



The News Quarterly

April - June 2015 >> Vol. 5 No. 2

It is good news for the Local History Centre that the local government amalgamation will not go ahead. This ensures that our archives will remain intact and we can continue with business as usual!

I am happy to announce that the Local History Photographic Awards for 2015 are happening! Entry forms will be available from April with entries closing on the 29 June 2015. See inside for further details.

The Google Earth tutorial in March was so popular that we are running another plus a general information session prior to the tutorial. More details on the events page.

There is a new exhibition in the Local History Centre *'Where do I begin to research my World War One Ancestors?'*. This illustrates the use of photographs letters, diaries, or names as starting points to discover records available online. Please come in and read some of the interesting stories we discovered about local soldiers. We are happy to assist you in using online databases for your own research.

Remember to purchase your ticket for 'Don't forget me Cobber' which promises to be a wonderful show.

Julie Davidson
Senior Librarian, Local History



Autumn

What's in this issue?

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What's on this quarter?

Visit us

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm
*2.00pm – 4.45pm (*variable - ring to confirm)

Phone: 9273 6534

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

Contact

Julie Davidson, Senior Librarian, Local History (Monday – Thursday)

Catherine Lang, Librarian, Local History (Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

What's New in our online subscription sites?



Australian records

- Australia, World War I Service Records, 1914-1920
- Cyclopeda of NSW, 1907
- Cyclopeda of South Australia, 1907-1909
- Cyclopeda of Victoria, 1903-1905
- Cyclopeda of Tasmania, 1931
- Australian Death Index, 1787-1885 (updated)
- Australian Marriage Index, 1788-1950 (updated)

UK records

- West Yorkshire, Select Poor Law and Township Records, 1663-1914
- Gloucestershire, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1813
- Gloucestershire, Confirmations 1834-1913, Baptisms 1813-1913, Marriages and Banns 1754-1938, Burials 1813-1988

Users of Ancestry can now email and save records to their own Discovery Page.



Australian records

- Queensland Assisted Immigration, 1848-1912 (over 261,000 records)
- Queensland, Brisbane Register of Immigrants, 1885-1917 (over 48,000 records)
- Queensland Naturalisations, 1851-1904, (over 12,000 records)
- Queensland, Maryborough Registers of Rations issued to Immigrants, 1875-1884
- Queensland Nominated Immigrants, 1908-1922
- Queensland Immigration Registers, 1922 to 1940
- Queensland Passport Registers, 1926 to 1949

UK records

- Wiltshire, Salisbury Wills Index, 1464-1858
- Lincolnshire Parish Registers Surname Search, 1695-1911

Users are first asked to register (for free) to a personal account linked to your email address. This enables saving records and searches.

Can you help?

On 11 June 2014 Andrew Duckworth gave a presentation in the Local History Centre on the history of the original North Perth Fire Station in Fitzgerald Street.

He is now almost finished writing his book about the history of the fire station and the men who served there, but just needs a little more information to complete it.

At the event someone approached Andrew saying that he remembered the original North Perth Fire Station and had in fact been inside it after it was converted into a Boys Scouts Hall. If you are that man Andrew would still like to speak to you (or anyone else who may have been inside or has any information). Please email Andrew at andrewd@thepaperboy.com



Local History Photographic Awards 2015

We encourage you to get out your old photo albums and slide boxes to see what treasures you can rediscover, which will add to our photographic record of life in the Vincent area up to 1984.

You may be rewarded and your photographs will be an exhibition of the photos from August 2015. All images will also become part of the [Local History Image Library](#).



Unsure what to enter?

Bring your slides and albums into the Local History Centre and we can help you choose.

Also, previous winners can be viewed on the [Local History Awards](#) webpage on the City of Vincent website.

The 2015 categories for entries are:

Category One

Photographs over 30 years old taken in the City of Vincent which reveal life in the past.

Includes: landscapes, streetscapes, buildings, interiors, people at work, groups, sport and recreation, events.

There are three sections for individual photographs / slides:

>>Pre-1930 >> 1930 to 1959 >> 1960 to 1984

Three Prizes of \$100 in each category

Category Two

A photo study of two to six photographs

This may feature: changes over time, a building interior and exterior in the same period, a house history including occupants, then and now.

