



TOWN OF VINCENT

Local History Awards 2008

The Winners

Personal Memoirs

1st prize

Fred McCulloch – “Growing up in the Town of Vincent”

This gives a wonderfully detailed account of growing up in the Town of Vincent, with good descriptions of many aspects of life in the 1930s and 1940s. Excellent recollections of living in Buxton Street and the neighbours, and also of Mt Hawthorn School, the teachers and of attending Perth Junior Technical High School in Newcastle Street, West Perth.

Joint 2nd prize

June Merrett – “Growing up in Leederville in the Depression and WWII”

A well written memoir, which gives a feel for what it was like to live in Leederville in the 1940s, with good descriptions of the sights and sounds of the times, including being able to hear the animals in the zoo on a still night. A story which was told with humour was that of the Red Cross shoulder bags which the children took to school every day, containing emergency supplies.

Wilfred Paget – “I thank God for cream buns”

An interesting account of what it was like to grow up in a poor family with a single parent who earned a living as a laundress. Born in Newcastle Street, during his childhood Wilfred lived in Dangan and Brisbane streets amongst other places. His memories include Newcastle Street School and his sister went to Highgate School. There is an involvement with the Bell family, who also lived in the area and became well known for the Albany Bell Tearooms in the city. This is a very readable life story.

Special Mentions

Harold Coppock – “Mount Hawthorn at the end of the 1950s”

This is a very informative look at the John Allen Department Store which was built in Mt Hawthorn on the site which is now occupied by The Mezz, placing it and Scarborough Beach Road into an historical context. The story is built around a 16-page article which appeared in the *Sunday Times* on 22 November 1959. It also provides an interesting insight into the changes occurring at the end of the 1950s, such as television, cars, self-service and betting agents.

Mary Kelly – “The Neille-Franklin family history in the Town of Vincent: Mt Hawthorn – North Perth – Leederville 1906-1997”

This is a well presented chronology of the families with plenty of photographs to illustrate the facts. A good insight to the life of butcher Tup Neille and the community organisations he was involved in.

Written Research

1st prize

Ruth Venables – “Pioneers of Leederville”

This is a highly researched and well written account of the Venables family and their involvement the community, in business and in developing technology. It reveals the strength of character and vision of both John Risely and Clara Venables through what they achieved with their businesses and work with the Salvation Army.

2nd prize

Rod Smoker – “A humble heritage: the Smoker and Stockley families and the Swan Maternity Hospital”

The Swan Maternity Hospital, which is also known as Nurse Stockley’s Maternity Hospital, is located at 590 Newcastle Street. Alice Stockley actually purchased the block in 1912 and commissioned the building of her hospital. Many of the residents of the Town born between 1913 and 1944 were born there.

Special mention

Ralff Merlo – “The history of my house in Glebe Street, North Perth”

An interesting history of a house, showing not only the change of ownership, but also how the current owners, who have lived there from 1962, have remodelled and extended the house over the years. The entry included the original Title Deeds and plans for the various renovations as well as a 1920s street directory, showing the original name of the street. Ralff also includes his research on why the name of the street changed from Rose Street to Glebe Street.

Migrant Stories

1st prize

Jamie Bentley – “The East Perth 'Pom' 1949”

Jamie migrated in 1949, at the age of 22, after serving in the British Army. He lived in Stirling Street, East Perth and recounts the buildings and social history of the area. This is a very readable account of a short period in time of life around East Perth.

2nd prize

Elizabeth Caiacob

Elizabeth is an English migrant who arrived in Western Australia in 1963 with her husband, baby son and widowed mother. They lived in Oxford Street, Leederville for a time, which she compares to life in England.

Photographic Memories

Pre-1926

Bill Smith



1915

Horse-drawn cart with a timber boat being taken to the Swan River. The boat was built at the rear of 224 Carr Street. The Blacksmith's workshop can be seen in the background.

Peter Arcus



1914-1918

Interior of the WA Boot Manufacturing Company in Lake Street, Perth. The company had a contract to make army boots during WWI.

Jenny Marshall



Members of the Ugly Men's Association building an extension on 210 Carr Street. During WWI and in the 1920s the Ugly Men's Association built or extended homes of war widows, disabled soldiers and POWs. The owner of this house, William Marshall, was a POW in Germany from 1916 and returned to Australia in 1919.

1926 to 1950

Frances Thomas



1926

Alice Griggs in the doorway of her shop on the corner of Coogee Street and Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn. Good view through the verandah up Anzac Road to the Oxford Hotel.

Nancy Cotterell



1946

Girls looking smart in uniforms promoting the introduction of Persil, around 1946, inside Gordon Matheson's shop at 149 Scarborough Beach Road, Mt Hawthorn.

"Persil was originally priced at 6d per packet and came in Tasmanian Oak boxes of 48."

Bill Smith



1947

Grace Smith on her bicycle outside the Golden West Drinks Factory in Carr Street, Leederville.

1951 to 1978

Meryl Atherton



Early 1950s

Owner Hamilton Sibley inside his handy-foods shop at 378 Fitzgerald Street, North Perth. Grace and Hamilton Sibley owned the shop from 1947 to 1955.

John McIntosh



1959

Fran and Joan Crawford with *Lucky*, the stable dog, in the backyard and stables at 10-12 Bourke Street, North Perth, with surrounding paddocks and Chinese market gardens. (The chimneys on the horizon are Brownes Dairy.)

Sophie Spartalis



1963

Christmas party given by Robert Esposito at his home in Oxford Street, Leederville with guests Evangelina Pantelis and Sophie Spartalis.

Special Mentions

Jenny Marshall



William and Nell Marshall in the car on the driveway of 285 Vincent Street, Leederville. Edith Britten (néé Marshall) is in the dickey seat and the shadow is of her husband, Norman Britten, taking the photograph. The car, a Morris, was dark red.

“Later my mother was always worried when we children were in the dickey seat in case we fell out. I loved it!”

Nancy Cotterell



1936

Her brother Hilton Matheson, at the side of the shop in Tennyson Street, off to St Mary's Primary School with his cone of lollies in one hand and pith helmet in the other.

"The cone making out of half a sheet of paper was an art, and saved the use of a paper bag which was relatively expensive."

Thank you to everyone who entered the 2008 Local History Awards.