



The News Quarterly

January - March 2016 >> Vol. 6 No.1

These recent additions to the Local History Image Library show local butcher William Cuthbert enjoying sunny summer outings almost 100 years ago.



(PH04441 & PH04440)



(Do you know the model of this car?)

Should you need to escape the hot summer days, please come into the Local History Centre and browse some of our wonderful books, research your house or family or even get some of your precious items (that can't be scanned) photographed using our copy camera. We are happy to assist you!

Julie Davidson
Senior Librarian, Local History



Summer

What's in this issue?

- What's new online?
- New books in the Local History Centre
 - *Suburban Bravery*
 - *Golden Age display*
 - *Booklets for family history*
- Local History News:
 - *New suburb brochures*
 - *Local History Awards 2016*
 - *Memories of the trams*
- Friends of Local History:
 - *Beaufort Street Project*
- 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 site?



Australian records

- Australasia, Medical Directories, 1883-1915
- Tasmania, Reports of Crime, 1861-1883
- Victoria, Rate Books, 1855-1963
- Western Australia, Public Service Lists, 1871-1905

UK records

- UK, WWII Civil Defence Gallantry Awards, 1940-1949
- England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers, 1567-1970
- England, United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921
- England, Suffragettes Arrested, 1906-1914
- London, Selected Poor Law Removal and Settlement Records, 1828-1930
- Scotland, National Probate Index (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories) 1876-1936
- Scotland, Perth and Kinross Electoral Registers, 1832-1961
- Ireland, United Grand Lodge of Freemasons Membership Registers, 1733-1923

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

Family history help on Wednesdays: We have two Friends of Local History volunteers to help you with your family history research on most Wednesdays. Make an appoint to see them or just call in for a chat to see if they can assist you.

Family history tip

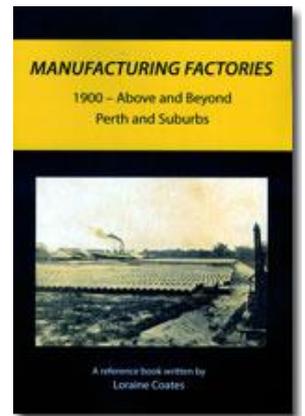
Make a data backup plan

Select a method of backup that works for you and periodically test that it works by performing a test restore of the backed up data. Keep up with technology and use an external hard drive. (If you use a thumb drive which you carry around, place an address label on it or create a text file with your return details in case you lose it.)

New books in the Local History Centre

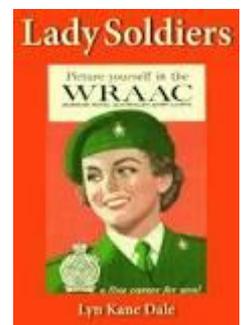
Manufacturing Factories: 1900- above and beyond Perth and suburbs, a reference book written by Loraine Coates, published by Hesperian Press, 2015.

The chapters are organised alphabetically by type of manufacturing and within that by alphabetical listing by proprietor or trade name, the years that person operated the business and the original address. 42 different types of manufacturer are identified. Illustrations are provided for some of the businesses. An example of a local business listed, is the Swan Aerated Water Co Ltd [1912-1914] corner of Chelmsford and Fitzgerald streets, North Perth.



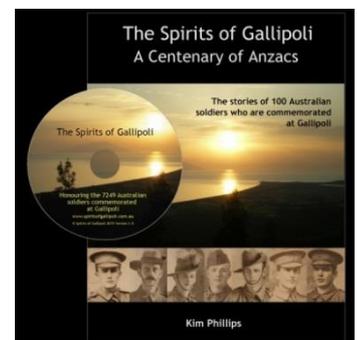
Lyn Kane Dale, *Lady Soldiers*, published by Erin Productions, 2014.

The stories of 51 women (most of them teenagers when they enlisted) who served in the Royal Australian Navy Nursing Corps and Women's Royal Australian Army Corps from the 1950s to the present. The women tell why they enlisted, how they adjusted to Army life, their postings, jobs and personal lives and life after the Army. "These ex-soldiers tell it as it was – warts and all. However, many of their stories are anything but 'ordinary'."