Three Prizes of \$100



Exhibition: Where do I begin to research my World War I ancestors online?

The Local History team, along with the *Friends of Local History*, have been very busy this year in anticipation of the centenary of the Gallipoli landing and the beginnings of WWI.

An exhibition has been created in the Local History Centre based around three items in the City of Vincent's Local History Collection: a letter, a photograph and a diary. These treasures have been used as starting points to demonstrate how you can take a small item of information, with a few clues, to trace World War I records online. The exhibition uses examples of documents from many different websites to inspire you to conduct your own research.



The diary, written by Captain and later Major Francis McAdam, was sent within letters to his fiancé, Kathleen Amy Wells, who lived in Newcastle Street, and is an account of his war experiences from when the first convoy left Fremantle in 1914 until his final entry from France in May 1917. The tone of the daily entries is chatty and factual. It is hard not to admire his courage and honesty. The exhibition includes the diary, extracts with photographs and selected entries being read by his youngest daughter, Paula.

The diary won a prize in the 2014 Local History Awards and is now part of our collection.

The photograph is of six young WWI soldiers, all friends from the North Perth Baptist Church. This was a clue in tracing them, as the records contain an entry for religion. From the times that the various young men joined we could determine that it was probably taken in 1916. All six returned from the war and we were able to follow their post war lives using online databases from the [National Archives of Australia](#), the [Australian War Memorial](#), [Ancestry.com.au](#) and [Trove newspapers](#).



The photograph can be viewed in the Local History Image Library <http://photosau.com.au/vincent/scripts/home.asp>

The letter was written from France on the 25th October 1918, the day of a battalion football match. Jack Crawford writes a letter to his brother Alex recounting how he had played with the Battalion 18 and lists several WAFL league footballers. The football match was recorded in the unit war diary for the 44th Battalion. The unit war diaries have been digitised and are available on the Australian War Memorial site. Read the *Friends of Local History* page following for an extract from the exhibition.

We encourage you to come in and take a look. Bring along anything you may have that may help you in researching your own WWI soldier and we will be happy to assist you in how to use the various websites. Our Friends of Local History may also be able to assist you if you are not confident with researching on the computer.

FROM THE FRIENDS OF LOCAL HISTORY

John Henry (Jack) Crawford of Leederville enlisted with the AIF in January 1916 aged 19 and sailed on the 6 June 1916. He served in France, returning in June 1919.

On 25 October 1918 he wrote a letter to his older brother Alex



In the letter he describes a football game which mentions other WAFL players in his battalion.

I am playing with the battalion eighteen. We have got a good team. Laing, Hewby, Sullivan, Pavey, Dan Brown, Reg Turnbull all W.A. League footballers are with us.

This led to an investigation of these other players to find out who they were and if they survived the war.

We searched the *National Archives of Australia* World War One service records for men with those surnames who had enlisted in Perth. The best clue of all was that Jack was in the 44th Battalion, so that helped limit our search of servicemen with those surnames.

As a result we located:

- **Reginald Turnbull** played for Cottesloe from 1907 then South Fremantle and East Fremantle from 1917
- **William Thomas Sullivan** who played for East Fremantle
- **Arthur Sydney Hewby** who was a Scotch College footballer and entered the AIF as a commissioned officer. He made his WAFL debut in 1915
- **George Henry Brown** (Dan?) Made his debut for East Fremantle in 1907
- **Leslie Charles Laing** (Les "Bruiser" Laing) Subiaco 1911-1921
- **Leslie Pavy** who appeared to play for Katanning and later Geraldton

Jack's brother was William (Fat) Crawford, who died from wounds. He played 97 games for East Perth Football Club between 1909 and 1916



James Crawford, resident of 41 Loftus Street, Leederville with his sons, 1908
L-R: Alexander Bruce, Dave, Jack (John Henry), James, Harold, William.

