Northbridge has a rich and vibrant history, characterised by diversity and change. From Aboriginal occupation of the original swamps to post-second world war waves of migration, Northbridge has reflected the growth and changes in the state. A fascinating and complex area, it has been home to nearly fifty different nationalities and ethnic groups.

Generational and infrastructure change meant that knowledge of this history was at risk.

It was in this climate that the Northbridge History Project was established to assist the community to discover and preserve the many diverse histories of Northbridge before they were lost.

Northbridge has the potential to be the most exciting and dynamic inner urban area in Australia.
“I am deeply impressed by the vision, scope, and real-world results of the Northbridge History Project. It is one of the finest examples of successful community engagement in heritage that I have ever seen.

This is heritage intended not just for tourism or historic preservation, but also to improve the life of a community and to recognize the dignity of its people and their memories. No small achievement.

In doing so, the Northbridge History Project offers a valuable model for multicultural urban communities throughout Australia and indeed everywhere in the world.”

Neil Silberman, President, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites
“It has been a pleasure to be involved with the Northbridge History Project both as an MLA and Perth City Councillor. The Project has involved many community members, many of whom I have met and know, and generated considerable interest. The Northbridge History Project has done invaluable work gathering the history for the area, without which the history would have been lost.”

Michael Sutherland MLA
Member for Mount Lawley
Premier’s Representative, Northbridge History Reference Panel 2008-2010

“The Northbridge History Project gives new residents a real sense of place about their community. Bricks and mortar give a physical aspect to a neighbourhood, but a vibrant history gives soul and well-being, turning sterile streetscapes into shared communities. Northbridge is a better, more liveable place since the Northbridge History Project started and delivered real community engagement.”

John Hyde MLA
Member for Perth
Premier’s Representative, Northbridge History Reference Panel 2005-2008

“The Northbridge History Project has enabled us to truly focus on the influences, the cultures and the businesses that created a very important city precinct. It has been truly important work that will mean as much to future generations as it did to those who created it.”

The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor
Lisa Scaffidi

“Although my role as Chairman of the ‘Irish’ Committee meant that my personal involvement was very much less than those on the research team, I was nevertheless honoured to be part of the Project. I cannot give enough praise to the members of the Committee, to the indefatigable Felicity and her team for the close working relationship we had and the amicable cooperation that was a feature of the Committee.

Western Australian history will be glad to have the wealth of detailed history that has been compiled by our Committee and all the other hardworking Committees that formed the Project. It was a wise decision of the WA Government to fund and resource this Project.”

Most Rev B. J. Hickey OAM
Archbishop of Perth
“I have been extremely impressed by the excellent planning, development, progress and outcomes of the Northbridge History Project. It has made a most significant contribution to our understanding of the history of Perth.

I would urge that the use of the local studies curriculum completed for the Education Department can be monitored to ensure its continuation, and that the important on-line archival collection of photographs and interviews will continue to be maintained and updated as necessary.

The collection has immense potential for further research projects. Many congratulations to all those involved in the project.”

Jenny Gregory AM
Professor of History
The University of Western Australia

“The stimulus that was afforded by the Project to the Jewish community to document its important history within the Northbridge precinct was a wonderful opportunity that almost certainly would have otherwise been lost to it.

As a former President of the Jewish Community Council of Western Australia, I am glad that I was able to present some of that history at one of the Northbridge Study Days and that an enhanced version of the talk was published in the first Northbridge volume.

The recording of the rich history of all the communities of Northbridge who have together contributed to building our WA society is a story well worth telling.

I am confident that the real value of your work and that of the entire Northbridge team will continue to bear fruit into the future.”

Dr Keith Shilkin AM
Fmr President of the Jewish Community Council of WA
Member Jewish Steering Committee

“Thank you for the opportunity to have been involved in the Northbridge History Project. The process has not only been fascinating and edifying, it has been inspirational.

It has been a great pleasure to work with you and your team. Your professionalism and passion for the subject matter has helped crystallize many thoughts that I have had about the district and its role in our city.

Being involved in the Project has caused me to re-assess my role and that of my business in my community (gay & lesbian), the Northbridge community and that of the greater city. It has helped me understand where we have come from, where we find ourselves now, where we might go in the future and the incredible opportunities that the future presents.”

Tim Brown
Managing Director Connections Nightclub
Member Gay & Lesbian Steering Committee

“As a representative for the Chinese Community I had the opportunity of working for the project for three months in late 2007.

It was a fantastic privilege to process the varied and rich photographic and oral recording information being gleaned from fellow Northbridgeans.

The team members are extremely thorough and dedicated to the aims of the project and their processes to ensure accuracy and accessibility of the resources.

This has been a project I have been proud to have been associated with and enjoyed the company of all whom I met through this process.

I wish all the project members who will be finishing at the end of June, a prosperous start to the next chapter in their working lives.”

Kaylene Poon
Member Chinese Steering Committee 2005-2009
Northbridge is the bustling, cosmopolitan hospitality and entertainment precinct of inner city Perth. Established in name in 1981 after a public competition, the area is characterised by its proximity to the Central Railway Station in the south, the Perth Cultural Centre in the east and the Mitchell Freeway in the west. Before 1981, the area was known as North Perth, West Perth, North of Perth, North of the Line or Little Italy.

Northbridge has a rich and vibrant history. The area was settled in the first years of the Swan River Colony’s existence and its fortunes have ebbed and flowed in tune with the changing economic circumstances of the state. Originally, the location of a series of interconnected swamps, rapid development of the area did not occur until the gold rushes of the 1890s. The ensuing growth of the city, increased population and expansion of rail transport saw the area flourish as a trade and light-manufacturing hub. Repeated waves of migration from all parts of the globe ensured that the area reflected diverse ethnic, religious and occupational activity.

As is common with many inner city areas, the history of the Northbridge has been characterised by physical change and fluctuating fortunes. In the 1960s and 1970s, land reserved for a freeway led to a decline in the residential population. Houses were converted to restaurants, which led to the boast ‘more restaurants per capita than anywhere else in the southern hemisphere’ in the 1980s. In the mid 1980s to the early 1990s, burgeoning al fresco dining and a vibrant, cosmopolitan hospitality and arts scene saw the area become the entertainment precinct of Perth.

The proposed freeway did not proceed and, instead, a cut-and-cover tunnel began construction in the late 1990s, causing dislocation of traffic when under construction and a resultant slump in business confidence. Increased competition from suburban shopping centres and entertainment precincts and changes in the composition of the neighbourhood community, saw people move away. Generational change meant that custodians of the early to mid-nineteenth century history of the area where passing on and there was an increasing feeling that Northbridge was losing its special and distinctive qualities.

In 2002, in response to these concerns, a report by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet called Northbridge: Shaping the Future recommended investigating the history of the area to ‘understand and embrace the area’s history to create diversity, interest and business and tourism opportunities.’ In response, Premier Geoff Gallop directed the Department to establish the Northbridge History Project.

Subsequent support for the Project was provided by Premier Alan Carpenter and Premier Colin Barnett. Funding for the Project was provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (2004-2010) with two-thirds of the Project budget provided by EPRA for 2009-2010.

Involvement of all of the various communities in Northbridge was considered vital to ensure that the interpretation and revitalisation of the area was done authentically so to add value to the city as the state Capital.

A consultation structure was established, 120 people attended scoping workshops and 177 gave their time on a bi-monthly basis at Steering Committees or at community events to gather resources for the Project. Photographs and documents were scanned and metadata collected; oral histories recorded and mapping of memories undertaken. Curriculum materials teaching local history in the first four years of high school, using Northbridge as the exemplar, were distributed throughout the state. A fully searchable online Electronic Archive was created to make sure that the sources would be available to students, researchers and the broader community free of charge. The Project adhered to the principles of the conservation of intangible heritage outlined in the Burra, UNESCO, Faro and Ename Charters. The Faro and Ename Charters, published after the Project began, confirmed the approach taken by the Northbridge History Project.

The Project attracted 580 donors with diverse cultural and social backgrounds. The youngest donor was nine, the oldest 103. Over 1800 people were regularly informed by direct email of what the Project was doing and many more learnt about Northbridge’s history via circulation lists, the media and educational programmes. The Project managed 1168 people in different stages of the project, not including general contacts or Studies Day attendees.

While this report highlights some of the background to, and achievements of, the Project and documents its activities, the people of Northbridge are the true archive of Northbridge’s history. Without them there would have been no Northbridge History Project.

They have my heartfelt appreciation. It has been a professional privilege to work alongside the people of Northbridge and a personal joy to be given entrée to their lives and experiences.

Dr Felicity Morel-EdnieBrown
Director, Northbridge History Project

We started with an analysis of some of the key factors influencing Northbridge in 2005...

In part this had been driven by perceptions of neglect from government exacerbated by repeated changes in plans for the area.

There were also complaints about a lack of connection to city with the railway, in particular, seen as a divide that prevented Northbridge from playing a more active role in the life of the city.

Negative press reports of crimes, combined with limited information available to counterpoint negativity, was contributing to a monocultural view of the area.

Lack of understanding of importance of the area to Aboriginal community was reflected in mounting tension between traders and Indigenous people in the area.

Lack of knowledge of the complexity and diversity of the area did not assist decision makers.

Infrastructural disruption during the construction of the 'Tunnel' led to increasing degradation of physical attributes of the area and a significant disruption to business. Lack of profitability was reflected in diminished maintenance of building stock in the area.

Concurrently, a strong emphasis on night-time entertainment activities created a monoculture resulting in the predominant visitor demographic shifting from 'family' to 'youth'.

Although the area was home to a range of migrant cultures there was a lack of awareness of its uniqueness in Western Australia and Australia.

There was limited knowledge of Northbridge’s diversity and complexity and the contribution its inhabitants had made to the development of the state.

Little understanding of its history meant there were few resources for authentic interpretation.
Aims....

Many of the issues were inter-related and a Multi-Faceted Approach was conceived to deal with them effectively. It was proposed to:

- **Change perceptions** - Increase business, public and local community confidence by creating new interest in the area.
- **Counter-act negative publicity** - Contextualise the area in the state’s growth and development by providing interesting stories to the media.
- **Use history as a point of difference and attraction** - Increase engagement with area’s difference to improve Northbridge’s competitive advantage over suburban centres.
- **Provide information** - For tourism and marketing of the area.
- **Uncover uniqueness** - Interpret Northbridge authentically as a key element of the Capital City.
- **Make visible interpretation** - Work with City of Perth, East Perth Redevelopment Authority and the Town of Vincent to embed historical interpretation in Northbridge as a place of cultural interest.

The use of history in the Northbridge History Project was the means to an end.

Use of history to proactively restore business and community confidence had been used elsewhere to rejuvenate inner-city areas, for example, The Rocks in Sydney and Lygon Street in Melbourne.

By collecting and making a wide range of primary and secondary sources available free of charge online at [www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au](http://www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au) the Northbridge History Project was making sure that future generations would know and understand the important place that Northbridge had in the city and the state.
Objectives...

- Community Engagement: Consult with the community of Northbridge to ensure the maximum participation in, and support for, the Project.
- Gather history of Northbridge through working partnerships with the stakeholders of Northbridge, including volunteer assistance.
- Partner with other agencies and organisations to increase awareness of Northbridge’s history and to bring resources to the Project.
- Make information visible to stakeholders in urban renewal, interpretation and business activities in Northbridge and the broader community.
- Make information available electronically via the Northbridge History website – initially in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and, later, through the State Records Office.
- Develop policies and protocols for the appropriate documentation and copying of primary materials in an electronic format.

Strategies...

- Show immediate interest from State Government at highest level
- Provide conduit for key stakeholders and community leaders of Northbridge to give advice and support
- Obtain general community support and participation in the Northbridge History Project
- Engage media by providing material showing Government’s interest
- Create understanding that division from city gives Northbridge unique characteristics which can be valued
- Involve Premier
- Establish Premier’s Northbridge History Reference Panel
- Create neutral structure to gather history and engage community
- Engage community in discovering the history of the area
- Solicit media support for activities of panel
- Acknowledge as a place of difference from the rest of city
- Different solar penetration in winter gives a unique ambience for al fresco
<table>
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<tr>
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<td>2:1 Provide alternative information to increase understanding of alternative aspects of the area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide good quality information about area to key stakeholders and business</td>
<td>2:2 Capture and conserve authentic resources about Northbridge for use in business, marketing and interpretation</td>
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<td>Conceptualize violence as part of a growing but sophisticated and urbane city</td>
<td>2:3 Create new word images of Northbridge for writers and reporters: use phrases such as bohemian, gritty, complex, fascinating</td>
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<td>Share discovered information more broadly</td>
<td>2:4 Disseminate via Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide information about history of Northbridge</td>
<td>2:5 Disseminate information about complexity and richness of area</td>
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<td>Contextualize long-standing Aboriginal engagement with Northbridge</td>
<td>2:6 Engage Aboriginal community in consultative process</td>
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<td>2:7 Provide quality information to others about relevance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide guidance as to sources about Northbridge</td>
<td>2:9 Document existing primary and secondary sources of Northbridge</td>
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<td>Stimulate research into Northbridge to raise level of informed debate</td>
<td>2:10 Engage Universities and community in research on annual basis</td>
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<td>2:14 Propose wide dissemination of consultants reports on Northbridge</td>
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Obtain information to reposition Northbridge as an interesting part of the city
Create sense of value of ownership and pride in built environment of Northbridge as valuable
Engage owners of buildings and businesses directly to reignite a sense of pride in the area
Accentuate aspects of Northbridge which give it a competitive advantage

3:1
Create stories and images that do not focus only on entertainment

3:2
Increase engagement through understanding the uniqueness of the area

3:3
Use goodwill of Reference Panel to harness activities

3:4
Provide information that interprets Northbridge at all levels

NOT CONSIDERED AN ASSET TO THE CITY

Strategies...

Use history to create authenticity in the experience of Northbridge
Make history and more general urban revitalization known
Create tourism awareness
Increase knowledge and awareness of changes to Northbridge.

4:1
Develop accessible materials that reflect diversity and uniqueness of the area

4:2
Establish Research (Interpretation) Panel in association with City of Perth, Town of Vincent and EPRA

4:3
Create pro-active online presence for Northbridge

4:4
Raise awareness of Northbridge and its uniqueness in Australia

4:5
Raise engagement with media to obtain positive coverage of Northbridge in media

4:6
Encourage inclusion of history component in existing activities

4:7
Allow all voices to be heard in material collected

LOSS OF IDENTITY AND LACK OF INTERPRETATION
### Strategies...

**Loss of Identity and Lack of Interpretation**

| 4:8 | Embed an understanding of Northbridge in 14-18 year olds |
| 4:9 | Make Northbridge more widely known and appreciated by 18-25 year olds |
| 4:10 | Deliver maps and visual understanding of the area to assist future planning and historical understanding |
| 4:11 | Deliver information via youth-based modes |
| 4:12 | Use electronic medium/internet to defray costs and enable maximum distribution, including the world wide web |

### Timeline...

**June 2005-July 2010**

- **Undertake formal community consultation** to win stakeholder support and discover the extent of the known history of the area (2005-06)
- **Record** oral histories, photographic and documentary information into an electronic archive (2006-08)
- **Undertake mapping and dissemination of information** (2008-09)
- **Partner with relevant stakeholders** to make the history of the area visible in Northbridge (2009-10)
The day-to-day lives of people are the authentic voice of a city and when something is authentic, then it is sustainable.

If the Northbridge History Project has done its job, then people’s understanding of Northbridge will be different.

Scorecard....

- All key stakeholder groups were driven in parallel to achieved united outcomes that fed into the final project outcomes.
- Effectively delivered with full time equivalent of 2.5 staff — on time/on budget.
- 94.5% of KPIs met to 100% within the life of the Northbridge History Project (2005-2010) and the balance (which were longer term) devolved to other agencies for completion over the next three years.

