



Society Notes

November 2014

Published Quarterly

Number 285

ISSN1033-9582

Heritage Tourism and Linton: the Potential



Visitors to Linton from of the Cornish Association of Victoria enjoyed browsing in the old Linton Free Library

Photo: Gary Hunt

What is the potential of old gold rush towns like Linton to promote tourism through exploiting their gold rush heritage? This was one of the questions raised by our guest speaker at the Society's Annual General Meeting, Professor Keir Reeves from Federation University, Ballarat, and it raised a good deal of interest amongst the audience. See the report is inside.

Inside: Tourism; Christmas Drinks; Next History Night; In Memory of Joyce Sandow; WW1 in Linton; AGM Report; Piggoreet missing beneficiaries; Library campaign.

The AGM: The Economic Potential of Heritage Tourism

How heritage tourism can boost the economies of struggling rural towns was one of the themes explored by our guest speaker, Professor Keir Reeves, at this year's Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 15 September in the Shire Offices, Sussex St Linton. Keir holds a chair in Regional Engagement at Federation University in Ballarat, and the formal title of his address was: *Exploring gold rush and pastoral heritage in central Victoria: A regional perspective*. An historian by training, Keir is particularly interested in how local history and heritage are key drivers of local and regional identity.

Keir raised the question of community resilience, and looked at two key ways in which the preservation and exploitation of local heritage can contribute to that.

First, he discussed how communities identify strongly with their historic places. For example, old buildings, such as shire halls, court houses, mechanics institutes and other places that have played a key part in a town's history, contribute to the residents' notion of what it means to be a part of that community. Similarly, historic sites such as old gold diggings and mullock heaps add to the identity of a town or region, and the residents' sense of being part of it. These points were illustrated by showing pictures of old diggings and buildings, and the example of the elegant streetscape of Bendigo. Preserved buildings can also become community assets, and the restored Sandhurst gaol in Bendigo is a prime example of this, as it has been adapted into a theatre that is being used by Bendigo High School and the wider community.



AGM Guest Speaker Professor Keir Reeves, and Society President Dr. Jill Wheeler

Photo: Joan Giles

Then Keir turned to the issue of cultural tourism, and how that can be driven by the exploitation of town or regional history. For example, Bendigo's preservation of its history has made the city more attractive, and driven a lot of economic activity. Sovereign Hill provides a prime example in Ballarat of history-generating employment and economic activity. Keir suggested that natural and heritage resources need to be developed together. Trentham provided another good example of an old streetscape attracting profitable businesses, such as the bakery and the restored pubs.

History and heritage are a key part of cultural tourism, especially in attracting people to regional Victoria, and Keir presented statistics on the popularity and profitability of cultural tourism. He gave examples of how encouragement of overseas tourism can provide a huge boost to the number of cultural tourists. The historic Plaistow Homestead at Joyce's Creek provides a very successful example of this. It was originally run just as a Bed and Breakfast, but is now fully booked with cultural tourists. The owners have a link with a travel agent bringing tourists from Singapore, Hong Kong and parts of China. The owner picks up tourists at Kyneton station and gives people a two-day goldfields and rural Australia experience.

Other successful examples of this type of tourism include Brae restaurant in Birregurra, and Clunes' projection of itself as the "Book Town". Brae in Birregurra is a fine dining experience, and provides for the gourmet traveller. It does not yet have accommodation, but they are planning a luxury "sleep under the stars" experience.

The question was then raised of how to preserve the buildings and maintain their heritage value, and find new uses for them to promote cultural tourism. There followed a lively discussion on the tourist potential for Linton.



CHRISTMAS DRINKS

For the Society's Christmas celebration this year we will have Christmas Drinks at

The Linton Library

Sussex Street Linton, next to Nelson's Undertakers

Friday, 5th December

From 5:00 to 7:30

Please bring a plate and a bottle of your own favourite.

Hope to see you there to say Merry Christmas!



