



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

July – September 2021  
Vol.11 No.3

# Local History News



**In this issue:**

---

**Local History Awards**

**Who was Vincent?**

**Understanding Aboriginal Heritage in Vincent**

**Lost Vincent: The Little Shule**

**Heritage Hero: May O'Brien**

**Divided Space Exhibition**

---

New items | Can you help? | Events & workshops



This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Vincent Local History Awards. We are one of

few local history centres in Australia to run community history awards annually. Over the years, the awards have helped us build a treasure trove of local photos and stories about life in the Vincent area.

record or write these memories 'one day' when they have time. Sadly, many never get around to doing so and their recollections fade. The Vincent Local History Awards provide a deadline (and the possibility of a prize) to encourage locals to record their memories today, not one day.

The aim of the awards is to encourage current or former residents to share their memories of people, places or events in the inner city suburbs of Perth (Leederville, Highgate, Mount Lawley, North Perth, East & West Perth and parts of Mount Lawley) which make up Vincent. Often people share snippets of recollections with family, friends or neighbours, and express the intent to

In this edition, we feature extracts from past winners of the written awards to inspire you to pick up a pen and get writing. All entries in last year's written and photographic awards are available online if you need further inspiration. Pop in or call to speak with us at the Local History Centre if you need more guidance or support to make a submission.

Dr Susanna Iuliano  
**Senior Librarian,**  
**Local History Centre**

centres in Australia to run community history awards annually. Over the years, the awards have helped us build a treasure trove of local photos and stories about life in the Vincent area.

The aim of the awards is to encourage current or former residents to share their memories of people, places or events in the inner city suburbs of Perth (Leederville, Highgate, Mount Lawley, North Perth, East & West Perth and parts of Mount Lawley) which make up Vincent. Often people share snippets of recollections with family, friends or neighbours, and express the intent to

Cover Image: Greg Rowney: Hyde Park Sunset 2020, COV PHO06081.



Follow us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/vincentlibrary](https://facebook.com/vincentlibrary)

**CONTACTS & HOURS**

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm drop-in; 2.00 – 5.00pm by appointment

**WEBSITE:** [library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre](http://library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre)

**IMAGE LIBRARY:** [cityofvincent.imagegallery.me/](http://cityofvincent.imagegallery.me/)

**EMAIL:** [local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au)

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

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



*Photo by Sophie Farnan. Double rainbow over North Perth Community Garden, July 2020. COV PHO 06179.*

<b>Local History Awards</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Who was Vincent?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Understanding Aboriginal Heritage in Vincent</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Lost Vincent – The Little Shule</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Heritage Hero – May O'Brien</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Divided Space Exhibition</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>What's New?</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>22</b>



# LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2021

**We are calling for entries in the annual City of Vincent Local History Awards. The Awards encourage current or former residents to share their photos and stories of people, places or events in the Vincent area.**

Dust off your old photos or snap away and submit recent images of the Vincent area that have a special meaning or significance to you. You can also get writing and share your memories and stories of life in Vincent, past or present, with us.

**To inspire you to put pen to paper, we are featuring extracts from past winners of the 'Geoff Bolton: Life in Vincent' prize for written entries.**

**Entries close 30 July. For more information drop in or call the Local History Centre or visit:**

[library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre/local-history-awards.aspx](http://library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre/local-history-awards.aspx)

## 'GEOFF BOLTON: LIFE IN VINCENT' PREVIOUS WINNERS

**Winner 2018**

**Three Boys in Lake Street, by Con Christ**

This is the story of three boys who grew up in Lake Street, Perth in the 1940s, 50s and 60s... The area we lived, played and schooled in is now known as Northbridge. We locals knew it as Perth or Little Italy. Lake Street was ours! We knew everybody who lived there, even the parents, all the shopkeepers and traders and the regular callers such as the baker, milko, rubbish collector, postie etc.

