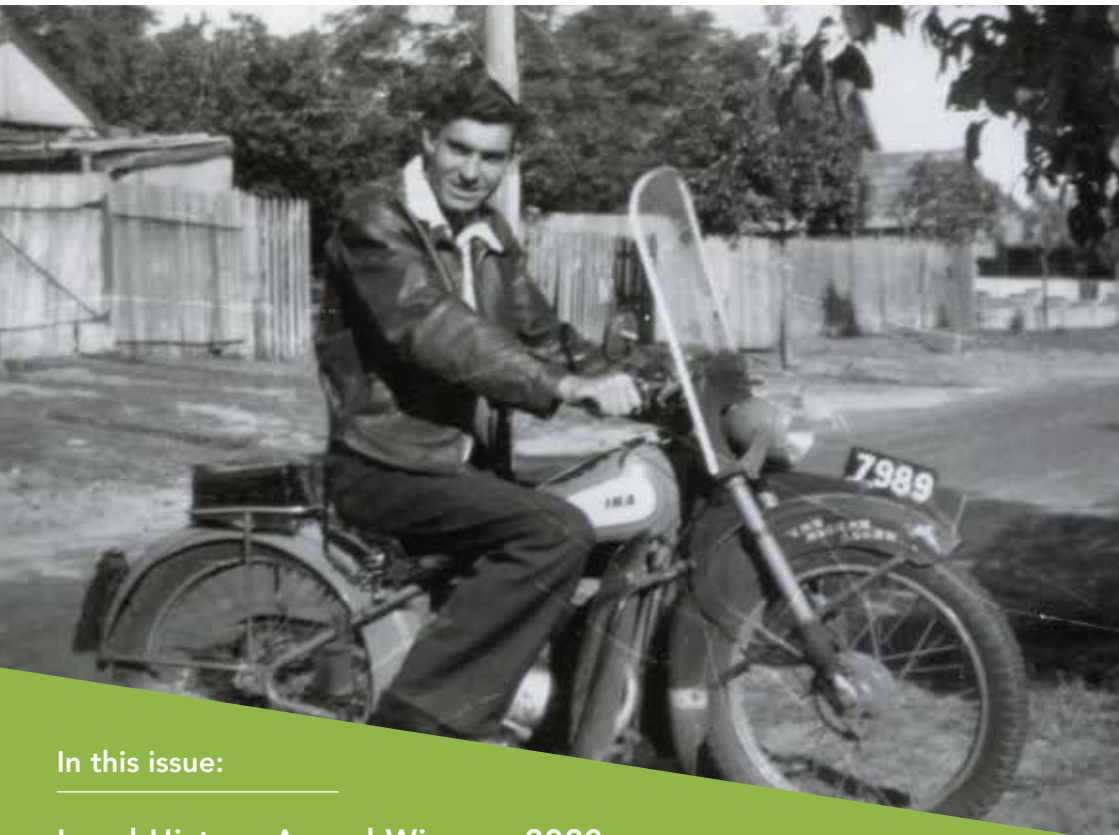




CITY OF VINCENT
**LIBRARY &
LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE**

January – March 2021
Vol. 11 No.1

Local History News



In this issue:

Local History Award Winners 2020

Early History of Ngala

Street Stories – Wilberforce Street

Vincent Heritage Hero – Michelle Vercoe

What's New?

Events

New items | Can you help? | Events & workshops



Last year provided an opportunity for many of us to hit the 'reset' button and focus on what matters most.

also look forward to showcasing more of our Local History Collection as we progress our digitisation program and make more oral histories and archival materials accessible online.

In this edition, we feature some of the 2020 City of Vincent Local History Award winners in the historic and contemporary photo categories, as well as extracts from the winning written entries. All written and photographic entries are available online through our catalogue. Hope you enjoy viewing and reading them. Can't wait to see what new and unexpected treasures come into the Local History Collection in 2021.

Dr Susanna Iuliano
Senior Librarian,
Local History Centre

At the Local History Centre, we have taken time to reprioritise and find out what is most important to our clients. What we've learned is that we need to balance the demands for more online content with programs and events that engage people face to face. While COVID has hastened our pivot to the digital world, it has also highlighted the need for human connection, especially in our local neighbourhoods.