RSVP by phone or email to Jan Cooke 5342 8554 at piggoreet-west@bigpond.com.au or Joan Giles joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au Tel: 5309 1770

Attractions in and around Linton: part of the tourist experience

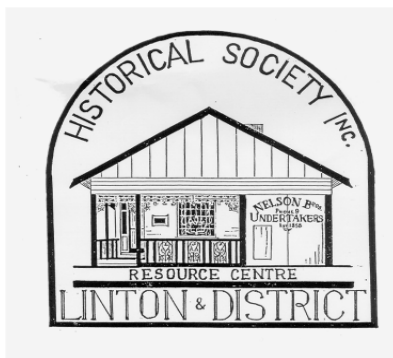
What is there in Linton and the surrounding district for tourists to explore? We are familiar with Linton's streetscape and its notable fine old buildings. These include Traquair House, the Free Library, Nelson's undertakers, the former Bank of New South Wales, Wishart's Blacksmith's Forge and a number of attractive Victorian era buildings and houses. There are also buildings that might not be regarded as architecturally significant, but add character to the street. The Railway Hotel would fall into this category. Details about these buildings and their history are set out in the Society's publication: *A Walk-Drive Tour of Linton*. The town's shopping strip has now revived somewhat, with the opening this year of a second antique/collectable shop, and the re-birth of the café as *Ruby Cocoa* for waitress-service meals.

Outside the main street there are many places that still record Linton's past. The Avenue of Honour is an elegant memorial to those who served in World War 1. The cemetery is beautifully maintained, and is a popular visiting place for people who call at the Society's Resource Centre seeking information about their ancestors from Linton. The cemetery also contains the Chinese section, where many of the Chinese gold-diggers who came to Linton seeking a fortune, were buried. This section also has a memorial installed by the Melbourne Chinese community. Further afield are the numerous mullock heaps that mark the places where gold mines were dug. The Mortchup Road reservoir where a restoration project is in the planning stage. Flagstaff Hill is also a popular tourist spot, where a walk up the tower steps rewards the visitor with panoramic views in all directions. With Nimons Bridge and the Devil's Kitchen the list goes on. And of course it is the journey along the Ballarat-Skipton bicycle trail that brings many to the town.



Photos: Gary Hunt Above: Sussex St; below Linton Cemetery





Linton and District Historical Society

Next History Night

Monday 17 November, 2014

at the Shire Offices, Sussex St, Linton, 7.30 pm.

Who lived on the Happy Valley goldfield?

Joan Hunt will tell some stories arising from her research into the early history of Lucky Woman's and Happy Valley. She will talk about some of the mining and farming families whose surnames are known in the district, such as Bolte, Crosier, Fitches, Thomas, Gribble, Garvey and others. She will also explain how she has researched who and where the miners lived in the mid-nineteenth century, and how she traced the history of land selection of that period, using maps and plans and documents mainly from the Public Record Office Victoria.



Come and join the discussion

Supper will be served at the end of the meeting. Please bring a plate

Generous assistance from a Ballarat business to preserve historical records



Jill Wheeler (left) and Society Life Member Joan Giles, presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to David from Redwood Entertainment

Photo: Alan Giles

David and Cassandra, the proprietors of Redwood Entertainment, Ballarat, are responsible for, among other things, the reproduction of all the Society's DVDs from our History Night talks. They have recently undertaken the enormous task of transferring over 25 of our oral history cassette tapes by former Lintonians onto CD, not an enviable task in view of the fact that a lot of them were in very poor condition. But David and Cassandra agreed to take on this challenging, tedious and time-consuming job, as they recognised the importance of preserving these oral histories. They have now completed this task, which resulted in a collection of 55 CDs. We will now be collating and naming these. When this has been done, copies will be offered for sale - more on this at a later date. Redwood has proved to be quite a find for the Society and saved Committee members a lot of blood, sweat and tears by tackling these jobs.

Not only has Redwood shown remarkable expertise in the services they provide, but they have turned out to be passionate advocates of the preservation of local history.

As Redwood Entertainment has been such wonderful supporters of the Society, we think they deserve a free plug! Here are just some of their specialities: transfer from VHS to DVD, restoration and transfer of precious old vinyl records, audio cassettes and tapes. They can also scan and transfer 35mm slides to DVD.

