

Society Notes

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Linton Cemetery's hidden stories: join our historic Cemetery Walk



The Linton cemetery provides a rich source of memories about Linton and its former residents. The Society has organised a guided historical tour of the cemetery to highlight interesting and significant graves. The tour will be taken by Chris Grigg, whose family has a long history in Linton. Chris is a member of our Society, and also a member of the Linton Cemetery Trust.

The tour will take place on **Sunday 21 February, commencing at 2:30 pm**, and it is estimated to take about an hour and a half. It will be followed by afternoon tea in the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre, Sussex St (Nelson's Undertakers building). Please bring a plate – you can drop it off at the Resource Centre beforehand. This tour will replace the usual February History Night.

Inside:

- *History of the Linton Cemetery*
- *Joan Hunt: Remembering Piggoreet: its town and people*
- *Research Report*
- *Old Scholars' Association Reunion*

A History of the Linton Cemetery

It is thought that burials took place here from the time of the gold rush at Linton in the mid-1850s, however this cemetery was only officially surveyed and gazetted in 1860, and burials recorded from that date. As with most cemeteries of its era, it was divided into denominational sections – Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and Church of England - with the Chinese in their own section at the north-eastern end. It was governed by a Committee of Trustees, consisting of local representatives of the major Christian denominations, plus independents.

As the plots were not numbered until 1872, and not all graves had headstones, many of the dead lie in unmarked graves. Amongst them, are two Aborigines – an Aboriginal woman known as Jennie who died in 1873 at Dreamer’s Hill south of Linton, and King Billy, regarded as ‘the King of the Booriyalloak Tribe,’ who died on 8 January 1882 at Mt Bute station.

In 2007, the Linton and District Historical Society erected in the Chinese section a commemorative board to the Chinese settlers of the district, and attempted to identify those buried here. Amongst the seventy-four burials there is one European wife of a Chinese man, and two Chinese-Australian babies. There are also Chinese men recorded as buried in other parts of the cemetery, for example, Wong Pow, who died in 1896 of phthisis and is buried in the Church of England section.

Over the twentieth century, the cemetery has added a lawn section and a rockery for cremated remains. More recently a plaque has been placed to acknowledge the stillborn babies buried in unmarked graves. There are a wide variety of significant native plants and grasses throughout the cemetery grounds.

The cemetery is administered by the Linton Cemetery Trust, which conducts regular working bees to maintain it. Trustees always were, and still are, volunteers, and include well-known long-term local residents and others with special association in the area. To contact: Mrs Kath Blackwell, Secretary c/- Post Office Box, Linton 3360, ph. 5344 7453.

PIGGOREET, GOLDEN LAKE, GRAND TRUNK, AND HAPPY VALLEY OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL REUNION ON

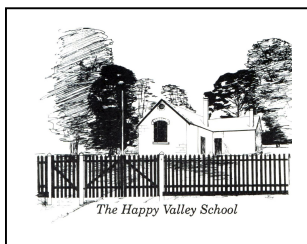
SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2016 AT THE HAPPY VALLEY SCHOOL

<i>Hall open (Historic photographs display)</i>	<i>11.00am</i>
<i>First bus tour: approx. one hour trip</i>	<i>11.15am</i>
<i>Luncheon – 3 course meal – and meeting</i>	<i>12.45pm</i>
<i>Second bus tour: approx. one hour trip</i>	<i>2.30pm</i>
<i>Time for a chat and a cuppa in the afternoon</i>	
<i>Afternoon tea</i>	<i>4.00pm</i>

Costs (all inclusive): All day \$15 Children: All day \$10 Under 5 free

Bring along your memorabilia and family stories

**NOTE: This Reunion celebrates the centenary of the Piggoreet Reunion
To assist with catering arrangements please reply by 14 March, 2016**



Please reply to: President Ian Getsom,
C/- Post Office
Scarsdale, 3351
Tel: 5344 7399
Mob: 0417 374 187

Apologies to Jenny Nola and Catherine Rogers

In our November issue of Society Notes, we incorrectly labelled a photograph of two of our members Betty Grigg and Jenny Nola, that had been taken at the launch of Jill Wheeler’s book, *Linton Makes History*. We correctly identified Betty, but gave Catherine Rogers’ name to Jenny. We do apologise to them both.



Remembering Piggoreet: its town and its people

At our History Night last November in the Shire Offices, Society member Joan Hunt made a presentation on the history of Piggoreet. Joan is just completing her thesis at Federation University, Ballarat, for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Here are some of the main points from that History Night presentation.

