

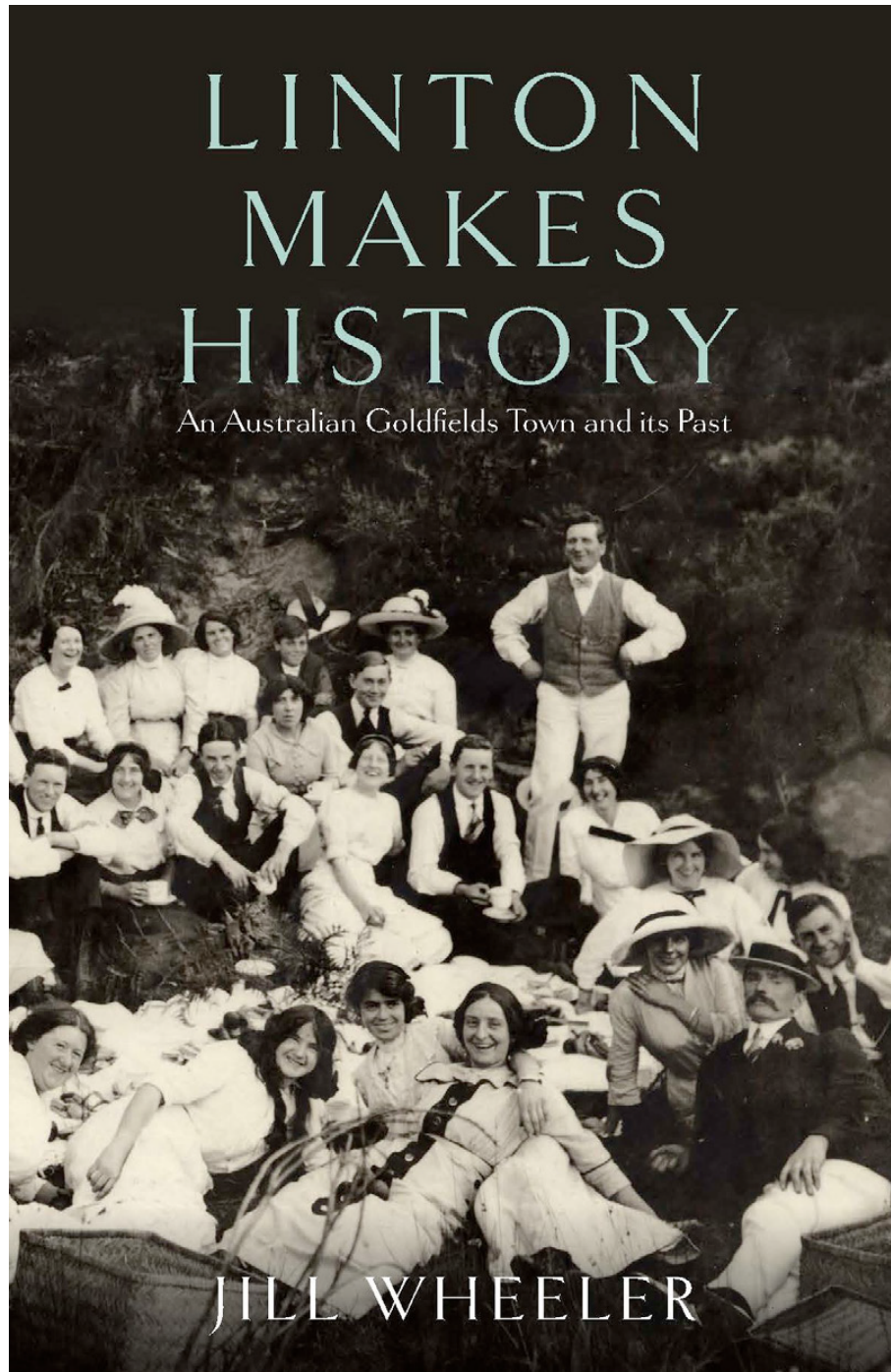


Linton and District Historical Society Inc  
Inc.No. A 6421B

# ***Society Notes***

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**A new history of Linton has just been published, and will be launched in Linton on Sunday 16 August. Details inside.**

