



The News Quarterly

October - December 2016 >> Vol. 6 No.4

I hope you can find time to visit the Local History Centre to see this year's Local History Award entries. The photographs and written entries are on display until the end of the year. Thank you to all of our entrants for their support.



Our thanks also to all of our presenters for 2016, who have inspired and informed those who attended.

We are now planning the 2017 events programme, so if you have any requests or ideas for follow-ups please let us know.

Julie Davidson
Senior Librarian, Local History



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Visit us

Opening hours

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

Phone: 9273 6534

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Contact

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

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

What's New in ancestry library edition

Australian records

- New South Wales, Teacher Applications and School Records, 1850-1960
- Victoria, Police Gazettes, 1893-1924
- South Australia, Police Gazettes, 1862-1947

UK records

- Emigrants in bondage, 1614-1775
- UK & Ireland Nursing Registers, 1898-1968
- Norfolk, Church of England Registers for Baptisms, Banns, Marriages and Burials, var. 1535-1990
- Somerset, Church of England Registers, var. 1531-1914
- Somerset, Gaol Registers, 1807-1879

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

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.

Family history tip

Abbreviations for names, occupations and city directories

Many historical records use abbreviations that may be difficult to decipher the full name. Genealogy in Time online magazine provides the following lists of abbreviations: [First Name Abbreviations](#) [City Directory Abbreviations](#) [List of Occupation Abbreviations](#)

Can you help?

Artists Abul-Rahman Abdulla and Eva Fernandez are working on a public art project funded by the Rosewood Care Group and are looking for volunteer subjects.

'We are looking for migrant women and their daughters to be part of an exciting public arts project. You and your daughter/ mother will be beautifully photographed by Perth artist Eva Fernandez, these images and your story will feature in a culturally relevant and authentic publication celebrating diversity in the City of Vincent.'



Artwork by Eva Fernandez

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Rabiah Letizia rabiahl@bigpond.com
Abdul-Rahman Abdulla ar.abdullah77@gmail.com www.abdulrahmanabdullah.com

Finding immigrant ancestors with tricky names

When researching your ancestors you will invariably find their surname spelled in various ways. However, tracing immigrant ancestors can prove particularly challenging, especially if they have ethnic names which have been anglicised.



Ivy Baraiolo with baby Stephen on board the Toscana, 1960

Here are some tricks suggested by *Ancestry.com* for searching those elusive ancestors.

- Think of surname variations. Sound out the name to see what phonetic spellings you can come up with.
- Use the Internet to help you determine ethnic equivalents of the name.
- Look for literal translations: the German name Schwarz may have been changed to Black just like the French name LeBlanc may have become White.
- Lengthen and shorten names. It may be that more than one ancestor has changed a surname. For example, Weisenberger may have been changed to Weisenberg, then Weisen and finally Wise.
- Try a wildcard search in which you use asterisks to replace some of the letters in a name. For example Weis* will produce names such as Weissen, Weismeyer, Weismaier, Weisaberger etc.
- Check immigration records and passports carefully. There may be notation indicating a previous name change.
- Try maiden names. Female ancestors may have travelled using them, even when married.
- Search the Internet to find equivalents for ethnic given names, for example 'John' could also be Jan, Janos, Johann, Giovanni or Ian. Sites like BehindtheName.com let you type your ancestor's name and search for related names that include various ethnic equivalents.
- Search for the family in census records to find other family members that may be able to be located.
- Search by criteria other than surname. Use first name, birthplace, age, gender, occupation or other details to look for people with family members who match the criteria of the family you are seeking.

The inaugural Geoffrey Bolton Award

Geoffrey Bolton has been described as Western Australia's most prominent historian and one of Australia's most eminent historians. He penned and edited more than 15 books and is credited for bringing much of WA's history and political development to the everyman.

Born in Nurse Harvey's Hospital on Bulwer Street in Perth, he lived at 21 Ethel Street, North Perth, for the first seven years of his life. The family then purchased 23 Daphne Street, where he lived from 1939 to 1954.

Geoffrey attended North Perth State School and went on to win a scholarship to Wesley College, where his history teacher in his last year at school sparked the start of a long career in academia.



