

Society Notes

May 2017

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Completion of Restoration of Nelson's Undertakers Building



Sign writer at work on the Nelsons' Undertakers sign on Monday 20 February 2017

The repainting of the heritage sign writing on the old Nelson's Undertakers garage doors was initially postponed due to extremely hot weather. However, it has now been done. It was fascinating to watch the sign writer at work, exhibiting a skill that is now part of a dying art. The picket fence between the library and the Undertakers has been repaired and re-painted (a fine job done by Linton builder James Overton), thus completing the restoration of the exterior of this building, the Resource Centre of the our Historical Society. Our thanks to Golden Plains Shire Council for their financial assistance.

Max Kerr's fascinating collection of objects and ephemera from our colonial past

Our guest speaker for the first History Night of 2017 was collector Max Kerr. He is a passionate, eclectic collector of rare and interesting objects and ephemera from Australia's colonial past. Many of these objects are so rare that their intended use has been long forgotten and they have lain discarded in outback sheds and tips waiting for collectors like Max to rediscover and research.



Max Kerr showing the audience one of the rare farm tools he has collected.

Just a very small sample of a vast collection that Max has acquired over many years was brought along to our meeting and we were privileged to have each item explained to us in detail. They included farming implements, tools for various uses, and 'kitchenalia'. Many of the objects were unique and devised to perform a very particular function demonstrating our early pioneer inventiveness. Max believes that such objects must be preserved as part of our national heritage, but unfortunately Australia lags behind other countries in this regard. In partnership with Boyd Williams, Max has established the 'Ballarat Collectors Museum' situated in what is now the 'Ballarat Antique Centre' formally the old Humffray Street State School, in Ballarat, where many of these interesting items are on permanent display.

The Society thanked Max very much for his most informative talk about his collection and wished him many more happy days in making additional exciting 'finds' in the future.

War stories

The report of our April History Night (see p.9) demonstrates that there is an endless array of fascinating World War 1 stories from our district alone. Our national story is enriched if we can capture as many as possible of these stories. World War 2 generates similarly interesting stories. Here is a brief contribution from our 92 year old member, Jack Stewart Fletcher:

My dad, William Herbert Leigh Fletcher, and uncle Harold Vivian Adolphus Fletcher both served in France in W.W.I., and both were soldier settlers on Mt. Bute Station between Linton-Skipton and Lismore.

I served 18 months in the RAAF in WW2, and from March 1944, until the end of April 1944, I trained to become a qualified air navigator. When the war ended (I was discharged in August 1945) I had been training as a navigator at Tocumwal. I saw no active service, although some of the training was over the ocean at low level looking for submarines!

Next History Night: 19 June. The Kvapil/Hayward family and the Displaced Persons Camp at Snake Valley



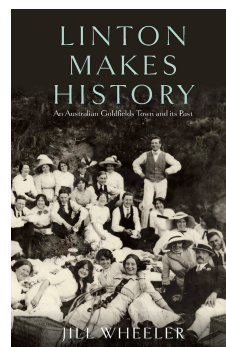
A selection of Max's collection displayed at our February History Night

Save the date!

**Linton Primary School 150th Anniversary celebration 14-15 October 2017.
Commemorative calendars available, at school, Shire Office and Historical
Society**

Linton Makes History: an Australian Goldfields Town and its Past.

Jill Wheeler's extensive and detailed history of Linton is available from The Shire Office in Sussex Street, Plants Wares 'n Things in Sussex Street, or can be ordered by writing to or emailing the Society (email:enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au), or by emailing Jill Wheeler direct on jillianleawheeler@gmail.com Cost is \$30 plus \$8 postage and handling.



International Women's Day speech highlighted the hidden story of women in history in Linton



Jill Wheeler (centre) at Bannockburn with Golden Plains Shire Director of Community Services, Jill Evans (left) and Councillor Helena Kirby (right) on International Women's Day 8 March 2017.