David & Cassandra can be found at Redwood Entertainment, 239B Victoria Street South, Ballarat East, and can be contacted on: 5334 4408, 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

DVDs of History Night talks are available for purchase from the Society for \$10 each + \$5 postage/handling – talks by Jim Stapleton (2012), Rod and Joan O'Beirne (2012), Bruce Adams (2013), Aaron Kerr (2013), Rob Lewers (2014), Chris and Bill Grigg (2014) are available. Contact Joan Giles: joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au, or tel: 5309 1770.

Life at Home during World War One



*In the last issue of Society Notes, we indicated that, during this time of national commemoration of World War I, we would include material explaining how the war impacted on the home front in Linton. The following extracts from the **Grenville Standard** and the **Camperdown Chronicle** show how the community was coping with the casualties of the war, whilst still retaining some normalcy in town life.*

The Grenville Standard

SATURDAY JUNE 23, 1917. The dancing boom in Linton continues unabated, and the Library is making hay while the sun shines. Saturday night's dance was well attended, and one of the most enjoyable held yet.

An all-night ball will be held in aid of the Library on Friday night, 6th July, at the Parish Hall. Much of the success of these dances is due to the excellent music of Mr and Mrs A. Hiscock and Mr G. Sanderson, who give their services free of charge in order to help a local institution. They are to be commended for their public spirit.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1918. A presentation of medals to returned soldiers and parents of soldiers who have been killed at the front will be held on Tuesday night at the Parish Hall, Linton. The function will take the form of a social evening, with a musical programme and refreshments. A charge of 1/- will be made for admission. Cr R. Wishart will preside. The reception committee are requested to meet this evening (Saturday) at the Shire Hall.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1917. Empire Day will be celebrated in all the State schools on May 24. Children will be assembled at the usual time in the morning, and the lessons for the forenoon will consist of readings, addresses, recitations, and patriotic songs. The singing of the National Anthem, with the added verse referring to the Anzacs, and the saluting of the flag, will form a prominent part of the proceedings. In the afternoon the children will be free to take part, under the direction of their teachers, in any celebration arranged by the district authorities. The day will be observed at Linton on the above lines.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 29, 1917. Examinations in Pitman's system of shorthand (elementary and theory) were recently held at the Commercial College, Ballarat. Two Linton pupils, Miss **Nellie Grigg** and **Miss Kathleen Reidy**, have passed in both exams.

The Camperdown Chronicle

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6, 1917

LINTON: A welcome was tendered on Friday night to Private R. M. Ferguson, who has just returned from the front, having been wounded in the head by a bomb from a German aeroplane. The Parish Hall was well filled. Crs H. G. Kennedy and R. Wishart, and Mr A. J. Smith welcomed the young soldier, who briefly replied, and told a few stories of military life. Private Ferguson was presented with a neat gold medal suitably inscribed. Dancing was the order of the evening, the music being supplied by Mr and Mrs Hiscock and others. Messrs Nelson and Roberts acted as MCs. Supper was provided.

Vale to a Linton identity, Joyce Sandow, 4 May 1909 – 29 October 2013

This tribute to was written by Joyce's daughter, Wendel Dorothy Davis (nee Sandow), 25 May, 2014. Wendel is one of our members and says that her mother was always interested to hear the news in Society Notes.

MARY JOYCE SANDOW (nee COMMONS), known as Joyce, was born on 4th May 1909 in Linton. Her parents were Robert Ernest Commons and Dorothy Tame. Her siblings were Albert Ernest, b. 1907 Pitfield, Harold George, b. 1913 Linton, and Dorothy May, b. 1915 Linton.

Joyce went to the Linton state School and was a good pupil topping her classes. She lived with her parents in Adair St., until her marriage to Neville Lewis Sandow, youngest son of Eugene George Sandow & Mary Ann (nee Lewis), also of Linton. Joyce & Neville married in the Christ Church Cathedral, Ballarat on 17th October 1933.



After Joyce's parents shifted to Ballarat the couple moved in to the Adair St. house and their first daughter, June Beverly, was born in 1934. June was tragically killed in an accident in 1938, just eight months after her sister Wendel Dorothy was born. A third daughter Jennifer Mary was born in 1940, and not long after the family shifted to Wendouree to live next to Joyce's parents in Burnbank St.

