

St Andrews, Subiaco, WA



Our 2025 Calendar opens with a vivid, colourful contemporary photograph of the interior to St Andrew's, Subiaco. Featured above is a black and white photo of its exterior in 1929.

Today St Andrew's impresses as a caring, inclusive church, which is an intrinsic part of the fabric of Subiaco. Its doors are open every day, offering a quiet place for prayer and meditation. It has a special focus on fine music.

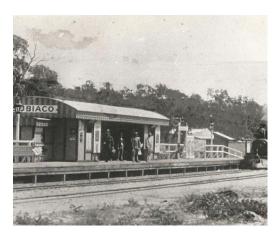




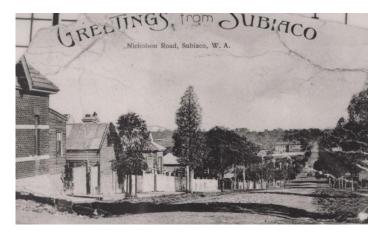
Subiaco lies in Perth's inner west, between the city, the Swan River and the coast, in the traditional homeland of the indigenous Noongar people. The first outside settlers, in 1851, were a group of Benedictine monks who named the area Subiaco after the birthplace of their order in Italy. Subiaco was declared a municipality in 1897 and a city in 1952. The olive trees planted by the Benedictines are still symbolised by the olive branch on the City of Subiaco's coat of arms.



This sculpture, on Salvado Road in Subiaco, was created in 2011 by local Australian artist Greg James. It marks the Benedictine monk, Dom Rosendo Salvado Rotea's contribution this district of Perth. In the 1850s a monastery named New Subiaco was built only a short distance from here. And the road has been named after this famous figure.



Subiaco's population burgeoned after the Perth-Fremantle railway line was built through the area in 1881. In 1998, due to the Subiaco Redevelopment Project the line was placed underground. It remained the only underground railway station on the Transperth Network until 2007



The municipality grew fast in the 1890s when Western Australia enjoyed a boom period due to the gold rush in Kalgoorlie. This view of Nicholson Road from c1910 shows brick and weatherboard houses, horses and a substantial double-story building on the rise in the distance, presumably the Shenton Park Hotel.





The initial, fast-tracked and perhaps arbitrary subdivision of land for housing and industry gave rise, by the 1970s, to a municipal quandary, how to conserve local heritage while bringing the area up to date with modern planning and amenities. The outcome achieved by the redevelopment authority has been hailed as a most successful urban regeneration project. Above is a photo from the1950s of a tram going past the Subiaco Hotel. Trams were introduced in 1900 and apart from the free 'hop on - hop off' tram, ceased in 1958.

Photographed below are parishioners from St Andrews, Subiaco, participating in the parade celebrating Subiaco becoming a city in 1952. Their history parallels the city's own.





A previous Anglican church was opened in 1897, but the growing congregation soon demanded a larger, more central gathering place. The foundation stone for the new church was laid in 1906 by the WA Governor, Admiral Sir F.C.D. Bedford. St Andrew's was designed by Perth architect Austin Barstow, a prominent local citizen who was twice Subiaco's mayor.



St Andrew's has a strong musical tradition. They have an acclaimed pipe organ, built by Orges Letourneau of Quebec, Canada, which was installed in 2006, replacing the earlier Hufner instrument. The church supports organ scholars, has two choirs and hosts many musical events. Over Christmas they opened their doors for a community Ceremony of Carols followed by a concert by internationally acclaimed Perth based soprano, Sara Macliver.

St Andrew's proclaims itself welcoming to all, and believes it is 'called by the power of the Spirit to build communities of hope, healing and transformation.' The church is in classic Federation Gothic style, built in brick with contrasting stucco detailing, pointed arched windows and a steeply pitched roof. The envisaged tower was eventually not built, but despite some later changes and additions the church retains its Gothic grandeur as a striking showplace, deemed by the WA Heritage Council to be of cultural heritage significance. Its community ties are highlighted by the many plaques, windows and furnishings commemorating local families.