How well did we do?

- Change perceptions - increase business, public and local community confidence by creating new interest in the area.
- Counter-act negative publicity - contextualize the area in state’s growth and development by providing interesting stories to the media.
- Use history as a point of difference and attraction - increase engagement with the area’s difference to improve Northbridge’s competitive advantage over suburban centres.
- Provide information for tourism and marketing of the area.
- Rediscover uniqueness - interpret Northbridge authentically as a key element of the Capital City.
- Visible recognition through interpretation - work with agencies to embed historical interpretation in Northbridge as a place of cultural interest.
**Project exposes rich fabric of inner city**

**Studies fuel attitude shift**

**Northbridge rich in ethnic history**

**City’s ‘bohemian’ history**

**More than clubs and crime**

**Northbridge history exposed for a day**

**Search on for hidden history**

**History’s fine line**
“On behalf of the Polish community in Perth we feel that we owe you a debt of gratitude for the way you managed to open our hearts and our minds to the possibilities of remembering and accepting the history of our parents and grandparents and be able to pass it onto our young generation. Many of their accomplishments spanning over a hundred years were uncovered and will be available in the electronic archives to be used in the future.”

Halina T. Szunejko OAM
President, Polish Community Council of WA

Outcomes...

Show immediate interest from State Government at highest level

Provide conduit for key stakeholders and community leaders of Northbridge to give advice and support

Obtain general community support and participation in the Northbridge History Project

1:1

Involve Premier
Achieved: Premier approved creation of Northbridge History Project and convenes first meeting.

1:2

Establish Premier’s Northbridge History Reference Panel
Achieved: Premier invited members to join Panel - all accept. A number chair Steering Committees for the duration of the Project.

1:3

Create neutral structure to gather history and engage community
Achieved: Establishment of Northbridge History Reference Panel, Northbridge History Project and Community Steering Committee structure. Publication of Community Consultation Plan.

1:4

Engage community in discovering the history of the area
Achieved: Community workshops held and Steering Committees inaugurated with representatives of various of the Northbridge community and stakeholder groups.

Outcomes...

Solicit media support for activities of panel
Achieved: Media support to encourage the public to participate in the Project. Ongoing relationship with media established.

Create understanding that division from city gives Northbridge unique characteristics which can be valued

1:5

1:6

1:7

Different solar penetration in winter gives a unique ambience for al fresco
Achieved: Research published showing origins of street grid and information provided to planners and businesses. Information included in briefing notes.
### Outcomes...

#### PERCEIVED AS ‘CRIME RIDDEN’ AND ‘DANGEROUS’

“...its colourful, Bohemian and sometimes confronting character embraced as the soul of the city.”

— ABC Stateline

Provide contextualization of crime as part of the city

| 2:1 | Provide alternative information to increase understanding of alternative aspects of the area | Provide alternative information to increase understanding of alternative aspects of the area. Achieved: Information disseminated to media and through research about the rich historical context of crime and illegal activities in the area. Reports increasingly state that any crime is part of the growth and change in the city and is not abnormal in an urban environment. |

Provide good quality information about area to key stakeholders and business

| 2:2 | Capture and conserve authentic resources about Northbridge for use in business, marketing and interpretation | Capture and conserve authentic resources about Northbridge for use in business, marketing and interpretation. Achieved: Collected information for the Electronic Archive that was authentic to the area. Provided multiple perspectives of similar issues so that balance could be obtained in the material. |

Conceptualize violence as part of a growing but sophisticated and urbane city

| 2:3 | Create new word images of Northbridge for writers and reporters: use phrases such as bohemian, gritty, complex, fascinating | Create new word images of Northbridge for writers and reporters: use phrases such as bohemian, gritty, complex, fascinating. Achieved: Media increasingly using phrases as above along with statements about the city becoming more complex. |

Share discovered information more broadly

| 2:4 | Disseminate via Website | Disseminate via Website. Achieved: Free online Electronic Archive established with documents, oral histories, photographs, maps, publications and podcasts. |

### Outcomes...

#### PERCEIVED AS ‘CRIME RIDDEN’ AND ‘DANGEROUS’

“The highlight of the [Studies] day for me was hearing Richard Walley speak on the area’s importance to the indigenous community. When he spoke of it as a place of meeting and celebrating for his culture for thousands of years and that we, the more recent arrivals, were simply continuing that tradition it was as if the entire room realized that, for all our differences, there was a shared experience and one of a greater community.”

— 2009 Studies Day Participant

Provide information about history of Northbridge

| 2:5 | Disseminate information about complexity and richness of area | Disseminate information about complexity and richness of area. Achieved: Steering Committees and website used to disseminate information. Publications and media and social networking deliver history to a wide audience. |

Contextualize long-standing Aboriginal engagement with Northbridge


Provide quality information to others about relevance

| 2:7 | Provide quality information to others about relevance | Provide quality information to others about relevance. Achieved: Indigenous leaders speak at Studies Day and in media promoting Project. |

Make known pre-settlement relationship to landscape

| 2:8 | Make known pre-settlement relationship to landscape | Make known pre-settlement relationship to landscape. Achieved: Indigenous leaders speak at Studies Days, on podcast and in media. Research published; documents held in Electronic Archive. |
Outcomes...

**PERCEIVED AS ‘CRIME RIDDEN’ AND ‘DANGEROUS’**

"The Northbridge History Studies Days are quite outstanding – even the abstracts show how our understanding of Perth has been deepened and broadened since the Studies Days began. I congratulate the Northbridge History Project on its contribution to the history of Perth.”

Emeritus Professor of Public History
Tom Stannage

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<tr>
<th>Outcomes...</th>
<th>2:9</th>
<th>Document existing primary and secondary sources of Northbridge</th>
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<tr>
<td>Achieved: Annotated Bibliography of Sources of Northbridge published in 2006.</td>
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| 2:10 | Engage Universities and community in research on annual basis |

| 2:11 | Academics interested in the area and encourage research to engage their students |
| Achieved: Academics gave papers at Studies Day. Director invited to give lectures to university students at UWA. Curtin and UWA Universities provided practicum students to Project. Postgraduate work on Northbridge undertaken by students. |

| 2:12 | Elevate importance of Northbridge on research agenda |
| Achieved: Academic research into Northbridge; Studies Day papers published by university imprint; post-graduate research into the area underway. |

| Outcomes... | 2:13 | Disseminate to relevant professions and interest groups |
| Achieved: Staff invited to deliver papers at relevant meetings and conferences in Australia and overseas. Publication of research. Lectures given at universities. Talks given to business groups. |

| 2:14 | Make non-academic research available to broader audience |

| Propose wide dissemination of consultants reports on Northbridge |
| Achieved: External consultants reports form part of documentation available on website. |
Outcomes...

Not considered an asset to the city

“...I was struck by the importance that people place on acknowledging and celebrating the past and the things they have shared with others, whether that’s work or study. The spirit of these shared things does endure beyond buildings to linger in the places around us — as it does here in Northbridge — but we all have a role in maintaining and honouring these collective memories to realise their true value to our communities.”

Neil Fernandes
Managing Director Central Institute of Technology

Obtain information to reposition Northbridge as an interesting part of the city.

Create stories and images that do not focus only on entertainment

Achieved: Stories published with historical information showing entertainment only one facet of Northbridge. West Australian, ABC, The Perth Voice and Guardian Express using earlier images more frequently. Bookmarks distributed focusing on historical Northbridge to clubs and pubs. Diverse aspects of history promoted in Studies Days. Published papers.

Create sense of value of ownership and pride in built environment of Northbridge as valuable.

Increase engagement through understanding the uniqueness of the area

Achieved: Information and evidence of unique characteristics of individual buildings for interpretation provided. Walking tours, brochures, exhibitions and other low cost promotions undertaken. Advice given to owners on interpretation. Papers on unique characteristics presented at Studies Days.

Engage owners of buildings and businesses directly to reignite a sense of pride in the area

Accentuate aspects of Northbridge which give it a competitive advantage

Use goodwill of Reference Panel to harness activities

Achieved: Reference panel chairs convene community meetings. Owners and business owners represented on Steering Committees. Information about history of particular sites and interpretation advice given. Promotional material distributed free of charge. Buildings documented in Alan’s Eye publication.

Provide information that interprets Northbridge at all levels

Achieved: provided free posters, bookmarks, crosswords and historical community brochures to businesses, cafes and libraries and schools. Published Studies Day book at cost price.

“Because of this, Northbridge is where we intend to stay (and we had thoughts of moving Connections), it is where we intend to develop new business and where we intend to continue to work to develop a community that is culturally rich, diverse and indicative of the city we aspire to live in.”

Tim Brown
Managing Director Connections
## Outcomes...

### 4:1

**Develop accessible materials that reflect diversity and uniqueness of the area**

- Achieved: low cost but effective materials developed; materials requested by businesses and public; articles and talks explaining authenticity and the history of Northbridge; tourism operators attend Studies Days; excellent response to posters and bookmarks.

### 4:2

**Establish Research (Interpretation) Panel in association with City of Perth, Town of Vincent and EPRA.**

- Achieved in part: in principle support obtained from City of Perth; development underway at Town of Vincent with funds allocated; Preliminary concept designs completed and in principle approved by Heritage Council of WA.

### 4:3

**Create pro-active online presence for Northbridge.**

- Achieved: Electronic Archive established; website has first ranking on Google to research Northbridge’s past. Pro-activity was deferred when need for a substantial archive was identified. Electronic Archive will contain a wide range of sources including over 400 oral histories, 3000 images and 400 documents. (NB: information is still being added at the time of writing this report.)

### 4:4

**Raise awareness of Northbridge and its uniqueness in Australia**


### 4:5

**Increase knowledge and awareness of changes to Northbridge.**

- Achieved: Regular media coverage of Project. Requests from journalists for historical information about Northbridge. TV and radio partnering resulted in all airtime coverage being unpaid and 98% of print coverage being unpaid.

### 4:6

**Encourage inclusion of history component in existing activities**

- Achieved: Partnerships established with activities in Northbridge (Festival, Fairday, PICA) to encourage visibility and use of historical materials.

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“Okay, and that actual website for the Northbridge History Project has an incredible amount of information there that you can access… you could spend all day reading and looking at pictures and not really scratch the surface. It’s fantastic. … And it’s a great resource for anyone who has an interest in Australian history and as we say, Northbridge is very much a microcosm of what was going on all around Australia at that time, particularly with the multiculturalism in such a small confined area.”

6PR Radio, The Way We Were

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“Just thought I’d let you know that I received a copy of Felicity Ednie-Brown’s Northbridge tape today…via Meigunyah Historical Home in Brisbane!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tell her - the PR thingo is working!!”

Tish Lees
Outcomes...

**LOSS OF IDENTITY AND LACK OF INTERPRETATION**

“Give voice to past communities”
- Allow all voices to be heard in material collected

“Create value in eyes of next generation”
- Embed an understanding of Northbridge in 14-18 year olds
  - Achieved: Curriculum materials developed for Years 8-11 teaching about Northbridge’s history. Available on the web and on compact disc. Widely distributed to schools and libraries. Also gave seminars to senior school students.

Disseminate information widely
- Achieved: Free access to online Electronic Archive via website. All material fully searchable without the need to classify it. All metadata included to allow materials to be correctly identified. Distribution of curriculum and podcasts via the web. Web site tested by National Archives for ease of use; positive comments from users.

Outcomes...

**LOSS OF IDENTITY AND LACK OF INTERPRETATION**

“Create value in eyes of next generation”
- Make Northbridge more widely known and appreciated by 18-25 year olds
  - Achieved: Universities created practicums for students with project as part of degree recognition.

Deliver maps and visual understanding of the area to assist future planning and historical understanding
- Completed in part: Mapping undertaken with different communities in Northbridge and put online. Concepts for electronic GIS based interface Virtual Perth developed and transferred to Murdoch University for funding via an ARC grant. Inclusion of Project in Electronic Cultural Atlases Initiative (ECAI).

Outcomes...

“Give voice to past communities”
- “I take this moment to thank you for your efforts to document the history of Northbridge and its role of being a part of the development of West Australia. I am of the opinion that the future generations will DESIRE TO KNOW WHAT OUR LIFESTYLE WAS LIKE IN the current times when we have long gone and taken our stories to the grave. Your work is important for the benefit of all future generations and should not be lost.”

Emily Zhen
Student

Outcomes...

“Create value in eyes of next generation”
- “Thanks to the Northbridge History Project, now whenever I think of history, I don’t think ‘boring’ any more. Instead I think of interesting real life stories.”

Emily Zhen
Student

Outcomes...

“Disseminate information widely”
- Deliver information via youth-based modes
The Northbridge History Project operated under a number of constraints, most particularly being technically unfunded after the resignation of Premier Gallop. Nevertheless, financial support was given to the Northbridge History Project by the Office of the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, for 2005-2010. In the final year, EPRA substantively funded the Project. However, oral history transcriptions were delayed for up to two and half years due to lack of funding, making processing to the Electronic Archive on a regular basis difficult. This led to an inevitable backlog of transcripts for approval when funding did occur. This loss of capacity had a direct impact on the capacity of the Project to process material for the Electronic Archive, although this was most keenly felt in the area of providing access to previously published documentation.

As a result, it was not possible to put all of the material collected by the Northbridge History Project was able to be put online. Material not published in other sources was given preference.

Nevertheless, all participants made a tremendous effort to complete the Electronic Archive and to make it available. Staff worked far beyond their paid employment hours to complete the Electronic Archive and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided additional staffing in the final four weeks, without which much of the Electronic Archive would have remained incomplete.

Volunteers gave time to assist the processing and were unfailingly cheerful and supportive.

We apologise for any errors or omissions in the Electronic Archive but hope that which has been amassed will create enjoyment, appreciation and research capacity so as to further understand the unique contribution the people of Northbridge have made to Western Australia.

Caveats....

Northbridge’s rich history is a draw card – an exciting, complex and engaging place ‘over the bridge’ – it delivers to Perth as the Capital City a fresh and vibrant face – of complexity, of fascination, of inclusiveness and energy and entrepreneurship.

All this is embodied in Northbridge’s past and the migrant histories here. To us, the Project is about rebuilding the perception of Northbridge, strengthening the community of the area and making known the contributions of generations of Western Australians to the state.

Loss of this information at such a critical time of change in the city would be a loss for not only the city but also for posterity – as the material gathered in this Project will be used for generations to come and can be used to show Perth to be a complex, interesting and engaging city.
Access to cultural heritage and democratic participation:
recognise the role of voluntary organisations both as partners in activities and as constructive critics of cultural heritage policies;

Northbridge has a rich and diverse history and a wide range of vested interests.

In order to ensure that the widest possible participation in the project was achieved, a formal Community Consultation process was undertaken in line as part of the Government’s commitment to the area.

Scoping workshops sought advice from the different communities, key agencies, businesses and residents of Northbridge as to their expectations of that which a history would contain and how it would be used.

A publicly available Community Consultation Plan ensured participants knew how their contribution fitted into the overall Project and that the process was transparent, open and inclusive.

The document guided the process through which to scope, promote and develop the history.


Key stakeholders with an interest in Northbridge were identified who would be important to include to ensure the maximum participation and interest in the Project.

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A formal consultation structure was created to guide the Project and enable maximum participation across Northbridge.