In her old age Joyce would regale her daughter with many stories of her life in Linton as a child and her life as a newly married woman. She saw the introduction of the first cars, electric lighting (replacing gas lighting, initially only in the main street), the visiting dentists, the shopkeepers, doctors and her many relatives who made up the population of Linton. The excitement of St. Patrick's Day when a band from the Ballarat orphanage came, Methodist anniversary days when she got a new dress, the church fairs that her mother organised for the Methodists & Anglicans. Joyce also remembered the two World Wars and the men who left Linton to fight and the ones who didn't come home. As a little girl she sang a song at a concert that was given as a send-off for young men going to the First World War. Fortunately her uncle Bill Commons returned from this war alive.

Her mother Dolly Commons was a very active member of the community. She was involved in the school, the churches and seemed to be the person people turned to when a baby was born, or someone died and needed to be laid

out. Joyce was expected to help people out as well by cooking and cleaning for them in emergencies and running messages.

Joyce sewed all her children's clothes, which was a great help financially during the depression and war years. She was frugal but not mean and always bought the best she could afford.

After Neville's retirement they shifted to Darriwell Park, Wendouree. Joyce was able to walk to St. Matthew's church where she was an active member. Neville lived to be 99 years old and Joyce looked after him up to the end of his life. She was to spend the last years of her life in Kelston and she passed away aged 104 years old on October 29, 2013.

The Commons family were on the Linton Diggings before the 1860s. Joyce's mother's family, the Tames, came to Linton in the 1870s and the Shields were there in the 1860s. Neville's Sandow family arrived in Linton in the 1880s and his mother's Lewis family were in the area in the mid 1850s.

"Search for Heirs"

The Judge of the Trial court of Vallemaggia, Switzerland, calls forward whoever considers him or herself an heir as descendant of Giacomo Luigi Campigli - Swiss citizen born on 13.11.1837 at Maggia, emigrated to Australia and resident at Piggorret, deceased on 16.10.1899 - to come forward and present him or herself to the Trial court of Vallemaggia within one year from the date of this notice.

Once the notice period indicated above has expired, the Swiss inheritance will be allotted to those who have presented themselves to the court and have been certified according to the regulations of Swiss law.

It is specified that the deceased, Giacomo Luigi Campigli, had the following offspring:

- Archibal born and deceased in 1863-1863
- James Louis in 1866-1933
- Francis Alexander in 1868-1949
- Eleanor Luisa (married surname Nimon) 1871-1933
- Elisabeth Ann (married surname Nimon) 1873-1914
- John Albert 1876-1952
- William Albert 1878-1921

The notification of any descendants must be sent to the following address:

Pretura di Vallemaggia
CH-6675 Cevio
Email: prece@ti.ch

The Judge
Siro Quadri.

This advertisement was placed in the *Herald Sun* Public Notices on 17 October 2014 by a court in Switzerland. The court is seeking the descendants of Giacomo Luigi Campigli who lived for many years in Piggoreet during its nineteenth century gold-mining era, and raised a family there. A listener who phoned radio station 3AW on the day of the advertisement said he was a great-grandson of the family, and that Giacomo had a hotel at Piggoreet. He added that had not seen any of the money however.

Does any reader have further information?

President's Annual Report for the year to September 2014

Below is the text of Society President, Dr. Jill Wheeler's, annual report that was presented to the Society's Annual General Meeting on 15 September 2014.

This is my fourth year as President of the Linton and District Historical Society. It has been another busy year, with our focus in two areas – the first, getting our collection in order, which involves sorting, cataloguing, and satisfactorily storing it; and second, maintenance of the two buildings that we manage, that is, the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre in the old Nelsons Undertakers building, and the 1874 Library. It feels like what I've been doing all year is applying for grants for renovations!

Membership

At the end of August this year, we had 90 members, an increase of 10 on last year at the same time. We are delighted to welcome these new members to the Society. It is heartening that so many of those with Linton heritage want to be involved in accessing and preserving Linton's history. As was the case last year, it is interesting to note that almost half of our membership – 43% - lives beyond the Linton-Ballararat district – in Melbourne, in other places in Victoria, and interstate.

