



State Library of Western Australia

Who was James Ewart?

In 1917, Mr James Ewart gifted the City of Perth the land at 15 Haynes Street in North Perth.

The City of Perth used the land as a park, and in 1941, registered a caveat on the title to make sure it was always used as a park. When the land was given to the City of Vincent in 1995, it had already been built on and was no longer being used as a park.

When the City discovered this, we asked our Local History Centre to investigate the history of Mr Ewart. Here is what they found.

Born in Durham (UK) in 1866, James Ewart migrated to Australia in the 1890s and was a master mariner who captained ships between Fremantle and Roebourne.

He married in 1898 and had his first child in Cottesloe in 1900. Soon after, Captain Ewart and his family moved to Victoria where they had their second child in 1904.

He spent most of the WWI period at sea and ran ships to Singapore after the war. In the 1920s, Captain Ewart and his family moved to NSW before he passed away in 1927.

James Ewart is listed on the original Certificate of Title for Lot 9, 660 Brisbane Street, which became 15 Haynes Street. Records show that the land was transferred to the City of Perth in March 1927 - two months before his death.

Was gifting this land as a public park one of Captain Ewart's final wishes?

We don't know for sure - but we do want to respect Captain Ewart's intentions and use the land as a local park again.

The City would love to find out more about the Ewart family – if you know anything or have a connection, please get in touch via mail@vincent, 9273 6000 or message us on Facebook.

Pictured below is the original Certificate of Title and a photo of the Beagle Steamship, one of the boats captained by James Ewart (pictured in 1898 at Balla Balla landing near Karratha).