



CITY OF VINCENT
**LIBRARY &
LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE**

January – March 2020
Vol. 10 No.1

Local History News



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In 2020, we are very proud to mark 20 years of Vincent's Local History Collection. In the last two decades, the City has built a diverse

collection of photographs, oral histories, maps, memoirs, books, archives and artefacts that tell the stories of people and places in Vincent.

This impressive collection is a testament to the hard work of founding librarian, Julie Davidson and historian Maxine Laurie and their team of volunteers. The work is being continued by the dedicated team of Susanna Iuliano and Catherine Lang and is underpinned by the City's long-term commitment to preserving Vincent's history.

The need for local history collections is stronger than ever as we look for connection and meaning in our local communities.

Cover Image: Swimmers at Beatty Park Pool, 1963. COV LHC PH02153



Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/vincentlibrary

VISIT US

Opening hours: Monday to Friday
9.00am – 1.00pm
*2.00pm – 5.00pm
(*variable - ring to confirm)

CONTACT:

Susanna Iuliano, Senior Librarian,
Local History (Mon – Thu)
Ph: 9273 6534

Over the years, the Centre has shared Vincent's stories in three books (Our Town, Early Businesses, and Beatty Park) and in hundreds of displays, newsletters, workshops and visits to schools and senior citizens.

The goal for the future is to engage a new generation in collecting and sharing the stories of Vincent. This means working to make more of the collection accessible anywhere and anytime. It also involves more collaboration with schools, businesses and community groups to ensure we are collecting a broad and diverse picture of life in Vincent today for our future generations.

I invite you to join and support the Local History Centre in celebrating this milestone by attending a local history workshop or talk, browsing and sharing historic images, or talking to staff about how you can share your stories with our community as a treasured part of the collection.

Emma Cole
Mayor, City of Vincent

WEBSITE:

library.vincent.wa.gov.au/
[local-history-centre](https://local-history-centre.com/)

EMAIL:

local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au

Catherine Lang, Librarian,
Local History (Mon, Wed and Fri)
Ph: 9273 6550

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?



Children having fun at the Hyde Park Festival, 1980. PHO5881

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LOCAL HISTORY AWARD WINNERS 2019

Congratulations to the 2019 Local History Award winners. The awards presentation took place at the Vincent Library on 30 October 2019. Judges Julie Davidson, Leigh Barrett and Claude Iaconi awarded five prizes for written entries, and ten prizes for photographic entries. We really value the effort and generosity of all writers and photographers who contributed their stories and photos and thank all participants who participated in the awards.

Geoff Bolton Award for Life in Vincent (Writing)



First Prize: Gina Fraser, North Perth – *Always Home!*

Gina documented six generations of the Finley and Adonis families in North Perth. Well researched and written, Gina's story provides great insight into different migrant groups and businesses in North Perth.



Second Prize: Rita La Bianca – *Beachway Store*

Rita's funny and engaging history of her family's mixed business in Mount Hawthorn in the 1960s brought to life stories of an era when complex rules for the sale of alcohol contrasted with relatively lax attitudes to drinking and driving.



Third Prize: Gilbert Field – *Perth Blues Club*
Gil contributed a great potted history of the Charles Hotel as an important local music venue and home to the Perth Blues Club since the early 1990s.



Special mention: Colin Mounsey – *My Story*
Colin wrote a comprehensive family history and account of life growing up in Mount Hawthorn.



Special mention: Coby Ellen O'Keefe – *Ramon Fern*
Coby contributed an engaging biography and character study of her grandfather with rich detail of his childhood in the 'wilds' of Mount Hawthorn in the 1930s and 40s.

Photographic Prizes



Historic Photos First Prize:

Terence Mathews, Matlock Street Deli Mt Hawthorn, 1980.

Terence's photo also took out the 'People's Choice' award for favourite image as voted for by the public.



Historic Photos Second Prize:

Andrew Duckworth, North Perth Fire Brigade Hose Tower, 1919.



Historic Photos Third Prize: Judy Willson, Girls skipping rope at Highgate Primary School 1952.



Historic Photos special mention: North Perth Bowling Club – Ladies Bowling Club 1960.



Historic Photos special mention: Judith Zappavigna, Celebration at 27 York Street North Perth, 1950s.

Contemporary Photos



First prize: Travis Deane – Cyclist having coffee in Leederville, 2015



Second prize:

Panizza Allmark – Lincoln Street Ventilation Stack, Highgate



Third prize: Denise Teo – Mural by Marek Bona at rear of 452 Fitzgerald North Perth.



Peoples Choice Award: Terence Mathews for Matlock Street Deli in 1980.

All members of the public who voted went into a draw for a chance to win a copy of their favourite photo. Lucky winner Alana Martin received a framed copy of her favourite photo of Perth in the 1940s.