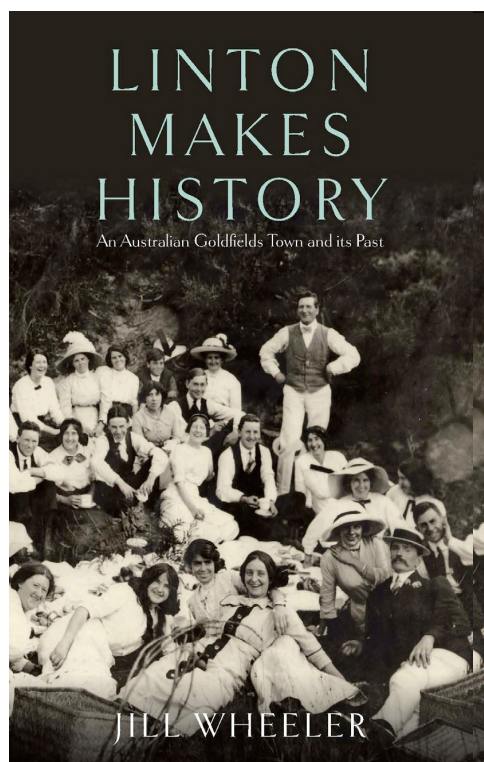
## ***Linton Makes History*: A new book looks in some detail at Linton's history**

A new book on the history of Linton, written by the President of the Historical Society, Jill Wheeler, will be launched at the Shire Offices on Sunday 16 August, 2015. The book, entitled *Linton Makes History: An Australian Goldfields Town and its Past*, presents an interesting and lively history of the town.

This will be the first book to look at Linton's history in the wider context of Australian history in general. It also examines how Linton's history has been told over time not just in previous histories but in memorials, commemorations and through the Historical Society. *Linton Makes History* has 216 pages of text (as well as many pictures), and this enables it to delve into many aspects of Linton's history not previously known in considerable depth.

The book is the culmination of several years of research by Jill, and is based on the work she produced for her degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History, which was awarded in 2010 by the University of Melbourne. Her research involved many hours examining old documents, diaries, letters, manuscripts and newspapers in the State Library of Victoria, the Public Record Office of Victoria, and in the Linton and District Historical Society's archives. Jill also interviewed many current and former residents of Linton and the district.

The book commences with an examination of the pre-European indigenous inhabitants of the region, then looks at the coming of the Europeans, and the frontier between the indigenous people and European pastoralists. There is detail on the Linton family in particular. The goldrush and its aftermath are examined, along with the establishment of the town in the 1860s and its growth throughout the nineteenth century. The twentieth century coverage includes a look at the town's civic and social life, the impact of the two world wars and the Depression, then the later economic and population decline of the town. It includes an examination of the last census statistics for Linton, and what they show about the contemporary town.



You are cordially invited to the launch of

### **LINTON MAKES HISTORY**

By Jill Wheeler

To be launched by Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM,  
The University of Melbourne

Sunday 16 August 2015

2pm

The Shire Offices

Sussex Street, Linton

Afternoon tea to be provided

Please RSVP to Jill Wheeler by Monday 10 August  
[jillianleawheeler@gmail.com](mailto:jillianleawheeler@gmail.com)

MUP   
Melbourne University Publishing

### **Impact on ordinary people**

*Linton Makes History* is not just a narrative history of the town. It places Linton's history in the context of the wider Australian story. It shows the impact of the broad themes in Australian history on ordinary people, and how the history of small places can act as a microcosm of a national story.

Jill's ancestors came to Linton from the 1850s onwards, from Ireland (the Hogans), and Lancashire (the Walkers), and Jill weaves this family history into the book's narrative. This personalises Linton's history, demonstrating how intimate pasts and public history can be intertwined.

The book will be launched by Emeritus Professor Peter McPhee AM, from the University of Melbourne. Professor McPhee has commented as follows about the book:

*This is one of those rare local histories that illuminates the experiences of an entire community, rather than just cataloguing important people and events. Jill Wheeler takes us deftly through the*



*multiple layers of Linton's past from her unique perspective as both "insider" and "outsider". There is deep scholarship behind this engrossing story, so movingly told. We know Linton – and Australia – much better for having this book.*

The book's cover features a detail from a remarkably informal photograph of a group of mainly young Lintonians on a picnic outing, just before the First World War. The full photograph is on display in the Society's Resource Centre in Sussex St, and shows the presence of some "chaperones" amongst the joyful younger folk.

Inside are another 49 photographs of the town, social and sporting groups, individuals and rural scenes in the district. There are also nine maps and drawings, illustrating pre-European occupation, the impact of the Europeans, the goldfields and the town's development.