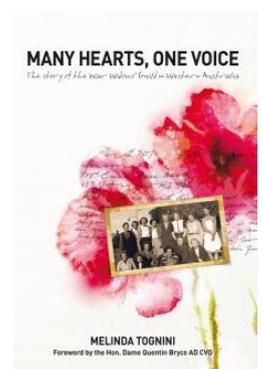
Kim Phillips, *The Spirits of Gallipoli; a Centenary of Anzacs: the stories of 100 Australian soldiers who are commemorated at Gallipoli*, published by The Spirits of Gallipoli, 2015.

There are 7,429 Australian's buried or commemorated in the cemeteries or on the memorials at Gallipoli. Kim Phillips has been collecting information on these men, and this book looks at 100 of them. The chapters are in date order, beginning with the Anzac landing on 25 April 1915 and some of the men who died there and continuing with a chapter for each month until December 1915. The final chapter is eight men who died as Prisoners of War. There is a military portrait of each person followed by a mixture of extracts from official sources, correspondence and newspapers. Includes a CD.



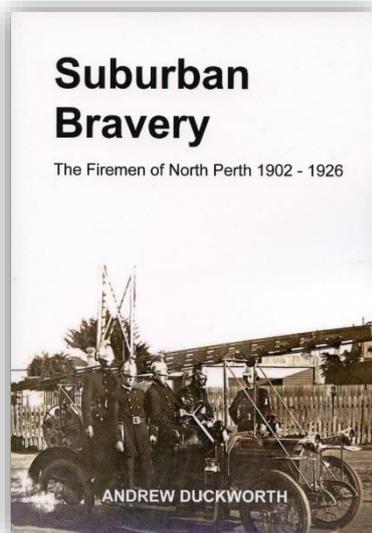
Melinda Tognini, *Many hearts, one voice; the story of the War Widows Guild in Western Australia*, published by Fremantle Press, 2015.

"Many of the benefits war widows enjoy today are the result of the courage and determination of the early War Widow's Guild members." Many of the widows struggled with poverty, social isolation and invisibility. Following World War II, the Guild was formed to lobby government for greater financial security and to provide emotional and social support to the widows. This book traces the history of how they fought for recognition and for subsidised health care and affordable housing.



New North Perth history book

Congratulations to Andrew Duckworth, who presented us with his early research into the first North Perth Fire Station back in June 2014. He has finally published his book!



“On the 7th of June, 1902 a dedicated group of North Perth Citizens met at the freshly built town hall atop View Street with the sole purpose of forming a fire brigade. On that day, the North Perth Volunteer Fire Brigade as born.

Twenty or so men signed up, paving the way for the many that were to follow. Ahead of them lay challenges that were almost insurmountable. A love of their community and a spirit of service drove them to perform in all conditions and against great adversity. Some would die, many would triumph. This is their story...”

This 243 page book is well presented and easy to read, with plenty of photographs and illustrations. Early chapters detail the general history of the fire brigade with some of the incidents which occurred and includes history of the early development of North Perth. These are followed by brief

biographical summaries for each of the fireman who served at North Perth in this period.

This is a good read for those interested in North Perth history as well as that of the Fire Brigade. It retails for \$19.95 and can be seen in the Local History Centre (we also have a few copies for purchase.)

Golden Age display in Local History Centre

The Golden Age, a novel set locally, by Western Australian writer Joan London, has won several prizes to date, including the Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Fiction, 2015.

The title refers to a convalescence centre for children with polio, which operated in Leederville between 1949 and 1959. It offered nursing care, physiotherapy and school lessons for the children staying there, who varied in age from 16 months to 12 years old.

The building was constructed around 1897 as The Golden Age Hotel on the corner of Alfred and Harrogate streets, Leederville. However after several charges over Sunday trading and other misdemeanours, their license was not renewed in 1921.

