



Society Notes

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Keeping the Undertakers Alive



Photo: LDHS Archives

This photo shows the condition of Nelson's Undertakers' building in the mid-1980s before it was renovated to become the Resource Centre for the Linton and District Historical Society. Over 25 years later, the building is looking somewhat better. However, it is now in need of further work to repair the deterioration resulting from the wear and tear of time. These repairs will also ensure that our valuable archival material, stored within the building, does not suffer damage, in particular from damp.

The **President's Report** on page 7 of this issue of *Society Notes* sets out the steps that are currently being taken to preserve the building.

Article in Society Notes prompts memories of the Hishion Family

Society member **Barry Hishion** has sent us the following memories that were stimulated by the article on the 150th anniversary of the Linton Cricket Club that was published in our last issue of Society Notes



Annie and Robert Hisshion

The names accompanying the photo of the 1895 Cricket Club that appeared on the front cover of the May issue of Society Notes, drew my attention, for I spied in it the name of my father's uncle Robert Hisshion and his son Bobby, my dad's cousin. Bobby was born in Fitzroy on 20 May 1883, so when the photo was taken he was aged about 12. [His father] Robert (1862) and my grandfather Daniel (1861) were both born in Linton.

When Bobby's mother Hannah died in 1900, Robert remarried that year, to the young Annie McDonald (1874) who hailed from Langi Willi. Annie was born at Skipton, the daughter of Norman and Ann MacDonald (nee McMaster). Bobby, then 17, didn't take too kindly to his step mother, so departed Linton and found work in the Waihi gold mine in New Zealand. In doing this he followed many Ballarat district miners who were then doing likewise.

Robert and Annie had two sons, born at Geelong, namely Daniel (1901) and Norman (1903). In 1903 Robert left mining work at Pitfield Plains and took his family to New Zealand, there joining Bobby at the Waihi mine. He was not to return to Linton, for in 1909 he died aged 47 from '*Phthisis Asthenia*' (TB), a name commonly used then for miners' disease.

In 1912 following a big strike at the mine, Annie returned to Geelong with her two boys and in 1913, there married Thomas Walters. Thomas died in 1940 and in 1950 Annie passed away at Geelong.

Not long after his father's passing in 1909 Bobby married a very young Hilda Beaney. They had two daughters, Katherine Nora and Mary Pearl. The marriage ended in divorce. Bobby became a drainage contractor after moving to live in the Auckland suburb of Mt Eden. It was there that he married the widowed Sarah Anderson who predeceased him. He died at Mt Eden aged 79 in 1962.

Bobby's mother Hannah and my grandmother Mary Ellen (nee Wright) were sisters, both born in Collingwood. The spelling of our surname has a variation. Thereby hangs a miner's tale!

Why this issue of *Society Notes* is smaller than usual

Readers will have noticed that this issue of *Society Notes* contains only eight pages, which is quite a bit smaller than the twelve or sixteen pages we usually publish. This is because, with all the additional material required for the AGM, including a copy of the proposed new constitution, it would be too difficult to fit a larger *Society Notes* into the envelope! Our next issue (November) will be back to a usual size.

The beautiful harmonies of the Welsh Valleys are coming!



**Sunday 6 October 2013 at 2 pm
at Carngham Uniting Church**

***The Victoria Welsh Male Choir will present the Diary of a
Welsh Swagman***

The story of Joseph Jenkins, a Welsh poet who tramped the Victorian goldfields in the nineteenth century, will be accompanied by traditional Welsh songs. The choir will also sing other musical treats from their broad repertoire, including favourites from operas and musicals, and popular songs.

The Victoria Welsh Male Choir is renowned for its rich singing in four-part harmony.

Tickets on sale from August 1. Prices: \$25 adults at the door, \$22 concession and pre-sale, \$20 for pre-sale 10+ groups. Tickets available at the door, at Linton Post Office, Susie's on Sussex, or phone 0434586150 or email enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au

***The concert is an important fundraiser for the Linton and District
Historical Society. Please bring lots of your friends!***

This is a musical afternoon that you will not want to miss!

Devonshire Tea will be available after the concert for \$5
Venue is wheelchair accessible

Proposed New Constitution for the Society

This issue of Society notes contains a proposed new Constitution, or Rules, for the Society, and at the AGM on Monday 16 September a motion will be put that the Society adopt this document as its Constitution, or Rules.

This new constitution will bring our rules into line with the requirements of the new *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* which was passed by the Parliament of Victoria last year. This Act provides a re-vamp of the laws dealing with 'not-for-profit' organisations. The Act also provides for a new set of *Model Rules* with which the constitution, or rules, of an incorporated association are expected to comply. Our proposed new constitution is based on those Model Rules, with a couple of minor modifications to reflect our particular organisational structure.

