



TOWN OF  
VICTORIA PARK



# Interview with Keith Hayes

*Interviewed by Heather Campbell  
May 2018*

## **Victoria Park Voices**

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# **Interview with Keith Hayes**

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## **Victoria Park Voices**

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# Interview with Keith Hayes

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Keith Hayes - Town of Victoria Park Councillor, official photograph,  
17 October 2011 (Photograph by and Courtesy of Matt Devlin)



## INTRODUCTION

John Keith Hayes (Keith) was born in 1948 to William Hayes, a foreman/carpenter with the City of Perth and his wife Hannah Elizabeth Taylor (Anne or Annie), the youngest of their five children. He had three older brothers and one sister.

The couple built a house at 56 Mars Street, Carlisle, which became the family home through Keith's childhood. After living in Carlisle for 62 years he moved to Victoria Park and was resident there at the time of the interview.

Starting school at the Holy Name Catholic School in Lion Street, Keith transferred to the School for the Blind, an annex of Maylands Primary School at age nine when he lost his sight due to a brain tumour. He then made concerted efforts to re-enter mainstream education at secondary level and on his third attempt, was accepted by Belmont High School. He entered the 'A' stream, which required a very high academic standard, passing all subjects for his Junior certificate some with distinction and was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship for upper secondary, which he undertook at Kent Street High School. Subsequently studying at UWA, Keith Hayes was awarded a degree in Economics, a DipEd, and a Masters in Education in the field of Economics and the Politics of Education. During this time, he tutored at UWA and mentored blind students and in 1977 secured full-time lecturing work at TAFE, where he worked, teaching mainly economics and social sciences, for the next 26 years.

His career in local government commenced in 1981 when he successfully stood for the Carlisle Ward of the City of Perth. He remained a councillor there for nine years, standing down in 1990. From 1990 to 2001 he focused his activities on disability issues, working with many related organisations and associations at local, state and national level.

Returning to local government in 2001 Keith stood successfully for the newly created Town of Victoria Park in Carlisle Ward, later known as Banksia Ward, remaining there until he retired in 2017.

Keith talks of his family life and childhood in Carlisle and of the community who lived there, recalling Mick Lee, who ran the scouts and became an early councillor for the area and subsequently Mayor and Harold Hawthorne, also a member for the Carlisle Ward and who ran a rag trader's business.

He discusses the impact becoming blind had on his life, maintaining however that he was more fortunate than some of his peers who had lost their sight at birth or early childhood and who therefore had no meaningful concept of colour. Keith was not 'cloistered' by his family and continued to lead an active life, becoming a very successful tandem cyclist. There is commentary on his education, including his time at the School for the Blind at Maylands, where he learnt Braille and mobility and tactile skills. Also described is his determination to return to mainstream education for his

high school years, his struggle to gain acceptance and his successful academic and teaching career.

The Victoria Park area of the fifties is described as a 'dumping ground' for the City of Perth because of the industries located there and the resulting pollutants. Keith claims that the negative effects of this pollution felt by residents was the catalyst for the formation of the Ratepayers and Residents' Association at that time.

In discussing his term representing the Carlisle Ward on the City of Perth Council he describes negative experiences encountered because of his disability, particularly initially, and the measures he took to combat them. Commentary also includes committee work, Council meetings, fellow councillors and issues which faced those representing Victoria Park, suggesting that the suburb was 'very much the orphan of the City of Perth, just hanging on the side', because of the less favourable treatment received compared with the more affluent and gentrified suburbs of the City.

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In 1993 the State Government split the City of Perth, in the process creating three separate towns, one of which was Victoria Park. Just prior to retiring from TAFE Keith decided it was timely to return to local government and stood successfully for Carlisle Ward (now named Banksia Ward) in the Town of Victoria Park Council in 2001. He remained a councillor there until he stood down in 2017 and it is this period that is the main thrust of the interview.

Keith Hayes identifies three stages encompassing his time on the Council - 2001-2007 a transition stage; 2007-2011 a period when the council was very united with many new members, identifying goals and building an integrated programme to meet objectives; 2011-2017 a move towards a community-oriented Council. He views from 2007-2011 as a time when the council was particularly strong and united.

There is commentary on the decision to stand for election and on campaigning. There are also word pictures of personalities on, and associated with Council, including councillors, mayors and staff – citing their strengths and the contributions they made. Keith highlights the influence of the increasing number of women standing for Council. He talks of his reception by those on and associated with council and contrasts its workings with that of the City of Perth, maintaining that as a smaller 'boutique' type council it was easier for councillors to work as a team and focus on issues.

As Deputy Mayor from 2007-2009, Keith was able to comment on the role of that position, describing it as twofold – a public relations, diplomatic role, representing the Council in the community and as a conduit between elected members and the Mayor. As an enthusiastic and participatory member of numerous committees - those directly associated with council, those related to council and also many others that were working to make a contribution to the area, he was able to provide perceptive accounts of the work of each of these committees and an assessment of their effectiveness.

These committees included a long-standing membership of the Ratepayers' Association and there is also discourse on issues concerning the council during his tenure.

Keith is ably supported by his wife Margot, who he met when she became one of his readers in 1984 and who has also been involved in the local community, including as founding President of the Carlisle/Victoria Park Toy Library in 1989.

When asked what he sees as his achievements, Keith identifies the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment as one that has given him great satisfaction and also mentoring and assisting new young councillors. He regrets, however that more was not done for the Victoria Park Xavier Hockey Club.

Keith's numerous Awards and Life Memberships are listed in the attachments to this transcript and those related to local government are discussed in the interview.

In closing the major changes that have occurred in the town and to the council are detailed as is a view of their future.

Keith's dedication to Victoria Park and its residents is evident throughout the interview and it is therefore not surprising that, despite retiring from Council, he does not plan to 'drop the baton completely' but to continue his active involvement in the local community

The interview, which was conducted by Heather Campbell in May 2018, is contained in 4 hours 30 minutes of recording.

Researchers should also consult the extensive attachments and sources which are appended to the transcript.



## TRANSCRIPT

This is an interview with Keith Hayes, for the Town of Victoria Park Library, held at his home in Victoria Park on Thursday 24 May 2018. The interviewer is Heather Campbell.

Keith, can we start off with your full name and your date and place of birth, please?

**HAYES:** My full name is John Keith Hayes, commonly known as Keith. The address currently is 14 Temple Street, Victoria Park.

HC And whereabouts were you born?

**HAYES:** Born in East Vic Park, at St Ives Maternity Hospital (as it was then) and lived my life in Carlisle for 62 years and in Victoria Park for the last seven years.

HC And you were born on 30 May 1948.

**HAYES:** Unfortunately! [Laughter] There's a seventieth birthday coming up in a couple of days. In fact, it's not 70 yet, it will be 60 plus ten.

HC [Laughs] Okay. Well congratulations on that in advance anyway.

Tell me a about your dad – he was William Hayes<sup>1</sup>.

**HAYES:** Yes. Dad was born 1903 at Coolgardie and at the age of five his mother died in childbirth, to the third member in the family. The dad brought my father and his sister over to Melbourne and left them with some aunts based in Melbourne. So my auntie and my father were brought up by the aunts. My grandfather disappeared off scene, so that basically my dad was just left with his aunts to raise and he lived there for 39 years.

HC And how did your dad come over to the west?

**HAYES:** This was leading into the depression time; he couldn't get work in Melbourne, Victoria. His sister had come over to Perth earlier and was living in the Carlisle area, so he came across to Perth seeking employment and got a job with the Perth City Council in the Carpenters' Section. He worked there for the remainder of his life, eventually getting through to the position of foreman/carpenter.

HC What sort of man was he?

**HAYES:** Well we all have many dimensions I think. Within the family structure, he very much valued education. He gained, I would have thought, about a Junior level of education back in his day, but it was pretty difficult to get education in those days. He went to St Kilda CBC School. He went through got to that level, but he very much read and was focussed on the recognition of education within our family. We were a very basic working-class family but both Mum and Dad – we'll come onto Mum in a moment – recognised that the way to improve our position in life was

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<sup>1</sup> William J Hayes.

through education. He promoted that component. He was very much dedicated to cycling; he was a cyclist back in the twenties, thirties, over in Melbourne. Perhaps we'll touch back on to this a little bit in a moment. He did ride at the same time as Sir Hubert Opperman rode, perhaps the most historically famous Australian cyclist ever.<sup>2</sup> Dad rode in the same era as he did. I linked across that, fortuitously, about 70 years later, in my cycling involvement. We might mention that later<sup>3</sup>. Dad was very interested in sport; he did cycling right across his life competitively and then rode the bike as a mode of transport. Then he went into playing golf in his later life, so he was quite sporting oriented and was interested in the AFL and cricket. We oriented a lot towards activities in football in Melbourne and cricket happening in Melbourne and the MCG. That was quite a strong element in our family.

Mum was born at Howatharra just halfway between Geraldton and Northampton. They were on a property; her parents went there in about 1860, Mum was born in 1907. The property formed a staging point for the horse-drawn vehicles that used to go between Northampton and Geraldton and bring back the mineral products to the Geraldton Port. They acted as a midway point, so there was a lot of horses, stabling and other elements there. Then when they put in the railway up to Northampton from Geraldton, their property was used to re-water all the steam trains. When they got to that point they'd stop and replenish their water supply. So it was quite an essential element in the local area. Then she came down to Perth in the early twenties seeking employment and then when Dad came back to Perth they met up and got married in 1937.

HC Her name was Hannah Elizabeth and she was known as Annie – is that correct?

**HAYES:** Annie and more commonly in later life, abbreviated down to Anne.

HC And what was her birth name?

**HAYES:** Taylor.

HC Was she a home mum?

**HAYES:** Oh extremely so! Within the house operation Mum was literally a 24 x 7-hour worker. She'd just work and work and work. Women at that time really had to work pretty severely and maintain... We had five members in the family. I have three brothers and a sister. I was the youngest of the five, my sister falls into the middle of the five of us<sup>4</sup>. So Mum had this continuous programme just caring for the family – cooking, washing, cleaning and all the duties that went on in that time, before you had

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<sup>2</sup> Sir Hubert Ferdinand Opperman, OBE, 1904-1996, known as 'Oppy', was an Australian endurance cyclist whose feats in the 1920s and 1930s earned him international acclaim.

<sup>3</sup> Articles in *Canberra Times*, 16 Jan 1985, p 36 and *Canberra Times*, 10 April 1985, p. 8, refer to Keith Hayes' participation in State and International competitions as a cyclist.

<sup>4</sup> The five children are Geoffrey, Roger, Janet, Victor and Keith.

washing machines and all the mechanical devices – refrigerators and that weren't in operation then.

HC Yes, really hard work. Do you know why your parents decided to settle in Vic Park – or Carlisle?

**HAYES:** Yes, I think it was really two things. As I said earlier, my auntie, Dad's sister, came here a little bit earlier than he did – I am not sure how many years, but two or three years earlier. She settled in Carlisle, so that could have been the attraction point. He then gained employment in the City of Perth – Carlisle was part of the district of the City of Perth at that time. Also land prices were pretty cheap; he bought two quarter-acre blocks, one for the price of £20 and other one for the price of £25 - so there were half-acres of land for £45 (or currently \$90). I think that was a major factor – land prices – as well.

HC Was this in Mars Street?

**HAYES:** In Mars Street, at number 56.

HC And was that your childhood home?

**HAYES:** Yes, childhood home and home until I was about mid-twenties, mid-to-late twenties.

HC What as it like, Mars Street, in those days when you were a boy?

**HAYES:** Well we're going back almost 70 years, but perhaps a broad picture of the suburb. The suburb basically was all quarter-acre blocks with a few people having half-acre blocks, but principally quarter-acre blocks with one dwelling on each block, being timber-fibro. I would suggest that a quarter of the blocks, if not more, were vacant, which is simply bushland. So there was a scattering of residential and bushland across the area. There were bitumen roads for half the suburb – the eastern part - east of what is now Lion Street, principally was plank roads, just timber laid down and used for roads. Basically no footpaths and what footpaths there were were just bitumen footpaths. There weren't any footpaths which were concrete or slabs of concrete, there were just a few bitumen footpaths around the place. Transport – not many people had private cars. There was the railway line running through Carlisle, with the Carlisle Station, so that was a major form of transport, the rail system went through the middle of the suburb and obviously it was steam trains in those days. There was a Carlisle bus service that operated from the corner of what was Planet Street and Lion Street in Carlisle, only one block away from where we lived. That provided the main service into the town. But whilst I said there were very few cars, ironically in Archer Street, between the railway line and Orrong Road (which would be half a kilometre-ish) there were five petrol stations and now that's been reduced to one. They were there – I don't know who was using them but there was a lot in those days.

HC What sort of people lived in Carlisle then, what sort of workers were there?

**HAYES:** Principally working-class people, tradespeople, single working families and mums stayed at home and provided all the domestic duties. I'm not aware of any families which would have been two-income supporting. There were some ladies, single ladies, who worked and ran their own businesses. There was a lady who had a local florist business; there was a lady who had the local bakery, but very few women were working, most of them were committed to domestic activity.

HC Did your parents build the house that you lived in?

**HAYES:** Yes, well Dad through his carpentry skills, they built the house. He built it in two stages – there was one in the late thirties he built. They lived in another house further down Mars Street, at about number 8 Mars Street, they rented while they were building our home property. Then he sold the second of the two blocks in the late forties to do an extension on the property once five children had arrived.

HC What are your memories of the house?

**HAYES:** Old, traditional, basically a four-roomed house with a central corridor down the middle, two bedrooms, and then a bathroom and a lounge room were the other two rooms. So it was pretty much a square block, a rectangular building. Then in the renovation they built an extension on the side, a verandah, which was the old traditional verandah with louvre windows and open to the air pretty much. The bathroom was extended out the back with the copper, the old copper, a wood-fired copper. Concrete troughs for the washing. It was a luxury when we even got a hand wringer for the troughs, we thought that was just simply... Wringing all the clothes out by hand and using a scrubbing board to wash all the clothes on. It was pretty basic, a pretty primitive situation then, but you evolved to it. Out the back you hung the clothes on the old traditional clothes-line with the props holding it up and we kids would run around the back yard and knock the prop over and the day's washing was on the ground – which Mum greatly endured! That type of thing.

But you played a lot in your own home. You had your quarter-acre block, so a lot of playing was in the home, on the property. Down the back of each property was a right-of-way for the night-soil service. The district didn't have sewerage. Basically there was a night service, the old dunny lane was down the back with the toilet down near the back fence to provide access to it. There was no rubbish service at that time. People basically buried their rubbish; they buried the tins in the back yard. They used the jars for preserving food and that stuff that was produced in the kitchen. For general bottles there was a bottle-o came around that used to collect bottles and give a halfpenny or a farthing for all the bottles. A little bit of the container refund that we're looking at today; it was running pretty actively 70 years ago.

HC What about the garden Keith, what did you grow in the garden?

**HAYES:** There wasn't much garden, well we had a degree of garden, but there wasn't a great amount, because at that time we didn't have any retic system. The water supply wasn't charged like it is today, you just paid a basic rent, so you didn't

have to pay for water. We had lawn out the front of the house - well between the front of the house and the road and an interior lawn in front of the house and down one side. Mum was very much into growing flowers and we had a degree of fruit trees, nectarines and lemons and an orange tree. So a fair degree of fruit production.

HC            Chooks?

**HAYES:**            Yes, oh yes. That was part of the getting rid of the rubbish. We had the chook yard down the back yard. We had quite a variety. We had chooks and then they went to ducks and we had turkeys through the cycle. But yes, that was the way of getting rid of all your organic waste from the kitchen table and you were supplied with eggs. So yes, the chook yard was in one corner of the back yard and certainly some of my memories are of going down and collecting the eggs from the chook yard and putting your hand under the chook while the egg is coming out and so forth and getting certainly instant delivery of eggs. Then obviously when the chooks got a bit old they were put under the axe and we had them for dinner.

HC            What about milk, was that delivered?

**HAYES:**            Yes, there was a milk delivery service. At that stage the milko was a horse and cart service. Doney's provided the milk service into the Carlisle area. They were on the corner of Archer Street and Bishopsgate Street<sup>5</sup>, the Doney's Milk Service. Also the bread was delivered by horse and cart. So you had those two services and I'll come back to the milk one in a second. Mr Grogan had a truck and he used to bring around fruit and veggies along the street.

The horse and cart service was really an excellent one, for the milko especially, because after perhaps the mid-fifties, the late fifties, he got a utility that he used drive. But when he had the horse and cart the horse knew the round and the horse would just simply... He'd get his milk, which initially was billy-can milk, just simply delivered out to your can, left on your front verandah. You'd leave the money on the front verandah for him; there were no issues of people pinching your money. Then later in the fifties it was replaced by milk bottles. He'd run along with his milk supply, just putting it at each door. The horse would just walk along three or four houses and know when to stop. It would wait, and the guy would run up, get a new supply and run along. They'd turn the corner and so forth. Whereas when he had the utility he'd service three or four houses and he'd have to run back to the vehicle and drive it up five houses, hop out and do it again. So the efficiency of having the horse service for delivering, that was quite good.

We, as kids, with the night service, that was with horse and carts. They go along in the laneways, which were just unsealed dirt laneways and pretty rutted around and so forth. We as kids used to follow behind the cart, fascinated to see all the toilet cans on the top, waiting for one to fall and having a little gossip for when they did. Oh they'd

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<sup>5</sup> Probably Raymond Frederick Doney, 87 Bishopsgate Street, Carlisle. [Electoral Rolls for Belmont District, 1954, *West Australian*, 8 April 1954, p. 16.]

fall off because they'd stack them up two or three high and they'd get stuck in a rut or something and two or three would fall on the ground and so it went. One of the horses of the night service was called Molasses and the other one was called Treacle. [Laughter] I don't know where they got the names, but I always remember that as bit of social trivia. [Laughter] That service went for quite a while.

HC           It sounds like a fairly idyllic sort of childhood, was it?

**HAYES:**           The issue of playing, yes. As I said earlier there was a lot bushland around so as well as playing in your home you played in the bushland and made cubbies and used sticks out of the bush to make bows and arrows and you played all that type of stuff and made your own fun. So you played cowboys and Indians, different games in the bush area. Today where you have the need to provide multi-million-dollar adventure play-parks, it was all provided by nature in those days. You played a lot in the bush. That was all close at hand and likewise if you were going to venues you wouldn't have to walk right around the block, you'd just cut through the bush blocks in between, so you tracked through them all. If you played cricket and that, you played it up and down the road, because there was very little traffic, it didn't matter, you put the wickets at one end or the other, which used to be an oil can or something and you played cricket on the road. If there was a car coming you'd pull them all off and just get back and play your game. From that issue, yes, ideal. I think the issue from the point of view of health and that you didn't have... Health services were relatively limited and there was a lot of home remedies that your parents resorted to try and help. Today people just wouldn't endure that level of medical treatment. You'd be off to the doctor, off to PMH, or the Perth Children's Hospital if it was functioning, to have treatment. Yes, a lot of home medication, but we survived. I think at the same time it meant that a lot of your self-immunity levels were up because you didn't have the purity and the sanitation like we have in our homes today.

HC           What about cubs and scouts?

**HAYES:**           I joined the cubs when I was about eight, seven or eight. One of the other boys at our school went along to the cubs and he said, "What about coming along?" and I joined the local cub group. After I was there about a year is when I lost my sight, at the age of nine. After I went back to the cubs – they had relocated from being in Carlisle near the Carlisle Memorial Hall (as it is today and is still there) opposite that, the cubs were based there. Then they shifted out to Belmont to near Tomato Lake, which is now a major recreational resort area, parkland, with a big lake in the middle. It shifted there and then it shifted back over in Kewdale and then back into Carlisle and it's now at the edge of Carlisle and Lathlain today, so it shifted around. I went to the cubs and then progressed into scouts. That was, I think doubly, as well as being an item for boys to enjoy, making knots and tents and holiday and camping and that, it was important that after I lost my sight that I went straight back into that activity environment; I didn't cloister myself away – well the family didn't cloister me away into a closed in environment, I just continued on with the activities as I was doing previously. So in some ways I really look fondly back to the cub/scouts' days because

it helped bridge that event in my life. It also worked out that my initial cub master, who was a chap called Mick Lee. Mick Lee became a local government councillor back in the early sixties. That links in a little bit there, that I knew Mick Lee, one of the early councillors. He was my former cub master and then later... well he actually lived in the same street, a bit further down in Mars Street, about 200 Mars Street. Then later in life I joined the City of Perth, he was a councillor there, and then he was a councillor at Vic Park when I joined them and he was the Mayor of Vic Park. I shifted from Mars Street to a couple of other houses in Carlisle and lived in O'Dea Street, which he lived in.

HC           What was Mick Lee like in those days?

**HAYES:**           Mick was extremely socially involved – well community involved. He ran the local cub/scouts, he ran the local football club. In the early to mid-forties and he took on Australian Rules Football and coached the local junior football club, the Carlisle Football Club. He was involved there for a long time. Just got so involved with all community groups across the area. A very gregarious person. He had his own business – he was in the plumbing business and set up his own plumbing business that operated out of the Carlisle/Welshpool area. Then in his early fifties, or mid-fifties, he had a major health issue and he then retired from work and spent really the last 30 years of his life, solely devoted to local government.

HC           You mentioned he had a lot of outgoing activities, - I should have asked whether your family were involved in the community at all, local government?

**HAYES:**           Mum and Dad were both involved in tennis, they played at a court up in East Vic Park, over in Beatty Avenue/Carnarvon Street, East Vic Park area, near where now the East Vic Park Primary School is located. They were both involved with going with the local residents to a regular card night, regular Friday night cards type thing. As I said earlier, Dad was involved with cycling and then... Well he rode himself and then in the early sixties got involved with cycling administration in the district and my three brothers got involved and then later I got involved with cycling, so it came from that type of component. Mum was not involved in groups too much other than just meeting up with some of the ladies. In her later life she got involved with seniors' groups dealing with crafts and hobbies and that type of activity. You mentioned local government – they weren't involved at all really directly in the local government, but because we knew Mick Lee through my scouts - he was one of the early members for the Carlisle Ward – perhaps I can cover that area a little bit with you later. We knew Mick there. The other member for the Carlisle Ward, was a gentleman called Harold Hawthorne, who ran a rag trader's business in the area<sup>6</sup>. We knew him because of his business. He was involved very much in having the Carlisle Ward established as part of the City of Perth. We had that direct contact with members who were in the local council and also the fact that my dad was working in the council, we had that association.

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<sup>6</sup> According to the Australian Electoral Roll, of 1954, subdivision of Belmont, Harold Esmonde Hawthorn lived at 93 Planet Street, Carlisle and was described as a 'bag merchant'.

HC           What was Harold like?

**HAYES:**           Perhaps just to go back a fraction there, because I think it's important to look at him in the context we were... The Perth City Council took over the Town of Victoria Park in, I think it was 1917 type era.<sup>7</sup> The City of Perth took over the Town of Victoria Park, as it was, and it continued with what was called eight wards at that time. Seven of the wards were located on the north side of the river, on the other side, and the one ward covered Vic Park, Carlisle, Lathlain, Burswood, a bit of Welshpool - a bit of St James, it is today. Harold was part of that, but he recognised that we only three members out of the 24 members in the City of Perth and we were just simply being disadvantaged – we weren't getting any voice in the area. The City of Perth were very much interested in keeping a presence on this of the city. Over on the Burswood area now, where the Casino is, was the rubbish tip for the City of Perth. On George Street, near Anketell was where they had the night service deposit for the City of Perth, so all the night soil was deposited there. All the night carts from the other side of the city all came across the Causeway and took their produce up to the sanitary site there. Also on Kent Street, near where you have the Harold Rosser Park now, was the major source of sand for their engineering services, you know, making concrete and all the stuff that they did. So this side of the town from the city's point of view was where they dumped all their rubbish, dumped all their sewerage and got a source of sand. I think Harold recognised that we were being treated pretty poorly; we weren't getting much in the way of amenity and services, so he really campaigned heavily to have a ninth ward, which is when the Carlisle Ward was established. That was the first memory I really have of Harold Hawthorne, was when he was out on the street on Saturday mornings with a little cake stall type of thing, just talking to people and selling cakes to get them to come along I think. But talking to them and running a campaign and getting a petition to have a ninth ward established for the City of Perth, which then was established – I think it was 1963<sup>8</sup>. Then that meant that this side of the river got six votes rather than the three votes previously, in the City of Perth. He was very dedicated to the overall position of Victoria Park and its issue that with the City of Perth it was being treated as a second-rate orphan.