Youth prize: Eva Bull - Children performing at Kyilla Primary School Assembly, 1989

NAMING VINCENT'S LANES



There are over 500 laneways in the City of Vincent, many of which are unnamed. The increase in urban density with new developments and urban infill has meant that previously unnamed short lanes and rights-of-way now require names so that postal and essential services can locate residents. In 2019, the City of Vincent updated the policy relating to laneways and is now looking to residents for inspired and creative names. Proposed names must meet Landgate criteria for road naming which sets out that the name must be less than six letters and does not duplicate an existing road name. The proposed name also has to fit with one or more of the five City road naming criteria which prioritises:

1. Aboriginal names relevant to the area in which the naming proposal is located;
2. Vincent identities, including persons with historical connections to Vincent and a proven association with the area in which the naming proposal is located;
3. Prominent historic Vincent businesses, where the business has a historic association with the area and is proven to have existed over a substantial period of time and is held in strong regard by the community;
4. Flora and fauna local to the area in which the naming proposal is located; and/or
5. A culturally significant historic event, architectural style, artwork, waterway or other culturally iconic element connected with the area.

In 2019, five Vincent lanes were named. These were:

- **Donley Lane** – running parallel to Blake and Mabel Streets, connecting Norham with Little Walcott Street, North Perth. Named after a long established nearby business Donley's Grocery Store which operated from the corner of nearby Mabel and Norham Streets (formerly Bay View Terrace) from 1922 to 1949.
- **Yomtov Lane** – between Glendower & Bulwer Streets, connecting Irene to William Streets. Named after the late Vincent resident Sagitte Yomtov, an anthropologist, artist and musician whose work contributed to increased understanding of Hyde Park and who was also involved in various philanthropic endeavours. The lane is at the rear of a house that commissioned Sagitte to paint a mural on the front facing wall in 2002.
- **Martyr Lane** – running parallel between Cavendish St and Harley Street, Highgate. Named in honour of the Martyr family who lived for more than a 100 years at 17 Cavendish Street and were active members of the local school, sporting and parish communities.
- **Ritz Lane** – running between Faraday and Oxford Streets, connecting Scarborough Beach Road and Wilberforce Street. Named after the site of the former Ritz Picture Gardens (1925–1938) and later Ritz Theatre

(1939–1960), which operated from the corner of Oxford Street and Scarborough Beach Road.

- **Finial Lane** – between Loftus and Scott Streets connecting Tennyson St and Austen Lane. Named for a common decorative architectural feature on roof peaks of homes in the area.

The most recent naming proposal is for a lane running parallel to Lincoln Street between Cavendish and William Streets, Highgate. A community member has proposed the lane be named after the late writer George Blazevic (1952–2016), who lived at 7 Cavendish Street adjacent to the lane in the 1980s and 1990s during a period when he was most active in terms of his creative output as a playwright. In this same period, he was also actively involved in the establishment of Artrage, predecessor to Perth Fringe Festival. George's legacy as a writer, critic, patron and mentor to Perth's theatre scene is memorialized with the Fringe Award 'The Blaz' for best writing for performance by a WA writer.

If you would like to propose or comment on a laneway name in 2020, visit the Imagine Vincent webpage

W: 'Naming Places'
imagine.vincent.wa.gov.au/naming-places
 P: City of Vincent Lands Project Officer
 9273 6000.

VINCENT HERITAGE HERO JULIE DAVIDSON

In honour of the 20th anniversary of the Vincent Local History Collection, our Vincent Heritage Hero is former Senior Local History Librarian, Julie Davidson.



Julie began building the collection way back in 2000 and worked tirelessly until her retirement in 2018. Over two decades, Julie built a treasure trove of some 14,000 photos, books, memoirs, maps and objects that tell the stories of all aspects of life in the Vincent suburbs over the last century. She also found time to author three books on the history of Vincent: *Our Town* (2007); *Early Businesses of Vincent* (2010) and *Beatty Park* (2012). Julie's legacy is today used by planners, developers, teachers, students and residents for a range of purposes, from informing building applications to promoting a sense of place and community cohesion.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION?

LEEDERVILLE WORLD WAR ONE ROLL OF HONOUR

The most recent addition to the Local History Collection is a WWI Roll of Honour. The impressive jarrah board was rescued from the Leederville Congregational Church prior to its demolition in the 1950s. It was passed on to carpenter Robert Stout by his uncle, a former member of the parish. Robert originally intended to restore and repurpose the Roll of Honour, but then offered it to the WA Branch of the RSL who suggested it best belonged in a



local studies collection. The City has agreed to house the roll of honour in our purpose built archive and share in the research and promotion of this precious WWI artefact with our library colleagues at Town of Cambridge and our friends at Anzac Cottage. If you have any photos or information about the former Leederville Congregational Church which stood on Macewan Street in West Leederville from 1898 to the early 1950s, please contact us.

CAN YOU HELP?



