

Library & Local History Centre



With a commitment to the pursuit and sharing of knowledge through books and other media, the provision of a public library service has always been a priority of the Town.

Over the years, the Library has been involved in a plethora of programmes and initiatives to promote literacy and sense of community. These include:

- 2 public internet workstations introduced (2000)
- Hosted the Nestlé Write Around Australia Competition for the Perth area with guest author Christine Harris (2000)
- Initiated the 'Aboriginal Studies Collection' – the first library to take this step (2000)
- Participated in inaugural National Simultaneous Storytime with guest reader Ted Bull, local radio identity (2001)
- Held a twilight storytime with guest storyteller, teddy-bears and hot chocolate (2001)
- Performance of 'Dear Heart' in the Library which has gone on to become a popular stage show (2002)
- Celebrated NAIDOC Week and Sorry Day (2002)
- Launched the 'Women of Vincent' Local History Collection (2002)
- Celebrated Seniors' Week with a performance of 'Last Train from Vienna' (2002)
- Commenced 'What do you want us to buy' and suggestion box (2003)
- Local History launch of *70 years of Cheers*, book about the Paddington Ale House, 1932-2002 (2003)
- Local History celebration of those who have made a contribution to the collection and presentation of Annual Awards (2003)
- Launch of 'Men of Vincent' Oral History Collection (2004)
- Inaugural Library Forum with guest speaker Liz Byrski (2004)
- Supported East Perth Power Station history research (2004)
- Inaugural State-wide 'One Book' Programme with guest speaker Craig Silver (2005)
- Appearance on radio station 6PR to discuss and promote Local History Collection (2006)
- Launch of 'The Businesses of Oxford Street' Local History Collection (2006)

- Commenced offering free 'Tax Help' service, with trained volunteers from the ATO (2006)
- Hosted 'Tales of Times Past', intergenerational storytelling of oral histories (2006)
- Working with State Library of WA and local Community Child Health Nurses at the Leederville, Mount Hawthorn, North Perth and Highgate Child Health Centres, commenced Better Beginnings early intervention family literacy programme (2006)



Graham Hunt (Peter Hunt Architects), Mayor Catania, Rod Sproule (Perkins Builders) and CEO John Giorgi with the commemorative plaque unveiled at the Official Opening on 30 July 2008.



Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton with Mayor Catania at the launch of Our Town.

- Launch of *Our Town: Early Images from the Town of Vincent Local History Collection* book (2007)
- Celebrated Harmony Week with a Multicultural Storytime and foods (2007)
- Launched the 'Italians in Northbridge' photographic display, with the Acting Consul for Italy in WA (2007)
- Participated in the 'Thanks Dad!' photo competition and celebrated with an evening storytime for dads (2007)

- National Simultaneous Storytime with the Mayor as guest reader of *The Magic Hat* (2007)
- Celebrated the Library's 19th birthday in the Loftus Centre with a 'Leaving Home' newsletter including photos of the old Mount Hawthorn library premises (2007)
- Closed old Library to move into the new custom-designed and built Library premises (2008)
- New Library opened for business on 18 February (2008)
- Hosted family-friendly book talk about *The House that was Built in a Day: Anzac Cottage* by local author Valerie Everett and illustrator Barbara McGuire (2008)
- Hosted Children's Book Week judges' talk about short-listed books (2008)
- National Simultaneous Storytime with the Mayor as guest reader of *Arthur* (2008)
- Hosting professional development meetings for public librarians to promote the new library service (on-going)
- Naming of the junior and young adult's areas of the Library (late 2008)
- Second Local History Book on Commercial Activities of Our Town (future release)

On 30 July 2008 our new Library & Local History Centre was officially opened. The new centre is a showpiece for the Town in addition to being a vibrant community hub and an invaluable resource for those who seek to acquire and share knowledge in a welcoming atmosphere.

The new Library boasts junior and young adult areas, the lounge@vincent (with newspapers, magazines, forums, book club and coffee facilities), a media room, housebound reader service and on-line library in addition to many other features.

The Town's commitment to its past, present and future has been encapsulated in the Local History Centre. An archival gem for the student, the author, the historian, the genealogist and for anyone with a passion for the past, the Centre is staffed by dedicated Local History librarians and contains a wealth of information about our Town – oral history interviews, maps, books, newspapers and photographs. ☀