HC           It sounds like, from what you say about Mick Lee and Harold Hawthorne, that with working in the community they were working among the ratepayers – did that make them more accessible to people than the councillors are today?

**HAYES:**           Oh yes, very much so. Yes they were very... As I said, Mick Lee was very heavily involved in establishing a swimming pool, the Somerset Pool, as it was. That was the second pool in the City of Perth. They set up the Beatty Park Pool for the Commonwealth Games which was held in 1962. Originally the Beatty Park Pool - they were looking at putting it in Kings Park and there was a major community backlash against that – at having such a facility stuck in Kings Park, so it went over the Beatty

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<sup>7</sup> Victoria Park was a Roads Board District from 1894-1897, a Municipal Council 1897-1917, part of the Perth City Council from 1917-1995. The Town of Victoria Park Council was formed in 1995 and continues. [See *Beyond Matta Gerup: a history of Victoria Park*, by Susannah Thompson, Town of Victoria Park, 2012.]

<sup>8</sup> This is correct. See *Beyond Matta Gerup: a history of Victoria Park*, p. 143.

Park area, as it is now. The second pool that they built was at Somerset, over in East Vic Park there. That was built in the mid-sixties<sup>9</sup> and Mick Lee was heavily involved with getting that together. Mick Lee and Harold Hawthorne were both heavily involved in getting the Senior Citizens' Centre established in Carlisle, which they then named after Harold Hawthorne.

HC            You mentioned Vic Park being the dumping ground for the City of Perth, but there was quite a lot of industry and pollution over here wasn't there?

**HAYES:**            When I said earlier that there was residential with a lot of bushland, yes, there was a lot of industrial components there. You had the State Sawmills being located at the corner of Mint Street and the railway line. That had continually each day the noise of saws squealing from about 7 am to five-o'clock-ish at night. It produced a lot of sawdust as a by-product. In those days all they did was simply stack it up in a big heap and put a match to it, so you had a continuous smouldering of sawdust, burnt 24/7, with the plumes of smoke going up from the area. One of the early things I remember – we didn't have watches and that too much in those days – but you could time the day by the siren that went off for start work, morning tea, lunchtime and afternoon tea, knock-off sirens from the sawmills which you'd hear all across the suburb there. That was a good little timepiece in the district, to hear the siren go off. It certainly had noise pollution and also a smoke pollution factor that was generated there. Then right beside the railway line – initially the timber for the State Sawmills was brought on steam trains, as there was. There was a by-pass at the Carlisle Station. They'd come along at night, pull off onto that and then shunt the carriages into the sawmills, so at night-time you'd just have continual shunt, shunt, shunting of trains and all the rattling and banging that went on. Where we lived we didn't hear it, but it certainly affected the people who lived closer to the railway line, they had that going through the night, night hours, with all that shunting. They had to do it at night because during the day time the lines were being used for commuter use. So you had that component. Then just beside the railway line and Sunbury Road and Miller Street, you had the Cullity Timbers. This was the other neighbouring block to that of the State Sawmills, you had Cullity Timbers being established. Their main purpose was producing compact board, which required veneering and gluing raw timber together, so you get all the plywood being produced. That had a major odour pollution, it really pervaded the neighbourhood, especially when you had a westerly breeze blowing. It was quite a sickening, toxic-type smell. That went on for 20, 30, years. That was a major factor that caused, well helped, Harold Hawthorne and that, to try and get more representation of our needs in the City of Perth. Then going further along the railway line to across the other side of Great Eastern Highway and down near the Rivervale Railway Station, was the Swan Portland Cement Factory, which used shale out of the river to produce cement. That operated with a major smoke stack. I don't know how they produced the issue, but the smoke stack continually had dust emitting from it which blew all over the residences in the Burswood area cum Rivervale. People just had to regularly paint their houses because of the corrosion that occurred on their

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<sup>9</sup> The Somerset Pool was officially opened in 1966.

roofs and houses and motor vehicles – the duco just broke down under all the dust that was being produced by the cement works there. That was discontinued – I am not exactly sure, I would have thought the nineties type time<sup>10</sup>. Then it got restored and that's really where they now have built the Mirvac Residential Redevelopment complex, with about six to seven towers of twenty storeys high. There was major land restoration work before they built the residential development there.

HC Keith, with all the nasty smells and the dust and that sort of thing, did that bother the residents at all?

**HAYES:** Yes, oh yes, very much so. The early to mid-fifties a Ratepayer and Residents' Association was formed – or a Progress Society was formed, and its major driving force was pushing for these industrial uses to be initially controlled and more so to be removed from the area. It took at least twenty years for a lot of this to be stopped. At that time people at State Government level just rolled it along. The appreciation that the city was spreading out hadn't been accepted and subsequently the State... all of those uses now have been discontinued and all of the areas have been rehabilitated and put to other uses. Yes, as I said earlier, I alluded to health issues. I believe that a lot of health issues were a product of those polluting factors in the area that pervaded from time to time, depending the way the wind blew – literally as it blew. It wasn't until perhaps the seventies that really any significant impact to remove those services really happened.

HC Just harking back to your childhood, did you have any pets?

**HAYES:** Our family always had dogs and cats and birds of sorts. My father, one of his activities, he was a breeder of canaries at certainly State level and won a lot of State and National awards. Then later he became a major judge for canaries. So we always had birds around the place and we had dogs and cats and we even at one time stabled a horse in our backyard. We regularly had a goat or a sheep or something of that form, as well as our chooks and ducks. I personally, when I lost my sight, one of the issues when I was in hospital, every afternoon for tea we got meat and salad and grated vegetables, and I hated grated carrot, couldn't stomach it. When I came home I said, "I just don't want grated carrot, I want to get a guinea pig, so it can eat the carrot." So initially I suppose my first direct pet was a guinea pig which I had for a while until it died. Then a bit later than that I got... a little side-track, because it is of social value I think – when I went, at the age of nine, to the School for the Blind, which is over in Maylands (it was annex to the primary school) I used to get transported there each day by... In fact one of the teacher went around and picked up kids from all around the metro area in his own private car and took us to school and back again. A lady contacted the school and said, "Would a couple of children like to come for a farm stay at our farm at Darken," which is down near Williams way. She'd apparently come out from England, she used to work at the Institute for the Blind in England and was newly married, came out here and wanted a contact into the blind community. So another lad and myself went to her and we were there three or four years running on the

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<sup>10</sup> In 1997 Swan Cement relocated to Kwinana.

holidays. She had a litter of dogs, Labrador dogs; she offered one of the dogs to us one time and I got my pet dog, Bruno, who is a black Labrador. I had Bruno for about fifteen years as my pet.

HC Well since you've mentioned school we may as well deal with your education now. But before we start, what was the main impact of losing your sight, did it change your lifestyle in any enormous way – you did say you persisted in going to cubs and things?

**HAYES:** A little bit of a 'yes' and a 'no'. Some people who have lost their sight earlier I think had a disadvantage in the sense that... I had perception of colour, know what colour is, it's a meaningful concept. Someone who was blind from birth, which most of my peers at school were, they were of that era that they lost their sight at birth or early childhood; the concept of colour is no really meaningful to them, you had to relate it to something like heat or vibration or temperature or something, but really not a meaningful concept. So at the age of nine losing your sight you really got the vitality of life – the up and going kid. In that sense if you had to pick an age, it was a pretty good age to lose my sight at, I think. I tended to see that - that I had the benefit being able to run around and ride a bike and kick a football and all those types of issues. So okay you lost your sight and either macabrely or not I think one of the things a comedian said to the parents after I'd lost my sight was - because as I said earlier we were pretty low-income earners – was that oh well, at least we won't have to pay as much electricity for lighting now. [Laughter] This was at the age of nine! I had four older siblings, that was a bonus. We carried on life as it is pretty much and, as I said, went to all those general activities that kids did in the bush, running around the bush and kicking footballs. I had a little bike... I'll transgress slightly because it was really one of those fortuitous things to happen in life. When the Second World War was on my dad went into town to try and buy some tyres for his bike. He couldn't buy tyres anywhere, he went into Sandovers bike area. The only way he could buy tyres was he bought a tandem. So he bought a tandem bike home and we had a tandem at home. When I lost my sight the obvious outcome was that then I started riding the tandem with Dad or my brother. I continued doing that type of activity because we had this one at home, because of the fact that Dad couldn't get tyres during the wartime.

HC I think I should say here that you turned out to be a very successful cyclist because there are some references to you in Trove referring to some of your success. I will make sure that we footnote those.<sup>11</sup>

**HAYES:** Yes I tried to do most things. There were limiting factors. You couldn't play sporting games – competitive-type games. You could kick a football or something like that, but you couldn't go and play a football match. So it did have some restrictions. Kids take adversity in their lives pretty much on the jaw and say, "Okay I'm not doing that, but I'll do other things," and just get on with the fun of life. I really

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<sup>11</sup> *Canberra Times*, 16 Jan 1985, p 36, *Canberra Times*, 10 April 1985, p. 8.

attribute that very much to the family, their attitude towards handling my situation – my parents overall, but also having older brothers and sister, who just treated it pretty much as is. I think that very much affected my life in the sense that I believe that a lot of people with disabilities have been sheltered by parents and treated a little bit differently and restricted in what they do, trying to protect them. That means that in later life they tend to live a lot more in a subculture with their disabled peers. Whilst I've had that contact I think I've lived a lot more independent life than a lot of my peers have done because of the upbringing that I had.

HC            Yes, you certainly have got out and about. Education – what sort of experience was school for you?

**HAYES:**            It just took a major change. In my initial primary school years, prior to losing my sight I was a real plodder at school. I attribute a bit of that to the fact that... I had a brain tumour that caused my loss of sight and it was possibly that in my early childhood years that brain tumour was developing, and I think that might have put some degree of pressure on my capacity of education. After I'd lost my sight I went to the special school. I think that was quite enlightening in the fact that here is a guy who one year didn't know a blind person and now was in a school with eighteen other blind children, the majority of which were totally blind. There was about three of the eighteen had limited vision, but were all totally blind in effect, whereas today the school population is the opposite. In Special Ed there's about 300+ kids with a vision impairment, there might only be about eight of those that are totally blind.

HC            Your first school, we should say for the record, was the Holy Name Catholic School.

**HAYES:**            Yes, went to the Holy Name Catholic School in Lion Street. Then I had to go to Maylands Primary School where the Special Ed Class was located. So I went there basically for about Standard Three as it was then - Third Standard, Grade Four – until Grade Seven. I'll just cross back there in a moment if I can. I'd like to just touch on there because it was quite an enlightening time I had. I was now with this group of blind people and they were running all around the school yard and that. I was pretty timid, how do I run around the yard when I can't see things. They taught us a lot of mobility-type skills, which are important. One thing that you do develop is the ability to 'hear' physical objects. It's called echo location and the media recently have done some video programmes on it. You can basically 'hear' where objects are. You can do it in two ways. You can hear it – it's like a blanket image – is the best way I can suggest it to you. You might be sitting on a chair reading a book and you sense that somebody's come in the room. It's just that sensation that you feel there's a wall there or something in front of you – it might be a motor vehicle or something, be some obstacle in front, you just feel that position, that item is there. Also you can use a direct echo, where you tap, rattle keys or tap something metallic and you can hear an echo back off an object and you can pick where it is. So they taught us this type of skill. Initially I couldn't do it; it took about three months before I started.... "Oh yes, I can understand what you're talking about." So I was having to learn skills of that form in

addition to learning Braille and learning to read and write Braille and learning to learn by touch, which was quite a skill. I remember one day – we had two teachers at the primary school - one was a sighted teacher, a gentleman, Mr Angus Stewart. He used to pick us up, he was the one that picked all the kids up. There was a vision-impaired lady, Joan Laurensen and she taught us a lot of the blindness related skills. There was a big tactile globe of the world I remember. She'd say, "Feel the globe." All the countries and that were raised on the globe. I was feeling it and then really quite aggressively told me, "You feel with two hands, not one hand." I just used to put a hand on it, not appreciating the skill that if you are going to feel something, use your two hands to feel it if possible, rather than one hand. Learning just those basic type items. So you had that extra layer in your schooling as well as learning the education programme, learning to operate in a different media – Braille and learning lifetime skills. Once a week, I think, as a group of kids we'd all go for a walk along the streets of Maylands, down to a local park to learn mobility skills and walking using a cane. Then when we got to the park we'd have a bit of a run around the park and the vision-impaired lady, Joan Laurensen, would teach us then a lot about feeling plants and recognising plants by touching the different textures to find different flowers and the leaves and all these things. That was quite an issue of introducing us to environment, which Joan was able to very effectively do. Also making us recognise to use smell, recognising different plants with odours and things of that form. She taught us a lot of those, developing our other skills to recognise our environment. It was a good time, but a very full learning time.

Then when I finished primary school, at that stage there was virtually no provision for secondary education for the blind. You could go to Melbourne or go to Sydney where they had a school for the blind, but for someone who hadn't gone to Northam even, and coming from a family that would have had a lot of difficulty in putting us into full-time boarding over in Melbourne or Sydney... As I said earlier, my family recognised education, my eldest brother became a schoolteacher, so we had a schoolteacher in the family. I said, "No, I want to go to high school in WA." That hadn't happened before. So I applied to the government school and also to CBC, the Trinity College (as it was then). I applied there, and they said, "No, we can't handle a blind person in our class." I then stayed at the primary school for that year. It took about six months to get material put into format Braille and stuff, that I could use to do correspondence education. At the end of that year I'd done about half of what is now Year Eight, at school, first year high school. I applied at the end of that second year to another Catholic school over in East Vic Park and another government school – in fact the government school that my brother was teaching at, a high school down at Armadale. Again no, we can't handle that! So I stayed on at the primary school for what was then the eighth year or something and completed Year One correspondence and started Year Two. Then on my third attempt I was accepted into Belmont High School and went into Year Two, high school, what would be now Year Nine. It was a very large three-year high school, they had in excess of 2 000 students. I think in Year Two there was something like twelve, fourteen, class streams. They put me into the 'A' stream. In some ways that was extremely challenging, but it set the bar extremely high. The form

teacher was a Mr Ian Kerr and he'd be... In education I mentioned earlier, Angus Stewart, he was significant in assisting us to do my correspondence education, secondary education, my first two years. He really tutored us. He taught the class and then he would act as my sight tutor. Really he was a catalyst for my education. Then Ian Kerr was at the secondary level at Belmont. He set a goal to all the students in our class, he said, "If you're in the 'A' stream, you have to average 75%. If you don't average 75% it's not satisfactory." We, as a class, were very much an academic, elite snob group, I would think. We weren't linked too much to the school looking back at it, but people strove their little hearts out to get the 75% average. That really made us aim high, it certainly did. So we went through there. In my Junior year I passed all my subjects and got three or four distinctions and won a Commonwealth scholarship to do upper secondary school. There were ten in our class got a scholarship and I was one of those ten. That was quite significant to help fund my Year Eleven and Twelve which went over to Kent Street High School. The standard was then that you had to achieve, if you don't achieve you're not in Stream A. It had effect on us in two ways I think, in that I recognised that I had to succeed at open secondary school because no-one else had done it before. If I failed I thought it was going to close the door to anyone else following on behind me for integrated education. So it really meant that I put in way beyond the normal amount of hours just studying to achieve my levels. Also I didn't have any education support – there were no education support teachers at that time. My father, in secondary level and a fair bit of my uni work, was very much a support. He'd record material on a tape-recorder every night, come home with books and he put chapters of science and history and whatever we were doing, on tapes. So a lot of material was put on tape. I had my Braille writing machine and then I had a typewriter that I'd produce my assignments on. I didn't have really a normal adolescent upbringing time, I just didn't have the opportunity.

HC Did you have readers then, as well?

**HAYES:** Not outside the home really; my family did it all completely.

HC You mentioned Angus Stewart and Ian Kerr, but also before we started recording, there was a Mr Henderson from Kent Street.

**HAYES:** That was at Kent Street, when I went over to Kent Street. Mr Henderson was in the social science area which dealt with economics and history. They were the area that I went on to at the uni level. He was very much a mentor and one I found an affinity to, because of my orientation towards those two components. In some ways at upper secondary, Years Eleven and Twelve, my initial thought was to orient towards doing sciences because I really liked the maths and science area, but in that time there was very restricted syllabus streams you could do. If I was to do the science stream, I had to also do a language and I had to do technical drawing. So it really meant that I wasn't going to be able to do a complement of subjects that were needed, I was going to be cut down to three or four subjects, because of that inflexibility. I wasn't appreciative that maybe I could have done three subjects at school and done some night school at Tech, I wasn't aware of that. So I thought okay, well

rather than doing the science stream, I'll have to go into the social science stream where I could do economics and history and I could do biology and human biology and those types of subjects. So that directed me into doing the social science.

HC Why teaching, Keith?

**HAYES:** I think I decided on it for a couple of reasons – because education was important, as I said earlier, secondly I had a brother that was in the teaching field. Also I saw that there was a need to recognise the issue that blind people needed to be educated. To me, a follow on was that if I am educated I should then start helping educate blind students and I did a bit of tutoring in that area whilst I was at uni and that. While at uni I was backfilling and doing tutoring of blind people in the secondary curriculum. Also I didn't see being blind as a major impediment to teach as a career path. Yes, there were some – certainly – barriers towards... A big barrier was the recognition of discipline and things of that form, but I felt there were ways to get around those components. Also orienting towards the upper secondary – rather than primary – primary level would have been extremely difficult with duty of care. But I saw secondary and very much TAFE cum university as being appropriate areas. Also when I went through my uni degree, one of the lecturers at university was a Dr Arnold Cook, who was a blind lecturer. He was a peer in the teaching area when I was at university. I'll just do a little side-track there; Arnold Cook established the Guide Dog Movement initially in WA and in Australia. Later on in my life I was involved with setting up a memorial statue for Arnold Cook which is still present in Kings Park<sup>12</sup>. He was another person in my life who was quite significant. He taught economics; he was essentially in the area of monetary economics – money, finance. When I finished my initial economics degree he was a little bit keen on getting me to go to Harvard University which is where he went to do his PhD I saw it as perhaps... economics was... whilst I'd done my degree I didn't want to have economics as a lifetime academic career. But later on I went to Harvard University and walked the hallowed campus and so forth, so I felt at least it was a bit of a tribute to Arnold that I visited the university that he went to.

HC You actually went to UWA. You also mentioned Peter Tannock as well as Arnold Cook.

**HAYES:** When I'd finished my economics degree I went into doing a DipEd, which was leading into a teaching type area. Peter Tannock was one of the lecturers on the course. I knew of Peter Tannock as a footballer with East Perth Football team. He was quite a good ruckman, which was a major role within the football team, in those times especially.<sup>13</sup> So I knew of him and then when he turned up to be my lecturer in sociology... He then introduced a new course which was called the

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<sup>12</sup> Dr Arnold Charles Cook, (1922-1981) was an Australian academic and senior economics lecturer at the University of Western Australia. He was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at the age of fifteen and was totally blind by the age of 18. See also: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnold\\_Cook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnold_Cook)

<sup>13</sup> Peter Darcy Tannock, (b. 1940), a former academic, was also an Australian Rules Football player, coach and administrator. He played for East Perth from 1963-1966.

Economics of Politics of Education, he floated it as a new subject area. In the base degree of economics I did politics as well and I thought let's go into doing this area. So Peter was lecturing in it and I joined in and did that as one of his peer class members. That led onto then choosing to do a Master's course in the Economics and Politics of Education.

HC            You talked about doing things as a young man, but it seems to me from the list you gave me of the groups you were involved in, you did become very socially aware – you sort of developed a social conscience and started joining things where you could make a difference, like WA Guild of Business and Professional Blind Disabled Sports Association, the Perth Junior Chamber of Commerce and Cystic Fibrosis Association. When were you aware that you really wanted to start joining things and making a difference?

**HAYES:**            When I was in high school – it was more about perhaps Year Eleven, Twelve type time. I became aware that there was a consumer-based group for the blind in Perth; in fact it was established by Dr Arnold Cook (as I mentioned to you earlier) – he set it up. This was mid-sixties it was established. I became aware of it just on the network of blindness, that this organisation was formed. It was called the Guild of Business and Professional Blind – a little bit pretentious. I went along to it and here was I, a young individual, seventeen, twenty-year-old type thing, very much gung-ho, wanting to change the world. They were sitting around a table, a lot of senior people who were staid in a lot of the old traditions that the only work for blind people was to go to the Industrial School for the Blind and do basketwork and making mats and so forth, or if you were really good you could go out and work on a switchboard and be a switchboard operator for the rest of your life. Then there was Arnold Cook sitting above that who was a lecturer at university, but there wasn't anything in between. They deemed a lot of these activities as being 'professional blind'; I thought hardly! I initially joined with a bit of an ambition for reform, let's get down and really make it that there is a variety of career paths open for blind people. I was really very active in the area, saying, "We do have to really change and get out and get involved in the community more and try and develop a lot more career opportunities for people to go into." Thinking there's just a dearth of them around the place. Running parallel to that there was an organisation... Well it changed its name a little bit later, but they then broadened, and their theme and became New Horizons for the Blind, with a focus on trying to develop career opportunities and getting life skills and developing also social involvement of the blind in different groups and activities around the place. So it did have that impact of trying to re-focus them away from just accepting where they were, looking into... we need to make life better. So that was really through their Guild, that initial organisation, which is now called Blind Citizens WA, but it's the same organisation, just evolved its format.

HC            Do you think you would have got involved in things like that and trying to change things for the better if you hadn't been blind?

**HAYES:** Oh no, not at all! Also if I hadn't had the situation of saying, "You can't have secondary education, you can't go to secondary school." Then when I finished my uni stuff they said, "You can't go out and be a schoolteacher, you can't join the Education Department." These negative rebuffs, you know, the old red rag to a bull, just simply entrenched it more. So very much that type of issue I think provided the catalyst – in some ways rather annoying at the time – they provided the catalyst there. But as I alluded to earlier, rightly or wrongly, it's a responsibility I also adopted.

HC What, to pave the way for others?