### Invitation

All members of the Society are invited to the launch at the Shire Offices in Sussex St, Linton, at 2:00 pm on Sunday 16 August, to be followed by afternoon tea. In order to help plan the catering, we would appreciate people sending an RSVP by 10 August. The Mannibadar Hall Ladies group is providing savoury food for afternoon tea. If other members would like to bring a plate, something sweet would be much appreciated. RSVP to [jillianleawheeler@gmail.com](mailto:jillianleawheeler@gmail.com) or phone 0439 895 939.

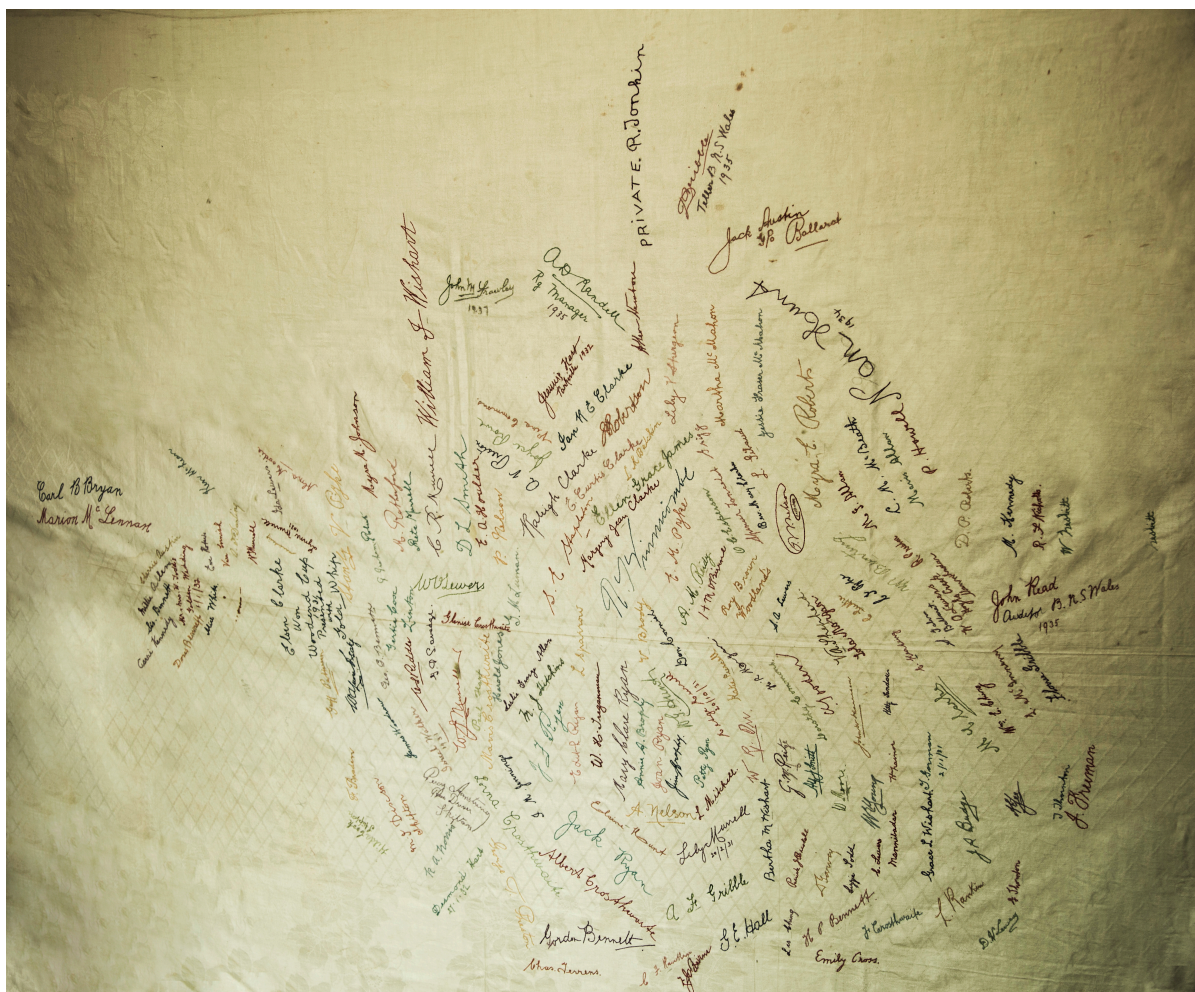


Photo: Gary Hunt

### Embroidered table cloth

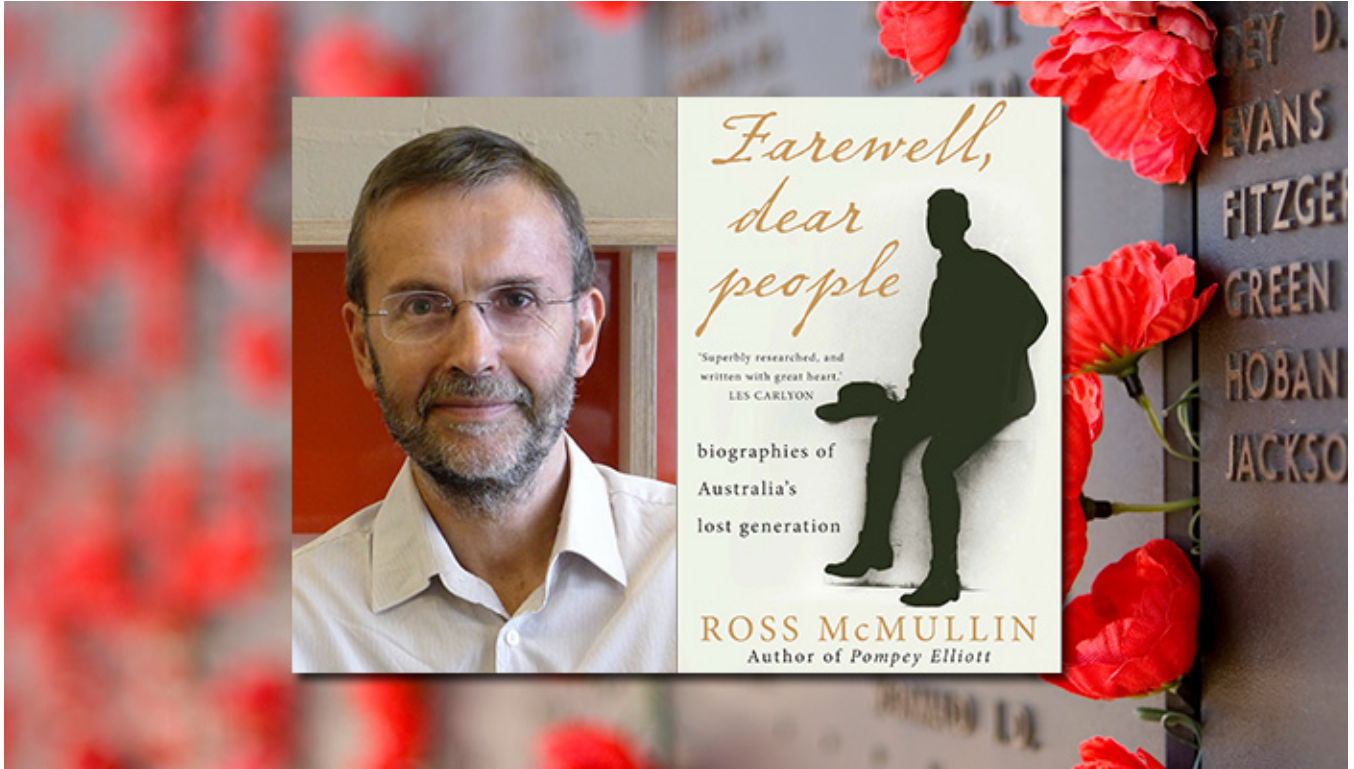
The inside back and front covers of the book feature a photograph of the table cloth belonging to Carrie Murrell, which is now in the possession of the Historical Society. Many Lintonians signed the cloth between 1931 and 1945, and Carrie then embroidered those signatures in multi-coloured thread.

### How can I get a copy?

Copies can be purchased (and signed!) at the book launch for \$30.00 each or purchased directly from the author – just send a cheque for \$30.00, plus \$8.00 postage & handling, to Jill Wheeler, c/- Linton & District Historical Society, PO Box 41, Linton 3360. (If you would like your copy signed, please indicate whom it is for).