We look forward to welcoming patrons back to our monthly talks, workshops and walks in 2021. We

Cover Image: Winner of the 'People's Choice' photograph for the 2020 Local History Awards. George Long on his BSA motorcycle, Peach Street North Perth, 1950. (COV LHC: PHO6033).



Follow us on Facebook:
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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



Appelt family home at 78 Carr Street West Perth, c1925. (COV LHC: PHO6097)

Local History Awards 2020	4
Written Awards	5
Photographs	9
Historic Photo Winners	9
Contemporary Photo Winners	12
History of Ngala	16
Street Stories – Wilberforce Street	18
Vincent Heritage Hero – Michelle Vercoe	20
What's New?	21
Events	22

LOCAL HISTORY AWARDS 2020



Vincent Mayor Emma Cole with winners of the City of Vincent Local History Awards, 2020.

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the Vincent Local History Awards. We received 22 written entries covering topics and eras as wide-ranging as school-yard memoirs to contemporary reflections on the impacts of COVID-19 on life in Vincent. The judges were impressed with the overall quality of the entries and awarded five prizes. The following are brief extracts from the winning entries. All written entries are available online at: librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/1263/0

1st Prize Written Category:
Feral in an Inner Suburb by Ronald Lindsay.



Ron Lindsay and friend Kev in their home-made boat, Lake Monger 1950. COV LHC: PHO6171

Ron Lindsay lived at 240 Vincent Street from 1942 to 1964. His funny warts and all childhood memoir paints a vivid picture of what life was like for kids growing up in the inner suburbs of Perth in the early post-war era.

My mate Kev was a most energetic and intelligent guy who seemed to know everything and was my mentor. We built the best hill trolleys, canoes, cubbies and flying foxes. We became the richest kids in the district with our money making ventures and scams which included pinching flowers from front gardens in one direction then after bunching them, selling them door to door in the other direction. We mowed lawns around our neighbourhood with Dad's old Qualcast push mower, carried in my push cart, we trimmed edges and hedges with Dad's hand shears. We also made bottles of ginger beer and sold them at the baseball in Beatty Park on Sunday afternoons for four pence a 13 oz bottle...

Read all of Ron's story here:

librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/1122/0

2nd Prize Written Category: Mooditch Footprints by Lindsay Calyun.



Image of Lindsay Calyun and friend in Miller's woodyard, early 1960s. Image from *Powering Perth: A History of the East Perth Power Station space* (2011), p 49.

Noongar Elder Lindsay Calyun's memoir of growing up in the East Perth area in the 1960s is a very different story of boyhood in Vincent. Lindsay's reflections on close-knit Aboriginal community life in East Perth show just how recent and close to home the experiences of the stolen generation are for many Noongar elders in Perth.

As I was growing up in East Perth in the 1960's with my parents, all of us; me, my Elders, brother Lyall and my younger sister Aileen, we all stayed at our auntie's place in Kensington Street. It was next to Claisebrook train station. Me and my brother started school at East Perth State School from grade 1-5, Lyall went from grade 4-7, then he went to Perth Modern School....In 1965 I was taken from primary school, two police men took me from school. I didn't know where I was going to stop next. I ended up in Mt Lawley Receiving Home. Then was taken to Longmoore for one night and then next morning I was picked up by a missionary and taken to Roelands. In 1968 me and two mission boys, they were like brothers to me, growing up with them we all went to school together, we ran away from the mission...

Read all of Lindsay's store here:

librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/1173/0

Joint 2nd Prize Written Category: Rumours by Melinda Tognini.

Rumours is an account of North Perth resident, war veteran and local baker Herman Kuring whose mysterious disappearance on Rottnest Island during WWII sparked rumours of him being a Nazi spy.

