

From the 1980s as many of the ageing residents have moved on, younger people have moved in and either renovated the old houses or demolished them to rebuild.

With the division of the City of Perth into four municipalities in 1994, North Perth became part of the Town of Vincent.

SOURCES AND FURTHER READING IN THE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Books

Boland, SJ, *One hundred years on...: the Redemptorists in Western Australia 1899 -1999*.

The Redemptorists, 1999. 255.64 BOL

Bolton, G, *Daphne Street*

Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1996. 994.11 PER

The First 100 years: North Perth School 1899 – 1999.

North Perth Primary Parents and Citizens Assoc. 1999
372.99 FIR

Lake, Sally, *A short history of Smith's Lake - North Perth*

Highgate, 2001. 994.11 LAK

North Perth Town Hall, 24-26 View Street, North Perth: conservation plan.

Palassis Architects, 1998. 725.13 PAL

Peters and Brownes 1886 - 1986: the first 100 years.

Peters & Brownes Group, 1999. 338.177 PET

Town of Vincent Municipal Heritage Inventory

Vertical Files

Beatty Park

Businesses – North Perth

Cafes and Restaurants – North Perth

Chinese market garden

Churches

Gamble, RA

Hotels

North Perth

North Perth Migrant Resource Centre

North Perth Town Hall

Parks, Gardens and Reserves

Smith's Lake

Rosemount Bowl

Schools and Colleges – North Perth

– Kyilla

Oral History tapes and transcripts

There are many interviews in the collection with residents and former residents of North Perth. Some suggestions are:

(dates in North Perth)

Louis Hagerty	(1906-1983)	OH0005
David Drewett	(1957-2000)	OH0021
Bob Brabazon	(1933-1950)	OH0022
91 year old male resident	(1914-1924)	OH0024
Fred Nuttall	(1922-2000)	OH0025
Natalie Maiorana	(1956-2000)	OH0026
Marie Stade	(1927-2000)	OH0045
Barbara & Neville Fletcher		
(Family in area from 1896-2001)		OH0060
Bill Chiew	(1925 – market gardens)	OH0069
Lily Tolcon	(1946-2002)	OH0076
Nick Tolcon	(1946-1960s)	OH0079
Nick Catania	(1958-2003)	OH0086
Mavis, Nancy & Jean Rice	(1920s-2003)	OH0099

Memoirs (written by North Perth residents)

Murphy, Richard, *Written memoirs of Richard Murphy; born 1923 in North Perth.* B/MUR

Richards, Rosalie, *Memories of childhood: growing up in North Perth in the 1930s.* B/RIC

Cook, Marj, *The Hahn-Johnson Dynasty*
Interesting Publications, 2002. B/HAH

Local Studies and History Collection

Town of Vincent Library,
99 Loftus Street, Leederville WA 6007

Ph 9273 6090

People with specific requirements can ask to have this brochure provided in Braille, a language other than English, large print, on computer disk or audiotape.



TOWN OF VINCENT

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SUBURB NORTH PERTH



North Perth Town Hall Lesser Hall, built 1902 (2000)

North Perth is bounded by Vincent, Norfolk., Walcott, Green, London and Loftus streets and Anzac Road.

HISTORY

Pre 1829

Evidence indicates that Australian Aborigines have inhabited the Perth basin for at least 38,000 years. The coming of Europeans in 1829 disrupted the seasonal routine of the Aboriginal people resulting in them being restricted to living in camps on the outskirts of the colonised areas. Two of the lakes where they camped were Hyde Park and Lake Monger. Aboriginal people were known to be still camping in the area in 1896 when *The West Australian* reported two women being attacked by dogs from the camps in North Perth.

1829-1890

Thomas Farmer, who had arrived in the colony as a young boy in 1829, was the first to acquire Swan Location 653 around 1881. However, subdivision did not occur until much later.

1891-1919

The earliest subdivisions were developed in 1898 by Solomon Herman's Gold Estates of Australia, which acquired Lot 653 from heirs of Farmer's estate. The first subdivision was called Percy Estate. It covered the area south of Angove Street (named for surveyor William Angove), and included Olive, Peach, Vine and Persimmon streets. Angove Street was angled across the subdivision to link Fitzgerald Street and Scarborough Beach Road. The second subdivision was called Woodville. This was in the triangle formed by Angove, Farmer and Parker streets. Other early estates were Christmas Hill, Toorak, Forrest Hill, Lurline Park, View Park, Monastery Grounds Estate and North Perth Estate as part of the Highgate Hill subdivision.