Society President Jill Wheeler was asked by Golden Plains Shire to be guest speaker at a staff morning tea in Bannockburn on Wednesday 8 March for International Women's Day.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day was, 'Be bold for change' (#BeBoldForChange), "to call on the masses or call on yourself to help forge a better working world – a more gender inclusive world" (see IWD website). Jill was asked to speak about her own experiences – how life has changed for women since she was young and her personal journey in terms of education and work. She also took the opportunity to talk about the place of women in history, and in Linton's history in particular – how they were often invisible in the 'official' history, despite working in many jobs that were open to them, as well as providing essential support services for the men who are usually the ones who are most remembered in history. Below we have reproduced the part of Jill's speech that focused on women in history, with a particular reference to Mary Linton.

In 1839, the Linton family arrived from Scotland in what was then called the Port Phillip District, and they established themselves as squatters on 15,000 acres of land they called Emu Hill that stretched from north of present-day Linton to as far south as present-day Cape Clear. The land was inhabited by several clans of the Wathawurrung people as it had been for many thousands of years. The encounter between these traditional owners and the newcomers from Britain is a whole other story, but I just want to tell you about the actions of one woman who was, you might say, 'bold for change'.

In 1841, George Robinson, whose title was Chief Protector of Aborigines, undertook a tour of western Victoria to document the lives of the Aboriginal people. Along the way, he stayed a night with the Linton family and he recorded a story that Mary Linton told him about a confrontation she had had with Wanghonebeet, the chief of the Bar.ere Bar.ere bulluc clan, on whose land the family was living. This is what Robinson wrote:

Mrs Linton said that on one occasion when Mr Linton was at Corio [Geelong] Jem Crow [Wanghonebeet] came down with a spear and was going to the garden; she opposed herself to him and he got into a rage and beat the ground with a stick. Her servant stood with a gun at the kitchen. His passion subsided and she went into her room. She however bethought herself that this man might, out of revenge, do mischief, so to prevent it she thought she would set him to work and then give him rations for so doing. She gave him some hard work to do, falling or grubbing trees and the man did it cheerfully and was satisfied with what he got. It seems this was all he wanted, he had been prohibited working at the station on account of his wives stealing

the vegetables and he thought it hard that he should be an outcast especially as he had chastised his wives for the offence.
[This was] a lady expedient with an Aboriginal native.

Although we might cringe on hearing of this encounter in terms of race relations in Australia at the time, the point I want to make here is that Mary Linton was obviously not faint-hearted in asserting herself when her husband was not around and indeed she was clever at working out a compromise to suit herself and Wanghonebeet. She had already endured a long journey to Port Phillip by ship with 3 young daughters whilst she was pregnant with her fourth.

Five years later, after the Lintons almost went bankrupt, Mary became the sole lessee of Emu Hill, a circumstance most unusual at that time since all the other lessees of pastoral runs in the Port Phillip district were men. Over the next 10 years, while she managed the affairs of Emu Hill, she continued to have babies, a total of 10 in all.

This is a story that was never told in the official history of Linton. In the history of pastoralism in Australia we have always been led to believe that the squatters were tough, heroic men who overcame impossible odds to conquer the land for the white man.

As an historian, I have been interested in how the presence of women in official history-making in Australia was often overlooked, until the latter part of the twentieth century. In the history of Linton that I have written, I was determined to document the involvement of the women, although details of their lives are often hard to find in official histories which were all about the achievements of the men.

For example, I have found through my research that it is obvious that women were an active part of the gold diggings at Linton from the beginning. The mere presence of women on the goldfields led to the building of more comfortable and substantial tents, the cultivation of gardens, and the keeping of domestic animals for food. Apart from these activities and as carers of young children, I found that some were also clearly working over and above their domestic duties, either in businesses with their husbands, for example as storekeepers; in running businesses with other women, say, as dressmakers; or as midwives and teachers.

In the later life of the town, although they were locked out of obtaining formal qualifications, and working in mainstream jobs and holding prominent positions in public life, all of which were considered the province of men, it was considered acceptable for them however to earn a living as publicans, shopkeepers, dressmakers, milliners, midwives, postmistresses, and teachers.

