



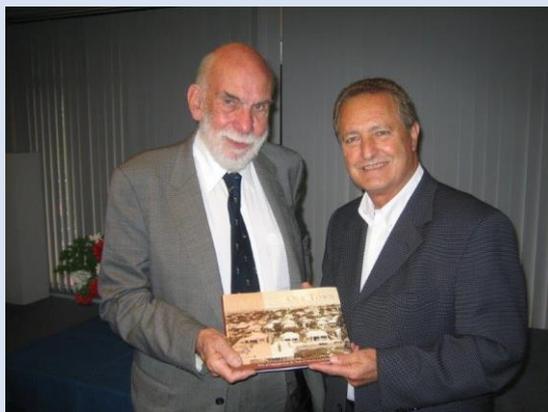
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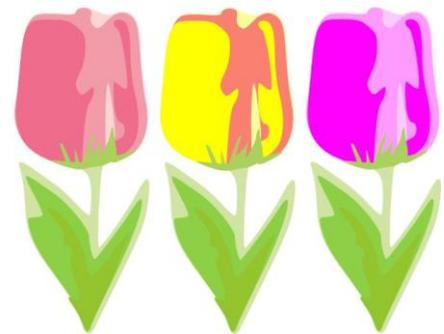
Vale Professor Geoffrey Bolton, celebrated historian, academic and writer.

With the passing of Geoffrey Bolton, WA has lost one of its most prominent academics, biographers, authors and socio-political commentators.

Vincent also lost a local boy and social historian. See pg.13



Julie Davidson
Senior Librarian, Local History



Spring

What's in this issue?

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New partnerships.

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- Calendar:
In-house events

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

- NSW, St John's, Parramatta Baptisms 1838-1918, Burials, 1790-1986, Marriages 1790-1966
- Victoria, Index to naturalization Certificates 1851-1928
- Australia, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980 (updated)
- Australian and New Zealand Find a Grave Index 1800s to current (updated)
- Victoria, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists 1839-1923 (updated)

UK records

- Lancashire, Quarter Session Records and Petitions 1648-1908
- West Yorkshire, Select Apprenticeships Records 1627-1894
- West Yorkshire, Bastardy Records 1690-1914 (updated)
- UK and Ireland, WWI diaries (France, Belgium and Germany) 1914-1920
- UK and Ireland, WWI diaries (Gallipoli and Dardanelles) 1914-1916
- UK and Ireland, Find a Grave Index 1300- current

Global

- Find a Grave Index for burials at sea and other select burial locations 1300s-current
Users of Ancestry can now email and save records to their own Discovery Page.



Please note we no longer subscribe to Findmypast.

British Newspaper Archive.

This subscription is ongoing until September 2015. Follow this link to see the newspapers that have recently been added to this website [Recent additions](#)

Family history help on Wednesdays: We now have two Friends of Local History volunteers to help you with your family history research on most Wednesdays.

New books in the Local History Centre

Aurelio Costarella: A 30 year retrospective, published in 2014, was donated by the WA fashion designer Aurelio Costarella. B/AUR

This catalogue was published to support the exhibition: 'Aurelio Costarella: A Thirty Year Retrospective' at the Western Australian Museum, Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Perth, held in February 2013 until November 2014. It includes a timeline of Aurelio's extensive career in textile and fashion innovation.



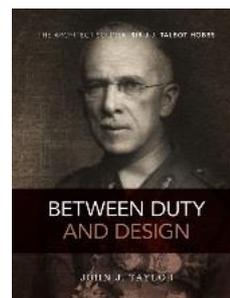
Born in Mount Lawley, Aurelio Costarella lives and works in North Perth. In 2007 he opened his flagship store and design studio, Post Emporium, in View Street, North Perth in the heritage listed North Perth Post Office.

Paul O'Connor curator and creative director of the exhibition lives in Perth. The Aurelio Costarella retrospective was a vision of his to celebrate and acknowledge the growth of the WA fashion industry and the achievements of Aurelio Costarella.