Initially called Woodville and Toorak after the early estates, it was not until circa 1901 that the area was named North Perth. The area was seen as a good place to live as housing was relatively cheap, and it was within walking distance to the city. North Perth was then on the outskirts of the Perth metropolitan area, with bushland extending from the suburbs limits. By 1903 subdivision had gone on so rapidly that North Perth's street plan extended to the junction of Walcott Street and Wanneroo Road, although many of these were to remain bush tracks for years. Much of the housing in North Perth was built between 1895 and 1935. Angove

Street was a commercial centre of the suburb and included the Police Station. View Street housed many of the public buildings.

Early residents relied upon tanks and wells for their water. In 1896 the State Government created the Metropolitan Water Supply Company and mains were laid to Leederville and North Perth.

Trams from the city to North Perth ran along Fitzgerald Street from 1900 to 1953. Roads were constructed to provide a firm base for the tracks. The lines entered Fitzgerald from Bulwer Street with the first route ending at Forrest Street. The Fitzgerald Street line was continued north along Angove Street with the Albert Street terminus opening in 1906. The line extended to Charles Street in 1927. These extensions



6 Angove Street 1902

led to rapid growth in North Perth. Whereas only 12 per cent had been built on in 1904, this had risen to 36 per cent by 1911.

Originally serviced by the Perth Roads Board, the area was officially designated as the North Perth Roads Board in March 1899 and was reclassified as the North Perth Municipality in October 1901. The new municipality's road district boundaries were extended to include the future suburb of Mount Hawthorn.

The Mayors of North Perth were 1902-03 Richard Haynes, 1904-05 Herbert Parker, 1906-09 John Milner, 1910 Robert Gamble, 1911-12 William Randell and 1913-14 Ernest Waugh.

On 22 December 1914 Perth, North Perth and Leederville municipalities united to form Greater Perth. From this date there was one council and one mayor. This was the Perth City Council.

North Perth bowling greens and croquet lawns were established in 1910 on Woodville Reserve, followed by tennis courts in 1915. During World War II, Woodville Reserve had searchlights, anti-aircraft guns and air raid shelters around the edge.

1920-1946

In 1929, North Perth was concerned that Mount Hawthorn was receiving all of the funds for road and footpath improvements. The situation appears to have improved by 1937 when a report lists North Perth as having 50 miles of footpaths, leaving 35 miles unmade and 40 miles of road constructed with five miles remaining. The annual rateable value in North Perth in 1937 was £166,236 compared to £52,611 in 1915.

Thirty-eight acres of parks and recreation land were created between 1914 and 1937, including Menzies Park, Smith's Lake, Kyilla Park and a children's playground adjoining the Town Hall.

In 1921, North Perth Primary School was the largest primary school in the State. Between 1939 and 1941 a number of Workers Homes Board residences were constructed in Selkirk Street. To cater for these children the Public Works Department arranged for a timber school to be moved from Herne Hill to Selkirk Street but, as the houses in the area were brick, the residents refused to accept a timber school. It was November 1944 before a brick school was built; in the meantime the children used public transport to attend other schools in the area. When the Kyilla Infant School opened in 1945 there were 150 children of infant school age in the immediate area.

1947-1972

North Perth experienced an influx of migrants in the 1940s following World War II. Affordable land and house prices attracted Greek and Italian migrants. Changes were seen in the residential character of the area as houses were built and remodeled in a European style, reminiscent of those left behind.

The Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1962 led to the construction of the Beatty Park Aquatic Centre, which greatly enhanced the sporting facilities of the suburb.

The Mitchell and Kwinana freeways were major developments during the 1970s and Charles Street became a link from North Perth to the Narrows Bridge.

1973-2005

Commercial development in North Perth was concentrated primarily along Angove and Fitzgerald streets. In 1977 the North Perth Plaza was proposed and subsequently built incorporating a large supermarket to improve shopping facilities in the area.

During the 1970s and 1980s, migrants from Vietnam, Korea, Burma and other Asian countries, many of them refugees, settled in North Perth creating a culturally diverse community. This diversity is evident in the number of churches built in the suburb reflecting their many religions. The North Perth Migrant Resource Centre was established at 66 Angove Street in 1981. The aims were to offer settlement and welfare services and community education activities to culturally and linguistically diverse persons. These included programs for migrant women, English classes and a multilingual library. The centre moved to the old Town Hall complex a few years later, until getting its own purpose-built building, Multicultural House, at 20 View Street in 1999.