The first official report of work having started on the Try Again Gold Mining Company at Piggoreet was in September 1859. It took the company six months to put a tunnel 350 ft into the hill between the Devils Kitchen and the Springdallah Creek on the western or Happy Valley side, a feat regarded at that time as “one of the greatest undertakings in the district”. At the end of 1860 they abandoned that site and moved to within the Devils Kitchen where they sunk the shaft. An area of almost fifty acres was granted as a mining lease for ten years, the amount of capital being £3000, and by March 1863 they had doubled their capital and were gaining nearly £135 per week.



The Devil's Kitchen, 1861, Courtesy of the State Library Victoria

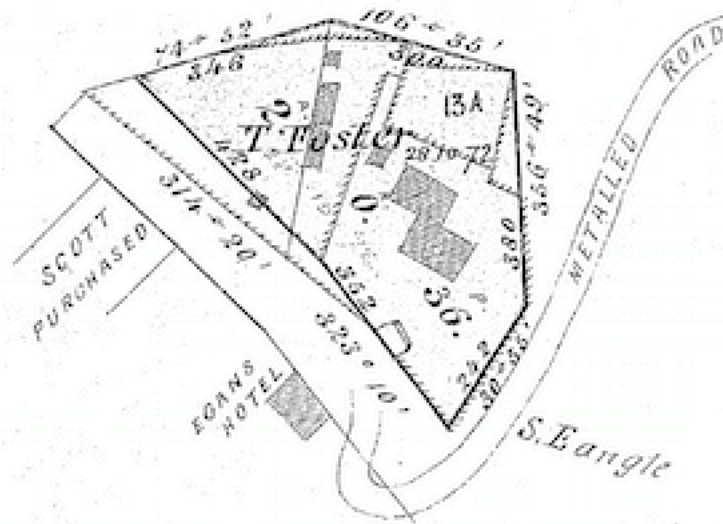
William Maughan was both legal manager and secretary on 5 October 1864 when 50 men and 3 boys were employed by the company. Of the men, 33 were miners, and the others were engine-drivers, blacksmiths, bracers, machinemen, chambermen, sluicemen, and one carpenter and general manager. The boys drove the horses, for which they each received £1/10/- per week. Overheads at the mine included candles, ironmongery, timber and firewood, powder and fuse, horse and harness along with horse-feed. At the same period, shares in the mine were being sold for £45 each. Local Piggoreet miners held numbers of shares, such as the publican of the Try Again Hotel, John Liddle (also known as Liddell), who had 32 shares. Eight Piggoreet residents held 24 shares each, and several had 12. The mine worked out before the end of 1873, by which time it was recorded that the mine had produced, in its thirteen years, an amount of 27,425 oz. (777.76917 kilograms = .86 ton = \$42,097,375.00).

The Try Again mine was the scene of an accidental death demonstrating the hazards of working with steam-engine driven machinery. The inquest, held at the Archer Hotel in Piggoreet by Coroner Thomas Hopper, was held on 21 January 1865. William Handasyde, a 37 year old Scot, married with two children, had lived in Victoria since 1852. He was working at the steam-powered puddling machine, removing large stones from it by reaching into it while it was not working. Suddenly it started, and the arm of the machine crushed him against a nearby post. A starting warning, using rappers, was always given before the engine was started, but on this occasion the engine driver simply moved the engine very gently in order to take off the pump rods. He was unable to see the puddling machine from the engine he was driving. The machine arm broke when it crushed Handasyde, and he fell to the ground, where he complained of his ribs being broken. Other miners carried him to his house, where Dr Thomas Foster examined him but was unable to prevent his death some hours later. Some of the jurors thought that there was insufficient room between the arms of the machine and the walls of the building within which it was enclosed.

Thomas Foster, surgeon, lived on an allotment overlooking Piggoreet, (see map on the next page) on the road towards Happy Valley. He was the predominant name on birth and death registrations, coroners' inquests, and accident reports. His home was next to the Atlas gold mine and opposite the Atlas hotel, run by John Egan. It was also known as the Atlas Pic Nic Hotel.