**HAYES:** Yes, yes. One other thing, if I can just go back. You mentioned also the sporting one, the disabled sports area. When I was at uni, when I went into the Education Faculty to do the DipEd, B.Ed, I kicked around a bit with the phys ed group that were there, because I was in their faculty and the fact that my brother was in phys. ed. It overlapped, I knew some of the staff members and so forth, there. So I got linked up with them a bit. One of the staff members there started to try and develop an interest in sport for the disabled. Richard Lockwood. He developed a curriculum dealing with sports for the disabled type stuff. He formed this body to try and foster in the community, sports of the disabled and I came on, I think, as his vice-president. You know, "Would you join the committee?" "Yes," joined the committee. He had a group of half a dozen or so people that came together to try and promote that activity which is a major area of the academic curriculum within the Phys. Ed. Faculty, it's come through. It also then led into society to form a group now, which is called the WA Disabled Sports Association, WADSA, which actually is also based in the Town of Victoria Park. That was formed, I got involved with that a little bit. That group went on to form a catalyst to set up a state disabled sports association and evolved through the sporting component for people with disabilities. That came through initially from going for runs at lunchtime with a few of these guys from the PE Department who wanted to go for a run through Kings Park. I'd go running with them at lunchtime and we said, "Well we really need to get this happening out there, because there is nothing out there." The other was your Chamber of Commerce, Perth Chamber of Commerce, I became just aware that there was an organisation in the community that promoted personal development and training which the Junior Chamber of Commerce, or Perth Jaycees, did. I am not sure how I found out about them, but they ran basically a Rostrum group type programme – well more than that, but they provided public speaking training, they provided training in leadership activities. So I went along and joined them; they were based at the Perth Chamber of Commerce, as it was, in Perth Club in Sherwood Court in Perth. I was with them for about five or six years and that helped dramatically in helping... through public speaking, debating, leadership skills and development. One of the projects that they adopted as a charitable project was to adopt cystic fibrosis, which is an ailment within young kids affecting their respiratory system and their digestive system. The mucus was a very thickening element and they couldn't really breathe very well because their lungs were all filled up with thick mucus and they didn't digest food very well because of enzyme problems they had in the gastric area. The life of the kids then was about ten years expectation, maybe a bit

more than that. Anyhow another guy from the Jaycees and myself, contacted Princess Margaret Hospital to see if we could get together a parent group, have a parent group form, and we'd try and help establish it. They couldn't give us the names of parents, but they got a group of a dozen or so, parents together. We met at one of the parents' homes. I don't know how they endured it, but we went through the old business procedure, setting up an organisation with constitutions and business plans! But that organisation was established. I was involved with the committee of it very much for ten, fifteen years. I got appointed as a life member of the organisation. It's still operating today, but the life expectancy of the kids now is upwards of 40 years. One of the inaugural parents there, they had two sons, who were eight or nine at the time, one of them died about the age of ten, the other one would be 50, 60, now and is still living. That's one of my biggest satisfactions of life really, that organisation... I've drifted away from it over the last twenty or thirty years, but to know that Terry Self and myself were the ones who really were the catalyst for getting them together and got the organisation. They endured all the business planning stuff. It was going to succeed, and it did and it's a prime organisation in our disability centre.

HC            So, a credit to you. Was is about this time – it might have been in the seventies, where you became involved with the Carlisle Ratepayers and Residents' Association?

**HAYES:**            As I went through and did my uni degree, politics, family linked to local councils – Dad with his job, knew the local councillors around the place, studied politics, studied economics. I very much saw that when I was at uni I had a mass of support of reading assistance from the public. When I was in primary and secondary school the parents did that, but at uni it wasn't possible. I had a team of students and general public who read for twenty plus hours a week. They did a roster, someone would come in for an hour a week or two hours on a certain day. We'd just check material that Braille out notes or put on tape recorders etc. I had this very large... It was a team effort, it really was a team effort. That's just not putting me down, it was a team effort that got me over the line – it wouldn't have happened without the support of the general public. I wanted to give something back to the community, I really did because I wouldn't be anywhere near where I am today without that support. So Dad said, "Well let's put your hand up for the local government and see if you can give a little bit back to the community through that aspect." So I saw the pathway there was to get involved with the local Ratepayers' Association which I would have joined about the mid-seventies and went in there as Treasurer and Vice-President and then eventually President – all that type of thing. Worked through the local ratepayer group. As a precursor to putting in my nomination form to Council – for the Perth City Council.

HC            Any personalities that stand out in your mind on the Association in those days – in the Ratepayers'?

**HAYES:**            Well initially even in that time which was a long time ago, Mick Lee was involved around the organisation. There was another gentleman called Alan Croft who was a member for the Ratepayers group for one term, back in the mid-

seventies. He came from our local church, so we knew Alan. He had a large family of about ten children. One of their children had a profound disability. We knew Alan through the church and through the fact that he had a daughter profoundly disabled. He was there. There was another gentleman – another colleague really – John Bissett<sup>14</sup>, who joined the group as well about the same time as I did. He set himself a goal to also stand for Council. He stood the year before I did, so he stood one year and then I stood the next year. The Council at that time for the Carlisle Ward, had three members, all had been sitting on there for twenty, 30 years vintage. Here are we, two young guys in our early to mid-thirties, thinking we need to push these guys on a bit. So John then stood for one of them. He's been on Council, the City of Perth and then on to Vic Park Council, for almost 30 years I would think. He discontinued with Council in 2015 and then I came in the following year, after him.

I nominated the year I did, in 1981, for a couple of reasons. I more or less targeted the sitting members – the one who I thought was the most vulnerable one. It was a deliberate 'Who's there now, let's target that one?' So I waited until '81 – John went in '80 and I didn't want to go against John, as we'd have had two newbies in one year, but I also thought that the other gentleman was more vulnerable. Also as it turned out 1981 was quite a significant year in that it was the International Year of Disabled Persons, so there was a very high focus on disability across the community. Just by coincidence it was the same year that Graham Edwards was elected to the City of Stirling. So we had Graham Edwards and myself being elected in the same year. Graham Edwards went on to join State Parliament and was a minister in the State Parliament and then went on to Federal Parliament.<sup>15</sup>

HC           Joining the Ratepayers' Association and being an office-bearer, was this your first experience of local government?

**HAYES:**           Yes, yes.

HC           So did you deliberately join the Ratepayers' to go into Council, or was it you just happened to be in the Ratepayers'...?

**HAYES:**           No, I saw that as a conduit towards the Council, so that's why I joined the group, yes.

HC           What sort of knowledge did you have of local government before that time?

**HAYES:**           I wouldn't say I was totally ignorant because my father worked for Council, as an employee and that meant that we as kids went along to the Council building where he worked, at times, we'd go along and meet Dad at work, over at the depot in East Perth, where now City Farmers are located; we'd go in there. Sometimes

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<sup>14</sup> For further information see: <https://johnbissett.org/about/>

<sup>15</sup> For details of Mr Edwards service at local, State and Federal Government level, see 'Biographical Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia' through the Parliament of WA website at [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au)

he had work on the Town Hall, so we went to the Town Hall for different things. I know he did a lot of maintenance work on the clocktower at one time, so we went up there. In fact you mentioned earlier about home pets, he was able to capture a lot of pigeons that were up on the top of the tower. They were brought home and we had them as pets for a while, so we had a group of pigeons for a while. We went into the old Council Chambers that used to be in Murray Street and then the new Council Chambers down on St George's Terrace. So we frequented around the Council buildings because of Dad's involvement. We knew members of Council – Harold Hawthorne and Mick Lee and other people from our ward. Tom Wardle, a mayor back in the sixties-ish - Tom the Cheap Grocer<sup>16</sup>, who also, as well as having his supermarket open in South Perth, opened a fruit and veggie shop in Carlisle, the Carlisle Supermarket. So we had links with some of these personalities. They by studying government I had an appreciation of the roles of Federal, State and local government you see, so that was through my academic studies as well.

HC            So you started work in the sixties?

**HAYES:**            Well full-time was about 1977 - when I commenced my work within TAFE, but before that whilst I was at uni I did some part-time tutoring work. I did tutoring, as I alluded to earlier, of some blind students, helping them with mathematics and some other subjects, teaching them skills of using some of the Braille equipment, new equipment at the time. Also I was then involved with doing some tutoring at uni in economics at St Thomas More College, when I was resident at St Thomas More College for three years – I did some tutoring in economics there. Then at uni, while I was studying I did some tutoring in economics and politics of education. They were part-time positions within those dimensions there. It was difficult for a blind person, you couldn't go out and do your work at Hungry Jacks and do jobs like that, you didn't have those types of opportunities. It wasn't really until I went to TAFE that I really took up what I call employment. That was a product of a bit of an accident in some ways in that I applied for both secondary school education and I started then walking TAFE, knocking door by door. I knocked on the door of Perth TAFE and the principal of Perth TAFE at the time, a Mr Brennan, fortuitously, he'd been at university, studied education, and had Arnold Cook as his lecturer. So he was familiar with blind people, familiar with teaching. He wasn't freaked out about the issue of having somebody as a blind teacher within that 'A' Sector. It also happened that within his department, dealing with the economics area, Social Studies Department, there was a vacancy at that time for a staff member. It was just one of those serendipities a little bit, knocking on the right door at the right time and had a person who had an appreciation of your abilities. He offered me the position at TAFE and I took that on and worked there for 30 years in a teaching capacity, mainly in the area of economics – well economics and social sciences. I was teaching a subject which was Australian politics, I was teaching some basic Australian geography at the time. Then I moved into teaching some law subject because I'd done a little bit of law in my uni course.

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<sup>16</sup> Tom Wardle (1912-1977), Mayor of Perth from 1967 to 1972, was well-known for his supermarket chain 'Tom the Cheap'.

That was basically all subjects to people doing business studies, because our economics courses were for people mainly doing accounting and other business studies, as a basic unit for them. I then did a bit of law for them. In the later years of my career at TAFE there was a redeployment issue because the economics area and the business studies were being phased out because people were starting to go more and more to uni rather than doing it at TAFE. I then, in latter years, did community development studies.

I think one of my main satisfactions with TAFE, toward my latter years I got involved with a bridging course which was principally for ladies 35, 45, years of age, who had left school at fifteen years of age, got married, raised kids. Now the kids had grown up and left home, here's mum without any skills, what does she do? So she wanted to go off and go into a training course, didn't have any qualifications. TAFE had a bridging course which enabled them to come in and we provided the base skills in numeracy, literacy and social science areas, to then be able to qualify for TAFE studies or to go into university-type studies. That was really rewarding in that I, for many years and even today, run into some of the students of that day who come along and say, "Oh I did the course and went off and did accountancy at So-and-So and was working at this business for twenty years," or something. Just the gratitude, knowing that you gave them their opportunity to go and have a second chance at life, at getting employment.

HC Yes, you made a difference.

**HAYES:** Oh yes, you did. They were people who wanted to learn, and it was mature-age type group and that was really a very rewarding component.

HC You were with the City of Perth, for the Carlisle Ward, for nine years, from when you were about 32 to 41 I think it was, what do you think you achieved in that time at the City of Perth. You did list some – a higher profile given to the Carlisle Ward... an increase in members...

**HAYES:** Well that was, as I touched on earlier, when the Carlisle Ward was added to the City of Perth, back in the early sixties. But the City of Perth was quite an interesting being. It was being with its nine wards, 27 members, of which 21 of them were centred on around Perth, North Perth, West Perth. Then they had this spur out to the coast – the Coast Ward – because part of the establishment of the City of Perth was to have an access to the beach, so there was a tramline put out to the beach, so they had their access out to the City of Perth location there, with their endowment lands component. They had this element stuck on the side. Socio-economic, it was very much middle to upper-class people, business people essentially, people in their forties, 60 years of age, independent working activities. You had very much that type of component whereas the Vic Park Ward and what was then named the Carlisle Ward - they got renamed later in life, which I was directly involved in happening – might touch on that in a while – but that aside, our ward, which I very much alluded to, people coming from working-class type backgrounds. So we were a bit alienated in that type

of issue. John Bissett and I were two individuals who were not of the business class. The City of Perth used to have all their meetings in the day time, all their committee meetings during the day and then their main council meeting was on a Monday night, I think about four o'clock to ten o'clock, twelve o'clock sometimes at night it went through to. But all their committees operated during the day. So it really meant the people who were working people couldn't sit on the council because they couldn't sit on any of the committees and if you weren't on any of the committees you couldn't perform a role in council. John was a public servant and was able to operate that he could get – and I think he used his annual leave a bit – one day off a week to attend the big committee that used to run for ten hours all day, the Planning Committee. So he'd mainly just sit on that and that was his major involvement, sitting on that committee. Then Council would be, as I said, from four o'clock on the third Monday of the month, or whatever it was, so he would knock off work a bit early. So he was able to use annual leave and a bit of flexible working conditions to do that. I was able to... because in TAFE you had in effect, about 23 hours teaching time per week. Teaching could be between 9 am in the morning to 9.30 at night. I said, "Well could I work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday nights – I don't mind doing night work," whereas a lot of staff didn't like doing night work. I'd work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and had the Monday night off so I could go to council. That meant I didn't have many hours, day hours, during the week to teach. I would then select my committees on the basis of... I might just work Tuesday night during the day time, so I'd pick the committee on Tuesday. Because of the nature of the job I was able to manoeuvre it around, but generally people on council weren't workers they were people who were in management type positions.

HC Did that mean that the Carlisle Ward did not get as favourable treatment as maybe Floreat or some of the better suburbs?

**HAYES:** Well as I mentioned earlier it was being used as the dumping ground for the waste products of Council. It took a long time for that to get removed and pushed out of the area. It could have been done by zonings and pushed it out by zonings if the Council really wanted to by zoning it a good attractive residential return and those businesses would have closed down somewhat. But also yes, it was a general feeling and a reality feeling that the other wards got the footpaths built and the paved footpaths and everything before our ward.

HC That must have been quite a challenging situation for you and John then.

**HAYES:** There were six of us all up, so there was another four. Yes, we had to try and change that attitude, "Hey we guys are here, and we need to be recognised and rewarded with equality position." What helped there was across the eighties they started to develop a town planning scheme and we were able to push that a lot of the properties here were zoned at a higher density level. As I said earlier it was mainly all quarter-acre blocks, with single residential, but getting higher residential zonings put in and commercial zonings put in, that enabled the value of the land to go up, which then made it more attractive for businesses to move here, which then meant the

Council would start putting more facilities in the area. You also had more people coming with the general upgrading which then meant the Council had to start providing more facilities, parks and facilities of that nature. It was snowball, but you had to start the trigger at 'A' in order to get to 'Z', you couldn't just get to 'Z' straight away. I think we, from our positions and that, were able to trigger a bit. A little example, I was on the parking committee one time early. One item that came to the parking committee, they wanted to cosmetically renovate the interior of a lift at a car park which is near the State Library at the moment. I had, just a little bit before that, bought my duplex house for \$37 000. A general house at that time was about \$40 000. They wanted to renovate this lift – and it was just purely internal renovation and it was going to cost \$65 000. I said to them, "How could the renovation of a lift, just internal fabricating – not the mechanics of it or anything cost 50% more than my house." It was type of reality – or non-reality there. They just didn't blink at that. "Oh just do it! Let's just make it more attractive." That was more than a house for most of the residents.

HC Well you did have some wins while you there, the Nadine Women's Refuge in Carlisle.

**HAYES:** Yes. That was back in the early to mid-eighties, the issue of women and the need to provide alternative accommodation for women, especially due to domestic violence. There wasn't much provision... and there was this starting to establish refuges for women. It was proposed for one of them in Carlisle. Clearly Council didn't support this type of thing. Oh, you know, "Can't have refuges around our suburban areas, you'll be having all the husbands coming along and banging on the doors at all hours of the night, and all this anti-social behaviour. We just don't want that." A total reaction against all that type of stuff. No concern about the women, just it will attract all this noise and aggressive behaviour by the husbands, type thing. Also there was opposition within some of the local ward members as well I would say. Personally, because of my background I had an empathy towards the need to support. It was a fair battle getting people across. It was mainly initially getting the ward members of Vic Park and Carlisle to come on board, because with a lot of the issues the Council operated that if something was happening over in the Coast Ward and the Coast Ward members agreed with it, the rest would tick the box. If something was happening in Vic Park/Carlisle and those local members agreed with it, okay we'll just go along with it. They didn't get involved with the issues here in the sense that they perhaps didn't even read the agenda item that dealt very much with Carlisle and Vic Park. So it was working within our two wards to get their members across, onside. Then if we as a group said, "Yes, we'll support that concept," it generally got the approval of Council. So you had to work at that level.

HC You actually assisted in the establishment of a food centre in Carlisle – a Uniting Church Project – was that related to the Council?

**HAYES:** Yes. Well it related to the Council in that it was using a section of the old Uniting Church Hall on the corner of Star Street and Archer Street. There was a community group formed from within the church to recognise the need for food

hamper type support and low-cost food within the neighbourhood. They needed the facility, but they needed starting funding to kick it off and get it going – some seed funding. Living close by I was aware of their activity and I approached Council to see if they would help the activity through by giving key funding support, which they did. They got fridges and cash registers and bits needed to set up a shop. That used to operate two days a week. It went for 30 years. They used generally seconds products – you know a lot of produces might be damaged cans or something like that; not substandard food but it might have been products of that nature. Staffed by volunteers and really provided a major support to the community that had a health care card clientele. It wasn't until the last couple of years that it did close down because now you're getting a lot more... with all the competition in the food industry, they could no longer compete on prices with Coles and Woollies and IGA and so forth, so it was just recently closed down. It really did provide major basic food support to a lot of people in the area that were on pensions and needed that allowance. People would queue up every Wednesday and Thursday morning to get their produce. A number of the local businesses came on board; I know the local butcher used to supply meat to them at a discounted price, so they could have some meat available. So it really brought in local businesses as well, to help support the activity.

HC            Why did you stand down after nine years?

**HAYES:**            Nine years was enough! [Laughter] It was really a combination of... I stood down in 1990, got married in '86, we had our son in '88 and I recognised that there was... We had a young child, schooling, needing to devote time to his activities in life. So it was taking on the role in parenting. Also at that stage it was still very hard – it was a hard slog in Council because all the agenda material and everything was not in any alternative format. I did have to have reading support to read all the agendas and all the documentation; there was no technology that's available today to do that. Every meeting was a very arduous position to get to, coupled with work, which I did. In fact I am certain I read a lot more of the agenda than the bulk of the members there – and I had to read it before I got to Council. A number of people would turn up to Council and just tear their envelope open and read it while the meeting was on. So it was a slog. [break in recording]

HC            You wanted to add a couple more things about the City of Perth.

**HAYES:**            I had some perhaps negative experiences, but I think we need to put them in where they are because they were relevant of the attitude at the time. How things have changed - nowadays those things would not have occurred.

When I was involved initially with the campaign, the local member for the Vic Park area - the local Member of Parliament – got involved in the campaign itself and was supporting a candidate. He was going around the district spreading the issue of, "How could we have a blind person on Council? How would he be able to appreciate what's the profile of a roof or see the design of an item?" He's going around putting the negative that you couldn't have a blind person, they don't have the capacity to do

what local government deals with. That wouldn't happen today. But he was one that didn't know that here was a young guy that used to climb up on the ladder on the roof and climb all over the roof of his house and clean the gutters out and everything, if he wanted to deal with that dramatic issue. But at the same time I would have said to him that did he appreciate with planning items that you had to build houses with 'E' ratings, or you had to have some degree of accessibility in the house, or you had to comply with public ramps and that, on footpaths. So in Council you have people with all different talents along, that's why you have such a member there. Whilst I mightn't be able to appreciate the colour of the bricks in some planning design, I had other things to contribute within that planning development that were important in the functionality of the building. This was one of those silly things – a long time ago – but at the same time trying this - trying to smear before you even had the opportunity to prove what your abilities were, and skills were. But we've moved on from there and we've had anti-discrimination legislation and that, that's helped.

HC            You've mentioned the difficulties of trying to keep up with what was said at the meetings and trying to record the meetings.

**HAYES:**            The Perth City Council agendas were pretty enormous at the time because there was very little delegated power to the CEO, so virtually every item was presented to Council. Sometimes the Planning Committee would have 300 items on it; then there were another six committees on top of that. Planning was the biggest. So you might have 600-900 items on the agenda at times, so a massive amount of reading for the committees. There was no major way of getting that in any alternative format for me, it was pre-technology that I've got now, that with scan-printed material or technology using emails that I can get agendas emailed to me and use it for audio output. So I didn't have any way really of accessing the data unless somebody read it to me. I had people helping me out with that. Not far into the system an objection came from the elected members. "There is confidential material being supplied to Councillor Hayes and he's getting a non-council member reading it," and they objected to this situation. So I came back and said, "Well if you object to it, you supply the readers." Well they didn't supply any readers. They really just had no option. But at the same time it was just that attitude of not trying to assist and wanting to strictly meet the rules. People that were reading to me were not going to go out and blow all the confidentiality stuff. If it was a serious one I would use a direct member of my family to do it, I wouldn't be using the general public to read it, but I had some people doing that. Taking minutes or notes in the meetings – I could do it on my Braille machine, but they are clunky old things and people objected to the clunk, clunk, of the Braille machine. So, okay my only option then was to take in a little hand-held tape recorder and I put memos onto my note-taker. So there was an objection that Councillor Hayes is tape-recording meetings, because at that time in local government, they wouldn't allow anybody, other than the administration, to tape-record meetings. I got an objection to that, so I had to try and beat through that position. Eventually they said, "Okay, there's no alternative, we'll just have to accept it." I said I was prepared to give them the copy of the tape after I recorded it and they could hear what was on it. But

still objecting and making things difficult. Some of those things you just had to... not chuck your hands in the air and say, "Give up," you had to really say, "Well okay, how am I going to get around it, how am I going to solve these problems and get these people to accept there are alternative ways of doing things, in not only the community, but in the operation of Council.

HC            Was there anything in particular that you learned from that experience – that nine years with Perth City Council that assisted you when you became a councillor for the Town of Vic Park.

**HAYES:**            The Town of Vic Park was a different animal in the sense that it was two wards with four members from each ward, with a total of eight elected members and a mayor, so you had only a nine-member council. That made it very much a boutique type council. It also, as I indicated earlier, with the Perth City Council because there were nine wards you tended to concentrate on - and a big volume of work – you tended to concentrate a lot more, or primarily, on what happened in your ward and what happened in the Central Business District. What was happening out in North Perth or the Coast Ward was not as important. You read that after you'd read everything else. But with Vic Park you read all the agenda. So what it did it tended to make it that you worked far more as a team, you read the whole agenda and you were responsible for the total town, you weren't responsible for just one ward of the City of Perth. That meant that you worked with the other seven members of the team, rather than having a... well I thought there was a division in the City of Perth – not necessarily a political division, but a division on the north of the river and the south of the river. Vic Park was different. It was a lot easier to work and deal with issues. I've just mentioned a moment ago some of the objections about disability. In the Town of Victoria Park one of our components there was the Burswood Park Board and they had a golf course; of course you have eighteen holes on a golf course. I was dealing one time with the Vic Park Council, talking about the need for putting tactile ground surface indicators - those little dotted tiles that go on the footpath, indicating where there is a ramp on the footpath, so you don't walk just straight out in the middle of the road – or ones that had little lines along them that lead you to an object – it might lead you across to a phone box or whatever the item might be. They're called directional tiles. Well re putting those tiles down and I was talking to Council about the need to have that put in place, because you can't just have ramps for the wheelchairs. If you have ramps for the wheelchairs, all the blindies just walk out into the middle of the road, so we have to tell them that there's a road coming up, if you pull the kerbs out. I was trying to give them an idea of the importance... One of the guys said, "Oh I know what this is about. When you go on Burswood Park Board you can go and get tactile ground surface indicators put around all the golf holes." It got to that level that they could joke about disability issues, but you couldn't get that rapport with the City of Perth, just the appreciation of issues of that nature. Not that I played a disability agenda very heavily. It was part of my life and certainly part of my line, but certainly not the driving factor, but at the same time if there were issues that needed to be corrected in planning that

I saw was a barrier it came forward. But in Vic Park the members didn't feel threatened by those issues, but there was that position somewhat with the City of Perth.

HC            So did you get the markers around the golf holes?