Our street was a grand mix of housing and small businesses. We even had a kindergarten with a small park in front of it. It was just another place to play football. To us boys the two most famous businesses in the world was our Dad's box factory at number 18 Lake Street followed closely by the Kun Min Café at 181 William Street which he purchased shortly after moving from the Lake Street box factory...Our house was the centre of the universe as far as we three boys were concerned. We had everything:



*The Christ brothers, Lake Street 1940s.*

loving family, great neighbours, a football, a cricket bat, marbles, a few toys, great weather most of the time, lots of room to play football and cricket and access to all sorts of wonderful places and things.

The three of us sold newspapers after school. We gave all the money earned to Mum to help with the family budget. Con and Peter sold copies of The Daily News, Perth's afternoon newspaper at the time, on behalf of McDonalds Newsagency on Brisbane Street. Our selling area (known as 'our round') was the western side only of William Street from Newcastle Street to Francis Street west to Lake Street and back to Newcastle Street. The McDonalds had several other boys in adjoining areas. We had our regular customers but the best places to sell the papers were: the Britannia Wine Saloon, (which later became a backpacker hostel) on the corner of Francis Street and William Street; the Red Lion Inn in Aberdeen Street; and the Gascoyne Traders Transport depot in Francis Street. At each place we would open the door and yell, 'Dailynewspaperrrrrr...' and the customers would flock to us. Being minors we were not allowed to enter the hotel premises. When the paper cost 4 pence (3 cents) it was wonderful. Most of the customers



would give us sixpence (5 cents) and say, 'keep the change kid'. When the price rose to sixpence, that was the end of the extra 'tips' as they were known. We generally sold the Daily between 3.30pm and 5.30pm or earlier if we sold out. We returned the money and any unsold papers to Mr McDonald who was waiting at the newsagency. We would then be paid and go home for tea or kick a football around awaiting tea.

## Winner 2016 Memories of Marmion Street, by Gail Dorter



14 Marmion Street, 1941.

It seems to me that more than just the times change as you get older. What is important in life certainly changes, as does your outlook and financial standing (for better or worse). Your health also changes, and unfortunately, not usually for the better. You can change your job and opinions, your partner and friends and your house and car, but you can't change where and what you have been.

You are, as the pundits say, the sum of your being. As you get older, the 'being' part suddenly starts saying not 'I wish' or 'I want' but 'I remember'. Now precisely when this transition

takes place is hard to pinpoint, but it usually occurs in the company of those of a similar age, and more often than not, those that you grew up with. And the older you get, the more often you say those words – 'I remember.' Well I am getting older, and I certainly remember, and before I move on to the next phase of life where you say, 'I can't remember', here are some of the memories I recall most clearly, and for the most part with fondness.

My earliest memories are of growing up in Marmion Street, North Perth, number 14 to be precise. I recall the house having a picket fence backed

by rose bushes, behind which a small child could hide to watch the postman come walking down the street, blowing his whistle as he left a letter in the box.

Part of our backyard was cemented and fenced off from the main area which, wonder of wonders, contained a swimming pool. The first privately owned pool in the state by a lot of years. It was built in late 1930 by my grandmother who, family legend has it, went and saw a movie with a swimming pool around which the stars were lounging and decided to have one.

The pool was 24 foot by 12 foot and built on sloping ground...While there was no lack of volunteers to swim in the pool, it was a different story when the time came to clean it. Without chlorination or filtration, the water quickly became dirty, then green, and finally would form a sort of horrible scum on the surface. Initially we would simply part the scum or do bommies to splash it out, but when it got so bad that you had to hose yourself down after a swim, then we knew it was time to empty and refill the pool. One would go 'Greedyguts' (the pump) and the sprinklers would flow...We were the most popular children in North Perth when the pool was full, but we were to be avoided at all costs if it was not! When I look at the crystal clear water



*Swimming pool at rear of 14 Marmion Street, 1950s.*

in my pool today, I can't help but wonder why we never contracted any of the dreadful diseases the authorities warn us about, for not only did we swim in it, but for many years we kept a long necked swamp tortoise in it and a duck called Lucy regularly did what ducks do in it. I am sure we were made of tougher stuff back then."