North Perth School, 1943

"My teacher, Roy Collins, said 'what do you want to do?' and I said 'maybe journalism, perhaps law', and he said: 'you do know there are people called university lecturers who do nothing but teach history?' 'I said 'oh, that's for me'."

After school, he pursued his love of history at the University of Western Australia. While he was at UWA, his honours thesis was on the 19th century WA explorer Alexander Forrest. He became intrigued as to why his statue was on corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack Street, when his more famous brother, John Forrest, was stuck in Kings Park. We have a copy the resulting book "Alexander Forrest, his life and Times", published 1958, in the Local History Collection.

He went on to study at Oxford University, before returning to Australia in 1957, where he had a long academic career at the Australian National University, Monash University and the University of Queensland. In 1973, he became the Foundation Professor of History at Murdoch University, and was named an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1984. He retired from academia in 1996, before serving as the Chancellor of Murdoch University from 2002 to 2006. He was named West Australian of the Year in 2006.

Following his death on 4 September 2015, an obituary published by Murdoch University stated:

"It is widely acknowledged that he has done more than any other scholar to help Western Australians interpret their past and relate it to the present, and his contribution to the State's and University's history will never be forgotten."

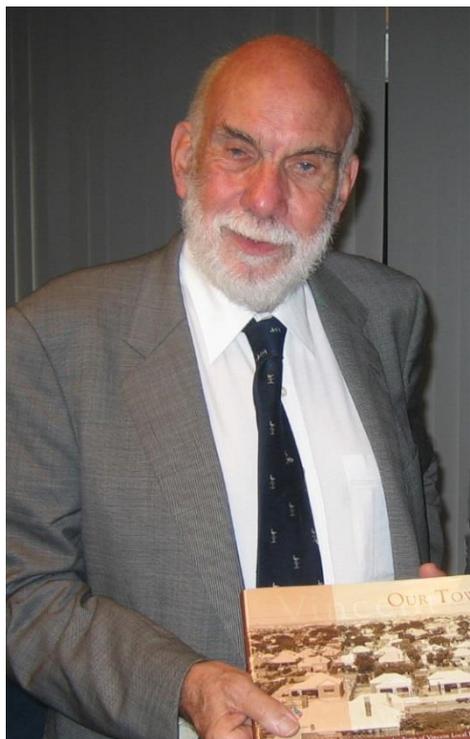
Prominent Oral Historian Bill Bunbury, who knew him well, described Geoff as

"Generous with his time, he always came to the party. His knowledge of Australian history was absolutely encyclopaedic, and we became great friends. He had a lovely sense of humour, a deep sense of irony and he also could quote things by rote. "He had this amazing memory... he was a walking library, really, he was terrific like that."

The Local History team agree with Bill Bunbury. Geoffrey Bolton generously gave his time, and presented several of our monthly forums. He was a most engaging and witty speaker. On one occasion he had been unable to print out his notes, and the strength of his wonderful memory and storytelling came to the fore.

We were also thrilled that, in 2007, he agreed to launch our first local history book, 'Our Town'. Afterwards he happily exchanged memories with the older residents over afternoon tea.

He told this story in a 2009 interview with Maxine Laurie for our Oral History Collection:



"On the corner of Fitzgerald Street and Wasley Street there was the place I used to get my hair cut. It was run by a youngish man called Clive Lynch and really the mainstay of his business was illegal betting in the back room. In fact, there were two of them in business because just up from Clive Lynch there was Gerry Higgins. He had a big notice on his window saying 'I communicate with Hobart', which meant that you could buy Tattersall's tickets, which you weren't supposed to. In between them of all the things of respectability, they built the Bank of New South Wales. There was the bank with these betting shops on either side.

In the front room of Lynch's you got your hair cut and there was the usual sixpenny short back and sides type of thing. I got myself into hot water on one occasion when I was about nine because Clive Lynch said, 'oh you're supposed to be a very bright kid aren't you? Who's going to win the Melbourne Cup?' and I said, 'I like the sound of Old Rowley'. At that there was general laughter because Old Rowley was an elderly hack at about 100 to 1 and the next stop was thought to be the glue factory. But lo and behold on the day it went mad and it became the 100 to 1 chance that won the Melbourne Cup. After that they thought I was great and they

kept asking me. Of course I didn't know and my mother was very worried that I might get addicted to gambling but that didn't happen."