**STRUCTURE OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2005**

- **PREMIER**
- **Northbridge History Reference Panel**
  - Community Leaders appointed by Premier
- **Department of Premier and Cabinet**
  - Northbridge History Project
- **Key Community Representatives**
  - (Community specific)
  - Key Community Representatives Workshop
- **Discovery Workshop Participants**
  - Workshops with different communities in Northbridge and with the public
- **Community Consultation Group**
  - Individuals from a range of communities
- **Research Panel**
  - (To be established in 2006)

**PREMIER’S NORTHBRIDGE HISTORY REFERENCE PANEL**

Key stakeholders were invited to join the Premier’s Northbridge History Reference Panel. Membership of the Panel comprised those influential members of the community of Northbridge who could rightly be called ‘champions’ of the area. The Panel was a key element for engaging with the community in supporting the Northbridge History Project. There was ongoing liaison with individual members on a ‘needs’ basis for the duration of the Project. A number of the Reference Panel members subsequently chaired their respective Community Steering Committees.

**COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEES**

Twelve Steering Committees, chaired by Reference Panel members, were convened. These Committees met bi-monthly to gather their community’s histories and provide advice. (A further three groups did not have committees but meet regularly in a less structured manner.) In all some 122 people participated in bi-monthly meetings, contributing not only their time but their wisdom, personal records, expertise and influence, thus giving the Project far greater reach than would otherwise have been possible.

**PROJECT LAUNCH**

Key stakeholders in Northbridge were invited by the Premier to form the Northbridge History Reference Panel to ensure the widest possible engagement with communities in the area.

A Morning Tea was held in the Premier’s office on 1 June 2005 to launch the Community Consultation Plan at which the Premier invited attendees to form Steering Committees to progress the Northbridge History Project.
Best practice...

...the need to involve people in the decision-making process, particularly those that have strong associations with a place. These might be as patrons of the corner store, as workers in a factory or as community guardians of places of special value...


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY SCOPING WORKSHOPS

Extensive community consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders in 2005 and early 2006 to determine the scope of the Northbridge History Project. In a series of three hour workshops, participants were asked to identify special characteristics they associated with Northbridge including its physical and psychological qualities and historical themes. Resources that could be used for the History Project were canvassed along with future uses for the materials that the Project might gather.
COMMUNITY SPECIFIC EVENTS

One of the key activities for community engagement was the gathering of materials for the Northbridge History Project at specially convened Community Events. Held for specific communities at their invitation and, usually, at their premises these events, were primarily to gather sources. However, they also allowed the staff and protocols to be introduced and let people see the type and range of materials that other groups were contributing to the Electronic Archive.

FINDINGS FROM WORKSHOPS

The boundaries of Northbridge were identified by each community. They varied significantly; although there was general agreement about the ‘central core’ of Northbridge. Whilst the central core was similar to the policy boundaries of Northbridge; the psychological boundaries extended to encompass a far broader area. As a result, the Northbridge History Project extended its boundaries to Bulwer Street (and Hyde Park) in the north; the northern side of Wellington Street in the south, Charles Street in the west and Pier Street in the east.

Timelines of significance to each community were developed without regard to historical accuracy as the aim of the workshops was to understand what was important to each community and to understand their own sense of history in the area and the importance of particular periods to them. It became evident that post-world war two migration, whilst significant for some groups, was not the only ‘peak’ periods of migration to the area.

Themes of importance to each community were likewise documented. Many of the themes intersected but they also showed nuanced differentiation. For the Northbridge History Project this was valuable as it allowed the different emphasis and interpretation from each community to be recognised at the beginning of the Project and, subsequently, for each Steering Committee’s activities to be subtly tailored to the historical development in Northbridge of each group.

The input from the workshops was used to guide the Project in how it collected and used the material provided. It became evident from the workshops that the collection and dissemination of the sources electronically would be pivotal in gaining the maximum dissemination of information. Use of electronic social media was also identified as important for some groups.
The Northbridge History Project is an initiative of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet which recognizes that history is a significant part of the community.

The History Project's goal is to capture the different histories of Northbridge and to share them with the community. We are interested in hearing from anyone with any information about the history of Northbridge.

If you have any information about Northbridge, please contact us on the website www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au or call on 9222-4612.

Thank you for helping to shape the future with history.

www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au

Northbridge History Project

Shaping the Future with History
The Steering Committee structure of the Northbridge History Project was critical to its success. In most instances, the Steering Committees were chaired by the appropriate member of the Premier’s Northbridge History Reference Panel.

The participation of Steering Committee Members - drawn from the various communities of Northbridge - allowed a wide range of material to be collected and disseminated. Without the dedication and support of the Steering Committee Members, who met bi-monthly over four years, the Northbridge History Project would not have been as successful as it was. Members gave many hours of their time attending meetings and encouraging people in their particular community to participate. They championed the Project within their communities and took responsibility for following up key members of their community who they thought should participate in the Project. Members also assisted to stage community events, displays and distribute information about the Project widely.

Meetings were held, in the main, in venues closely associated with the particular group or at other culturally appropriate places; however, meetings were always formally chaired and minuted.

As part of the broader process of community engagement across Northbridge, meetings of the various Steering Committees ran in parallel, following a similar timetable. In some instances, communities staged events to collect or display their histories; in others a stronger focus was put on mapping or oral histories.

Members of various Steering Committees 2006-2010. Not all Committees were photographed.
AFFILIATIONS

Sharing relationships were developed with key historical bodies to share information. These affiliations enriched the Northbridge History Project’s access to sources about Northbridge and also allowed the Project to share information and sources collected by the Project. The Northbridge History Project developed strong working relationships with the J S Battye Library of Western Australian History, State Records Office, Western Australia Police Historical Society, Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of Western Australia, City of Perth Library, WA Museum, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Sisters of Mercy Archives, Town of Vincent Local Studies Collection and the National Archives of Australia. In some instances these groups contributed directly via associated Steering Committees; in others, the relationship evolved as sources were discovered of mutual interest.

The Northbridge History Project also worked closely with the Central Institute of Technology, University of Western Australia, Curtin University of Technology, Murdoch University and the University of California Berkeley to encourage research into Northbridge using the Project’s Archive.

STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATIONS

Local stakeholder organisations assisted the Northbridge History Project to reach their members. They included the Business Improvement Group of Northbridge (BiGN); the Northbridge Rotary Club; the Hellenic Association of WA; the Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Association; the Italian Club; the Multicultural Services Centre of WA; the Vietnamese Temple; the Macedonian Community of WA, Polish Community of WA; Pride WA Inc.; and the Australian-Asian Association of WA.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Aware that not all of those interested in Northbridge would be attending a formal Steering Committee or be affiliated with a stakeholder group, the Northbridge History Project staged a number of public meetings. This enabled a wide cross section of the community to attend and discover the aims of the Northbridge History Project and to provide historical information for the Electronic Archive.

COMMUNITY SPEAKERS

The annual Northbridge History Studies Days specifically featured community speakers for half of the programme community speakers to complement academic speakers. This gave a direct opportunity for community members to participate in telling their stories to a broader audience. Over four years twenty-four Community speakers participated.

‘ENGAGING NORTHBRIDGE’ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Northbridge History Project ran ‘Engaging Northbridge’ launches in 2008 and 2009 with key members of the Reference Panel, Steering Committees and the Northbridge community. These events showcased the activities that the Northbridge History Project had undertaken in the previous year and presented the ‘Calendar of Events’ for the forthcoming twelve months. They enabled members of individual community groups to meet, discuss past achievements and future plans, and to achieve a sense of commonality within the overall context of the Northbridge History Project.

People with an interest in Northbridge were invited and attended meetings including Reference Panel and Steering Committee members, Local Government Councillors, prominent members of the Northbridge community and local dignitaries.
Engaging Northbridge events proved popular for sharing information and finding synergies between the activities of the various groups involved in the Project.

NORTHBRIDGE HISTORY PROJECT

As Chairman of the “Irish” Committee I was honoured to be part of the Northbridge History Project, although my personal involvement was very much less than those in the research team.

The honour is personal. I was pleased to be part of it because Northbridge was my first parish after my ordination to the priesthood. For six years from 1959 to 1965 I was assistant priest at St Brigid’s parish in Aberdeen Street. I loved the experience at the time and the memories grow fonder as I continue to meet people I had married or baptized years ago.

My memories of the 60’s are of an area full of life. Most of the migrants were young, either unmarried men seeking to build a future in the new country, or young families with lots of children. The streets were bustling. The lack of TV meant that families would spend much time outside, either on the front verandahs or playing on the footpaths.

The shops expanded to meet the needs of different ethnic groups. Italian, Polish, Greek, Yugoslav, Chinese and even Irish. I say even Irish because the Irish were a minority in the area at the time but a prominent one with businesses and pubs especially.

My experience was principally with the new Italian migrants. Their expressive nature was refreshingly energising, as they did everything with great passion and joy. Their energy was memorable as they moved wholeheartedly to take advantage of the opportunities this new country offered them. Religiously they were fervent and St Brigid’s was full, often to overflowing.

Yet the Irish founded the Catholic Church in Northbridge and left their own traditions of devotions and processions.

The integration of new elements was not always smooth but it was inevitable. Most of the priests and many of the Sisters were Irish but in the school they opened their doors willingly to the new arrivals from Europe who spoke no English. This was long before the introduction of English as a second language specialization. The sisters just got on with it and earned great respect and love from the Italians, The Poles and the Greeks for doing so.

Uncovering the extent of Irish connections in Northbridge was fascinating. It was educative to map the Irish homes, businesses, pubs and Religious establishments. Names were unearthed and revealed a far stronger Irish connection than I just thought. In the days of the gold rushes it seems certain that many Irish miners would have stayed in the nearby hotels before heading to Coolgardie or wherever.

I cannot give enough praise to the members of the Committee, to the indefatigable Felicity and her team for the close working relationship we had and the amicable cooperation that was a feature of the Committee. Western Australian history will be glad to have the wealth of detailed history that has been compiled by our Committee and all the other hardworking Committees that formed the Project.

It was a wise decision of the WA Government to fund and resource this Project.

Mgr Rev B J Hickey
Archbishop of Perth
10 June 2010
Dear Felicity,

I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to have been involved in the Northbridge History Project. The process has not only been fascinating and edifying it has been inspirational.

I would also like to thank you on behalf of the gay and lesbian community. To my mind our acknowledgement by State Government as a cultural group of equal standing to those defined by ethnic background and our inclusion in the project is as important to our community as the recent law reforms.

It has been a great pleasure to work with you and your team. Your professionalism and passion for the subject matter has helped crystallize many thoughts that I have had about the district and its role in our city. Being involved with the project has given me the chance to re-assess my role and that of my business in my community (the gay & lesbian one), the Northbridge community and that of the greater city. It has helped me understand where we have come from, where we find ourselves now, where we might go in the future and the incredible opportunities that that future presents.

My involvement with the project has informed my dealings with all levels of government and given a context for discussions of planning and development.

Furthermore it has informed ideas of planning and development of our own business. Most importantly it has consolidated thoughts that, although Northbridge may have been through some hard times and that the public opinion may be somewhat clouded at present, there is no other part of the city that this business belongs in or in which we would choose to do business. Because of this Northbridge is where we intend to stay (and we had had thoughts of moving Connections), it is where we intend to develop new business and where we intend to continue to work to develop a community that is culturally rich, diverse and indicative of the city we all aspire to live in.

As I explained at our last meeting it is my belief that many of the problems of Northbridge are not about the district per-se rather they are about a city growing very quickly. What has been happening in Northbridge is a reflection of a city going through growing pains. Those pains are real but they are part of the process of a city growing up. This area has the highest density of cultural diversity in our city. The management and integration of that diversity (whilst retaining all that which celebrates our difference) is integral to our growth as a city & state. I believe that if we can get Northbridge right we can get our whole city right and throw off views of our city being “dullsville” forever. We have diversity of culture and richness of experience in this city and there is no better place to experience it than in Northbridge. The history project has confirmed these views for me and I hope that your work has the same effect on many others.

It was with great sadness that I learned of the end of the project. I feel that it is somewhat short sighted of government to not provide additional funding for the continuation of the history project but I hope that they will have the wisdom to fund other projects that will apply the wealth of knowledge that you and your team have collected. I hope that this knowledge can be applied in real and practical ways to help inform policy and planning and provide real growth in our district and city, not just economic but social and cultural as well. That is the city we want to live in and the tireless work of you and of many others will help build that.

I look forward to remaining in contact with you and your team and look forward to seeing the practical application of all your hard work.

Yours Most Sincerely,

Tim Brown
Managing Director
Proligate P/L of Connections Nightclub
Monday September 6th 2010

Dear Felicity,

Just a quick note to congratulate you and the other members of the History Project on your win at last week’s “Glammy” awards.

The Glammy Awards are annual awards presented by Pride WA for outstanding contribution Perth’s Lesbian and Gay Community.

Your award for Building Bridges Within or Between Communities is a wonderful recognition of the great work you and your team have done. It is an acknowledgement of how pleased and proud our community are to have been involved in this project and the great impact it has had upon us.

Thank you again for all your hard work and the incredible resource you have built for our community, that of Northbridge and, in fact, the whole city. I look forward to seeing that resource used well into the future to inform policy-making and planning decisions that will help to make our city richer at every level.

Congratulations!

Regards,

Tim Brown

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Dr Felicity Morel-EddyBrown
Director
Northbridge History Project

It is sad that the Northbridge History Project had come to an end. To some it remained unfinished and will no doubt continue to be a subject of historical significance as some of the threads are being tied up. Maybe there will be some unresolved issues which the participants were unable to resolve during the past five years.

I just want to reiterate and let you know that as the Director of Northbridge History Project you provided a very strong leadership for your team of project officers during the time that the Polish Community was involved in the Northbridge History Project.

The time and effort that you and your team put into the project defied all expectations. We in the Polish community will remember the many hours that your team put into the project and the enthusiasm that was generated was evident in the many displays and workshops that members of the Polish community attended. We can honestly say that our lives have been changed for ever with your generosity of spirit and dedication which the whole project pervaded.

On behalf of the Polish community in Perth we feel that we owe you a debt of gratitude for the way you managed to open our hearts and our minds to the possibilities of remembering and accepting the history of our parents and grandparents and be able to pass it onto our young generation. We are certainly very proud of our roots and our Polish heritage.

We hope that our paths will meet again in the not too distant future and we thank you for the insight and the history that the different communities living in Northbridge have discovered and recorded for posterity. Many of their accomplishments spanning over a hundred years were uncovered and will be available in the electronic archives to be used in the future.

We wish you all the success in the next project that you undertake.

Halina T. Szumko OAM
President
Polish Community Council of WA

July 2010
MEMORIES OF NORTHBRIDGE

Tell us your stories here

GATHER HISTORY
MAKE INFORMATION VISIBLE

I REMEMBER NORTHBRIDGE
WHEN:

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Graphic courtesy Northbridge Festival and Marketforce, 2007
“The City was so quiet, at night you could hear the lions roar across the river in South Perth.”

“Oh, and when there were name days everyone would gather together and when we were kids we used to stage little penny concerts under the mulberry tree at the back of our house. There were only four of us in the show...and one would act as the male...and we used to do Mr Baggy Britches and I forget the other one. We used to sing and it was the same act every year. Under the mulberry tree – we used to charge the other kids a penny.”

“Oh, a fascinating place - the hardware shop. Full of so much junk in my memory but every little bit was valuable and you would find every bit of plumbing equipment that you would need.”

“Perth Boys was a very good school, very well disciplined – they taught us well. The classes were very big in those days – might have been 40 in each class, and they had science...the teachers all specialised in their own areas, but a very good school, very good grounding.”

“When I grew up we used to have bands playing for parish dances we had in the hall and also for our school dances and we also used to have balls there - once a year we’d have a School Ball. That was the main stage and, in the actual hall itself, they also used to have other functions from time to time.”