**Gail Dorter, Memories of Marmion Street 1945-1956. Local History Award entry, 2016. (Available in Local History Centre: B/DOR)**

## **Winner 2014** **Milliners, Drapers and a Peanut Machine: recollections of shopping in North Perth from the 1930s to the 1960s... by Beryl & Sandra Long**

George Zimbulis was a fruiterer (on the corner of Fitzgerald and View Streets). I remember in 1941, when I was 12 years old and shopping on my own, I asked him how much a particularly large watermelon that I had my eye on cost. He replied that if I could carry it home, it was free – so I struggled up View Street hill carrying this huge watermelon feeling the glare of his eyes on my back. Gee it tasted sweet.

The Central Provisions store at 417 Fitzgerald sold a wide range of 'provisions'. My fondest memory is of the Picnic Biscuits. They were iced (very indulgent) and were kept in beautiful tins being lifted out and weighed for each customer. To the other extreme, they also sold kerosene, needed by people who did not have electricity supplied to their home. It was kept in a large drum and was poured into the customer's own bottle. As recently as the 1950s we remember there were several families in the area still without electricity.



*Sandra Long returning from shopping on Peach Street, 1965. COV PHO6039*

In the late 1940s, Tom Wardle (later to be Mayor of Perth) opened his mixed business store further up Fitzgerald (near Namur Street) and later, a self-service supermarket at 440 Fitzgerald called 'Tom the Cheap'. Tom the Cheap's store had a turnstile at the entry – very high tech! They offered carry baskets but not trolleys as few customers had a car and so couldn't buy too much at one time. The other supermarket (as we know them today) was Freecorns which operated during the 1960s and into the 1970s. No one could say there was a lack of food or choice in North Perth!

**To read Beryl & Sandra's story in full visit: [librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en\\_GB/search/asset/1062/0](http://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/1062/0)**



# WHO WAS VINCENT?

Recently, the City of Stirling considered whether to change its name. The local government area, along with many other places in Western Australia, is named for Sir James Stirling, Western Australia's first governor. Stirling led the Pinjarra massacre in which many Bindjareb Noongar people were killed in 1834. This association prompted calls for a new name that was more inclusive of the Noongar community. While Stirling Council has decided to keep its existing name, the public debate got us wondering about our city's namesake. Who is the 'Vincent' in Vincent?

Thanks to research by Friends of Local History volunteer Liz Millward, together with the earlier work of Samuel Marcus, an entrant in the 2018 Local History Awards, we know Vincent was named for George Vincent. Not to be confused with Henry Vincent, the first Superintendent of the Aboriginal prison on Rottnest Island, George Vincent was a draftsman and surveyor who lived in the Swan River Colony for almost thirty years from 1863 to 1889. He owned land along what later became Vincent

Street, which was thought to be named after him in the 1880s.

George Vincent was born in Norfolk England in 1817. He served with distinction in the Royal Engineer Corps where he gained the drafting and surveying skills that stood him in good stead for his later life in the Swan River Colony. Vincent left London in 1863 with his wife Margaret and three children (John, Anna Maria and Alfred). He was appointed as a draftsman in the Survey Department a month after his arrival in August 1863. He became a licenced surveyor and valuer and quickly went on to acquire land in Parry and Edward Streets, Guildford Road and Mackie (later renamed Pier) and Stirling Streets. He lived with his family in Stirling Street in a home described in the newspapers of the day as a 'perfect museum of rare and beautiful things' filled with '*articles of vertu purchased at every Governor's sale since his arrival in the colony*'. During his time in Perth he was an elected Perth Councillor for the North Ward for many years.



Government Offices, St George's Terrace c 1863. George Vincent is 7th from left. State Library of Western Australia (29053P).