I found the stories of their lives tucked away in newspaper accounts, in reports of inquests, in memoirs and in letters. They were working in a myriad of voluntary jobs in the town, reinforcing the huge support role played by women in the life of the town. For example, in the churches as organists, choristers, Sunday School teachers, devoted workers and generous donors; in clubs such as the Dramatic Society, the Horticultural Society and the school's new Mothers' Club; in 'providing comforts for the men at the front' during the First World War via the Red Cross; and in the Country Women's Association.

It was 'the ladies' who always provided the decorations and flowers, the 'refreshments,' the afternoon teas and suppers at concerts, dances, sports days and special celebrations. They masterminded fancy dress costumes for balls, endlessly made items to sell, and collected funds for good causes. After the war, they orchestrated debutante balls and formed auxiliaries in support of the football club and the RSL.

However, none of this was considered important in the progress of the town's official history. In my book *Linton Makes History: An Australian Goldfields Town and its Past*, I attempted to redress the balance and give greater emphasis to the contribution of women in Linton's History.

Next History Night

Monday 19 June 2017, 7:30pm,

Shire Offices, Sussex St, Linton

The Kvapil/Hayward family and the Displaced Persons Camp at Snake Valley

Visitors are welcome. Supper will be served at the end of the evening (please bring a plate to share).

John Howells - a New Chum who settled in Linton

The following article was contributed by our Society member, **David Howells**, and tells an interesting tale of his ancestors and the gold rush in the Linton region. We also think it is a good example of thorough family research being done largely using resources many of which are now available on the internet. (See p.12 regarding writing family history).

After reading the article in the February 2017 issue of *Society Notes* about Joan Hunt's talk 'Was your ancestor a "new chum"? Life on the goldfields 1851 - 1881', I worked out that I had 3 new chum ancestors, although one of them, my great-grandfather George Dixon should perhaps be called a "forty-niner". He was an American and had been on the Californian goldfields, so he was an experienced digger.

My great-grandmother, Anna Elizabeth Dern came from the village of Lang-Gons in the Hessen region of Germany and after arriving in Melbourne made her way to Castlemaine where she met George Dixon. They married and settled down in Yandoit where they set up a store and hotel, and ran a small farm. They lived in Yandoit for the rest of their lives

The third new chum was my grandfather, John Howells, who married George and Anna's daughter, and I thought this article on his life may be of interest to Society members because he lived in Linton or at other locations in the surrounding district for many years. When tracing information about him in the 1990s, I came to the Linton and District Historical Society, where Letty Armstrong, after some research informed me that he was included in the Old Lintonians collection and provided a studio photo of him that was previously unknown to our family. She also gave me the location of the grave of his first wife Sarah in the Linton Cemetery. A few years later, Joan Hunt gave me information on gold mining company shares which John Howells had bought, and this provided some important clues to his life on the goldfields.



This is a Photo of John Howells in the Old Lintonians collection, and thought to have been taken in the 1880s.

On the opposite page is a photo of John Howells' second family. The author's father, Ray Howells is the boy on the left.

An important source of information has been a book my father, Ray Howells, wrote called *Our Forebears*, which contains his recollections of growing up in Yandoit during the early 1900s when John Howells, his father, was living there in his occupation as a mine manager.

As Ray wrote in *Our Forebears*, 'Not very much is known about Dad's early life in Australia.' We know John Howells arrived in Australia in 1856 at the age of 18 from Margam in Wales with three of his uncles on board the *Red Jacket*. The earliest official record we have however is his marriage to Sarah Cullen in Victoria in 1862.

According to the certificate, both he and Sarah were living at Monkey Gully, a gold mining site near Scarsdale. His occupation is given as 'blacksmith'. According to the Victorian Heritage database, a mine was operating there at the Lancashire Reef with an engine-driven crushing battery. Blacksmiths were important tradesmen in mines at that period, when mechanical mining equipment was becoming more frequently used and the setting up and fixing of engines, winding gear, crushers, pumps and piping required expertise in working with iron and steel. It seems likely that John was employed as a blacksmith at this or a similar mine in the area.