**HAYES:**            No, no. [Laughter] I think some of the golfers might have liked them there, because they would have liked the directional tiles – the one with little groovies – so all they would have to do is putt it into the little groove and then it would run straight into the hole, so maybe we should have done that.

HC            I just wondered in view of Vic Park being separate from the City of Perth and then becoming part of the City of Perth and then in 1993 the State Government split the City of Perth up creating three separate towns, one of which was the Town of Vic Park, I wondered what your personal view of that split was.

**HAYES:**            I supported the concept, I don't think I supported the overall product that came out of it. I supported Vic Park, Carlisle, as two wards, but the greater Vic Park area which is basically from Manning Road to Orrong Road, from the river let's say out to - the borders are a bit wobbly along the edge – Hill View Terrace, Welshpool Road, that area. I believe that it wasn't really appropriate to have it as the City of Perth, because it was a different demographic, it was a different focus. It had developed into a dormitory location as opposed to a commercial focus which a lot of the other parts of the City of Perth were. So pleased of the division, but I think really having it in such a little small municipality, while it's nice and boutique, I don't know necessarily whether from an efficiency point of view it was the best concept. I would have preferred to see Vic Park being absorbed into a South Perth/Vic Park, Vic Park/Belmont or Vic Park/Belmont/South Perth, all together into one Council; absorbing the Carlisle, Vic Park Wards into Belmont cum South Perth and not creating a mixed municipality. However what we've developed... I am really pleased with the outcome that's come through. There was pressure a few years ago to change the name from the Town of Vic Park to the City of Vic Park. It does qualify on statistical grounds to do so. But the elected members and the community rejected that because they want to keep Vic Park with its community spirit together. I think that has been achieved in Vic Park, it is a little community locale and identified as that by having the term 'Town' as opposed to a city which is a little bit more removed.

HC            So if the opportunity presented itself for amalgamation with another local government area would you be in favour of that these days or do you think it's going well as it is?

**HAYES:**            I don't think the community would accept it. Certainly the community has strongly shown that they don't accept it. I would see some merit in South Perth, Vic Park and Belmont joining together. I think you would get a very good strong base and a very diverse community and industrial and commercial area. But I believe that the community at large would leave things as they are, but maybe in another 20, 30 years' time, things will change again. We'll see what happens. I think the main issue with the recent attempt to amalgamate, there was also a major

resistance to the fact that the City of Perth wanted to annex part of the town. There would be a major resistance to the City of Perth trying to annex the Burswood area, the Perth Stadium, the Crown Casino and Burswood Park area. If the City wanted to take it there'd be major resistance to that.

HC Well thank you Keith, I think that's probably enough for today.

## **END OF FIRST INTERVIEW SESSION**

### **INTERVIEW SESSION TWO**

HC This is the second interview session on Thursday 31 May 2018, with Keith Hayes, for the Town of Victoria Park.

Keith stood down from the City of Perth in 1990 and eleven years later in 2001, stood for the Banksia Ward in the Town of Vic Park. In the eleven years that he was not standing for local government he focussed on disability issues.<sup>17</sup>

Keith, tell me, what prompted you to stand for the Banksia Ward in the Town Victoria Park?

**HAYES:** There are two main dimensions I think. I never lost interest in the local government, it was always there. I still had a hankering for that type of involvement again. The town had commenced as an entity in itself and I saw that as an exciting prospect as compared to the City of Perth dimensions and it was starting to gain improved recognition in the community (the Vic Park Council as opposed to the City of Perth Council, as it previously was). You had people becoming more involved and more interested in affairs, whereas when it was under the City of Perth there was no link back to the community. As I've said previously we were only one of nine wards and tended to be very much the orphan of the City of Perth, just hanging on the side. With the new council, there was a more direct involvement with its community as such and the needs of the community. I saw that I could contribute back here and especially with the experience I had during that eleven-year gap when I was involved with a number of State and Federal advisory committees in the disability sector. That gave me additional tools that I could use, skills that I'd got with that involvement. Also to advance the disability issues at a local government level, which really was crucial; that the grass roots, coalface, level of government were involved with disability linked items.

Also work-wise, I had a number of items at work which indicated maybe my involvement with TAFE was running a little bit thin. The section that I was working with at TAFE was winding down and I got redeployed into community development which was satisfactory but not as rewarding as when I was in the business studies area and involved with bridging courses for mature-age people. I saw that work was a question

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<sup>17</sup> These included Disabled Peoples International Australia, based in Canberra, Blind Citizens Australia, Association for the Blind Board of Management, Main Roads Vulnerable Users Task Force and the Department of Transport Users Advisory Committee which achieved accessible public transport, audio tactile traffic signals, taxi users' subsidy scheme and tactile ground surface indicators which assisted blind mobility.

mark, secondly in my work area in the one year, in 2000, we had a section with fifteen people in it, and of those five of them had deceased in that year – not due to any industrial issues, just simply happened. I was getting into an age group, in the fifties, where people were starting to fall off the perch. I thought, no, there's a lot more in life than doing this, so I more or less considered that I would potentially retire and move in a different direction. Also in 2000 I had a major accident – I fell off the edge of a railway station and it was quite horrific. Well the injuries were quite pronounced to my left wrist. Also at the time there was a train approaching the station and there was a lot of trauma about it all. We got through that, so we had that issue in life as well, that had shaken up attitudes and the issue you need to look at life and where do you want to go to from now on. It was a little bit of watersheds all came together at the time. I thought okay let's start looking back at the community and start building a community and go in a different direction in life.

HC                    And how did you go about getting elected, what about your campaign?

**HAYES:**                    It was a different procedure than with the City of Perth, the City of Perth had elections every year whereby one third of the members stood each year. It was in person voting whereby people had to go to a polling booth to vote and you only had about 10% turnout, if it was that. With the Vic Park Council, there were two wards, and each ward had four members and each two years, two members came up. So you had two members up for election and it was a postal voting system. The procedure was different you had two candidates. I looked at who the candidates were that were coming up in '99 and then the candidates in 2001 and thought it was better for me to focus on the 2001 campaign, with the candidate that was incumbent at that time. Also the issue of being a postal vote made it easier in one sense that everyone was going to get mailed material sent out to them, so the need to go and doorknock, even though I was a very strong believer that in campaigns you have to doorknock and I doorknocked and doorknocked and doorknocked. But the need for that lessened to some extent and it became more advertising and the material that was sent out to each voter with the election package, gave biographical details and so forth. So it was one that you didn't need as many physical people. In person, you had to have all our polling booths manned for twelve hours a day with teams of people doing all that. So it was a different format than previously and in some ways suited my needs more than previously. So I got a management committee together, but it wasn't as big operation as it was under the Perth City Council, but it was important to get out and meet people and show people that you were committed to the cause and speak with them and find out what all the issues were around the place. Yes, doorknocking was an interesting concept. Most of it I did on my own, just walking the district, which as I said before, I know physically the layout of the district, so I pretty much knew where things were. You'd go down their paths and try and find the front door and run into a few rose bushes and stuff all the time, but that was it, but okay. In some ways you tend to think should you be doing this, but I think it also showed people that you were committed to making an effort, just weren't going to sit back and hopefully get in by just a letter being sent out to people by the Electoral Commission.

HC Were you living in the district at the time?

**HAYES:** Yes, I lived in Carlisle from birth up until 2010, in the suburbs. I was in three different houses in Carlisle at the time; very much knew the suburb.

HC And you would have been known as the previous councillor on the City of Perth?

**HAYES:** Yes, oh, yes – and had, over the course of years, had a lot of media publicity for different things that I'd been involved with. In some ways you could say I had the label of being the Carlisle kid type person. Was an identity in the area, yes.

HC And what issues were facing the Council at the time?

**HAYES:** I think the main issue was that it was just on the edge of needing to shift the Council from the old traditional roads, rates, rubbish issue into meeting more the community needs, rather than what I'd call the statutory needs. Just to move a fraction forward. Between 2001 to 2007 there was a quite a change in the composition of Council. I came in in 2001 together with a lady, Nikolee Ansell, of the Vic Park area. Then Trevor Vaughan, David Ashton, Claire Anderson and Julie Armstrong, came in in that time. Five or six new members that hadn't really had any local government background before, other than myself, there. It brought in new ideas and concepts. At the same time a lot of the old guard – Mick Lee, John MacMillan, Bruce Stevenson, Ken Abbotsford, who'd been in Council for 20 or 30 years before that and basically had the old model of council that they had there. The community were tending to say, "We want more." But not just more – that was brought about because of the changing physical nature of the ward. No longer did we have quarter acre blocks everywhere; we had infill development. Infill development brought a lot of pressures on transport and parking; infill development brought a lot more issues about trees being removed from blocks and the issue of trees became important, that they had be built into the public realm. With infill development you had lot of more issues on community safety coming up because there was a lot more tenant occupation, rather than owner-occupied occupation. Also with people living a lot closer together you had a lot more noise type issues. These issues tended to be away from, as I said earlier, the roads, rates and rubbish as we had before. Also with less back yards people had to have somewhere to recreate, to play. They couldn't play on the streets as they did in my childhood and they couldn't play in their back yard, so there was a lot more pressure on Council to try and provide amenities for recreation and also actually to provide recreation programmes. So accommodation of all these things started to come together, to say to Council, "You need to change the type of activities you are involved with."

HC Had the demographic of the area changed?

**HAYES:** Yes, becoming younger. I think the average age is the low thirties at the moment. Vic Park is always seen as an old suburb, like old in its history, but felt that it was old as far as the population went, but no, the average is low thirties. You

had Curtin University develop across the... got established in the mid-eighties, but really exploded in the nineties and into the 2000s. That brought a lot of young people living on the fringes of Vic Park – Vic Park, Bentley – and coming into Vic Park for accommodation, for meals, and things of that form. So you had that explosion in the demand for eating facilities and that through Vic Park. The [age of] population reduced a lot because of the increasing involvement of the student community, you had the expansion of the Carlisle TAFE and a bigger involvement of people in that establishment and also you had growth in secondary schools in the area. Yes, there were certainly a lot of long-time residents, but it's changed from being back to, as I said, to a short term, transient, population, over 50% of the residents now are renting properties. You also have a degree of gentrification occurring because it became a valued inner-city suburb. Okay, a bit behind Subiaco and that, but certainly starting to catch up as it was in those days. Nowadays I think it's certainly caught up, if not moving a bit ahead of Subi in many ways. At the same time people recognising that they need to live in this area because it was close to Perth and transport and all those things. It became quite a popular area for people to live.

HC            In a news story online in November 2017 you are quoted as saying that 'probably dealing with people's attitudes around that [being blind] was the hardest thing in the beginning'<sup>18</sup> – and I wondered what sort of reception you had from the other councillors and the staff.

**HAYES:**            Councillors not too bad... well the main objection I think was from the staff level and at a senior type staff level, because as they saw the issues, how could they handle somebody with disabilities on Council. "How can we get all the material for you in formats?" and all this type stuff. "We'll have to employ an additional staff member to meet with your needs, so you can access the information." There were two issues that countered that a lot. From when I was working at the City of Perth the same type of objections were there. Now in Vic Park, what turned out to be 20 years later, technology had improved dramatically, and I had access to a machine that could convert printed material into an audible output, basically you could call it a reading machine. That was a major technological bonus and also with the development of computers and emails I was also able to get the agenda emailed to me. So the issue of converting print material into an alternative format is dramatically different. However I had to educate the Council and especially the Admin on those issues and ways of getting around it. Certainly some issues like maps and that were difficult, but 90% of the material that I had to access, I could access using technology that I couldn't use when I was with the City of Perth. Technology developed during the 1990s.

HC            So did this mean that you didn't require readers as much?

**HAYES:**            Oh dramatically less, dramatically. Most of the reading my wife helped out with then because there were some documents that weren't accessible because they were handwritten, and the technology couldn't deal with that or they

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/News-stories/Farewell-Cr-Hayes>

were written in a font that couldn't be picked up because of they were quite elaborate in their format and the technology couldn't handle that form. But as I said, 90-95% of the material could be handled by the technology and it changed the scenario dramatically from when I was at the City of Perth.

HC Was there any induction given?

**HAYES:** Very little then, to elected members. WALGA, the WA Local Government Association, had a very small programme. I think it might have been two sessions of a couple of hours. Things have changed dramatically in the last ten years; there's a very comprehensive orientation programme established for newly-elected members. WALGA have taken on that and they have also established a local government diploma which might have fifteen, twenty units in it that you can do and hopefully complete them all.

HC I wondered if there were any councillors that stand out in your mind over the years. I have listed some, so perhaps if I say the names, you may just tell me your recollections and what sort of person they were.

**HAYES:** Okay.

HC John Bissett.

**HAYES:** John was with us, with City of Perth, basically for the entire time that I was on the City of Perth, then he continued on till 1994 when the Council was restructured. He then came back onto the new Council in '95 and was there when I joined in 2001.

HC He actually stayed until 2003 and then stood again in 2007-2013, I think it was.

**HAYES:** Yes, he stood for Mayor in 2003 and he stood down from being a ward representative whilst he contested Mayor. He contested in 2005 and was not elected but got back in 2007 and then stayed on till '13 – was it '13?

HC What sort of a man was he?

**HAYES:** Oh John and I really ran together pretty much as peers in many senses. We worked a lot together in our early days. He supported my initial campaign getting in; he managed my original campaign for me. We worked a lot together in order to try and bring about a new shift, as I mentioned last time, within the City of Perth. John was from the Bureau of Statistics, so very much a numbers type person, very good on detail and had - and still has - a passion for history and very much across the history of the operation of Council. That provided a good background towards issues, basis for a new change. In some ways it was a disadvantage in that John would tend to focus a little bit on yesterday rather than the needs of today or tomorrow. Some of the elected members would sometimes – you know – “We don't want to know what happened 25 years ago in the City of Perth, we're dealing with issues now.” So in

some ways it was negative, but I personally saw it as a very... He made a major contribution and still was making a strong contribution to the community through his history. He was a more political animal than I was; he is strongly involved in the Labor Party and has stood a number of times for State elections at both Legislative Council and Assembly level and also stood once at the federal level for the seat of Swan. More political than I would have been. John fought a lot of battles; he tended to attack the individual a bit more than the issues at times and that tended to mean that he wasn't as successful on some issues as he could have been - but a good solid member.

HC            Rowena Skinner and she first got in in 1995.

**HAYES:**            Yes, Rowena was another co-ward member with myself, but she was on from '95 and I joined her in 2001 in the same election. She went through until '13. Rowena comes from a very strong environmental background. In her early days she really battled with the Council in trying to introduce environmental concerns in the establishment. It wasn't really until that perhaps I joined in and Nikolee Ansell joined and a few of the others I mentioned to you earlier, that joined in that period between 2001 and 2007, that she got people who were sympathetic towards environmental-related issues. When that happened it really meant that she had support behind and helped achieve a lot of growth and bringing a focus that... and establishing the Environment Committee. She was very much behind getting the Environment Committee set up in Council and steering environment issues into consideration.

HC            Now Bruce Stevenson is another one from the Perth City Council years, but he was also one from the Town of Vic Park from '95 to 2007 I think.

**HAYES:**            Yes. Bruce, a schoolteacher – we're a bit similar in our background in the school-teaching type component. Bruce then went into real estate. He was a really the deputy for Mick Lee across the period that I was there. Bruce was deputy for eight years, four two-year consecutive periods. There was a little bit of a tradition established in the first years of the Vic Park Council that you stand for deputy and then rotate it over. John Bissett was the first and then a guy, Ken Abbotsford, was the second, then Bruce got it and held it for four years, showing really that he did a good job as deputy and really was quite crucial in supporting Mick Lee in his last four-ish years. Mick didn't have good health in his last term and Bruce was Acting Mayor for much of that time, as Mick was dealing with health issues. Bruce stood for Mayor in 2007 and it was a little bit like John Howard and Peter Costello. John Howard, in effect, stayed on too long, if John Howard had dropped out a little bit earlier I personally feel that Peter Costello – and I think a lot of the nation – feel that Peter Costello would have been elected as the Prime Minister. Similar with Bruce. Bruce, I think, was really the Mayor Elect, but Mick had stayed on... If he had dropped out a little bit earlier the opposition that came in the form of Trevor Vaughan wouldn't have been there, because Trevor only joined the Council in 2003. If the mayoral election was in 2005 I think Bruce would have clearly won at that time. However, that's how sometimes these histories... In some ways I believe his finale and acknowledgment in Council was cut short a little bit because of those circumstances. Then very soon after he dropped off

Council, well within a year or two, Bruce had an illness that took his life, so it was very much cut short.

HC He was in fact Deputy Mayor from 1999-2007.

**HAYES:** He assisted Mick across the whole time, but very heavily supported him 2005-2007, he was, I think, Acting Mayor most of that time because of Mick's illnesses.

HC Nikolee Ansell 2001-2005.

**HAYES:** Nikolee was the trigger to a lot of the change I think. She came in and only did one term and then stood down. Nikolee came in and was clearly prepared to take on the old guard and she really attacked the old guard, in some ways, quite belligerently. It brought about the basis for change, it brought about people realising that yes, we need to move in a different direction. So I think her contribution even though she was only there four years... People loved her or hated her, but she really had an impact; she had an impact to bring about the need for the Council to focus more on community issues, to focus on environmental issues and be concerned with the art component and also environmental issues.

HC David Ashton from 2005-13

**HAYES:** David comes from a business background – retail business area background. He stood twice before he got elected; it was on his third occasion that he got elected. David was an extremely good councillor. Within Council his business skills, his focus on detail and focus on looking at the broad picture is quite significant. I don't think David perhaps took along with him, the community. In retrospect he perhaps needed to cross-refer back to the community a lot more than he did, but within Council I would have ranked him as perhaps the best councillor in that era that I was around. Very good. I was extremely disappointed that in 2013, both he and Rowena Skinner, one for Jarrah Ward and one for Banksia (I'll come back to that in a minute with you, the names of the wards) they both got defeated by three votes respectively. They were not only good councillors, I found them as friends not just purely colleagues. That had an impact on me a bit that those two had dropped out at the same time. I still link up with them and meet up with them once a month to have a breakfast and have done that for the last five years now. David, good value, but you had to also bring along the community with you, because they're the ones who vote for you.

HC Claire Anderson from 2007.

**HAYES:** I don't like leading with disabilities, but Claire has muscular dystrophy and is pretty much confined to a chair. I managed her original campaign. I sat with her on a couple of disability related committees. Claire has a very community-oriented attitude towards life, very much concerned with issues at a personal level – the needs of people. I saw that her involvement was going to complement greatly the new council, which was looking towards becoming more community oriented. She's come in and really provided a very considered... She is a person who was not

spontaneous in making a decision; would sit back, think, and then after a while come back with quite profound involvement and contributions. I really valued Claire's involvement within Council and she is on there and I think she will continue. Well when I left she basically... I handed over the mantle of giving her the senior elected members baton, because when I handed over she had been in there for ten years. Claire is contributing that bit of common sense bring up that we need every now and again and not being run away with emotion and political type issues and that. She has been significant in the direction of Council and the new structure that we've got now.

HC Julie Armstrong from 2011.

**HAYES:** Julie was there just the first term. She came in, a young lady... She may have been married at the time or got married mid-term, had a bub. So she had a bub while she was on Council. That was great, we had a mum come along with a bub at council and that added all that type of dimension. I'll talk perhaps about women councillors in a minute for you. Julie worked in a political office for Mr Cook, current Minister for Health <sup>19</sup> She was in his electorate office, so she was very much a political animal, but good energy – driving – and made a full year contribution that was significant in the Council. Not very soon after she came in she was very significant in getting our rubbish system changed. We had the bin system brought in that we have today, with the two 40-litre bins as opposed to the system of everyone having their own rubbish bins and crates for recycling. So just to change the system over to the two 40-litre system, was a big cost account at that time, but she drove that issue right at the beginning. She certainly wasn't a shrinking violet. Good value, Julie! Came in, made a contribution and went. So that was great. Also, as I said earlier, she was the young guard, which was valuable and also bringing in the issue of the needs of parents who are on Council, so she indirectly made significant contributions there.

HC Brian Oliver from 2015.

**HAYES:** It was actually 2013 he came in, I think, yes, '13. Brian, I think of the Council at the moment I rank him as being very significant. A young guy and he likewise has a business background in the health area. Initially he came in as a journo, working for Community Newspapers and that's how, I think, he got his direction into local government, because he was down at Rockingham and a lot of the reporting was on the local council. He came and then he's moved over to working in the health industry, Commonwealth Government health section. He's very much shown a lot of leadership; in my last two years of Council he was the Deputy Mayor and as the Deputy Mayor showed a lot of leadership in being able to cross the t's and dot the i's on many issues, just being across detail and being able to round things up and tie the bow at the end of them – just having that capacity to complete an issue rather than just let it hang out there. Brian introduced a number of social reforms and actually the Council attitude of a social nature, attitude towards refugees, attitude towards marriage

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<sup>19</sup> Roger Cook, Australian Labor Party, MLA for Kwinana. Deputy Premier, Minister for Health: Mental Health.

equality, those global type issues as well. He's good value and does have a future in local government, he really does.

HC That's all the ones I've got listed, apart from Mick Lee and Trevor Vaughan, which we'll discuss under mayors. Is there any more that you can think of that I may have missed?

**HAYES:** There were others, but to me they were the significant ones that have come across there. In that early period from 2001-2007 you had about half a dozen new people come in. There was one other young lad that was there for four years. I think it was 2009-2013. Adam Vilaca, he came in as an eighteen-year-old, the youngest person ever elected to local government in Australia. He, at the time, was studying at Curtin Uni, studying international law. I think in some ways the benefit for him there was that a number of his uni assignments were based on what he was doing at local government. It was great having a person of his generation on the Council. Our council really changed in that period, as I said, changed with a lot of... when I came on there was I think, two ladies, now the Council has six to nine elected members as ladies. There are about five mums on Council; I don't know what the average age would be now, but it's certainly a lot less than when I came on. When I came on it might have been fifties and now it would be down in the forties and there's a couple that are in their thirties now. So the age is dropping and also with that... I'm not saying a disability issue, but we had two elected members, Claire and myself, two people with profound disabilities, no other council has had a quarter of their council with people with disabilities on it. We've been able to bring about change towards social attitudes, not just to disabilities, as I said earlier, but to the racial integration of our community. Vic Park has a very high multicultural population; the Indian population is very significant, but the population overall is very multicultural, and I think as a town we've shown support for that. We certainly shown quite strong support towards aboriginality; that's one of the major things that Mayor Vaughan pushed right from the beginning. I think in the youth area, we've still got a lot to do; we haven't really picked that up very well. It was brought about because of the change of composition and it's a different council than it was seventeen years ago.

HC Did you want to say anything particular about women councillors in general; what sort of difference do you think it's made having such a large percentage of women on the council.

**HAYES:** There's positives and negatives, I think, a little bit – more positive than negative, a lot more positive than negative. They brought in with them, as I said earlier, more the issues of being concerned about needs of people rather than what I could loosely say, politics. The older system was more involved in what you call the politically type issues, town planning, roads, rubbish, things of that form, which are a bit more physical and concrete. But by bringing in issues... you know, having a Community Development Committee, having issues of community safety. The issue of need to build little parklets for people, for people's needs, so they can just sit out and talk with each other and just simply interact with each other. Having Meet and Greet,

a programme that the councillors fostered, is getting to know your neighbours by having little community events in your neighbourhood, having a barbecue or something of that form on the front verge, get your neighbours to come together and just interact with each other. That type of stuff has developed in the last fifteen or so years.

