Talking ‘bout my generation
2012 City of South Perth Local History Awards

The Award Winners Collection
As part of the 2012 National Year of Reading celebrations at South Perth Libraries, local history staff designed the awards ‘Talking ‘bout my generation’ to encourage visitors and residents of the City of South Perth to record their memories of the area. ‘Talking ‘bout my generation’ aims to:

♦ Encourage people to record and share (through reading, writing and talking) their memories of the City of South Perth;
♦ Develop the holdings of the City of South Perth Local History Collection;
♦ Connect visitors and residents of the City of South Perth with our Local History.

This collection of award winning entries highlights important elements of the community in which we live, work and play. It provides a snapshot of life in South Perth - from those with a seasoned eye to those who are witnessing history as it occurs. This collection will be held in the South Perth Local History Archive to ensure its longevity and for future historians to discover.
Lower Primary

Chloe Holtzman - Kensington PS
My favourite thing to do is to go and watch the fireworks at the South Perth River. This year when I and my family went to the fireworks it was pouring wet with a big thunder storm. There were heaps of lightning. Luckily we were sitting next to some very nice people. They gave us their umbrella and a towel to keep us warm. They borrowed my camera and took pictures of me and my family. Then the fire works came on. They were the best fire works I have ever seen. I still have lots of picture of the fireworks.
Middle Primary

Madigan Gordon - Kensington PS

Jean-Luc Carvallio - Aquinas College

Nathan Thompson - Curtin PS
Middle Primary

Madigan Gordon - First Prize

My suburb Kensington is a beautiful place. I love all the purple Jacaranda trees. It is such a wonderful sight at the start of spring.

The Jacaranda is actually native to Brazil and Argentina but they’re much loved around Australia.

I remember last year around my Birthday walking to and from school seeing all the beautiful purple flowers ether on the trees or spread along the path way.

I always come home and just sit and relax in the Jacaranda tree in our back yard.

One day I came home and I went to sit in the tree. I climbed up I started reading a book, all of a sudden I noticed a cockroach on the other side of the tree I screamed and I jumped out!

That’s why I love Jacaranda trees so much. I know Jacaranda trees live up to 80 years but I hope mine lives for much longer. Thank you and I hope you enjoyed my report.
My favourite place in the City of South Perth is my football club called South Perth Stingray's. Last year I was in South Perth Green and the grade was Year Four Junior AFL.

Every Sunday morning at 8.30 I had a footy game and every Wednesday I would have training at five in the afternoon. At training we would do lots of drills that improved our skills.

Our home ground is Ernest Johnson Oval. We didn’t play at home every Sunday. We went to different grounds within the Perth District, for example Huntingdale, Belmont and Queens Park.

The team had about eleven players on the field and three or four on the bench. We all went on the bench at least two times that season. This allowed every player to have a breather.

Some of my team mates were Sam, Bailey, Luke and Joel. The coach was Stephen Lally.

I like the game of football because it is fun, tiring, energetic and awesome.

South Perth footy club is my favourite place in the City of South Perth because it is well organised and you meet new people.
My fondest memory of south Perth is when I followed a path to a little hut near the river. I bought bread to feed the ducks. I got the bag that had bread. I used the last of the bread to attract the blowies. After an hour of trying to get a blowie in the bag we had a walk. We went all the way around the river. We saw lots and lots of ferries. One of the ferries was call the Falcon and one was called the Home Ship. After we went all the way around the river we went back for one more try at catching a blowie. I quickly grabbed one and threw it into the bag. I started walking home. When I got home I showed my dad and he said that I wasn’t allowed to keep it. I walked back to the river and on the way a person asked me if it was real and I said that I caught it with my own hands! I walked back and threw it in the water. Unfortunately I let go of the bag.