Meetings

Since this time last year, we have had four well-attended **History Nights** - in November, February, April and June, plus **Christmas break-up** drinks in December attended by about 20 members.

At our **November History Night** our speaker was member and local historian Joan Hunt, who related to an enthusiastic audience some of her findings from her research for her PhD into the Springdallah gold discoveries.

In **February** we had another in our *Stories from the Elders* series. These are History Nights where we invite longstanding or former Lintonians or their descendants to tell us of their memories, or their family's memories, of Linton. Our speaker on this occasion was Mr Rob Lewers, great-grandson of Mr Samuel Lewers, one of Linton's 'founding fathers', who spoke about his family history as well as his own memories of growing up in the district.

At our **April History Night**, due to the proximity of **Anzac Day**, we had Mr Graeme Spittle from Ballarat, who read from the many letters his father sent home from the Western Front during the First World War.

And in **June this year**, in another in our *Stories from the Elders* series, we had local brothers **Chris and Bill Grigg** as guest speakers, talking about their family history and their own memories of growing up in Linton from the 1950s to the 1970s.

All of these meetings have been very popular amongst members, and have included non-members as well. In fact, I think the most was 44 people in the Shire Offices meeting room - and we have been grateful to the Shire for the use of the Shire Offices to accommodate the crowds.

Our sincere thanks go to all of our speakers for agreeing to share their important oral histories with us. Just a reminder - we have made DVDs of each of the speakers in our *Stories from the Elders* series and we have placed them in our archives for posterity. They can also be copied for anyone who is interested, and purchased from the Society for \$10 each + \$5 postage and handling.

Meanwhile, the everyday business of the Society has been handled by the hard-working **Committee of 7**, which has had seven meetings in the last year and reported back to the members at History Nights and via *Society Notes* on any matters of general concern to the membership.

Grants

We have done well with grants in the past year although most of this money has been directed towards the conservation of the two Shire buildings that we inhabit and manage.

We already had a **Local History Grant** from the State government via the Public Record Office to produce an A4 size book, entitled **Linton: a Photographic History**. This is an ongoing project that we have until next year to complete.

For the 2013-14 year, we received a **Community Grant of \$5,000 from the Golden Plains Shire** towards the replacement of the roof at the old Undertakers building, which as you know, is owned by the Shire but is the Resource Centre where we have our headquarters and where our archival collection is stored. This job was successfully completed in December 2013.

This year, **the 2014-15 year**, we received a **Community grant of \$2,420** from the Shire towards the repairs to the north wall of the Centre. This wall is the one most damaged by damp as a result of the previously leaky roof. We had actually asked for \$2,750 as we had also hoped to repair a few other sections as well. Another complication has been the discovery of asbestos in all the exterior walls of the Undertakers' building as a result of an audit by the Shire of asbestos in all its buildings. After discussion with Shire staff, they have agreed to pay for the removal of the asbestos in the north wall so that we can go ahead and execute repairs to that wall. However, the removal of all the asbestos sheeting on that wall means that the job of replacement of the wall is a much bigger one than we'd anticipated and there won't be any money left over for repairing other parts of the building.

It is worth mentioning that these Community Grants are required to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Historical Society, either in cash or kind. The Society contributed \$3,140 in cash and \$1,875 in kind towards the roof replacement last year and will contribute \$920 in cash and \$1,775 in kind towards the wall replacement this year.

A major success in the last year has been our receipt of a **Commonwealth Government Heritage Grant for \$10,000** for the completion of a Conservation Management Plan for the historic Linton Library and for the commencement of restoration of the Library. This came about as a result of discussions with the newly elected member for Corangamite, Sarah Henderson. The Golden Plains Shire has also contributed a total of \$7,500 towards this project.



Since Jill's report to the AGM, the proposed works she mentioned have been completed. Here is the new wall at the Nelsons' Undertakers' building painted in heritage colours. The work was carried out by James Overton of Linton.