And to focus more on art. The public art campaign that went through the town. I think there might be a dozen or more pieces established around the town at an average price of about \$30 000 or \$40 000 each. So there's a reasonable amount of money put into public art. That was really driven by the female component in the Council, I think, initially. The males tended to look at more functional art rather than having art for art's sake. There's two that are down on the corner of Albany Highway and Duncan Street. Penny and Pounder which is a kangaroo and a swan<sup>20</sup>. To me, they're two of the top pieces that we put in place and they have a very strong historic link, but they're quite attractive as art pieces and create people talking, that's the main outcome. We've got a couple that are a bit quirky. At one stage we put a device in the rubbish bin that if you dropped something in the rubbish bin – a piece of paper – it made an exploding type noise. It was only in there a day and someone thought there was – this was perhaps ten years ago, terrorist-time, somebody thought it was somebody had dropped a bloody bomb in the bin and terror response group came out and blocked off the street and it was all under security for half a day while they tried to work out what this rubbish bin was that was making all these explosive noises. We got on the ABC news that night and a couple of headlines in the paper about it, so in some ways it served its purpose.<sup>21</sup>

HC           The people you have been describing are very diverse, how did you all get on; what was the relationship like between you?

**HAYES:**           In my term in Council, if I could put it into perhaps about three stages. The stage from 2001-2007 with Vic Park, as I said it was a transition stage. From 2007-2011 I believe was my main rewarding period. The Council was extremely locked together. There were a lot of new members. We sat down right at the beginning of the Council, said what goals we looked for the Council to achieve and what goals people personally would like to achieve and built in an integrated programme to meet those objectives. For that four-year period, the Council was just so strong, so united – and achieved a great amount in the community to the extent that in 2011 there were two ward elections and neither of those wards were contested and the mayoral election was not contested. That's never happened before in the history of the town. I believe that was a product of the satisfaction of the community – because if they weren't satisfied they would have put up candidates. That four-year period really provided a lot of reward to myself, but also the community as we moved into what I'd call a community-oriented Council.

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<sup>20</sup> Made out of steel by artist Greg James in 2012.

<sup>21</sup> See "Art installation in rubbish bin causes bomb scare in Victoria Park, in inner Perth" 26 September 2014, at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-26/arts-festival-installation-causes-bomb-scare/5770744>

HC Now you mentioned that the City of Perth had their meetings during working hours, which was a source of difficulty for some people, when did the Town of Victoria Park have their meetings?

**HAYES:** Vic Park Council did two things. In addition to having a Council meeting which would be once a month, with all the decision-making; that's currently on the third Tuesday of the month. Originally when it was set up it was every second Tuesday, however it's a Tuesday night, 6.30 pm. They established also a briefing session which was open to the public whereby the agenda for the Council meeting would be previewed through. We'd book at the agenda and basically ask questions of the staff for clarification, additional information needed, before the Council meeting. So that was open. The elected members could come along to the briefing session, it was more general discussion, question and answer session and then they could come along the following week to the Council meeting itself. They were all held at 6.30 pm. In addition to that the Vic Park Council set up a network of community committees and in that period I referred to, between 2007-2011, I think at one stage we had something like eleven, thirteen, community-based committees operating in addition to Council and the briefing sessions. They would meet monthly usually between 4pm, 5 pm starts. There would be three or four elected members on each and there'd be similar, if not a greater number, of community members on each. So there might have been thirty, forty, people in the community directly having an involvement in our community committees once a month, once every two months, depending on the frequency of their meetings.

HC I'd like to discuss the Council meetings now – the chairmanship of the mayors. I think there were two mayors in your time, Mick Lee and Trevor Vaughan.

**HAYES:** Yes, Trevor was re-elected mayor in 2015 and will go through to 2019. He's been elected three times. Mick Lee did three terms 1995-2007 for twelve years and then Trevor has been elected for three terms.

HC That's impressive longevity. Tell me about their management style and their effectiveness.

**HAYES:** Mick, as I've indicated earlier, a very community-based person from way, way back. Very involved in community groups and very much across youth – scouts and things of that form - and sporting groups. He was then also significant in establishing the seniors group over in Carlisle, so he really covered all dimensions thinking about it. Mick dedicated his life very much full-time to local government. He was very much a professional person with it, he was a businessman, a lot of good business skills that he brought in. It was very significant to have his organisational skill and approach in the early years of establishing the Council. I really believe he was the right man for the job in setting up the Council because he helped accommodate the needs of the community in the sense that he was a very much a supporter in that if people came along and wanted to ask questions... A lot of councils have put some degree caveats on how much people could ask. They could put their questions in

writing and they could only ask two questions a night etc. – restrictions. Mick didn't do that. Mick came along – we've got a public question time, we'll have one at the beginning of every meeting and at the end. None of the other councils that have adopted the system have adopted at the beginning and the end of the meeting, it's just once. So he really opened up the Council to having that public involvement at the meeting and would let people go on asking questions, on and on and on sometimes. But what it meant is that people had the opportunity to have their say and after a while they generally stopped coming along because they had their issues satisfied. Not like some of the other neighbouring councils, which across that period of the 2000s a number of them had a lot of aggro between the council and the gallery and have had commissioners put in and so forth. Vic Park have never had that position because it was very much receptive to say, 'We want to hear from you.' And, as I said, Mick had good management skills.

HC                    And how did Trevor....?

**HAYES:**                    Trevor, a little bit of a different person in the sense that Trevor has a school-teacher background. He was a school teacher cum school principal. Perhaps didn't have the same community direct involvement as Mick would have had. Mick was on committees everywhere, all over the place. Trevor had links to the committees because of the involvement of schools in the community, but not as directly there. Trevor, in some ways you could say this is a contradiction in the sense that Trevor was very gregarious in the sense of... He brought in I think a wider spectrum of interaction, he was able to mix with a pretty broad group in the community – you know business groups, sporting groups, just significant people in the community and very welcoming with them. They weren't threatened by him so much; he was very much a slap you on the back, hi, how are you going mate, type person. I think that was significant in really building the new direction of Council and having input from a broad community base of people who are significant in the community, that would help out, redirect the Council. Trevor was a bit more relaxed in his management style, but at the same time was everyone's friend and was significant in building... His contribution might have been more in building the Council in the sense that he was very much a supporter of bringing female representation to Council. That was one of his goals and he has very much helped and mentored the involvement of ladies standing for Council. Also he brought in an attitude towards supporting aboriginality issues. His mother is Grace Vaughan, who was a social worker person back in the seventies and was at Curtin University in the Social Work Department and was highly recognised in her social work and then became a member of State Parliament in the Legislative Council. There's Grace Vaughan House out in Shenton Park named after her<sup>22</sup>. So Trevor's family background was very much social welfare. That came through his attitude towards the Council while he was mayor and still continues in that direction.

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<sup>22</sup> See entry for Grace Vaughan (1922-1984) in *Australian Dictionary of Biography* at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/vaughan-grace-sydney-15899>

HC I'd like to talk now about the role of Deputy Mayor – we did discuss Bruce Stevenson - but you in fact were Deputy Mayor from 2007-2009 I think, and I wondered how you saw the role of Deputy Mayor.

**HAYES:** Two items. The role itself is really twofold – and it has to be twofold and sometimes I think people don't see it as twofold. It's an official link as deputy for the Mayor. When the Mayor is not able to participate in activities, is for you to be able to deputise for that. So there's a public relations, diplomatic role, between you representing the Council to the community. That's one component. The other component is you're the go-between between the elected members and the Mayor and/or the CEO. You become the representative of the other seven elected members, which I'll just generally term as 'the other councillors'. In some ways I saw that as the most important of the two. I really made an effort to try and link, always with the elected members, and at that time we had a number of new elected members coming. So I saw I had a major role in trying to, for the sake of a better term, mentor them, across into Council, so they could then grow and have an effective role within the Council. Those two dimensions were there. I enjoyed both, I really did. I enjoyed the period as elected deputy mayor. It gave me personally a degree of further recognition in the community. It helped me to open more doors in the community as well, which benefitted Council. I think the fact that I was the Deputy Mayor opened some more doors for Council in the sense that disability issues were there, and the Council was seen as acceptant of diversity. Also it helped to bring the disabilities issues further to the fore as well, not that that was a driving force. It has been in our conversation a bit, it wasn't a driving factor for me, because I didn't want to be a disabled councillor, I wanted to be a councillor who was interested in disability issues, but it did help facilitate that. Our Council has been quite leading in bringing issues to the fore in the community and trying to really accommodate the needs... Some of our leading programmes - we've had a Count Me In programme - we've moved beyond just providing ramps and things of that form. Providing a programme to portray people with disabilities, so we ask for people to nominate and we put a programme together which involved biographical material and video-ed material which was then portrayed out to the community and played at the local cinema and so forth, just to portray people in the community that had disabilities in what they're doing and that they are primarily people, number one. So we've done that type of thing – looking at people from a humanity point of view, not from the disability point of view. That's been a very successful component.

HC When you say you saw yourself as an intermediary (I think it was) between the councillors and the Mayor – if they'd had an issue that was concerning them would they then come to you as the Deputy Mayor in the first instance?

**HAYES:** Yes, yes. My disposition in basically advocacy is always that you need to develop most times, a position that's in between - the middle – a compromise position. By being in communication with the councillors and in communication with the Mayor and/or CEO, seeing where each party is positioned on an item, I was then

able to try and work through and develop some degree of avenue towards bringing both parties together. So it put us into that position.

HC Can you give me any examples of that, Keith?

**HAYES:** Not immediately – we'll come back to that one.

HC It doesn't matter. I'd like now to go onto the Council staff. The CEO was John Bonker, from 1998 onwards, what was he like?

**HAYES:** He retired in 2009. He was there until 2009, so when I was there between 2001 and 2009, John Bonker was the CEO. John had an engineering background – engineering technician. Ran a very tight ship. Under John certainly the Council was not going to drift off into avenues which would bring them into need for investigation or anything like that, by the commissioners. But he was very controlling, which has its limitations – but it has its strengths and limitations. But he was very controlling – controlling both, I think, over what happened within the operation of Council and the relationship with the elected members. There wasn't too much that John didn't know or intervened with across the issue. In some ways it was a little bit restrictive over entering into new directions because it was safer to control more or less where we were at this stage. Quite conservative in the sense of the operation of Council and where Council would perform. But ran a good ship.

HC Another staff member was Arthur Kyron.

**HAYES:** Arthur Kyron was there from 2009-2014. Arthur Kyron came with a community service background at State Government level. Then prior to that he was CEO at Claremont Council. He may have been at one other prior to that but he came from CEO for Claremont Council to Vic Park. Arthur helped complement where we were. He likewise became really the right CEO for where the Council was at the time, or did we become the right council because of him, it's a chicken and egg a little bit. He very much had this community orientation. He was also then within the Council very much involved with developing the skills of his staff in the sense of doing a lot of in-house staff training and building up staff morale, trying to get the staff oriented towards the goals of the Council. A lot of goal-setting and orientation and staff affirmation with each other. There was a lot more focus on, let's call it the psychology, of their role at the time. You did find that within the elected members, as I said, across that 2007-2011 time there was very much strong teamwork, there was very strong teamwork evolving through with the administration level as well.

HC Anthony Vuleta.

**HAYES:** Anthony came in at 2014 and is still there now. Anthony came from within the Council. He was a Director of the Technical Services or Engineering area. He's the modern breed type CEO. He came in and really picked up and ran from where Arthur was positioned. I think Anthony was able to, and has been very much, interacting with major... While he's been there he's put a lot of reliance on his directors. He sees he's guiding the ship, not directly running the ship, but at the same time

interacting a lot outside with major organisations like the West Coast Eagles issues, which have been a major project in the town over the last four years, extending into the broad spectrum of significant groups that the town is involved with, whether it be at ministerial level, dealing with transport issues, the light rail type issues – not in the town, there's no decision, but certainly it's likely we're on the short list of having light rail in the place. So you're looking at very much global type issues affecting the town, so he's a little bit futuristic I would say, not just looking at today's issues, but looking at where we need to be in two, four, years' time.

HC Other staff whose names I picked up were Warren Bow and Robert Cruickshank, have you...?

**HAYES:** Right, you've been digging deep haven't you? [Laughter] Warren, he took over the directorship of the engineering portfolio when Anthony stepped up to CEO. Warren comes with a background... Whilst he was in the Engineering Department, more in parks and gardens type component of the Engineering Department as opposed to roads and concrete and footpaths. I worked very strongly with Warren over the last four or so years of my time in Council because of my involvement. He was the director that led up the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment and as chairing that project I worked strongly with him on the project. I think that's what amalgamated things together. At the beginning he was a little bit blinkered – had his blinkers on about where the project could go, might go. After a while we both learnt each other. I learnt I was perhaps a bit ambitious in some areas and we both learnt each other's needs and requirements. I was very much pushing for a lot more representing the needs of a number of significant community groups at the time, which put pressure on where we were going to put buildings or how we were going to design them in which section. But we both worked well; I really support the involvement we had together. We bounced a lot of ideas off each other. The outcome that's come through at the end I am very satisfied with and I know Warren is. He left the Council last year and went over to re-join up with Arthur Kyron [who is now] CEO at Canning Council. He was very pleased with the outcome at the time and we developed up a recognition of common ground that we needed to go to and I think we built some good structures.

HC Robert Cruickshank.

**HAYES:** I came into Council with basically a finance type background and obviously a strong community involvement – planning being the other element of council. It wasn't my strength. In perhaps the past eight or so years of my involvement in Council I saw the need to push my growth in planning. Robert was the Executive Manager in the area, has evolved through to that. I really appreciate... we had many, many hours of just discussing planning issues and I found him a great tutor. He really taught me a massive amount. We'd just do it informally about issues. I'd chuck where I was from a lay person about some of the issues of planning and how the community were reacting to it and what seemed to be bloody silly decisions to the developers and that out there, how to get that... it was sensible under planning rules and regulations.

I personally grew dramatically under Robert's tutorship and at the end I felt that I was perhaps the strongest person with planning issues at the time, when I retired. I think Robert and I really... Robert was capable of looking at the planning controls and whilst it's very statutory, he was able then to have the capacity to interpret and bend them a little bit. So it was still complying with the requirements but recognising that there are a few grey areas. That was really our biggest achievement, together we both grew in that type of area. Good guy, great guy Robert.

HC Now that's all the staff members I've noted, Keith, are there any others you'd like to mention?

**HAYES:** In some ways in mentioning some you leave others out! I'll mention one lady, a lady called Michelle Fletcher. Michelle Fletcher – this was back, oh, in about 2001-2007/8, maybe a couple of years later. She was involved in the Council and came in in the community development area. One of her portfolios that she took up was the disability portfolio. Under the State Government Disability Services Act, local governments had to produce a Disability Service Plan. When the act was being formulated back in about 1993, they were going to have it restricted to only government departments and I was on a committee advising the State Government on the development of the Disability Services Act. I personally said it has to also apply to local government because that's where most of the things are happening. There was a lot of resistance from that at State level. However it got incorporated so then from that point on local government taken on board. When Michelle Fletcher came into Council she took up the responsibility for implementing the Disability Services provision for local government in setting up their disability plan. I worked with her for a number of years as chair of the committee, in getting our plan drawn up and getting it implemented and put into practice. So I worked very closely with Michelle; she was a good operator and she really took the cause on. There was some resistance in a lot of councils because there were some financial implications in meeting some of the requirements, but Michelle pushed quite well and I am grateful for the work she did. She just personally, while she didn't have qualifications in disability, she personally then undertook, at her own cost and time, taking on a disability access training course. I think it was Melbourne-based, had to go over to Melbourne a few times. That just showing her initiative because she saw the importance to get qualifications in that area.

HC Now I've listed a lot of committees and I have to say that I am unsure which is a council, and which is just a committee that you were on in addition to your council work. Perhaps as we go through this list you could identify which are particular council committees and which committees were just an extra-curricular interest.

**HAYES:** Just before you do, some committees were directly council committees, some were council related, they were external to council, that you had representation on because of council involvement and then there were just some community-based.

HC            If you could just identify which is which – the first one I've got is the town's Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment Project Team.

**HAYES:**            That was a direct council committee. That committee formerly ran from about 2011 and is still running now. I chaired it from its inauguration until when I retired in 2017. It did have a couple of precursors to it that were looking at redevelopment of the former bowling club site on the corner of Roberts Road, Planet Street and Bishopsgate Street and redevelopment of the Lathlain Park, frontage to Roberts Road, which basically was a major carpark area of 600 parking bays, a bituminised area type thing. It was looking at that and looking at a redevelopment of a building for a toy library playgroup and health clinic. That started perhaps more back in 2007/8 in a different form, but really evolved through in different configurations, but then consolidated into the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment about 2011. At that time it had a focus that it was going to try and provide a building facility for the toy library/playgroup and health clinic who occupied a very derelict... There were two buildings, the toy library and playgroup in one building and the health clinic in the other. They were pretty derelict buildings and just not meeting the needs of the groups and were really extremely substandard in the structure of the whole building. In winter time they'd be leaking, and the floors were unlevel and falling away and so forth. So there was need to provide a facility for them and moving in onto that became then an interest by the West Coast Eagles. Initially they were looking at establishing a home training base, an administration base. They knew that they were going to have to move out of Subiaco Oval, they looked at a range of options around the metropolitan area – university campuses were a number of them. Then they looked over in East Perth and Vic Park was one. So they eventually narrowed it down and we developed an arrangement. This was separate really to the committee, but Council made a commitment that it would extend to West Coast Eagles part of the Lathlain Park for the West Coast Eagles to rebuild the existing oval which was being used by the Perth Football Club. They would build a second oval and build administration facilities for the West Coast Eagles. So that came into the redevelopment programme and really provided a driving focus and a catalyst because that development was going to be \$60-70-million project. Then on top of that there are seven other sub-components of the Lathlain Precinct development which we could perhaps touch base on if you wish to.

HC            The next committee that I've got is the Victoria Park Disability Access and Advisory Committee and I believe you were the chair of that for fourteen years.

**HAYES:**            I chaired that before I came onto Council. It started off in about '98. I was a community member on it.

HC            So that wasn't actually a Council committee?

**HAYES:**            Yes – it was a council committee but had community members on it. At the first meeting the general expectation was that the Council representative on the committee would get appointed as chair. Anyhow I got appointed as chair on it. I

chaired that as a community person until 2001 and then when I came onto Council I chaired it with the council hat on as well, through until about 2010 or so. Stayed on the committee until the end of my term but I passed the chairmanship over to Claire Anderson to continue with the chair there. As I've touched base on that – that was a good little committee. It was principally composed of people with disabilities and then there were a couple of other official people there. There was a Local Area Coordinator for Disability (which was a representative of the Department of Disability Services) sat on the committee. There was a representative from Curtin University that was involved with the student support for students with disabilities. So we had official-type people; mainly people with disabilities and it was good getting grass-roots feedback on issues. The last... about 2015-2017, I think, our committee structure in Council got revamped; they became more official internal-based committees and it lost the community representation on them. I felt that we really did, in the disability sector, lose a lot because of that factor because when the people with disabilities were there, if there were some planning issues and that came up sometimes we'd just run past them as planning, not giving them full details about a planning application, but a concept that involved some issue before Council. They had good input in saying, "Hey, hey, you haven't any provision here for access into this building, you need to get them to have a look at that," or "Here's the parkland that people can't get access to because there's no ramps there", or something. It was good running some of the little issues that Council were going to be considering before the committee. I knew a lot of the sensory ones and a bit of the physical, but didn't run across them all, and we had quite a range of people with disabilities and each of them were able to have their input. I think it really helped Council; not just on disability issues, but on planning issues and community development. Okay you're running a community programme, a concert, on the park, but how are we going to get down there with the prams and the wheelchairs, onto the park, because of some barrier or something. It was helping the broad dimension of Council operations.

HC            Very worthwhile. The next one is the Finance Audit and Governance Committee.

**HAYES:**            It was dealing with all the financial issues, the rates and revenue, income and revenue, and dealing with the financial compliance, so audit-type issues. Then they put the legality of issues of Council governance – rules, regulations, standing orders, into the committee, but main finance because of the dominance on it. As I said earlier, I came in principally... my professional qualification was in the area of economics so that was more or less the area that I quite liked, that dimension. Last week I did touch on with you a couple of initiatives that have occurred in that committee, and I'll just retouch on them now. When the committee was originally formed it was pretty much just a council-oriented, 'here's our financial statement for the month, you can have a bit of a look through and see if you've got any questions on it'. But we, as elected members, and David Ashton, who I mentioned a moment ago, was quite a driver here – we said that Council needed to be less dependent on rates as a source of income. Rates contributed some 70-80% of our Council income. There'd

be some from fees and charges and the others from grants, but by far the heavy dependence was on rate income and we said we really need diversify our income base. So this is where we started to look at things like setting up our land asset optimisation strategy, that we really needed to look at the assets of the Council and see if those assets, if they're not being used efficiently, or not being used at all even, we need to look at them to see if they can be converted into income generating means, so we can reduce the dependence on rates. The Town, also as a product of being spun-off from the City of Perth – we were spun-off, but we acquired involvement in the Mindarie Regional Council for rubbish disposal; so our rubbish tips and that, went up to Mindarie. Associated to that was a tract of land which was acquired and was converted into what was called the Tamala Park Regional Council, to be redeveloped for residential development. I think it might be 100 hectares or so, of land. They set up the Tamala Park Regional Council. So we became a member of that and that basically was a real estate redevelopment. That would have been moving into around about 2011, 2013-ish. It started to develop land and sell land. So each of the seven-member councils got a dividend being paid to them, based on the profit from the land sales. We, as a Council, received one twelfth of the money from that. Over the overall project the Town will receive some \$30 million plus from it. At the moment it's received perhaps three, five, seven million, I am not sure exactly of the figure now, from the project. But that money started coming into Council. We said, "We really need to do something with this, so what do we do?" We suggested this was somewhat income coming to the Council which was a little bit of a windfall, using the term, and perhaps should be used in this area, helping our diversification of income. So we established our Financial Assets Reserve. That money from Tamala Park has been put into a reserve fund to provide for the Council to put into investment-related projects to help generate more income in the future. That reserve now, I think, has built up to about \$10 million.

HC Well that seems to lead into the next committee, which is the Future Planning Committee, were they related?

**HAYES:** No, the Future Planning Committee is purely planning issues, a fancy name for a planning committee, dealing with current planning applications and dealing with, where from the town planning point of view, we should direct the town. So in some sense they are related, but it's looking at the zoning of land and land usage. That could be linked to our Future Planning Committee because sometimes to rezone land and change its purpose it might involve physically redeveloping the land. If it's undeveloped land it might mean you have to go and install services to it, water, sewerage, might need fencing, might need landscaping - earthworks and so forth. So we had tracts of land where we had to deal with that because now it's going to be used for, let's say, commercial development, as opposed to just sitting there as really 'undesignated purpose'. We might need to get some funding to fund those redevelopment costs, so the Future Fund would have helped out there, yes. A little bit of overlap but that one was dealing more with planning type issues as opposed to finance issues. Just the other, just quickly, back on the finance. We have managed to

set up the Future Fund which, as I said, is directed money. It's now got to a stage that it can be started... It hasn't really been used yet, but it's at the verge now, that with \$10 million they can start using it for some investment-related activity.

HC I have that noted as one of your personal initiatives.

**HAYES:** Yes. Linked to that we were also involved with trying to set up a second one which resulted from land sales and that, within Council. So we established the Future Projects Fund – I helped get that going. When we sold pieces of land, which over the past four or five years there's been a number of little small parcels of land that have been sold, that money's gone in there and it's to be used for funding current physical Works projects. A number of the projects under the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment, such as building the new community building, was primarily funded, because we sold a little strip, odd-shaped strip of land on Rutland Avenue, that generated about \$800 000 and that money, in a sense, went into seed the redevelopment of the community building. That went into the Projects Fund and then was used for building that facility. We've got that in place now, so rather than the money just simply going into the big bucket and being squandered, it now goes into a bucket to be used for generating infrastructure within Council.