France Oct 25th 1918

Dear Alex,

Just a few more lines to let you know that I'm still going strong & still enjoying the very best of health & spirits up to date. We are still out spelling. It is very quiet here. but we are away from the noise of the guns & shells & that's the main thing. We have had a lot of rain lately & it is pretty muddy in the village where we are now billeted. We are down in a hollow & get all the rain from the hills. We ~~are~~ are playing a lot of football now we are spelling. I am playing with the battalion eighteen. We have got a good team. Loring, Hewby, Sullivan, Pavey, Dan Brown, Reg Turnbull all W.A. League footballers are with us. We played the D.A.C. ammunition column ~~of~~ last week on their ground about five miles distant. They took us down in S.S. wagons. It ~~was~~ was a great game

Using **Ancestry.com.au** to look at birth, death and marriage records, electoral rolls and rates books we found that:

John Henry Crawford was born in Leederville in 1896.

His parents were James and Wilhelmina Crawford.

The family lived at 23 Trevarton Street, which later became 41 Loftus Street, which is where he lived following his return from service.

The Post Office Directories revealed that from at least 1939 to 1944 Jack rented a shop at 232 Carr Street, which was just up from the Leederville Hotel. He operated as a tobacconist. (Clive Campbell, founder of Campbell's Fishing Tackle had previously operated a hairdresser and tobacconist at this location.)

Jack and his mother lived with his older sister Minnie at 184 Carr Street, Leederville from the 1930s. Jack remained there with Minnie until his death, aged 77, in January 1973. Minnie was then in her 90s.

Repatriation records from the **National Archives of Australia** contain some correspondence with the Social Welfare Officer regarding Jack living with Minnie:

The letter was sourced by Michelle Vercoe who put in many hours of research into Jack's family history and identifying the men mentioned in the letter. This forms part of the current exhibition in the Local History Centre. We also have examples from the unit war diary for that day and the following days on display.

Who was Mrs C Roberts 'The Soldiers' Queen'?

Mrs C Roberts 'The Soldiers' Queen' is seen here starting the first trench for the foundations of Anzac Cottage at 38 Kalgoorlie Street, Mount Hawthorn on the 5 February 1916. She had earlier headed the procession of drays laden with building materials to build the cottage, travelling in her own car, which also carried a Metters' stove and copper.



On the day that Anzac Cottage was built, 12 February 1916, she was photographed hoisting the flag.

As was the formality in the last century the lady known as the *Soldiers' Queen* was usually referred to by her husband's initials as Mrs C or C M Roberts in the 1916 Anzac Cottage Souvenir booklet and newspaper reports.

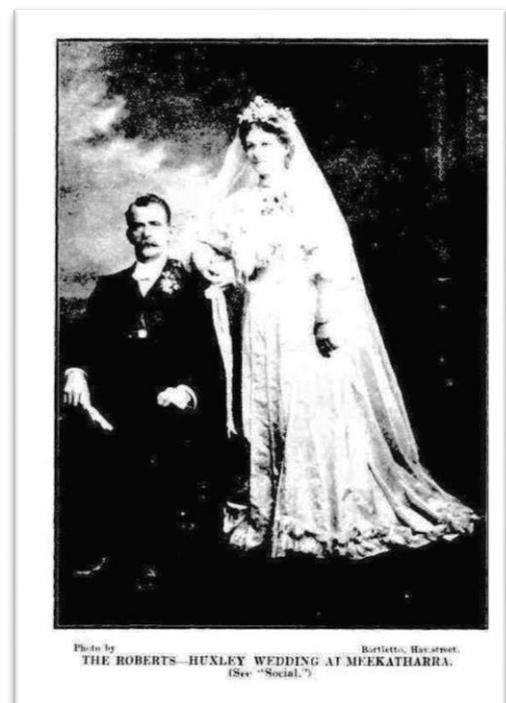
These photographs are from the booklet *Anzac Cottage Souvenir of the Monument erected at Mount Hawthorn, 1916* which can be viewed online at http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b1350285_1

Who was she and what is a 'Soldier's Queen'? Also was she related to John Roberts of Multiplex fame?

These were the intriguing questions which were recently asked in the Local History Centre. This led to a trail of research which revealed a very interesting story.

Mrs C Roberts was born Emily Huxley in Inverell, NSW in 1876. She married Charles McDonald Roberts in Meekatharra on 5 February 1907. This was the first ever wedding in Meekatharra and received a descriptive report in the *Western Mail*, which included the photograph seen opposite.