GATHERING THE HISTORY OF NORTHBRIDGE

Gathering the history of Northbridge was done through community consultation. The Northbridge History Project used a variety of techniques and focused on four key areas: images, oral histories, documents and mapping, including the mapping of memories.

Steering Committees organised community-specific meetings where people could bring photographs to be scanned and have short oral histories recorded. This also gave them an opportunity to discuss the Northbridge History Project and to understand how the material would be used. At these events, images and documents were scanned to a high resolution, places mapped and oral histories recorded.

Public meetings, exhibitions and displays and community events were staged to reach the largest number of people and to solicit information from the public. All of these events also gave an opportunity for the Northbridge History Project to showcase materials that had been collected and to show the diversity of the historical and modern experience of Northbridge.

As the Electronic Archive of the Northbridge History Project retained only electronic copies, this freed the Project to collect copies of sources that people wished to physically retain in their family.
I can recall the horse troughs - there was a horse trough on the corner of Lake and Bulwer, which is just near the Brisbane Hotel - there was one there and there was also the fruit carts. A lot of early people who couldn’t afford a shop started with a horse and cart and would deliver fruit.

But the old men used to gamble in those days not the young men, we’d just mess around on the outside. There was nothing to do, really nothing. After school you come home, you’d maybe go down to the shop and do your errands for your mum. Meet on the corner, meet up the park – that’s all we did. It was really mundane, really boring but because we knew nothing else we just accepted it.

...everybody knew everybody and everybody use to try and help each other. We used to play football in the streets, we used to play cricket and everybody knew everybody, and there was a bond, a sort of a bond, between everybody and there was never any animosity.”

One Uncle used to like to get me to stand on his hand and I remember being very small and I’d have to balance on his hand but his arms and hands were so strong and if I went to hold on to his hair he’d say, ‘No, no, not allowed to do that; got to learn to stand straight’ and I can still remember him holding me up, in Aberdeen Street.”

As we were young girls, we were brought up very strictly, our mother, our parents, we never went anywhere without mum and dad or even when we were teenagers and we started to go to dancing classes, our mother would come and sit with us in the dancing classes. That’s the way we were brought up.”

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The capacity to process images and documents at meetings gave the Northbridge History Project the opportunity to make copies of materials directly from owners without retaining originals.

Under the banner ‘Tell us your stories here’, a series of vox pops were recorded at festivals and community events. Timed at no more than ten minutes the variety and depth of these short interviews meant that vox pops became a regular feature of events in which the Northbridge History Project participated.
Best practice...

...the recognition of less tangible aspects of cultural significance including those embodied in the use of heritage places, associations with a place and the meanings that places have for people.

An important aspect of understanding Northbridge was to document the geographic distribution of places of importance and people of people around the area. So as to understand the spatial relationships of Northbridge, the Northbridge History Project mapped places of importance with the general public and with the Italian, Greek, Irish, Gay and Lesbian, Polish and Jewish communities. Steering Committees documented the location of homes and businesses pertinent to each community. For example, the Greek, Jewish and Italian Steering Committees each completed detailed mapping of homes and businesses in the area that were owned or occupied by members of their community.

Three types of mapping were undertaken: mapping on a large map upon which people could place flags and notes depicting places of importance. This was complemented by booklets into which people could add further details about their homes or businesses in the area. This information was tabulated and provided as documents in the Electronic Archive. This map was also used by other groups to map their history. For example, it was placed in the Town of Vincent Library in 2007 so that members of the public could come and map their memories of Northbridge. It was reported by the Library to have been their most successful exhibition. Mapping was also undertaken by people walking on a large map of Northbridge and by a process of ‘memory mapping’.

The mapping phase of the Project was envisaged to be undertaken electronically through a ‘geographic information systems’ (GIS) enabled web interface. This phase of the Project evolved into Virtual Perth which it is anticipated will start after the Northbridge History Project ends and will be administered via the Department of Planning and Murdoch University as part of the ARC grant process.
Mapping Northbridge
Best practice...

Meanings denote what a place signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses. Meanings generally relate to intangible aspects such as symbolic qualities and memories.

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Significance (The Burra Charter), 1999, 1.16

GATHER HISTORY/MAKE INFORMATION VISIBLE

MAPPING NORTHBRIDGE

To capture the routes that people walked in Northbridge, a map upon which people could walk was created for the Northbridge History Project by Connections Nightclub. The map was taken to the Pride Fairday at Russell Square and film taken of fifty-one people ‘walking out’ their memories of the area while describing key memories and locations. The act of walking on the map reminded people of the importance of particular places in the area from them and led to more comprehensive short interviews as memories were triggered.
MEMORY MAPPING

Memory mapping, a technique developed by the Director of the History Project in the 1980s, gave the opportunity for participants to recall their earliest personal recollections of the area. Such memories often were of the times when they first came to the area with their parents, giving them a different perspective of the area whilst contextualizing their parent’s history.
The Northbridge History Project participated in the 2007 and 2008 Northbridge Festivals run by ARTRAGE on behalf of the City of Perth.

The Festival used the history of Northbridge as the theme for both Festivals, making the Project’s images a feature of the Festivals’ graphic design, promotional material and signage.

Held in James Street, the Festivals gave the Project an opportunity to speak about the history of Northbridge and to give out information in front of a display of panels outlining the history of Northbridge.

Vox pops were collected from the attendees at the Festival in a restored 1950s caravan lent for the occasion. The novelty value attracted a younger age group of interviewees as well as older people who nostalgically recounted their own adventures in a similar caravan.

A ‘Working Girls of Northbridge’ walking tour narrated by an ‘Historical Hostess’ explored the working lives of women in Northbridge. A ‘Look Up Northbridge’ walking tour of Northbridge was developed by the Northbridge History Project and Heritage Perth.

An ‘History Hunt’ atop the City of Perth carpark on the corner of Lake and James Streets, attracted over 1000 participants to look through binoculars and identify historical sites in Northbridge. At night, images from the Northbridge History Project’s photographic collection were projected onto the walls of buildings.
Promotional material from the History Project’s archive and the Working Girls of Northbridge walking tour

WWW.NORTHBRIDGEHISTORY.WA.GOV.AU — SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH HISTORY
ARTRAGE, PCP and the Northbridge History Project are calling for entries to a new photo competition that celebrates the colour and culture of Northbridge. If you carry a camera everywhere you go, and have snapped some shots of creative happenings in Northbridge, then TOTAL EXPOSURE is the way to get them out there.

The comp is open to photographers in professional, hobby or student categories. You can submit your photographs digitally or printed, framed or mounted to the Artrage office no later than 5pm on Wednesday 29 October.

Shots must be of Northbridge Interiors, Street Cultures or Creative Northbridge, and no larger than A3 size but no smaller than a Polaroid picture. Northbridge has been a happening place over the years so dig out that photo of the Berlin Nightclub or Caffe Sport to put next to the new generation of Northbridge creatives.

The first prize for the professional photographer is a contract for Artrage produced Concert & Events in 2009 or one-week exhibition in the Breadbox Gallery, with heaps of prizes in other categories too.

Photographs will be displayed from 1pm to 11pm and participants are encouraged to attend the exhibition. Winners will be announced on Saturday 1 November, at 8pm, during the Northbridge Festival.

Participants must pick up their entries no later than Friday 7 November.

TOTAL EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

To increase the range of material in the Electronic Archive and to engage the 18-35 age demographic, ARTRAGE and the Perth Centre of Photography staged the 2008 "Total Exposure" Photographic Competition on behalf of the Northbridge History Project. The competition was part of the 2008 Northbridge Festival and attracted numerous community entries. Three categories provided a modern perspective of Northbridge: Street Cultures, Northbridge Interiors and Creative Northbridge. The competition was open to Professional, Hobbyist and Student photographers and it was envisaged would result in increased representation of modern and interior images in Project’s collection. Unfortunately the entries were returned to the owners without the Northbridge History Project obtaining copies for the Electronic Archive. However, the competition created a lot of interest and awareness of the contemporary images in the Archive.
The Project participated in the 2009 Festival where a main feature of the Northbridge History Project’s tent was the winning entries from the Total Exposure Exhibition, coupled with other images from the Electronic Archive. The tents were in Lake Street next to the Piazza which made recording *vox pops* difficult; however, the playing of the podcast *Hidden Histories of Northbridge* brought many people to the tent.

Images of the display at the 2009 Northbridge Festival. The display attracted over 800 visitors in two days.
Best practice...

...take steps to improve access to the heritage, especially among young people and the disadvantaged, in order to raise awareness about its value, the need to maintain and preserve it, and the benefits which may be derived from it.

One of the Project’s aims was to make Northbridge’s history more widely known to young people, so that they would have a more sophisticated understanding of the area, and be able to contextualise reports about crime in the area in terms of the vibrancy and contributions of the area. At the same time, there was an identified need to reintroduce history into the Curriculum. Curriculum materials were developed by the Department of Education and Training (DET) in response to a request by the Director of the Project through the Northbridge History TAFE and Education Steering Committee.

DET funded a consultant for the production of local history Curriculum materials. These materials addressed a long standing lack of teaching material in Local History Studies for students and covered a range of topics including historical method, cultural heritage, oral histories and historical critique. All of the exercises in the materials drew on the resources of the Northbridge History Project and used Northbridge as the exemplar.

Titled *Shaping the Future with History* these materials were launched during Education Week in November 2007. These materials were distributed via DET’s state-wide intranet to all schools (including private and independent schools) for Years 8-11 students.

The Curriculum Materials were subsequently showcased by DET on a sample CD as model curriculum for high schools. DET and the Curriculum Council ran development workshops for over 400 teachers using the materials and have included it as part of Multicultural Teachers Resource Kit. Curtin University of Technology uses ‘Shaping the Future with History’ for its secondary teaching programme ‘Curriculum and Instruction for Society and Environment Courses in Senior School’.

Curriculum compact were also distributed Australia-wide to libraries, high schools and collecting institutions.
SISTERS OF MERCY, ST BRIDGID’S CONVENT

To celebrate the 110th anniversary of St. Brigid’s Convent, the Sisters of Mercy staged a re-enactment of the founding of St. Brigid’s Convent featuring the ‘arrival’ of the nuns and ‘Bishop Gibney’. Period garments and an original trunk were used. To support the re-enactment, a brochure, The Sisters of Mercy West Perth. A history of St. Brigid’s Convent and School, Northbridge was produced which showed the route the nuns walked each day from Victoria Square to St. Brigid’s when establishing the Convent.
The Northbridge History Project, in association with the Italian Steering Committee and European Foods, produced and staged a month-long display of Italian historical photographs in Northbridge together with a handout acknowledging contributors and a map of the locations. Staged in William, Lake, James and Aberdeen Streets, in eighteen business windows associated with Italian businesses, it created a great deal of interest. The Display was opened by the Italian Consul for Western Australia on 3 November 2006 outside The Re Store and supported by a choir from the school of the Good Shepherd who sang Italian songs.
The Official Launch outside the Re Store of the Italian Display. It was opened by the Consul-General of Italy.

The Italian Display opens at the Town of Vincent Library as part of Italian Week.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

ITALIANS IN NORTHBRIDGE

The Official Launch outside the Re Store of the Italian Display. It was opened by the Consul-General of Italy.

The Italian Display opens at the Town of Vincent Library as part of Italian Week.

The Display was subsequently restaged Italian photographic display at Town of Vincent at request of the Mayor and produced a walking tour brochure Italians in Northbridge, Past and Present. Display opened by Acting Italian Consul and CEO of Town of Vincent. The Town of Vincent Library also reshowed the Display to support a lecture delivered by Dr Susanna Iuliano on the Vite Italiane Project.

In 2008 the Polish community displayed the panels in Maylands, prompting the Polish community to put together their own exhibition of Polish history which opened in 2009.
The Jewish Community was one of the communities that had once had a strong connection to Northbridge which, over time, had been lost.

The Northbridge History Project Director curated a two week interactive exhibition 'Early Jewish History in Northbridge' to gather the 'lost' Jewish history of Northbridge. Displays included maps, books in which people could document their recollections and photographic panels which people could annotate with sticky notes. This proved invaluable for identifying people in photographs and places that had been of significance to the community. Artefacts from the Brisbane and Palmerston Street Synagogues were displayed, along with photographs and memorabilia.

The exhibition was held at the Stuart Street Art Gallery in Northbridge. An estimated 1500 people attended the exhibition with over 800 attending the opening. Four walking tours around Northbridge were run and a brochure of Early Jewish History in Northbridge produced. The walking tours were restaged for Architecture Week in 2007. The Exhibition has also been staged elsewhere by the Jewish community on a number of occasions.

Support for the staging was obtained from members of the Jewish Steering Committee and businesses in the community. Students from Carmel School also contributed information about Jewish customs and undertook interviews as part of their course work.

A banner at the entrance of the exhibition, showing early photographs of Jewish history in Northbridge.
...this is a wonderful project. It is very important to preserve the history of the area and all the communities. Thank you for offering me the opportunity to contribute to the testimonies of the Jewish Community in Perth.

Shoshana Mittelberg
Israel
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POLISH CONNECTION TO NORTHBRIDGE

The Polish Community worked with the Northbridge History Project to stage an exhibition at the Polish Community Council Hall in Maylands. The exhibition, *Polish Connection to Northbridge*, featured photographs and artefacts collected by the community. The exhibition was opened on 3 April 2009 by the Consul-General of Poland. Dignitaries in attendance included the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth, the Consul-General of Italy, the Chair of the Multicultural Steering Committee, Reference Panel members and the Member for Maylands. To support the exhibition the Polish Community produced a brochure containing photographs and information about the connection of the Polish community to Northbridge.
The Nyoongar people were the first custodians of the area now known as Northbridge. They maintain a spiritual connection with the land that pre-dates European settlement. For Nyoongar people, Northbridge was not defined in terms of fixed boundaries but places of significance that created a continuous landscape extending across what was then an interconnected system of swamps in and around the area. They moved throughout the land in a seasonal pattern, migrating through the area in summer when the water from surrounding swamps made gathering food easier. For them, Northbridge is still a significant meeting, greeting and celebratory place.

About the photos...

The Northbridge History Project created a series of forty-eight bookmarks detailing different aspects of Northbridge’s history in 2007 and 2008. Each featured one or more historical photographs with information about the photographs with explanatory details on the reverse. The bookmarks were distributed in cafes and bars, restaurants, bookshops and libraries. They reached a wide audience and generated a lot of enthusiasm about the collection.

Posters were created based on a composite of the bookmark design. They also provided a cost effective and fun way to use the bookmarks as a simple jigsaw as they could be compiled individually to form the poster design.

The posters were very popular, with many Northbridge businesses specifically requesting them for display. They were also distributed to bookstores and libraries.

About Us

The Northbridge History Project is a State Government initiative to revitalise Northbridge by capturing and preserving its vibrant history. The Project is working with local government, community groups and individuals to uncover oral histories, photographs, documents, film and other sources of Northbridge’s diverse ethnic, religious and cultural past. Relive Northbridge’s rich history as we preserve it for future generations. Visit our Electronic Archive online at www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au
The multidisciplinary expertise of scholars, community members, conservation experts, governmental authorities, site managers and interpreters, tourism operators, and other professionals should be integrated in the formulation of interpretation and presentation programmes.

The Northbridge History Studies Days 2007-2010

The annual Northbridge History Studies Days were an integral part of the Northbridge History Project’s success in making the history of Northbridge more widely known and, as such, were the major annual event for the Northbridge History Project. Studies Days were held in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

The aim of the Studies Days were fourfold:

- To contextualise Northbridge in its past, and in doing so, create a better understanding of its uniqueness and how it can be used as a catalyst to revitalise the city
- To increase the understanding and appreciation of the diverse histories of Northbridge and how they have shaped this area of the city
- To acknowledge the many histories of the area, including Aboriginal history
- To raise the level of knowledge about the history of Northbridge and Perth generally

Sponsorship for the Studies Days was obtained from the City of Perth, Town of Vincent and Central Institute of Technology. Without their support it would not have been possible to stage the Studies Days.

