



CITY OF VINCENT  
LIBRARY &  
LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE

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# Local History News



In this issue:

**Our Anzacs**

**Arts in Vincent Videos**

From the Friends of Local History

**Leederville Hotel part 2 - Louis Cunningham**

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**Many thanks to everyone for the positive feedback about the new-look newsletter.**

It is always encouraging to receive emails about the articles you have enjoyed reading. Please get in touch with us if you have uncovered any interesting stories you would like to share.

The Mount Hawthorn Primary School Archives exhibition is on show again at The Mezz. On display are photographs from the Margaret and Mount Hawthorn kindergartens and the Mount Hawthorn Primary School from the 1920s onwards.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Ian Atkins who passed away in February leaving us his legacy of wonderful bus and tram photos from 1959/1960. The cover photograph taken outside the Ritz Theatre in Mount Hawthorn is a unique treasure.

**Julie Davidson,**  
Senior Librarian, Local History



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## LOCAL HISTORY OUR ANZACS

**RECRUITING**  
**THE NEW CAMPAIGN.**  
**OFFICIAL NOTES.**  
The newly-appointed recruiting officer for Perth is Mr. George Graves, a returned soldier. His military career is a long and honorable one. For 16 years he was with the Lincolnshire Regiment. He served in South Africa from October, 1899, to the end of the war, 1902. On the 11th July, 1900, he was mentioned in despatches from Uitvalsnek. He holds two South African medals. For five years he was on the Indian Volunteer Staff, and was awarded the Delhi Durbar Decoration. He is regimental No. 1 in the 11th Battalion A.I.F., of which he was Regimental Sergeant-Major (W.O.). He served with the gallant 11th from 17th August, 1914, to 6th December, 1916; receiving his commission as Lieutenant on August 8, 1916. He was through Gallipoli and has been invalided home.

Daily News, 8 February 1917

Did you know that the soldier with Regimental Service Number 1 in the 11th Battalion AIF was from Mount Hawthorn?

Anne Chapple from the Friends of ANZAC Cottage has brought this WWI soldier to our attention.

According to his enlistment papers George Graves lived with his wife, Gwendoline in "Filey House" Mt Hawthorn (near Leederville).

He enlisted on 18 August 1914 and was given Regimental Service Number 1 of the 11th Battalion AIF, 3rd Brigade and was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major. He was 32 years old at the time, slim and six feet tall, which would have made him an imposing figure in that era.

Graves took part in the landing at Gallipoli. On 14 August 1915 his wife sent a telegram to the Defence Department asking for further information about her husband as she had received a letter stating he was seriously ill as a result of shell explosion. It seems he was admitted to hospital on the Gallipoli Peninsula with rheumatism in June 1915, subsequently sent to Helipolus Hospital and then was invalided back to Australia on the

Themistocles on 15 August 1915. On arrival in Australia he was admitted to hospital with chronic rheumatism, where he remained for over four months until he was discharged on 25 January 1916

On 8 August 1916 Graves received a commission as 2nd Lieutenant with the Flying Corps, but after four months was discharged from the AIF. He continued his military career serving as a recruiting officer from February 1917 but this was to be short lived when he was found guilty of stealing a motor car in May 1917.

## COMMEMORATING VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENT THOMAS LESLIE AXFORD



Thomas Leslie (Jack) Axford, was one of only 17 West Australians to receive a Victoria Cross. He had been awarded a military medal for bravery in the field in May 1918, followed by the Victoria Cross for 'most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations' in the Battle of Hammel in France in June 1918. His heroic actions involved leaving his own platoon and rushing forward to throw hand grenades against the German machine gun crews who were firing on the platoon stuck behind uncut barbed wire. He then jumped into the trench bayoneting ten men and taking six prisoners, single-handedly. This assisted the advance of the Australians and Americans and in 93 minutes the battle was won. He was 24 years old.

Axford grew up in Kalgoorlie, and following his marriage to Lily Foster lived in Perth. They moved into a war service home at 12 Harrow Street, Mount Hawthorn in 1929, where he remained until his death in 1983, aged 89. His status as a VC recipient meant that he was part of an exclusive group, invited to many events, met royalty and was honoured with memberships. His strength of character showed through his approach to life. He was recognised by the City of Perth during his lifetime, with the naming of Axford Park in 1982.

The first Anzac Day service held at Axford Park was in 2000 when a plaque commemorating Thomas Leslie Axford was unveiled. The Anzac Day service this year will mark 100 years since his act of bravery and the end of World War One.