PLACES OF INTEREST

TOWN OF VINCENT

1 North Perth Town Hall

24-26 View Street

The original building, now known as the Lesser Hall, was constructed in 1902. The architect was HJ Prockter and the builder, RA Gamble. The larger main hall was constructed in 1910 with alterations and additions in 1933. North Perth ceased having its own council from 1914. The halls have been used as a venue for major civic, social and cultural activities since then. State Heritage listed.



Main Hall (2000)

2 North Perth Post Office

cnr Leake and View streets

A postal service in the form of a receiving office began in 1902 in Angove Street, until North Perth got its own Post Office in 1916. Situated on the corner of Leake and View streets opposite the North Perth Town Hall, the Post Office and residence were designed by Hillson Beasley at a cost of £1,720. This operated until 1966 when a new Post Office opened on the corner of View and Fitzgerald streets, closer to the main business and shopping area. The original building is now an Australia Post administrative centre. State Heritage listed.

3 North Perth Fire Station

21 View Street

[The first North Perth Fire Station was a wooden building on the corner of Fitzgerald and Forrest streets.]



North Perth Fire Station 1960s

Built in 1926 and designed by KC Duncan (himself a volunteer firefighter). Operated as a fire station until 1956. Remained with the Fire Brigades Board until 1962 when it was used for training and to accommodate electrical workshops.

State Heritage listed, 'the place is rare as one of a small number of extant 2 storey fire stations built in Western Australia, and is only one of 5 extant fire stations built in the metropolitan area in the Inter-War period'. (WA Heritage Council)

Purchased 1963 by Jury Tolcon, it was divided into commercial use downstairs, residential upstairs. Currently a private residence.

4 St Hilda's Anglican Church

View Street (cnr Glebe Street)

At the turn of the century, the North Perth Anglican parish of All Saints, Woodville, held Sunday school classes in Hahn's tower house on the corner of Daphne and Angove streets. Church services were initially conducted in Gibson Hall, on the corner of Daphne and Angove streets, and in North Perth Primary School. A wooden building was transported from Canning Mills and erected on the corner of Rose (Glebe) and View streets in 1904. This was used for church services until St Hilda's Anglican Church was constructed in 1915 in View Street on the corner of Glebe Street, with the rectory in Glebe Street.



5 North Perth Primary School

Albert Street

In 1897 1½ acres of the Toorak Estate was purchased for a school. The school opened on 30 January 1899 with 131 students. It consisted of a brick building with two main classrooms which could be divided by an iron shutter. By 1921 North Perth Primary School was the largest in the State and its resources were stretched. The girls walked to Leederville School for domestic science classes, and the boys walked to Highgate School for manual arts. In January 1922 the North Perth Infant School opened to cater for the large number of students.

In 1943 a school playing field was created and named Goonderup 'a meeting place'. This was constructed during the war years, using students for the manual labour of moving sand to create a flat area where the oval could be planted.

In 1990 the Infant School was incorporated into the main school after numbers dropped to 80. This became the School of Instrumental Music; the Education Department base for music teachers in the State. There were 220 pupils at the school in 2004.

6 Rosemount Theatre, later to be Rosemount Bowl

464 Fitzgerald Street

The Regent Theatre in Fitzgerald Street, North Perth, opened in 1927. This was later renamed the Rosemount Theatre. With a seating capacity of 400, although of plain appearance on the outside, it 'exuded nostalgia on the inside'. The roof could be partially opened in the summertime. The Theatre and associated Picture Gardens were both closed in 1967. The theatre was remodelled with the upstairs gallery turned into a bowling alley and the lower part into a hall for the Police and Citizens Club.

7 North Perth Police Station

81 Angove Street



North Perth Police Station (2000)

The North Perth Police Station was built in Angove Street in 1908. Designed by Hillson Beasley, the building cost £816. State Heritage listed, 'the building, with its double-arched front porch decorated with the distinctive "blood and bandages" design of horizontal striping formed by brickwork and white-painted render, was an example of the exuberance of architectural style in the later gold boom era'.

Originally the Officer in Charge and his family would have lived there.