His book that is close to our hearts is "Daphne Street", written in 1997. At the beginning of the book he stated that he was writing with two voices.

- The first voice is that of one no longer young, returning after several years of absence from Western Australia and reflecting on the environment in which I grew up.
- The second voice is my historian's voice offering necessary data as a basis of understanding that environment. "I practise history at a time when attention has been focussing on history from below, on the experience of the mass of people who never achieve prominence: migrants, Aborigines, women, minorities in general, but more especially the experience of the workplace and the home."

The writing of Daphne Street was an exploration of a microcosm of Australian society, which would make a significant contribution to the wider history of Australia and the world.

"These were my people, and it is right that I should be their chronicler."

So it is now very fitting that we should honour our chronicler by creating the **Geoffrey Bolton Award for Life in Vincent**.

His widow Carol consented to the naming of this award and stated that 'he would have been delighted that you have offered this'.



Carol Bolton with Geoffrey Bolton Award winner Gail Dorter

Local History Award winners 2016

>> The winners of the inaugural Geoffrey Bolton Award are:

➤ **First prize: Gail Dorter**

Memories of Marmion Street 1945-1956 is a wonderfully, engagingly written childhood memoir of life in North Perth.

>The judges found this to be a comprehensive piece of writing, which touched on so many aspects of life. It was considered that this would make an ideal resource for schools to stimulate children's interest in local history and examine their own life stories.

➤ **Second prize: Gavan Bromilow**

The Memoir of a very naughty boy follows Gavan's life into his late teens. It contains detailed memories of life as a student at North Perth Primary School.

>This engagingly written memoir from childhood to late teens provides a valuable document of life in the working class suburbs. It also documents the effect on families of fathers who came home from war with mental health issues which caused drinking problems. Despite the adversity this very personal story is told with a sense of humour.

>> Open Award

Two prizes were given, plus two special school prizes and an acknowledgement.

➤ **First prize: Andrew Duckworth**

Suburban Bravery: The Firemen of North Perth 1902-1926 traces the history of the development of North Perth while following the development of the North Perth Fire Service.

>Good local research, which wove in incidental things learned about the people and the development of North Perth. It also provided valuable background into the development of the fire service; levels between volunteers and professionals and the demands on the service.

➤ **Second Prize: John Donnelly**

In Search of Gold: adventures of our Donnelly ancestors is a fantastic little self-published book telling the story of the Donnelly family

>A well written local family history which is connected to broader State, National and International history. It particularly focused on the economy, the impact of mining and the wars and their effect on a working class family. The relevance of these background events was well balanced with the family history. It was 'warts and all family history done well'!

➤ **Special Acknowledgement to the Mount Hawthorn Primary School Library for the donation of the Margaret Kindergarten Archive to the Local History Collection.**

We were thrilled to have some year 10 students from Aranmore Catholic College and Mount Lawley Senior High School enter into the Open Awards this year. As a result the judges have awarded two special prizes.

- **Student Award: Individual Entry: Winner: Max Bostock, Samuel Houlton, Eric Jong and Samuel Marcus** from Mount Lawley Senior High School

A History of the East Perth Loco Depot

>All of the judges were very impressed with this entry, which showed excellent research, was engagingly written, and had wide ranging coverage of a topic which is currently not well covered in the Local History Collection.

- **Student Award> School Entry: Winner: Aranmore Catholic College**
Historical Walk around sites in the City of Vincent, pinned in Google Maps. Year 10 students constructed web pages which provided historical information, photographs and significance statements on their chosen sites. They also conducted interviews and spent a day in the Local History Centre to gather information.
>This an excellent framework for student participation, especially as it can be built on over the years. It will also encourage people to engage with history on their phones and online.

>> Photographic Memories

>> Category One > a single photograph *Pre-1950* (2 prizes)

- **Roma Shilling**



Roma's mother, Ivy Neame, built this house at 114 Buxton Street, Mount Hawthorn. Widowed in January 1930, she bought the block for \$50 and built the house for \$450. The family moved in by July 1930. The photograph was taken in 1947.