Ref: Everett, Valerie, *Thomas Leslie Axford VC MM: a life remembered*, 2010. LHC B/AXF

# ARTS IN VINCENT

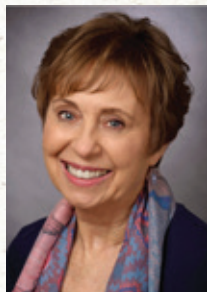
## VIDEO PROJECT

Get to know some of our locals who are prominent in the arts.

In February we were excited to launch six 5 minute YouTube clips on our website. These clips were created from one hour video interviews with local residents who are high achievers in various forms of the arts. Over the next few issues we will share extracts from some of their stories. You are welcome to come into the Local History Centre and read the full transcripts at your leisure.

### JENNY DAVIS OAM

Jenny Davis emigrated from England in 1976 with her husband and two children and is an actress and director, living in Mount Hawthorn. Jenny was, for many years, director of the West Australian Youth Theatre. She was also a writer for ABC Radio for schools for ten years. The founder of Agelink Theatre, since 1993 she has dedicated her life to celebrating the lives of local seniors by using their stories to entertain the community through theatre. She has written and directed many plays for Agelink, including 'Dear Heart', which was also published as a novel in 1998 by Allen & Unwin. Most recently she created the successful programme 'Recapture the Moment', an ongoing project which uses reminiscence arts, theatre and music to engage and stimulate people with dementia. In 2001 she received a Centenary Medal for services to West Australian theatre. In 2016, as well as being awarded an Order of Australia Medal, Jenny received the award for Arts and Culture at the 2016 WA Seniors Awards and was named Juniper Champion for Seniors. In 2017 she was inducted into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame.



Read some extracts from Jenny's interview:

#### Arriving in Perth

'We discovered that there was a very vibrant theatre scene in Perth. And I think the thing about being so isolated means that it's also very galvanising; people

have to make their own work, so there was a lot going on. We started working first in ABC Radio - because there was a lot of radio drama. There were schools programs that we used to do - TV and radio. I used to write a schools radio program weekly, for about 10 years, which was great because my children were primary school age that I was writing for. You can't imagine that children used to sit in school and listen to radio programs, but they did.'

#### WA Youth Theatre

'I remember when Tim Minchin was young - I first met him when I was directing Youth Theatre. I said to Stuart, my son-in-law, "I need a composer. Someone who can write some music and can act as well, but write some music for the Shakespeare we were doing, *Love's Labour's Lost*". It was a big youth theatre production with lots and lots of kids in it and I wanted the big chorus and I wanted it a bit rocky and a bit, you know, get them excited. And Stuart said "I know the fellow". So I met Tim, who was just as charismatic at 18 as he is now. He actually worked with me a lot after that, both in the WA Youth Theatre and I gave him his first professional jobs because by then I'd started Agelink Theatre which is 24 years old this year. I did so many beautiful shows, big classic numbers in Youth Theatre and that was my dream, because although I was already directing in the professional theatre, we got to the stage where you can't very often afford to do big shows with big casts.'

#### Touring

'When you are performing, you often go on tour, I've done some amazing tours; to Brazil, all round New Zealand, London and all round WA and Australia.

I've had some funny times touring, like when we played in Three Springs. It was a really stinking hot night, over 40 degrees in this community hall. It was so hot that the audience and the actors we were all in the public pool till the last minute, then we got out and try and rush into the theatre - audience as well - on stage and we had all the doors open because it was so hot. A cat came in and sat on the stage, on the sofa with me. There were huge moths flying around - but somehow it all adds to the magic because the audience are in with you, you know, they are experiencing it too and so it's just live theatre!'

#### Effie Crump

'I remember one summer we were performing at the Effie Crump Theatre, which was a theatre above the pub at the Brisbane Hotel. It was tiny and it's a bit like playing in a tennis match - because it was a very long narrow stage and the audience were on three sides, and you came from the hotel corridor onto stage. There were people living in the hotel and sometimes they'd go in the wrong door and suddenly appear on stage when they were trying to find their bedroom. Quite an experience.'



### Agelink

'My very favourite project for Agelink of all time has to be Dear Heart, because it's a family project. When my Uncle Sid, my father's brother, died and his wife Win had died before that. They had no children, so my sisters and I and my father inherited the effects. There was a suitcase of letters that she'd sent to her first husband, Mickey, who was a POW in Java. They had all been returned after the war unopened, because he never received them and with them was a telegram to say that he had died, which she actually received after she got all the letters back. She just put them away and never looked at them again. So we opened them and we realised they were a fantastic resource. She also left her diaries, so they are the story of a woman's life in World War II, living and working in London and waiting for news of her husband overseas. They hadn't been married long. Now the good thing about the story is that my uncle was also in the air force and was captured and in the same camp. They met and became very close friends. He and Mickey, Win's first husband, promised each other that if either survived after the war they would go and find the other's family, so he went to find Win and eventually married her.