From a practical perspective, the adoption of the new constitution will not require any changes to the day-to-day running of the Society. There are some slight changes to how the secretary must submit the annual financial statements of the Society to the State Government's regulatory authority, and there are very helpful guidelines relating to members' rights, grievance procedures etc.

If anyone has any queries about the proposed new constitution, please contact the Society's Secretary, Drew Hopkins, on 0439 895 007, or email: drewhopkins47@gmail.com

The full text of the Act can be found at the State Parliament's *Victoria Law Today* website <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/static/www.legislation.vic.gov.au-lawtoday.html>

At this site, click on the *Acts* button and then look under the letter "A" for the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)*.

For a copy of the Model Rules, go to the same site, click on the *Statutory Rules* button and look under "A" for the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012*. Open these regulations, then scroll down to Schedule 4, which contains the Model Rules.

AGM Guest Speaker will talk on the experiences of Australian Nurses in World War 1

At the **Annual General Meeting on Monday 16 September 2013** to be held in the Linton Shire Offices, Sussex St, Linton, at 7:30 pm, our guest speaker will be Ms Kirsty Harris, a Melbourne-based historian and writer, who is the author of '**More than Bombs and Bandages.**' The book is based on her award-winning PhD thesis, and will be available for purchase on the night.

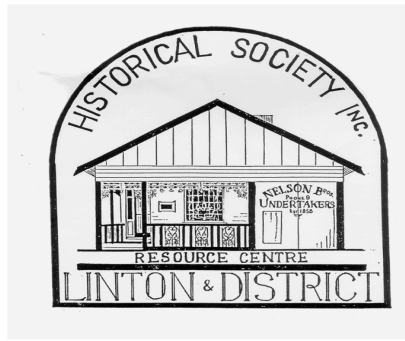
Kirsty will speak about the experiences of Australian nurses who enlisted in World War 1 - including Christina Morrison who came from Happy Valley.



more than
BOMBS
and
BANDAGES

Australian Army nurses at work in World War I

Kirsty Harris



The Annual General Meeting
of the Linton and District Historical Society
will be held on

Monday 16 September 2013, 7:30 pm
at the Shire Offices, Sussex Street, Linton

Guest Speaker:

Kirsty Harris, author of *More than Bombs and Bandages* will speak on the experiences of Australian nurses in World War 1

Special Resolution:

The following motion will be put to the meeting:

That the draft Rules of the Association which have been sent to members, and which comply with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 201 (Vic), be adopted in place of the existing Rules of the Association.

Other Business to be conducted:

- Presentation of Annual Report by the President
- Presentation of Financial Report by the Treasurer
- Election of Committee of Management for 2013/14

All welcome

A supper will be served after the meeting (Please bring a plate)

Vale Stan Howard

It is with sadness that we pass on the news to members that Stan Howard passed away on 4 July 2013, aged 80. Stan was the second son of the legendary Ella Howard, the former long-serving caretaker of the Linton Free Library. In our February 2013 issue of *Society Notes*, we included an article on the Howards and their involvement with the library, with a photograph of Stan visiting the library with his wife Joy and daughter Sue last December. The Society has written to Stan's family expressing our condolences.

Adam Kerr entertained us with stories at History Night

The **June History Night** guest speaker was Aaron Kerr, a fifth generation Lintonian. Aaron spoke of his growing up in Linton in the 1980s – his school experiences, days spent with Linton friends, great times with the Linton/Carngham Football Club and the Linton Cricket Club, and drinks with mates at the Linton pub.

Aaron recounted conversations he remembered having with his grandfather Ron Preston, a local storekeeper, and the many stories about his ancestors, the Morgan, Cornish, Chibnall, Preston and Kerr families and their associations with Linton and the Mannibadar district over five generations. Aaron's memories were extensive and amazingly detailed and his interest in his family history and the history of Linton are quite remarkable for a relatively young person!

We thank Aaron for sharing with us his family history and for making the night a most enjoyable one for all present. The night's proceedings were recorded and **a DVD is available for purchase from the Society.**



Aaron Kerr speaking to the audience at our June History Night in the Shire Offices Photo: Joan Giles

DVDs of History Night talks are available for purchase from the Society for \$10 each – talks by Jim Stapleton (2012), Rod and Joan O'Beirne (2012), Bruce Adams (2013) and Aaron Kerr (2013).

Generous bequest from Alwyn Roberts

We are delighted to report that former Society member, Alwyn Roberts, who passed away last year, provided in his will a bequest of \$2,000 to the Society. Alwyn had been a very enthusiastic contributor to the Society, and we included details of his life and involvement with the Society in the September 2012 issue of *Society Notes*. Alwyn's generous gift means that his commitment to preserving the history of Linton will be ongoing, as the money will be put towards our preservation work.