David Murton, the butcher who owned allotment 12 in the main street, in March 1869 was refused the application to Council by him and his brother James Wilson Murton for a slaughtering license “at their premises in the township of Piggoreet”. In March 1871 eleven ratepayers at Piggoreet presented a petition against the issuing of a slaughtering licence within the township, but the Murtons produced an alternative petition signed by 49 persons in favour of the licence being

granted. After councillors discussed the objections to a “stinkpot under their nose”, a motion that no licence be granted was carried. Common sense prevailed against a potentially offensive smell.



Home site of Dr Thomas Foster, overlooking Piggoreet township

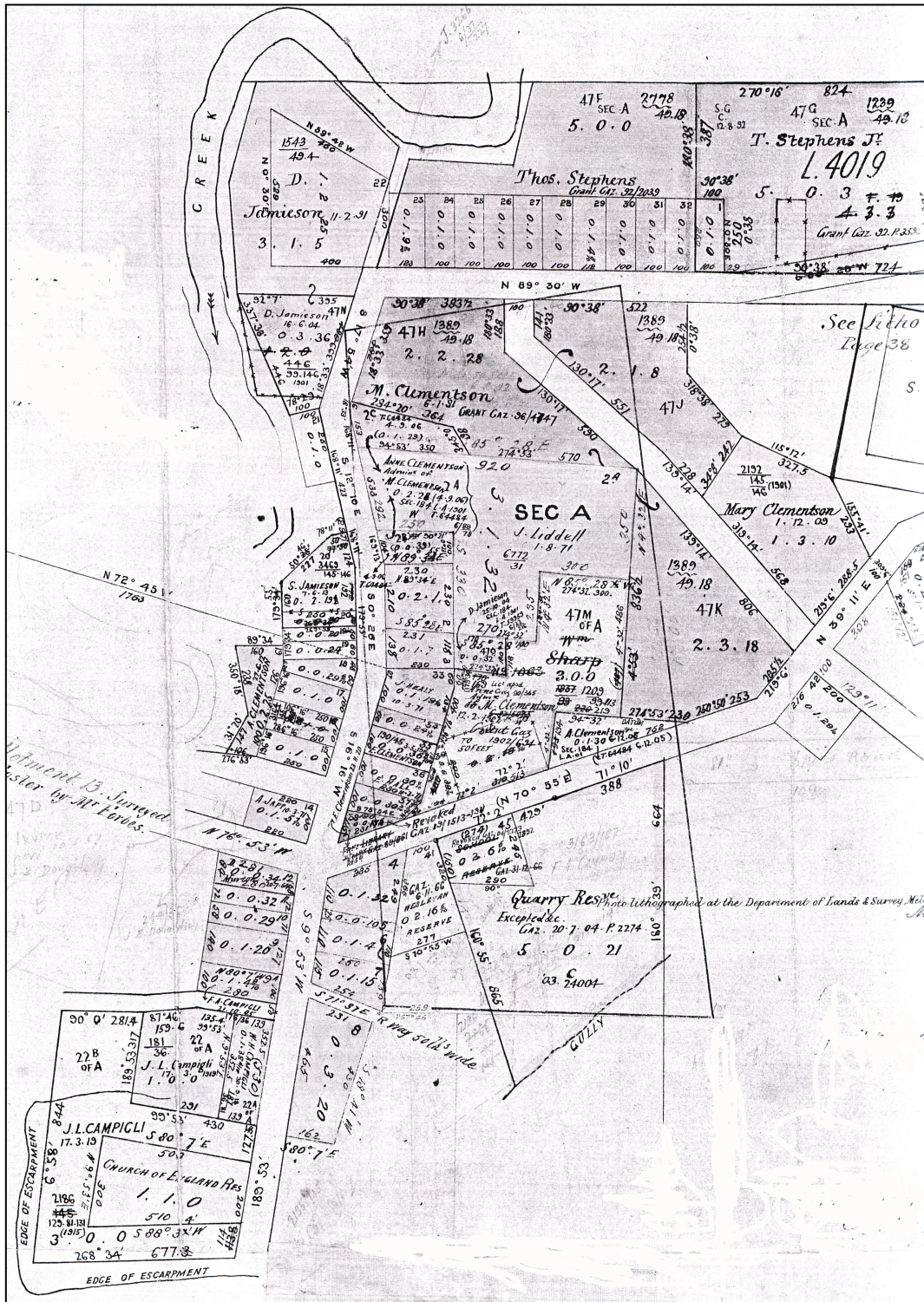
A strong community leader and local roads board member, David Clarke, presided over a public meeting in February 1864 to plan the establishment of a post office at the Devils Kitchen. By the end of July that year mail was being conveyed to and from Piggoreet, when Matthew Veal of Smythesdale was contracted for the six months from 1 July 1864 at the rate of £14/10/- for the period. The Springdallah Post Office was opened on 1 July 1864 at Henry Dyson’s store at the base of Sugarloaf Hill near the school, as a Post Office Savings Bank, with Dyson as first postmaster. It became a telegraph office from March 1875. Mails were received and despatched three times each week. Dyson was followed by Francis Blythman from 1874 until 1876 when Emily Blythman became postmistress until 1882.