We did several seasons in Perth and toured WA and all around the eastern states. We've been three times to the UK. One of those times was the Edinburgh Festival, another time in London. So it's been the most beautiful project and it's what I call a three hanky play. In fact, when we were at the Edinburgh Festival, we were sponsored by Kleenex, all the audience got little packets of Kleenex tissues. Because it is very sad but it's also uplifting.'

## BRIONY STEWART

Briony Stewart is an author and illustrator who grew up in North Perth. Her first book, *Kumiko and the Dragon* was published by UQP soon after she graduated from Curtin University with a degree in Fine Arts and Creative Writing. In 2007 she won the Aurealis Award for Children's Short Fiction and since then, she has had three additional children's books published, two of which completed the *Kumiko* trilogy. She was the recipient of an arts grant from the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust in Melbourne, as well as hosting three successful exhibitions of her illustrated work. Perth is still her home and it is here that Briony continues to paint and write, as well as being a regular presenter at libraries and festivals.



### Read some extracts from Briony's interview:

#### Early Storytelling

North Perth Primary was a small school and a close community where Briony always felt safe and her creativity was allowed to flourish.

'There's a playground at the school, that's actually now got a plaque and it's called 'The Secret Playground'. It was named by my best friend and I (more her than me I will admit). It's at the back of the school, really out of sight of the teachers. It was called the Secret Playground by our class... younger siblings ... then all the kids in the school ... then teachers referred to it as that and it just sort of stuck.

I was always drawing and writing and I loved books, I love stories and they had a really fantastic library at the school.

Storytelling was definitely always there. My best friend Gemma (who is still my friend) and I were really into making up stories about the school and about us of course. We also had this game from year one to year three that we played, called Fairy Land, in the Secret Playground of course. Our whole class played it and some of the other year groups got involved as well. There was this whole hierarchy, people had jobs, there were soldiers, princesses and ...one girl always wanted to be the castle horse for some reason. Yes, so it was a really imaginative play time, an imaginative school and lots of kids were just really into stories.

My whole childhood in North Perth and at that school really, really stuck with me for a long time and it's something I've since talked about with lots of other children's authors and illustrators. Something we all have in common is this really kind of vivid, almost sensual sometimes, memory of our childhoods and really small aspects, you know, certain games or certain days or things like that, that we can recall. I always thought for a long time that everybody had that, but I was lecturing at Curtin recently and I asked the students to write about a fight you had with a brother or a sister or things like that, and I was so surprised at how many of them had forgotten what it was like to be a child. But yeah, I really probably remember that time of my life better than any other.

Certainly all of the stories that I've written have all been in some way nostalgic and remembering certain aspects of my life. Even if it's just ideas that I had as a kid, to get to actually flesh them out and make them become more and to actually re-ponder them as an adult and kind of add a complexity to them, yeah I really love that.'



### The Teen Years - Influences and Mentors

Throughout high school and university, there were a number of significant mentors of Briony's artistic development.

'I started keeping journals from year 9 or 10. Our English teacher said "Keep a journal" in hopes that people would, but nobody did. But I did because I thought "I'm going to show him that I can write". I was very determined it wasn't a diary, so it was really mixed collection of poems or just observations on the train, or sometimes stories. Just anything really.

I remember Mr Williams...when I first handed in my journal and I was the only person who did ... he ran across the car park to me and he said "I really

like your writing and I think you should be a writer". And it was just a really big thing for me because I just thought "Wow", you know. I never really thought of actually being a writer before and then I think after that it sort of was a bit of a secret desire that I had.'

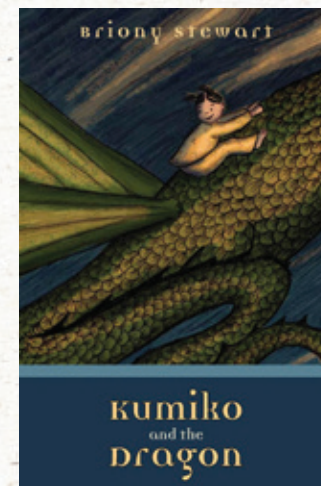
While still at high school Briony submitted some sonnets to a teen writing competition in The West Australian. Professor Brian Dibble from Curtin University was so impressed by her work that he wrote to her and strongly suggested that she should come to Curtin University to study creative writing. This letter was all the encouragement she needed to follow her passion for storytelling to a new level.

'The reason I decided to do art and writing at university was because I wanted first of all to see how I compared to other people who had chosen to do that as their degree as well... I also decided that I needed the time and space to actually figure out what kind of writer or artist I could be.'

### Writing and publishing her first book

One of the final and favourite degree units Briony took was Writing for Children. At this point in her life she still felt like a kid and was not interested in "growing up".