In 1926 the Swan Brewery gave it to the Children’s Protection Society, at a rental of one shilling per month, for use as a day nursery and baby and mother-craft clinic. This was known as the Golden Age Nursery or Kindergarten. Then in 1949 the State Government purchased the building to create a convalescence home for children with polio, to free-up beds in Princess Margaret Hospital, as these were long-term patients.



PH02539 courtesy Venables Collection

Visit the Local History Centre to see photographs, newspaper articles following the history and an aerial view of the Golden Age, which disappeared with the construction of the Mitchell Freeway.

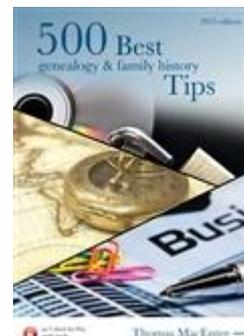
New booklets for family history

Unlock the past guide books

The following guide books to resources to assist your research (published in 2015) have been added to the Local History Collection:

500 best genealogy and family history tips

Packed with useful tips including explanations of some of the computer technologies that may be useful.



Arrivals in Australia from 1788

Covers up to 1945. Chapters include:

- Discovering a migrant ancestor - incorporates references to resources on the history of migration from various countries, why and how they came, shipping records and naturalization and citizenship.
- Websites for researching convicts
- Websites for researching ship's crew
- Websites for researching military migrants
- Records available by State
- Commonwealth records

Treasures in Australian Government Gazettes

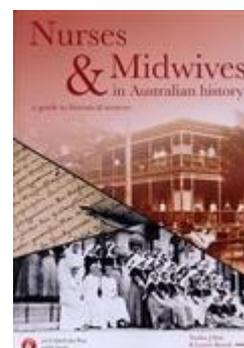
Divided into Government, Police and Education gazettes in the States and Commonwealth.

Tracing mining ancestors; a brief guide to resources in Australia and New Zealand

Begins with a timeline of mining history, guides to tracking Cornish, Welsh and Chinese miners and a chapter on resources relating to miners health.

Nurses and Midwives in Australian history: a guide to historical resources

Covers Government, State, nursing organisations and various types of hospital records as well as suggesting sources to provide historical context.



Discover your sporting ancestors: it was not all work and no play!

Includes men, women and children's sport, and local groups as well as international events.

Guide to Baptist historical resources in Australia

Includes origins of the Baptist denomination and records and archives in Australia.

The War to end war: tracing your Great War Australian military ancestors

Provides a timeline and background to the war as well as a guide to the various types of resources.

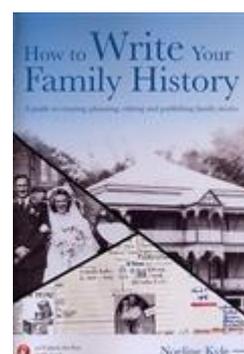
Other booklets in the series which are aimed at helping you to do something with all of the information you have collected are:

Preserving your family's oral history and stories

Advice on interviewing family members and then following up with organising and producing your family story to incorporate various media.

How to write your family history: a guide to creating, planning, editing and publishing family stories

Begins with overcoming the barriers to getting started, followed by planning, choosing your approach and editing your family story.



Local History News

New updated Suburb history brochures

Visit our new look Local History [web page](#) which includes the links to our new brochures "A short history of..."



Time to start thinking about your entry for 2016 Local History Awards

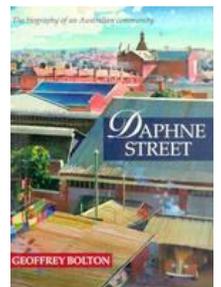
Entry forms for our 2016 awards will be out by the end of February. In the meantime here is a preview of the categories and prizes for 2016, so that you can begin to gather together your existing research into a finished document or think about getting started on your memoir or something new!

There will be three sections:

Geoffrey Bolton Award: Life in Vincent

To honour a North Perth boy who excelled in the field of history locally, nationally and internationally, and sadly died in September 2015, we are very excited to announce the inaugural Geoffrey Bolton Award. This provides an opportunity to write about life, school, work, your street, suburb or a particular occasion in the distant past or in more recent times. (These may be autobiographical reminiscences or based on conversations with a relative or other person.)