HC Excellent. Integrated Transport Advisory Committee.

**HAYES:** A big name! Dealing with transport issues. During the 1990s I got a lot involved with Main Roads Department and related issues there, under Vulnerable Road-users' Task Force, so I tended to be oriented that way. Also, as I said, way, way back, my involvement the City of Perth through my father was related to the engineering type department, so I've always have that focus. So that dealt with transport issues in the town which were becoming more and more crucial and will be extremely significant into the immediate and not too distant future, as our population in-fill development occurs. One of the big spin-offs from that is the issue of greater volumes of traffic because of larger numbers of people living in the area. That leads to movement of traffic and also to parking issues and also the fact that we're an inner part of the spur of people leading into the City of Perth from the metro area. There's increased volumes of traffic coming through Shepperton Road, Berwick Street, Albany Highway and then down through the major public transport issues, with trains and buses through the town. Transport is becoming more significant and also the need for cycleways. That's really jumping out in the last ten years and is expanding and will just continue to grow as cycling becomes more popular, not only for recreation, with the lycra groups on the Saturdays and Sunday mornings, but also general commuting and recreation. Dual use pathways and that are becoming, and are, a major item that needs to be accommodated. Within this committee – there's a lot of disability ones as well, about audible traffic signals, ramps at intersections and all those types of issues; accessible public bus stops, accessible transport at railway stations, so it links back into a lot of that area as well.

The one I was going to really lead to is that so much of our transport issues tend to be just done as one-off – people raise a complaint about some issue about a bus shelter being in the wrong place, or something of that form, we just deal with it donk, donk, donk. I saw that there's need for a far more global approach. I spoke with Anthony Vuleta about that and he very much saw that. We've developed an integrated transport network plan, which is based on the needs for pedestrians, the needs for cyclists, the needs for private cars and the need for public transport. That's our integrated movement network strategy. It was able to catalyse that the Lathlain Precinct area – or Lathlain suburb all over – was going to be the pilot, which it is, and that pilot study has been adopted, processed and is, at the moment, being implemented. It's a comprehensive programme of transport/pedestrian related needs for the complete area to be implemented over the next two, three years, put in place. From that we'll learn what we do well and what we don't do well and then be able to extend that out into other parts of the town. We're trying to do a holistic approach. A number of other councils and the State Government have taken this on and seen the merit of it and its expanding across into other dimensions. Anthony Vuleta, at the local level has been involved with this, with the Department of Transport and the engineers and that dealing with it. It's been seen by them that we're running pilot bit on their behalf as well. It relates back to Metronet and also light rail.

HC                    Excellent! The Community Environment Advisory Committee.

**HAYES:**                    I think that's been my most warm and fuzzy one of the lot to be honest. I liked that – I really enjoyed that committee. We had a number of community reps who were extremely expert, extremely dedicated to the cause. It's been in some ways a bit of a religious-based type committee because the passion in it is very strong. I haven't had very much environmental background and learnt a lot from this committee. The issues of our Kensington bushland area, our Hillview bushland (I'll come back to that in a minute) and G O Edwards Park, they were represented on the committee by community reps who were Friends of Kensington Bushland, Friends of the G O Edwards [Park], Friends of Hillview Bush Block. I learnt a lot from them about the need for protection of the environment in a bushland component. As a result of that one that I was involved with, driving along, I feel quite pleased that the Kensington bushland abutted another lump of old... what was pretty derelict land. It was used as a semi-rubbish tip; it didn't even have a name, it was just called the George Street/Anketell block. It butted onto the Kensington bushland and it also then butted onto the Kent Street sandpit, that I talked about last week, with the Perth City Council. So you had these three pieces of land beside each other, associated, but no association. I was able to get those three pieces of land consolidated, getting into one parcel, so they would be treated and managed as a complete Jirdarup Bush Precinct. That's come on board, so now we have a consolidated bush precinct over there in East Vic Park, 21 hectares I think it is, in area. The Council has committed to a ten-year revegetation reconstruction programme of the George/Anketell site, that's about halfway through its programme at the moment. When that's in place then they'll be moving over to look at the sandpit area, to look at revegetating that land as well. So

that will be a major asset to the town, to our grandkids in the future, to have this bush block preserved.

HC In fact I have that also noted as one of your personal initiatives, along with the Urban Forest Strategy and the programme to remove redundant crossovers, which allows more room for planting street trees. That was all done under that particular committee, was it?

**HAYES:** Well yes and no. That formed the basis for the Jiderup one, some of the others haven't... maybe we could just come back to the others because they've been a little bit after the committee restructured the area. The other one I just wanted to mention to you, directly from the committee was the area of the G O Edwards revitalisation of the park there - a park, down near the Causeway, Burswood Road, Great Eastern Highway, Causeway area. The Council did adopt, back about 2013-ish, a master plan to redevelop that. With the council amalgamations potentially coming up in 2015 that got put on the backburner because it was considered that area of the town might have got lost in amalgamations. That money got put on the backburner and then got lost. The Council only recently were able to get money back in the budget and the Council this year, this calendar year, 2018, have adopted and commenced and have now just completed stage one of the G O Edwards redevelopment. The importance for that came through the Friends of G O Edwards Park on that committee. However the driving of getting money on budgets – back onto the budget once it had been shifted sideways, were issues that the elected members had to drive within the Council to make sure that it got there. That money got retrieved and the project was up and going and the Council have made a commitment to completing that project, even though stages two, three and four haven't been funded yet, there will be a flow-on effect. So that came out of that type committee. The committee came up with the idea more or less. Rowena Skinner and myself were very heavy in driving it within the Council.

HC Local History Advisory Committee, whose major achievement, I think, was the publication of the history of the town of Victoria Park, *Beyond Matta Gerup*<sup>23</sup>.

**HAYES:** This was a classic example of how you write a book by a committee and how to do what you shouldn't do, or something. There was no history of the town and the town commissioned a history to be done. The University of WA took on the project, it was tendered; they won the project. They then subcontracted it to a PhD contact – a lady who had a PhD, but within the operation of UWA.

HC Susannah Thompson?

**HAYES:** Susannah Thompson, that's right. Susannah produced a product which came back to our history committee and primarily it was a history of Perth with Victoria Park tacked on the end, at the end of each chapter. It was, in a sense, not a history of Victoria Park, it was a history of the City of Perth and maybe Victoria Park,

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<sup>23</sup> *Beyond Matta Gerup: a history of Victoria Park*, by Susannah Thompson, Town of Victoria Park, 2012.]

there were some references to the town of Vic Park. Also we had a couple of people on the committee who were extremely accurate in the detail of the history of the town. One lady especially, she'd lived in the town from back in the 1920s I think and then they lived here and were involved in the tramways and things like that, so accuracy of detail she was very much on. There was a lot of difficulty with accuracy in documentation. So the old red pen came out and we went through, went through, and there was a lot of negotiation going on. Then Susannah Thompson then relocated to Tasmania for whatever reason; she had to go to Tasmania to live. So trying to write a book with the committee giving a lot of feedback to the author who was in Tasmania. It dragged on a fair way. It was a bit short. John Bissett was on the committee, as I said to you earlier, John Bissett is very good on his history. I'd lived in the town 60 years, so had a fair background and also the local historian in the town, who was quite strong at the time. It was tortuous; material was going backwards and forwards and backwards and forwards. It wasn't until Geoffrey Bolton saw the tenth version of the draft I think, whatever it was, and he made an input and said, "No, no, this isn't good enough." The university, they were not really wanting to make major changes to it all. However when Geoffrey Bolton got involved dramatic change came about. A draft came out which was pretty much the final draft, which was really to the benefit of all. Serendipity – it was Geoffrey Bolton's comments that really provided the catalyst for UWA to get down and say, "Yes, okay, we respect the fact that academically it needed to be restructured and a lot of changes need to be made." The product that came out is quite good. It terminates in 2007. There's need for it to perhaps be extended from now on. Also I think the other one, it didn't really pick up characters in the town, and it could have picked up a bit of the social, individual social elements of the town, which could come in edition two that comes out later on.

HC            The next committee, Keith, is the Metro Central Joint Assessment Panel, the State Government Planning Advisory Committee. You were a member of that.

**HAYES:**            The State Government, about five years ago, set up this JDAP (as it's called) Joint Development Assessment Panel, to deal with major planning issues of a certain value (I think it is in excess of... the numbers have changed over time, in excess of \$3 million) to take them out of the hands of council-making decisions and put them into a panel comprising three ministerial appointments and two nominations from the respective councils. So if it is something being dealt with by Vic Park Council, there'd be two Vic Park councillors there, or Belmont Council, etc. It was a five-member panel with two local government representatives and three government reps. That dealt with the major planning applications that came before the town or the city, whichever the case may be. It was because the State Government felt that a lot of these major projects were just not being progressed in the haste perhaps, that they wanted, or in the direction they wanted and that they were being blocked by local governments, so this committee was established. I was, for the last two, three years, one of the two representatives from the town on our Joint Central JDAP committee. The major developments came before that committee. The ministerial appointments were generally all pro-development. They were planning people or people with a landscape

background, directly related to the industry (or legal background) but didn't have any community representation background that the councillors had. A number of projects came to JDAP, which the community perhaps, were not sympathetic towards. But we all know that often three votes beat two, so you had that conflict within the JDAPs. It came to that component because when items came to Council the committee could come along and talk about the issues. At one time the Red Castle Hotel came up, the redevelopment of the Red Castle site down on Great Eastern Highway, Castleway (I think it is)<sup>24</sup>. The community could come along to Council and at public question/statement time, express an opinion and could also put pressure on their local reps. When it went to JDAP the Council officers were asked to put forward a report and the Council members on JDAP couldn't speak with the officers and couldn't talk to any members of the public on the issue, they had to go in completely independent. So it really tended to alienate the community away from decision-making. That one example I gave you came to Council and the Council refused on certain grounds of height and density and stuff. Then it came back to – later – to JDAP, once the JDAP was established. The officers recommended refusal, but when it went to JDAP the JDAP panel voted three to two in favour. That frustration really manifested within the community because under JDAP the public don't have what is called a third-party appeal, so the only parties were the applicant putting in for the development and then the JDAP organisation was the second party, so not even the Council could appeal.

HC            So the Council representatives could then always be outvoted?

**HAYES:**            Three usually beats two!

HC            So what was the point then really?

**HAYES:**            That's what local government tends to ask quite regularly. It's an ongoing issue. We've had a couple of issues that we've very much opposed. There's another one that has just been currently in the system, which was a redevelopment of a site on the corner of Archer Street and Orrong Road, which is currently an IGA site. It came originally to Council to be redeveloped as a Dan Murphy and it's come back through the system to JDAP to be redeveloped as a 7-Eleven service station/Hungry Jacks. There's very significant community objection to it. Council officers objected, Council as such did a little vote on it independently; they didn't support it. The two elected members didn't support it. It gets approved by JDAP. So it's taking away community needs and values and some of them are extremely significant, if you are living in the area. It's like the old issue, do you want to live next door to something; if you're not living there you don't necessarily recognise the impact that it might have on you, if you're living in another part of the city, on the panel, it doesn't have the same degree of recognition.

HC            While we're on local government, you were a member of the WALGA - the WA Local Government Zone Council. What was involved with that?

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<sup>24</sup> Red Castle Apartments.

**HAYES:** We are part of the South East Metropolitan Zone, 'we' being the Town of Victoria Park. There's South Perth, Canning, Gosnells, Armadale and Serpentine-Jarrahdale – we're in the same zone. They dealt with issues which came up from the council level to WA Local Government Association, which would eventually go to the WA State Council of WALGA. That's the parent body for all the councils in WA – both metropolitan and country councils. So dealt with a lot of broad brush items as well as issues that might be affecting a group of councillors. It might be a group of councils, say South Perth, Vic Park, Canning could be affected - by light rail. They might be bringing an issue through to the State Council dealing with something of that form because it's going to go through there and there's significance in it. But the State Council also dealt with major issues like the container deposit scheme for people returning tins and bottles and that, back to a source – setting up a programme which would require State Government legislation, or issues dealing with re-cladding the cladding of buildings, which occurred over in England a couple of years ago, they had a major fire in a building. That was part of the building code. It then came down to Australia to say, "Well you look into the Australian building code to see if there are any buildings that have got the suspect cladding." The Federal Government passed it down to the State to say, "You do it," and the State Government said, "Well all the building inspectors are at local government," so it's now got down to local government to start looking at all the buildings in their area that might have the offending cladding. So WALGA would be dealing with issues like that and saying, "Okay it's been passed down to us from the Federal Government to State Government to us, but what about sourcing it with funding so we can get down and do the job?" It really teaches you that there's a broad network to local government, it's just not your little local council. You've got a zone which deals with a lot of common interests. In our zone we've got a lot of common interests, overlaps between South Perth, Canning and Gosnells, especially, not so much with Serpentine-Jarrahdale and to Armadale. You felt that you weren't alone, it meant a lot of other elected members and it really helped peer support integration as well. Then you learnt that there are issues at the State Government level that we need to have an input into, because they will trickle down to our local community.

HC Burswood Park Board.

**HAYES:** It's part of the town. The area of the town between the Causeway and the railway line going around to East Perth, on our side, around to Burswood. Then from the river to Great Eastern Highway, was the Burswood Park area, under the Burswood Park Act. That was established in mid-eighties when the casino was established under the Burswood Park Board. That area was annexed by the State Government to provide the land for the casino to sit on – and there's all the controls and regulations over the casino – a bit like establishing the Kings Park Board, the Burswood Park Board was established. On that board initially there were two representatives from the State Government, there were two representatives from the local authority and two representatives from Crown, on the board, plus a chairman, which came from the government department dealing with Racing and Gaming. The

numbers have been changed a little bit over time, but it basically manages that 110 hectares of land, as it was, at that time. That one has been quite significant to the town in that in its original form it had a casino and a golf course and in recent years the golf course was.... well half the golf course was taken over for the Perth Stadium redevelopment and the other half of the golf course was decommissioned because it was no longer viable, because part of it was being taken up by a new hotel development for Burswood, which the State Government approved. That's been now put into just general public parkland with a lot of extensions, playgrounds and that, so it's really changing the scope of that part of our town. It's an extremely exciting area. That also had significance in the amalgamation proposals which occurred 2013-2015, which we perhaps can come back to later.

HC            The Harold Hawthorne Carlisle Seniors' Centre Board of Management.

**HAYES:**            This was an external committee to council; but council had two representatives on the board of management. It's a seniors' centre in Carlisle that run a community day programme of activities. They run a meals programme – meals there each day and a Meals-on-Wheels programme. They also run a home and community care programme, providing support for seniors to live in their homes, providing various support, might be house cleaning or it might be shopping, or it might be gardening and all those types of things that people need as they get aged. It also had a unit there for assisting young disabled, about 25-50 year-olds really, that didn't come under the definition of seniors. One day a week they'd have a drop-in activity programme for young disabled. So that was an institution in the town way back from the mid-sixties and has been significant in providing support, primary in aged care. The town had two members on it, because the property sits on council-owned land and also the building which the centre occupies is council property – the council own a fair bit of the property and the land so that's why we had a representative there.

HC            Two more. The Victoria Park Community Garden, which you were involved in from 2011 I think.

**HAYES:**            Yes a community initiative. A group of people, part of the environmental... An environmental extension of people living on infill blocks, no land to provide garden, no land to grow veggies. You also had a lot more people starting to live in the town in flat accommodation, high-rise type units and didn't have anywhere to put their hands in the dirt. So a community group came together to say well let's establish a community garden which... One has been set up on Read Park, Albany Highway, the corner of Salford Street. A section of the park was excised out of the park and fenced off and it's been converted into a community garden and been very successful. Members of the community can have a little sub-plot; there's about 40 plots. So you, in effect, lease a plot for the year and grow your veggies and flowers, whatever you want to grow; primarily vegetables are grown. Very much community building. There's a group of 40 owners come there on a regular basis to water their gardens and to do all the maintenance work and also to get involved with thinking

about how to grow things more organically, how to produce more healthy food, so you're getting all those benefits.

HC           It sounds like the English allotment system.

**HAYES:**           Yes, oh very much, yes. One was created over near McDougall Park, I think technically in Manning - it might be Como<sup>25</sup>. That was set up that the people didn't have an – let's call it an ownership - of any allotment. There were allotments created and planted, but the collective looked after it as a collective. It hasn't worked, because there is no degree of ownership. But by having little plots, they might have been two metres by four or five metres long, some of them, you were responsible. If it fell into disrepair a bit everyone knew that you weren't pulling your weight, so just that little ownership issue and that I grow a certain plant there, primarily mine and I can go and pick them and have them. That system works better, and we've had a good thing going for seven or eight years and soldiering along.

HC           Sounds a lovely idea. The Victoria Park Community Hub Working Group. I think you were in that in 2018.

**HAYES:**           It's an offshoot of Connect Victoria Park, which was previously the Victoria Park Seniors' Centre – the names have change – basically the old Victoria Park Seniors' Centre, or what was affectionately called The Homestead. As an offshoot of that they are in the process of establishing a community hub which is to support principally seniors living in the neighbourhood, in their homes, plus the ones who are residents at the hub. There are about 70 residents at the hub and they join in. So it's giving them support in two ways, support in programmes of entertainment – bus trips, concerts, games, cards, bingo, that type of stuff – giving them support in the area of providing a meal one day a week at the centre and then having a programme to go out and visit the local restaurants as a group; taking them along as a collective or providing transport. Also providing assistance for people to live in the community, so giving them advice on wills and other official documentation that they might. If somebody needs a tradesmen to come in they'll have a list of bona fide tradesmen in the area that they've established over time. You can ring up and say, "Is Fred Nerg okay to do this?" They'll say, "Yes, he's worked at least three other homes and we know that he does a good job." So giving people that confidence that they can support trades-people. Also providing volunteers, one example is some people go on holidays, okay, what do I do with my dog? Okay you need a dog-sitter for a week, we'll get someone to come and sit your dog for a week for you. It's a self-help, community group to encourage people to live in the community and enable them to stay in their own homes. It's just expanding at the moment, it's got about 180 people have joined the programme, it's just in its first year of operation. A good initiative by the Centre.

HC           Are you staying on that committee?

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<sup>25</sup> Neil McDougall Park, 18 Ley Street, Como.

**HAYES:** Yes. I am on their working group to give them advice of what sort of programmes they should be building into their activity sheet.

HC Now I'd like to talk about the Community Forum of Victoria Park, which is, in effect, the Ratepayers' Association. What has been your association with that?

**HAYES:** I've been a member of that since the mid-seventies, 40+ years I think. That was, in some ways, my catalyst about getting into the local council. I joined the local ratepayers' group as it was called then. It's been ongoing since the early to mid-fifties and developed out of those industrial polluting issues that I talked about last time and the need to try and have their activities managed or removed from the residential dormitory area in effect. But that group has continued continuously for all those years, meeting generally on a monthly type basis, been very active at times, gone into a bit of limbo at a couple of other times, but it hasn't ever stopped operating and has been a very good link to keeping the community involved with the local council activities and especially once the council established its own right here, it really triggered because the issues were... they could go to their council straight away. In some ways having the council open at the beginning of meetings to public question, public statement time, means that a number of the members just can go direct to council, whereas when you are in the City of Perth people didn't go direct to council, they went to the ratepayers' group and the ratepayers' then would channel the issues into the City of Perth. So in some ways their position was becoming a little redundant, but what it is evolving into now is they're starting to look at more strategic issues, looking at issues of more greening the neighbourhood, need for community safety, need for removing transport congestion. That's associated with the change of name. It was changed from being Carlisle Ratepayers' which only looked at one part really of the town. Now they're looking to trying to adopt that they are the ratepayers' group for the entire town and they're there to discuss issues and consider issues and try and built up a position, so they can put in submissions to council on a lot of the consultation that is now occurring.

HC What has been your involvement over the years then, in that group?

**HAYES:** When I was on council I was on the committee in most positions, treasurer and secretary and vice-president and president eventually.

HC You didn't find a conflict of interest in being a councillor and a member of the ratepayers?

**HAYES:** Yes and no. As I said before I was on Council I was one of those office-bearers, but the committee has it that once you are on Council you can't be an office-bearer within the ratepayers group.

HC Did you still attend meetings, Keith?

**HAYES:** You could attend. I would attend and give council reports, basically the role each time was to go along and give council reports. Then also list what issues were there and take some of the issues back to council. You provided a

conduit. John Bissett and myself have been regular attenders to it over the last 40 years and not many of the members attend, but we've regularly attended over that time. The new members just in recent times are starting to attend the ratepayers' group also.

HC Now you are no longer on council, will you be active in the group again?

**HAYES:** I am going to go back. I haven't gone back in the period since I left council because I wanted to have a little bit of a gap between the two, just to create that difference. But, yes, I intend going back in the near future, but at the moment it's tending to clash – it's a domestic one, our son comes to visit us once a week, that's on a Wednesday night and that's the night of the ratepayers' meeting, so that conflict of interest is winning a little bit. David Ashton, who I have mentioned previously, is chairing it and I meet with David once a month, so we do discuss ratepayer issues and I float my boat and ideas and he tells me of the few issues they're doing. So I've still got that liaison with the group even though over the last few months I haven't been attending the meeting because of domestic issues.

HC Are there any individuals, individual ratepayers, that you've come across in your time on council that stand out in your mind – any that were particularly persistent over issues?

**HAYES:** The ratepayers' group has tended to have the same base core of people - ten to fifteen people - that it's had for a fair bit of the time. So you've tended to have that. Then you have people moving in and out depending on the issue that they bring forward. I'd like to mention a couple really. One of them was a real bastion towards community representation and opposition to government bureaucracy – a lady called Violeta (Vi) Sands who lived adjacent to the Red Castle Hotel, over near Midgely Street and Great Eastern Highway and the Rutland Avenue area. She was their immediate neighbour. The Perth City Council, in the mid-sixties before really too much in the way of planning schemes were in place, approved a major redevelopment of the Red Castle site which caused major overlooking and issues with Vi Sands – she was in the house next door. She objected, and this went on literally for 40+ years. The conflict between commercial cum retail development immediately adjacent to a residential property. She was really representing that principle, but from her point of view it was the nasty old people next door doing all the issues overlooking and having traffic running up and down the side of property and creating noise and creating all the adverse outcomes which a commercial premises conflict can incur. She fought the City of Perth and stood for election as a ward member and stood for Lord Mayor one time. This evolved right through basically until her death which was only three or four years ago. She was almost 100 at the time, might have been about 99 I think when she passed on. This was always a bugbear in her life – the conflict between the Red Castle and her right to live in her residential property. That issue I saw jump out many times in my time in Council, where the neighbouring property to a residential might get converted into a different zoning, which causes conflict. It's difficult. To me, you had to try and create a buffer in between the two, not let a pure commercial development immediately adjacent to a residential. It does happen; it happens frequently. Two or

three examples every year will come out with the same old arguments. But she was a terrier, she came along to the ratepayers' group and just pushed her issue, over and over and over again. But good on her, she was not one with one issue she also came in and gave her skills; she was the treasurer of the ratepayer group for perhaps the best part of 30 years. She had office work skills, so she worked on the committee but raised that issue. Violet would ring up at all hours of the day and literally into the night, ten or eleven o'clock at night she'd ring up with some little advancement on her grievance with the Red Castle. As soon as you heard, "Hello!" and the phone call would go for an hour. I always hoped that we did get some degree of satisfaction for her, but you were so restricted – at the other side of her property Western Power came in and upgraded a major power station. She just didn't have a chance! That's State Government land, we couldn't do anything about it. You had power station one side and a major commercial development the other side.

