

# Society Notes

**November 2017**  
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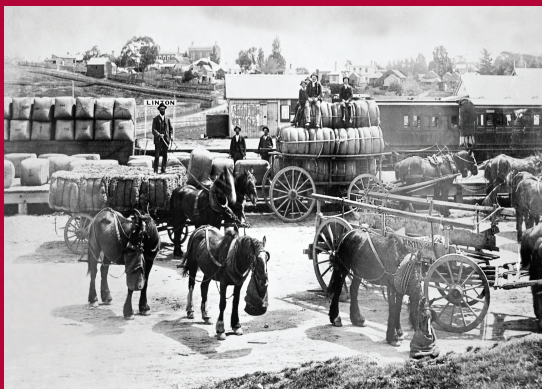
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## Launch of the new Photographic History of Linton and Christmas Celebration

The new Photographic History will be officially launched on **Sunday 10 December at 2:30 pm** in the Shire Offices, Sussex Street Linton. All are welcome to the launch, which will be celebrated with a traditional, delicious Linton afternoon tea (bringing a plate would be greatly appreciated!). This will also be an opportunity for members to say Happy Christmas to each other.

### *Linton: A Photographic History*

A history of the small gold rush town of Linton as told through selected photographs from the collection of the Linton and District Historical Society



A history of the small gold rush town of Linton in western Victoria as told through selected photographs from the collection of the Linton and District Historical Society.



Linton: A Photographic History  
Jill Wheeler and Del Atkinson

### *Linton: A Photographic History*



Jill Wheeler and Del Atkinson

Chapters include: *Beginnings, Gold, The Early Town, The Later Town, Agriculture and Industry, Education, Religion, Sports, Clubs and Societies, Linton People, Celebrations and Commemorations.*

With over 100 pages of historic black and white photographs, many never published before, you won't want to miss out on your copy of this piece of Linton's history.

**The perfect Christmas present!**

RRP \$30, plus postage and handling (no eftpos at the launch – cash or cheque welcome)

***Inside this issue of Society Notes: Report on the Linton Primary School 150<sup>th</sup> celebration; report on the Conscription debates of 1916 and 1917; President's Annual Report.***

# An exciting weekend for old and new Lintonians at the Primary School's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

What a terrific weekend we all had celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Linton School No 880 in 1867.

The Historical Society was open on Saturday 14 October 2-5pm and Sunday 15 October from 11am- 3pm. We had a comprehensive display of historic photographs relating to the school, both in the old Library and at the school.

The display in the Library resembled an 'installation', with not just a static display of our oldest school photographs, but three screens that showed a slide show of old photos, a movie of the street parade at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1967, and excerpts from our DVDs, with audio, in which local people described their experiences at Linton state school.



The crowd outside Traquair House on the Town Walk on Sunday 15 October 2017

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Chris Grigg conducted a walk around Linton cemetery with about 20 locals and visitors, and on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Chris and Jill Wheeler conducted a town walk with a group of about 40 people (essentially a walk along Sussex St) pointing out the historic significance of the buildings that are there and those that have disappeared. Many of folk in the crowd had Linton ancestors and personal experiences, and they contributed information and anecdotes to enrich the commentary!

We also had loads of visitors to our Resource Centre on both days, many of them enquiring about their family histories and asking to see our school registers to find their names.

## The Library displays

The photos opposite give some idea of how effective and enthralling was the audio-visual and photographic display in the library. The display also demonstrated what we in the Society have talked about for some time – the potential of the library as a display and museum area for our collection of historical information. However, to reach this full potential, more renovation and repair work is required.

Over the last couple of years, *Society Notes* has detailed some of the work that has been done successfully to make the library safe from the ravages of weather and damp. Now, our renovation efforts need to be directed towards installing plumbing/toilet/kitchen facilities to generally enhance the buildings functionality. This will involve some expense, and the Society is looking into the best way to go about the necessary fundraising.

## Unveiling the 150<sup>th</sup> Plaque

Pictured opposite is the unveiling of the 150<sup>th</sup> commemoration plaque by Jim Stapleton, at 103 years old, the oldest ex-pupil present at the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration (and the oldest member of LDHS). Jim's tiny assistant is Matilda St Mart, the youngest current pupil at Linton PS. The rock was supplied by Tim Cooke of Piggoreet West, and the plaque commemorates the 150th anniversary. On the other side of the rock is the plaque unveiled at the 100th anniversary in 1967

Jim also delivered a speech at the Celebration dinner the night before, and entertained the audience with his harmonica playing of some old favourite songs.



Unveiling the 150<sup>th</sup> plaque (details opposite on page 2)

Photo: Jill Wheeler



Inside the old library (Mechanics Institute) showing the audio-visual installation, and some of the extensive array of photos on display.