MYSTERY MILKMAN UPDATE

In 2019 we featured the story of George Francis Thompson, the 'mystery milkman of North Perth' who died without a will in 1994 leaving an unclaimed fortune with the Department of Treasury worth almost one million dollars today. Since our article back in April, the story has been picked up by various news and radio outlets leading to a flurry of emails and phone calls about the possible identity of the mystery milkman.

www.abc.net.au/radio/perth/programs/breakfast/mystery-milkman/11571598

After the media exposure, we must have heard from every Thompson in the southern hemisphere!

We still haven't cracked the case, but several former Raglan Road neighbours and a former milkman

have provided some more information. Former neighbours remember George Thompson as a recluse who lived alone, rarely venturing beyond his Raglan Road home. A fellow milkman, who worked as a runner for Browne's Dairy as a boy in the 1950s and 1960s recalls speaking with George (who worked for Masters Dairy) while working at night from midnight to 5am. According to Terry Smith, Thompson was either Italian, Greek or Macedonian in origin and changed his name to Thompson so he could 'assimilate' and attract more customers. We have yet to verify this claim with other sources. In the meantime, if anyone has any further information about George Francis Thompson, the former milkman who lived at 147 Raglan Road North Perth from the 1950s until his death in 1994, please contact us.



CITY OF VINCENT
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Library Lovers

• SPEED DATING EVENT •

Where: Join us to celebrate Library Lovers' Week with our special Literary Speed 'Dating' event!
City of Vincent Library

When:
Tuesday 11 February 2020,
6.30pm – 7.30pm

Cost: Free

How to book:
9273 6090 or

libadmin@vincent.wa.gov.au

Meet other book lovers and spend time talking about books you love, hate or have recently read. How does it work? Staff will ring a bell every three minutes when it is time to move on and talk to someone else.

Please note: this is not romantic dating!

IN-HOUSE EVENTS

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



LIBRARY LOVERS WEEK EVENT: LITERARY SPEED DATING

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2020 FROM
6.30 – 7.30PM
Library Lounge

Join us to celebrate Library Lovers' Week with our special Literary Speed 'Dating' event!

Bookworms will be paired up every three minutes and will get one minute to talk about their book, one minute to listen about their partner's book and one minute to discuss, debate, laugh or swoon over their favourite book.

This event aims to promote friendship over a shared love of books and celebrate libraries as part of Library Lovers Week.

WORKSHOP: WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN YOUR HOUSE?

SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY;
10:00 – 11.30 AM.

City of Vincent Library &
Local History Centre

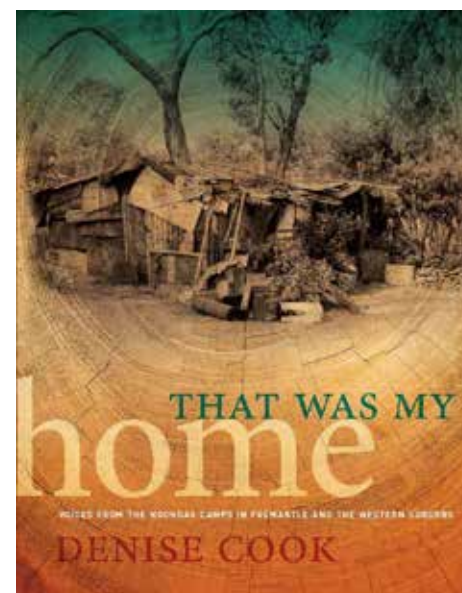
Every house has a tale to tell. If your walls could speak, what would they tell you about when and how the house was built or about the people who have called it home? This workshop will help you unlock the stories and secrets of your house, street and neighbourhood.

Presenter:

Dr Susanna Iuliano

Cost: Free

Bookings: Eventbrite or 9273 6090.



TALK: THAT WAS MY HOME: VOICES FROM THE NOONGAR CAMPS IN FREMANTLE AND THE WESTERN SUBURBS

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH;
10:00 – 11.30 AM

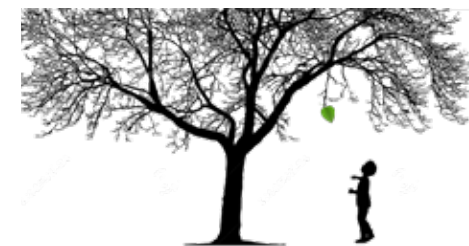
Hear the hidden histories of Perth's suburban Noongar camps in the 1930s to 1950s.

Presenter:

Lynette Coomer
& Denise Cook

Cost: Free

Bookings: Eventbrite or 9273 6090



FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP: FINDING FAMILY

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2020:
10:00 – 12:00 PM

A workshop for family history beginners presented by family historian Wendy Brown. Participants will be guided on navigating the who, why and how of finding family members.

Presenter:

Wendy Brown

Cost: Free

Bookings: Eventbrite or 9273 6090



Follow the City of Vincent Library on Facebook

Local History Centre

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