The Kuring family had been part of the local community for about a decade when Prime Minister John Curtin announced that Australia was again at war. Their home was in Throssell Street, just around the corner from the bakery and across the road from picturesque Hyde Park. Herman and Rita's son, John, had been a student at Perth Modern School, their daughter had attended Perth College, and Herman was a member of the local bowling club. None of that seemed to matter among Perth gossip mongers. The obvious problem, of course, was that, despite being born in Australia, he was of German descent. After war was declared, countless residents of German, Italian and Japanese background were interned as Prisoners of War in camps. Some may have thought Herman should have been among them. There was no evidence that the authorities were particularly concerned, though, so why should anyone else be?



Image of Herman Kuring from Australian War Memorial, P11499.001

Read all of Melinda's story here:

librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/1182/0

3rd Prize Written Category: Lockdown in 1943 by Beryl Long.



Beryl Long on Peach Street, 1942. COV LHC: PHO 6023

Beryl Long's memories of contracting diphtheria as a teenager in North Perth in 1943 have interesting and relevant parallels to modern day quarantine and responses to COVID-19.

It's the 20 April 1943 just 10 weeks after my 14th birthday. Australia is at war and as I walk home to North Perth from my dancing lesson I see many servicemen on the streets of Perth. Most of the Australian Servicemen have homes to go to but the Americans and the French seem to congregate on Murray Street. I am tired from my long dancing lesson and when I arrive home I decide to go to bed earlier than usual. After an uncomfortable night I wake feeling very unwell with a sore throat, fever and vomiting. My Mother rang Dr Webster who was the locum for the North Perth GP Dr Wheeler who had signed up and was in the Army. Doctors made house calls in those days, at least for people who were too unwell to visit the surgery. Dr Webster arrived in the evening and diagnosed diphtheria – a serious bacterial infection spread between people by droplets through coughing, sneezing and close contact. The infection had already taken hold of my upper respiratory tract and was expected to spread into my airways and lungs; a serious condition requiring hospitalisation and unfortunately strict quarantine.

Read all of Beryl's story here:

librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/1163/0

PHOTO WINNERS: HISTORIC PHOTOS

1st Prize: North Perth Primary School 1899 to 1940s. Photos shared by North Perth Primary School.

North Perth Primary School took out first prize for a series of historic images of the school dating from its origins in 1899 to photos of its school oval ('Goonderup') in the 1940s. The school oval was levelled during WWII by staff and students and was officially opened on Arbor Day in 1944. Trees were planted on the perimeter of the school oval with each tree named after a well-known West Australian. Groups of senior students were assigned custodianship of a particular tree and on Goonderup Day each year until the late 1950s, a new group of students would assume responsibility for caring for that tree.



North Perth School, 1899. COV LHC: PHO6143



Official opening of Goonderup Place, 1944. COV LHC: PHO6152.



Sir James Mitchell at the opening of Goonderup Place, 1944. COV LHC: PHO6146.

2nd Prize: Pal & Panther on Angove Street.
Photos shared by Jim Howe.

Jim Howe, former proprietor of the Pal & Panther cycle shop took out second prize for a series of photographs documenting the history and development of his business on Angove Street, North Perth. Jim has spent his whole working life on Angove Street. From his days as an apprentice to Cyril Collins at Pal & Panther cycle shop in the 1950s, to running his own cycle and motorcycle business, Jim's love for all things two wheeled has been part of North Perth for over 70 years. Motorcycle Pitstop, the business run by his son and daughter-in-law, recently relocated from North Perth to Osborne Park ending a long standing family connection to Angove Street.



COV LHC: PHO6158



COV LHC: PHO6163



COV LHC: PHO6164

3rd Prize: Bryant Woodyard, Duke Street/Old Aberdeen Street West Perth, 1905. Photo shared by Janet McCallum.



COV LHC: PHO6084

This very historic photo shared by Janet McCallum is of a woodyard business (the site of which is now under the Freeway in West Perth) that was run by Janet's grandfather Richard Bryant at a time when woodyards were common in Perth as a major source of fuel for homes.

Special Mention: Images of Peach Street, North Perth.
Photos by Beryl Long.