Photo: Phil Pappas



Chris Grigg (blue shirt and cap) who is the new Society Vice President and a member of the Cemetery Trust, leads 150<sup>th</sup> celebration attendants on a tour of the cemetery. Chris provided an informative commentary on the cemetery and notable grave sites. Photo: Phil Pappas



Many attendees at the celebration had been students at the old Linton primary school (pictured above) that was demolished in 1968. Photo: LDHS Collection



A group of ex-Linton school students of the 1950s-'60s reunited, with Betty Grigg (centre), at the 150th anniversary dinner on Saturday 14 October. L-R (using their original names): Chris Grigg, Gabrielle Grigg, Liesje Artz, Eugene Grigg, Bernadette Harney, Gerry Ver Doorn, Elizabeth Grigg, Willika Artz, Lou Artz, Truisje Artz, Betty Grigg, John Artz, Marty Artz, Inneka Artz, Frank Ver Doorn, Hans Ver Doorn. Photo: Jill Wheeler

## Available Resources on Linton's history

**DVDs of the following 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; The Kvapil/Hayward family and the Snake Valley Displaced Persons camp. \$10 each + \$5 postage and handling. Contact Joan Giles: [joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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, 69 Sussex Street, Linton 3360.

***Linton: A Photographic History*** A history of the small gold rush town of Linton as told through selected photographs from the collection of the Linton and District Historical Society. \$30.00, plus \$10.00 postage & handling, to Linton & District Historical Society, 69 Sussex Street, 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, 69 Sussex Street, Linton 3360.

***Society Notes* is a quarterly publication. Back copies are available on the website (password protected, available to members). The next issue will be February 2018.**

# Annual General Meeting

At the Society's **Annual General Meeting** on Monday 18 September we were delighted to have as our guest speaker Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter, historian and lecturer at Federation University, Ballarat. Her topic was, "**The Conscription Debates of World War One and rural communities**".



Anne Beggs-Sunter begins her power point presentation about the conscription debates during WW1 Photo: K McLachlan

The topic is timely since it is 100 years since the second referendum on whether Australian men should be conscripted to fight in France during World War One. The result of the first referendum in 1916, was 'No', but the arguments were passionate on both sides. A second referendum in 1917 also produced a 'No' majority vote. Everyone at the meeting found Anne's talk to be engaging and informative, and many people asked for a copy. Anne has kindly agreed to our publishing the address, and an edited version is reproduced below.

The conscription issue is also significant in that it represents the only time in the 117 years of the Commonwealth of Australia's history in which the voters have been asked in a referendum whether Parliament should pass a particular law. All other referenda have been directed at amending the Australian Constitution, the document that sets out the law-making powers of the Australian Parliament. The only other time when the voters have been asked to indicate whether Parliament should make a particular law has been this year, in the postal survey on whether our marriage laws should be amended to legalise same-sex marriage.

## Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter: Conscription and War in Ballarat during World War1: Contested loyalties and identities

### Background

Ballarat is the home of the Eureka Rebellion, where Irish predominated, and is also the seat of the Catholic Archdiocese of Ballarat, which takes in much of Western Victoria.

There was generally a strong Catholic presence in Australia, including in the Ballarat area, because of much immigration from Ireland. This presence was reinforced through Catholic primary and secondary schools, led by Christian Brothers and nuns, many of whom came from Ireland. Bishop Foley of Ballarat was a cousin of Archbishop Mannix in Melbourne.

During the 1860s and 1870s in Australia, there was some sectarian strife, and one of the more dramatic expressions of this was the attempted assassination of the Duke of Edinburgh in 1868 by Patrick O'Farrell, a Catholic Irishman from Ballarat. This led to the formation of eight Orange Lodges in one week! The Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, was founded in Ballarat 1868.

With its strong Trades Hall, Ballarat also had many links with the organized labour movement, and was the headquarters of the Australian Workers Union (AWU). James Scullin, the future Labor Prime Minister of Australia lived in Ballarat and edited the *Evening Echo*.

## ***The Evening Echo***

*The Evening Echo* was founded in Camp Street in 1895, as a labour paper. Its motto was 'Fearless, Truthful and Just'. It was published daily, with two editions – early and late evening - a four-page broadsheet in the early 1900s, and an annual Christmas supplement published. A souvenir illustrated edition was published in December 1904 to mark the centenary of Eureka.

*The Cyclopaedia of Victoria* (1904) carried a flattering article on the *Evening Echo*. It noted that the *Echo* was the first provincial daily to have a rotary press. The article noted that the paper had a large circulation in Ballarat, and was distributed to 52 other towns in Victoria. The paper was noted for the rapidity with which news was published, and for the high quality of its illustrated Christmas supplements. From early 1912, the *Echo* became a strongly labour paper, the voice of the Australian Workers' Union and the Ballarat Trades' Hall.

An eventful Federal election was held on 1 June 1913, where James Scullin, the Ballarat grocer of Irish Catholic heritage, was defeated in the seat of Corangamite. However, in Ballarat, D.C. McGrath very narrowly defeated H.V. McKay by 368 votes after a hard-fought election, where the *Echo* had exposed McKay's underpayment of wages at his Sunshine Harvester factory.

The AWU acted quickly to appoint James Scullin as editor of the *Echo* on 6 June 1913, although he lacked any newspaper experience. The future Prime Minister would continue in this role until 1922, when he was elected to the safe Labor seat of Yarra.

## **The Cause of Home Rule and WW1**

By 1914 the majority of Irish-Australians were Australian born, but retained strong links to Ireland through family ties, their Irish-born clergy and the nuns and brothers who taught at Catholic schools. At this time, Ireland was still a colony of Great Britain. The Irish-Australian press, particularly the *Freeman's Journal* in Sydney, and the *Advocate* in Melbourne, strongly supported Home Rule for Ireland, which the British Parliament had promised in 1913, but which was postponed with the advent of the War, much to the disappointment of the Irish at home and abroad.