1st prize \$400 **2nd prize \$200**



Open Award

Entries may be on any topic that is relevant to the history of the suburbs in the City of Vincent. We encourage residents to research the history of their house and present it as a document for entry into this category. Other suggested topics: a study of a Vincent family, artist or business, the history of an area, place or landmark, a sporting or social club history, a published pictorial history.

1st prize \$400 **2nd prize \$200**

Photographic Memories



We are interested in photographs (prints or slides) taken in Vincent prior to 1986.

- Category One: Individual photographs *Pre-1949, 1950-1986*
Two prizes of \$100 in each section

- 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, or a series depicting an event.

Two prizes of \$100

Memories of the trams

In August we published this photograph of the last tram in Angove Street and asked for any memories about the trams. Ian Atkins of Leederville has sent in a story to share:



I do remember the trams

During the war years and for a period following, the tramway system employed a number of female conductors because many male staff had enlisted in the armed forces.

In addition, the trams were heavily loaded because there were not too many cars on the road.

As far as I recall, the conductor on a tram, whether male or female, as well as collecting fares, largely controlled the movement of the tram. The driver, who was usually a male, stopped to pick up waiting passengers at tram stops but, otherwise, responded to a system of bell signals from the conductor.

One bell signal meant stop at the next tram stop for an alighting passenger.

Two bells meant to proceed after having stopped, usually at a tram stop.

Not sure what three bells meant - might have been an emergency stop.

Four bells meant do not pick up any more passengers because the tram is already chock-a-block.

I recall one incident when travelling from Subiaco to Perth on my way to school when the tram was packed and the conductor had given a four bell signal.

However the tram stopped at a tram stop anyway whereupon the conductor yelled out at the top of her voice "don't you know what four bells means?"

If the poor old driver did not know what four bells meant, he certainly found out after being bawled out in such a fashion.

This photograph of the No. 18 tram in Barrack Street was taken by Ian Atkins around 1958.



If you have a story to share please email it or send it to the library addressed to the Local History Centre.

FROM THE FRIENDS OF LOCAL HISTORY

Beaufort Street in November 2015

Beaufort Street has a long and colourful history and during 2016 the Local History Team, assisted by the Friends of Local History, hope to record this history. A photographic study of the area between Lincoln and Walcott streets has been made in November 2015 and now we need to look back at what was there before.

We need photographs, promotional material from businesses and candidates to interview for our Oral History Collection. We would like to interview current business owners and residents who have been in the area for a long time as well as past traders and residents.

Can you help us?

Below are some of the photographs that Friend of Local History, Michelle, took in late 2015 with some historical links.



PH01812

The McLeod family on their front verandah at 612 Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley, c 1904

The old and the new at 628 Beaufort Street.

The building was constructed by Solomon Bercove in 1946 and the frock shop opened in 1947. Monte Fiore Café Restaurant opened for business in 1994. How long was the frock shop there and which other businesses traded there in the intervening years? Do you know?



Saves Bricks, Fined £2

A returned P.O.W. who, to conserve building materials, did not follow approved building plans was prosecuted in Perth Police Court today.

He was Solomon Bercove, of Lawley Crescent, Mt. Lawley. He was fined a total of £2 for two breaches of municipal by-laws.

Mr. J. Hale, for the Perth City Council, said that Bercove submitted unsatisfactory plans for a building in Beaufort Street.

Bercove was given advice by a member of the council surveying staff, and later submitted plans which were approved.

When the premises were erected it was found that he had not adhered to the plans. Among the breaches he had committed was the erection of a lean-to.

He was instructed to demolish this, but had not done so.

Bercove said that he could not follow the plans because of the shortage of building materials. One alteration he made saved him 2000 bricks.

He had gone ahead with the building because he was very keen to have it finished. All his deferred pay and gratuity had gone into it.

He had no intention of flouting the by-laws, he said.

The Magistrate ordered that the lean-to be demolished within six months.