In 1889, due to ill health, George returned to England with his wife and daughter, Anna Maria. Their eldest son John died in Perth in 1868 and nothing is known of the whereabouts of son Alfred James. George Vincent died in London in 1896 followed shortly after by his wife Margaret in 1903.

It was not until after the family's departure from Perth that the name 'Vincent Street' appeared officially in the Government Gazettes and post office directories in the 1890s. While there is no definitive proof of Vincent Street being named for George Vincent, the fact he owned land in the area

(Town Lot Y 279) around the time Vincent Street is first mentioned in the newspapers in the 1880s makes it likely he is the namesake for Vincent Street.

From the late 1890s the area was part of the North Perth Roads District, later the municipality of North Perth which was then subsumed into the City of Perth in 1914. In 1994, Perth split into three separate council areas with Vincent (named for the major street in the area) encompassing the inner city suburbs of Highgate, North Perth, Mount Hawthorn, Leederville and parts of Perth, East Perth and West Perth.



# UNDERSTANDING ABORIGINAL HERITAGE IN VINCENT

**NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia each July. NAIDOC (which stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) has its origins in the 1920s when Aboriginal rights groups first protested the treatment of Indigenous Australians on Australia Day.**

In 1938, protestors in Sydney held the first 'Day of Mourning' the Sunday before Australia Day, which became an annual event in the 1940s and 50s. In 1955, it was renamed 'Aborigines Day' and broadened into a celebration of

Aboriginal culture held the first Sunday in July. The celebration has grown since the 1990s into an annual week of celebrations based around a different theme. The theme for 2021 is 'Heal Country, heal our nation' with a focus



*Gnarla Boodja Mili Mili map of Perth (Our Country on Paper) by Aboriginal History (WA) Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries: [gnarlaboodjamap.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/#/welcome](http://gnarlaboodjamap.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/#/welcome)*

on stronger measures to recognise and protect all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.

Key to healing is promoting understanding. At the Vincent Local History Centre, we are seeking to increase and share understanding of Aboriginal heritage in our area. 'What can you tell me about the Aboriginal history of this area' is an increasingly common question for us at the Local History Centre. In response, we point people to our precious few oral histories

with Elders, or to the dry and often technical heritage or environmental reports in the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System available through the Department of Planning, Lands & Heritage. We also direct people to the State Library's 'Storylines' portal which is a great source of historical photos of Aboriginal communities around the state, or to information provided by the specialist researchers at Aboriginal History (WA) such as the Gnarla Boodja Mili Mili map (Our Country on Paper) featured above and in our Local History Centre.



In addition to informing ourselves and others about all available information sources, we're also working on filling our knowledge gaps through collaborative collection and research projects. The support and leadership of Noongar Elders is essential in establishing a solid foundation on which we can build our understanding of Aboriginal heritage in Vincent. Members of the Vincent Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group are a valuable sounding board in this regard. We will also be consulting with Noongar Elders in the development of an Aboriginal Heritage Trail in Vincent for which we recently secured a Heritage Council grant which will enable us to begin the work.

The Aboriginal Heritage Trail will provide an overarching framework for more specific and local information that we are currently collecting through collaborative partnership projects such as Galup and Moorditj Footprints.

## **GALUP**

Galup is a multi-art form project about historic events relating to Noongar people at Lake Monger in the early 1800s. Lake Monger, known to Whadjuk Noongar people as 'Galup' is a wetland area of ongoing cultural and historic significance to Aboriginal people in Perth. The history of contact and conflict around the lake between Noongar

and British colonisers in the 1830s is little known to most locals. Galup was originally conceived as a site specific walking performance featuring re-enactments and stories drawn from this early colonial period, including reference to a massacre which took place in 1830. Researched and created by artists Ian Wilkes & Poppy van Oorde-Grainger, with an oral history by Elder Doolann Leisha Eatts, it was first performed at Lake Monger/Galup in April/May 2019 and reprised for the Festival of Perth in February 2021. Together with our colleagues at the Cambridge Local History Centre, we are assisting the Galup team in development of a virtual reality work that will bring the performance and history to life for a broader audience.