Nevertheless, many young Irishmen enlisted in the British army, and in Australia many descendants of Irishmen and women enlisted, particularly Catholics belonging to the working class, for whom the good pay and chance of a free trip to Europe initially appealed.

In agricultural districts, there was less of a rush to enlist, especially in the potato and dairying areas which were still labour-intensive industries, depending heavily on family and seasonal labour.

Another complicating factor was the moral position taken by some religions in regard to war. Some, such as the Quakers, had a conscientious objection to taking up arms and being forced to kill other humans; some Christians took the view that war was opposed to the message of Jesus. The Catholic Church was also concerned that in France priests had been conscripted as front-line troops, and that a military call-up might impact on its religious priests and brothers.

There was also the socialist view that all workers throughout the world were brothers and sisters, and that it was capitalists who provoked conflict in the interests of trade and profits. However, such voices were almost unheard, as the mainstream press and the mainstream churches proclaimed a strongly Imperial and patriotic message.

A dramatic test of the loyalty of Irish-Australians came after the Dublin Easter Rising in April 1916, when a small group of Irish republicans, assisted by German munitions, led a bungled republican uprising in Dublin. It was quickly crushed and the leaders were tried for treason and executed. Initially the republicans had little support, but as news of savage and unwarranted suppression of civil rights in Ireland became known, public feeling turned against the British authorities. There was a protracted period of martial law, violence, mass arrests and deportations, which turned Irish-Australian opinion sour.

At the time, the headlines in the *Echo* proclaimed: '**DUBLIN REVOLT: Three leaders shot**'. (4 May 1916 – Page 1); and on 9 May 1916, '**200 victims of Irish rebellion buried without coffins or proper requiems**'.

Just at this time, the British Parliament passed an Act requiring compulsory military service of all men between the ages of 18 and 41 years, married men included. Prime Minister Billy Hughes was on an extended visit to England at this time, making many speeches regarding Australia's Imperial loyalty, and he strongly condemned the Sinn Fein.

Strong leadership for the Irish came from Melbourne's recently arrived bishop, Daniel Mannix, who quickly attained a reputation as a brilliant orator and a person who did not resile from having his say on matters of public debate. Most of all he took to the public platform to speak against the Conscription Referenda of 1916 and 1917. Although he made it clear that he spoke as an individual and not a representative of the Catholic Church, inevitably his views were interpreted as the policy of the church.

The local MHR for Ballarat, Charlie McGrath, a Labor man of Ulster-Presbyterian background, enlisted in January 1916, at the age of 43, as a sergeant with the 22 Army Service Corps. This action drew widespread favourable comment, as an inspiration to young men. At a family level, he was concerned for his young son David, who had also enlisted in the AIF as a 16-year-old, with his parents' permission. Recruiting was beginning to fall off as the war dragged on, and particularly once news of the AIF's bloody introduction to the Western Front filtered through the heavily censored newspaper reports. Young driver David McGrath arrived in France from Egypt on 25 June 1916, in time to be part of the worst day in Australian history, the Battle of Fromelles on 19 July 1916, when Australian forces were led by the former Ballarat College school boy Harold 'Pompey' Elliott. When young McGrath's parliamentarian father arrived in London, he seems to have exerted some influence to protect his son, who was transferred to his father's unit, the 22 Australian Service Corps, in September 1916.

Nevertheless, Sergeant McGrath, gaining a whiff of Hughes's indoctrination by Lloyd George and the British Government whilst he was in London in 1916, wrote letters to his comrades in Victoria concerned about the possibility of Hughes introducing conscription for military service in Australia. He became a leading advocate for the 'no' cause in London.

# Anti-Conscription

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4

### Mass Demonstration

#### of Unionism


AT THE  
**YARRA BANK**  
at 10 o'clock in the Morning.

The Australian Trades Union Anti-Conscription Congress held at Melbourne unanimously resolved that, in order to manifest the opposition of the Australian Working Class to Conscription prior to the Referendum decision, Simultaneous Mass Meetings be held to receive and consider resolutions for future action. In pursuance of this decision all Unionists are called upon to attend.

**LET NO MAN OR WOMAN STAY AWAY.**

**YARRA BANK**  
Wednesday, 4th Oct., 10 o'clock in Morning  
**Unionism Unflinching !!**

By direction of National Executive,  
J. CURTIN, Secretary.



THE YES VOTE.

## Fighting Against Conscription 1916

As the dreadful casualty lists were published in the newspapers following the battles on the Somme in 1916, Hughes raised the issue of keeping up reinforcements to the AIF, and the need for conscription because voluntary enlistments were faltering. The *Echo* took a strong role in the conscription campaigns, as the mouthpiece of the AWU and Trades Hall policy of protecting working class interests. Scullin's biographer John Robertson claims that the *Echo* was 'the only daily in Victoria, and one of the few in the Commonwealth, to preach anti-conscription.' Of course, there were some labour weeklies that were strongly opposed to conscription, including the *Labor Call* and the *Australian Worker*.