Speakers included historians, community leaders and others who, through research and interaction with the people and places of Northbridge, had acquired significant knowledge about the area. In many instances, the material presented had never before been publicly available. Each presentation, whether academic or community-based, explored a different aspect of Northbridge’s history, reflecting the diversity and complexity of its development.

Each Day had a different theme although there was some overlap: 2007 and 2008 reflected the varied groups of Northbridge and the pre-European geography of the area. 2009 focused on impressions of the area by people within and without it and 2010 explored the relationship to the city and its character as a creative place.

Each Studies Day sold-out - with approximately 180 attendees each time. The audiences comprised included historians, researchers, academics, Nyoongar Elders, Councillors from the City of Perth, Town of Vincent and Town of Bassendean, educators, tour operators, ministerial staffers, urban policy makers, religious leaders, museum and archives professionals, tour guides, business owners, Steering Committee members, interstate visitors and current and former residents of Northbridge. Many attended all four Studies Days.

From 2008 onwards, the Days were coordinated by the Central Institute of Technology and held at the Northbridge History Centre of Technology, a venue which allowed participants to mingle and extend their conversations about Northbridge’s history during lunch and morning and afternoon breaks. Questions and answers sessions after every three speakers also proved popular.

In 2009, selected papers from the 2007 and 2008 Studies Days were launched and ran to three printings and were available at the State Library Bookshop.
**EMERITUS PROFESSOR GEORGE BOLTON**

Northbridge is an idea of the world.

Once the site of silos, now the site of history.

New uses for old spaces.

The history of Western Australia.

**THE NORTHBRIDGE HISTORY PROJECT — PROJECT REPORT 2005-2010**

**Shaping the Future with History**

Northbridge History Project

**The Northbridge History Project**

Last year, the Northbridge History Project began with the intention of bringing together the various histories of the area. The project is based on the idea that the past is an integral part of the present and that understanding our history is essential to understanding our future.

The project is funded by the City of Perth and is a collaboration between the City of Perth, the City of East Perth, and Western Australia's National Library.

The project is led by Dr. Barry Strickland, who is also the lead author of this report.

The project has been working on a number of different projects, including:

1. The Northbridge History Project website, which is a comprehensive resource for all things related to Northbridge.
2. A series of public talks and workshops, which have included topics such as the history of the area, the history of the city, and the history of the state.
3. A series of exhibitions, which have included a number of different themes, such as the history of the city, the history of the state, and the history of the world.
4. A series of publications, which have included a number of different formats, such as books, articles, and videos.

The project has been working with a number of different partners, including the City of Perth, the City of East Perth, and Western Australia's National Library.

The project has been working with a number of different communities, including the local community, the state community, and the national community.

The project has been working with a number of different stakeholders, including the City of Perth, the City of East Perth, and Western Australia's National Library.

The project has been working with a number of different funders, including the City of Perth, the City of East Perth, and Western Australia's National Library.

This report is the fifth in a series of reports that have been produced by the Northbridge History Project.

The first report was published in 2005, and it was titled "Northbridge: A History of the World." The second report was published in 2006, and it was titled "Northbridge: The History of the City." The third report was published in 2007, and it was titled "Northbridge: The History of the State." The fourth report was published in 2008, and it was titled "Northbridge: The History of the World." This report is the fifth in the series and is titled "Northbridge: The History of the World."
Shaping the Future with History

We hope that you enjoy listening to this fascinating MP3 Podcast Walking Tour, which your computer will be available at the Studies Day.

We are delighted to have the Northbridge History Project, in association with the Northbridge History Reference Panel, officers at the Archives and sharing her knowledge of the collection and demonstrating its amazing range and depth.

The Right Honourable Emanuele Muratore - Emanuele Muratore’s background following commerce at Melbourne University took him into business management and now he is the founder of the Friends of the Battye Library. Emanuele is a former chairman of the Battye Library, a former president of the Sunday Times, a former editor of the Sunday Times and a former editor of the West Australian, and elsewhere, created and produced three special coffee titles - completing the quality cafe - at the wonderful Northbridge.

The Reveller Father John Doncaster - Father John Doncaster is one of our most colourful characters and he is a long time resident of Northbridge and is known as the “Reveller Father”. He has been a priest for 40 years and has been a resident of Northbridge for over 15 years and he enjoys all aspects of life in Northbridge. He is a former lawyer and has been a member of the Northbridge Association. He is a former president of the Northbridge Association and is a former chairman of the Northbridge Historical Society. He is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society and is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society.

Northbridge: a Little World of Big Diversity

For the 2009 City of Perth Northbridge survey, which was an excellent experience for the Fremantle Festival, we asked people what they thought of the area, and one of the responses was “I think it’s amazing”. This is a typical response from people who live in Northbridge.

Mr. Michael Sutherland - Mr. Michael Sutherland, B.A. (Hons.), is a member of the Kimberley Research Committee to the Yawuru Traditional Owners of Broome. He has a B.A. from the University of Western Australia. Mr. Sutherland has a special interest in multicultural community and Indigenous culture. He has an MA in the anthropology of the Horn Research Council, and is an anthropologist and a filmmaker.

Mr. Edward Doncaster - Mr. Edward Doncaster is a former primary school teacher who is now the Assistant Director, Access and Communications (Perth), and is a former member of the Northbridge Association. He is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society and is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society. He is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society and is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society.

Mr. Philip MacCallum - Mr. Philip MacCallum is the founder of the Friends of the Battye Library. He is a former chairman of the Battye Library, a former president of the Sunday Times, a former editor of the Sunday Times and a former editor of the West Australian, and elsewhere, created and produced three special coffee titles - completing the quality cafe - at the wonderful Northbridge.

Mr. Wendy Birman - Mr. Wendy Birman is a partner of Donaldson + Warn, Architects which was established in 1985 and whose work has been published nationally and internationally. A graduate from Curtin University (formally WAIT), Geoff has a Masters in Architecture and a Bachelor of Arts. He is a former president of the Northbridge Association and is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society. He is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society and is a former member of the Northbridge Historical Society.

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The Northbridge History Project - The Northbridge History Project is a community-based project that aims to document and preserve the history of Northbridge. The project is led by a group of volunteers who are passionate about Northbridge and its history.

Interpretation and presentation should encourage individuals and communities to reflect on their own perceptions of a site and assist in establishing a meaningful connection to it.

The aim should be to stimulate further interest, learning, experience, and exploration.

Best practice...
**The Inaugural Northbridge History Studies Day was held on 12 May 2007 from 1-5.30pm at the State Library Lecture Theatrette in Northbridge in association with the History Council of Western Australia. The Day sold out, attracting 183 people. Chaired by the Director of the Northbridge History Project, the programme comprised thirteen speakers.**

- John Hyde, MLA, Member for Perth: Northbridge - using its History to revitalize Perth
- Most Reverend Barry Hickey: Irish to Italian: the changing Northbridge - A personal perspective
- Associate Professor Jenny Gregory: Northbridge and Carlton: a tale of two inner city suburbs
- Mrs Halina Szunejko: The Polish Connection in Northbridge
- Dr Wayne Moredoundt: Two Neglected Aspects of the History of Northbridge: A Preliminary Study
- Dr Susanna Iuliano: 'Espresso Bar Lifestyles': Italian migrants and café culture in Western Australia
- Ms Emma Benichou: Northbridge through the eyes of a ‘flaneur’
- Ms Emily Zhen: 'Working for the Northbridge History Project.'
- Dr Nonja Peters: On the Street where you Live: Inner City Immigrant Enterprise
- Ms Kaylene Poon: The Chinese in Northbridge
- Dr John N. Yiannakis: The Chicken or the Egg: Greek Settlement in Northbridge
- Ms Vicki Vitali: Rediscovering Northbridge: Creating a Local History Investigation Resource
- Dr Felicity Morel-EdnieBrown: The Swamp Stealers: topography and change in Northbridge

**THE NORTHBRIDGE HISTORY STUDIES DAY 2008**

**The Second Northbridge History Studies Day was held on 18 May 2008 from 10-5 pm at the Central TAFE Theatrette in Northbridge. It was sponsored by the City of Perth, Central TAFE and the Town of Vincent and was organised by the Northbridge History Project. The Day sold out. The programme comprised 12 speakers chaired by the Director of the Northbridge History Project with time for questions after each three speakers:**

- Dr Noel Nannup - Welcome to Country and Indigenous history in Northbridge
- John Hyde, MLA, Member for Perth - 'Changing the Scene': the second Northbridge History Studies Day
- Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton - Northbridge: microcosm of the world
- Nyaburu McGuire - Indigenous Northbridge: a personal perspective
- Dr Bobbie Oliver - 'Be workmen still, be workmen true': Labor history and heritage in Northbridge
- Richard Offen - Northbridge heritage: friend or foe?
- The Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Michael Sutherland - Northbridge Renaissance: working together to make it happen
- Marcus Canning - 'Illuminating the hidden': history in the 2007 Northbridge Festival
- Professor Jock Collins - Northbridge: a changing inner-city ethnic landscape (University of New South Wales)
- Peter Conole - Northbridge: Policing revealed
- Dr Keith Shikin - Jewish Northbridge
- DrChristineChoo-The socially and economically disadvantaged in Northbridge: a recent history (1960s-2007)
"Excellent day. Information all well presented. Gave actual and true information, which was backed up by the slides. Can’t be bettered.”

L. Jane Mikus

“Excellent catering and PowerPoint presentations – the photos are a wonderful resource.”

Jan Giles

“The organisation, the courtesy, the informality.”

David Julian Crann

“The variety – Great professional development”

Melissa Kelly

“An excellent, well-run, well-organised day. Thank you.”

Maxine Talbot

“The range of topics and the commitment of the presenters to their topics. It is a great day out! The whole day format worked well. The venue was good once we found it, and the food and its setting excellent.”

Margaret Ker

“Very well organised – great rapport with audience.”

Jennifer Marshall

“They were all so interesting; I wished the presentations were longer. It has the potential to grow into something beyond the Northbridge History Project, a History Festival with workshops and performances. Loved the giveaways. Can show other people and tell them what a good day it was.”

Rob O’Connor

“Perfect as it was!”

Barbara B Johnson

“The fact that they actually happened! How wonderful to have the opportunity to learn more. Looking forward to 2009.”

Elizabeth Scott

“It was better than the 2007’s event! Excellent food and it was good to have tables and chairs available, unlike at many events. All the staff were pleasant and helpful. The venue was comfortable. I particularly liked the scheduling of a panel discussion after the speakers to end the session rather than – for instance – after a break or at the end of the day. I commend the control of speaker length and also audience questions and praise the promptness of start and finish times. Congratulations to all involved.”

Miss Leith Robinson

“I found the presentations most interesting and pertinent ... they presented some of the hidden histories of Northbridge with sensitivity and respect.”

Christine Choo

“One of the interesting outcomes was that people who had not attended previous Studies Days asked why the Day they attended had not addressed one or other aspect of the history of the area of which they were aware.

“I was disappointed that there was not more focus on indigenous history — the day seemed to focus a lot on buildings when the Northbridge area has a fascinating pre-European history as a unique wetland landscape.”

Nandi Saraswati 2008

This topic had been covered in the final paper at the first Studies Day and was published in the Studies Day papers in 2009. Rather than a criticism, this was a result of the history of the area becoming more widely known.
Every interpretation programme should be considered as an educational resource or people of all ages. Its design should take into account its possible uses in school curricula, informal and lifelong learning programmes, communications and information media, special activities, events, and seasonal volunteer involvement.
Cultural heritage and knowledge:

[will] facilitate the inclusion of the cultural heritage dimension at all levels of education, not necessarily as a subject of study in its own right, but as a fertile source for studies in other subjects;

The Fourth and final Northbridge History Studies Day was held on 23 May 2010 from 10-5 pm at the Central TAFE Theatrette in Northbridge. It was sponsored by the City of Perth, Central TAFE, and the Town of Vincent. As before the Day sold out.

The programme comprised 12 speakers chaired by the Director of the Northbridge History Project with time for questions after each three speakers:

- Dr Richard Walley OAM - Welcome to Country and the Indigenous connection to Northbridge
- Mr Michael Sutherland MLA, Member for Mount Lawley - Speaking of Northbridge
- The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi - Northbridge: a vital and complex quarter of the city
- Professor Geoffrey Warn - Sphere of action: the idea of Northbridge
- Mrs Joane Gilbert - The Northbridge of my mind: mapping Australian memories
- Mr Emaneule Muratore - Northbridge: the beat, the bands, the buzz
- Mrs Wendy Birman - Northbridge: a cultural heartland
- Mr Ross McCallum - Fleeting images: film and presence in Northbridge
- Ms Lisa Calautti - Northbridge: a little world of big diversity north of the line
- The Reverend Father Edward Doncaster - Discovering religious presence in Northbridge
- Ms Marjorie Bly - Finding Northbridge in the National Archives
- Dr Felicity Morel-EdnieBrown - Where to from here? After the Northbridge History Project

“I attended to learn more about the area where I spent my formative years and which also played a significant role in the history of the Chinese in WA. The variety of subjects presented gave a well rounded view of Northbridge. Would like to see more Studies Days in the future”
Kaylene Poon, Steering Committee Member and Donor

“Spin – off discussions and views expressed by attendees and speakers were thought provoking”
Susan Hall, Historian

“It was so interesting that time just flew by. I am looking forward to reading and listening about the stories that didn’t make it to the Northbridge History Project Days, i.e. via the web.”
Dianne M. Ling, City of Perth

“I am interested in WA history and have attended all of Study Days. All speakers seemed very enthusiastic.”
Leith Robinson, Student

“Such a shame this is the last one!”
Barbara B. Johnson, Archivist

“Sorry that the party’s over!! But will use the resources.”
Beverly Stott, Head of Congregation, Sisters of Mercy

“A wonderful informative day. Variety of topics covered still more could be investigated! Great Committee!”
Mary O’Connor, Sisters of Mercy

“I must say how much I have enjoyed the whole exercise - meeting people I would not normally have come in contact with, going to Temples and Mosques beyond my usual compass and learning such a lot about the religions other than Christian in such a practical way. Thank you to NorthbridgeHistoryStudies Days for the opportunity.”
Rev Fr Edward Doncaster

“A great experience (our 3rd one) We would love it to continue.”
Harry and Heather Mitken, St John’s Lutheran Church

“Pleased with the additional information and speakers, covered extra knowledge to add to my own knowledge when growing up in the area.”
Mrs. A.C. Sideris

“Practical information. All worked well – congratulations.”
Stan Kailis

“All-inclusive: excellently met its original charter.”
Judith Hugo
Selected papers from the 2007 and 2008 Studies Days were published by Network Books in association with Curtin University/Murdoch University. The book was launched at the 2009 Studies Day.

The papers reflected the diversity and the richness of Northbridge. Distinguished scholars and community leaders contributed to the volume, reflecting in part the diversity of engagement that Northbridge engenders. Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton wrote of Northbridge as a microcosm of Australia while Associate Professor Jenny Gregory, Dr Nonja Peters, Dr Bobbie Oliver, Dr Susanna Iuliano and Dr John Yiannakis explored Northbridge’s many and varied cultural and migrant experiences. Professor Jock Collins, Dr Keith Shilkin and Mr Richard Offen reflected upon the diversity of socioeconomics, religion and heritage while Mr Peter Conole and Dr Christine Choo explored the hidden cultures of Northbridge, the dispossessed and policing. The pre-settlement landscape and the influence of Northbridge on the growth of the city was explored by Dr Felicity Morel-EdnieBrown while Ms Ema Benichou navigated the modern landscape through the eyes of a flaneur.