# Distinguished Australian Historian to speak at our Annual General Meeting

We are fortunate to have as our guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2015, Dr Ross McMullin, a distinguished and prize-winning Australian war historian. Dr McMullin's books include two World War 1 biographies: *Pompey Elliott* (a Brigadier and former Ballarat resident) and a biography of the legendary Australian cartoonist: *Will Dyson: Australia's radical genius*. His most recent publication, *Farewell, Dear People*, contains 10 extended biographies of young men who exemplified Australia's gifted lost generation of WW1. Ross has a reputation as a lively and engaging speaker.



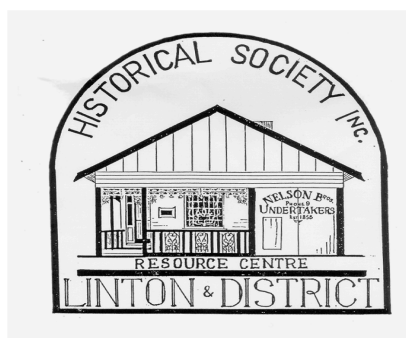
Will Dyson's book of drawings



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL A02607

Brigadier 'Pompey' Elliot





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

**Monday 21 September 2015, 7:30 pm**

**at the Shire Offices, Sussex Street, Linton**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Dr Ross McMullin**

**Distinguished World War 1 historian (details see opposite)**

***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 2014/15*
- *Set Annual subscription (proposed amount is \$25)*

**All welcome**

**A supper will be served after the meeting (please bring a plate).**

**Membership renewal forms, and committee nomination forms are enclosed  
with this copy of *Society Notes***

# The Ver Doorns present a popular History Night

Deirdre Nicol reports: The Society was very pleased to have Gerry and Hans Ver Doorn as our guest speakers at our History Night on 1 June. Gerry and Hans along with other members of the Ver Doorn Family shared with us their memories of emigration to Australia from Holland in the mid 1950s and their subsequent years growing up in the small rural town of Linton.

The President Jill Wheeler gave a brief introduction outlining the history of Dutch migration to Australia, which peaked in the years between 1950 and 1960. The majority of Dutch immigrants settled in Victoria and many of those chose to start a new life in the regional areas of Ballarat and Creswick. Ten Dutch families made their home in Linton during this period.



**Hans (left) and Gerry Ver Doorn (right)**

Photo: Jill Wheeler

Mr & Mrs Wilhelm Ver Doorn were both born in 1918 and married in 1946. Bill had had a grocery business in Holland before the Second World War, but conditions were tough in Holland after the war and a decision to emigrate was made. The Ver Doorns decided to bring the family to Australia in preference to Canada because it was thought the weather would be considerably warmer (but perhaps not in Linton!). In March 1954 they embarked on their journey, expecting to make their home in Fremantle Western Australia but were advised to continue on to Melbourne, where in the April of that year they found themselves sent to the Bonegilla Migrant Hostel, near Wodonga in northern Victoria.

It was on May 5 1955 that the Ver Doorn's bought a home in Waverley Street, Linton, and eventually established a grocery business in Sussex Street. So began for the family a long and happy stay in this part of the world. Hans and Gerry, assisted by other family members, told tales of their living as a family of six children in a small house, their school experiences, their jobs and responsibilities to help keep the family afloat, their involvement in many town activities and sports, and of their parents' determination for the children to assimilate and become 'Aussies'.



We thank Gerry, Hans, Willeim, Frank and sister Elsha together with their partners for entertaining us all with the very special memories of their childhood and teenage years spent in Linton. Many of those present added to those memories, which made the evening of reminiscing most enjoyable.

**For a DVD of the Ver Doorn family's memories of Linton** at a cost of \$10.00, plus \$5.00 for postage and handling, contact Joan Giles: [joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au](mailto:joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au), or tel: 5309 1770

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## Dutch families swelling the school population in 1950s

According to the Linton school history, the school population declined after World War 1 and the 1930s Depression. By 1954 there were fifty-five children with two teachers. As a result of immigration, this had increased to eighty-seven children in 1957. This was a 58% increase in three years. The population of Linton in 1951 was 320, but had risen to 450 by 1960 (see *Linton Makes History*, p.89).



**Linton State School, Grades 1 and 2 in 1955.** 20% of the children are Dutch. (If anyone knows the name of the unidentified girl in the middle row, please let us know). Photo donated by Ver Doorn family.

**Back Row. L – R:** Terry Wilkie, David Chasey, Chris Van Bergen, Lindsay Greenbank, Geoff Morgan, Theo Chasey, Nico Van Der Ploeg, Robert Smith, Willem Ver Doorn.

