community Art Project commenced</p>
2006	<p>Preston Beach Footprints Resort commenced</p> <p>Preston Beach Townsite Strategy commenced</p> <p>Battle of the bands</p> <p>Opening of Drakesbrook Place.</p>
2007	<p>Geok Ong made Freeman of Shire.</p> <p>North Drakesbrook School Reunion.</p> <p>John Twaddle, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer was awarded the FESA Bob Mitchell Award.</p> <p>Commencement of Australia Car Day & British Auto Classic (Events Assist).</p>
2008	<p>Installation of CCTV Security cameras in town.</p> <p>Waroona Town Centre upgrade is under way.</p> <p>Old Waroona School Footprint Memorial opened on 18th May 2008.</p> <p>Commencement of the first year of the Sea to Art Exhibition.</p> <p>Commencement of Waroona's Got Talent</p> <p>Coronation Road realignment commenced in April 2008.</p> <p>Shire Merger talks commenced.</p> <p>Cr Christine Germain was awarded a "Long and Loyal Service Award by the Western Australian Local Government Association.</p> <p>Preston Beach Golf Club get synthetic greens.</p>
2009	<p>Bandicoot Brook Reserve project commenced.</p> <p>Forrest Highway opened.</p> <p>Hamel Wetland Projects commences.</p>
2009/10	<p>Waroona Demons win Premiership</p>
2010	<p>Coronation Road was widened at the Waroona townsite section.</p> <p>Landcare celebrated 21 years.</p> <p>Waroona Football Club 80th Years Celebration</p> <p>Commencement of Administration Office Extensions.</p>

	<p>2 Business Sundowners held.</p> <p>Hamel Wetland Trail opened.</p> <p>Drakesbrook Weir upgrade commenced</p> <p>Quad Bikes banned at Preston Beach.</p> <p>Dancing Daffodils Ball held the 10th and final ball on the 21st August 2010.</p> <p>Don Alexander memoirs was published, the official book launch was held at the Waroona Visitor on the 18th October 2010.</p> <p>Local Man Daniel Pisconeri ran from Margret River to Perth from December 6-11 to raise money for the Starlight Children Foundation.</p>
2011	<p>On Monday 10th January the Lake Clifton Bushfire forced people to flee their homes. The fire destroyed 10 homes.</p> <p>Information Technology agreement was signed by the Shire of Murray and Waroona for a period of 4 years.</p> <p>Waroona resident Deanna Nicholson was judged Apprentice of the Year at the Taylor Weir School of Hairdressing awards. Deanna works at the local hairdressers Savvy Hairdressing.</p> <p>Waroona Skate Park was upgraded.</p>