I had been to China with my boyfriend (now husband) and it was exciting. I really got into all the dragons and things that they had in the temples there. My dad was half Japanese, my grandmother was Japanese, but she died when I was six so I never really got to know her. It kind of just opened up this little thing, this little interest that I had in knowing more about Japan. So this story just started happening that was set in Japan, with a character called Kumiko, who is named after my grandmother. It had dragons in it mostly, because dragons could be a bit menacing and giant and scary and they had sharp claws and sharp teeth to entertain my brother [who was aged nine]. I thought if he liked it then it might be alright. So I guess the story just sort of started to come together with those things in mind.'



After university and with plans to travel, Briony took a job in an ice-cream shop in Fremantle but needing extra money for the journey, she thought that she would try her luck at a writing competition on the Writing WA website, which called for children's stories. She submitted her manuscript for Kumiko and it won.

'It was for a festival in Queensland and it won, which was really exciting! I thought it would be really cool to go over and actually receive the award in person and find out more about what this festival is. I didn't really know much about it or have many expectations, but I took myself over there and it was

amazing. I got there and Marcus Zusak was talking, and all these amazing writers and illustrators that I had read as a kid growing up. They are all talking to kids and it was this really fun vibe and I just realised "This is what I want to do, I do want to write for children. I want to illustrate kids' books and this is really my scene as a writer because you don't have to be grown up, you can just continue to be a big kid and you don't have to pretend, this is what I want to do".

Amazingly, and I guess quite fortunately, while I was there one of the judges came up to me and said "Look I really like this story and I'm actually a children's publisher and I'd really love to publish this". And so it was that surreal kind of thing – a coming together of all these things that you wanted, before you're even sure you're ready for it. But it was really great and I will always be grateful to Leonie Tyle, who is the children's publisher of UQP, who I still work with today, for taking me on.'

### In the pipeline...

*The book that I'm working on at the moment is probably my most ambitious as a writer, because it's a junior fiction novel, sort of Harry Potter length... I started doing these little drawings and thinking about this character and the more I drew, the more I thought about it and the bigger the story became until I realised "This is a novel and none of these pictures are going to make it into this book".*

# LIFE, CRIME AND TRAMS IN FITZGERALD STREET, NORTH PERTH

Inner city life in Perth in the late 1880s was seen to be fraught with threats to health and propriety and escaping these dangers was part of the lure of new residential areas like North Perth.

In 1885 a colourful contribution to *The West Australian* described wayward youth marauding along Fitzgerald Street of an evening, using foul language and kicking balls. This would hardly be seen as an issue by today's standards. However the description of young children seen purchasing takeaway jugs of beer for their parents, and sipping from them on their return

home, would have raised concern then and now. The author bemoans the fact that law enforcement officers are nowhere to be found and that the children go unchecked.

Within 20 years Fitzgerald Street had stretched its way north, opening up to newly created subdivisions with glamorous names like Toorak and Woodville Estate. People were enticed to move to "high and healthy" ground with promises of easy access to the city via a proposed electric tramway and a state school. This photo of Fitzgerald Street in 1905 shows a dry and sandy streetscape, so you can imagine how the installation of the tramway changed lives.

Fitzgerald Street near Raglan Road, 1905 (PH01722)



The peaceful and healthy new suburb of North Perth did not stay this way for long. With the development of the tram route came the growth of population and activity. Not everyone was pleased with this early 20th century disruption called the tram. In 1916 a young man by the name of Patrick Hynes displayed an early version of road rage during an altercation with a tram and found himself before a court on charges of assault. He took umbrage at being asked to move his horse and cart out of the way by a tram driver on Fitzgerald Street, and allegedly charged at him on his horse after uncoupling it from its cart.

On the same day that Hynes was found guilty and fined by the judge, a number of women were charged with Hatpin Nuisance for failing to wear hatpin protectors. These were required by law in many countries, as hatpins were thought to have the potential to do great harm. Imagine being impaled by a hat pin on a busy, overcrowded tram.

[\(The West Australian, 27 April 1916 p.4\)](#)

[ehive.com/collections/4907/objects/507786/hatpin-point-protectors-pearltipped-metal](http://ehive.com/collections/4907/objects/507786/hatpin-point-protectors-pearltipped-metal)



Add motorcars to the mix of horses, carts, electric trams and pedestrians on Fitzgerald Street and there were bound to be problems. In 1913 *The West Australian* reported that George Charles Saunders ran over tram conductor Ernest Church near the corner of Fitzgerald and View streets, when he had alighted to ring the clock.

Church was carried some distance clinging to the windscreen before the driver stopped and put him into the car and drove him to the hospital, where he remained a month later at the time of the trial. A dedicated ambulance service was yet to be implemented.