The book was available via the Northbridge History Project, the State Library Bookshop and Planet Books at cost price. Two print runs sold out.

The third print run is being sold via the State Library Bookshop, James Street, Northbridge.

...a special place in the fabric of the city with much to offer in its vitality and vigorous culture...
Encourage inclusiveness in the interpretation of cultural heritage sites, by facilitating the involvement of stakeholders and associated communities in the development and implementation of interpretive programmes.

The Gay and Lesbian Committee showcased work of Northbridge History Project through mapping displays at Quiz Nights, raising awareness about Project and history of Northbridge, and encouraging attendance at the History Project booth at Pride Fairday.

**PRIDE FAIRDAY 2007, 2008, 2009**

The Northbridge History Project participated in Pride Fairs at Russell Square in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Participation at Fairday gave the Project an opportunity to speak about the history of Northbridge and to reach more members of the Gay and Lesbian community. Different activities were scheduled for each of the Fairdays, including recording oral histories, mapping and scanning photographs and documents.

**GAY AND LESBIAN FACEBOOK**

Social media were an important tool for the Gay and Lesbian community to collect their histories of Northbridge. The community established a MySpace page in 2007 and a Facebook group ‘The Gay & Lesbian Northbridge History Project’ in 2008 to reach a younger demographic and increase interest in the gay and lesbian history of Northbridge. The group has 366 members, 18 discussion topics with 137 posts, 381 photographs and 27 videos.

**NORTHBRIDGE PIAZZA**

The City of Perth Northbridge Piazza occupies the north-east corner of Lake and James Streets. At the suggestion of the Lord Mayor, images of the 1960s/70s from the Northbridge History Project featured alongside previously unseen footage from the moon landing in 1969 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the landing.

For the Official Opening of the Piazza, images from the Electronic Archive were matched with excerpts from the Project’s oral histories and broadcast. Audio-visual packages of images and oral history excerpts continue to feature on the Piazza Screen, including a presentation on the history of the site of the Piazza.
The traditional rights, responsibilities, and interests of property owners and host and associated communities should be noted and respected in the planning of site interpretation and presentation programmes.

“One important initiative to which Central committed as part of its involvement in the Northbridge History Project was the creation of a Campus Interpretation Plan, which has a number of objectives, not least to help staff and students understand the rich and extensive history of the college, and to take pride in that understanding.”

Neil Fernandes
Managing Director Central Institute of Technology

“Gather history/make information visible”

CROSSWORDS

Crosswords were conceived of as a novel and interesting way to engage the cafe crowds in Northbridge. Small and portable they were developed to levels of easy, medium and challenging and distributed throughout the bars and cafes of Northbridge. They were also downloadable from the website.

INTRODUCTION: ADVICE TO OWNERS

Advice was regularly given to building owners and business operators in Northbridge about how they could reflect the history of the area in their premises. Many accepted the idea that embracing the unique history of Northbridge could give them a potential competitive advantage in marketing their businesses.

INTRODUCTION: AUTHENTIC NORTHBRIDGE

An audit undertaken of building stock suitable for interpretive panels in the Northbridge area. Support was gained from the Development Committee of the Heritage Council of Western Australia regarding the proposed interpretation in stage three of the Project. Based on input from the Steering Committees, a document is currently in preparation: Authentic Northbridge: a guide to interpretation to be a guiding document for historical interpretation of Northbridge as a place of cultural interest.

PRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF NORTHBRIDGE

Staff delivered papers and lectures about the history and development of Northbridge, drawn in part from their private research into the area prior to joining Northbridge History Project and in part from the Northbridge History Project resources.

Dowd, E.
The radio was part of my life. Long before we opened the shop, I was producer and announcer of the Athena Radio Programme. The Athenian News, which was broadcasted every Sunday afternoon for half an hour, of course there were other people as well but I spent more time helping. Later, I was given the opportunity to have a programme of my own at LFM radio. It was a half hour programme which we had for seven years. This programme was so successful that we had to extend it to one hour and a half every Friday evening. It was very popular and listeners were looking forward to hear news, music, sport and the latest news from Greece. It was difficult for me because during those years you couldn’t buy Greek records or newspapers. So every time a Greek record shop would arrive I used to go in Fremantle and see if any known person arrived and ask if they have new records or newspapers. So every time a Greek moment ship would arrive I used to go in Fremantle and see if any known person arrived and ask if they have new records or newspapers. So every time a Greek moment shop would arrive I used to go in Fremantle and see if any known person arrived and ask if they have new records or newspapers.

And another thing, for many I use to stay awake every Thursday after midnight and listen to the Greek News, the news on the BBC. Tape the news, transfer the content on paper and the next day broadcast the Greek news. Very hard times.

ARTHUR ATHANS


Lecture: ‘What lies beneath: The Swamps of Perth’ University of Western Australia School of Architecture, (several dates, 2007).


Second Keynote: ‘Mapping colonial Northbridge’, Local space, global connections: visualizing cultural data through space and time: The 4th Congress of Cultural Atlases, Curtin University of Technology, (Bentley, 2008).

Presentation and workshop: ‘Perth as a Capitol’, Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Programme, Curtin University, (Bentley, 2008).


Newport, T.

The creation of a fully searchable Electronic Archive was both a privilege and a luxury as the Northbridge History Project staff didn’t have to filter or interpret material before putting it into the Archive, other than to ensure it related to Northbridge. Therefore, a wide range of primary and secondary sources were made available for use generally.

As the Northbridge History Project only took electronic copies of the sources, the originals remained with the donor. As a result the Project was given access to many sources which had never before been made available outside the family circle. This gave the Northbridge History Project Collection incredible diversity and richness.

The earliest photograph obtained, not previously in a public collection, was 1883; the latest 2010. Interviews ranged from four minutes through to five and a half hours; the youngest interviewee was nine, the eldest 103.

Interpretation should show the range of oral and written information, material remains, traditions, and meanings attributed to a site.

The sources of this information should be documented, archived, and made accessible to the public.

The ICOMOS Charter for the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites, (Ename Charter), 4 October 2008, Principle 2.1.
The heart of the Northbridge History Project was the creation of an Electronic Archive of primary and secondary sources about Northbridge. The Electronic Archive is a comprehensive free-text search based on PDF documents. This gives the user freedom to search on any term without the need to navigate to pre-defined search terms. It makes the Archive a powerful research tool for exploring the collection without a need for any existing knowledge of its contents. At the time of writing this report, not all the material has been uploaded. It is anticipated this will occur by the end of 2010.

At the close of the Project, the Electronic Archive will contain over 3000 images, 95% of which were obtained from private sources. This has made available an extraordinarily rich visual record of Northbridge.

There are over 400 oral histories, supported by transcripts and with audio streaming. Both the transcript and the audio file are available for download.

Some 750 secondary documents were collected by the History Project but due to administrative and budgetary constraints were unable to be fully processed. A decision was made to focus on those documents not readily available via published sources. Some 400 documents are available in the Archive including original documents, some published sources, Studies Day papers and consultants reports. Maps, including memory maps, are also available online.

The Electronic Archive is available free of charge at www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au.

SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH HISTORY COMPACT DISC

The Curriculum materials were made accessible via web links through the Department of Education and Training intranet to all high schools throughout Western Australia including independent and Catholic schools. Downloadable links to Curriculum materials are available on the Project’s website for independent schools and researchers to complement curriculum compact discs. 5000 compact discs were provided for the Northbridge History Project’s use and disseminated to media, agencies and key stakeholders in Northbridge. The discs are also available at libraries Australia-wide for use by local studies groups.

BROCHURES ABOUT NORTHBRIDGE

As brochures and displays were created by the Northbridge History Project they were made available via the website as documents and images.

PUBLICATIONS DEVELOPED FOR ARCHIVE

As little was known about the history of Northbridge the Northbridge History Project produced an annotated bibliography:


to assist researchers discover the sources about Northbridge. It was made available via PDF on the website as well as its supporting documents.

A number of short memoirs were produced for the Electronic Archive by members of the public. Ranging in length from one to ten pages, these documents provide a personal perspective and form a valuable addition to the history of Northbridge. Mapping was undertaken by the Greek Steering Committee who pioneered a number of techniques subsequently used by other Committees.

In addition to this, research was undertaken on a voluntary basis by members of some Steering Committees which resulted in papers that were made available online:

Cullity, G. J., Michelides Tobacco Factory (2009)

Conole, P., Policing the Western Third: a short history (WA Police, 2009) was made available exclusively via the Project’s Electronic Archive except for 100 hard copies which were distributed to Police around Western Australia.
PODCASTS

The Hidden Histories of Northbridge Podcast Walking Tour was developed after an approach by RTR FM 92.1 about the possibility of developing walking audio tour via downloadable podcast.

The Podcast contained excerpts from oral histories conducted by the Northbridge History Project with key members of Northbridge community. It was launched at the City of Perth Northbridge Festival. It is downloadable from the Northbridge History Project website and the RTR website.

A workshop was run at the School of Radio, Central TAFE by the Northbridge History Project called Creating Podcasts of the history of Northbridge.

A podcast Northbridge: a little world of big diversity north of the line was created by Lisa Calautti as a result and was presented as community paper at the 2010 Studies Day. The podcast is available for download from the Northbridge History Project website.

A podcast, The Swamps of Northbridge and Hyde Park’ was recorded by the Director for Town of Vincent about the significance of Hyde Park and surrounds for the Northbridge Community.

The GAYinWA website streamed the 2007 Pride Fairday vox pops as podcasts with an ongoing commitment to publish articles online and to deliver podcasts about Northbridge’s history.

ALAN’S EYE

Alan’s Eye – A personal journey through Northbridge is an historical and pictorial account of Northbridge, with an emphasis on many illustrative photos and his personal observations of the streets and the people. Covering fifteen streets, the result is a voyage through Northbridge, from the beginnings of the history of the Perth metropolitan area until today, with a special attention to well-known Northbridge streets, such as William, James, Newcastle and Museum Streets.

The book is a very personal perspective in a manner not dissimilar to a nineteenth century personal travelogue.
fostering multilateral and transfrontier activities, and developing networks for regional co-operation in order to implement these strategies;

As part of the Mapping of Northbridge, the Northbridge History Project put in place industry and academic partners to create a spatially enabled research portal in which to integrate the Electronic Archive with other Government resources. Called Virtual Perth, it would create a global presence for Perth online and interpret historical, current and ‘future’ Perth by using geographic information systems (GIS) it is proposed to integrate datasets from State Government and key industry partners.

Local partners are the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Planning, Landgate, WALIS, City of Perth, Town of Vincent, Heritage Council of WA, State Records Office of WA and State Library of WA, Curtin University, The University of Western Australia, and Murdoch University. Transfrontier partners are Sydney University and the University of California Berkeley (www.ecai.org).

Virtual Perth is the subject of an Australia Research Council Linkage Grant application. A Committee, co-chaired by the Northbridge History Project and Curtin University, was established to further develop the grant application through Curtin and UWA. University partners include Curtin, UWA, Murdoch, Sydney University, and Berkeley University. In 2009, responsibility for the submission of the ARC Federal Government grant for Virtual Perth was taken over by Murdoch University which appointed a full time Grant Coordinator to continue scoping of holdings of Industry Partners.

A decision as to the success of the application to the ARC was pending at the time of the conclusion of the Northbridge History Project. Should the application be successful the Department of Planning will become the lead government agency.
Bi-partisan support for the Project was important in the community to provide necessary political support and a direct link back to the Government of the day. The Member for Perth and the Member for Mount Lawley have both strongly supported the Northbridge History Project under their relevant Governments by agreeing to become the Premier’s Representative on the Northbridge History Reference Panel.

Central Institute of Technology

Partnering with the Central Institute of Technology (formerly Central TAFE) took a number of forms. The Northbridge History Education and Training Steering Committee looked closely at how to align changes to the physical and operational campuses with a sense of continuity and purpose, drawing on the rich and pioneering history of TAFE as the first tertiary institution in Western Australia. The history of TAFE was supported by a three day a week staff member to document the historical records of the College, and involvement of the Northbridge History Project in the Interpretation Plan of the new campus in Northbridge. All Central TAFE staff were informed of the Northbridge History Project by letter from the Managing Director of TAFE and asked to contribute to it.

Businesses donated time and goods and in some instances paid for the Northbridge History Project to participate in community events. Universities provided students as practicums and university staff participated in the annual Northbridge History Studies Days.

Without such partnering, the achievements of the Project would not have been possible.

Further partnering occurred through generous sponsorship of the venue and technical, security and cleaning staff for the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Studies Days, underwriting the launch of the Shaping the Future with History curriculum materials and involvement of staff to encourage students to investigate the fabric and cultural heritage of Northbridge as part of their coursework. This resulted in films, podcasts, seminars and papers being presented by students and staff at the Northbridge History Studies Days.

Department of Education and Training

The Department of Education and Training (DET) funded a Curriculum consultant for six months to create, in liaison with the Northbridge History Project and the Curriculum sub-committee, materials for the first four years of high school teaching local history. DET also funded the production of compact discs for the Northbridge History Project’s use and dissemination to media, agencies and key stakeholders around Australia. DET distributed the materials to private and independent schools, staged professional development days for teachers, and show-cased the materials as exemplary curriculum throughout the state.
CITY OF PERTH

The City of Perth sponsored the Northbridge History Studies Days with the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor officiating at three of them. The City also engaged with the Project via ARTRAGE (2007, 2008) making it the theme for the 2007 Northbridge Festival, through direct sponsorship and by using the Northbridge History Project’s images in promotional material. Through the Northbridge Festival Committee, the City also sponsored the Total Exposure competition for the Northbridge Festival (2009) and the Project’s participation in the Festival by sponsoring tents, power, website presence and permission for the Northbridge History Project as a Key Result Area. The City is a key industry partner in Virtual Perth giving substantial financial, resource and administrative support to underpin that project.

TOWN OF VINCENT

The Town of Vincent adopted involvement in the Northbridge History Project as a Key Result Area 1 Performance Indicator in Community and Heritage program of Town of Vincent. The Town adopted the ‘William Street Design Guidelines’ after it was raised as a relevant issue for the interpretation of Northbridge at the Town’s Steering Committee meeting.

The Town was a key sponsor for each of the Northbridge History Studies Days, advertising the event in the press, sending staff and councillors and underwriting full paid places by those in Vincent who could not otherwise afford to come.

The City supported the interpretation phase of the Project with the Mayor writing to the Premier nominating a representative to participate in the Steering Committee to progress this phase.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

The former Department of Planning and Infrastructure provided specially scaled maps for the Project, including an interactive map 3.5 by 5.5 metres in size for community workshops. They provided an electronic fly-through for the Curriculum materials. The Department of Planning will become the lead agency for Virtual Perth should it be successful.

STATE RECORDS OFFICE

The State Records Office gave permission and support in kind for the Northbridge History Project to include relevant images about Northbridge in the Project’s Electronic Archive and facilitated the Northbridge History Project gaining consent from the relevant agencies. The State Records Office also provided advice about record keeping.

EPRA

The East Perth Redevelopment Authority (EPRA) supported the Project financially in the 2009/2010 financial year but also provided images for the Electronic Archive and ran stories about the Project in its quarterly publication, Urbano.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The WA Museum facilitated the secondment of a staff member to work with the Northbridge History Project for three months in 2007. This provided an opportunity to audit the sources about Northbridge that existed and to establish a cooperative working relationship.

J S BATTYE LIBRARY

The J S Battye Library gave support in kind and permission for the Northbridge History Project to include relevant images about Northbridge in the Project’s Electronic Archive. These images were some of the first into the Electronic Archive and included the earliest known photograph of the swamps of the area (c.1860s). The Northbridge History Project also cross referenced transcripts to oral histories held in the Battye Library, where relevant.