There are references in Directories to a John Howell, miner, living in Scarsdale in 1865/6 and to a John Howells, miner, living in Ballarat in 1869, 1870 and 1875, but it is possible that some or all of these refer to a different person. Ray stated in *Our Forebears* that his father added the 's' to his family name of Howell because 'apparently there were several with the name of John Howell on the goldfield'.

The official records such as birth certificates provide more detailed information. According to her birth certificate, John and Sarah's first child Mary Jane was born in 1863 at Winter's Flat, Ballarat, and the father's residence is also given as Winter's Flat, Ballarat. Winter's Flat is near Sebastopol. So it appears they had moved to Ballarat at this stage. However the next children, John, James and Sarah, were born in Piggoreet so apparently the family had moved back to the Scarsdale/Linton area in this period, 1864 to 1869.

When Cecilia Anne was born in 1871, they were living in Linton, and they continued to live there until at least 1884, after their last child, George was born. What was John doing during this period? We do not know with certainty, but there are a few facts available which allow us to speculate.

John Howells started buying gold mining company shares as early as 1868. In 1872 he bought 40 shares at 3 pounds each in the Morey Freehold Gold Mining Company. This company had a mine near Happy Valley, between Piggoreet and Linton. On the list of shareholders he is again described as 'blacksmith', and the 's' is again missing from his name. It is



known that mine workers frequently bought shares in the mine they worked at, and since John lived in proximity to the Morey Freehold Mine, it is therefore reasonable to speculate that he worked at this mine, as a blacksmith.

The mine was reasonably successful from 1873 up to the late 1870's, with a recorded production, for example, of 1690 oz. of gold over a nine-month period in 1874. It was during this period that John's occupation changed from blacksmith to mine manager. On Ellen's birth certificate (1874) he is the former, while on Frank's (1878) he is the latter. So if our supposition that he was working at the mine throughout this period is correct, this is where he first became a mine manager.

A further point of interest is that on the list of shareholders, the major shareholder is 'Edward Morey, Gentleman, of Ballarat'. Edward Morey was very successful in the early gold mining days in the Ballarat area and became a very influential figure, as described in the biography given in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Described there as generous and hearty, there is also a newspaper report of him, as proprietor, inviting the shareholders and their friends to a luncheon at the site of the Morey Freehold Mine on the occasion of the payment of the first dividend in 1873. John Howells would presumably have been there, and we can speculate further that, having recognized John's abilities and given him the job of mine manager at the Morey mine, he may later have employed him in the same position at other mines he established in and around Ballarat, thus providing the experience by which John became the respected mine manager described in *Our Forebears*, and perhaps explaining why the family moved to Ballarat.

What emerges from this is that John Howells' career was not based on hitting upon the 'lucky strike' that so many sought (and few found) in the gold fields, but rather on seeking steady and relatively well paid employment in the setting up and management of mines. Where the mine was successful the manager would no doubt have been well rewarded beyond his basic salary, but even for unsuccessful mines, the setting-up period was when a lot of money was spent and a great deal of activity took place, paid for by those who bought the original shares, thus providing steady income for the mine employees and management. In this sense he was similar to George Dixon, who decided it was better to cater for the needs of the miners, rather than searching for gold himself.

The Morey Freehold Mine closed in 1880 and we have little information on John's activities during the next decade, apart from a Directory entry showing that he was still living in Linton in 1884/5, and the very interesting fact that he was a witness to the will which George Dixon drew up in Yandoit in 1884. The two of them, of similar age, had obviously become well acquainted by 1884, but we do not know how this came about. Of course it had major consequences for all of us descendants of John and George's daughter Alice!

In 1890, John and his family were living in Ballarat, at 112 Dana Street, and Dana Street is given as the location of the sad death of his wife Sarah in that year. She died of liver failure and is buried in the Linton Cemetery together with five of her children who died before her in their childhood and a son James, who died later.