[\(The West Australian, 23 May 1913 p.4\)](#)

A year before this incident, a letter to *The West Australian* begged for the implementation of a proper ambulance service in North Perth, after three accidents on Fitzgerald Street in one week. The letter mentions that although the local firemen and one policeman were trained ambulance men, their "lack of specialist equipment rendered their skills of little use until the patient arrives at Perth Hospital. Just fancy that in a rapidly rising suburb like North Perth not a splint or yard of bandage is procurable."

[\(The West Australian, 21 August 1912 p.8\)](#)

By 1919, with the Great War over, tram drivers decided to strike for better wages and conditions. The strike went on much longer than anticipated as their employer, the state government, was reluctant to meet the simple demands of the Perth trammies who wanted their wages to match those of the Fremantle trammies. The Fitzgerald / Angove Street intersection made the headlines as the place of a mass public meeting to raise awareness of the trammies' wage issue.

The people of North Perth were not as sympathetic as expected, with it being reported that it was a lively meeting with two dog fights, hecklers and fisticuffs. These people had endured the hot Christmas holiday period without public transport and were not happy. Eventually the strike broke on the 6th February when the state government agreed to the modest pay rise.

[\(The West Australian, 14 January 1919 p.7\)](#)

North Perth soon became a colourful community with issues common to any busy hub. Fitzgerald and Angove Street represented the intersection of business, education and recreation. Perhaps a victim of its own success, by 1921 North Perth boasted a primary school of 821 students and 18 staff, and was considered overcrowded. It was not long before those wanting a quiet healthy place to raise their families had to look to suburbs further afield.

**Researched and written by Madeleine Galbraith**



Tram at the junction of Angove and Fitzgerald streets, 1924 (PH02897)

Please contact the Local History team if you can contribute to the Fitzgerald/Angove Street history project. We look forward to hearing from you!

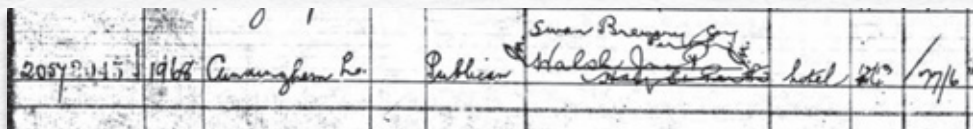




FROM THE FRIENDS OF LOCAL HISTORY  
**THE LEEDERVILLE HOTEL CONTINUED**

**LOUIS CUNNINGHAM:**  
 Publican 1910 to 1926 and  
 founder of the New Oxford Theatre

JP Walsh, who had rebuilt the hotel in 1904, applied for a license for the Osborne Park Hotel in May 1909, although he remained the owner of the Leederville Hotel until 1914 when it was sold to the Swan Brewery Company.



This Leederville rate book entry dated January 1915, p.31 shows the publican's name as Louis Cunningham and a change of ownership. The Swan Brewery, which was established in 1837, had become Western Australia's leading brewery, and to protect their market from Victoria's Carlton and United Brewery, they bought and built hotels in Western Australia.

LOUIS CUNNINGHAM took over as the licensee with his wife Maud in 1 April 1910. Louis had arrived in the colony around 1898 and married Maud Landy (nee Flanagan) in June 1901.

Louis was operating a fruiterer and confectioner shop at 322 Hay Street, Perth when he applied for an Eating House Licence in 1904. He also applied for a

Colonial Wine Licence for his premises, which was to be known as *The Perth Tea and Light Luncheon Rooms*. In 1909 he applied for an Australian Wine Licence to allow him to also sell Western Australian wines, stating that he had owned a Colonial Wine Licence for four years at the same location. The street number had changed to 544 Hay Street and the café was renamed the *Perth Café*.

His application for a Publican's General License for the Leederville Hotel appeared in the Sunday Times, 22 May 1910, p.6. At this point the street address was still Leeder Street. A few years later an advertisement in the newspaper described the location as the corner of Newcastle and Oxford streets, Leederville, although the official address became 234 Carr Street with the renaming of Leeder Street. In 1910 the hotel had 11 bedrooms and four sitting rooms exclusive of those required by Cunningham and his family.

During his time in the café in Hay Street and at the Leederville Hotel, Cunningham was prosecuted at least once a year regarding selling liquor on a Sunday, even if it was only one bottle of wine. He received a more serious charge in 1911 when he was charged with selling adulterated brandy. He was found to have brandy on the premises which was *'adulterated with water to an extent that reduced it to more than 25 degrees under proof, to wit, to 29 degrees under proof'*. Louis had other unopened bottles of *'Reynells pure grape brandy'* in the storeroom, which were also under proof and claimed that he had been sold them. He was fined the maximum penalty of £50,

*"leaving the defendant to take such steps as he thought fit against the company, and should the defendant be unsuccessful, he would not hesitate to recommend that £5 only (the minimum penalty) be inflicted. As he mightn't be on the bench when, the case might come up in, the future, he would make a note to this effect, and give a certificate that the defendant was not to blame."*

In December 1912 the license was only renewed for three months, 'pending the completion of certain improvements'.