Hughes did not have the numbers in parliament to introduce compulsory military service for service overseas, so he hoped to gain general support for conscription by asking the public to vote on the issue. On 30 August 1916, Hughes announced the plebiscite. He knew that the Trades Halls and most of the Political Labor Leagues opposed conscription, but he also knew that he had the support of almost all the newspapers in the nation. The AWU quickly organised a meeting the following evening in its Ballarat hall, which was reported in the *Echo* on 1 September 1916. It gave bold headlines to the 'Great Meeting' and 'stirring speeches' and the demonstration that 'liberals and labourites have joined to prevent 'Prussianism being foisted on Australia.'

Throughout September and October, the *Echo* advertised meetings organised in halls all over the district, with speakers from the Ballarat Trades Hall, parliamentarians like Senator John Barnes, and Scullin and local school teacher Tom Carey. Often these meetings would be outdoors, with the Galloway Monument in Sturt St. Ballarat a popular meeting place. Scullin's great oratorical skills, honed at the South Street debating competitions, would have been much appreciated, as too were Carey's.

For Scullin and his associate Richard Jordan at the *Echo*, the attack on capitalists and profiteers came through strongly, as well as the theme that Australia had done more than its share in defending the Empire. Strongest of all was the attack on militarism. Australia had sent troops to help defeat the German state that had subsumed the nation to a military ideal. Now Hughes wanted Australia to itself submit to the same militarist conception of the state.

Scullin appealed to farmers, warning that conscription would mean that there would not be enough labour to harvest wheat, dig potatoes and shear their sheep (*Echo*, 6 October 1916).

It is instructive to compare the coverage of the campaign by the three Ballarat dailies. The *Echo* devoted almost every column inch to the campaign, and gave coverage of meetings conducted in Melbourne, such as a great anti-conscription rally at the Yarra Bank in Melbourne attended by 10,000 people. It also reported in full the speeches made at anti-conscription meetings in Ballarat. Scullin, the newspaper man, often reported favourably on his own speeches.

The *Courier* and the even more conservative *Ballarat Star* gave lengthy coverage to the Prime Minister, and to 'yes' campaigners, including many letters to the editor in support of conscription. Editorials, and later cartoons, were used to support the 'yes' case. While they often ignored anti-conscription rallies, they had to print notices of the many AWU evening meetings arranged at country halls and on street corners. These showed the extraordinary devotion of campaigners like Scullin, working full-time during the day at the presses, and at night driving many miles around the countryside to address meetings at country localities. During the campaign, the *Echo* produced a number of special 'anti-conscription' issues, which condensed leading articles from the previous week.



On the eve of polling day, the *Echo* published another special 'Anti-Conscription' issue, and Scullin was a leading speaker at the final rally at the Galloway Monument in Sturt St. with a 'great audience.' On polling day, the conservative papers called in striking headlines for a vote for 'Honour and the King', as against 'dishonour and the Kaiser'. The results came through by Monday 30 October, when the *Echo* announced that the nation had narrowly rejected conscription, that although Victoria had voted 'yes', Ballarat had voted 'no', with the labour areas of Ballarat East and Sebastopol strongly 'no', while more middle class Ballarat West strongly 'yes'. Most notable was the Warrenheip division, which includes the strongly Irish township of Dunnstown, recording the strongest 'no' vote.



### Results of the 1916 Conscription Referendum:

Overall, a majority of Australians voted 'no', although in Victoria, the majority voted 'yes'. The Ballarat electorate voted 'no' - 11,612 in favour, 13,158 against. Many farming communities voted 'no', indicating concern that conscription would threaten their ability to harvest crops and manage dairies. For example, in **Warrenheip** results were 145 Yes, 460 No, **Ballan** 377 Yes, 637 No. In **Linton** the vote was close in favour of conscription: Yes 272, No 265.

The *Echo's* contribution had been vital, as the only daily newspaper in Victoria taking a firmly anti-conscription stance. 60,000 copies a day were sent to Melbourne for distribution. The *Labor Call* on 26 October 1916 praised the paper, stating that 'the *Evening Echo* of Ballarat has earned a name for itself by its brilliant anti-conscriptionist work.'

However, Scullin warned that conscription was not dead, and that Hughes, whom he denounced as 'Australia's Napoleon' had to be expelled from the Labor Party. This happened on 14 November, when the Labor caucus in Melbourne split over the issue, and Hughes and his followers left the Labor Party and formed a minority National Labor Government which depended on Liberals for support. At a conference of the Labor Party on 4 December 1916 in Melbourne, Scullin moved the motion to expel all members who supported conscription. He reinforced the notion of conscription for overseas service was what the party objected to. The vote was carried 29 votes to 4. The great split in the Labor Party occurred, which would keep it out of office until 1929, when Scullin would become Prime Minister at a critical time in Australia's history.

Just at this potent time the tall handsome Irishman Daniel Mannix was appointed Archbishop of Melbourne. He drew the hostility of Prime Minister Hughes and the press when he dared in January 1917 to describe the conflict that embroiled the world as 'a trade war - simply an ordinary trade war.' The *Argus* and the *Age* reported that he used the adjective '*sordid*' trade war. For daring to say such a thing, he was threatened with deportation.

Bitter sectarianism opened up, with savage attacks on Mannix. The ALP had been split by the conscription issue. Those remaining in the ALP made it a predominately Irish-Catholic party.