8 Redemptorist Monastery

190 Vincent Street



Redemptorist Monastery (2000)

Built in 1903, the new monastery and church were dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. With the generosity of the people in the early years it was possible to add a second wing in 1912 and 10 years later the church was completed by the addition of the sanctuary and transept. The murals in the sanctuary were painted in 1962 by Croatian artist Karl Macek. As well as being a residence for the Brothers, the monastery was used as an annual retreat for the clergy of the diocese. The community is also welcome to attend the church services.

9 Smith's Lake

Originally much larger than the current lake, Smith's Lake was named Danjanberup by the Aboriginal community. The Claisebrook drain was extended to the lake in the 1920s reducing the surface water. The land was used for market gardening. The Gooey family of Albert Street were well-known Chinese market gardeners in the area for many years until their land was resumed by the Perth City Council in 1959. The council decided to drain the swamp and convert it into land for building and recreational use. The reclamation was achieved by using the area as a rubbish dump for many years. In the 1960s the land was filled and subdivided. There were 76 residential lots and 10 commercial lots in the scheme. Part of the land was developed as a recreation reserve, named after Charles Veryard, a Perth City Councillor from 1927 to 1964 and Mayor of Perth from 1964 to his death in 1967.

Smith's Lake has recently been changed from a concrete and lawn-edged lake back to a more natural setting, with fringing vegetation of entirely local species of plants. This is to provide habitat for frogs, invertebrates and nesting sites for water birds. (Lake 2001)

10 The Stone House

116 Angove Street

John Roberts, a stonemason, bought the block in 1904 and lived with his family in a wooden one-room shed whilst he saved money and slowly built the house from Donnybrook Stone. It was completed in 1920. His son Henry Roberts, also a stonemason, later lived in the house.



11 Browne's Dairy

Charles Street

Edward Browne purchased the Whole Farmers Dairy Co-operative in 1915, when the name changed to Browne's Dairy. Milk



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It's how you get there that counts



was purchased from farmers, brine cooled and sold to retailers and consumers. Lack of refrigeration meant that milk had to be processed near the market. Walter Browne lived across the road in Charles Street.

In 1930 Browne's purchased the Wattle Ice cream Co., installed their equipment in the North Perth plant and started to make ice cream and butter. In 1932, after a trip to the USA, Walter introduced the Eskimo Pie chocolate-coated ice cream. Demand soon outstripped their ability to supply so an arrangement was made with Peters to supply Browne's with bulk ice cream.

The Depression led to farmers abandoning their land or halting production and a shortage of milk. Browne's had to cease butter and ice cream manufacture at North Perth. In the early 1930s they began ice production. With the post-war boom the plant was modernised with the new factory opened in 1949. This produced pasteurised milk in bottles for the first time in WA, under the name 'Golden Seal'. Browne's also introduced the State's first chocolate milk in 1951 and the first yoghurt in 1959. Peter's acquired Browne's Dairy Ltd in 1962.

In 1970 Browne's built a new factory on the site on the south side of Kadina Street. This was used to make cottage and fetta cheese, yoghurt, sour cream and Classic Dessert. Juice and flavoured milk continued to be produced in the main factory and a second milk bottling line was also installed. Milk cartons were introduced in 1974. Milk was put into glass bottles for the last time in 1986. In 1998 the dairy moved to Balcatta after more than 80 years in North Perth.

A growers market and six retail shops are housed within the original building with town houses constructed in Kadina Street – a plan known as The Village North Perth.

12 Beatty Park Leisure Centre

220 Vincent Street

Named after World War I hero Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty, Beatty Park Reserve was gazetted in 1910, having been used as a site where night soil and rubbish were trampled by the City of Perth from 1890. The Aquatic Centre was built on part of this reserve in 1962 for the VII British Empire and Commonwealth Games. Designed by City of Perth staff, WA McI Green, Town Clerk; M Boyce, architect; and LH Steenbohm, Director of Parks & Gardens. This was the first purpose-built aquatic centre in Western Australia for international competition. Officially opened to the public on 4 December 1962, it housed an eight-lane Olympic pool, children and learners' pool, a diving pool and seating for 5,500 people. The centre played a prominent role in the development of swimming and swimming education in Western Australia.

The facility was refurbished in 1994 to include an indoor leisure complex with a dining area, freeform beach entry and lap pool. There is also a sauna, spa and steamroom. The older section was remodelled to include a crèche, gym and aerobics facility. A new frontage was added with an expansive foyer and retail shop. State Heritage listed in 2004.



Aerial view of Beatty Park 1962