Maud Cunningham used the hotel to host events to raise money for charities, as this advertisement to support the Foundling Home for orphans and abandoned children illustrates.

**Louis Cunningham's  
 Leederville Hotel**  
 CORNER NEWCASTLE AND OXFORD STREETS, LEEDERVILLE.  
 Good Accommodation for Country  
 Visitors.

WA Record, 20 December 1913

She held numerous functions/ fetes for a variety of charities, including St Vincent's Foundling home. An event on another occasion was a 'Sock and Shoe Gift Evening'. She assured the patrons that they would gain much pleasure giving donations and enjoy the social aspect.

The hotel was often used as a community facility, providing a useful meeting place for many groups, including the East Perth Football Club, West Perth Football Club and RSL.

## Miscellaneous Gift Evening

for the  
BABIES OF THE FOUNDLING  
HOME,

Will be Held at  
MRS. CUNNINGHAM'S LEEDER-  
VILLE HOTEL,  
on

**Wednesday June 23rd.,**  
at 7.45 p.m.

Although Cards have been issued, All  
Sympathisers are Cordially Invited.  
Mesdames Chamberlain and Cunning-  
ham, Organisers.

An advertisement for the Leederville Hotel in the [Daily News, 31 October 1914](#) promoted the convenience of the trams stopping at the door and that it only took a few minutes to get to the centre of Perth.

WA Record, 19 June 1920

Leederville was serviced by trams, with double lines carrying passengers from Perth as far as the Leederville Hotel and then a single line after the tram turned into Oxford Street. The tram heading south from the Oxford Hotel was given priority, with the northbound tram waiting outside the Leederville Hotel until the Perth bound train had rounded the corner onto the other line, thus clearing the way for it to continue into Oxford Street.

On 7 December 1912 there was a report in the *Truth* newspaper where this protocol had not been applied and passengers were heading up Oxford Street towards an oncoming tram. The tram from Perth was forced to go backwards until it was back in Newcastle Street.

Louis Cunningham was also responsible for the development of entertainment facilities within the early suburb Leederville.

In 1921 he purchased land further along Carr Street, at No. 228, and built the Billiard Saloon Hall, which opened in late 1922 or early 1923. He continued to be the publican at the Leederville Hotel, until his death in August 1926. At the time he was the President of the United Licensed Victuallers' Association of the Commonwealth of Australia (WA Branch).



Billiard Saloon with the Leederville Plumbing Service next door, taken 1948. (PH02495)

Louis Cunningham is also attributed with being a member of the group who commissioned the construction of the New Oxford Theatre, on the corner of Oxford and Vincent streets (now known as the Luna).

This page in the souvenir programme for the theatres' official opening on 2 March 1927 describes Louis as '*a MAN amongst men, and this edifice will perpetuate his spirit of generosity and goodwill, so evident in his lifetime to those around him, for countless years to come*'.

An article in [The West Australian on 3 March 1927](#) covering the official opening by the Minister for Works reported that the minister complimented the theatre, saying that there were few outside the capital cities of Australia which could equal it. He stated that the 'promoters of the enterprise deserved praise for placing such a fine theatre in Leederville. It would serve the purpose of a monument to the memory of the late Mr L.F. Cunningham, who had been one of the promoters, but had died before the building was completed.

A copy of Louis Cunningham's will, which was written in 1924, was found in the probate records of the State Records Office. He bequeathed his wife Maud 'the furniture in her bedroom and such other furniture in my hotel as she may select sufficient and appropriate to furnish a five-roomed house'. Sadly he died two years later in 1926 at the age of 48. His death certificate indicated that he died from complications during an appendicitis operation.

MAUD CUNNINGHAM continued on as publican until 1928 when J J PRENDERGAST was appointed. She purchased and moved into 324 Fitzgerald Street, North Perth.

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Researched and written by Michelle Vercoe and Julie Davidson.



CITY OF VINCENT

# LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS

2018

Do you have a story to tell? Are you interested in contributing to our Local History Collection with some research, a history of your house or your recent publication? Perhaps you have some photographs – prints, slides or digital - that show life in Vincent.

The 2018 Local History Awards includes two written sections; both offering a first prize of \$500 and a second prize of \$250.