Between duty and design: the architect soldier Sir JJ Talbot Hobbs, written by John Taylor

Crawley: UWA Press, 2014 720.9223

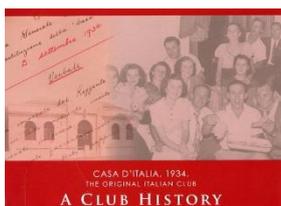
Hobbs was a leading architect in the mid-1890s when, as a result of a gold rush, Perth suddenly found itself at the forefront of Australian development. This book documents Hobbs' prolific life, examining factors that influenced his architectural style, comparing his work with that of his contemporary architects and analysing his influence on Australian architecture.



John J Taylor is a Perth architect who works on the conservation of the built environment. The book is beautifully illustrated with original photographs and illustrations.

[The statue of the soldier and architect, Lieutenant General Sir Joseph John Talbot Hobbs, was to be relocated to the Supreme Court Gardens from the Esplanade as it was surrounded by the building debris of the Elizabeth Quay in 2013. [<http://www.abc.net.au/> 2013]

Casa D'Italia, 1934. The Original Italian Club; A Club History; written and compiled by Aureliana Di Rollo and Christine Madaschi
Perth: WA Italian Club Inc., 2014. 304.89 DIR



Based on interviews and photographs from contributing families. The WA Italian Club headquarters were formally opened in 1937 on Fitzgerald Street, North Perth. The book includes a brief history of the WA Italian Club Inc. written by Susanna Iuliano:

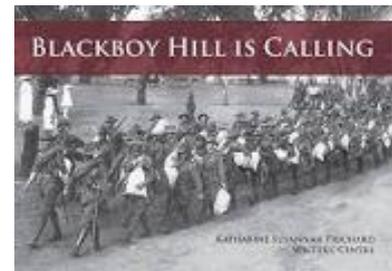
'The club's lasting legacy is that it supported and sustained a generation of Italian migrants, helping them forge friendships and partnerships that crossed regional or generational divides and helping shape what it meant to be "Italian" in Western Australia.'

The WA Italian Club is now a function venue, continuing to provide outstanding service and superb club activities for all the Italian community residing in Perth.

Blackboy Hill is calling, Katharine Susannah Principal Foundation Inc. to commemorate the Anzac Centenary in 2015.

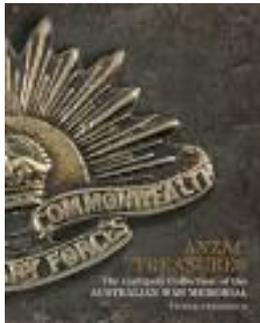
Perth: Wild Weed Press, 2015 355.0099 KSP

This book was compiled by a team of volunteer writers, from the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writer's Centre, with Valerie Everett as Project Convenor. It is a unique collection of voices reflecting the social and military history of the WA Training Camp at Blackboy Hill. The WW1 Australian Imperial Forces' military training camp, in Greenmount, was home to over 32,000 recruits during the years 1914-1918.



ANZAC Treasures: the Gallipoli collection of the Australian War Memorial, by military historian and writer, Peter Pedersen

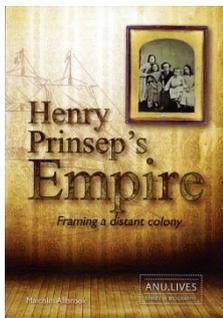
Canberra: Murdoch Books, 2014 940.426 PED



Compiled to commemorate the centenary of Anzac in 2015. The book draws from four elements of the Australian War Memorial's collection: objects, photographs, works of art and documentary records.

Henry Prinsep's Empire: framing a distant colony, by Malcolm Allbrook

Canberra: ANU Press, 2014 B/PRI



Henry Prinsep is known as Western Australia's first Chief Protector of Aborigines in the colonial government of Sir John Forrest. This book traces his life from India to WA using writings, paintings photographs and sketches he made, illustrating not only the man, but his friends and the social, political, geographic and economic environment of the time.

Cast Iron Pillar Boxes of Western Australia: an early history of the J & E Ledger Foundry, by Sue Hobson

Perth: Sue Hobson, 2015 383.145

Sue Hobson (nee Ledger) was reminded of the early history of her family each time she came across a cast iron pillar box bearing the name of J & E Ledger. This led her on several quests; one to find as many remaining letter boxes as she could and the other to trace the history of her family in Western Australia, beginning with convict Joseph Sowden Ledger, and the business that they created.