(Before Mr. K. J. Dougall S.M., Mr. J. Hale for the Perth City Council.)

Daily News 4 December 1946



Balshaw's Florist next door at 630 Beaufort Street

In-house events

GOING OUT OF MY MINED

Wednesday 10 February 2016

10-11am

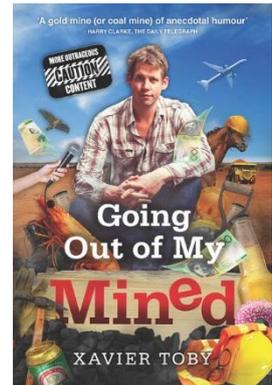
Library Lounge@Vincent

Providing a fun start to the year with some recent history, writer, comedian and former FIFO mine worker Xavier Toby delivers his show of what life is really like as a worker on a Fly In Fly Out mining site in Australia. (This is also being performed at the Fringe World Festival, following his run of sold out comedy shows.) Book published by UWA Press in November 2015.

[Further information](#)

Presenter: Xavier Toby

Bookings preferred Cost: Free Includes light refreshments



DIRK HARTOG 400TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

Wednesday 24 February 2016

10am – 11.00am

Local History Centre

2016 marks the 400th Anniversary of the first Dutch, European, seaman, Dirk Hartog, to make landfall in Western Australia. Dr Nonja Peters will talk about the significance of the Dutch maritime, military, migration and mercantile presence in Western Australia since 1616. Her edited book on this subject will be published in 2016.

Dr Peters is Director of the History of Migration Experiences (HOME) Centre at Curtin University.

Presenter: Dr Nonja Peters

Bookings preferred Cost: Free Includes light refreshments



DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE

Saturday 12 March 2016

10.00am to 12 noon

Local History Centre

Discover the resources available for researching your house and how to use them. We will also be accessing the archival plans from the City of Perth for attendees.

Presenter: Kris Bizzaca

Bookings essential as plans will be ordered Cost: Free Includes light refreshments

THE LAUNDRY GIRL: A MEMOIR OF A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GIRL

Faye's story of her struggle to find her place in a constantly changing world as a young girl. Despite many twists and turns she shows that within all of us, there is an undying capacity for love and hope, regardless of our history or heritage.

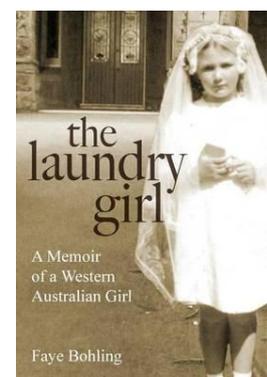
Wednesday 30 March 2016

2.00- 3.00pm

Library Lounge@Vincent

Presenter: Faye Bohling

Bookings preferred Cost: Free Includes light refreshments



The Local History & Heritage team present

Discover the history of your house



A workshop with historian
Kris Bizzaca



Saturday 12 March 2016
10am to 12 noon

City of Vincent Library and Local History Centre

99 Loftus Street, Leederville

(Three hours free parking available in car park with ticket)

Registration is open to Vincent residents only.

Limit of 30 properties as archival plans will be accessed (for free)
at the workshop — so be quick!



To register:
Email:
local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au
Phone : 9273 6534
or
heritage@vincent.wa.gov.au

Phone: 9273 6069

The Dutch in Western Australia since 1616
presented by
Dr Nonja Peters



2016 marks the
400th Anniversary
of the first Dutch (European)
seaman, Dirk Hartog,
to make landfall in
Western Australia.

A commemorative book is being published, edited by Dr Nonja Peters, who is Director of the History of Migration Experiences Research Unit at Curtin University.

Come and listen to Dr Peters tell us about the significance of the 1616 Dutch arrival and their maritime, military, migration and mercantile presence in Western Australia since then.

When: **Wednesday 24 February 2016**
10am to 12 noon

Where: **Local History Centre**

Includes light refreshments

Bookings preferred: local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au
or call 9273 6534



CITY OF VINCENT

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