**Centre Row. L – R:** Ruth Coleman, Elaine Jackson, ? , Claire McDonald, Valda Bird, Mavis Cornish, Elaine Mark, Judith Chasey, Mary Hooper, Nola Bird, Jean McDonald.

**Front Row. L – R:** Kay Jackson, Shirley Mark, Elsha Verdoorn, Ann Getsom, Joanne Van Der Ploeg.



**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), Joan Hunt (2014), and Hans and Gerry Ver Doorn (2015) are available. Contact Joan Giles: [joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au](mailto:joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au), or tel: 5309 1770.

## Vale Phyllis O'Beirne (formerly Kvapil, nee Hayward)

*We mourn the loss of our member and long time Linton resident, Phyllis O'Beirne, who passed away on 14 March this year. Her daughter, Karen Ronan, has prepared this account of her life for Society Notes.*

Phyllis Merle was born on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1934, to Phyllis Joy (nee Smith) of Happy Valley and George Rex Hayward of Snake Valley. They lived in Ballarat for a short time, before moving to Preston Hill and living with Rex's Grandparents. They built their own house in Preston Hill, where Phyllis's sister Elaine was born, then moved to the butcher's shop in Main St., Snake Valley. It was here that Phyllis's brother Austin and her sister Pamela were born. Also where Rex ran the butcher shop and delivered meat as far as Skipton. Phyllis attended Snake Valley Primary School and then into Ballarat for further study.

Phyllis learnt the trade of butchery and helped her father with all aspects of his work. This included buying animals from Ballarat Sale Yards and walking them home, out Carngham Road for a sleepover at the common, then next day into Snake Valley, making it a two-day trip. The animals then had to be killed and cut up ready to fill orders. It was through the butcher's work that Phyllis met and married John Adolf Kvapil, a Czechoslovakian who came to Australia as a displaced person in 1949 aboard the "Goya". He first went to Bonegilla, then to the camp between Snake Valley and Linton, where he had to work for the Forestry for 3 years, before leaving the camp to find other employment and a new life.



Photo: courtesy K Ronan

**Phyllis with her first husband, John Kvapil and their first two children, Christine and Sandra**



Phyllis and John married in 1951, and moved to Carngham Rd., Linton. A house built by Rex and John. This they named "Slavonice" after John's home town. They had four children together, Christine, Sandra, Steven and Karen. John died in 1974, leaving Phyllis with four children to raise.

Phyllis worked as a housekeeper/cook for Roger and Ethel O'Beirne, this is where she met Raymond their son. She also worked at the Linton Hotel for the Harneys, Carngham Station, Linton Park and for the Chaseys. Phyllis and Raymond ('Darb') married in 1976 and began their life together, with Ray moving into the Carngham Rd. home. Then came along their daughter Donna. Phyllis and Ray had a wonderful life together surrounded by family and friends.



Phyllis and Ray O'Beirne in more recent times

Photo: courtesy K Ronan

Phyllis lived in her home in Linton for 64 years. She worked in and around Linton, sent all her children to Linton State School. She has always been involved in St. Paul's Anglican Church, Sunday School and anything related to the Church or the Parish Hall, School concerts etc. She made friends with the migrant families and was always trying to help them in any way. Some of these friendships have lasted to this day. She was also very good to her neighbours, looking after them and supplying food and helping where she could. They were also included in our family get-togethers as they were considered family. Phyllis was a very generous woman. In the early days, she used to feed the swaggies who would sleep across the road under the trees. She also visited the swaggy known as 'No-toes' who lived next door in a tin shack.

Phyllis was so proud of all her grandchildren: Lindi, Ashleigh, Jarrod, Mitchell, Ben, Graice, Matthew and Joshua, and her wonderful great grandchildren: Chloe, Isabelle and Nicholas. She spent as much time as possible with all of them, always loving, understanding and trying to teach them something.

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## No heritage listing for Linton Library

The long running saga of our trying to get the 1874 Linton Library on the State Heritage Register has finally come to an unhappy conclusion.