My school is Curtin Primary. It is very big and old. The little kids have a new play ground. I am in room 4 and it has a smart board. It is a two minute drive from Waterford Ave. I really like my school and all the students in it.
Upper Primary

May Huang - Kensington PS

Kitman Yeung - Kensington PS

Jude Paulin - Kensington PS
My favorite place in South Perth is the Oxford St park/Morris Mundy. Because it has a lot of trees and space. The trees provide shade at the edge of the park, and there is a particularly big tree that I think is a paper tree that I like climbing. It's really strong and you can climb really high. Then I usually fall off but it's no broken bone yet. I climb it a lot of the time and my dog tries to get on be he can't because he's a dog. His claws always scrabble at the trunk of the tree. If you're close enough, you can see lines on the poor tree by the claws of Snowy.

Talking about dogs, Morris Mundy is also I think a dog park. The Park is great for dogs and they can usually much around in the grass. But sometimes Snowy is a bit naughty, so I have to restrain him. Snowy also rolls in the mud and muck and since he's a golden white he looks REALLY dirty.
My favourite place is the South Perth Foreshore because it is always peaceful and quiet. I remember the time when my family and I were having a picnic there nine years ago. I was so small and short compared to now. I was standing on the long wooden bench feeding the tall, red beaked black swans. They were so hungry that they just snatched the piece of bread out of my tiny hands and gobbled it down. I moved and hid behind my dad as it staggered forward as if it wanted more.

I remember another time when I went roller skating with my little sister, Carmen on the bike path in the evening. As I skated back from the other end of the path, I see this multicoloured sky. Beginning with dark blue, then slowly mixes into the yellow and then orange, then red as it’s closer to the sun. The silhouette of the trees, bushes and the city view just looks so well the rainbow coloured background, especially with the white, banana shaped moon shining in the sky. I quickly took a picture of this beautiful scene with my camera and walked home with my family.

During the night, the foreshore looks even amazing, the lights of the buildings in front of us glistens and it makes the whole scene even brighter and attractive. The reflections of the light shimmers and sparkles on the water in the night, it is just so relaxing, standing in here in the South Perth Foreshore.....
The Suburb I live in is Kensington which is in South Perth. I like this Suburb because of its environment, the community and the people that live around it.

The places where I go the most are Moris Mundy Reserve, Jimmy's Deli and on the weekend I go down to the school.

The activities I do in my suburb are, AFL. I have played AFL with my team called the South Perth Stingrays for 5 years. This year will be my sixth year playing for them. I also do Wakeboarding on the Swan River. Wakeboarding is my favourite hobby to do. And the last activity I do in South Perth is cricket.

I like to explore the suburb. Every now and then I go out with friends and find the little Alleyways around Canning Highway.
LOWER SECONDARY

LESLIE JONGA - COMO SECONDARY COLLEGE

ALIFIA PRAMUDITA - COMO SECONDARY COLLEGE
Lower Secondary

Leslie Jonga - Frist Prize

Como is a pleasant place to be as it is part of South Perth. It has many interesting, enjoyable and sometimes breathtaking places. Como is a splendid place to live because it does not have all that noise when you want to concentrate and have some peace. It is the perfect place for someone to live their life.

My suburb is extremely enjoyable. There are restaurants, pubs, clubs and many shopping centers for all that shopping and enjoying the moment with friends and family. There are many places out there but nothing compares to Como as it is completely surrounded with great expectations and values. In Como there are many educational schools and fun daycares for younger children. There are golf clubs, basketball courts and even church groups. Como is a fun place to be.

I remember on a sunny, warm day on a Sunday, when my friends and family gathered up at a local park around Como. We had barbeques and sat under the huge shady trees to eat our ravishing meals. We would ride our bikes and have big laughs around the park and enjoyed our selves. We would play around the sand areas and sometimes talked about our futures, like we had a clue? We always enjoyed those unforgettable moments.