**For more information see:**  
[www.samedrum.com/galup](http://www.samedrum.com/galup)

## **MOORDITJ FOOTPRINTS**

In 2020, we were approached by Noongar Elder Lindsay Calyun, a former resident of East Perth in the 1950s and 60s, for our support in helping collect stories of East Perth. For many years, Lindsay has wanted to bring together the Noongar storytellers and Elders that grew up in this area so that the many memories and yarns of East Perth can be told and shared. Noongar people

occupied the East Perth area prior to colonisation and continued to live there up until the recent gentrification of what was previously a working class area. As most of East Perth was outside Perth's Prohibited Area, which operated from 1927 to 1954 restricting Aboriginal people's access to the city, many Noongar people who moved from the country to Perth in search of work or follow members of their family for health and welfare needs settled in and around East Perth. In the late 1970s, as more Aboriginal people were housed in outer metropolitan suburbs, the Aboriginal community of East Perth dispersed. While former community members may live apart, a strong sense of shared history and connection still prevails. Like Lindsay, many former East Perth residents have a strong wish to share their stories of life in East Perth. In the coming months, we will be working with Lindsay and his friends to capture the lived experience, personal stories and memories of the individuals who grew up in East Perth and the surrounding areas in the 1960s and 1970s era.



# LOST VINCENT

## THE LITTLE SHULE

---

**A recent query relating to a proposed lane name near Robertson Park led us down the rabbit hole investigating the history of the 'Little Shule' synagogue which stood at 127 Palmerston Street from 1917 to 1973.**

'Shul' is the Yiddish word for synagogue. The 'Little Shule' stood on Palmerston Street, near the north-east corner close to Randell Street adjacent to Robertson Park. It was built in 1917 by the Perth Jewish Association, just down the road from the larger Brisbane Street Synagogue which had been established by the Perth Hebrew Congregation in 1897.

According to historian David Mossenson, the Perth Jewish Association was a breakaway group made up of mainly Yiddish speaking

migrants from Eastern Europe who were dissatisfied with the high membership fees and what they felt was a more anglicised style of worship offered by British born Rabbi Freedman at the Brisbane Street Synagogue. They purchased land on Palmerston Street and erected their own synagogue in 1917 where they held services and performed marriages and other observances and rituals. The 1930 marriage certificate of Sam and Gertrude Wende married at the synagogue lists 'M. Ferstat' as the Minister and 'Rabbi Leon Zouf' as the official witness. By the 1930s, membership of the Perth Jewish Association declined and members drifted back to the larger Perth Hebrew Congregation. Newspaper reports in the Westralian Judean in 1930 mention rumours and attempts to amalgamate the two congregations, which



*Robertson Park with Little Shule on right of picture, c 1926. (Photo courtesy of City of Perth PH2001)*

ultimately did not occur. The Little Shule continued to exist and operate, although it is unclear who officiated as Rabbi and how many members made up the congregation in later years.

The Palmerston Street synagogue itself stood until 1973 when the land was sold off to the City of Perth to extend Robertson Park. Proceeds of the sale were added to the Perth Hebrew Congregation's fund to build the new synagogue in Menora,

signalling the formal healing of the long schism between the two orthodox congregations. No visible evidence of the synagogue exists on the current site, apart from the original road crossover into the synagogue carpark.

If you have any further information or photographs of the Little Shule, please contact us at the Local History Centre.

# VINCENT HERITAGE HERO

# MAY LORNA O'BRIEN

1933–2020

May Lorna O'Brien (nee Miller) was a trailblazing Aboriginal woman who played a significant role shaping Aboriginal education in Western Australia as a teacher, policy maker and author. Born near Laverton and taken from her family and raised at the Mount Margaret Mission, May became the first Aboriginal woman to graduate

from a tertiary institution in WA and the first to become a registered teacher in the 1950s. She began her teaching career at Mount Margaret Mission and the Methodist Mission School at Mogumber (Moore River) before transferring to Mount Hawthorn Infant School in 1961 where she taught for a decade.



