



Local History News



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In this edition, we feature extracts from winners of the annual Local History Awards. 2021

accelerating our program of digitisation as demand for online services and materials increases. Balancing the demand for more online content with our face to face services and programs is part of our challenge going forward.

was the 21st year the Local History Awards has been held. It's a significant achievement unique among our peers which is testament to the support of the City and our local community. Not even COVID-19 could stop us – if anything it has spurred a renewed interest in sharing stories of our local area.

While technology can connect people to each other and to information, we know it doesn't remove the need for human contact, advice and actual (not virtual) friendship. We also know not everyone is comfortable or confident using new technologies. We are planning a range of 'hand's on' workshops for our patrons in 2022 that can help even the most techno-phobic local history enthusiast embrace new ways to find and share information about their families or the past.

While we have been lucky that our relative isolation in Western Australia has spared us the worst of COVID's impacts, we have still had to adjust to a new normal in 2021.

Dr Susanna Iuliano
Senior Librarian, Local History Centre

At the Local History Centre, our new normal includes prioritising and

Cover: Gidgup wedding party on steps of the Church of Christ, 13 Woodville Street North Perth, 1952. COV PHO6437.



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CONTACTS & HOURS

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

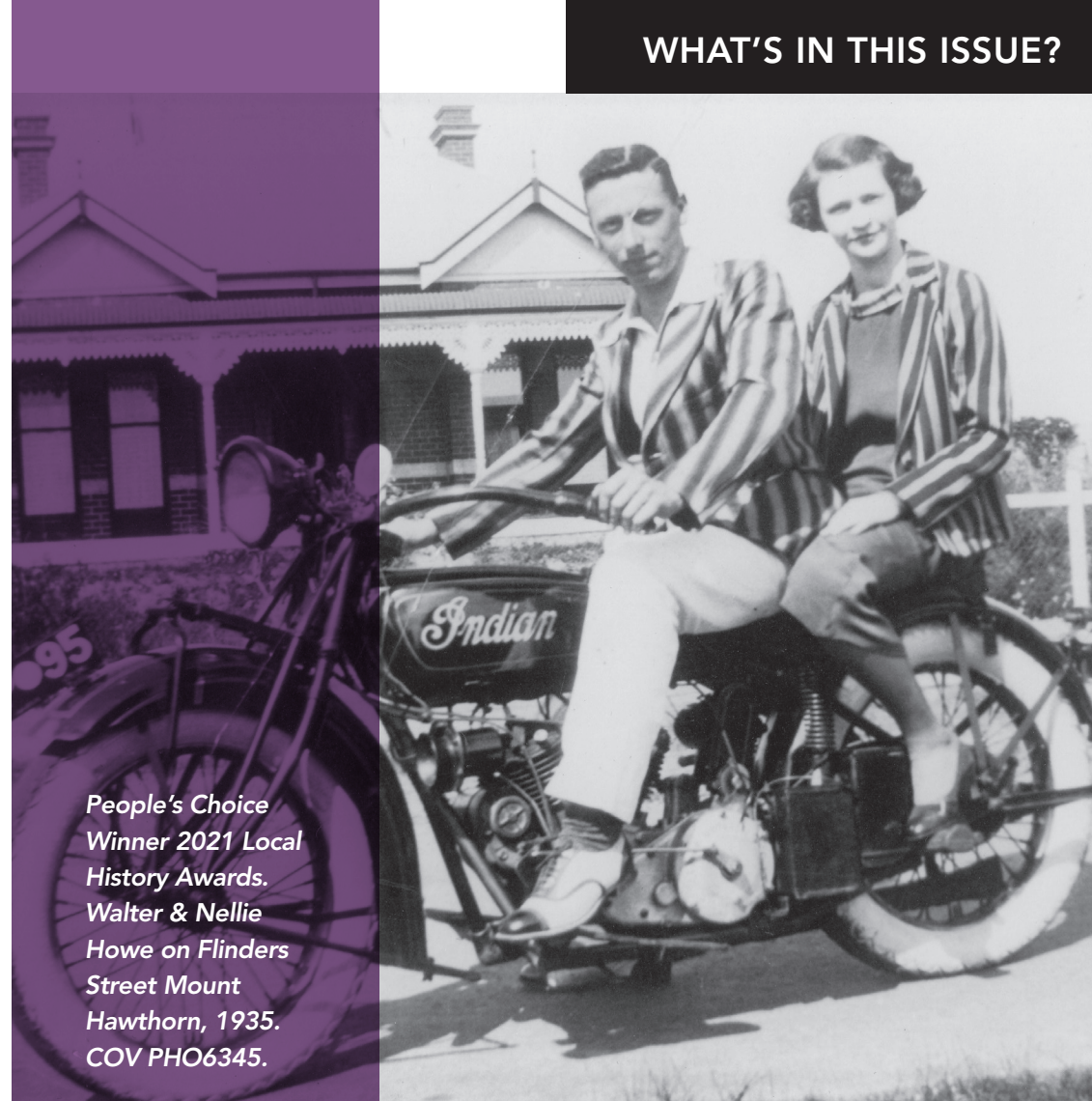
WEBSITE: library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre

IMAGE LIBRARY: cityofvincent.imagegallery.me/

EMAIL: 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



People's Choice Winner 2021 Local History Awards. Walter & Nellie Howe on Flinders Street Mount Hawthorn, 1935. COV PHO6345.

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GEOFFREY BOLTON AWARD WINNERS

The late Professor Geoffrey Bolton was one of Western Australia's most respected historians who had a special connection to Vincent as he was born and raised in North Perth. After his death in 2015, the written component of the Vincent Local History Awards were renamed the 'Geoffrey Bolton Awards' in his honour. The Awards honour Geoffrey's legacy and inspires others to research and write local stories that highlight life in Vincent.

LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2021

The quality and breadth of entries in the city's annual Local History Awards never fails to surprise or delight us. This year, we received 138 photographic and 19 written entries on a range of subjects from family businesses to personal stories of childhood and life in the Vincent area. We thank all entrants for their valued contributions.

We especially thank those who contributed their time and effort to compose a written entry. These were: Amber Blake; Andrew Douglas; Anne Chapple; Fiona Balshaw; Chris Hair; Christine Choo; Christine Kneebone; Con Christ; David Kennedy; Gina Fraser; Harold Coppock; Jan McCallum; Julie Anglesey; Lucy Hair; Michelle Vercoe; Pam Clarke; Peter Kalaf; Ron Lindsay & Tanvi Malay Mehta.

We would also like to thank the Local History Award judges for 2021: Julie Davidson (former Local History Centre Senior Librarian) Leigh Barrett (Heritage Council member and National Trust Officer) and Sally Lake (local history enthusiast and former Vincent Councillor).

The judges awarded prizes and special mentions to the following entries from which we feature brief extracts. The full entries can be read online or in the Local History Centre.

All entries can be read in the Local History Centre or online at: https://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/2541/1



Anawim Centre, 14-16 Lane Street, 19 May 1979

1st Prize: Anawim Refuge for Aboriginal Women, by Christine Choo.

Anawim Women's Refuge, now known as Kamarang Centre, in Lane Street, Northbridge, has had an important and unique role to play in the provision of care and safety for Aboriginal women in the Perth and City of Vincent areas. Anawim began operating as a 24-hour care and accommodation service for



Roebourne women chatting with workers at Anawin Women's Refug (c 2003)

Aboriginal women on 15 August 1978. Referred to by the women simply as 'Lane Street', Anawim has been valued and used by local Noongar women as well as Aboriginal women from all parts of Western Australia, even from other states. It was the first women's refuge established specifically for Aboriginal women on their own, that is, without children with them.

Anawim emerged after the 1967 National Referendum in which Australian citizens voted wholeheartedly to recognise Aboriginal people as citizens of Australia, for the first time affirming their right to vote, to participate in civil life in this country, and enabling Aboriginal people to be counted in the National Census. Post 1967 Aboriginal people could not be excluded from towns and city precincts between dusk and dawn as they had previously been under legislation. This gave them greater freedom to move to the city, often to join family members who were already living there, or simply for adventure and new opportunities. But city life could be tough for lone Aboriginal women when these hopes did not eventuate.