Piggoreet School No. 726, courtesy of Cape Clear Historical Society

In 1866, the Piggoreet school committee included William Maughan who was manager of the Try Again mining company, the Presbyterian minister Rev. William Campbell Wallace, George Woodhouse who was both the deputy registrar of births and deaths and the owner of the chemist shop on the road leading to Piggoreet, Robert Reid who had the orchard on land opposite Woodhouse’s chemist shop, where the Clementson family lived later, John Clarke of Piggoreet West pastoral run, William Irvine who ran a large store on top of Irvines hill that led into the Devils Kitchen, and George William Paul the butcher who lived on Pauls Hill overlooking the Devils Kitchen. In order to assist in raising funds for the construction of an infant school, the Piggoreet Sacred Harmonic Society in May 1869 held an evening of singing and readings. The following month tenders were called for the erection of the building next to the school. An early photograph of Piggoreet clearly shows that the smaller

of the two buildings, on the left, was the original school and the larger one was built as the infant school. These buildings were later abandoned when the second school was built on the road into Piggoreet, nearer to the entrance to Piggoreet West pastoral property. The old site can be seen on the surveyed allotments plan as a Quarry Reserve on Sugarloaf Hill.



Surveyed allotments at Piggoreet. Escarpment at lower left overlooks the Devil's Kitchen, where the Church of England used to stand.

A new slim-line Society Notes

You will notice that this issue of Society Notes has fewer pages than usual, and the type size has been reduced from 11 point to 10 point. We have had to adopt this new "slim-line" approach because the Golden Plains Shire has substantially increased the fee it charges us for the use of its photocopier when we print Society Notes.

Another expense for us is the increase in postage. If you would prefer to receive only an electronic copy of *Society Notes*, please let us know by emailing Drew Hopkins at this address: drewhopkins47@gmail.com

Christmas Drinks

The Society celebrated Christmas with drinks and nibbles on Friday 4 December 2015 in the historic Linton Library, which was festooned with tinsel and lights for the occasion. It was an opportunity to toast the end of a successful year and wish all our members the compliments of the season. President Jill Wheeler thanked the Committee and members for their contribution over the past twelve months in helping to ensure that Linton heritage is preserved and made accessible to all.

The highlight of the evening was, as always, the Quiz, organised by our renowned quizmasters, Joan and Alan Giles, who researched the questions and sourced the prizes. No one goes home empty handed!



Our member Deirdre Nicol showing off her prize during the famous quiz at our Christmas drinks on 4 December last year, with quizmasters, Alan and Joan Giles. Photo: Gary Hunt

Recent Research Requests

Jill Wheeler reports on the research requests that the Society received between July and December 2016

FORMER CFA STATION – Ross Hammond from the CFA requested historical information on the old fire station building in Sussex St. A local group was hoping to establish a Men's Shed in the building now that the CFA has vacated it for new premises on the Glenelg Highway. We provided what information we had plus a number of photographs of the building over time.

DAVIES, Thomas and Sabina – Ryan Incoll requested information on this couple & family who lived in Happy Valley in the 1860s and 1870s. We had some information & Joan Hunt was able to provide much contextual information on Happy Valley & Lucky Womans. Ryan subsequently made a \$70 donation to the Society.

SCOTT, Rev. Harold & Doris – Jill Bamforth, daughter of this couple, requested any references to them &/or photos that we might have. Rev. Scott was the vicar of the Anglican Church in Linton in the 1940s & Jill spent the first year of her life in Linton. We found quite a number of references to the Scotts in the archives but no photos.

WISE & SCARFF – descendant Jocelyn Brown asked for any information we had on Thomas Mardling Wise. We had quite a lot & there have been a number of other descendants of this family who have also requested information. Jocelyn also asked for the location of graves in the cemetery for James & Sarah Scarff, We explained we do not have this information & referred her to the Secretary of the Cemetery Trust.