Beryl MacLennan in the paddock beside her family home at 7 Peach Street North Perth, 1930. COV LHC: PHO6017



Bridesmaid Beryl MacLennan with sister Thelma in the backyard of the family home at Peach Street North Perth before he sister's wedding, 1944. COV LHC: PHO6027

PHOTO WINNERS: CONTEMPORARY IMAGES



COV LHC: PHO6179

1st Prize: Double Rainbow over North Perth Community Garden, 2020. Photo by Sophie Farnan.



COV LHC: PHO6081

2nd Prize: Autumn Sunrise in Hyde Park, 2020. Photo by Greg Rowney.



COV LHC: PHO6007

3rd Prize: Highgate Hills Hoist, 2019. Photo by Alec Campbell Thomas.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Images of St Nikola Macedonian Orthodox Church, Angove Street North Perth. Photos by Chris Murray.



COV LHC: PHO6068



COV LHC: PHO6069



COV LHC: PHO6070



A house on Lincoln Street, the original House of Mercy

EARLY HISTORY OF NGALA: A HOUSE ON LINCOLN STREET

A house on Lincoln Street, the original House of Mercy

For the 2020 Local History Awards, Cherilyn McMeekin entered the story of the House of Mercy at 55 Lincoln Street, Highgate. The House of Mercy, later renamed the Alexandra Home for Women, was the forerunner of Ngala in South Perth. Cherilyn has undertaken research on the early history of the organisation for a book commemorating the 130th anniversary

of Ngala which will be published in early 2021.

The House of Mercy at 55 Lincoln Street, Highgate was designed by soldier/architect Sir Talbot Hobbs and was built in 1901 as a refuge for unmarried pregnant young women. The following description of the refuge appeared in the West Australian in 1926:

For girls in desperate straits, sore beset with shameful sorrow, there is in Perth a haven. At the Alexandra Home in Lincoln-street, Highgate Hill, safe shelter is offered that seeks not to reproach, but to assist materially in re-generating the shattered lives of weak-natured young women. There they are helped in every possible way. Inexperienced and ignorant young girls are also taught much that is useful, and to tend their babies in accordance with the laws of hygiene.

The West Australian, 24 September 1926.



The Alexandra Home for Women at 55 Lincoln Street Highgate c1937¹⁴

Matron Ferguson (right) and her assistant Miss Street Highgate c1937¹⁵

In 1916, the 'House of Mercy' became the Alexandra Home for Women, named for King Edward VII's widow. Early plans to build Perth's first maternity hospital on Lincoln Street beside the House of Mercy did not proceed and King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women opened in Subiaco in 1916. The link to King Edward in the renamed Alexandra Home for Women remained however and the institution continued to take in unmarried pregnant women and babies. In the 1940s, the work of the Alexandra Home for Women expanded to include mothercraft training. In the late 1950s, having outgrown its original building, the organisation moved to new premises in South Perth and become the Ngal-a Mothercraft Home and Training Centre. The house at 55 Lincoln Street was demolished in the early 1980s and the land is now occupied by aged care service, Aegis Lincoln Park.

We look forward to hosting Cherilyn at the Local History Centre for a talk on the history of Ngala and its beginnings in Lincoln Street, Highgate. In the meantime, you can read Cherilyn's submission to the 2020 Local History Awards here: www.librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/1201/0

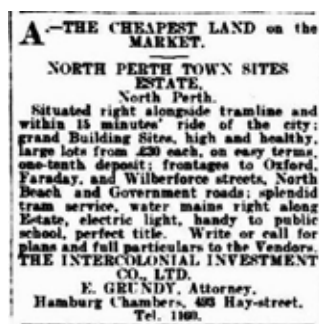
Images from TROVE, The West Australian, 15 April 1936, page 4.

STREET STORIES: WILBERFORCE STREET, MOUNT HAWTHORN

In this edition, we begin a regular feature highlighting stories from historic streets and lanes in Vincent.

Wilberforce Street runs between Oxford and Shakespeare streets, just south of Scarborough Beach Road in Mount Hawthorn. We are often asked to provide information about the origin of street names, most of which involves educated guesswork as decision making around the naming of streets was rarely recorded in the past. Given that surrounding streets carry the names of eminent British figures in art or science (Shakespeare, Faraday), the street was likely named after 19th Century British politician and clergyman William Wilberforce, a well-known advocate for abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire.