Read more at: https://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/2514/0



Charles Washing with children Geraldine, Albert, Gwendoline & Frederick

2nd Prize: Charles Washing & Racist Furniture, by David Kennedy

My brother Michael conducted many years of research into our family tree, prompted, ironically, by our mother. I say ironically because she hid the truth from us for the better part of our lives, that we were part Chinese. I was 45 when I had the conversation with her, after I had somehow found out we had Chinese heritage. Mum was pretty shy. It wasn't in her nature to be outspoken, but I remember her comments word for word: "Yes, your grandfather was a half-caste Chinese, and he was a French polisher at Washing Brothers furniture factory, where he worked alongside his brothers; and that's as much as I am going to tell you. If you bring this subject up again, you will only upset me."

Out of respect for Mum, we dropped it, but the curiosity was killing us. When she died in 1998, Michael resurrected the project and got to work. We were fascinated to learn that our great-grandfather, Wah Shing, was a full-blooded Chinese from Canton, who came out to the Victorian goldfields in 1854, married an English girl and had 10 kids. Wah Shing and Louisa Meyers were my great

grandparents. We learned that our first cousins also knew they were part-Chinese, but their mothers had slammed down the shutters on them as well. It was a subject never to be discussed.

A few years ago, we attended a talk on Chinese market gardens in the Town of Vincent and we met Kaylene Poon, a leading Chinese historian and prominent member of the Chung Wah Association. She was very supportive for us to provide as much factual information as possible on Washing Brothers. Michael had come across a paper, *Racist Furniture and White Australia: The Factories Act of 1904*, written by Eddie Marcus. In it he states: *"It is no overstatement to say he [Charles Washing] was one of the most important figures in Western Australian economic history and yet he is almost completely forgotten. Someone needs to write his biography..."*

Well, that was enough for me to sharpen my pencil, take a deep breath and commence this novel...

Read more at: https://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/2513/0

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Robert Finley with camera.

Equal 2nd Prize: Finley Family Photographers, by Gina Fraser.

Towards the end of the war, Robert and Miles had jointly formed the idea of creating a family photographic business in Perth. Once home, Miles developed the concept. His idea was to create an enterprise in which he and all of his brothers and sisters could participate in some way. They'd start as a small concern, then gradually expand...

By October 1945, Miles had leased premises which he named the "Hollywood Studios", in Lowes Buildings at 191 Murray Street, Perth, and began advertising it as a baby studio. A couple of months later, he leased a second studio, in Colliers

Buildings at 130A Murray Street, which became the Hollywood Studios' Head Office, and in December 1945, advertised for a receptionist for this "new studio, opening soon", ready for when the family returned home and would join the venture. Not long afterwards, in 1946, a third studio was opened, at 545 Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley.

The family was imaginative in its approach to the business. During the 1940s, in addition to the studios, they hired a garage on the Scarborough beach-front at weekends and on public holidays (probably different garages, according to availability), operating a photographic service taking holiday 'snaps' for swimmers, holiday-makers and visitors. They placed a sign on the footpath outside the garage, and provided humorous props for the customer to stand behind when being photographed, as found at popular English seaside resorts. Hetty and Joan designed these items. Arthur later described how Scarborough Beach Road had been constructed from railway sleepers at that time, about 15 feet (4.5 metres) wide, just sufficient for two cars to pass – slowly! For those who had cars. For those who rode bicycles it was equally challenging...

Read more at: https://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/2512/0



Grenville Purdue in uniform, 1940. PH02206

3rdPrize: **Grenville Purdue: The Man Who Always Plays Fair, by Michelle Vercoe**

Grenville Purdue's association with Western Australia began in 1902, as he settled in Perth with his wife Catherine (O'Shannessy) and their young son Terence Eyre Purdue who was born in 1901 Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. They originally lived at the Hammond Hotel, Victoria Park, then other rental properties, before purchasing their long term family home, in about 1915/1916, at 37 Salisbury Street, Leederville.

Prior to that, in 1907 the Purdue family were living at 579 Hannah Street, Kalgoorlie and Grenville had been promoted to a detective working in the Gold Detection Crime Unit (GDCU).

In 1906, the GDCU was conceived and subsequent legislation was brought in to address the common practice of gold theft. Plain clothes constables and detectives were soon sent to the gold fields. Part of their job involved sitting in public bars listening in on conversations, but this became an occupational hazard in the job as alcoholism became an issue for the police force.

During his seven-year stint in Kalgoorlie, Purdue crossed paths with Detective Inspector John Walsh when he arrived to head the GDCU with Detective Pitman. Little did they know, that in the future, Purdue would be instrumental in the detection of their murders (in 1926).