SHOP AT 88 SUSSEX ST (former Jennings shop) – new owners of this shop requested any information on its history & any photographs. We are still researching this for them.

ANGUS, John, & STATEMANN, Wilhelmina – great-grand-daughter Afton Johnston asked for any information on this couple who lived in Linton from the 1860s until their deaths. We have found some information & are still working on this request.

MERCER, Henry Boyd – great-grand-daughter Lisa van den Berg enquired re Henry who lived in Linton on a property called The Pines till his death in 1913. They also have connections with the Stoddart & Brown families. We have information & photos & research for this is also ongoing.

SCARF/SCARFF, James & Sarah – Ron Mazuras contacted the Progress Association who referred him to us & the Cemetery Trust requesting burial records & grave locations for this couple (the same people as a previous enquirer – see above). We notified the enquirer that we would attend to this request after the January break.

EASTERBROOK Thomas & TAYLOR Sarah – descendant Sara Clark enquiring about this couple & family who lived at Happy Valley from the 1860s. We notified the enquirer that we would attend to this request after the January break.

(Many thanks to Joan Hunt for her assistance with research into the individuals and families above who came from the Happy Valley area).

If any readers think they might have further information on any of these families or topics, please let us know.

The Society charges a \$30 fee for detailed research, plus small fees for copies of photographs and other documents.

Australia Day Award from Golden Plains Shire for Jill Wheeler

Society President, Dr Jill Wheeler, received the Golden Plains Shire Australia Day award of Senior Citizen of the Year for 2016 at a Ceremony at the Shire Council chamber in Bannockburn on Wednesday 27 January.



The citation on the Golden Plains Shire website stated that:

Jill is a part-time resident of Golden Plains and one of the Shire's most dedicated community members when it comes to preserving local history.

Jill has been the President of the Linton and District Historical Society since 2010, which involves lots of ongoing volunteer hours, and recently published her book called 'Linton Makes History – an Australian goldfields town and its past'. She hunts down funding, drives projects with enthusiasm and commitment and throws herself wholeheartedly into any opportunity where Linton's history can be shared, built on or kept alive.

Jill's nomination was initiated by Committee member Ken McLachlan, and the ceremony was attended by members, Joan and Alan Giles, Joan and Gary Hunt, and Drew Hopkins.

Building repairs

As many locals will have noticed, the repainting in heritage colours of the front walls, veranda and front door of the old Nelson's Undertaker's building in Sussex St was done before Christmas (see photo). This was possible with the help of a Golden Plains Shire Community Grant that the Society matched in both cash and in kind. We have also been promised \$500 towards the repainting of the signature garage door in the allocation of funds at the end of 2015 in the Linton Community Planning process, so hopefully the entire façade will be looking wonderful by the end of the year.



the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – The second Sunday of the month: 14 February 2016, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm.**
- Cemetery Tour with Chris Grigg **Sunday 21 February, commencing at 2:30 pm.**
- **Our next History Night will be Monday 18 April.**
- 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**

Publications:

- **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 Tel: 5309 1770.
- **Linton Makes History: an Australian Goldfields Town and its Past** On sale at the Shire Office, and at ‘Plants Wares ‘n Things’ in Sussex St. Or buy direct from the author Jill Wheeler – jillianleawheeler@gmail.com - Email Jill for electronic banking transfer details or send a cheque for \$30.00, plus \$8.00 postage & handling, to Linton & District Historical Society, PO Box 41, Linton 3360.
- **A Walk-Drive Tour of Linton:** \$5 plus \$2 postage and handling. Cheque payable to the Linton and District Historical Society, PO Box 41, Linton 3360.
- **Welcome to New Member:** Melinda Ward
- **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be May 2016.**

Society contacts:

President, Research Officer, Grants Officer: **Jill Wheeler** (5344 7386; 0439 895 939); email: jillianleawheeler@gmail.com

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

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

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

Administration and Special Projects: **Joan Giles (5309 1770)**

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

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.

Want to preserve your memories forever on DVD and help one of our supporters?



Redwood Entertainment can help you preserve your family or organisation’s history. They do wedding, corporate and educational video production, transfer of videos to DVD, cassette tapes to CD, 35mm slides to DVD.

David & Cassandra of Redwood Entertainment **are major supporters of our Historical Society as they are passionate about preserving local history.** They produce the DVDs of our History Night talks and have converted some oral histories from cassette tapes to CDs.

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