## Get writing

### GEOFFREY BOLTON AWARD: LIFE IN VINCENT

This award was established to honour Geoffrey Bolton, an old North Perth boy who excelled in the field of history, locally, nationally and internationally.

It is an opportunity for you to write about life, school, work, your street, suburb or a particular occasion in the distant past or in more recent times. (These may be autobiographical reminiscences or based on conversations with a relative or other person.)

### OPEN AWARD

Entries can be on any topic that is relevant to the history of the suburbs in the City of Vincent. We are looking for original written research (which may be combined with memoir) that adds to the existing Local History Collection.

This provides an incentive for you to finish off topics you may have been researching over a period of time and enter them into the awards. It's also a great opportunity for you to write up the history of your house, bringing together all of the information you have gathered. Don't forget to include some photographs of the house as it stands today.

There is also time to start a new project, as the closing date is not until 30 July 2018. Speak to the Local History team if you are unsure about whether your topic would be eligible.

## Find your old photos...

### PHOTOGRAPHIC GEMS

This category invites you to submit photographs, either as individual photos/slides/digital images or as a group study. The photographs must be taken in Vincent prior to 2000 (unless you are making a 'then and now' group study). Photographs don't necessarily have to be really old – search out your gems from the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s!

**ALL WINNING PHOTOGRAPHS WILL RECEIVE \$100 PRIZE MONEY.**

Visit [library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre/local-history-awards/local-history-award-winners.aspx](http://library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre/local-history-awards/local-history-award-winners.aspx) to see previous winners.



# DO YOU HAVE CONVICT ANCESTORS?

Following are some resources you may find useful.



## TRACING LONDON CONVICTS IN BRITAIN & AUSTRALIA, 1780-1925

[www.digitalpanopticon.org/](http://www.digitalpanopticon.org/)

This website allows you to search millions of records relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey. You can search individual convict life archives and discover more about crimes and criminal justice in the past. Searchable databases include trial, post-trial and sentencing records plus transportation and

imprisonment records. There are also informative historical background notes. An article written by Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Deborah Oxley, entitled *Convicts and the Colonisation of Australia, 1788-1868* references that,

It should be observed that Australia's richest man – ever – was ex-convict [Samuel Terry](#), the 'Botany Bay Rothschild'. Tapping in to the urban consumer culture by importing goods and running pubs were both highly successful ways of accumulating wealth and Terry and his wife Rosetta Pracey successfully exploited both strategies. When Thomas Bigge came to town in 1820 he heard that Terry held 1,450 head of cattle, 3,800 sheep, 19,000 acres of NSW, and that he supplied more mortgages than the Bank of New South Wales (of which he was one of the largest shareholders). At his death in 1838 he was worth 3.39% of the colony's gross domestic product, the equivalent today of over \$24 billion (Rubenstein, 2004).

Rubenstein, William D., *The all-time Australian 200 rich list* (Allen & Unwin, 2004)

**WHAT'S  
NEW** *online*  
ancestry library edition

- Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1966
- Liverpool, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1970
- London, England, City Directories, 1736-1943

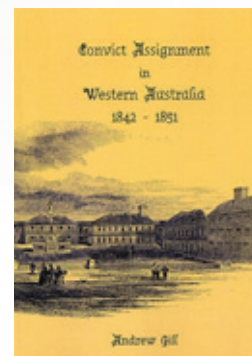
## Transportation at Fremantle Prison



**TRANSPORTATION AT FREMANTLE PRISON**  
[fremantleprison.com.au/whats-on/transportation/](http://fremantleprison.com.au/whats-on/transportation/)

You may be interested in visiting the exhibition *Transportation* at Fremantle Prison, which coincides with the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the last convict transportation ship to Australia.

Exhibiting convict material from the Mitchell Library (State Library of New South Wales), Western Australian Museum and the Prison's own collection, *Transportation* demonstrates the impact forced migration had on individual transportees and their families, and on the shaping of modern Australian society. The exhibition displays key historic artefacts such as the 1881 Ticket of Leave of convict William Bartlett on display to the public for the first time. **The exhibition continues until the end of 2018.**



## CONVICT ASSIGNMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1842-1851

by Andrew Gill

This useful book in the Local History Collection gives good background history including chapters on:

- The 'mechanics' of convict assignment in Western Australia, 1842-1951
- The masters
- From assignment to penal colony
- Unfinished business

Part two provides appendices with various tables of convicts and masters, plus a Register of Parkhurst 'apprentices' in Western Australia, 1842-1851. (Western Australia accepted 234 Parkhurst apprentices from the reformatory attached to Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight. They were all males aged between 10 and 21 years. As Western Australia was not then a penal colony they were referred to as apprentices rather than convicts.)

Lastly, don't forget that WAGS (WA Genealogical Society) have a Convict Group and they publish a regular newsletter 'Convict Links' which can be viewed in the Local History Centre.