Read more at: https://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/2508/0



St John Ambulances in Perth, 1948. PH05806



Janet and St John Ambulance colleagues in Perth, 1948. PH06372



Janet in her St John Ambulance uniform, 1948. PH06371

Special Mention: **My Ambulance Career, by Janet McCallum**

I had learned first aid as a scout leader in the Mount Hawthorn Scout Troop during the war. Then I started St John Ambulance study at sixteen years in the building at Wellington Street Perth in 1946. The division I joined was the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association). The woman in charge of that division was a Mrs Farquhar. The classes were held on Monday nights from seven or eight to 10pm. We were taught first aid and home nursing. Occasionally we were taken to the Royal Show or other types of venues where first aid was required. Exams were held yearly and I can't remember if promotions were given out.

When you turned 18, you were allowed to do voluntary work, such as chosen shifts on the ambulance working at emergency at Royal Perth Hospital or King Edward Hospital at no specific task, but it was all learning. At 18, I did a lot of ambulance work as I was not working so I had time in the day. It was only ever

one volunteer at a time with the driver – you only saw the other girls in classes. Duties were from 10 to 2pm or 2 to 10pm. Girls were not allowed on the ambulance after 10pm. We were called out to all different kinds of things – anything that required an ambulance.

Sometimes we used to transfer people to nursing homes from their homes. Sometimes we would attend at accidents. There were fewer cars on the road so there weren't as many accidents, but they still happened. Of course there were no lights, no stop signs or seatbelts in those days. I think you had to be 21 to get a licence then. It was the roads more than anything that caused accidents.

One accident happened when I hadn't been on the ambulance for very long. It was on the corner of Bennet Street and Adelaide Terrace. A bus cut the corner and cut into the wrong lane. A friend of ours on a motorbike went under the bus. We went down to the accident and it wasn't until the driver told me to pick his leg up off the road that I realised it was a friend of ours. That was very upsetting. It was hard because he died that night.

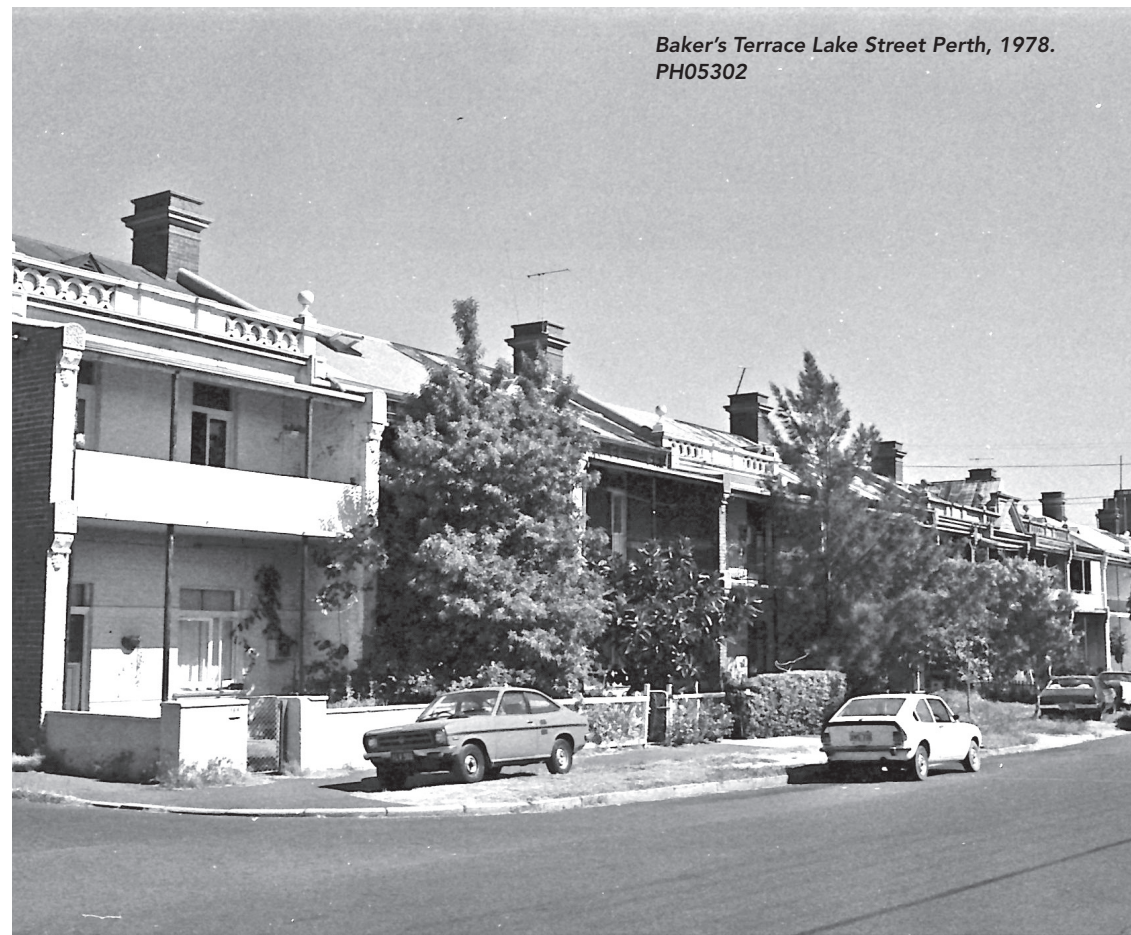
Read more at: https://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/2505/0