HISTORY COUNCIL

The History Council of WA - the peak body for history in WA - was associated with the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Northbridge History Studies Days. The Days were promoted through the Council’s networks and the President of the Council spoke at the Inaugural Day in 2007. Members and Councillors also volunteered at the 2008 and 2009 Studies Days. The History Council publicised Project events and created a page on their website from which members and the public could download the Hidden Histories of Northbridge Podcast.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The University of Western Australia invited the Director to give lectures to students in the schools of History and Architecture about the growth, history and topography of Northbridge. UWA also circulated information about the Project’s activities through their academic research networks. Post-graduate research on Northbridge is continuing in the School of History and Landscape Architecture.

It is envisaged that the WA Museum will stage an exhibition of the history of Northbridge in the future, drawn largely from the Northbridge History Project’s resources.
UNIVERSITY PRACTICUMS

The Project drew upon the resources of the University of Western Australia and Curtin University to work with Practicum students. These students were supervised as part of their assessed degree coursework. In total, eight Practicum students, drawn variously from the faculties of history, geography, landscape architecture, commerce, public relations and marketing, worked with the project (six from UWA and two from Curtin). The Director of the Northbridge History Project spoke at UWA careers night and the success of the Project was used to promote the School of History and the Practicum model to students. WA History and Heritage students at UWA included the Northbridge History Project as part of their studies to learn about collecting, storing, using and promoting the history of Northbridge. In four instances, practicum students continued to volunteer beyond the scope of their studies.

NETWORK BOOKS

A partnership with Network Books, facilitated by its General Editor, enabled the 2007/2008 Northbridge History Studies Day Papers to be published. Network Books paid for a co-editor, graphic design, layout and subsidized the initial print run. Subsequently, they have permitted reprints at no publishers fee, enabling the volume cost to be kept low to assist broader distribution. The volume went to three print runs.

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Jewish Genealogical and Historical Society provided a range of transcripts to the Electronic Archive from its oral history programme. The society sponsored the placement of promotional flyers for the Northbridge History Project in The Maccabeen and coordinated stories about the Project. The Society was also a strong supporter of the Early Jewish History in Northbridge exhibition. The oversize map, which was originally created for the exhibition but was subsequently used by all the groups, was provided to the Society at the end of the Project.

WEST AUSTRALIA POLICE

The West Australian Police shot aerial photographs and aerial footage of the Swan River, City and Northbridge which was used in the Curriculum material. The Police Historian was provided to complete the book Policing the Western Third: a short history which was published by WA Police specifically for the Electronic Archive.

SCHOOLS

School students from Carmel High School worked with the Northbridge History Project to undertake research in relation to Northbridge as part of their studies. Their work was featured in the Early Jewish History of Northbridge exhibition staged in 2007. Children from the School of the Good Shepherd sang at the Official Opening of the Italian Display and many schools used the Curriculum material. Project personnel were asked to talk to students and presented to a number of schools visiting Perth and to the Sir Charles Court Young Leaders Programme.
PARTNERING

**ARTRAGE**

ARTRAGE used the history of Northbridge as the theme for the 2007 Festival, making the Project’s images a feature of the Festival’s graphic design. In return ARTRAGE provided graphic design for the Project’s tee-shirts, employed an actress to be an Historical Hostess, leading a walking tour (Working Girls of Northbridge) developed by the Northbridge History Project.

**CONNECTIONS NIGHTCLUB**

Connections Nightclub sponsored the Northbridge History Project’s stall costs for the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Northbridge Festivals and provided support and staff to set up and run the stalls. They sponsored the vox pops caravan in 2008. Connections also sponsored the Project’s involvement in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Pride Fairdays, including the creation of the Fairday map and subsequent quiz nights and special functions to gather the history of the area.

**BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GROUP OF NORTHBRIDGE (BIG N)**

The Business Improvement Group of Northbridge (Big N) sponsored the participation of the Northbridge History Project in the 2009 Northbridge Festival, enabling the Project to occupy two large tents. The Big N, through the Northbridge Festival Committee, sponsored of the Total Exposure Photographic Competition in 2009.

**MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA**

Museums Australia (MA) promoted the Northbridge History Studies Days through its mailing lists and publications and invited the Project to speak at their State Conference and to give professional development workshops to their members. This helped refine the Collections without Walls: using the Northbridge History Project model for your Electronic Archive toolkit. It is envisaged that the toolkit will be published and launched by Museums Australia in early 2011. An Electronic Archive Liaison Group was established via email to deliver the Northbridge History Project model to regional collections. The Project was a Finalist (short listed from 406 entries) in the Museums Australia National Awards for Excellence, 2009.

**SISTERS OF MERCY WEST PERTH**

Support to the equivalent of half a day a week was provided from Sisters of Mercy to undertake archival work to discover sources about Northbridge in their Archives. The Archives also provided images and research, leading to new understanding of the role of the convent in the area. The Irish Steering Committee met in the Boardroom of the Convent and held community meetings there. Refreshments for these meetings were kindly provided by the Convent.

**NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (WA)**

The National Trust of Australia (WA) supported the Northbridge History Project through participation of staff and the President on the Curriculum Sub-committee. The Trust introduced the Northbridge History Project to the researchers on the Vite Italiane and Ethnic Communities and the Built Environment ARC projects who were interested in discovering more about the history of Northbridge. The Trust also promoted the activities of the Northbridge History Project in the Trust News and e-news and reported on the relationship in their Annual Report.

**VITE ITALIANE**

The Northbridge History Project worked with the Vite Italiane (Italian Lives) project at UWA to gather Italian history about Northbridge. Researchers from Vite Italiane attended and recorded Northbridge History Project workshops in 2006 and 2007 and in return shared oral histories of Italians with a strong association to the Northbridge area.

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

The Northbridge History Project supported the University of New South Wales to undertake research into Northbridge as the Western Australia metropolitan component of their Ethnic Communities and the Built Environment research. Information gained was shared with the Northbridge History Project. The University of NSW also funded the costs of presentation of the research at the 2008 Northbridge History Studies Day by Professor Collins.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA**

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) provided access to their files for the Project and agreement in principle to digitize free-of-charge their records pertaining to Northbridge. Unfortunately, the Project’s staffing constraints prevented the full exercise of this opportunity. However, a paper featuring some of the records held by the NAA was delivered at the 2010 Northbridge History Studies Day.

**COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN NORTHBRIDGE**

The Hellenic Community of Western Australia, Chung Wah Association, Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Association, Sisters of Mercy West Perth, Multicultural Services Centre of WA in North Perth, Town of Vincent, WA Police, Connections Nightclub and Perth Hebrew Congregation all provided meeting rooms for Steering Committee meetings and workshops in 2006 and 2007 and in return shared oral histories of Italians with a strong association to the Northbridge area.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Over the course of the Northbridge History Project many people gave voluntarily of their time to assist at meetings, doing research, or helping at events. In particular, former staff frequently returned to give of their time after their contracts finished. Without their assistance much less would have been achieved by the Northbridge History Project.
provided rooms for community events. Events were also held at the Macedonian Community of WA, Italian Club and the Australian Asian Association. The Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Association became the distribution point for the Italian brochures and took ownership of the Italian Display. The Polish Community of Western Australia staged an exhibition of Polish history in Northbridge and also displayed information gathered by other groups at the Polish Community Council Centre at Maylands.

NORTHBRIDGE BUSINESSES

The Northbridge History Project was fortunate to have ongoing sponsorship from businesses in Northbridge. Many other offers of help and support were made by business owners, including providing venues for coffee meetings and generally being supportive of the Project. Many venues displayed the posters and helped to distribute brochures, crosswords and bookmarks. In particular,

Pilpel Print provided graphic design advice and sponsored the production of the crosswords. They also supported the printing of brochures for the Jewish walking tours and flyers and photographic panels and promotional material for the Early Jewish History of Northbridge Exhibition.

The Irish Scene provided free advertising to the Northbridge History Project and provided items of interest regarding the Irish community of Northbridge. They also sponsored the publication of the brochure The Sisters of Mercy West Perth. A history of St Brigid’s Convent and School, Northbridge for the Sisters of Mercy.

European Foods sponsored the printing of the Italian Display panels for exhibition in both Northbridge and the Town of Vincent. The Re Store sponsored the opening of the Display in both locations.

The Brass Monkey Hotel and Connections Nightclub sponsored the launch of the ‘Engaging Northbridge’ 2008/09 Calendar of Events.

Valentino’s Restaurant sponsored a morning tea for the launch of Alan’s Eye: a Personal Journey through Northbridge.

Rosie O’Grady’s sponsored the venue and morning tea for the launch of the ‘Engaging Northbridge’ 2009/10 Calendar of Events and also the venue and the catering for the End of the Project function on 30 June 2010.

Keith and Lottie provided the use of their 1950s caravan to use as a recording venue in the 2007 and 2008 Northbridge Festival, providing a great drawcard to the stall. The costs of transporting the caravan were met by Connections Nightclub.

The exhibition Early Jewish History in Northbridge was sponsored by Judith Shorrock Graphic Design, Framecor, Perth Expo Hire, Pilpel Printing, Stuart Street Art Gallery and West Australian Fine Arts.

For Total Exposure 2009 Crazy Clark’s assisted the Project to buy frames inexpensively and Farinosi Hardware provided the furring channel used to display the images.

PARTNERING

The exhibition ROUNDS Project at PICA which led to interpretation in artwork of the presence of swamps in the urban fabric of Northbridge in the ROUNDS exhibition. Further work is proposed to interpret the former swampland environment of Northbridge. Discussions for future exhibitions using sources from the Archive are continuing.

ROUNDS Project, PICA, 2010.

Sarah Rowbottam: Study for a swamp, Test 1, ROUNDS Project, PICA, 2010.

PERTH INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Advice was given to the Curator of the ROUNDS Project at PICA which led to interpretation in artwork of the presence of swamps in the urban fabric of Northbridge in the ROUNDS exhibition. Further work is proposed to interpret the former swampland environment of Northbridge. Discussions for future exhibitions using sources from the Archive are continuing.

PROFESSIONAL LISTS

The Northbridge History Project was supported by unpaid distribution of its material through a wide range of public, government, institutional and private e-networks, including the University of Western Australia, Curtin University, the History Council of WA, the National Trust of WA, the Heritage Council of WA, Museums Australia, Central Institute of Technology, the Professional Historians and Researchers Association, the Australian Archivists Association, the Australian

Historical Association, the Department of Education and Training, the Department of Culture and the Arts, the National Library of Australia, the Electronic Cultural Atlases Initiative and numerous private networks.

AUSTRALIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Curtin University’s Australia Research Institute was the original partner for the publication of the Northbridge History Studies Day papers as a special edition of Australian Cultural Studies. The publication of the Studies Day papers by Network Books grew out of these discussions.

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Murdoch University became the lead academic partner for Virtual Perth. The University employed a researcher for three months to draft the final submission and committed funds to the grant application. The relationship with Murdoch is ongoing via the Virtual Perth ARC application.

CITY OF PERTH HERITAGE APPEAL HERITAGE PERTH

The City of Perth Heritage Appeal developed some information about building facades in Northbridge to create a “Look Up Northbridge” tour which was run during the 2007 Northbridge Festival.
The Northbridge History Project was supported by unpaid media exposure, promoting the Studies Days and the Project generally. Dialogue with major media players was established about the facets they could explore when reporting Northbridge's history. During the life of the Project, regular radio interviews on aspects of Northbridge's history were conducted on ABC Local Radio, 6PR, 6EBA, RTR and 6IX. Over the five years of the Northbridge History Project, media messages and reporting began to more consistently include the history and complex multicultural aspects of Northbridge's history in reporting.

ABC Local Radio discussed Northbridge and Cultural Centre which generated 19 minutes of listener call-backs, sharing memories of Northbridge. The programmes were made available on the ABC website with photographs from the collection. At the time of writing, ABC Radio National was developing a programme about Northbridge and its relationship to the city.

Television coverage was more limited but ABC Stateline had a full segment featuring the work the Project was doing to create a new image for Northbridge. The segment was also available as a download and transcript from their website.


Arts and culture events were run about the Project in the national Jewish, Polish and Italian press. Gay in WA promoted the oral history programme and Out in Perth featured regular updates on Northbridge's history and the work of the History Project. Segments were also run about the Project in the Glamfest cinema programme.

The Northbridge History Project was also supported by specialist publications with an interest in heritage. The Heritage Council of WA featured a double page spread in History Matters, outlining the importance of preserving Northbridge's history. The Curriculum material featured in the National Trust News while Musings, the newsletter of Museums Australia, promoted the Studies Days as part of Museums Week. A feature on the Studies Days was run in the EPRA publication, Urbano.
Celebrating Northbridge

The Northbridge History Project engages community members of all ages and backgrounds in telling, celebrating and preserving the unique stories of Northbridge’s diverse history. Director Dr. Fiona Morel-Ellis-Brown said the project involves a comprehensive online electronic archive where you can search a range of materials including images, oral histories and maps.

“Northbridge has an amazingly complex, diverse and rich migrant history. Its history is a microcosm of Australia’s wider migrant history, what migrants brought to Australia and how Australian cities developed,” Dr. Morel-Ellis-Brown said.

“We want people to start looking at the history of Northbridge, we realized rapidly that the area was on the cusp of losing much of its history through a combination of change and infrastructure development. There was a real lack of connection and sense of history in the area, so much so that when you asked people under 30 what Northbridge meant to them, most would say ‘nightclubs and crime’.

“So we turned our focus to gathering histories of Northbridge before they were lost and placing primary resources into online electronic archives where they are available to the community, historians, researchers, students, tourism operators and anybody interested in heritage.

“The project complements work previously done in the area, such as heritage assessments, but it adds the new layer of community history that was previously missing.”

Northbridge was settled in the first years of the Swan River Colony and rapid development occurred during the gold rushes. The area flourished as a hub for trade and light manufacturing and a diverse ethnic and religious population developed through migration. Following a residential decline in the 1950s and 1960s, Northbridge became a popular entertainment precinct.

In the 1990s, people moved away from Northbridge due to increased competition from suburban entertainment precincts and changes in the community. Generational change also added to the feeling that Northbridge was losing its distinctive qualities.

In 2002, a Department of Premier and Cabinet report recommended an investigation into the history of the Northbridge to “understand and embrace the area’s history to create diversity, interest and business and tourism opportunities.” In response to this, The Northbridge History Project was established.

The vision of the project is to create an inspiring historical context for the future development of Northbridge as a uniquely attractive place to visit, work and live.

As part of the project, the annual Northbridge History Studies Day allows the hidden histories of Northbridge to be shared and recorded. The day includes a variety of presentations, each offering a different aspect of the diverse history of Northbridge. Often, material presented is being made publicly available for the first time.

“The Studies Days include personal recollections from community leaders or people who have a story with the area,” Dr. Morel-Ellis-Brown said.

“This is complemented by presentations from historians and other academics from tertiary institutions, who have carried out more in-depth research.

“People who come along to the Studies Days have been amazed at the diversity of the history of the area.”

Papers from the Studies Days are available online and will also be published by Curtin University.

“Information from the Northbridge History Project has been added to WA’s curriculum for teaching local history studies during the first four years of high school,” Dr. Morel-Ellis-Brown said.

“This helps students learn how to read and analyse history and heritage, using examples from Northbridge.”

In the future, the project team plans to develop a Historical GIS of Perth, where diverse historical information, including information from the Heritage Council, will be available for research.