Residential lots were first advertised for sale in Wilberforce Street in the early 1900s. The street was then part of North Perth and was adjacent to the North Perth Brickworks which occupied a large portion of land off Scarborough Beach Road near Shakespeare Street until the 1920s. The first residents of Wilberforce Street was dairyman and carrier Herbert Henry Roberts and his wife Annie Eliza who took up residence from 1913 to 1914. By 1920, there were still only two houses on Wilberforce Street (14 and 24). Following WWI, there was a flurry of house building and by 1928 there were 25 households listed in Wise's Post Office Directories. Many of the residents were WWI veterans, with working class occupations ranging from gardeners to grocers. Long-term resident of 14 Wilberforce Street, brewery hand John Coonan, was an Irish nationalist who served as President of the Perth branch of the 'Self Determination for Ireland League' in the 1920s. Another interesting resident of the 1920s was Janet Emily Barwick and her husband Percy, a Beaufort Street butcher. In 1924, Janet was called to testify in a coronial inquest after a Maylands woman died from septicemia following a miscarriage at the Barwick's Wilberforce Street home in March 1924.



A family with a connection to the street spanning almost 100 years were the Begleys of 10 Wilberforce Street. Arthur Begley was born in Lancashire in 1896. He migrated to Perth with his family in 1911 and lived at 20 Ilma Street (later renamed Fairfield Street) in Mount Hawthorn and became an apprentice carpenter/joiner. In 1915, he enlisted in the Australian Army and served in the 44th Battalion AIF in France where he was wounded on the front line. He returned to Australia injured and was discharged from the army. After the war, he became a prominent member of the Mt Hawthorn- North Leederville RSL and a keen supporter of the West Perth Football Club. In 1920, he married Eileen Olive Reid and the couple built and moved into their home at 10 Wilberforce Street in late 1920. Arthur was one of many WWI veterans to live on the street in the ensuing years.

They had three children, Arthur (who died as an infant in 1922), Berna (b 1923 d 2019) and Edwin (b 1925 d 2013). After his discharge from the army, Arthur never fully recovered from the after effects of his wounds and he died in 1934, aged 37 years. Eileen raised her children through the years of the Depression and beyond on a War Widow's Pension augmenting the family income with catering work.

10 Wilberforce Street has been home to several generations of the Begley family with son Edwin and daughter Berna living with their mother and raising their own families in the home at various points in the 1950s and beyond. Berna, who married Arthur Anning in 1946, raised her daughter Lynne at 10 Wilberforce Street and continued to live with and care for her mother until Eileen's death in 1989. Berna was featured in an article in the Perth Voice newspaper in 2006 discussing the history of her family's connection to the street. Berna also compiled a comprehensive history of the Begley family which is available for reading in the Local History Centre. She was also interviewed as part of the East Perth Power Station history project in 2007. The transcript of the interview is available at: www.librarycatalogue.vincent.wa.gov.au/client/en_GB/search/asset/501/0

Berna Anning (nee Begley) aged 16, 1939. Image from A History of the Begley family by Berna Anning.

Opposite page: North Perth real estate subdivision poster showing Wilberforce Street, 1908. (slwa_b4584687_2)



VINCENT HERITAGE HERO MICHELLE VERCOE

The Vincent Local History Centre could not run without the help of a dedicated team of volunteers. One of the most dedicated and dearest volunteers is Michelle Vercoe.

My visit to the Vincent Library began when my children were young. As the years passed, I then started using the research facilities as I dived into tracing my family history. I soon realised what a valuable resource this was to the public. One day I was invited to become a Friend of the Local History Centre.

Then on a learning curve I went, from using the monster of the photocopier with its bells and whistles. Then developing research skills, using my limited typing ability that has led me to writing stories, which I had not done since high school. Some of these stories have appeared in our newsletter. The shock I experienced was in response from readers. Yep people were reading them!

As for using the computers, well I am getting better, so now it's not such a minefield.