Special Mention: Lake Street Our Original Home, by Con Christ

We three brothers, Con aged 80, Peter aged 78 and Lou aged 75 on a beautiful day just after Christmas in 2020 decided to stop talking and start writing our history as we saw it so that our descendants would understand why we did what we did.

Our mother (Kalliope Bozinopoulous) migrated from a village in North West Greece/ Macedonia called Poria as a 21 year old in 1938 and Dad (George Grigoriou Christou) came from Florina Greece in 1924. They married in Lake Grace in 1940 and soon after moved to Perth living in the Devon Flats on the corner of Lake and Aberdeen streets, later moving to 131 Lake Street. We were all born at King Edward Memorial Hospital in Subiaco. Con arrived in 1941, Peter in 1943 and Lou in 1946. Two other babies (both boys) did not survive.

In our area, we knew everybody, including the parents, shopkeepers, the tradies and regular callers such as the baker, milko, the postie and rubbish collector. Our street was a mix of housing and small businesses. Two of the most famous in buildings were



Baker's Terrace Lake Street Perth, 1978.
PH05302

Dad's box factory (18 Lake Street) and The Kun Min café (181 William Street) both owned by our dad. We still have three large dinner plates in good condition made in China in the 1930s which originally belonged to the café.

All the houses in our area had small back yards and veggie patches. We grew lots of vegies and would swap them with our neighbours or sell them to passers-by from a bucket or cardboard box which did not please the shopkeepers.

Read more at: https://librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/2510/0

LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2021 PHOTOGRAPHIC WINNERS



Photo winner Ron Gidgup with Award sponsor Claude Iaconi

We were honoured and delighted to have Claude Iaconi of Edison Property back for another year as the sponsor of the photographic section of the Local History Awards. Prizes were awarded by the judges in two categories: historic (pre 2000) and contemporary (post-2000). We had 138 entries and prizes were awarded to 12 entrants. These included Ron Gidgup who took our first prize in the historic photo category for the stunning wedding portrait of his parents at the North Perth Church of Christ in Woodville Street, 1952 which appears on our newsletter cover.

Second prize went to Mount Hawthorn local Terence Mathews for his black and white photo of the iconic Leederville Hotel in the 1980s. Terence, who has a keen eye for capturing quiet moments on the streets of Vincent, also took out first place in the contemporary category for his 2015 photo of elderly residents of Vine Street picking olives. Through the powers of social media, we were able to help Terence identify the elderly residents in the photo (Nikolas and Despina Liopas and Afroditi Sfakaniakis) and pinpoint the exact location (corner of Vine and Albert Streets North Perth).



Picking olives in North Perth, 2015. PH06512.



Leederville Hotel, c 1980. PH06467.

Third prize in the historic photo category went to a series of photographs submitted by Russell Andrews of his former Myrtle Street neighbour Attilio Pertusio, who passed away in 2018. Attilio's life on Myrtle Street, from the 1960s until the 2000s, is beautifully documented in a series of images showing Attilio over the years in and around his home and garden with lifelong friend and former neighbour Giovanni Quaglia. The photos are not only a social documentary of Attilio's life, but show the influence of Italian migrants on this small street tucked away between Hyde Park and Robertson Park.