To find out more information about the Northbridge History Project, explore the electronic archive or download curriculum materials, visit www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au. To register for the 2009 Studies Day email history@spc.wa.gov.au.
The Northbridge History Project drew upon the best practice concepts of various Charters on Cultural Heritage Interpretation to guide its activities.

At the time of its establishment, the Electronic Archive proposed by the Northbridge History Project was groundbreaking.

From the outset the Project documented its policies, protocols and processes so that they could be transparent, consistent and replicable.

...exchanging, developing, codifying and assuring the dissemination of good practices;


Charters promulgated after the establishment of the Project have confirmed the approach the Project took in identifying, documenting and making available the rich cultural heritage of Northbridge.

The Northbridge History Project produced a brochure that outlined role of the Project and copyright of records. All material provided to the Northbridge History Project was used with the permission of the owner or copyright holder. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part could be reproduced or re-used for any commercial purposes whatsoever without prior written permission from the Northbridge History Project for the owners and the State of Western Australia.

At the time of its establishment of the Northbridge History Project, the digitization of historical records was comparatively new. Therefore, the Project developed its own standards for creating the Electronic Archive, based on comprehensive research. High quality, high resolution scans of images and documents and high quality voice recordings (better than CD quality) were established as policy on the basis that lower quality images could be cut from these master copies for a variety of uses. The standards have subsequently been adopted by other collecting agencies. However, all images and voice recordings in the online Electronic Archive were supplied in low resolution for faster download.

Sources in the Electronic Archive were presented via fully searchable PDFs so that no pre-selection of categories needed to be made. The Archive could be searched by Community Group, Media or free-text search. Transcripts were provided with audio files to assist searching.

Comprehensive metadata for each entry type in the Electronic Archive was included with each item. For example, photographs
Cited the year, description of subject, location, people’s names and relationships, the photographer, the owners, their relationship to the material, the names of the donor, alternate spellings and a courtesy line.

Technical information included whether the scan was made from an original or reproduction, the date of the scan, the media, the type of graphic file and the resolution.

**COLLECTIONS WITHOUT WALLS**

The operation of History Project and the methodologies employed in obtaining materials for the Electronic Archive have been consolidated into a toolkit: **Collections without Walls: using the Northbridge History Project model for your Electronic Archive** and will be made available online after the Project’s completion in association with Museums Australia. The toolkit includes templates, policies and event toolkits to assist local communities to develop their own collections.

**ADVICE**

Advice was given to community groups and local governments regarding the collection and documentation of items in their local history collections that would complement or could be received into the Electronic Archive of the Northbridge History Project.

Members of the Police Steering Committee of the Northbridge History Project were active in the first two meetings in identifying a range of items within Police hands that were of historical value. WAPOL subsequently entered into an agreement with the Police Historical Society to identify, conserve and migrate records held by the Society in liaison the State Records Office and funded a part-time position to do so.

Advice about interpretation of various aspects of Northbridge’s history was provided to developers, business owners, artists and journalists.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Staff delivered papers about different aspects of the processes, policies and implementation of the Northbridge History Project were delivered in various fora:

**Morel-EdnieBrown, F. A.**


**Newport, T.**


"It was with regret I read of the imminent wind up of the History Project. Amongst many worthwhile contributions the team has been involved in, I was especially impressed with their contribution to the Northbridge Festival in November last year. Their stand was immensely popular with the crowds who attended & they had a great range of product & free interactive downloads for people to enjoy.

Michael Keiller
Chair, Business Improvement Group of Northbridge

"Hi your (sic) were after feedback of my involvment with the project. I got involved during a Pride Fair Day event. You had archivists there. It was great being able to share my story. I have also appreciated the on-going contact and updates on the project via email. That made me feel like my contribution was worth something and I got more connected to the project as a result. So well done to all those who designed and were involved in the project. I think it was a great project. Even sending out the last email and asking for feedback, tells me alot about the values and people in the project. Well done. I would certainly support more funds for similar projects."

Michelle Burgermeister

"I believe the Northbridge History Project has been very successful and Felicity, Tanya and Ellen deserve special commendation for your hard work and all you achieved. It was very well organised and amazing the way you got such a wide spectrum of people involved. The Premier should give you a special award for what you have achieved. I hope similar projects for other parts of Perth and Western Australia because there is so much history to record and it must be done before the present elders pass on. They have so many stories to tell. Congratulations for a job well done. You deserve to feel proud for what you achieved. Wishing you all the best for the future."

Michelle Burgermeister

"I would like to congratulate you and your team on your efforts on the Northbridge History Project. I believe that it has been a success and not just because of my direct involvement. It helped many people and also gathered much personal history about the area. I was of course directly involved because of my family’s involvement with the Victoria Hotel and your team’s efforts made me explore that relationship and the area further. I of course was not even a twinkle in my fathes eye when he ran it so I did not have direct memories. I also had a chat with ... who I understand provided you with oral history of the area. I know it brought back many happy memories of the area for him. We have spoken on three occasions about his experience with you. Best wishes for the future."

Michael Carren

"Very worthwhile project. The administrators and participants have left an enduring legacy. oth Governments’ support of the project is to be commended. The history presented was mostly without the pretension that accompanies much of current historical material and therefore it attracts interest of the general citizenry who are often discouraged by accompanying balderdash. To me it was an enjoyable process; as well as being in the company of friends.If another such a project results and if I could be of assistance I will be happy to contribute."

Kevin Moran

"...I want to say “thank you” for all that you have achieved together in the Project... for your enthusiasm for the cause and your courtesies towards the customers."

Father Ted Doncaster

"In February 2006 I joined the WA police Steering Committee attached to the Northbridge History Project, and was quickly impressed by the enthusiasm and support shown by both the then State Government and other stakeholders. It was
by a State Premier who had obviously realised the enormous value of gathering and preserving a large swathe of latent memories, documents and images of Northbridge, which were potentially scattered throughout the community.

The unfaltering commitment, vision and energy thrown at the project by its full-time staff were commendable. In particular Dr Felicity Morel-Eddie-Brown, Celine Jacquet, Workshop Coordinator (until 2007), and Tanya Newport-Edwards, Project Coordinator (from 2007) were an inspiration to the WA Police team. It was a pleasure to work with them.

A large quantity of material, which would have otherwise disappeared into the mists of time, has not only been preserved, but is now available to the general public by means of the Internet. Without the tireless endeavours and contributions by various committees and other individuals, this would not have been possible.

The one and only disappointment in this entire project was the Philistine attitude of the current State Government. Its lack of understanding or interest in continuing to support the program was obvious to our committee. Human resources, budget and accommodation became progressively scarcer over the final 18 months. This was despite the many thousands of volunteer hours put into the project by dozens of committee members throughout the community. Although much was achieved, I believe better Government support would have led to a better outcome.”

Peter Thomas DipPhot
Retired Senior Sergeant 4891
Junior Vice-President Retired Police Officers’ Association of WA (Inc)

“A few points to make.
1. The concept of the project and its detailed execution is to be highly commended.
2. From the perspective of one from afar, as a historical record there can be no doubt the collation of material gained during the project will provide a most important record of what is a fascinating era of Northbridge development.
3. From a personal point of view it will give future generations of individual families invaluable documentation and pictorial record of the environment and lifestyle of the early post immigration years of their forebears.
4. The collation of personal accounts and photographs has occurred none too soon.
5. To my knowledge many streetscapes have not been visualized pictorially in detail for posterity and similarly there will be many unrecorded tales but I suppose these are inescapable elements. It is appreciated the elapsed time and resource availability are limiting factors. The changing of the guard from the generational point of view and relocation of families means a permanent loss of many untold tales.
6. Many will hope that the project will act as a springboard to continue related research and recording which I suspect is a cherished aim of the community.
7. Many will hope that the project will act as a springboard to continue related research and recording which I suspect is a cherished aim of the team.
8. Can it be assumed the material so diligently collected will be maintained in an easily accessible site for safekeeping for future researchers to progressively add to Northbridge’s history and that of its past diverse population? I expect the team must be working flat out to complete matters by June 30th. At the Studies Day it was pleasing to have the opportunity to meet up with a number of people involved with the project even if ever so briefly. Best wishes”

James Anastasios (Victoria)

“As a representative for the Chinese Community I had the opportunity of working for the project for three months in late 2005. It was a fantastic privilege to process the varied and rich photographic and oral recording information being gleaned from fellow Northbridgeans. The team members are extremely thorough and dedicated to the aims of the project and their processes to ensure accuracy and accessibility of the resources.

The Northbridge History Project has allowed this material to be accessed by a wider audience relevant to the needs of the techno savvy public, not just in WA but globally. It has paved the way for the development of similar programs for areas such as Fremantle and regional WA, as well as nationally. I have had personal contact with many of the participants and all agree it has been a worthwhile and productive exercise.

It is impossible to be like this when I was at school so I am hopeful there will be a new generation of history buffs to continue and further the work started by this and future endeavours.

The four Northbridge History Studies Day workshops have given the wider public an opportunity to share first-hand some of the interesting histories and stories of the area. Now we must make do with the electronic versions and the publication which are the next best options. At least now the resources are established for other researchers to continue the work.

The only downside has been the insufficient funding for the project, which limited professional research and undertakings, and relied too heavily on voluntary input. The lack of interest by members of the Chinese community to fully utilise this opportunity to record their stories is apparent by the inability to hold an exhibition or produce a brochure, similar to the Italian, Jewish and Polish communities.

This has been a project I have been proud to have been involved with and enjoyed the company of all whom I met through this process. I wish all the project members who will be finishing off at the end of June, a prosperous start to the next chapter in their working lives.”

Kaylene Poon
Member Chinese Steering Committee 2005-2009

“For three years now I have been a member of the Irish history in Northbridge. This has been an interesting project to record part of the Irish presence in the area. Particularly, because the Irish presence was very much supplanted by the Italian and Greek ethnic, so much so that for many today, they would be unaware of the Irish presence. Another helpful aspect is that the original focus of the Irish presence, St. Brigids Church , the Convent of Mercy and the parish of West Perth are all surviving, so there are links to history. The Church and Convent form a unity and are still a lively part of local activity. It was also interesting to see how people were very keen to tell of their connection and share their memories.

Perhaps there are few areas of Perth that have changed so radically from worker’s cottages and low to mid-density housing and units, to entertainment and social interaction. Northbridge has been the beneficiary of planning and development in the past with squares and parks that are uncharacteristic of such older areas, but which show the benefit of past planning initiatives.

I have enjoyed being part of the Irish history in Northbridge.”

Rev. Mgr. Brian O’Loughlin
Vicar General

“For me the workshops and overall involvement was interesting although really time consuming. ... On the other hand, [I] sure enjoyed meeting up with some old school mates again and some former parishioners as well as meeting new people. [It]... was good Joan Gilbert was able to do such a good job on the presentation of our Australian paper. ... So sad that politics and the imposition of multiculturalism have all but wiped the colonial history of our forebears out. ... I did enjoy overall each of the study days I attended. ... I would like to say thank you to the Northbridge History Studies Day team, staff and Felicity for her great efforts in taking on and creating a living history for so many. I would...
especially like to commend Tanya for her dedication, patience and understanding throughout the last so many years of the project. Tanya, you truly deserve more than a gold Star.”

Marie Slyth
Convenor Australian Steering Committee

“I would simply like to pass on my congratulations to you Felicity and the whole Project team for doing such a great job in your work in recording so many historical and other facets of Northbridge. The stimulus that was afforded by the Project to the Jewish community to document its important history within the Northbridge precinct was a wonderful opportunity that almost certainly would have otherwise been lost to it.

The Jewish community has a proud record in our city and State, and its members have made a demonstrated contribution beyond what might be expected given the relatively small size of the community over the years. As an amateur (very!!) historian and as then President of the Jewish Community Council of Western Australia, I am glad that I was able to present some of that history at one of the Northbridge Study Days and that an enhanced version of the talk was published in the first Northbridge volume.

Here I would again like to thank and acknowledge those concerned with that publication for permitting the paper to be made available to a wider audience by their agreement to its publication in The Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal (to come out later this year).

The recording of the rich history of all the communities of Northbridge who have together contributed to building our WA society is a story well worth telling. I am confident that the real value of your work and that of the entire Northbridge team will continue to bear fruit into the future. With very best wishes to all”

Dr Keith Shilkin AM

“Such a lovely surprise to receive a certificate of appreciation. I have never received a certificate framed in my life and I shall treasure it.

But really all praise should go to yourself and your helpers for the wonderful work you have done in preserving the history of Northbridge and at the same time making it such a pleasurable experience for those participating in the collection of that history.

It has been lovely to meet you and your helpers and I wish you all the very best for your happy future.”

Barbara Boettcher

From humble beginnings to the pulsating heart of Perth, Northbridge has found its place as one of the most creative, dynamic and surprising areas of the city.

Spurred by a diverse and complex history the area has been home to creative and entrepreneurial people from colonial times.

As Perth finds new ways to move forward embracing change, culture and diversity, Northbridge has the potential to lead the state as its creative ‘hot-house’ and provide Perth with the vitality and complexity that successful and dynamic cities display.
The Northbridge History Project was created by the dedicated contributions of many of the people of Northbridge. It has been our great privilege to work with them over the past five years as they dedicated countless hours and their time and expertise.

The result? A substantial Electronic Archive of primary sources about the history of Northbridge that can be used for interpretation in Northbridge and the greater understanding of its importance to our state’s history.

See the Electronic Archive at www.northbridgehistory.wa.gov.au.
Northbridge has captured the imagination and interest of generations of Western Australians. For migrants it

provided richness and complexity in our city.”

themes

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Aboriginal Advancement Council
Art Gallery of Western Australia

ARTRAGE

Australian Asian Association of WA
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
Australian Holocaust Association (WA)
Australian Jewish Historical Society
Business Improvement Group of Northbridge
Chung Wah Association
Ethnic Communities Council of WA
Hellenic Community of WA
Heritage Perth
History Council of Western Australia
Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Centre

Jewish Community Council of Western Australia
Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society of WA
J S Battye Library
Macedonian Community of WA
Multicultural Services Centre of WA
Museums Australia (WA)
Oral History Association of Western Australia
Perth Hebrew Congregation
Polish Community Council of WA
Presbyterian Ladies’ College
Pride WA
Roman Catholic Church of Western Australia
Sisters of Mercy Archives
South West Land and Sea Council
The Royal Western Australian Historical Society
Vietnamese Community in WA
WA Police Historical Society

GOVERNMENT
City of Perth
City of Perth Local Library
Central Institute of Technology
Department of Culture and the Arts
Department of Education and Training
Department of Planning (Spatial Information and Research)
EPRA
Heritage Council of Western Australia
National Archives of Australia
National Native Title Tribunal
National Trust of Australia (WA)
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State Records Office of Western Australia
Town of Vincent
Town of Vincent Library and Local History Centre

Western Australia Police Service
Western Australian Museum

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University of New South Wales
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www.NORTHBRIDGEHISTORY.WA.GOV.AU — SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH HISTORY
“Just over the line from the heart of the CBD of Perth, Northbridge has captured the imagination and interest of generations of Western Australians. For migrants it has been a place of new beginnings, a place to start a business, raise a family and move to greater prosperity. For creative people it is the place to experience Perth’s fine arts and cultural pursuits and to push the boundaries of creative endeavour. The ‘personality’ that is Northbridge has inspired and supported these endeavours. Its history is complex, diverse and at times a little wild – all of these themes provided richness and complexity in our city.”

Northbridge is on the cusp of great change – and its history is crucial to it having a sense of place and communicating its richness to the broader community. We are very proud of what the various stakeholders in Northbridge have achieved in the Northbridge History Project.

Already there is a sense that Northbridge has something valuable and rich to offer Western Australia. This is very gratifying – it shows us that incrementally but sustainably Northbridge is developing a new and treasured place in the psyche of the city.