HC            Poor lady! Who was the other one?

**HAYES:**            The other one I think is a chap that took on the presidency for a long time, Peter Lessiter. Peter was a general member of it and then over ten, fifteen years, he just held the ratepayers' group together, across the time when the council was out of activity when they were having an amalgamation. Then when it came in – the new council – he really revitalised it and came along and was a strong advocate at Council meetings, representing the opinion of the ratepayers' group on issues. He'd be at every Council meeting, "Oh behalf of the ratepayers I've got this to raise. Peter held it all together for fifteen plus years as Chair. Without his involvement there the organisation together... Because when I first joined the Council there was, I think, three ratepayers' groups and then another one came in for a short period of time. Of those it's the only one existing, the others all just disappeared after a while.

HC            I'd like to talk about personal initiatives now, but we have covered the establishment of the Finance Futures Fund, the Future Projects Reserve Fund and the Land Asset Optimisation Strategy. Also from the environmental point of view we have covered the consolidation of parcels of land into Jidarup Bush Precinct, the Adopt a Verge Programme, the Urban Forest Strategy and the programme to remove redundant crossovers. The next one on my list after those was the Causeway Precinct Plan, would you like to say a few words about that?

**HAYES:**            Right. Yes, this is one that... What was becoming before Council just down near the Causeway area, was some applications for some tall buildings. At that time the building height was about six storeys in that area and people came forward with applications for twelve storeys and then eventually eighteen- storey redevelopment. Council was looking at them and looking at them solely as being a height issue. Is twelve storeys too big, is eighteen storeys too big, type stuff? They weren't looking at it in total perspective. David Ashton and myself worked on having Council adopt what eventually became the Causeway Precinct Plan, whereby they looked at the Causeway Precinct area as a total and looked at if we are going to have higher density development in there, what facilities do we need, not just buildings,

what facilities do we need. Well, let's do one first. Which is worse, one skinny eighteen storey building or one big flat building that covers the whole block. So you looked at things like height and density and plot ratios had to be looked at and get a balance between the two. We looked at the issue of what would be the impact of traffic on the area – if these buildings were there what sort of impact it would have. Need for traffic management, traffic lights etc. What impact it would have on footpaths and encroachment of maybe roads onto footpaths and turning circles at intersections. So look at the whole area and then what would be needed for people occupying the residence and attending workers there for recreation and lunchtime commitments, cafes and all this. So we put a plan together that covered the whole precinct and built in what physical assets are needed, what community assets are needed and what sort of limitations we may put. Eventually it came out that we identified six sites out of the whole area which could have high-rise buildings and the others had to stay at a lower level. So it put a structure in place rather than just simply saying, "Let's look at one application at a time." The community out there then had something to deal with and the applicants knew what was before Council. If they were going to do a development on certain land that had been approved for a higher level of density they knew what they were going to get rather just simply trying to debate with Council, whether twelve storeys was acceptable or not.

HC           Excellent. The WA Youth Orchestra Music by Moonlight Symphony Concerts. I think it was in 2006 to 2016, for ten years.

**HAYES:**           That's when I first joined Vic Park Council. The WA Symphony wanted to set up a community symphony programme. They approached the City of Perth and said to the City of Perth, "Can we do a community concert in the City of Perth?" The City of Perth then said, "No. We're not going to do that." I suggested that we put up our oar and put in a bid to see if they'd come and provide a concert in the town, which they did. That ran for half a dozen or eight years. Then WASO because of industrial issues and that decided that they'd move sideways, and it looked as if we were going to lose a symphony concert in the town. I was aware personally of the WA Youth Orchestra and approached the Vic Park Council, the administration, and said to them, "Why don't you go and make an approach to the Youth Orchestra to see if they would come out and be a replacement?" It all happened. Since then the concerts have occurred on about the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of March each year. I think only one concert ever got drowned out – it was cancelled before the concert occurred. It's the most popularly supported community activity the town has ever had. Every year, we have 7,000 or something audience, turn up to it.

HC           The Sporting Walk of Fame acknowledging elite sports people, athletes and officials who have had a direct association with the town.

**HAYES:**           Yes. My sporting background that I've talked about earlier and sporting orientation in my life... There's recognition of sportsmen at State-type level around the place; there's halls of fame, walks of fame, whatever you want to call them. I saw there were a lot of local members who were not being recognised but were

significant in our town because they helped promote swimming activities, or cricket activities, that were present in the town. I encouraged that we perhaps likewise try and establish our sporting walk of fame, which has been done. We called for nominations and we had nominations from sportsmen and coaches and from officials and their recognition is put on a plaque and that plaque is mounted near the Aqualife Swimming Pool. People can go there and see plaques on some of the major sports' identities of the area. Hopefully it does two things, it provides a recognition for them which they may not have in other forms and also for people who attend to look at that and say, "Well maybe I could be become a cricketer like Dennis Lillee or a swimmer like..." whoever, that had been using our local pool. That type of spin-off. That's continuing now. So each four years we have a replenishment of additional plaques to the Walk of Fame. I believe in our society we need to say to some people, "Well done! Good effort! We recognise what you've done." So many of these individuals by making a sport popular – and cricket's been a good sport in the town, with Perth Cricket Club, the Perth Football Club... The swimming pool has generated a lot of people in swimming and water polo, both at participant level and coaching level. Hockey has been another very strong sport within the town, especially in fifties/sixties, hockey was... A lot of the State team and Australian team were [Victoria Park] hockey players, but even in recent times there's members of the State team that have come from [Victoria Park] hockey, both men and women's teams. To me it's been perhaps a little indulgence in a sense, but to me the major outcome of that is recognition of people and let's encourage our youth of today to aspire towards those positions in the future.

HC            The next item on my list is also an award for recognition, Long-Term Residents' Award, for people who have lived in the town for 50 years or more. Why did you initiate that?

**HAYES:**            A little bit of the same motivation as the sporting one. Vic Park has been very much a heritage area. It was one of the early suburbs in the development of Perth. It's been a major area for the evolution of the working class. One time this was locked in with all the industrial and we moved out. It became a recognition that it's a working class, dormitory suburb. It was a suburb close to the town, public transport, had a lot of people been resident here for their life and I saw the need to then likewise recognise the long-term residents who contributed towards building the town as I knew it as a kid and as it's evolved through at the moment. As we've found that there is a large, significant proportion of people who have lived in the town for in excess of 50 years, so it's a recognition. They come along to a morning tea, get a certificate and get a badge and get recognised as being a long-term contributor to the town. That's held every two years and it's extremely welcomed by our senior members in the community. They come along and sit down and tell us stories and we've learned a lot of local history from it. In that sense whilst they're there they'll give us stories and that's given a catalyst towards building up the local history resources of the town. It's a bit of a spin-off both ways. Well done and thanks for giving us your stories, because we want to know them.

HC           And the last one on my list of your personal initiatives was the renaming of the town wards of Vic Park to Jarrah and Carlisle to Banksia, how did that come about?

**HAYES:**           In your initial introduction you did mention how there was a Carlisle Ward and Vic Park Ward. Originally there was only the Vic Park Ward and then the ninth ward became the Carlisle Ward. Those names ran through from 1963-ish up until about ten years ago<sup>26</sup>. What was happening is the town had two wards, one was Vic Park and one was Carlisle and the boundary fluctuated a little bit between being Albany Highway and being Shepperton Road, depending on the population densities in the two wards. You had people that were living in Victoria Park between Shepperton Road and Albany Highway, but were not in the Vic Park Ward. They'd say, "Well if I'm in the Vic Park Ward, why am I in the Carlisle Ward?" You had people living in Burswood, or Lathlain, or Welshpool that said, "We're not in Carlisle." There was a bit of an attitude in the community that Carlisle was not to the same socio-economic level as perhaps Burswood was, or Lathlain to a lesser extent, and people didn't want necessarily to be labelled Carlisle. So there was that degree of conflict and confusion in the community because the wards were named on suburbs, but the boundaries were not suburb boundaries. I looked at suggesting well what about we change it away from suburbs and come to something else. We looked a range of items, we looked at animals from the area, we looked at Aboriginal names. Eventually – perhaps fortuitously – settled down on using two botanical names, with jarrah and banksia because they are trees which were quite common in the area in the early stages before a lot of the vegetation on the blocks was knocked down. It also links in well today, and that's umpteen years later, with the recognition of the town and the move towards revegetating the town and building an urban forest. That was an early acknowledgment that trees are important. Also within the town's emblem - the Morton Bay Fig is the town's emblem, so it linked back into trees being part of the town. So the Banksia Ward, that's the one I was representing, there's boundaries which are marked, but they don't necessarily represent any suburbs.

HC           So that solved the problem then really didn't it?

**HAYES:**           It does indeed. Oh – the old guard, the old community, still call it Vic Park and Carlisle, but the new members of Council are all completely versed across Banksia and Jarrah and know which is which. It will just take a little bit of time to bed down, but I think it also has the major benefit, as I say, in recognising botanical items.

HC           Now you made a decision not to stand for re-election and to retire in 2017. You retired after representing Carlisle as a councillor for nine years with the City of Perth and for the past 16 years for the Town of Victoria Park in Banksia, a total of 25 years. Why did you decide not to re-stand for election?

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<sup>26</sup> On 15 October 2011 the boundary between Carlisle Ward and Victoria Park Ward altered from Albany Highway to Shepperton Road and the names of the wards were changed to Banksia and Jarrah. [Town of Victoria Park Local History Collection Timeline, Third Edition, January 2016.]

**HAYES:** One of those reasons was really in the last part of your question, about 25 years, but I'll come back to that in a second. In 2013, when I was elected, at that time it was edging onto... the amalgamation issues had started to develop through and then build to a peak about 2015. I saw that if the amalgamation went through that would bring about a spill in council. If there's a spill in council instead of my term going right through for the four years to 2017 it would be in 2015. When the amalgamation fell off the back of the truck my term automatically was continued through to 2017. I saw that as a real windfall. I got a two-year Christmas present – I got two years extra and I didn't have to fight an election. I just saw it as a real positive issue have not having to fight an election in 2015, not that I was really worried about it, but it's a lot of work and a lot of effort to do that.

As I touched on a little bit earlier too, that in 2013, two of my colleagues in council lost the election. That hit us a bit because you don't just have work colleagues, you have to have friends there a little bit. David and Rowena and I have continued on our friendship and without them there that provided a... It was a different scenario, a different atmosphere from that component. Also I saw that when I joined back in the early eighties, I said to you there were a few members on council that had been there fifteen, twenty, 30 years and I thought they were the old guard. Now here in 2017 I was coming up for the 25 years and maybe I was sitting in the old guard chairs now. A recognition that you've been there a long time, a recognition that the young people who were coming in, they were giving more energy, giving new ideas and I thought it was appropriate that I'd done a quarter of a century. A good milestone - let's pass it on to other members. In the election in 2017, as I touched on earlier, there are three new elected members, three new ladies came onto the council and they're working well, they really are. I am happy with that. Sometimes I think you need to know when you need to go.

My major project was the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment. That was 80% complete. To stay on another four years – it might take another year or two to get fully completed, but what after that? What was to be finished is locked away anyhow. It's locked away that it will have to evolve through. There's only one component of the Lathlain Precinct that hasn't been... The design has been put in place, the business plan is put in place, that's zone one, which is the rebuilding of a stand, as a facility for the Perth Football Club, which they would use as their administrative building and a training facility. When it gets rebuilt it will be a community building of which the Perth Football Club is the major tenant – not the Perth Football Club building, which it tended to evolve through into because of old history. It will become a community building which Perth will be in and I'm certain that will get built. The funding isn't in place, there's about \$1 million been put in place, but it will cost about \$15 million, so there will be need to develop up the rest of the funding from the Department of Sport and Rec., maybe the Federal Government, the Council putting in some and maybe the Perth Football Club making contributions, but I am certain that once the Eagles facility is in place immediately beside it, with a modern \$60 million facility and all of the other zones of Lathlain, the community zones and the community building and all that, are

up and operational, all new... The old Perth Footie Club which has got a lot of concrete cancer in it and it doesn't apply to access rules at all, it's non-compliant, it will stick out that much, like a sore thumb that they will have to do it.

HC It sounds like you are leaving everything in really good order.

**HAYES:** Well with the elected members that are there now I am really confident about that.

HC I've made a list of the many awards and life memberships you have received, and I'll append that to your transcript.<sup>27</sup> I'd just like to mention a couple that relate to your local government service. In 2007 you received the WA Local Government Award for Long and Loyal Service, then in 2013 you received the Local Government Merit Award. Then in 2017 the Town of Victoria Park honoured you by naming the Lathlain Community Facility, the Keith Hayes Community Centre. Would you like to comment on any of those?

**HAYES:** Yes, especially the last one. You often, when people get awards given to them they stand up and say, "I am humbled by this." But truly I was by that award. I was humbled for two reasons really – it was an award established by my peers. It was within the Council. I vacated the chamber when the issue was discussed. That my peers bestowed the award; that was significant to me that they did that, that they recognised what I'd given. Often in an adversarial situation like government can be you don't necessarily have that recognition being forthcoming. Also whilst they were not directly involved I did see that that it was a recognition by having a community building in my name – that it was a recognition by the members of the community out there. Within the building itself, it's going to be occupied by three groups that I had an association with in a sense (and I'll just touch on those in a minute) and a very heavy involvement of working towards getting the new building for them. Occupying the new building is the Lathlain Play Group, the Carlisle/Victoria Park Toy Library and the Child Health Clinic. On the neighbouring block to where this is located, immediately beside it, was a building - an old dilapidated building I referred to earlier, which those organisations, at different times, actually occupied. Those buildings, my son, when he was born back in '88, he actually used the Health Clinic there. The Toy Library was a project that my wife actually set up, she was the founding President of the Toy Library back in '89. The neighbouring property the other side, is a scout group, which is an organisation that I was involved with as a boy. In that sense, we as a family living in the area, just purely in that sense, used the services that are provided to the community, from the scouts, from the Health Clinic and the Toy Library, over our involvement of living in the community. Then back in 2005-2011-ish, as I said a little while ago, there was an acknowledged need that we had provide a new facility for the Toy Library and Play Group especially and the Health Clinic. So that evolved with that working group that went from about 2005-2011 and then went into the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment, just working through, getting it involved took a long... Local government takes a long time to get things in place, but we eventually got there. We

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<sup>27</sup> See attachments at the end of this transcript.

made a building which is purpose built for the three users and I know the groups are really satisfied with what they've got and I'm proud of the outcome. We went through many versions of building design – the building design initially was architecturally built and then we took it back to the committee and said, "Does this meet your needs?" and we found that a lot of things just didn't meet their needs – mums with prams have different needs than an architect thinking how things need to be or something. So it really came through as a community designed-building I honestly believe. I was able to drive a lot of the requirements that the community needed to make it functional for them.

HC            That sounds like it made it very meaningful award all around then.

**HAYES:**            I was quite proud about it. I know that it's there in perpetuity and I saw it as an award, not just for myself - my wife, for her help during the time and my son who was across these issues. They were all at the opening ceremony and it will be there for the grandkids.

HC            Very meaningful all around. What have been the major changes and in particular to the Town of Victoria Park Council in the last 25 years, Keith?

**HAYES:**            We can do it in two ways, looking at the Council operations – the Council as an institution and we can look at the Town of Victoria Park as a broader picture type area. Within the Council itself, as I've touched on earlier I think there has been a major change away from the role of council from being what I'd call engineering oriented to being community building focussed. From providing roads and rubbish collection to helping people live in the neighbourhood, live with their neighbours and play and recreate in the area. That's changed the role of council quite strongly. This has been caused by... well it's either been facilitated by, and produced, a change, as I said earlier in the composition of council to a younger council, to a council which represents more diversity, young people, people disabilities, women, mums, so we're far more diverse. The only area we haven't really had representation from is perhaps more the ethnic-type background. At one time a gentleman did stand once or twice but didn't get elected. We haven't had that component yet in council, but I think it would be important some time.

The Council itself now is... there are professional people and perhaps its strength at the moment is the community where it's a little bit light on maybe on town planning and finance, but that will evolve through and one of the new members at the last election I see with a lot of potential of helping push up and energise these components there. So the composition of council I think is the important factor and that has turned everything up on its head.

The next senior-most councillor there has got ten years. When I joined there were two or three or four who had 25-30 years' experience. They are very much in touch with what is needed; they are involved with a lot of the community-based groups which might be family groups, they might be arts and culture. They're also very much attuned to social media and the issues that generate through that component, which is another

scenario which has changed the actual dimension of council. When I first joined Perth City Council, there wasn't a great deal of accountability other than new elections every three years. Then in those days, often the elections were unopposed. Vic Park, with elections every two years, put the Council more accountable and with the community committees that I told you about earlier. But social media has changed the scene dramatically because social media can just cause a responsive reaction to something that's out there, without asking questions, just simply chuck out an opinion, rather than finding out some information behind. So unfortunately a lot of opinion gets developed which is factually wrong, or is incorrect, because they don't necessarily know all the information, rather than asking questions first, get the information and then react to it. So that's made the area far more difficult and far more reactive.

Council, I think, is becoming more – and rightfully, they need to consult a lot more than they did. In Perth City Council days they didn't consult. Vic Park Council has been quite leading in consultation, especially under Arthur Kyron, our CEO and under Anthony Vuleta, very significantly so. In some ways I think we're becoming a little bit community spooked with consultation. It's a matter of getting the balance between the two, but it's better to over-consult than under-consult. So that's been another change and that's one that Council will have to develop through, because you do elect the elected members to make a decision, not just simply run an opinion poll on every issue that hogties them, so they can't make a decision. The product of asking people is getting a better outcome generally speaking, but you get the strong power groups cum squeaky wheels dominate. That's always a problem with the consultation component, to make sure that your consultation is representative of the community.

HC            So with that evolving setup, because it is really an evolving setup, how do you see the future of the Town of Vic Park?

**HAYES:**            There's two issues that really have a bearing in the sense that... As we are aware a few years back there, some three or four years ago, the State Government had a commitment towards trying to get amalgamations. That's put on the backburner, but it's not taken off the stove. It may come back again in the future. WA is the only state really that hasn't had any comprehensive amalgamation of local governments. There's some 30 local government authorities in the metro area and around about 140 I think, across the state. Other states have, to varying degrees, had amalgamations over the last ten or so years, but we haven't had that, so potentially it could come back again. If it comes back again that's a major issue of – if we do who do we amalgamate with. The last amalgamation – I am going back a little bit there, but the last amalgamation proposal I had concerns with the mix that was being put forward for us, to join up with the South Perth Council. I didn't think that was the appropriate way to go. But the issue to have amalgamation from the Town of Victoria Park was also a defensive measure to try and protect the Burswood Peninsula area because the Perth City Council at that time was trying to take over what we call the Burswood Peninsula area. Now that the stadium is there, there's been further pressure again for the Perth City Council to extend its boundary across the Causeway to Great Eastern Highway, up to the railway line and annex that component. That would have major

significant implications to the town, have an impact on rate base because of Crown Casino. But to me it would have a major impact more so on the issue of the community facilities that are being built out there, would be taken out of any influence we'd have, all the parkland and the sporting facilities and the redevelopment of the racecourse, the Belmont Racecourse area. So we'd lose a degree of influence over that major redevelopment that will occur there in the next 15 years. So those issues could come back again from the State Government, who knows? If we were going to amalgamate I would personally like to see the local authorities have more influence over if they're going to amalgamate, who amalgamates, rather than the State Government coming up with the position. I see a lot of affinity with Belmont Council for instance, and Vic Park. The issue of trying to amalgamate Belmont Council to Kalamunda – silly – just didn't jell together. You need to really look at the jell, the demographics, the industry and all of the issues to then work out and show to people that there is going to be benefits from this rather than just simply saying... And the benefits will be more than just economic because they couldn't quantify what the benefits were. But that's past. But they really need to look at it in bringing the people with it, rather than just putting it to the people. So where that is, I don't know. The other dimension is, as I said, there is growing demand put on local councils to provide more community services and that will continue because we've got more people living in the area, we've got more traffic congestion, we've got smaller blocks. People need recreation areas, they haven't got them. Where are they going to play with no places to play? So there's a need for the councils to come in and provide more public open space for recreation. People used to be able to entertain themselves in their own backyard or up and down the street verge or on the footpath – they can't do that now, so we need also to provide recreational sporting facility areas for people to play. We need to provide concerts and that, so they can go out and get entertained. So there is a bit of a need. I am saying this, not in a critical way, the council will have a need to bring people together collectively, as a group, so they can interact with each other, because with the infill development the closer people get the further they get apart in living. We need to provide a forum in which they can congregate together and get involved. As I mentioned to you earlier the Meet and Greet Programme which is trying to get neighbours to come together and have a little social function on their front verge – a picnic, a barbecue, or something like that. Then they talk to each other and then next week when they go along the street they might say, "Hello Mary." That type of thing is happening.

HC                    It sounds like you are wanting to create a village/community type feel again.

**HAYES:**                    Well if we're going to be Vic Park, the Town of Vic Park, it's Vic Park Village, yes. The other extreme is if the Council is going to have more pressures on it, it's going to have more pressures on finances and resources and I don't know where that is going to come from. Globally – and I don't think it will ever happen in my lifetime – I see that Australia politically needs to shift from the federal system, having a federal government, state government and a local government. Federal

government have the money, most of the functions are at state level and the state level delegate function down to local government. So you get this shove down. The local government are restricted pretty much. They're rate revenue base has only one source which is rates; they don't have much else in the way of income base. To me it creates a financial inequity, it also creates a buck-passing of responsibilities. To I would rather perhaps see that we should have unitary system with a federal government and regional governments. So the state and local government in effect don't exist, but we then develop it into regional governments. So WA might have ten regions or something of that nature. You get a bigger base at that level and therefore you can't get the buck-passing and the regional governments have sources of income which the State Government don't really have adequately at the moment. We see in all the GST arguments that occur at the state level – there's all these inequities that occur in our federal/state financial relations. What is called vertical equity is not there in finances.

HC Keith, is there anything over the years that you wish you'd achieved, but you didn't?

**HAYES:** Not a big list, no. I think the only one that I am disappointed I wasn't able to... One of our most active numbers of participation and active from performance has been Vic Park Xavier Hockey Club. The Vic Park Xavier Hockey Club played originally on turf, but hockey has changed in the last period of time, twenty years or so, that principally hockey is played on Astroturf – synthetic turf, as opposed to grass. We haven't been able to provide an area of land which would facilitate the locating of an Astroturf pitch for the club. It put major restrictions on the expansion of the club. It has had 700+ members. I think they're currently at about 600. But they're playing on grass, even though competitively-wise they've got representatives in Australian teams and they win a lot of the local competitions and get in the grand final, they're playing on substandard surfaces which they don't compete on. It's just not functional. It's a club which has really in the last couple of years expanded greatly into their women's programme and their young children programme. They're providing a really good support in the neighbourhood for kids and for young girls and we haven't been able to meet that need. The council have not got that solution and to me it's disappointing that we haven't been able to accommodate that.

HC What do you see as your greatest personal achievement while you've been on Council?