>The judges were intrigued by the design of the house with the two matching sides, plus the small blocks stacked between the stumps, probably to keep out pests and breezes. It was also considered unusual that the weatherboards were not painted.

- **John Bull**



Friends John Bell, known as 'Ort Short' and John Bull in their " Sunday best" taken in the backyard of 81 Smith Street, Highgate, 1946

>This is a charming character study of children in post-war suburbia. The corrugated iron, wooden supports and bricks of the backyard along with the boys clothing all portray their social background.

>> Category One > a single photograph *1950 -1986* (2 prizes)

- **Maxine Harvey and Jim Rayfield**



Maxine and Sean Rayfield beside Lake Monger in Mount Hawthorn, prior to the freeway construction, c. 1962

>Interesting that this land up to the edge of the lake looks such a wasteland.

➤ **Tessa Ratcliffe**



Photographs of Tessa parents when they first knew each other. Maria is outside her family home at 58 Egina Street and Tony is outside 23 Marian Street.

>The judges found the two photos of equal merit, so have made the award for both. *The hairdos, posture, clothing and attitude are so representative of the 1960s!*

>> **Category Two > A photo study of 2 to 6 photographs (2 prizes)**

➤ **Helene Offer**



Shown are three in a series of 6 photographs featuring the changes at 38 Joel Terrace between 1946 and 2002. Originally the home of the Ledger family (foundry owners in Perth), it was purchased by Helene's grandfather in 1946. Her parents later became the owners and Helene now lives there with her family, making this their family home for four generations.

>The judges liked the fact that this series shows many changes over the years; colour schemes, roof lines, garages and even bus stops and shelters. Good also to see the front and back and from various angles.

➤ **Pam Clarke**



This is also a series of six depicting the history of a house and family associated with it over 97 years. Dorothy Jenkins was born in this house in 1920 and is seen as a child and young woman with her parents and later as a grandmother with her husband and grandchildren.

>The judges noted the changes to the house, reflecting the taste of different eras in garden walls, house walls, roofs, garages and gardens are documented in this series.

Congratulations to all of our winners!



The Charles Street Markets

It is always interesting to see what promoting the Local History Awards to the wider Perth community brings in to the Local History Centre each year. This year we have uncovered a very curious item: a foundation stone measuring 66 x 46 cm and 5cm thick (and very heavy) for the Charles Street Markets. So where and what were they?

Research on [Trove](#) uncovered the story of the stone.

30-YEAR-OLD FOUNDATION STONE UNEARTHED



THE ORIGINAL FOUNDATION STONE of the premises used as a factory by Messrs. Felton, Grimwade and Bickford at Charles-street. The foundation stone was laid by Sir C. H. Rason, Premier of Western Australia, on December 11, 1905, when the premises were the Charles-street markets and was found among a heap of debris.

The Daily News, 29 November 1935

A response to this article appeared a few days later

Foresight—Too Early

A RECENT article in "The Daily News" on the passing of the old markets of Perth has opened a vein of memory in Mr. Joe Charles. The old Charles-street markets, he tells me, were erected in 1905 by his late father, who selected the site as the centre of Perth. About 25 years later the Perth City Council erected the existing Metropolitan Markets on a site within a quarter of a mile of that selected by the late Mr. Charles in 1905. Joe said that he was trying to get the foundation stone of his father's old property, which was laid by the then Premier (Mr. C. H. Rason), and on it he would inscribe: "Foresight—but too early."

The Daily News, 11 December 1935

The Charles Street Markets were founded by Joseph Charles on what is now land under the Mitchell Freeway Charles Street off-ramp. They were located between what was then Duke and Aberdeen streets, West Perth, opposite the grand three-storey Club Hotel (later known as the Tower Hotel). Joseph Charles (possibly a Land Agent) owned the land which was about three acres.

Founded in December 1905, the markets were an instant success. The first market, held just before Christmas had 'orchardists and vegetable gardeners' arrive between 5am and 7am and sold out within a couple of hours. The next day a market was held for 'restaurateurs, hotelkeepers and heads of families to lay in their Christmas supplies'.