Local History Photographic Awards 2015

The winners were announced on 4 August by City of Vincent Mayor John Carey



» Category One: A single photograph over 30 years old » Pre-1930

➤ Winner Rosie Poole



Edward Graham in the street outside his home at 248 Oxford Street, c.1922

View of the opposite side of Oxford Street behind, with buildings between Richmond and Bourke streets.



➤ Winner Leederville Tennis Club

Guests at the opening of the Leederville Tennis Club official opening, 14 February 1925

Focus on the ladies' hat fashions at the time.



➤ Winner Nancy Mearns

Florence Connell with her granddaughter Gweneth Snowball outside her home at 446 Charles Street, North Perth, 1926

As a widow, Florence bought this house and large block and used the land to run 100 chickens. She sold the eggs at the markets to support herself. She

would leave them at the side of the road for the bus driver to pick up and deliver and then he brought the money back to her.

» **Category One: A single photograph over 30 years old » 1930-1959**



➤ **Winner Richard Maiorana**

Local children at a birthday party at 5 Scott Street, Leederville, late 1940s



➤ **Winner Janice Kelly**

Patty Allen washing Prince, the Kelpie in a tin bath in the backyard of 13 Kingston Avenue, West Perth, late 1950s

The tin bath was used by the children in winter to have a bath in the warm kitchen.



➤ **Winner Nancy Mearns**

Nancy Snowball in the front lounge of 429 Charles Street, North Perth, illustrating the furnishings, 1940s

» **Category One: A single photograph over 30 years old » 1960-1983**



➤ **Winner Jeff Nugent**

Mount Hawthorn Primary School Grade 3 children, with their teacher Mrs Stewart, playing percussion instruments to Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, 1961

The children performed at a parent's concert with another class acting, and also at his Majesty's Theatre as part of an inter-school concert. The performance was later pressed onto a vinyl record.



➤ **Winner Andrew Kailis**

Houses at 17-19 Simpson Street, West Perth, taken soon after the Mitchell Freeway construction commenced, c.1975

These houses, which are still standing, were once on a street of around 30 houses. They are isolated between Loftus Street, Drummond Place and Leederville Parade as it moves into the Graham Farmer Tunnel.

» Category Two: A Photo Study

➤ Winner Joan Govan



A series of three photographs showing the house at 66 Bourke Street and the McMillan family who lived there, 1929

Owen and Mary McMillan (seen in centre image) bought the land in 1909, constructed the house and moved in, in 1916. Their eldest daughter, born 1903 is in the photo on the right and their youngest daughter, born 1928, is on her mother's lap.

➤ Winner Leederville Tennis Club



Photographs of an exhibition match and spectators at the opening day of the Leederville Tennis Club, 14 February 1925

Located near Lake Monger, between Richmond and Bourke streets, Leederville, the club is now 90 years old. The official opening was by Mayor of Perth J T Franklin, who hit the first ball.

➤ Winner Rosie Poole



Donald Graham, amateur radio enthusiast, in his 'shack' in the backyard of 110 Edinboro Street, Mount Hawthorn, c.1955

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE WINNERS

THANK YOU TO OUR ENTRANTS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Local History Centre enters into new partnerships

Trove

The National Library has now linked to our Local History Image Library, allowing our photographs to show on a general or pictorial search on Trove. The results will lead the user to the City of Vincent Image Library. The example below shows that photographs of Leederville can be found on our website and also at the WA State Library. This will make it easier for researchers in Western Australia, interstate and overseas to discover our fabulous photographs. They will not belong to Trove, but remain part of our collection. Visit <http://trove.nla.gov.au/picture>



Images of Western Australian History

This is a website which has been compiled by the WA Local History Practitioners Group to give access to all of the current collections. It currently includes 12 collections: Armadale, Belmont, Cambridge, Claremont's Freshwater Bay Museum, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park, Fremantle, Joondalup, Kalamunda, Karratha, South Perth, Wanneroo and Vincent. It can be viewed at:

<http://imageswesternaustralianhistory.weebly.com/explore-a-local-history-collection.html>



Western Australian Genealogical Society

The City of Vincent Local History Centre is now an Associate member, which means that our main webpage with all associated links can be viewed and accessed from the WAGS website at <http://membership.wags.org.au/associates>



Is this the place for a stadium?