Attilio Pertusio in front yard of 12 Myrtle Street, 1960. PH06441



Neighbours Attilio Giovanni celebrating Attilio's 65th birthday 1995. PH06445



Attilio Pertusio and his wine press, 1970s. PH06444



Attilio Pertusio in the backyard of 9 Myrtle Street, 2003. PH06447

There were several special mentions for family portraits awarded to Judith Ehling (nee Goodall), for her photographs of the Goodall family of North Perth in the 1950s-and 60s which were evocative and emblematic of Australian family life in the 1950s.



Michael Goodall and his pet chicken, early 1950s. PH06389



Judith & Michael Goodall with neighbour Ken Budd dressed for a nativity play, 1956. PH06388



Goodall children on Christmas day in North Perth, 1953. PH06383

Harold Coppock also won a special mention for his photographs of the Coppock Family of Mount Hawthorn in the 1940s and 50s which show the Coppock family at their home at 87 The Boulevard, as well as their involvement in the Mount Hawthorn Amateur Athletics Club and the Mount Hawthorn Congregational Church (which stood until 1958 on the corner of Flinders Street and Scarborough Beach Road, site of the present day Mezz shopping centre).



Harold Coppock Snr with children, 1942. PH06351



Coppock family outside the family home at 87 the Boulevard Mount Hawthorn, 1946. PH06352



Mount Hawthorn Harriers, c 1933. PH06350



Sunday school students at the Mount Hawthorn Congregational church, 1954. PH06356

Another special mention went to Peter Kalaf for the vibrant and engaging photographs of the Kalaf family of Cleaver Street West Perth celebrating family and Greek community events in the 1950s and 60s.

*Peter Kalaf & friends
celebrating at a party in
Mount Hawthorn, 1968.
PH06411*





Peter Kalaf and family celebrating his 21st birthday in West Perth, 1959. PH06415



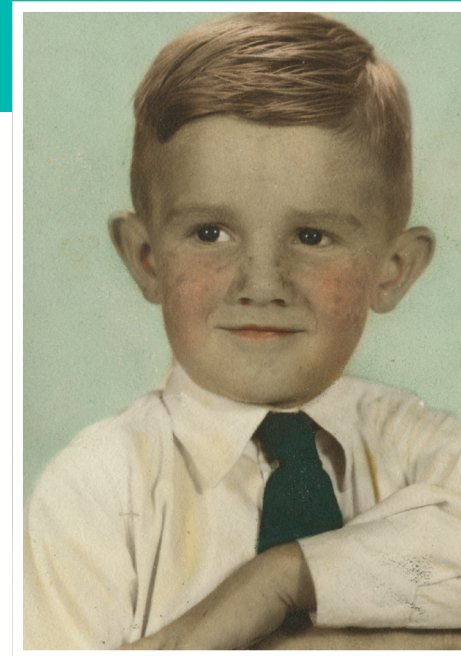
Peter and friends dancing at the Hellenic Club, 1968. PH06412

VINCENT HERITAGE HERO

HAROLD COPPOCK

Harold Coppock was born in 1941 in Mount Hawthorn to parents Harold and Gladys Coppock. The family lived at 187 The Boulevarde until 1960. The home = was later demolished and is now the site of Earlybirds Playgroup, opposite Braithwaite Park in Mount Hawthorn.

Harold has been a tireless supporter of the Local History Centre sharing his family history and his memoirs for inclusion in the City's Local History Collection. His contributions include: *Mount Hawthorn at the end of the 1950s* which documents



Harold Coppock as a boy, 1940s.

the construction of John Allans Store in 1959 on the site of the former Mount Hawthorn Congregational Church, which stood on the corner of Scarborough Beach Road and Flinders Street Mount Hawthorn. For the 2020 Local History Awards, Harold submitted an engaging memoir of his boyhood in Mount Hawthorn, entitled 'Another Boulevarde Boy' for the Local History Awards. In 2021, he contributed another written entry on the history of an organisation in which his family were very active, the Mount Hawthorn Amateur Athletics Club.