In 1892 John married Alice Dixon and was living at 39a Drummond Street, Ballarat. His occupation is given as 'Mining Manager' in all records of this period. It is quite possible that while his family, including Alice and the children from

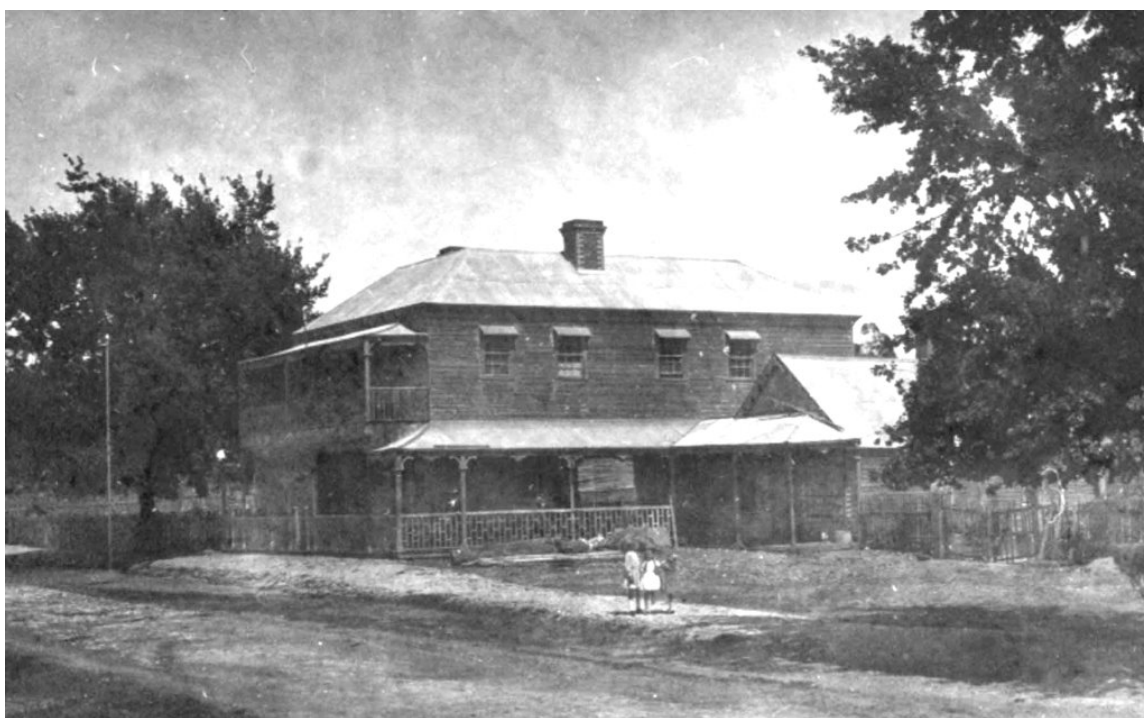
both marriages, were living at Drummond Street, he may have lived for periods at various mine sites with which he was involved. This certainly happened a few years later when the family was living in a cottage on George Dixon's land at Yandoit, and Ray wrote that 'he appeared only at intervals'. Records of Council rates paid show that he initially rented the house at 39a Drummond Street, and later bought it.

Life at 39a Drummond Street is described vividly by Ray Howells in a partially completed autobiography, from the point of view of a small boy growing up in a busy and socially active household. As well as John and Alice Howells and their growing family, some of the children from John's older family, then in their late teens or early twenties, also lived with them.

The next move for the family was to Pitfield, which took place in 1903. Pitfield is just to the south of the Linton/Scarsdale area where John had spent so many years previously. Ray tells us, in his autobiography that his father was manager of the British Banner mine in Pitfield, but other information suggests that he could have also had responsibility for other mines in the vicinity, such as the Federal Mint Mine. During this period he obviously achieved some status in the community – he is reported in a newspaper article of the time as presiding at a meeting at Pitfield where Alfred Deakin, who was the Federal Attorney General at the time, addressed his constituents. Deakin was speaking in favour of – of all things – the White Australia Policy!