**HAYES:** Hmm. The ones that have given me the most satisfaction, which is more of less the same thing, has been the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment. I'd like to come back in fifteen years' time and have a look at the area because I think it's going to have a major transition on that geographic zone of the Carlisle/Lathlain zone there, once the Eagles' facilities are in place and they redevelop the former bowling club site. The new playground at Raymond Reserve<sup>28</sup> is now operational. I go there some Saturday afternoons and the place is just vibrant with kids and families everywhere, at the Toy Library, over on Rayment Park, in the Lathlain Place

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<sup>28</sup> Bounded by Howick, Keyes, Petherbridge and Rayment Streets.

redevelopment. There have been a couple of additional coffee shops opened there. It's becoming a place to go to, a destination place, for people to turn up and have a coffee and be around the area. Once the Eagles move in that will catalyse it so much more. It will be a big catalyst for bringing in more people into the location. I see that as a community transition that is going to occur there – will is happening. Just to see the kids there after school and on the weekends. It's really – without being too soppy, it just warms your heart to see it happening.

HC           What was the second one?

**HAYES:**           The other one is the assistance I have been able to give to the new young councillors that have come in. Once we've had this change and evolution through – this came through when I was Deputy Mayor, to try and help the new ones coming, in transition. I've got a lot of satisfaction from being able to do that.

HC           Where to now, for Keith Hayes?

**HAYES:**           Where to now? I won't drop the baton completely. Local government, that's on the side. I'll continue the involvement in local community, with the community garden, with the hub, the Seniors' Hub that's been developed, I'll be linked into there. I am involved with the local Men's Shed facility. Also looking at always... The other that I think is very valuable in our community - and we haven't really touched on this one - there's been an explosion of community groups over the last ten or so years in the community. It's just phenomenal how many community groups have come out and are very significantly making a contribution. The Collective is one that I initially thought of. A young group of people, near say 35-40-year-olds, that area, just giving to the community and running little community projects that they want to do. It might be a repair hub, so they run a little facility that you can come along, bring your goods and we'll help repair them for you and help show you how to do it, or do it free of charge. Running little fundraising soup programmes. People come along and buy a soup, put in \$10, get a soup and a slice of bread and the community group come up and tell you why we should get the funding. All the money from the night goes to this community group - \$800, \$3 000, \$1 300, goes to a little community group to run the project. So they run these little activities every now and again. They've provided the capacity for young groups to get away. Community safety groups; there have been four neighbourhood watch groups start in the town in the last few years. Community safety has been a negative impact of the higher density in the community and one of the downsides of more people in the area.

HC           So you will arrange and assist all those...

**HAYES:**           Yes, very much so, to help, to be across and assist where I can.

HC           It sounds to me like you're going to be even busier than you were before.

Keith, thank you very much, it's been a most interesting interview and you've made an absolutely huge contribution to the Town of Vic Park. Thank you very much.

**HAYES:** Thanks for the opportunity.

**END OF INTERVIEW**

## ATTACHMENTS

1963

*Canberra Times*, 27 November 1963, p 11.



15 - year - old Keith Hayes, of Carlisle, W.A., has been blind since he was affected by a tumour when he was nine. He was recently presented with a brand new braille typewriter by the third-year students at the school assembly. Here Keith shows his braille typewriter to class mates, Max Binnington and Frank Christiansen.

1985

**Canberra Times, 16 Jan 1985, p 36**

WA tops blind cycling finals Western Australia, the stronghold of blind cycling, won gold medals in all three cycling finals, held at the Mitchell circuit as part of the Australian blind sports championships yesterday.

The convener of blind cycling in Australia, Ron Anderson, pedalled his tandem cycle to gold in the 3.2-kilometre sprint final. Benjamin Hughes won the consolation final and Keith Hayes the 16km time trial. Anderson, who finished 12th against sighted riders in a world veterans' championship in Austria in August, completed the race in 6 minutes 18.51 seconds, marginally ahead of Victorian Bob Jackson and well ahead of John O'Keefe, of Victoria.

Anderson, whose world championship ride made the cycling orthodoxy in Europe aware of blind cycling is, through the Association of the Blind of Western Australia, lobbying for an Australian team to compete in the World Masters Games in Toronto in August - to be chosen from these championships.

Eleven teams competed yesterday: Six from Western Australia, three from Victoria and two from NSW.

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**Canberra Times, 10 April 1985, p. 8**  
**Cycling – Five in Blind Squad**

Five Australians, including one reserve, will go to Paris in July for the first international event for blind cyclists, a "prologue" to the Tour de France.

The reserve has yet to be named but other cyclists are Ron Anderson and Keith Hayes both of Western Australia, and John O'Keefe and Robert Jackson, both of Victoria. They will ride tandem cycles and will be accompanied by sighted riders.

The national director of the Australian Blind Sports Federation, Pamela Hutcheson, said the prologue, which will be held on July 19, would be run over about 50km and would finish at the Champs Elysees, Paris, while the Tour de France was in progress.

After the prologue, a few cyclists would return to Australia and others would go to Canada to compete at the World Masters Games in Toronto in August, and then to Europe for veterans' races in Austria and Italy.

The Government would subsidise airfares.

2011

[http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/about-us1/about-us/count-me-in/count-me-in-ambassadors---count-me-in/#Keith\\_Hayes](http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/about-us1/about-us/count-me-in/count-me-in-ambassadors---count-me-in/#Keith_Hayes)

### **Count Me In Ambassadors**

The Count Me In Ambassador program was developed as a major strategy to disseminate key messages of Count Me In across Western Australia. The program was launched in December 2010 by the Disability Services Minister.

Spreading Count Me In messages across Western Australia is crucial to foster better inclusion and access for people with disability across all aspects of community life. Western Australia's first Count Me In Ambassadors were inducted in February 2011. The Disability Services Commission Chairperson, Bruce Langoulant is patron of the Ambassador program.

#### Role of Ambassadors

Our Count Me In Ambassadors represent a broad range of experience, networks and community profiles. They have the ability to influence many areas of Western Australia's private and public sectors.

Ambassadors integrate messages of inclusion and access for people with disability into key areas of their work or leisure, such as conference papers, formal presentations, committee meetings or casual conversations.

They seek opportunities to spread Count Me In messages and report back to the Commission every few months about their activities

#### Ambassador Profile

**Mr Keith Hayes** has been a Town of Victoria Park Councillor since 2001 and has personal experience of vision impairment. He was a TAFE lecturer in economics, business studies and community services for 25 years. He has been Chairperson of Victoria Park's Disability Advisory Committee since 1997. Keith has also been a member of the WA Disabled Sports Association Management Committee, Blind Citizens Australia Transport and Access Committee and Main Roads Vulnerable Road Users Taskforce.

2017

<https://www.communitynews.com.au/southern-gazette/news/town-of-victoria-park-honours-keith-hayes-by-naming-laithlain-community-facility-in-his-honour/>

February 17th, 2017, 04:00PM Written by Aaron Corlett, [Southern Gazette](#)

## **Town of Victoria Park honours Keith Hayes by naming Laithlain Community Facility in his honour**

**THE work of long-time councillor Keith Hayes has been recognised after the Town of Victoria Park decided to name the Lathlain Community Facility after him.**

At a meeting on February 14, the council decided the building would be named the Keith Hayes Community Centre after local elections in October.

The council decided to delay the naming of the building, which is set to open in the next few months, as Cr Hayes was up for re-election this year.

The facility will house Lathlain Playgroup Inc, Carlisle Victoria Park Toy Library and a child and adolescent health clinic.

"I used to feel that when people were presented with honours like this and said they were humbled that it was trite, but I actually feel humbled," Cr Hayes said.

"I feel like I have been acknowledged by my peers for the work that I have done around the area, which I have lived in for my whole life."

Mayor Trevor Vaughan said he came up with the idea after discussions with the other councillors.

"He has put so much effort into the community I thought it was a good idea," he said.

"I'm comfortable that it wasn't part of the strategic plan; it's something that was important so I didn't want to go through that process.

Mr Vaughan said it was fine for the building to be named after a current councillor.

"There are other precedents like J.A. Lee Reserve, where places were named after current councillors, so it's not a worry for me," he said.

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<https://manning.mensshedswa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2015/10/170303-MMS-March-2017-Newsletter.pdf>

**Manning Men's Shed Newsletter: an activity of the Manning Senior Citizens Centre March 2017 #3, p 2**

### **Keith Hayes Honoured**

Shed Member Keith Hayes has been honoured by the Town of Victoria Park Council after their decision to recognise his life time of service to the local community by naming the Lathlain Community Facility after him. The facility is to be called the Keith Hayes Community Centre.

Keith, who has been blind since he was a child, has been very active in his local community for many years in a range of different roles. Our congratulations to Keith.

LATHLAIN

# Hayes honoured

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## A LIFE OF SERVICE

Cr Hayes is the chairman of the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment Project Team.

His community roles include:

City of Perth councillor 1981-1990

Town of Victoria Park councillor 2001-current

Deputy Mayor at Town of Victoria Park 2007-2009

2007 International Day of People With Disability – Community Contribution winner

Disability Service Commission "Count Me In" ambassador 2010-2016

People With Disabilities WA – Founding chair 1980

Cystic Fibrosis of WA – Life member and founding father 2000

1977 Community Forum Victoria Park (formerly Carlisle Residents and Ratepayers Association) member for more than 40 years

WA Local Government Association South East Metro Zone representative 2001-2011

Burswood Park Board member 2010-2015

Tamala Park Regional Council member representing Town of Victoria Park 2015-current

Young Australia league Education Scholarship Committee member 2015-current

WA Disabled Sports Association – founding member 1982

Visibility (formerly Association for the Blind) board of management 1991-1997

Victoria Park Community Garden Association management committee 2012-current

The following was provided by Keith's wife, Margot Hayes, written by her for Council before the opening of the Keith Hayes Centre in November 2017

Keith's retirement speech didn't mention his achievements. A mark of the man.

I think I probably should decline the opportunity to contribute information.

Long before he began on council 1978 he won state & national citizenship awards for outstanding community service and Outstanding Young Australian awards

Keith was elected to Perth City Council at age 31 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1981 the time of the Safari Suits and the WA Inc years. Keith's cubs leader J A Mick Lee later mayor of the Town and John Bissett were already there to lead the way as Carlisle. He was single lived alone and had a demanding job as a relatively new Economics & Social Science lecturer. He did give away his part time studies at WAIT now Curtin.

It was an achievement to be elected, he beat the long-standing member Cr Tom Wright and Women's rights campaigner, Nancy Rehfeldt. Among campaign issues raised were his blindness ability to handle the paperwork and to understand some of the ratepayers' issues eg broken footpaths. I am sure street. Life can attest today to the number of footpath issues and obstacles that he reports in.

His mother and people he employed long before the days of councillor honorariums and TAFE contributions read his agendas to him along with his assignments to be marked. Margot was one on these readers who he married in 1986.

Although not a royalist, Keith enjoyed meeting members of the Royal family during his time at City of Perth this time.

They were challenging years with the agendas covering what is now the City of Perth, Town of Cambridge, Town of Vincent and Town of Victoria Park, safe to say Carlisle wasn't high priority. To get anything passed you needed to convince 12 other people to support you.

It is difficult to separate Keith's role in Local Government and disability because his role in local government gave him a powerful voice in disability.

Keith has never been one to do one thing at a time during this time he did great things for people with disabilities

He was a role model for both able bodied and people with disability. He was proud when in 2011 election there were 4 people with disabilities who became councillors in Armadale, Melville, Stirling and Toodyay. The new councillors were brought together for Keith to mentor them

In 1985 he brought together three disparate disability groups to form People With Disabilities WA Inc the peak consumer disability group that exists today. He served on the working party that drafted the Equal Opportunity amendment related to impairment.

It was through his involvement in the Ministerial Advisory Committee that was able to get passed that Local Government be included in the requirement to complete Disability Access Plans.

Before this there was work on the requirement for tactile paving TGSIs and audio pedestrian tactile facilities which are so important to him in his daily living.

Development Lathlain park  
mentoring

#### Achievements

- Chairing the Lathlain Precinct redevelopment committee.
- Work on the Development Assessment Panels working to get the best possible outcome for the Town and its residents
- Having a significant input into the Town's written history.
- the sporting walk of fame award was established under his chairmanship
- Recognition of the Town's long term residents by a morning tea and certificate.
- Establishing a financial reserve to fund facilities.
- Steering the Harold Hawthorne Centre

***I will listen to you, be your advocate in Council and get the job done, and get the job done***

\*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.lathlainprecinct.com.au/zone/community-building-zone>

Community Building Zone, 6 November 2017

#### **Opening of the Keith Hayes Community Centre**

In March 2017, Mayor Trevor Vaughan raised a notice of motion to officially name the Lathlain Community Building the Keith Hayes Community Centre - in honour of long serving Councillor Keith Hayes and as recognition of his enormous contribution to the local community over 25 years of service.

The motion was passed unanimously and on Sunday 5 November, the centre was officially opened marking the completion of Zone 6 of the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment Project. The event also celebrated the official completion of Zone 5 - the redevelopment of Rayment Park.

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## Community focus

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWN

### Farewell Cr Hayes

**From this year the Town of Victoria Park Council will feel very different.**

Not because following the election in October, we have a line-up of some new faces on Council, but mostly because one particular, familiar and resounding voice of the people will be missing for the first time in 25 years.

Keith Hayes has chosen to retire from Local Government service after representing Carlise as a councillor for nine years as part of the City of Perth, and for the past 16 years with the Town of Victoria Park (which became a local government authority in its own right again in 1994 following the City of Perth Restructuring Act 1993).

Keith notes some of the highlights in his time as a councillor with fond reflection, emotion and humour.

"Supporting the controversial planning approval for the Nardine Women's refuge, in Victoria Park, is a big one for me," he said.

"As was establishing the AIDs self-help family support centre, which faced many appeal processes and a lot of community bigotry and bias and was taken to the Equal Opportunities Commission before finally getting across the line. I was called as a witness by the applicants, it was a gruelling process I will never forget.

"I'm also proud of assisting with the establishment of the Carlise Food Centre, a Uniting Church project, because it met a huge community need of the time, when low income families were struggling and weren't able to access low cost food, even on welfare." The Centre, fully run by volunteers only closed around 12 months ago.

But it doesn't stop there, as Keith is credited with being the driver behind the introduction of many more initiatives for the Town, such as the Adopt a Verge program, the Causeway Precinct Plan, the WA Youth Orchestra Music by Moonlight Symphony Concerts, the Sporting Walk of Fame, the Land Optimisation Strategy, the program to remove redundant crossovers which allows more room for planting street trees and much, much more.

Most recently he Chaired the Town's Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment Project Team. Within this project, he is well known as the main driver behind the planning, design and construction of the new community

building, recently opened in Lathlain.

Keith says his time particularly at Vic Park has been the most rewarding with a very team-oriented environment that has seen a lot of change and progress – but if you think this is the last you'll hear from him since his decision to 'retire' – you should think again.

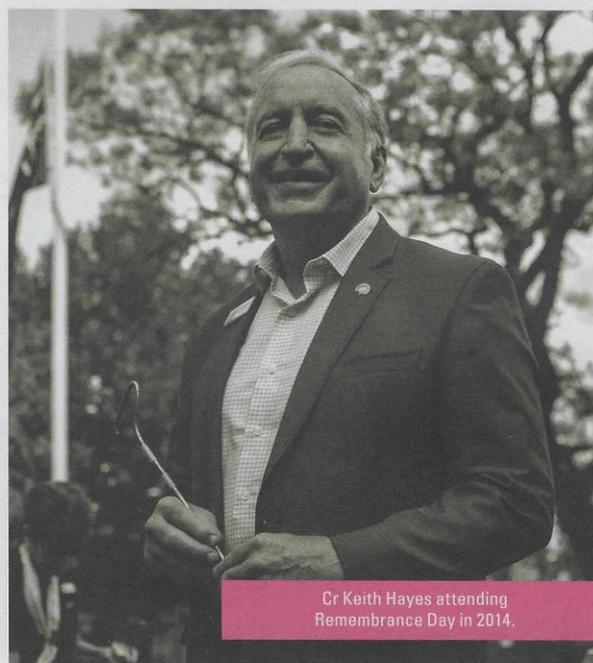
"There's always more to do," he said.

"There is bit of unfinished business for me and I will be keeping a close eye on the completion of the Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment Project and the Urban Forest Strategy. I think greening our public realm is crucial.

"I hope to continue to do some community service in the disability field, but will also be able to focus more on my personal health, do some travel and aim to be bit more self-indulgent."

Keith's contribution was recently recognised when the Town named the newly opened community building in Lathlain after him – a fitting tribute to his dedication and service to the community over a very long time and a significant portion of his life.

Read the whole interview with Keith Hayes on our website at [vicpk.co/keithhayes](http://vicpk.co/keithhayes)



Cr Keith Hayes attending Remembrance Day in 2014.

2018

<https://www.visibility.com.au/stories/victoria-park-council-considers-access-first>

VisAbility

Posted on January 22, 2018

## Victoria Park Council considers Access first



Image of Mayor Trevor Vaughan, former Deputy Mayor Keith Hayes and VisAbility's Chief Operating Officer Debra Barnes pose with the braille copy of the DAIP

On Wednesday 18 January, VisAbility and the [Town of Victoria Park](#) celebrated the handover of the new accessible copies of their Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2017-2022. The handover provided the time to reflect on the newly adopted DAIP and the positive impact it will have on future community equity and access. VisAbility team members were joined by Town of Victoria Park members, and special guests Town of Victoria Park Mayor Trevor Vaughan and former Deputy Mayor Keith Hayes.

The DAIP was developed in consultation with key stakeholders and community members, and it was recommended that the final DAIP was produced in accessible formats. Our Accessible Information Services team was then called in to translate the document in both Braille and audio formats, which will both be kept at the Victoria Park Library and VisAbility for community to access.

“It’s really important for the Town to lead in this space, which is something we have done in the past thanks to a really diverse and proactive Council.” said Mayor Trevor Vaughan.



Image of the team that made the Braille and Audio DAIP copies possible. Pictured center: Mayor Trevor Vaughan

The Town of Victoria Park’s DAIP was adopted by the Council in September 2017, and there are many examples of the outcomes already including a development of event management documents which assist team members to deliver inclusive and accessible events. The upcoming Twilight Trio concert series will feature an Auslan interpreter and a planned business breakfast to be held in April will invite local business to learn about how they can provide accessible and inclusive environments.

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<https://www.pressreader.com/australia/southern-gazette-south-perth/20180130/281590945999155>

Press Reader, *Southern Gazette* (South Perth) 30 January 2018

## Town gives greater access to plan



**Picture: Martin Kennealey**

Former Victoria Park councillor Keith Hayes, Mayor Trevor Vaughan and VisAbility chief Debra Barnes with a braille copy of the disability access and inclusion plan.

THE Town of Victoria Park has made its disability access and inclusion plan (DAIP) 2017-2022 available to more people after producing braille and audio recordings of the new document.

Burswood-based disability services provider VisAbility handed over copies of the plan in the new formats during a presentation on January 18.

Former councillor Keith Hayes, who lost his sight at a young age, was among the drivers of the DAIP.

He said it was important for more people to be able to understand the plan.

“When you have something read to you, you don’t pick up all the detail,” he said.

“It’s an important document because not only does it provide an outline for the council, it also advocates on behalf of people living with a disability.”

VisAbility chief operating officer Debra Barnes said the council was progressive for having the plan available to more people.

"It's extremely important for people living with a disability to have access to these types of documents," she said.

Mayor Trevor Vaughan said the council had the responsibility to ensure that everyone in the community had the same access to information.

*Beyond Matta Gerup: A History of Victoria Park*, Town of Victoria Park, 2012, pps. 185/186

*The determination evident in the push to create a Neighbourhood Watch scheme exemplifies both the challenges that tested the district in the late 1970s and 1980s, as well as the commitment to its improvement shared by many residents during this time. It would be a grave mistake, however, to assume that the problems give a complete picture of Victoria Park. Longtime resident and Town of Victoria Park councilor Keith Hayes notes that most people felt that the media sensationalized the level of crime in Victoria Park and its suburbs. He comments that 'there wasn't a sense in the community that [we] were living in a criminal environment.*

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## **COMMITTEES SERVED ON**

### City of Perth Committees

- Works committee
- Health and Buildings
- Vehicle parking
- Standing orders
- Welfare

### Town of Victoria Park Committees

• Chaired the Town's Lathlain Precinct Redevelopment Project Team  
Within this project, he is well known as the main driver behind the planning, design and construction of the new community building, recently opened in Lathlain

- Inaugural Chair of Victoria Park's Disability Access & Advisory Committee 14 years
- Finance, Audit & Governance Committee
- Future Planning Committee
- Integrated transport advisory committee
- Community Environment Advisory Committee
- Local History Advisory Committee - major achievement the publication of the history of the Town of Victoria Park, Beyond Mata Gerup

### Town of Victoria Park Council related Committees

- Member of Metro Central joint assessment panel (JDAP) State government Planning Advisory Committee
- Burswood Park Board
- Tamala Park Regional Council
- WA Local Government Association (WALGA) zone council
- Harold Hawthorne Carlisle Seniors Centre Board of Management - 25 years

### Other Committees

- Victoria Park Community garden 2011-
- WA Disabled sports association management committee WADSA
- Victoria Park Community Hub working group 2018
- Count me in Ambassador 2011-
- Community Forum Victoria Park (Ratepayers Association)
- Young Australia League Education Grants Advisory Committee 2015-

### Other Activities

- Local gym
- A member of the Manning Men's Shed 2017

### Awards

- Thomas More College, College man of the year 1969

- Jaycees Young Australian of the Year 1978? State and National recipient one of five
- Life Membership - Cystic Fibrosis Association WA
- Life Membership People with Disabilities WA National Disability Awards 2007 Contribution to the Community
- WA Local Government Awards - Long and Loyal Service 2007, Local Government Merit Award 2013
- Life Membership Retirees WA

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

### websites

<https://www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/News-stories/Farewell-Cr-Hayes>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-26/arts-festival-installation-causes-bomb-scare/5770744>

<https://formerministers.dss.gov.au/15177/inaugural-national-disability-awards-announced/>

<https://www.lathlainprecinct.com.au/zone/community-building-zone>

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Court/1995/03/Membership-of-working-party-to-advise-on-public-transport-for-disabled-people.aspx>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnold\\_Cook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arnold_Cook)

<https://johnbissett.org/about/>

*Australian Dictionary of Biography* at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/vaughan-grace-sydney-15899>

Biographical Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia' through the Parliament of WA website at [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au)

### Newspapers

*West Australian*, 8 April 1954, p. 16.

### Electoral rolls

Australian Electoral Roll, of 1954, subdivision of Belmont,

### Books

*Beyond Matta Gerup: a history of Victoria Park*, by Susannah Thompson, Town of Victoria Park, 2012.]

### Other publications

Town of Victoria Park Local History Collection Timeline, Third Edition, January 2016.

**John Keith Hayes (Keith) was born in 1948 to William Hayes, a foreman/carpenter with the City of Perth and his wife Hannah Elizabeth Taylor (Anne or Annie). He had three older brothers and one sister.**

The family moved to 56 Mars Street, Carlisle. After living in Carlisle for 62 years he moved to Victoria Park and was a resident there at the time of the interview.

Starting school at the Holy Name Catholic School in Lion Street, Keith transferred to the School for the Blind after he lost his sight due to a brain tumour at age nine. On his third attempt to re-enter mainstream education he was accepted by Belmont High School in the 'A' stream. He was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship which he undertook at Kent Street High School. Later studying at UWA, Keith Hayes was awarded a degree in Economics, a DipEd, and a Masters in Education in the field of Economics and the Politics of Education. In 1977 he secured full-time lecturing work at TAFE for the next 26 years.

His career in local government commenced in 1981 when he successfully stood for the Carlisle Ward of the City of Perth. He remained a councillor there for nine years, standing down in 1990. From 1990 to 2001 he focused his activities on disability issues, working with many related organisations and associations at local, state and national level.

**Session One – 1:50:44**

**Session Two – Part I: 1:55:44**

**Session Two – Part II: 0:45:50**