A Mount Hawthorn man's vision for Leederville Oval

In the late 1950s West Perth Football Club president Dick Fletcher had a dream for the land now occupied by Leederville Oval, the City of Vincent Administration building and the Loftus Centre – which is interesting in the light of the discussions in recent years over where a new sports stadium should be built.

Perth at that time was discussing locations for the construction of facilities for the Seventh British Empire and Commonwealth Games, which were held in November 1962. Dick Fletcher predicted that

“The proposed games stadium at Reabold Hill will become a lumbering white elephant after the games area over- and estimated expenditure there is a cool £250,000.”

His vision was for Leederville Oval to become the athletic stadium for the Games.

“For at least £100,000 less, Leederville Oval, already the site of an Australian athletic championships, could be made a show place...with the type of development that could be made for the Games, Leederville Oval could accommodate 100,000 people.”



He pointed out that there was more land available at the back of the oval.

“The whole area would then become a vast sporting centre. The decision to build the Games swimming pool in Beatty Park puts it only a few yards from Leederville Oval. The basketball stadium will also be very close.”

It made sense that any facilities built should be close to the city centre and well connected by public transport. Perth Oval could also have been suitable, but was not as close to Beatty Park.

“If Leederville Oval became league headquarters, the Perth City Council could be sure of handsome returns from the ground – I shudder to think what their revenue will be from Reabold Hill.”

The games village could still be constructed at Floreat Park with special buses for the athletes having easy access to Leederville, as they would already be doing for the swimmers and basketballers.

The whole idea sounded like a wonderful opportunity,

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is one of Melbourne's most spectacular show pieces – under Dick Fletcher's scheme Leederville Oval could be ours.'

His final comments were that only football could make use of these large stadiums to provide a reasonable return for the colossal expenditure, as it was far and away the best money spinner.

“Now the growing doubt in the minds of football authorities about the future of Subiaco Oval as our football headquarters should not go unnoticed by Perth City Council. Leederville Oval could meet all requirements.”

Extracted from *Daily News*, 27 November, 1959

FROM THE FRIENDS OF LOCAL HISTORY

John Scurlock, Beaufort Street Pharmacist

Proud granddaughter, Jacqueline Scurlock, provided a written history about the life of John Scurlock MPS (Member of the Pharmaceutical Society). Here are some extracts, supplemented with research from Trove newspapers, Ancestry for the Perth City Council rates books and electoral rolls.

On 20 February 1908 the recently married John and Jane Scurlock travelled from England to Fremantle on the "OMRAH", with Kalgoorlie as their final destination. It was there that John secured a position as a pharmacist at Hinde & Co. The following year their daughter Emma Lillian Gwendoline (Gwen) was born, who to their great sorrow died due to illness aged 18 months.

Moving to Perth, an advertisement was placed in *The Kalgoorlie Miner* in August 1909:

Mr. J. SCURLOCK, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Great Britain, late of Hinde & Co., Kalgoorlie, having severed his connection with that firm, wishes to notify his Kalgoorlie friends and acquaintances, the general public of the Eastern Goldfields, that he is now located in Perth, having been appointed as Manager of Martin & Co.'s Pharmacy in Barrack Street. A specialty is made of country orders, which are promptly attended to and at Perth prices. Postage free. A trial is solicited.

Address: J. Scurlock, care Martin & Co., 73 Barrack Street, Perth.

SCURLOCK'S BLOOD PURIFIER

For Barcoo Boils and Pimples etc

2/6 post 9d,

Scurlock Chemist Perth

It was reported in the *Daily News*, August 1909 that John was a witness in the court case of the death of the three Morris children of East Perth. Having dispensed medication to the family, he was required to clarify these prescriptions. The verdict convicted Martha Rendell, the de-facto wife of their father, of murder by swabbing their throats with hydrochloric acid. She was the only woman to be hanged in Western Australia.

In 1912 John opened his own pharmacy at 507 Beaufort Street Highgate, with the family home nearby in Mary Street. Three children were born, John Edward (1913) Eileen (1913) and Eunice (1914). The business progressed well and in 1914 an advert was placed seeking an apprentice for a month's trial. In 1918 he moved premises.

Daily News, 6 July 1918

J. SCURLOCK, Dispensing and Family Chemist, of Highgate Hill, begs to notify the Public that he has removed from 507 to 508 Beaufort Street, exactly opposite his old camp. He also hastens to apologise for any inconvenience to the public, which may have been caused through delay in transference of the telephone.