In addition to selling fresh produce the markets promoted free entertainment on a Saturday evening. The Daily News of the 2 January 1906 reported a crowd of over 3,000 spectators. There was a tug-o-war competition, a singing competition, a greasy pig hunt in which 'after a run of about ten minutes the pig was captured and became the property of the winner'. There were also merry-go-rounds, swing-boats and skittles. "The greatest feature of the evening was the number of housewives who were busy making their purchases and taking advantage of the grand assortment of provisions of all kinds offered by the stall holders. Satisfaction was expressed on all sides at the remarkably low prices charged and the convenience of getting all supplies under one roof." Subsequent weeks included dancing competitions, baby competitions, dumpling eating and Punch and Judy shows.

The markets appear to have operated successfully for just over a year, ceasing mysteriously in early 1907. There are no newspaper reports concerning this. It seems that Joseph Charles died (although no newspaper announcements), as a Perth City Council meeting on 27 May 1907 contained a response to a letter from Mrs Charles requesting that they purchase the land for £8,000. They declined.

Purchase of Land.—Re letter from Mrs. Charles, recommended she be informed that the Council does not see its way to purchase the Charles-street Markets and vacant land at rear of same, having an area of about three acres, for £8,000.

TENDERS will be received until noon on Friday, April 5, for the LEASE of the Charles-street Markets, Perth, together with Four Shops for a period of either 3 or 5 years.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

DALGETY and COMPANY, Limited,
St. George's-terrace,
Perth.

well lighted with a floor space of 26,700 square feet, all of which is asphalt pave'. They boasted that their 'fig, apricot and Cape gooseberry preserves had no equal in Australia'. Unfortunately in 1909 there was a police report that they had been charged with not keeping the premises in a sanitary condition.

The property went to auction in December 1907 but it seems it didn't sell, as in March 1908 a tender was advertised:

The Springdale Jam Factory moved into the Charles Street market premises, which were described as 'lofty, splendidly well ventilated and

In December 1912 the premises again went to auction.

Pharmaceutical company Felton, Grimwade and Bickford took the premises, demolished the markets and constructed their own factory, which was completed by 1915. They manufactured cordials, jelly crystals, lemon squash and ointments as well as drugs and poisons.

Detailing the history of the company Mr. Wood said that, under the name of Felton and Grimwade, it began operations in Western Australia in 1892 with 25 employees. Today there were 140 persons on the staff engaged in the preparation and marketing of 250 lines, many of which were entirely manufactured locally. The present factory was built on the site of the old Charles-street markets. As a memento of the markets the company had preserved its foundation stone laid by Mr. (afterwards Sir) C. H. Rason, as Premier in 1905.

A printing plant was installed to manufacture labels, wrappers, pamphlets and price lists. This is where the story of the foundation stone comes full circle. The back of the stone was used by the printer for laying out his type. The factory was closed to make way for the freeway construction, with the printer

being made redundant in 1962. He established his own business, taking the stone with him. Upon his retirement the stone was relegated to his garage, although he did specify it should never be thrown away... and his son has now brought the 110 year old foundation stone to us!

The Gornall family tragedy of 100 years ago

Compiled (May 2016) by Bill Moore, with Doris Posavec and Roslyn Eyre, three of the children of Hilda Gornall. Based on their recollections of stories they were told, together with family photos and other family memorabilia. Information about the development of the Scarborough surfing beach is from the Scarboro S.L.S.C's publication, "50 YEARS OF SURF LIFE-SAVING 1928-1978", (pages 9-10).

FROM ENGLAND TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

David and Elizabeth Gornall came to Western Australia from Lancashire, England, arriving at Fremantle in January 1911. "It was very hot", we were told. David and Elizabeth brought their six children;

- William Arthur, b. 5 August 1896;
- John Alexander, b. 14 January 1898;
- Clara Kathleen, b. 23 October 1900;
- Hilda Gertrude, b.10 January 1903;
- Marion Lindsay b. 10 June 1905;
- Elsie Margaret b. 12 January 1907.