### Fighting Against Hughes and Conscription in 1917

The May 1917 Federal election was an intense campaign between the Nationalist 'Win the War' Party, and the ALP, which was working towards peace negotiations. The *Echo* gave increasing space to promote Pope Benedict's proposals for peace negotiations, which were roughly equivalent to USA President Woodrow Wilson's 19 points. Election day, 4 May, was very quiet because there was no contest against the sitting member, Sergeant McGrath, who was serving with the AIF in London. McGrath was lucky that there was no contest in Ballarat, as Labor was decimated in the election, with Hughes winning the seat of Bendigo from the sitting Labor candidate.

Immediately, conscription was in the air again, and the War Precautions Act was being used to even more devastating effect against peace advocates and anti-conscriptionists. Throughout September 1917, the *Echo* was full of reports about the general strike in Melbourne by the waterside workers, and the Russian revolution. There were also reports on Pope benedict's attempts to negotiate an end to war, and the new Archbishop of Melbourne Daniel Mannix. The Archbishop was very popular with Ballarat Catholics, who had a special connection to Mannix, as the cousin of their own newly appointed Bishop Daniel Foley.

On 1 September 1917 Scullin, showing his Irish background, wrote in the *Echo* that Australia needed 'a guiding principle of patriotism in its truest sense, an Australian Sinn Fein'. The *Echo*, like many papers throughout Australia, published reports of the Melbourne meeting in favour of Irish Home Rule held on 5 November 1917 at the Richmond racecourse, after the Catholic organisers and the guest speaker Archbishop Mannix were refused use of the Exhibition building. A huge crowd estimated at 100,000 people were there to cheer and hear the Archbishop. His address was widely reported around Australia, with many loyalists, including Prime Minister Hughes, claiming he should be interred for disloyalty.

Just two days later on 7 November, Hughes announced another conscription referendum, with the poll just before Christmas. With the collapse of the Russian front releasing more German troops for the Western front, the Allies were sorely pressed in France and Belgium. Casualties continued at a high level, most notably as a result of AIF involvement in the Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium, when the AIF suffered a horrendous 38,000 casualties, including 12,000 dead; 33 Ballarat men died on one day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1917. For Australia, 1917 was by far the worst year of the war. More than 21,000 dead comprised one-third of all Australians killed in the conflict. October 1917, with 6000 dead, was the worst single month.

### World War One Recruiting Figures

1914	52,561
1915	165,912
1916	124,352
1917	45,101
1918	28,883

Total: 416,809 volunteered out of a population of nearly 5 million, 38.& % of the male population between 18 and 44 (figures from Australian War Memorial website).

While the State Recruiting Committees ramped up their efforts with recruiting meetings held in every country town, few volunteers came forward: hence the Government's attempt to reinforce the ranks through conscription. Hughes claimed that 7,000 reinforcements were needed each month to keep the AIF's five divisions up to strength; anti-conscriptionists contested these figures, and argued Australians had done more than their share in supporting the Empire.

Hughes opened the 'Yes' campaign in Bendigo, and Scullin helped to form a Ballarat District Anti-Conscription League. Again there were special issues of the *Echo*, and supplies of paper ran so low that on occasions the paper was down to just one sheet. But it continued to be almost the lone daily voice against conscription, and its efforts were justified by the poll on 20 December 1917 when the nation voted even more strongly against conscription.



### The Results of 20 December 1917 Referendum

Again, Australia as a whole voted 'no', and this time the majority of Victorians voted 'no'. For the **Ballarat Division**: the results were Yes, 10,777; No, 12,367. **Linton** was again a very close vote in favour of conscription: 'yes' 267, 'no' 264. *The Echo* wrote proudly on 21 December 1917 that 'in spite of 90% of the capitalist press, large sections of the Pulpit, and Parliament supporting conscription, it appeared that the "no" vote had won the day, in spite of prosecutions, of persecution, in spite of suppression of free speech, in spite of regulations framed by a Junta.' The second referendum was even clearer in rejecting conscription, and this time Victoria voted no by a small majority, indicating the effectiveness of the anti-conscription campaign led by the AWU, supported by the strong voice of Archbishop Mannix.

### War Memorials

At the end of the war there was a mass grieving for lost sons, husbands and fathers, with Avenues of Honour and Honour Rolls erected in most townships of central Victoria, and in most Protestant churches and state schools. Honour rolls were not erected

in Catholic churches or schools, with the conspicuous exception of St. Patrick's College, Ballarat, which had a proud cadet tradition and had offered many old boys to the carnage in Europe. Poignantly the brothers James and Farnel Mardling of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion both died on that terrible day at Passchendaele, 4 October 1917.

No Avenues of Honour were planted in the Irish-Catholic triangle of the Bungaree Parish. It is interesting that only in 2015 has a committee of residents of Navigators planted an Avenue of Honour to servicemen of World War One, stimulated no doubt by all the publicity and Federal funding surrounding the centenary of Gallipoli and World War One.

Australia has spent enormous sums in commemorating World War One, with funding for every Federal electorate for commemorative projects. In Ballarat, the Avenue of Honour has received much attention, with the recent unveiling of the Grieving Mother statue near the Arch of Victory giving a new slant on commemoration.