The family lived in a house provided for the manager at the British Banner mine site, and the four sons of John and Alice, including my father, attended the Cape Clear School which involved a long walk across the open paddocks.

In 1906 newspaper reports refer to preparatory work being carried out for the reopening of the Steele's Pioneer Mine in Yandoit. Alluvial mining and later deep lead mining had taken place at this site from the 1850s to exploit the reef from which much of the alluvial gold in the district had come, but the mine had ceased operations when the quantity of water coming in had made further deepening impractical. However the more powerful and efficient pumping equipment available by the turn of the century made further progress possible. John Howells was appointed Mine Manager, in charge of all on-site operations, and the family moved again to live in the large timber building which had been George Dixon's Hotel. By that time the hotel and the store had ceased to operate.



The hotel in Yandoit built by George Dixon and later the home of John Howells and family. It was demolished in 1921 and reportedly re-erected at an unknown location. This photo believed to have been taken about 1917.

According to Ray Howells, news of the reopening of the mine caused great excitement in the Yandoit area and many of the local residents applied for shares in the company, some of them putting their life savings at risk.

After installation of the headworks, including massive brick foundations (which still exist at the site today) for the pumping and winding equipment, mining commenced with initial promising results. However, severe faulting caused the reef to dip away requiring further expensive work to go deeper, for which further calls on the shareholders had to be made. John Howells apparently put in a lot of his own money to help friends who were unable to meet calls. Gold prices then started falling, the reef kept dropping, further calls were made and the whole venture became something of a disaster. There is a report of the government making a contribution to keep the mine operating, and a letter from "A dissatisfied Shareholder" in the Melbourne Argus newspaper, but after a desperate struggle for survival the mine finally closed in 1910.

John Howells had lost much of his own savings and at 73, was too old to start afresh. It was not an unusual story in the gold mining industry, but perhaps explains why I do not drive around in a Rolls Royce these days! Fortunately for John and Alice Howells, his sons (4 of whom fought in WW1 and managed to survive) were able to help support their parents in their old age.

John died in 1928 and Alice, my grandmother, who I can just remember as a boy, in 1950.

April History Night: Fascinating and Informative website on WW1 Home front

The speaker at our History Night on 10 April was Jenny Burrell, committee member of the Ballarat and District Genealogical Society and a retired primary teacher, who demonstrated 'The Home Front, Ballarat World War 1'. This project won the *Centenary of WW1 Award Section of the Victorian Community History Awards 2016*. This impressive online database comprises biographies of over 2500 individuals, information about local war work in Ballarat and district, both voluntary and paid, and an image gallery of items used in an accompanying video.



Using a laptop computer connected to the internet, Jenny took the audience through some of the wonderful photos and stories contained in the website. Many of these involved people from Linton.

Since our commemoration of the centenary of WW1 Began in 2014, we have seen many media and print presentations about the war. What distinguishes this website from much of the other material on WW1 is its focus on the impact of the war on the lives of those at home, rather than the soldiers who were sent abroad.

Our readers are encouraged to explore the website – it is a rich experience. www.ballaratww1.org.au

ANZAC Commemoration

Society President, Jill Wheeler, laid a wreath on behalf of the Society at the Linton ANZAC Day Commemoration organised by Linton Primary School at the War Memorial in Sussex Street on Monday 24 April.



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To pass this on, and to come to...

Linton Primary School's 150th Celebrations

*There'll be lots of catching up with old
friends, reminiscing, food and fun.*

*Join us for dinner on Saturday night
followed by a family-friendly fun day on
Sunday in the school grounds and
around the town.*

*For details and booking information,
join us on Facebook (search Linton 150th
Celebration), email lintonps150th@gmail.com,
or send a stamped self-addressed
envelope to*

Linton Primary School, 28 Adair St

Linton VIC 3360

S₁ A₁ V₄ E₁ - T₁ H₄ E₁ - D₂ A₁ T₁ E₁

October 14th/15th 2017

The Linton Cemetery Trust is holding a General Meeting on 7 June 2017 at 8:00 pm in the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre (Nelson Undertakers building) 69 Sussex Street. The Board members of the Trust welcomes all members of the Linton community to attend the meeting to learn more about the work of the Trust.