After numerous reports, a visit by the Heritage Council, and a formal hearing attended by the Society arguing for the inclusion of the Linton Library on the Register, the Heritage Council has decided that our Library is not of cultural significance to the State of Victoria and therefore does not warrant inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The decision hinged on whether, when considering whether the Library should receive heritage listing, the committee should consider the building only, or whether it could also take into account the heritage value of the books and shelves (and any other objects) that are currently in the building. After receiving legal advice, the Committee concluded that, given the current wording of the relevant provisions of the Heritage Act, it could only consider the building itself, and not the heritage value of the collection within it. With regard to the building,

evidence was given that the façade of the building had substantially changed during an earlier renovation. Hence, the Committee concluded, it did not meet the criteria and was no longer a highly intact example of a Mechanics Institute library.

However, the Committee did conclude that, while the building was not of sufficient importance at a State level to justify heritage listing, it was of local historical importance and was still protected by a local Shire heritage overlay.

This is very disappointing for the Society after a mammoth effort. While this means we cannot access more generous sources of funds for the restoration of the Library, we will, however, continue to apply for other grants to restore the building. It will just take longer to achieve!



Photo: Gary Hunt

The atmospheric interior of the library, includes this antique wall clock and a print of 'Menin Gate in Ypres', Belgium. It is a memorial to those who died in the Ypres salient in World War 1, but have no known grave.

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## Golden Plains Shire Community Grant

On a happier note, the Society has received a Community Grant of \$2,825 from the Shire for the Restoration of Nelson's Undertakers' building – Stage 3.

Over the last two years we have received Shire Community Grants to replace the roof and the north wall of this building. This phase of the restoration will involve the repair of a section of the exterior weatherboards at the front of the building ie., the exterior west-facing walls, verandah and front door. It also involves the repainting of the weatherboards, iron lacework and verandah posts and rails in heritage colours. So by Christmas our Resource Centre will hopefully be presenting a new, fresh face to Sussex St.

## Centenary of the building of Linton's Catholic Church

St Peter's Catholic Church celebrated its centenary at the end of May 2015. Although there had been a previous weatherboard church in Linton since 1875, the new brick church was constructed by builder George Cull in 1914 and dedicated at the end of May 1915. George and local schoolteacher Mary Anne Sandow were the first to be



married in his new church on 26 May 2015. On Sunday 24 May 2015, about 50 descendants of the Cull-Sandow family had a reunion in Linton, with a Mass in St Peter's followed by lunch at Ruby Cocoa cafe. And on 31 May another general commemoration of the centenary took place with a Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Paul Bird, Bishop of Ballarat, followed by lunch at the Blue Room, Recreation Reserve.



Old and new commemorative plaques at St Peter's Photo: Jill Wheeler

## New Life for one of Linton's oldest shops

The shop at 88 Sussex Street, usually known as "Jenning's Shop", has been closed for some years. But now it has a new life, and has reopened as a shop selling a range of goods and services. Bicycle hire, hardware and garden supplies, fishing gear, and a range of gifts are amongst the shop's offerings. And inside the door on the righthand side is a little treasure – a book shop called The Book Cave.

The shop is run by Kylie and Chris Turville, while Warren Bowen presides in the Book Cave. Kylie and Chris are also planning to offer self-contained accommodation in the premises' extensive quarters at the rear.

This new use of the premises is consistent with the building's history. The building was first opened in 1860, and has been a general store, newsagency, and a fruit and vegetable shop. The original shopkeepers, Mr and Mrs Sandow, left the shop to their daughter Kitty, who married reginald Jennings. When the shop finally closed in 2003, the owner was Gary Jennings.



The new shop (with the old sign) at 88 Sussex St. Photo: Drew Hopkins

# the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – The second Sunday of the month: 13 September, 10 October, 8 November. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**.
  - **Our next History Night will be the Annual General Meeting Monday 13 September. Guest Speaker - distinguished Australian Historian, Ross McMullin, who will speak on the lives of Australians in World War 1.**
  - Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. Please contact the Treasurer for details.
  - Lots of information is on our website [www.lintonhistory.org.au](http://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, Joan Hunt, Hans and Gerry Ver Doorn): \$10 each + \$5 postage and handling.**
- Contact Joan Giles: [joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au](mailto:joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au) Tel: 5309 1770.
- **Welcome to New Member: Gerry Ver Doorn**
  - **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be November 2015.**

## **Society contacts:**

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*Treasurer:* **Jan Cooke** (5342 8554)

*Secretary and Editor Society Notes:* **Drew Hopkins** (0439 895 007); email: [drewhopkins47@gmail.com](mailto:drewhopkins47@gmail.com)

*Correspondence Secretary:* **Deirdre Nicol** (5340 3507)

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

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

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