Charles and his brother John Archibald Roberts, natives of Bathurst NSW, played a prominent part in the development of the Meekatharra goldfields from around 1900. They were prospectors who discovered a line of reef which proved to be very rich. They continued prospecting in the area and found some of the richest lodes in Western Australia at the time. They reinvested some of their good fortune into developing mines and became prominent and wealthy men in the area.



The couple had two sons, John McDonald Roberts (b. 1908) and Charles Andrew Roberts (b.1911). They established their city home 'Caractacus' in Queens Crescent, Mount Lawley. Unfortunately Charles died at home of consumption, in April 1913, at the age of 52, leaving behind his wife Emily with two young boys aged four and one.

Newspaper reports reveal that Charles left an estate of £4,000 to his young sons. Emily Roberts had a separate estate of her own producing an income of some £3,000 per year. In September 1914 she applied to the trustees of her late husband's estate for past and future maintenance for the children from the estate. This went before a judge and the application was refused with Justice Burnside deeming that 'the mother was capable of properly bringing up and educating the children and that the proposed order was not in their interests at this stage'.

Emily Roberts died on 8 October 1944 aged 67 years. According to her obituary in The West Australian, 11 October 1944 p.7

Mrs Roberts first won this title [Soldiers' Queen] during a 'queen' carnival to raise patriotic funds and kept it through her untiring devotion to the cause of the soldiers during WWI. In her efforts to provide comforts for the men, Mrs Roberts disposed of much of her own property ... Apart from her work to raise funds [she] was personally known to thousands of men who sailed from these shores for the parting gifts she personally distributed among them on the wharf as they waited to embark. Her home, Bonnie Vista [in Glenroyd Street, Mount Lawley] was open-house to the men and many a returned soldier found a job through her assistance.

Both of her sons served in the AIF in World War II.

Charles married Gwendoline H Barry in 1932. Their son John Charles Roberts was born in January 1933. The couple also had a second child, although the details cannot be traced. Whilst Charles was serving in the Middle East with the AIF his wife moved in with another man living on Mount Hawthorn, leading Charles to file for divorce when he returned to Perth injured in 1942. The story was covered in the local newspapers.

John Charles Roberts, who was therefore the grandson of Emily Roberts, was educated at Guildford Grammar School. He began work in the building industry straight from school, building a sewer pipeline across an estuary south of Perth. He went on to found Multiplex in 1962 and became a builder and developer worldwide.

Across the three generations the family certainly have an interesting history and have been influential figures within the state of Western Australia.

This enquiry came to us from the Nursery and Garden Industry Association who are preparing a special exhibit featuring Anzac Cottage for the Perth Garden Festival at McCallum Park, Victoria Park from Thursday 30 April to Sunday 3 May.



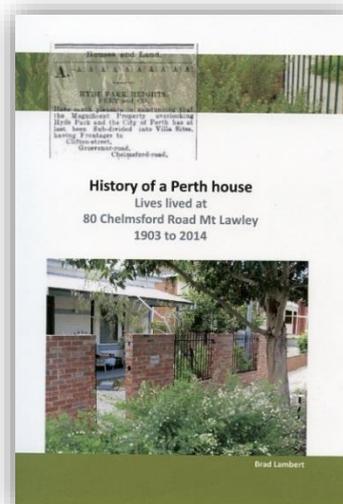
"Anzac Cottage"—Mount Hawthorn's Monument to Australian Valor.

Researching the history of your house: 2014 Local History Award winners

Researching the history of your house can pay. The annual Local History Awards, which were presented in October 2014, included the category *History of a House*. Researchers took the opportunity to visit the Local History Centre located in the Vincent Library to prepare their entries.

First prize was awarded to Brad Lambert for his study of the house at 80 Chelmsford Road, Mount Lawley. The house was constructed in 1903 and Brad conducted many hours of in-depth research into the people who have lived there over the years.

The document produced followed the residents and their stories chronologically and included charts and timelines for the street. It was described by the judges as showing wonderful narrative skills as he gave a feel for the times these people were living in. Detailed footnotes also clarified the information provided and sources. Newspaper clippings as original source material added to the story and these were well presented and easy to read. Brad also used photographs, plans, maps and tables to illustrate his study.



Second prize went to Anne Mills for the study of her house at 82 Palmerston Street, Perth (Northbridge), which was constructed in 1901 by Herbert Hocking. Herbert, with his wife and seven children, arrived in Western Australia from South Australia in 1896.