I commend the *Honest History* website, which has kept a watch on government spending, with very salutatory comparisons to the amount of money spent by other governments. Why is Australia so far beyond every other government in its spending on military commemorative projects? I leave you with that question to ponder.

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## Next History Night

**Monday 20 November 2017, 7:30pm, in the Shire Offices.**

Guest speaker: local historian **Dr Joan Hunt**

*Pitfield, the township at the crossing of the Woody Yaloak Creek.*

Joan will talk about the very early pastoralists of the area, the settling of the early township, some of those residents of the pre-gold era, and the life of the hotel known for some time as The Emu Inn.

Visitors welcome. Supper will be served (please bring a plate to share).



The ruins of the second Emu Inn at Pitfield, which was a two-storey bluestone building. It was built after the weatherboard hotel (built some time prior to June 1846) burnt down on 11 May 1853. Photo: courtesy J. Hunt

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO SEPTEMBER 2017

The following report From Dr Jill Wheeler, President of the Society, was presented at the Annual General Meeting on 17 September 2017.

It has, once again, been a busy and eventful year at the Linton and District Historical Society.

## Membership

Our membership numbers remain strong. This time last year we had 89 members, At the end of August this year, we had 90 members, and although we lost some members in the course of the year, we also had several new members join.

Approximately 45% of these 90 members live beyond the Linton-Ballarat district – in Melbourne, in other places in Victoria, and interstate. While this shows how far flung people with Linton connections are, it also means that only about half of our members can feasibly participate in the Society's activities on a regular basis.

## Meetings

Following our Annual General Meeting this time last year, when we had the historian from Sovereign Hill Dr Jan Croggon as our guest speaker, we have had four well-attended *History Nights* plus a **Christmas celebration** in December.

At our **November History Night** our speaker was member and local historian Joan Hunt, whose topic was, 'Was your ancestor a 'new chum'? Life on the Victorian goldfields 1851-1881'. Joan shared the experiences of our ancestors as newcomers to the Victorian goldfields using material from her research and a lively power point presentation.

At our **February History Night**, our speaker was Max Kerr, a passionate and eclectic collector of rare and interesting objects and ephemera from Australia's colonial past. Max brought along a large selection of these objects from his collection and explained to the large audience as far as he was able, who would have made them and what they would have been used for.

At our **April History Night** our guest speaker was Jenny Burrell, committee member of the Ballarat and District Genealogical Society, who demonstrated 'The Home Front, Ballarat World War 1', a project that won the Centenary of WW1 Award Section of the Victorian Community History Awards 2016. Using a power point presentation, Jenny took the audience through this impressive online database comprising biographies of over 2500 individuals, information about local war work in Ballarat and district, including Linton, and an image gallery of items used in an accompanying video.

At our **June History Night** our speaker was Christine Uren speaking about her memories of growing up in Linton in the 1950s and 1960s. This included the story of Christine's father John Kvapil, who was a Czech who was resident in the Displaced Persons' Camp at Snake Valley after WW2 when he met her mother Phyllis Hayward, who came from a Snake Valley family.

Our History Nights are always well attended and often include non-members as well. We are grateful to the Shire for the use of the Shire Offices to accommodate often large numbers. Our sincere thanks go to all our speakers for agreeing to share their important histories with us.

Just a reminder - we have made DVDs of each of the speakers who have shared their local histories 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 six meetings during the last year and has reported back to the members at History Nights and via *Society Notes* on any matters of general concern to the membership.

## Grants

**For the 2016-17 year**, we received a **Community grant of \$3,548** from the Shire to complete the repair work and repainting of the remaining exterior walls at the rear and on the south side of the old Nelson's Undertakers building, including repainting of the Nelson's Undertakers sign at the front by a heritage sign writer. The Historical Society also received \$550 in seed funding from the Community Planning Committee towards this project and we contributed \$1,330 from our own funds.

The front picket fence between the Resource Centre and the Library and the one on the other side of the Library were also repaired and repainted with funds from Golden Plains Shire. The work was carried out by local builder James Overton, who also rebuilt the gate. We would like to thank James for his quality work, both in this and with all the jobs he has done for us.

The Linton Fire Brigade kindly allocated the funds from their Australia Day BBQ to the Society and we put this towards having a sign made and erected at the front of our Resource Centre saying who we are and giving our contact details. The Linton Men's Shed made the sign and the lettering was again done by a heritage sign writer to complement the writing done on the old undertakers' doors. Many thanks to the Fire Brigade for thinking of us and the Men's Shed for their skilled work with this project.

The restoration of the exterior of the Nelson's Undertakers building is now complete.

Several years ago we received a **Local History Grant** from the State government via the Public Record Office to produce a coffee table type book, entitled *Linton: A Photographic History*. This has been a slow project that has all too frequently been put on the backburner due to the pressing nature of other commitments. It has involved the selection and digitisation of several hundred photographs from our archives, and detailed research to make sure we have the information about them correct.

Our sincere thanks to Gary Hunt (husband of our member Joan Hunt) for the enormous amount of time and effort he put into re-photographing and enhancing the photos for us, and to member Del Atkinson for her painstaking and diligent scouring of the archives to get the information accompanying them as accurate as possible.

The good news is that the book is currently at the printers and we hope to have it completed in time for Christmas.