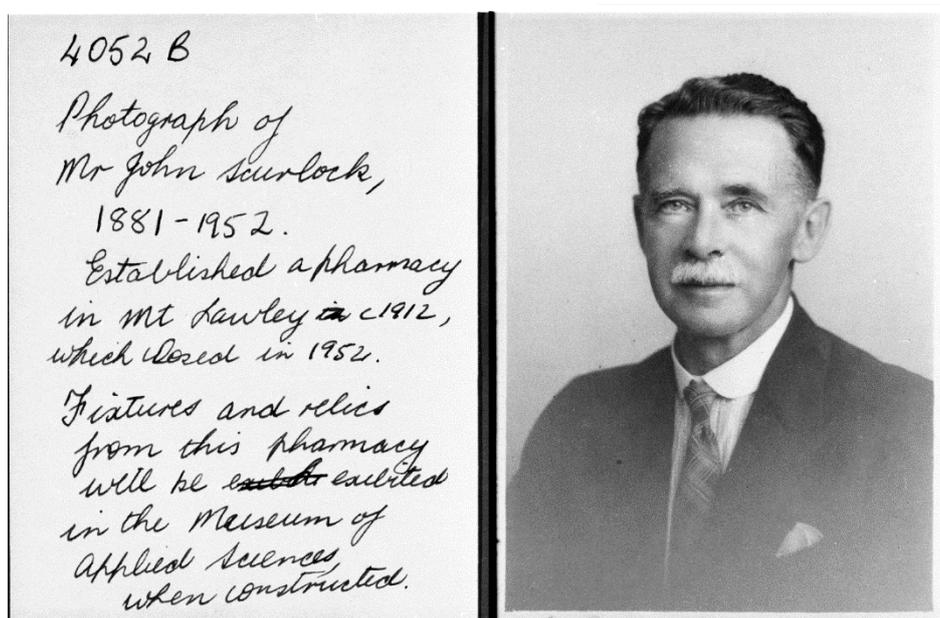
This residual pharmacy was one of two in the Perth area that provided after hours service, advertising, 'Medicine dispensed at any hour of the Day or Night. Phone A2619' John was well known for being a poor man's doctor, as many would visit him before a doctor. Among the items he dispensed was his famous antiseptic ointment, *FOSTER MOTHER* for colicky babies and *EGYPTIAN HAIR RESTORER* to cover grey hair. By 1923 he was the owner of the house and shop at 508 Beaufort Street, rather than just a tenant.

In his free time John was interested in photography and was a foundation member of the Mount Lawley Golf Club. He even wrote a few letters to the Editor politely offering his opinion about conscription in 1915. In 1933 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

John Edward Scurlock became apprenticed to his father and qualified as an MPS and later a dentist, which he practiced at 508 Beaufort Street. Following the death of his father (1954) John Edward, despite ill health, was able to keep working as a pharmacist until he retired at 59.

The gold medal that John Scurlock won for his pharmaceutical exams in England and the pharmacy contents were recently donated to Perth Museum as part of the Scurlock Bequest.

[The photograph below is from the Battye Library collection.]



In-house events

WAGS: GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

Wednesday 14 October 2015

10-12pm

Local History Centre



Do you want to know more about genealogy software? Come to a demonstration of the Legacy genealogy software package and an overview of the family tree building software packages available. Diane Foster is the Convenor of the Legacy User Group, one of WAGS' Special Interest Groups and she will also talk about the online software options available to Family Historians.

[Click here for further information.](#)

Presenter: **Diane Foster**

Bookings preferred

Cost: Free

Includes light refreshments

RESURRECTING THE DEAD: THE PROCESS OF WRITING HISTORICAL FICTION

Wednesday 28 October 2015

10am – 11.00am

Library Lounge@Vincent

We welcome back adjunct Professor in English and Cultural studies at UWA and 2015 winner of the James Sykes Battye Memorial Fellowship, to talk about the background to his recently published third novel, *The Mind's Own Place*, which is set in 19th-century Perth and Fremantle.