- Buckinghamshire, England, Extracted Church of England Parish Records, 1535-1812
- Wiltshire, England, Wills and Probate, 1530-1858
- UK, Registers of Employees of the East India Company and the India Office, 1746-1939
- New Zealand, Police Gazettes, 1878-1945



## RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE: A WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 7 APRIL 2018

10AM - NOON

Local History Centre

Discover the resources available for researching your house and how to use them. We will also be accessing architectural plans from the City of Perth for attendees.

**FULLY BOOKED**

**Presenter:** Kris Bizzaca

*Bookings essential.*

Limited to 30 properties in Vincent

**Cost:** Free, Includes light refreshments



## COMMEMORATING WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018

10AM - 11.30AM

Library Lounge@vincent

2029 will be the bicentenary of the European colonisation of Western Australia, commemorating Captain Stirling's arrival and the establishment of the Swan River Colony on 1 June 1829. The spotlight will once again be turned on history, just as it was when we marked the sesquicentenary in 1979. How might our understanding of history have

changed by 2029? Attendees are encouraged to bring along any memorabilia from 1979.

**Presenter:** Jenny Gregory

*Bookings preferred*

**Cost:** Free, Includes light refreshments



## HOW DO I KEEP MY HERITAGE HOME STRUCTURALLY SUSTAINABLE?

SATURDAY 26 MAY 2018

9:15AM - 10:45AM

Local History Centre

Does your heritage or character house have cracks, sloping floors or walls, steel corrosion, a leaky roof, timber decay or damp? Do you plan to remove walls or otherwise improve your property?

Meet David Katz, an experienced structural and heritage engineer. David will provide conservation information on how to identify the issues, general

maintenance tips and when you should seek professional advice. The focus of the session will be on structural aspects of maintaining and improving your property.

Bring along some photographs and share with us your concerns and questions during the discussion session.

**Presenter:** David Katz

*Bookings essential.*

**Cost:** Free, Includes light refreshments



## 6 AUCKLAND STREET, NORTH PERTH

The oldest house in Auckland Street was built c 1907. The owner, Claude Best, described his occupation at the time as 'driver'.

## THISTLEDOWN SEED: THE INTERSECTION OF THREE PERSPECTIVES

FRIDAY 18 MAY 2018

10AM - 11.30AM

Local History Centre

Louise Helfgott has been shortlisted for the Dorothy Hewett Award for an unpublished manuscript. The winner will be announced at the Perth Writers Festival in 2018. Her novel *Thistledown Seed* is part memoir and part fiction, and follows three narratives in three time periods set in Poland, Perth and the Holocaust of 1942. The story also parallels sequences that were depicted in the Oscar-winning movie *Shine*, inspired by her brother David's story.

Louise will be speaking about writing her family history as a novel.

**Presenter:** Louise Helfgott

*Bookings preferred.*

**Cost:** Free, Includes light refreshments



## TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018

10AM - NOON

Local History Centre

Join Melinda Tognini as she shares how to make the most of social media and blogs to trace your family history. She will discuss how to get started, the most useful social media platforms, connecting with others with similar ancestry, utilising local knowledge and protecting your privacy. Whether you have been hesitant to engage with social media or are a regular user you are sure to discover new ways to research your family's story.

**Presenter:** Melinda Tognini

*Bookings preferred.*

**Cost:** Free, Includes light refreshments



## MUSE: A JOURNEY THROUGH AN ART COLLECTION WITH JANET HOLMES À COURT

WEDNESDAY 2 MAY 2018

10AM - 11.30AM

Library Lounge@Vincent

*Muse* offers an inside view of the development of a contemporary Australian art collection.

Join Janet Holmes à Court in a conversation about art - with an emotional soundtrack - about the 150 works she has selected from a collection of more than 5000 to include in her new book, *Muse*. This is an illuminating book about a passion for art and expression, and a deep affinity and curiosity about artists and how they create.

Dr Janet Holmes à Court AC is owner of the Janet Holmes à Court Collection. She is an indefatigable supporter of the arts in Australia.

**Presenter:** Janet Holmes à Court

*Bookings essential.*

**Cost:** Free, Includes light refreshments



## CELEBRATING A CENTENARY OF FISH AND CHIPS AT 125 OXFORD STREET, LEEDERVILLE!

The Panegyres family opened Leederville Fish Supply in 1918 and traded until the late 1980s. Sweet Lips, the current business, has been trading there since 1996.



CITY OF VINCENT

# LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS

2018

Your opportunity to document 20th century  
Vincent in words or pictures

Entries close 5pm Monday 30 July 2018



Follow the City of Vincent Library on Facebook

## Local History Centre

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