On week days I would normally go to my school, Como Secondary College, but it being the holidays, I would go to the South Perth library with my friends and enjoyed reading books having big laughs. After an extremely fun time at the library we would go to the near by shops and buy a few interesting things and a few snacks. We would then go to our peaceful suburb and watch some movies, eating the snacks we had purchased, which was amazing fun.
I would recommend Como to be the best suburb in South Perth, as I have experienced it and would like many more people to share it. Anyone would love it. Como goes all the way to the top and will always bring a smile to your face.
The environment there is pretty good. There are many plants that thrive. People around my house are friendly, too. But, I do not know many people because I’m new there. I come from Indonesia. In Como there are many parks. My sister likes to play there because of the overgrown gardens. Como has fresh air.

I like my school. It’s one of my favourite places. Although I am still new here, I’ve loved this school. I have many friends who have different characters as well. I like the Como beach and I do not know a lot of places here, so I like this place the most because I can see the sunset. I can also take pictures there because I like to take photograph and my photograph taken.

I have not had a lot of memories in South Perth. But, there are some activities that made me happy, namely, a walk with the family. My parents, my sister, and myself made a trip to one of the parks in Fremantle for the weekend. It is a rare activity that I got in Indonesia, being away from my father, but here we all come together. South Perth is one place that has a long history. I want to know, but because my English is not good, I do not understand teachers who have taught in school about the history of this place. I’m trying so hard to understand this lesson.

I know that South Perth is a residential suburb three kilometres (2 miles) south of the central business district of Perth. It’s the capital of Western Australia, which adjoins the southern shore of Perth water on the Swan River.

I am so happy with South Perth. Although I’m still new, I intend to stay and experience here. I think South Perth is an exciting place. There are many trees there, so I feel calm during the day. I have tried to make me feel at home here in order to learn about this city.
Adult

Norma Moran

John Maloney
Adult

Norma Moran - First Prize

My favourite thing about South Perth is — its proximity to the beautiful Swan River and the wonderful memories I have experienced during my 88 years of living in South Perth and Como.

I would like to share some with you:

As a young child, walking from my grandparents’ home at 30 Comer Street, with my younger brother, down past Mr. Edwards’ shop on the corner, home of the wonderful ‘halfpenny box’; past the Croquet Lawn on the left and the Pagoda Ballroom on the right; across the road and then over lawn, to the lovely white sandy beach, with shelter sheds. We played in the shallow water, looking for shells. If you were fortunate you could sometimes find a sleeping prawn just under the sand on the water’s edge.

My father and uncles taking the prawning net, a hurricane lamp, kerosene tin and a large galvanised tub, down to Como beach as it became dark. Two or three sweeps with the net, in waist-deep water usually producing half a kerosene tin of prawns; home to an open fire down the backyard; the prawns cooking in the tin; spreading newspaper on the large table; preparing bread and butter, vinegar, salt and pepper: — there was a wonderful feast!

I remember picnics on the beach at Como and taking the empty billy-can to Pinkus’ shop, to have it filled with boiling water from the copper, for a cost of 6d., to make a cup of tea.
My favourite thing about South Perth was not simply coming from home in East Victoria Park on my bike to the Swan Street hall for the YMCA phys. ed. activities on a Saturday morning, but the ride home along the foreshore track which surely saw the origins of motocross.

It was a series of small switchbacks, meandering in and out and around small hillocks which were deposited at random and formed from river dredgings which compacted into a grey clay embedded with oyster shell. With even slight rainfall, it became quite sticky and slithery, thus enhancing the experience for the daredevil rider. With no mudguards on the bike, my gym whites often presented a laundry challenge for my patient mother.

Whilst in the Swan Street neighbourhood, I was also fascinated by the rifle range at Wesley College, the location now used for tennis courts. It was about 50 metres long and faced east with a high wall of railway sleepers protecting the Kirwan family at No. 53 from injury. We are going back to the late 1940s so it no doubt had its unlikely origins in the war years.

Can you imagine a rifle range in downtown South Perth today? The city fathers would be freaking out.