After several short moves the family settled in Egina Street, Mt Hawthorn, close to the shores of Monger's Lake (later Lake Monger). The children eagerly embraced the surrounding Perth bushland, of which there was abundance, and that included the shores and waters of the nearby lake, which in those days were in pristine condition. (Today that area is buried under a busy freeway, with cars and trucks whizzing past in both directions at 100 kph and electrified trains at 110 kph.).

Somewhere between the "foot" of Anzac Road and Glenelg Street on the Mt Hawthorn side, a jetty with a platform at the end had been built over the lake. To the south of and abutting the jetty, a section of the lake had been fenced off, rather like a mini-version of the later Crawley Baths on the Swan River. The facility would have obviously been used a lot for swimming. Alex was recognised as being a notable swimmer, able to swim across the lake to the other side (now Wembley) and back. No doubt others in the family swam there too; especially the time our mother (Hilda) dropped through the jetty - apparently a plank had gone missing.



Around the north-western end of the lake, and with paddocks stretching from Harborne Street was Pianta's dairy. We had often been told of Grandad being friendly with an Italian man who had provided him with his family-famous fig tree and grapevines and advised him on how to grow and prune them.

THE SCARBOROUGH DISTRICT

In the early days of the colony, the area now known as Scarborough was far too poor and sandy to be included in any early land grant. However, in 1885, a visiting Sydney journalist explored the coast-line in the vicinity of Scarborough and gave much publicity to the high qualities of the ocean beach. Over the next twenty-one years, various attempts at selling land took place. All came to a standstill. Eventually another real estate agent, Charles Stoneman, proceeded with the development of Scarborough and is credited with bridging the gap between coastal (sandy) environment and the settled horticultural-friendly areas of Osborne Park and Nookanburra (Innaloo). Stoneman sub-divided extensive areas of the district in 1906, 1914 and 1920. It seems incredible today when coastal blocks fetch very high prices that many of the early blocks, even with ocean views, were sold on easy terms and many contracts of sale were not completed.

We know that Granddad had a block of land at Scarborough, this in spite of his resources being not plentiful and we believe his nature to have been on the conservative side. The block was probably on easy terms from the 1914 sub-division which was being promoted over the next few years. We can only wonder what he had in mind.

THE SCARBOROUGH BEACH HOLIDAY

It was December 1916, and the family had now lived in Western Australia for close on six years. The decision was made to take a holiday on the Scarborough block over the Christmas-New Year break of that year. Getting the family there and back, together with their food and camping equipment would not have been easy. We do know they camped on the block in a tent and drew water from a nearby well, and that the weather was hot and they had travelled to Scarborough by horse and cart over a dirt road.

This photograph shows the family loaded up and ready to go. Sitting on the left hand side of the cart are; Nan and Granddad holding a young Elsie, and on the right-hand side, Hilda, and Marion with Alex sitting up front (as a young man should). Kathleen is sitting on the rear flap. The horse and cart was from Pianta's dairy and the man standing by is a nephew, Jim Pianta, obviously ready to drive them there. (A notable absence is Arthur, the eldest, who had joined the Australian military forces in February of 1915, and was overseas serving his country.



The family on their block at Scarborough beach. In the background can be seen a roadway, most likely the road leading to the ocean. The camp is on higher ground. The dip in the road just before it passes through the sand hills is probably now the intersection of Scarborough Beach Road and West Coast Highway. Unfortunately the photo is not of good quality, but the interpretations from the right are; Kathleen, Elsie, Nan attending a fire, Hilda holding a container of water, all outside a tent, to the far right, erected by the "men". It must have been all very exciting.

It is always difficult to make sense of past memories whilst mixing them with undated photographs. However, after careful review of the known circumstances and the recorded dates over this period, it is thought that most likely the two previous photographs depict the family leaving home and camping at the beach on the eve of the tragedy. It was to be the first time and the last time they did this.



THE TRAGEDY AT SCARBOROUGH BEACH

On Saturday December 30, 1916, about midday, some of the family went down to the beach. Kathleen went for a swim. The ocean conditions were particularly bad and the events which lead to the drowning of six people are well covered in the newspaper reports, notably, the "Sunday Times", the "West Australian", the "Daily News", and the "Westralian Worker".