Welcome to new members

It is a pleasure to welcome these new members who have joined the Society in recent months: Joan Janka, Roger Walsh, Doug Jennings, Des Howard and David Fraser.

A Word from the President

Outcomes of grants for building repairs

Much of my report in the last edition of *Society Notes* was taken up with discussion of the poor state of repair of the two heritage buildings that the Historical Society cares for – the old Undertakers' building that is our Resource Centre and the 1874 Library next door for which we are the committee of management.

We have had some good luck and some bad luck with regard to the grants that we applied for to facilitate repairs to these buildings.

Golden Plains Shire Grant

We obtained \$2,500 from the Golden Plains Shire Community Grant, which was unfortunately only half of what we applied for, the Shire having reduced its overall allocation for community grants this year from \$130,000 to \$84,832 in order, they said, to enable a reduction in Council rates. We had asked for \$5,000 to go towards the **replacement of the roof at the old Undertakers' building**, with the Society contributing the remaining \$3,140 needed for the project. After further discussion with Council, during which they agreed that it was not possible to replace half the roof, they decided to make up the balance required from their maintenance budget. Since the building is Shire-owned this seems a logical outcome. We are hoping to commence the roof replacement within the next couple of months.

Conservation Plan for the Library

Our application to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal for \$5,000 towards the cost of a professional **Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for our 1874 Library** was unfortunately rejected. However, prior to our learning this, the Shire (who also own this building) had offered to make up the balance needed for the CMP, amounting to \$6,000. The Shire's heritage advisor, David Rowe, who was to undertake the CMP has since offered to do so for half price as a community service, as long as the Historical Society can assist by doing some of the historical research involved. So we hope that this project will still now go ahead before the end of this year.

Help from Imerys

Further good news - **Imerys Minerals**, who operate the Kaolin mine in Linton, have repaired the badly rotten window at our Resource Centre (the old Undertakers' building) and are planning on doing further repairs to weatherboards and the front veranda. Many thanks once again to Brad Haywood from Imerys for initiating this work.

A new Publishing Venture

Meanwhile, we have commenced work on our next publishing project, a book of historical photographs entitled, **Linton: a Photographic History**, for which the Society received a Local History Grant from the State Government last year. The book will contain about 100 pages of our historic photographs in a 'coffee-table' style format, depicting Linton's history over the past 150 years. As there is no published history of Linton in print at the moment, this project will fill an important gap.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual General Meeting on Monday 16 September and at our big fundraising concert on 6 October at Carngham Uniting Church (see elsewhere in this edition for details).

Jill Wheeler, August 2013

Jim Stapleton turns 100!

A large number of Society members attended member Jim Stapleton's sparkling talk to the Society last year, and were entertained by his tales and reminiscences of life in Linton and beyond in the early and mid twentieth century. Members will be pleased to know that Jim is still brimming with energy and that he has just celebrated his 100th birthday on 17 June 2013 in Echuca, where he lives with his wife, Nell, in a retirement village. In an interview in the *Riverine Herald* on 17 June, Jim had some words of advice about how to live a long life: 'I worked outside. I hated spending a day in the office. I think that's good for you. Have a good diet, don't smoke, be careful of how you handle alcohol and get plenty of exercise.' Jim had a number of birthday celebrations the biggest being a party with family and friends at the Rich River Golf Club resort in Moama. He still plays bowls.

the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – Sundays 8 September, 13 October, 10 November. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm.**

Next Meeting: The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 16 September, 2013**
See notices on pages 4 and 5 regarding guest speaker, and the special motion.

Join in the discussion and supper (please bring a plate).

- Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. Please contact the treasurer for details.
- Lots of information is on our website www.lintonhistory.org.au
- **DVDs of History Night talks are available (Jim Stapleton, the O’Beirne family, Bruce Adams,, Aaron Kerr): \$10 each.**
- **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be November 2013.**

Society contacts:

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Society Address: PO Box 41, 69 Sussex St., Linton 3360. Website www.lintonhistory.org.au
(Nelson Bros. Undertakers building, but now the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre)

Society Notes contributors and helpers: Jan Cooke, Susie Cooke, Alan Giles, Joan Giles, Deirdre Nicol, Jenny Stuart, Jill Wheeler.



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Hours of opening: Friday 2:00 – 4:00 pm;
Sat and Sun: 11:30 – 4:00
Located in Sussex Street, opposite the Railway
Hotel
Profits donated to the Linton CFA and the
Linton and District Historical Society.