I won't labour the topic of the Library restoration again here tonight, as this is bound to be a matter that we will be reporting on at AGMs over the next few years. Suffice it to say that the Historical Society acts as the Committee of Management for the Library and has been concerned for years that it is currently rarely used by the community as it is in a poor state of repair, despite the fact that it is considered to be a building of 'historical, cultural, social and architectural significance to the township of Linton and the State of Victoria' and its book collection is regarded as 'very rare and probably the best surviving of a small library in Victoria.' (2009 Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study and the 2014 Conservation Management Plan).

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has now been completed by heritage architects *Authentic Heritage Services*. Their report of over 100 pages details the history and significance of the Library and a detailed plan of what needs to be done to restore it, and how, and in what order. We have a total of \$6,500 left over from our grants from the Commonwealth and the Shire to put towards commencement of the repairs, although obviously much more money will be needed down the track to pay for the restoration of the Library for use by the community.

In the last financial year we received help from **Imerys Minerals** who donated their time and expertise to repairing a badly rotten sash window at the Resource Centre. In this financial year they undertook repairs to the front veranda, so many thanks once again to Imerys for their valuable support.

Cataloguing, sorting, scanning and storage

The sorting, scanning cataloguing and storage of all the items and paper documents in our collection has continued apace throughout the year. We have had a number of productive working bees, with 6 or 7 members working together on these tasks. Thanks to our member Joan Hunt for her advice and guidance about how to go about these tasks professionally.

Apart from bursts of group activity at working bees, most of the day-to-day slog of cataloguing our collection on the computer has been done by our volunteer, Del Atkinson, whom we thank sincerely for her perseverance and dedication to this task. All of this means that we have a more accessible and reliable system for finding what we need to find in our archives.

Publications and DVD sales

Our little booklet, *A Walk-Drive Tour of Linton*, has continued to sell steadily throughout the year, and at \$5.00 a copy, is still bringing in income for us. To add to this, in the past year, we have sold a lot of DVDs of our History Night talks, which have been very popular, especially for members who live in far-flung places and can't get to hear our speakers in person.

You will notice in our Financial Report that we made \$687.50 in the past year from these sources plus sales of our photographs.

Website

The website has proved to be an important asset in our contact with the public beyond Linton. Our member, Ken McLachlan, has very successfully managed it over the past year and ensured that it is always up to date. He has also got us onto Facebook!

Fundraising event

A major fundraising event during the year was the hiring of the Victoria Welsh Choir for a sell out concert at the Carngham Uniting Church last October. Our profit was just under \$2000.

Donations

In the past year, our donations account has steadily built up, and you will notice in our Financial Report that we have received a total of \$708.00 from this source (last year it was \$540). This is a fantastic result that might be partially attributed to our obtaining tax deductibility status in 2011, but also to the generosity of our members and others whom we help with research queries and access to our collection in particular ways. We take this as a vote of confidence in what we do, which is very heartening.

We notice that many of you, our members, in renewing your membership this year have included a donation along with your subscription and we thank you sincerely for your generosity.

Involvement in Linton and Beyond

In October last year, the Society had an information stall at the **Linton Spring Carnival**, and later that month three of our members, Warwick Madden, Deirdre Nicol and Joan Hunt, volunteered to host a busload of visitors from the **Ballarat branch of the Cornish Association**, many of whom had family heritage in Linton and Happy Valley.

On Sunday **6 April this year**, the Society played host to members of the extended **Stapleton family** who had gathered over the weekend in Ballarat and Linton for a family reunion. Jill Wheeler and Joan Hunt welcomed the group of about 30 people to the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre and made relevant family files and photographs available to them. Family members in turn brought photographs, family trees and

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newspaper clippings for us to add to our collection. Their donations, and their purchases of our Town Walk Book, totalled \$178.40.

On **Saturday May 17** this year **we** opened the Library for the inaugural **Golden Plains Shire Heritage Trail day**.

The Society has been involved throughout this year, as it was last year, in **Linton Community Planning** meetings, where we have reported on issues regarding the town's history and heritage. One of our recurrent themes has been that the preservation of Linton's heritage streetscape will contribute to a sense of community pride, as well as enhance the town as a tourist destination.