I also have had the delight in helping visitors research their own history, listening to their stories and being supportive as they discover or rediscovered something interesting, then directing them, so that one day they too can write a story. My latest and time-consuming job is digitally preparing our vast collection of photographs, while using two computer screens, it impressed my daughter. I love looking at the photographs as they are a treasure trove of history that we have been entrusted to. I have gained so much by volunteering here, with my own personal development and growing confidence, but more importantly the acceptance and friendship I have from the library staff, volunteers and the visitors to our centre for which I am grateful.

Michelle Vercoe

WHAT'S NEW IN THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION?

Anning-Begley Collection

A collection of items belonging to Berna Anning (nee Begley) was recently donated to us by her daughter Lynne and former neighbor Ellie Savory. Berna and her family were long-term residents of Wilberforce Street, Mount Hawthorn (see article on Wilberforce Street in this edition). The collection includes many treasures which highlight the fascinating family history spanning two world wars as well as domestic and family life in the post-war period. Items include:

- An album of WWI postcards and photographs that belonged to Berna's father Arthur Begley, 44 Battalion AIF;
- Recipe books belonging to Berna Anning including 'Whitcombe's Everyday Cookery (with wartime meal plans) and a booklet of handwritten confectionary recipes used by Berna and her husband to make sweets for show bags which they sold at country fairs around Perth and the South-West in the 1950s;
- 1960s schoolbooks, stationery, school magazines and posters belonging to Lynne Anning;



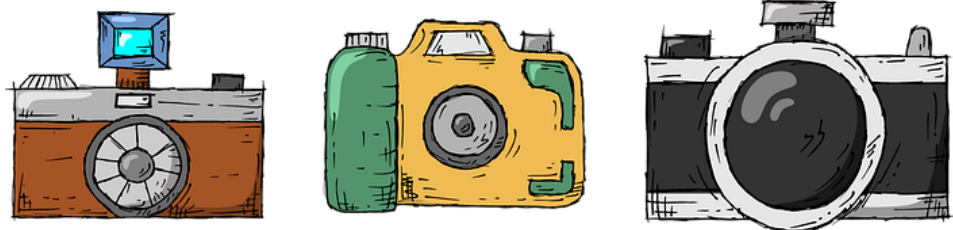
Items in the Anning collection include a monogrammed book-cover and matchbox cover collection from the WA Match Company of West Perth.

- A wonderful collection of decorative matchbox covers produced by the WA Match Co. of West Perth.

We look forward to processing these materials and making them accessible to schools, researchers or any history enthusiasts.

IN-HOUSE EVENTS

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



WORKSHOP: HYDE PARK PHOTOGRAPHY

THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2020: 3:00-5:00PM

Hyde Park Perth, Glendower Street entrance

Want to improve your photography? Learn how to get the most out of your digital camera and take your photos to the next level. This practical workshop will be facilitated by professional photographer Leo Hagan. Local history librarian Susanna Iuliano will also give an intro to the history of the Hyde Park. BYO Digital camera/phone.

Cost: Free

Presenter: Leo Hagan

Bookings essential as places are limited:

Email local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au or call 9273 6534

TALK: HALF THE PERFECT WORLD

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY: 10AM

Library Lounge, City of Vincent Library & Local History Centre

Winner of the 2019 Non-Fiction Prime Minister's Literary Award, *Half the Perfect World* tells the story of Australian writers George Johnston and Charmian Clift and their experiences at the centre of a post-war international artist community on the Greek island of Hydra in the 1950s and 1960s.

Cost: Free

Presenter: Paul Genoni and Tanya Dalziell

Bookings essential: 9273 6090

WORKSHOP: ANCESTRY FOR BEGINNERS WITH JULIE DAVIDSON

WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH

10:00 – 11.30 AM

City of Vincent Library & Local History Centre

Former Local History Librarian Julie Davidson will provide participants with an overview of Ancestry and tips on how to navigate it successfully to find what you need.

Cost: Free

Presenter: Julie Davidson

Bookings essential: Email 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



Follow the City of Vincent Library on Facebook

Local History Centre

www.library.vincent.wa.gov.au

Email: local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au

Phone: 9273 6090

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

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