Hocking was a prominent figure in stock broking and the Perth Stock Exchange. He was also the Perth representative for the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, founded by his brothers Sidney and Percy. He also purchased a large tract of land in Wanneroo where he started an orchard and ran cattle, which led to him being the Chairman of the Wanneroo Roads Board for the first eight years of its existence. There is now a suburb of Hocking near Wanneroo. Herbert Hocking died in 1932.

The chapters follow the various owners of the house using written interviews and meetings with previous owners and their families. It also includes photographs, maps and plans. The judges were impressed by this well researched document which had a good thematic presentation. One judge described it as 'sensational' and felt it really brought out the remarkable history of the place.

A Special Mention was given to Judy Paice for an entry that came between a history of a house and a memoir of a suburb. This entry was not based on research, but conversations with various family members, to create a descriptive and lively record of a family that lived at 55 Redfern Street, North Perth during a specific period of time. Congratulations to the winners.

It can be a very rewarding journey to discover the social history of your house and its former owners and residents. You can also learn more about the development of your street and suburb in this process. The Local History and Heritage team have produced a booklet to assist you in where to begin this research. It can be found online on the City of Vincent Local History webpage at www.vincent.wa.gov.au/library/Local_History_Centre.

Come into the Local History Centre and we will assist you in researching the City of Perth Rate Books up to 1946.

In-house events

DON'T FORGET ME COBBER

Wednesday 29 April 2015

10am – 11.30am

Lounge@vincent

Written by Jenny Davis this is a story of two men and a nurse in World War I. If you saw her WWII play *Cis and Barbiche* which was based on letters and music of that period you will know to expect a very moving story and production. (poster on back page)



The cast includes Nick Maclaime, Caitlin Beresford-Ord and Craig Skelton with a choir of senior voices and features live music from the period.

Presenter: **Agelink Theatre**

Tickets cost: \$5.00 Includes light refreshments

MAKE YOUR HERITAGE HOME SUSTAINABLE

Saturday 9 May 2015

10.0am – 12 noon

Local History Centre followed by site visit

Come along and learn how to retrofit your heritage home to improve its sustainability and energy performance. Be inspired by innovative solutions using building salvage material and adaptive reuse of older buildings.



After the talk visit one of the most eco-effective heritage homes in the City of Vincent.

Presenter: **Philip Griffiths (Griffiths Architects) and Sid Thoo (Architect)**

Cost: Free Includes light refreshments

GOOGLE EARTH FOR HISTORIANS

Monday 11 May 2015

9.30am – 10.15

Local History Centre

The morning will begin with a general introductory presentation on how Google Earth may be used to extract useful historical information.

This will be followed by a hands-on tutorial

10.30 to 12.30 limited to 10 people (those on waiting list from 9 March tutorial)

Media Room

- Introduction to Google Earth to view the City of Vincent
- Introduction to Landgate SLIP Locate (WA at your fingertips) in Google Earth

Presenter: **John Lang**

Bookings essential for both sessions

Limit of 10 for tutorial Cost: Free Includes light refreshments



FAMILY HISTORY STARTS WITH YOU

Wednesday 10 June 2015

10.00am – 12.00

Local History Centre

Family history puts flesh on the bones of genealogical research. It includes the historical circumstances and geographical situations in which people lived. And it's the ability to associate historical events with particular generations or individuals that bring their stories to life. That is what is so powerful for future generations.

What legacy will you leave your descendants? Family history doesn't need to start in 1066, or 1775 or 1868. It can start with you. It can start now!

Presenter: **Wendy Brown**

Bookings preferred

Cost: Free

Includes light refreshments



MAGGIE'S JOURNEY

Monday 8 July 2015

10am – 12 noon

Local History Centre

Maggies Journey is a short film produced by Lyn Dale which tells the story of her grandmother, Maggie, a 25 year old domestic servant who embarked on the 'bride ship' *Banffshire* from London to start a new life in Australia. View the film and then see and hear of the many ways Lyn has recorded her family history.

Lyn is a passionate family historian who you can't fail to be inspired by!