On Saturday July 26th, this year we loaned the Carngham Linton Football Netball Club some old **Linton Football Club memorabilia** for a display at a special heritage football match at Skipton, organised to commemorate 175 years of European settlement in the districts of Skipton, Carngham and Linton.

On **Anzac Day** this year, the Historical Society laid a wreath at the war memorial, as it always does, in memory of all the local men and women who served in both World Wars.

Research Requests

In the course of the year, in my role as Research Officer, I have responded to 19 individual requests for help with local and family history research. All but two of these requests came via our enquiries email address on our website, making this now the preferred way for enquirers to reach us and the easiest way by far for us to correspond with them, including giving them our bank details so they can pay our research fees promptly online and sending them scans of documents and photographs.

Some of these requests have been straightforward and not involved much work, others have been complicated and involved ongoing correspondence with the person who has inquired. As was the case last year, the majority of these requests have come from non-members of the Society who don't live in Linton, but who have family heritage here.

All of these requests are over and above the enquiries we get at Open Days when visitors to the Resource Centre can do some research themselves, with the guidance of the volunteers on duty that day.

Society Notes

Society Notes has continued to be produced quarterly, under the editorship of our Secretary, Drew Hopkins. It is usually 12-16 pages, and includes historical news items (often including articles reproduced from old *Grenville Standards*), regular reports on Society business, summaries of talks by guest speakers at meetings, notices about upcoming events, and photographs, both historic and contemporary. It also includes reader contributions where they are available and I would like to encourage more members to add to this.

Contemporary Linton History

We made an attempt this year to get the current residents of Linton to start their own family records as part of the ever-expanding historical information of Linton and the people who make Linton their home. We suggested that they could start their own Family History File in which they could record some information for future generations to refer to, including perhaps photographs and details of their involvement in the town.

The point of this was so that, in fifty or a hundred years time, when descendants come looking for a record of their ancestors, that there IS a record here. We are often frustrated that we have only scant information in our files, or worse, no information at all, even though an inquirer knows that their ancestor lived, or died, in Linton.

I'm sorry to report that we had little response to this idea. I think that many people still think of history as being in the distant past, rather than being made in the present.

Plans for the year ahead

Our first major project is the repair of the north wall of our headquarters, the old Nelsons Undertakers building, due to commence next month.

The second major project will be beginning the process of restoration of the historic Library according to the schedule set out in the CMP.

These two projects will begin the process of securing these two important historic buildings in Linton for the future.

On a smaller scale, we are planning an historic display to mark the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli next year. We are planning to research each of the men (and the one woman) from Linton and district who were

involved in the First World War, with photographs of each we hope, and to have a small exhibition, perhaps around the time of Anzac Day.

Meanwhile, the Society plan to continue to present and record more talks from senior current and ex-Lintonians as part of a ***Stories from the Elders series*** in order to preserve for posterity these stories from the early twentieth century in Linton.

We will be continuing to work away on our cataloguing and the scanning of our photograph collection, and specifically on putting together our photographic history in the coming year.

We will continue to try to attract new members, and encourage more members who have time to become actively involved with the Society. Here I would like to make a special plea – if any of you has some time you can give us and/or a particular job you think you could do for the Society, please volunteer. We need more active members to help with our day to day work!

Thanks

As I come to the end of my report, I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their hard work and diligence throughout the year:

Jan Cooke, for continuing to do a brilliant job in the thankless role of Treasurer. It is always a struggle to find a treasurer in any voluntary organisation, but we are lucky enough to have Jan who always goes that extra mile when she is asked. And also to **Jan and Susie** who regularly clean the Centre and the Library, organise the suppers at our History Nights and do a myriad of other organising and catering tasks around the Centre.

Drew Hopkins, for his production of *Society Notes* and for taking the minutes at all our committee meetings throughout the year and for doing so again tonight. His advice and experience have been important, particularly on legal issues, but also to me personally, acting as an ever-patient sounding board, and in many more supportive ways throughout the year.

Joan Giles, who rejoined our committee this year, and has taken on special projects, for example, the organisation of the making of our new Society banner and the production of our DVDs and CDs, as well as attending to many other admin tasks besides.