Teacher May Miller with students at Mount Hawthorn Primary ready to welcome Prince Philip to Perth, 1962. COV PH04882.

After teaching for 25 years, she moved into education policy becoming the Superintendent of Aboriginal Education for the Western Australia Ministry of Education and serving on a variety of committees. Throughout her career, May received numerous awards for her work in Aboriginal education including the British Empire Medal, the John Curtin medal. She was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and was also a delegate for Australia at the United Nations conference on Women in 1980. May was a

proud Wongutha woman who also wrote several children's books in her retirement including the Bawoo series of traditional teaching stories in bi-lingual text.

May O'Brien sadly passed away in 2020. If you're interested in knowing more about this amazing woman, you can listen to her interview with Bill Bunbury in 2012:

[www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2012/05/24/3509952.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2012/05/24/3509952.htm)



# DIVIDED SPACE

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Jane Coffey



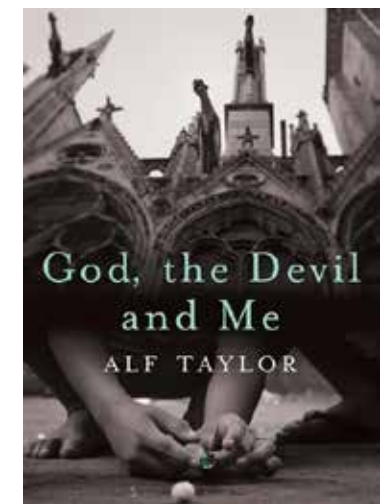
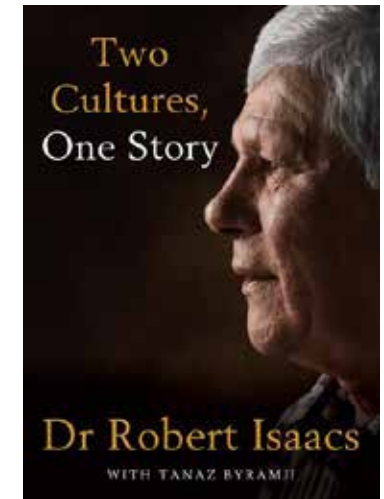
Artwork by Jane Coffey, 2020.

Local artist and business owner Jane Coffey recently completed a series of paintings exploring layers of contemporary and historical boundaries that shape the natural and built environments in North Perth. These artworks, produced as part of an City of Vincent COVID-19 arts grant, will be on display alongside old maps and plans of North Perth which helped inspire Jane's art at Future Shelter (56 Angove Street North Perth) in July 2021. **Jane's paintings and sketches of North Perth will also be on display at the Local History Centre in November/December 2021.**

# WHAT'S NEW?

**We have some great new books relating to Aboriginal history and heritage available in the Local History Centre.**

Come in and have a browse at some of our new titles including a biography/memoir of respected Elder Dr Robert Isaacs (OAM) 'Two Cultures, One Story' which documents his life from Clontarf Boys Town to respected Indigenous health, housing and education social justice advocate. Also by Magabala books, Noongar writer Alf Taylor's rivetting, tragic and humorous 'God the Devil & Me' about growing up as a stolen generation kid at New Norcia mission in the 1950s and 60s. For footy enthusiasts, we have West Perth footy legend Bill Dempsey's new book 'The Boy from Birdum', written with Steve Hawke. Going back in time to early colonial Australia we have Tiffany Shellam's Prime Minister's Literary Award winning book 'Meeting the Waylo' which documents the stories of three Indigenous Australian intermediaries on board maritime expeditions in north-west WA in the early 19th Century. Drop in for a browse at these and other titles.