Presenter: **Lyn Dale**

Bookings preferred

Cost: Free

Includes light refreshments

Other events of interest

NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL: CONFLICT AND COMPASSION

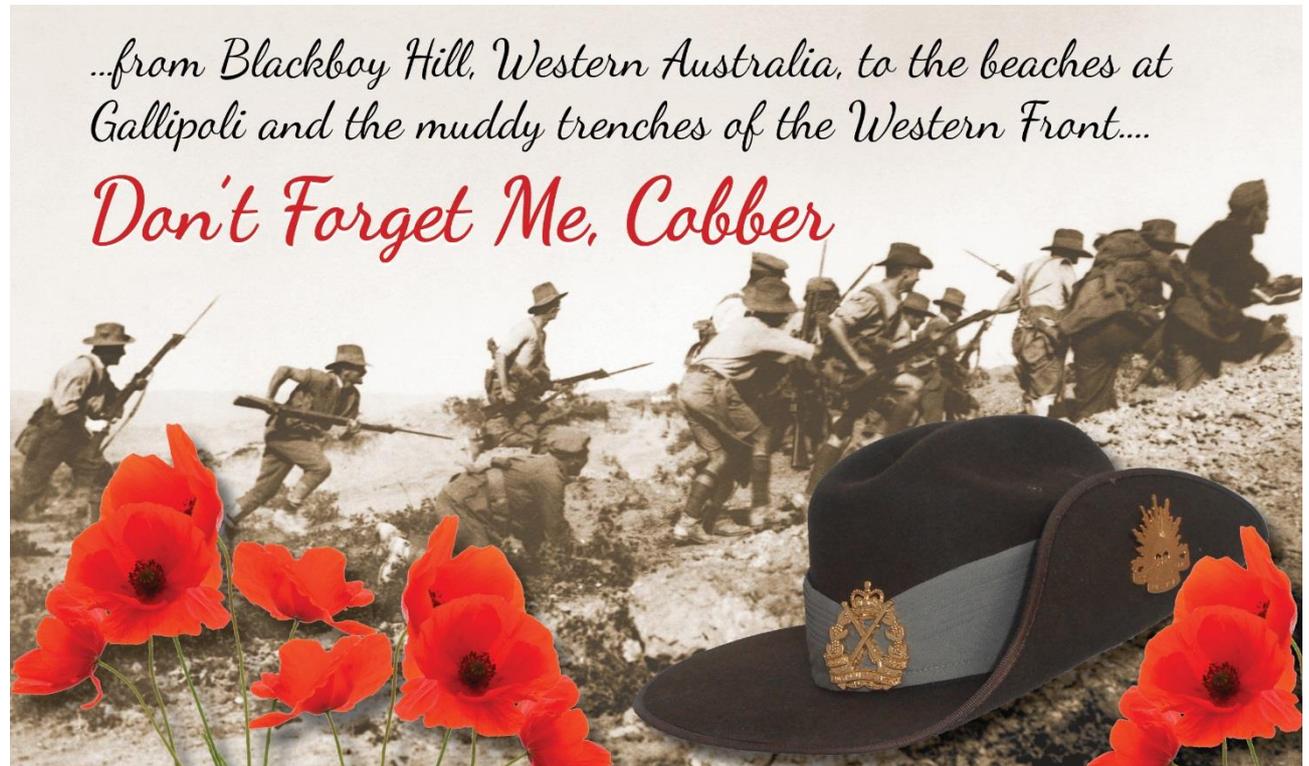
April – May 2015



Full programme at <http://www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au/events/>

City of Vincent Library and Local History Centre
presents Agelink Theatre

in



DON'T FORGET ME COBBER uses West Australian letters, diaries and verbal accounts to bring WWI history to life.

The humour, pathos and endurance of the young men and women experiencing "the war to end all wars" make for a moving and inspiring hour which will stay in your memory for a long time.

Cast includes Nick Maclaine, Caitlin Beresford-Ord and Craig Skelton with a choir of senior voices and features live music from the period.

Wednesday 29 April 2015

10.00am – 11.30am

Lounge@Vincent

Light refreshments will be provided

Tickets \$5 available from the City of Vincent Library from 25 February 2015

CITY OF VINCENT LIBRARY & LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE, 99 LOFTUS STREET, LEEDERVILLE

Enquiries: 9273 6090 or libadmin@vincent.wa.gov.au