However, obviously we are yet to pay the printers for their work, so in the financial report presented by our Treasurer, Jan Cooke, it is worth bearing in mind that the grant money for this project - \$4,522 - currently remains in the cheque account. As the cost of the printing has increased considerably since the grant was originally applied for, the committee has decided it would be fitting to allocate a \$2000 bequest that the Society received from the estate of Alwyn Roberts towards this project. Alwyn was an old Lintonian and one of our dedicated members who left the Society \$2000 in his Will in 2013.

### **Cataloguing, sorting, scanning and storage**

A large part of the nitty gritty of our work is the sorting, scanning, cataloguing and storage of all the items and paper documents in our collection. This has continued throughout the year.

Most of the day-to-day slog of cataloguing our collection on the computer has been done by our member volunteers, Del Atkinson, Karen Ronan and Monica Keefe, and our new volunteer, Janet Pathé. They are now quite a team that meets regularly on a Monday afternoon and we thank them sincerely for their perseverance and dedication to this task.

There is still much to do in this area – I know it can seem like a bottomless pit at times - but this all means that we are gradually getting a more accessible and reliable system for finding what we need to find in our archives.

### **Research Requests**

Another large part of our core work is handling the requests for help with local and family history research in the Linton district. 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.

Since the beginning of September last year, in my role as Research Officer, I have responded to 36 individual enquiries, an increase of 4 on the previous year.

Most of these requests came via our email address, 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 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.

Once again, our member and cataloguer, Del Atkinson, has been an invaluable help in searching our collection for any information we have for these enquirers. And where the requests are for information on the history and inhabitants of Happy Valley or Piggoreet, our member Joan Hunt always provides detailed information generously and promptly. Many thanks again to Del and Joan.

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. We have had 9 Open Days in the past year.

### **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 for several years now and ensured that it is always up to date. He has also been managing our Facebook page, and reports that approximately 280 people regularly follow our feeds.

### **Society Notes**

Has continued to be produced quarterly, under the editorship of our Secretary, Drew Hopkins. Last year I reported that we had reduced its size to 8 pages, as a result of the printing cost at the Shire office increasing substantially. However, since then, we have increased the pages back to 12, and sometimes even 16, as we realise that this is a popular publication, and in order to fit in the many historical news items, summaries of talks by guest speakers, notices about upcoming events, and photographs, we needed the extra room.

A small proportion of our members have opted to receive the newsletter via email, which helps reduce our postage costs, although many members still prefer to get a paper copy in the mail.

### **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 cannot get to hear our speakers in person.

My book on the history of Linton and district, *Linton Makes History* has had steady sales in Linton and beyond. It is currently available for sale at the Shire Offices and at the cafe, 'Plants, Wares 'n Things' in Sussex St. It is also on sale in Ballarat at Collins in the Mall and at Ballarat Books.

The Society also gets income from our research fees and the scans of documents and photos that we do for those making family research enquiries.

## Donations

Our donations account has steadily built up, and our Financial Report indicates that we have received a total of \$3,004.85 from this source in the past year. This includes a \$1245.00 donation from the Nelson family towards the restoration of the old Nelson's Undertakers garage doors.

This means that the balance of this total - \$1,760 – was made up of donations from 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.

**Do you have a red dot on your Society Notes?**

**Have you paid your membership subscription?**



If your copy of *Society Notes* has a **red dot** on the front page, this is a reminder that you have not yet paid your annual subscription. Please forward your Renewal Form, with payment, to **Linton & District Historical Society, PO Box 41, 69 Sussex St., Linton 3360**. Subscription: \$25;

**Cheques to be made payable to:** Linton & District Historical Society Inc.

**Direct Deposit:** Westpac Bank, BSB 033 605 Account 112583

**Please indicate on direct deposit your member number or surname and what payment is for, e.g. membership, donation, etc.** Any queries? Ken McLachlan [mclachlan.ken@bigpond.com](mailto:mclachlan.ken@bigpond.com)

## Plans for the year ahead

**Our major project** is the completion of our book of historic photographs of Linton. This, I am pleased to say, is now imminent.

We have identified the need for new computers at the Resource Centre as the two we are using there are very old. So in the coming year, one of our priorities will be to replace them.

Meanwhile, the Society plans to continue to present and record more talks from senior current and ex-Lintonians 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.

We will continue to try to attract new members, and encourage more members who have time to become actively involved with the Society.

## 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:

I want to take a moment here to specially thank our Membership Secretary **Ken McLachlan**, who is not standing for committee again next year and we will be very sorry to lose him. Ken has taken on a large range of tasks over the 5 years he has been on our committee. These have included:

- managing our website, which has involved updating it with the latest forms, the latest news and information about upcoming events. And loading SN for member access,
- Management of our Facebook page, which has involved advertising events such as History Nights, the AGM and Open Days; and checking and responding to incoming messages
- Being our membership secretary, which includes maintaining our membership register, handling annual membership renewals, processing new member requests, processing membership cessation, creating regular membership reports, liaising with the Treasurer regarding membership payments and the Secretary re changes to members' email addresses
- Purchasing and printing envelope labels for our mail out of SN
- Updating templates for our forms and letters
- Updating our asset register annually to provide to the Shire for insurance purposes
- And setting up our technology for History Nights and filming our speakers

It is as a result of Ken's initiative that we have an up-to-date website, a presence on social media, and a comprehensive and efficient membership system. I want to thank Ken on behalf of the membership for all his work over five years. We will miss his input on the committee but are pleased to know he still wants to remain actively involved with the Socy.