Our volunteers - come and join us!

The Society submitted this summary to Golden Plains Shire for National Volunteers Week 8-14 May to acknowledge all the work our volunteers do for the Linton district. Even though it might look like we have enough volunteers, most of the day to day work is done by a small group. We would very much welcome more helpers!



Back row from left: Drew Hopkins (Secretary), Jill Wheeler (President), Monica O'Keefe (Volunteer), Karen Ronan (Committee), Ken McLachlan (Committee), Alan Giles (Volunteer). Front from left: Susie Cooke (Volunteer), Jan Cooke (Treasurer), Joan Giles (Committee). Photos below are, left: Chris Grigg (Volunteer) and right: Del Atkinson (Volunteer).



Our Society is run entirely by volunteers. We have a committee of seven, each of whom has different responsibilities - President, Secretary, Treasurer, website & membership manager, special projects manager, plus two others - who meet 6 times a year to conduct the everyday business of the Society. We also have four volunteers who do other important tasks around our Resource Centre, for example, sorting, cataloguing and storing our archival collection, including scanning photographs and documents. They undertake research for people enquiring about their family history in Linton. We make this service available to those who enquire through correspondence, and via regular Open Days (staffed by volunteers). In addition our volunteers represent the history of Linton in the community. They run a total of five History Nights a year in the Shire offices where there are guest speakers. Where the speakers have Linton family history our volunteers video their talks and preserve them on DVD for posterity. These DVDs are also made available for sale for those who are unable to attend or who wish to have their own personal copies..

Our volunteers have a presence at special town events such as ANZAC Day, or anniversaries of local institutions, such as the 100th anniversary of the building of the Catholic Church in 2014, and later this year they will be involved with the 150th anniversary of the Linton school. Our volunteers have campaigned and fund raised over many years towards the preservation of heritage buildings in Linton, in particular the 1874 Library and the former Nelsons Undertakers building. They were involved in the development of the railway precinct in Linton with regard to provision of historical information, markers and photographs. They produced the publication of a booklet, *A Walk-Drive Tour of Linton*, and are currently working on *A Photographic History of Linton*, to be published later this year. And, of course, our volunteers produce *Society Notes* four times a year, and it is available as a paper publication as well as in digital format on our website.

the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – the second Sunday of the month: 14 May 2017, 11 June 2017, 10 September 2017. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**. ***The Society has its mid-winter break in July and August.***
- **Our next History Night: Monday 19 June, Shire Offices, Sussex Street. The Kvapil/Hayward family and the Displaced Persons Camp at Snake Valley.**
- **Annual General Meeting – Monday 18 September 2017.**
- Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. See below for details.
- Lots of information is on our website www.lintonhistory.org.au and like us on www.facebook.com/lintonhistory



New Members: Welcome Oona Smith. Welcome back to: Alice Knight, Kevin Knight, Cheryl Morris

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 (two talks), Hans and Gerry Ver Doorn, Graeme Ellis, @ \$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 *Wares Plants, '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. Bank details as above, or cheque payable to the Linton and District Historical Society, PO Box 41, Linton 3360.
- ***Society Notes* is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be August 2017.**

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

Interested in Writing your family history?

Josiane Behmoiras PhD, author, experienced teacher of creative writing and local Linton resident, is leading family-history writing workshops in various locations around Victoria. If you have a range of material at hand about your family and are keen to assemble the jigsaw pieces into a vibrant, broad story, then join a workshop with Josiane and explore your creativity, acquire writing skills, and find new connections and meaning relating to your family history.

Josiane would consider running a workshop in Linton or the district at a date and time to suit participants. Please send your expression of interest to josiane@thememoirsalon.com.

For more details about Josiane, please visit <http://www.thememoirsalon.com/about-us/> and www.josianebehmoiras.com