Deirdre Nicol, who has collected, sorted and listed our mail for committee meetings and who writes reports on Society activities for the Linton News every month. She has contributed to the sorting and organising of our collection, as well as doing a lot of tea and supper making.

Linton Antiques and Collectables

75 Sussex Street, Linton 3360

Tel: 03 5344 7488



We buy and sell secondhand goods

Ron and Erica Davey

Warwick Madden, who has continued working on our photograph collection, which has often been a frustrating job, and for being a regular helper on Open Days and working bees.

Ken McLachlan, who has taken on many jobs around the place – from looking after the garden to managing our website. In particular he has done a great job managing membership matters and is right now in the middle of valuing our assets for insurance purposes.

As well as these people, I would like to acknowledge the support of others who have taken on specific jobs around the Society.

Firstly, **Joan Hunt** for her advice, expertise and hands-on input with research queries which we have found invaluable. Thanks, too, to **Del Atkinson** for her efforts with our cataloguing tasks and at working bees; **Tim Cooke** for lawn mowing, weed spraying and wood supplies; to **Alan Giles** for all the jobs he does around the place, and for his reliability and perseverance in these tasks over many years; **Chris Grigg** for lawn mowing and endless local history input; and to **Kath Blackwell** for all her work in the garden, as well as advice in her capacity as Cemetery Trust Secretary.

Finally, I want to finish as I did last year, by stressing the vital role of local historical societies as the custodians of the history of a community. ***We are the keepers of the memories of the people of this town and district, both past and present. A community with a strong collective memory, a robust sense of its past, will have a strong sense of its own identity, which will lead to a more viable and confident future.*** In order to exist, Historical Societies need members, so a big thank you to you all for your support for the Linton Historical Society and for coming out tonight to our Annual General Meeting. Your involvement is much appreciated and is vital for our prosperity.

The campaign to include the Library on the Victorian Heritage Register

We are still hoping that our historic Library might make it onto the Victorian Heritage Register, which would not just give it extra protection but enable us to apply to a wider pool of grants for its restoration. Earlier this year, the initial application to Heritage Victoria from the Shire was not successful, but the Heritage Council, which has the final say, asked for more information about the Library before making its final decision. They engaged a team of Heritage Consultants who have just completed a very fulsome report on why they think that the Linton Library is comparable with other ones in country towns that are already on the Heritage Register. So we will wait and see with fingers crossed.

Have you paid your membership subscription? Did you pay via direct deposit?



You might have received a letter with this copy of *Society Notes* advising you that your payment of this year's subscription has not been received. This could be either because you have not returned your renewal form (another is enclosed) **or** because you paid with a **direct deposit**, and did not use an identifiable reference, such as your surname. **One member has very generously paid \$100 directly into our account, but unfortunately without identifying themselves.**

If you are confused, phone Ken McLachlan! 0409 814 201

Recent Research Requests

There have been a number of recent research requests received by the Society in the last few months. A report on them has been held over until the February issue of *Society Notes*.

the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – Sundays 9 November and 14 December. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**. *The Centre is closed for the month of January.*
- **Our next History Night will be on Monday 17 November and will feature an address from Joan Hunt on her research into the Springdallah Goldfields.**
- Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. Please contact the Treasurer for details.
- Lots of information is on our website www.lintonhistory.org.au and follow us on **facebook**
- **DVDs of History Night talks are available (Jim Stapleton, the O'Beirne family, Bruce Adams, Aaron Kerr, Rod Lewers, Chris and Bill Grigg): \$10 each + \$5 postage and handling.** Contact Joan Giles: joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au Tel: 5309 1770
- **Christmas Drinks: Fri 5 December in the Library; 5:00 – 7:30. BYO plate drinks**
- **Welcome to New Member Ian Stapleton**
- **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be February 2015.**

Society contacts:

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Photographic collection: **Warwick Madden** (0457 025 353)

Membership, Website Manager: Ken McLachlan: 0409 814 201; email: mclachlan.ken@bigpond.com

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Society Notes contributors and helpers: Alan Giles, Joan Giles, Deirdre Nicol, Ken McLachlan, Jill Wheeler.



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