(Summary: Kathleen, who was a strong swimmer, became caught in a rip. Her brother Alec first tried to rescue her, but was unable to reach her. More help was enlisted using the life line which had been installed at the beach. The rope was 150 yards long, but people had cut off lengths and it was only 50 yards – too short to reach her. A human chain was then formed with at least eight men, but the current proved too strong. The man at the beach end lost his grip and five of the men lost their lives in the strong current.)

The tragedy of the drowning of Kathleen Gornall (aged 16) resulted in the loss of life of five men trying to rescue her [some of whom were also Mount Hawthorn residents]:-

Edward Damon (aged 47, married with nine children), [Federation Street]

John Smith (aged 42, married with two children)

Peter Daly (aged 30, married with five children)

William Djugung (aged 36) [Ellesmere Street]

George Hoskins (aged 18)

all of whom, in dangerous conditions, never hesitated to assist in the rescue, shocked the local community and was given extensive coverage in the Eastern States newspapers. One wonders if it was made worse by the times being extremely disturbed due to the news emanating from the war which was raging in Europe.

Subsequently, as a demonstration of gratitude, Grandad made a point of visiting each of the bereaved families and personally thanking them.

He also divested himself of the Scarborough block.

SOME CONSEQUENCES

Over the ensuing years this drama at Scarborough beach has been used as an example for many causes, including ensuring use of safe equipment, more effective beach controls, and better assessment of ocean conditions, in many cases using examples of safety being practiced on the Eastern sea-board. The Scarboro Surf Lifesaving Club acknowledges the drowning of Kathleen Gornall as part of its origins as outlined in its "Fifty Years" celebration.

Copied from "50 Years"

THE 1st VICTIMS



MR. J. H. SMITH,
One of the Drowned.

Scarborough
Beach---
and Some of
the Victims



MISS KATHLEEN GORNALL,
She was drowned.

1916's multiple drowning was one of the State's biggest single tragedies . . . and it was directly caused by lack of suitable life saving equipment, lack of any organised rescue organisation and an unbelievable problem which still rears its ugly head today – vandalism.

Five of the victims were men who were trying to rescue a 16-year-old girl. They were part of a group who tried to form a human chain after a lifeline had fallen short.

The line – which had been put on the beach the previous summer by the Royal Life Saving Society – was only 50 metres long because more than 100 metres had been removed by people for their personal use.

The West Australian reported that if the line had been intact, nobody would have drowned.

Before the advent of the motor car and the aeroplane, multiple tragedies were rare in W.A. and the drownings led to a lot of publicity – and the Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club.

The full document with the newspaper extracts is available in the Local History Centre.

Beaufort Street History Project Update

Some interesting stories have been uncovered in 2016 and we hope to capture even more of the history of Beaufort Street in 2017. Can you help?

Interviews to date include current local business owners, Mayor John Carey and Community Radio RTRFM. A written story was also submitted by the grandson of butcher Robert J Elliot, which will be featured in our next newsletter.

Pam Herron of Beaufort Realty was interviewed and talked about setting up business at 580 Beaufort Street, which when they bought the business, was a pet shop and dog wash:

"We had a business called Woodville Property, which was in Fitzgerald Street, in North Perth, but eventually we realised we wanted to be in Mount Lawley, in Beaufort Street. So we sold the Woodville Property business, had a couple of years off and then started up Beaufort Realty. We originally opened the business at 612 Beaufort Street which was an old home and which is about to be demolished, making way for shops and apartments. (This is the photo featured in the Beaufort Street callout out on the webpage and was demolished in September 2016.) We probably had twelve months there and then it became apparent that they were going to demolish the building eventually. So we hunted high and low and found 580 Beaufort Street, which was a pet shop called *Paws for a Bargain*. That would have been early 2009. The owner of the pet shop was quite keen to get out, he'd had enough; it had been a pet shop for many years. So we ended up buying the pet shop business in order to get the lease. We then gutted the building, protecting the heritage façade of it, but gutted the building internally, and got rid of all the doggie products...We got them to take away all the stock, but there was a hydro-bath out the back. The walls were bare brick, so we plastered all the walls and put in new ceilings. It was just rough concrete floors. It was very much a pet shop at the front and a dog wash at the back. We used to bring our dog here, and when we moved into the office we thought he might come in here and remember it, but he didn't; there was not a trace of the dog smell left." [Laughter]

Pam remembers that Beaufort Street was pretty quiet when she first arrived, especially if you were looking for something to eat after a late finish at work. She also remembered petrol rosters:

"I moved over from Melbourne in 1987 and there was nothing in Beaufort Street. There were car yards. What's now the derelict Pony Club was called the Desert Café, and that was about the only eating place there was."