I also wish to thank **Jan Cooke**, for continuing to do a brilliant job in the role of Treasurer, which involves not just keeping track of the incomings and outgoings of our finances, but producing regular reports for the committee.

And to both Jan and Susie who help to organise the suppers at our History Nights and do many 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. He has also recently managed to get Linton and District Historical Society connected to the internet which involved considerable research into options and discussions with committee members before a decision was made.

**Joan Giles**, who has taken on special projects, for example, the production of our DVDs and CDs, as well as attending to many other administration tasks besides. She and Alan have also done regular stints at our Open days throughout the year.

**Deirdre Nicol**, who has collected our mail for committee meetings and who writes reports on Society activities for the Linton News. She has contributed to the sorting and filing of our paperwork, as well as helping out at Open Days.

**Karen Ronan**, in her first year on the committee, has contributed particularly to our decision-making about technology and the internet connection. She has also continued to help with cataloguing and with scanning previously unscanned and uncatalogued photographs in family files. More recently she has been working on the forthcoming Society contribution to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school.

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

Firstly, **Del Atkinson** for her continuing efforts with our cataloguing tasks, and with her painstaking research into our archives in response to enquiries from the public.

**Monica Keefe**, who has helped out all year with the cataloguing and, along with Karen, with the scanning of previously unscanned and uncatalogued photographs in family files.

Our new volunteer in 2017, **Janet Pathé**, who has worked regularly with Del on the cataloguing and storing of our objects and photographs.

A special thank you, as always, to our member **Joan Hunt** for her hands-on input with research queries, which we have found invaluable. And also for her advice and expertise generally with regard to local history and resources.

Special thanks to **Gary Hunt** for his time and expertise in re-photographing and enhancing the photographs for our photographic history, and his patience as we kept adding more photos to his list.

Thanks to **Chris Grigg, Tim Cooke, and Roy Nicol** for their combined efforts with garden maintenance - lawn mowing, weed spraying and wood supplies. Thanks to **Chris** also for his endless, invaluable input about every detail Linton's history.

## Conclusion

I conclude now by saying that there are many things that we as an Historical Society would like to be doing that we are not, mainly because we haven't got enough volunteers 'on the ground' in Linton. We definitely need more people who can be actively involved in the day-to-day work of the Society. So, if anyone could spare even a small amount of time to give us, please speak to us tonight or email us and we would be delighted to find a job for you!

Meanwhile, we are pleased that we are financially viable with healthy membership numbers and we are generally well regarded in the community and beyond.

In order to exist, Historical Societies need members, so a big thankyou 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.

Jill Wheeler  
September 2017

### **The new LDHS committee for 2017-2018:**

President – Jill Wheeler

Vice President - Chris Grigg

Treasurer – Jan Cooke

Secretary, Editor of Society Notes – Drew Hopkins

Correspondence Secretary - Deirdre Nicol

Membership & Website Management - Monica Keefe

Special Projects & Administration - Joan Giles & Karen Ronan

# the Bulletin board

**New Members:** Welcome Noreen Ryan, Kim Besso, Margo Canino, Beth Malouf

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – the second Sunday of the month: 12 November 2017, 11 February 2018. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**
- **Book Launch 10 December 2:30pm. Shire Offices, Sussex Street. *Linton: A Photographic History***
- **Next History Nights: Monday 20 November 2017 (Dr. Joan Hunt); Monday 19 February 2018 (speaker to be confirmed).**
- Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**.
- Lots of information is on our website [www.lintonhistory.org.au](http://www.lintonhistory.org.au) and like us on [www.facebook.com/lintonhistory](http://www.facebook.com/lintonhistory)



## 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; Chris Uren on the Kvapil/Hayward family and the Snake Valley Displaced persons camp. \$10 each + \$5 postage and handling. Contact Joan Giles: [joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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.
- ***Linton: A Photographic History*** A history of the small gold rush town of Linton as told through selected photographs from the collection of the Linton and District Historical Society. \$30.00, plus \$10.00 postage & handling, to Linton & District Historical Society, 69 Sussex Street, 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 February 2018.**

## Society contacts:

**President: Jill Wheeler** (0439 895 939); email: [jillianleawheeler@gmail.com](mailto:jillianleawheeler@gmail.com)

**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)

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

**Membership, Website Manager:** Ken McLachlan, email: [mclachlan.ken@bigpond.com](mailto:mclachlan.ken@bigpond.com). In 2018, Monica Keefe [mon.keefe@aussiebb.com.au](mailto:mon.keefe@aussiebb.com.au)

**Society Address: 69 Sussex St., Linton 3360 (ex-Nelson Bros. Undertakers - the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre).**

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



***Applause: A Big Thank You to all our Donors***

Donations to the Society are **tax deductible** (receipts issued on request), many of our members have responded generously to assist us with new projects for preserving and displaying our precious collection of artefacts, photographs and documents. If you would like to make a donation, please contact our Treasurer, Jan Cooke (5342 8554), or post your donation to the Society's address: 69 Sussex St., Linton 3360.