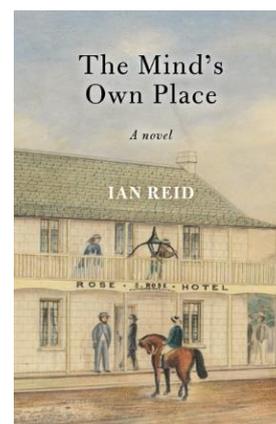
[Click here for further information.](#)

Presenter: Ian Reid

Bookings preferred

Cost: Free

Includes light refreshments



**CAST IRON PILLAR BOXES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
AN EARLY HISTORY OF THE J & E LEDGER FOUNDRY**

Monday 16 November 2015

2.00- 3.00pm

Local History Centre



Cast iron pillar boxes were once a common sight on the streets of Perth and in the country towns of Western Australia.

In Western Australia, the fabrication of these pillar boxes was predominately carried out by a local firm with their name J & E Ledger clearly marked on each of the pillar boxes they made. So who were the people and the firm behind the name and when did the Ledgers start their manufacturing business in Western Australia?

Sue Hobson (nee Ledger) will be presenting the findings of her research on an interesting aspect of the social and postal history of Western Australia.

[Click here for further information.](#)

Presenter: Sue Hobson

Bookings preferred

Cost: Free

Includes light refreshments

Geoffrey Bolton (5 November 1931- 4 September 2015)

Geoffrey Bolton was born in 1931 on Bulwer Street in North Perth, and was raised at Daphne Street, from 1939 till 1954. He attended North Perth State School, located at the end of his street, before entering the larger world, after winning a scholarship to Wesley College. He followed this by reading history at the University of Western Australia, where his honours thesis chartered the experience of 19th Century WA explorer Alexander Forrest. He went to complete his PhD at Oxford University.

Geoffrey attributed his fascination with history to his father, a clerk at a local motorcycle retailer, who wanted to be a teacher. His father had a collection of history books and biographies, of which a young Geoffrey had the run of. He said his initial ambition was to become a journalist or lawyer, before a teacher in his final year at Wesley College told him that there are people call university lecturers who do nothing but teach history.

Geoffrey's academic career spanned more than 50 years. He was Foundation Professor of Australian Studies at the University of London from 1982-85. He held senior positions at the Australian National University in Canberra, Monash University in Victoria, and the University of Western Australia. In 1973, he became the Foundation Professor of History at Murdoch University, returning later to become chancellor of Murdoch University, a position he held from 2002 until 2006.

Despite a long and industrious academic career that would see him travel between Australia and England and traverse between states, Geoffrey's affection for the suburbs in which he grew up never left him. In 1997, Geoffrey published *Daphne Street*, in an attempt to write a national history at the local level. In this biography of an Australian community, the history of the street is traced back to its first subdivision. Geoffrey reflects on characters and places from his childhood, and reveals his affection for growing up in North Perth:

I developed a personal map of the neighbourhood, with home as the centre of a network of back lanes, short cuts, useful hiding places, mulberry trees for feeding silkworms, plumbago hedges and corner shops, all of which I expected to remain long after I had outgrown them (Daphne Street, 1997, p.13).

In appreciation for his efforts in tracing the history of the area, Geoffrey received the old Daphne Street sign, from the then Town of Vincent when the signs were upgraded.

Geoffrey was passionate about bringing Western Australian history to life and raising awareness of the importance of our past. He authored 13 books, the final of which was *Land of Vision and Mirage: Western Australia since 1826*. In 2005, Geoffrey Bolton was named 2006 WA Australian of the year. Modest at this achievement, in accepting the award Professor Bolton said "it was a privileged role to raise awareness of the past" because "it's important to understand the past before you know where you are going in the future".

In his retirement Geoffrey Bolton still played a role in shaping historical reflection in the state, as a board member of the WA Museum and chairman of the Maritime Archaeology Advisory Committee. He was also a frequent contributor to radio, where he did much to bring Western Australian history and socio-political development to life.

Professor Geoffrey Bolton died on 4th September. He is survived by wife Carol, two sons and five grandchildren, and by his legacy - his enormous contribution to preserving memory in this State of Western Australia and in the City of Vincent.

With the passing of Geoffrey Bolton, Western Australia has lost one of its most prominent academics, biographers, authors, historians and socio-political commentators. Vincent also lost a local boy and social historian.