This year, Harold unsuccessfully proposed the naming of 'Coppock Lane' which runs parallel to Matlock and Coogee Streets in honour of his late father Harold Tindall Coppock, who lived in Mount Hawthorn from 1911 until 1960. Harold Senior was a longstanding member of the Mount Hawthorn Congregational Church and a foundation, active and life member of the former Mount Hawthorn Amateur Athletics Club. He served in the Military as a Platoon Commander in the 2/28 Battalion, principally in Tobruk, Syria, and New Guinea, and was renowned for his distinguished service. The naming was to commemorate his service and active role in the social life of the local Mount Hawthorn community.

(<https://imagine.vincent.wa.gov.au/coppocklane>)

We commend Harold Jnr for his passionate interest the local history of Mount Hawthorn and thank him for his continued support and contributions to the City's Local History Collection.



SUBDIVISIONS: NORTH PERTH BY JANE COFFEY.

In 2020, local artist and business owner Jane Coffey 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 the Local History Centre in November/December 2021.



IN-HOUSE EVENTS

EVENTS &
WORKSHOPS



TALK: THE LIFE & TIMES OF EDITH COWAN

WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021

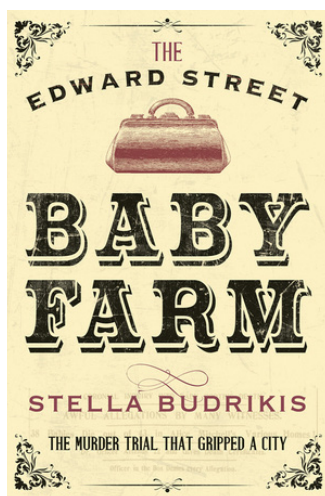
10:00 – 11:30AM,

Local History Centre, City of Vincent Library

Hilary Silbert became interested in Edith when she applied for a job at the new ECU. She knew nothing about Edith Dircksey Cowan, found very little about her in 1992, but all of that changed, when she became the first Corporate Events Manager. She introduced the Edith Cowan lecture on her birthday, was involved in a touring exhibition on Edith's life and wanted to raise her profile, as an amazing Australian. Hilary set up the Edith Dircksey Cowan Commemoration with Edith Cowan's grandson Peter Cowan's blessing.

Join us for a talk to learn more about the life and legacy of this remarkable Australian women.

Cost: Free | **Presenter:** Hilary Silbert | **Bookings essential as places are limited:** Email local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au or call 9273 6534

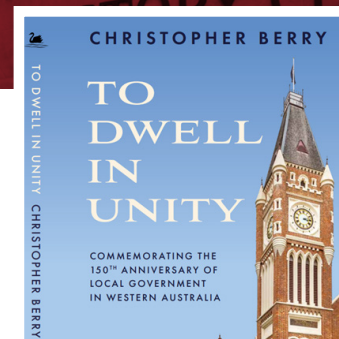


TALK: THE EDWARD STREET BABY FARM

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER

10:00 – 11.30 AM.

Local History Centre, City of Vincent Library



TALK: TO DWELL IN UNITY: COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WA.

WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER | 12:00 – 1PM

Local History Centre, City of Vincent Library

The year 2021 marks the 150th anniversary of the first roads boards and municipalities, an important step in the creation of a comprehensive system of local government for Western Australia. The post-war period has seen the continued expansion of local government's role and the cementing of its place in developing the community. There have been many attempts at reforming local government, and that is an important part of the story, as are some of the personal stories of the characters and scoundrels who have been part of the remarkable story of local government in WA. Dr Berry has worked in the local government sector since the 1980s and is currently working with the WA Local Government Grants Commission on road funding.

Books will be available for purchase, cash only.

Cost: Free | **Presenter:** Dr Chris Berry
Bookings essential: Email local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au or call 9273 6534

In 1907, Alice Mitchell was arrested for the murder of five-month-old Ethel Booth. During the inquest and subsequent trial, the general public was horrified to learn that at least 37 infants had died in Mitchell's care in the previous six years. It became clear that she had been running a 'baby farm', making a profit out of caring for the children of single mothers and other 'unfortunate women'.

This book retraces this infamous 'baby farm' tragedy and a trial which gripped the nation and led to legislative changes to protect children's welfare.

Cost: Free | **Presenter:** Stella Budrikis | **Bookings essential:** Email local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au or call 9273 6534



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