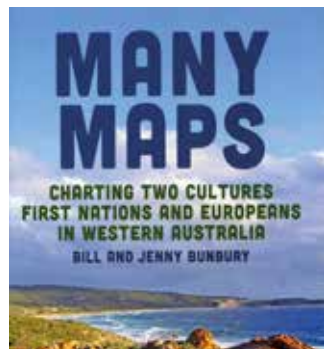




# IN-HOUSE EVENTS

## EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

 LIBRARY  
LOCAL HIST

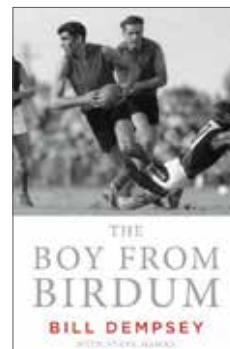


### TALK: MANY MAPS: CHARTING TWO CULTURES WITH BILL & JENNY BUNBURY

WEDNESDAY 21 JULY 2021,  
10 – 11:30AM  
Library Lounge, City of Vincent Library

Join Bill & Jenny Bunbury as they discuss their book, Many Maps, Charting Two Cultures. They explore differences in how First Nations people and Europeans understood culture and country in the western third of Australia. As a broadcaster Bill has been inspired by years of listening to and learning from Aboriginal people in documentaries produced for ABC Radio National and the WA Community Arts Network. As an historian, Jenny has supplemented these narratives with additional research.

**Cost:** Free  
**Presenter:** Bill & Jenny Bunbury  
**Bookings essential as places are limited:**  
Email [local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au)  
or call 9273 6090



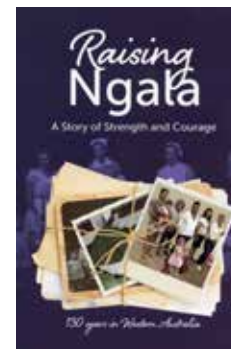
### TALK: THE BOY FROM BIRDUM

WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST,  
10 – 11:30AM  
Local History Centre,  
City of Vincent Library

Champion footballer Bill Dempsey's memoir The Boy from Birdum is a captivating yarn, covering his early years as a member of the Stolen Generation in Darwin's Retta Dixon Home, to his time as a premiership captain who played over 400 games for West Perth and the Darwin Buffaloes.

Join us for this author talk with Bill Dempsey and his co-author Steve Hawke.

**Cost:** Free  
**Presenter:** Bill Dempsey  
**Bookings essential:**  
Email [local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au)  
or call 9273 6090



### TALK: THE HISTORY OF NGALA

WEDNESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER,  
10 – 11:30AM  
Local History Centre,  
City of Vincent Library

Ngala has provided services in the WA community since 1890. From 1901 to 1959, it operated as a refuge and maternity home known as the House of Mercy and later the Alexandra Home for Women at 55 Lincoln Street Highgate. Come and hear author Cherilyn McMeekin discuss her book Raising Ngala: A story of strength and courage published for the 130th anniversary of the organisation.

**Cost:** Free  
**Presenter:** Cherilyn McMeekin  
**Bookings essential:**  
Email [local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au)  
or call 9273 6090



# What are you looking for today?

Search by Keyword or Album



## IMAGE LIBRARY

Did you know the City of Vincent Local History Collection Image Library contains over 6000 photos of people, places and events in the suburbs of Vincent?

You can browse by suburb, subject or keyword at:  
[www.cityofvincent.imagegallery.me/site/welcome.me](http://www.cityofvincent.imagegallery.me/site/welcome.me)



Follow the City of Vincent Library on Facebook

---

### Local History Centre

[www.library.vincent.wa.gov.au](http://www.library.vincent.wa.gov.au)

**Email:** [local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au](mailto:local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au)

**Phone:** 9273 6090

**Address:** 99 Loftus Street, Leederville, Western Australia, 6007

 [@vincentlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/vincentlibrary)  [@cityofvincentlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/cityofvincentlibrary)  [@CityofVincent](https://twitter.com/CityofVincent)



CITY OF VINCENT