"We had Petrol Rosters then too...the petrol stations closed on a Friday night at about 6 o'clock and they didn't reopen until Monday morning. So over the weekend and after hours there was a roster, so you would have to find the closest. Sometimes I'd have so little petrol, I wasn't used to this petrol roster and I'd have to drive to Kalamunda to get fuel. So we laugh about petrol rosters."

We are collecting recent local history and we also want to go back far as we can.

We can map the progress of Beaufort Street using online resources but we want to uncover the local stories and photographs. Did you have a deli, furniture shop, florist, car yard, restaurant or bar café? Do you have a current business?

If you have any photographs of businesses on Beaufort Street or can offer information, contact the local history team at local.history@vincent.wa.gov.au or call 9273 6550.

In-house events

FINDING WA STORIES IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA

Wednesday 12 October 2016

10am to 12 noon

Local History Centre

Dr Kelly Abbott, from the NAA, will talk about how Commonwealth Government records held by the Archives, can be used to research local histories.



Presenter: **Dr Kellie Abbott**

Bookings preferred Cost: Free Includes light refreshments

MUSIC ACROSS THE WAVES

Monday 14 November 2016

2pm to 3.30pm

Local History Centre

Pauline O'Connor grew up in Cleaver Street, West Perth, in the 1930s and 40s. She will tell how she travelled the world and became a celebrated pianist.



Presenter: **Pauline O'Connor**

Bookings preferred Cost: Free Includes light refreshments

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

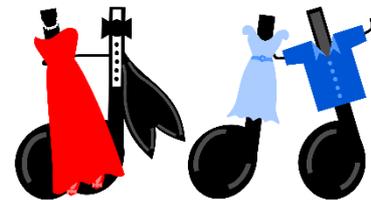
Wednesday 7 December 2016

2pm to 3.30pm

Lounge@Vincent Library

Presented by **Agelink Theatre**

Tickets \$8 available at the library Includes light refreshments



Outside events

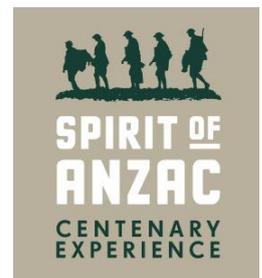
SPIRIT OF ANZAC CENTENARY EXPERIENCE

An exhibition that tells the story of Australia's involvement in the First World War, featuring artefacts from the Australian War Memorial.

29 November-11 December 2016

Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

Book your free tickets at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au



"UNKNOWN LAND": MAPPING AND IMAGINING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

17 September 2016 – 30 January 2017

Art Gallery Of Western Australia

Adult \$12 | Concession/Student \$8 | Children 5-17 \$5 | Under 5 free

Curated by Melissa Harpley, with historical and modern art.

<http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/exhibitions/unknown-land.asp>



MUSIC ACROSS THE WAVES

Presented by
Pauline O'Connor

The story of Pauline O'Connor is one of an Irish-Australian girl who defied convention, left home at 15 and travelled the world. Her natural talent for music first brought her to Sydney and then Italy, where she studied under the great Artura Benedetti Michelangeli.

A winner of several piano competitions, Pauline performed both as a soloist and with orchestra and chamber music groups all over Italy and other European countries. She returned to her home town of Perth, Western Australia in the 1970s, after an astonishing twenty-year-long journey.

Music Across the Waves is also the story of a woman ahead of her time and a passionate artist who had a profound effect on all those around her, and still does.

Pauline O'Connor, who grew up in Cleaver Street, West Perth in the 1930s and 40s, will tell how she travelled the world and became a celebrated pianist.

Monday 14 November 2016
2pm to 3.30pm
Local History Centre