

# Society Notes

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## It's Picnic Time



**Bush outing, c.1911**

From the LDHS collection

This is thought to be Linton State School on a bush outing, possibly at the Mortchup reservoir. It was printed as a postcard (perhaps multiple copies were made?), and this copy was given to pupil Stella Todd by the head teacher, Mr H B Williamson, who wrote on the back of it, wishing her a happy year in 1912.

More details can be found in the article inside that briefly explores a history of 'picnics' in Linton.

### Inside:

**Picnic outings in Linton – private and institutional**

**Report on March History Night on the history of Ballarat's Avenue of Honour and Memorial Arch**

**Joan Hunt's book launch at Happy Valley**

**Last issue's 'mystery building'**

**Next History Night: Monday 3 June at 7.30pm in the Shire Offices**  
**Topic: The Harney Family: Memories of Living in the Railway Hotel**



## Picnics: An exciting outing for all in Linton's early days

Picnics were an exciting, and, importantly, inexpensive and accessible way for nineteenth and early twentieth century Lintonians to engage in enjoyable socialising with friends and family. Whilst people have always enjoyed small, informal picnics, large-scale school, church and organisational picnics were eagerly anticipated. A measure of their importance is illustrated by the photographs below which suggest that people always dressed up for the occasion.

Our Society researcher, Del Atkinson, has dug through our archives and extracted a number of photographs illustrating this aspect of Linton life. With each photo she has attached some explanatory notes, beginning with the school picnic photo on our front page.

**Del Atkinson writes:** School picnics were a regular event at Linton State School, and a fair amount of stamina was needed for these occasions. The day would often begin with speeches, then there would be a picnic with food and sports events, and this was often followed in the evening by a school concert.

For example, as reported in *The Grenville Standard*, 30 May 1908, under the heading "Empire Day":

*"In the forenoon the children, to the number of about 200, were marshalled in the playground, where the ceremony of saluting the flag was performed in the manner prescribed by the Education Department. The children were then addressed, first by Cr. Kennedy, J.P., and then by Messrs G. Blurton, J.T. Nicol (Chairman of the Board of Advice), and Mr A.C. Cork.*

*... In the afternoon a monster picnic was held at the school, about 500 people, children and adults, being present. The children were feasted right royally and then set to run races to aid the process of digestion ... Bags of lollies and apples were distributed among the children as dessert, and lollie scrambles indulged in until every child was gorged to repletion.*

*... In the evening a school concert was given in aid of the cadet uniform fund. The Shire Hall was literally packed ... The programme was a more than usually attractive one ... "*

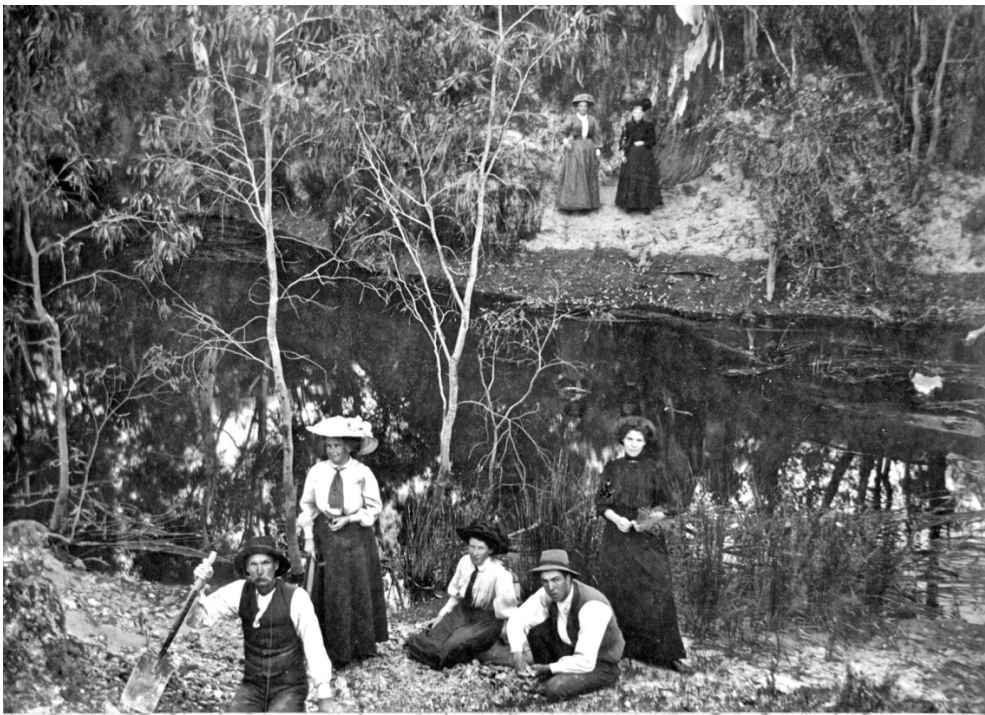
Newspaper reports from other years indicate that school picnics were an annual event and generally followed this programme of speeches, food, races and games, plus a concert.



**Methodist Church Jubilee, 1910**

This photo is in *Linton: A Photographic History*, p. 73. There are several copies of it in the collection, identified as either 'Methodist Church Jubilee 1910', or an Old Lintonians reunion. On the basis of names provided with one copy - Wearne, Bryant, Ching, Cornish, Jennings and Preston - we decided it was a Methodist Church gathering. The Jubilee celebrations, marking 50 years of the Methodist Church being established in Linton, were held on Easter Monday in 1910, when a number of people went "in four conveyances" for an outing to Flagstaff Hill.





**Mrs James Wishart and friends at Honeysuckle Creek, 1909**

The inscription on the back of this photo says: 'To dear Auntie, with love from Harold as a memento of the holiday at "Inverleigh" & of the afternoon on the Honeysuckle 1/11/09'

Further attempts to identify people in this photograph highlight the problems that can arise from inadequate explanations when indexing and cataloguing photographs. Someone (we don't know who) has later written 'Mrs James Wishart' below this inscription in black marker pen. So, we assume that this person was referring to the woman without a hat standing and facing the camera. However, in 1909 Mrs James Wishart was still Ethel Bersey - she married James in 1910. Another unknown person who later indexed this photo included the name of Mill Bennett in the index entry. If one of the other women in the picture is Mill Bennett, in 1909 she was Mrs Allen, having married in 1901.



**St Paul's Church of England Sunday School picnic at Lake Wendouree c.1930**

No-one in this photo is identified in the catalogue record. The photo was in an album owned by Mrs Faull (a descendant of George Henry Smith of Happy Valley). The Church of England Sunday School picnic was an annual event and was often (if not always) to Lake Wendouree, where the children had rides in paddle boats on the lake, amongst other exciting activities.





**New Year's Day picnic at Lake Burrumbeet, 1920s**

No one is identified in this photo but since "J H Morgan Economic Stores" wagon and horse are in the background, it is likely this group of people are members of the Morgan family. It is possible that some of them might have come from Skipton since J H Morgan had a store there as well as in Linton, which he ran until 1930.



**Old Lintonians on Flagstaff Hill**

This photo is on p.91 of *Linton: A Photographic History*. It was donated by Mrs Stella Surman, who presumably identified it as an Old Lintonians gathering. The catalogue record has no further information and is undated. Note a couple of people in it are pretending to pour tea into others' cups from a jug and a teapot.

**Any assistance with more accurate identification of people in any of these photos would be much appreciated!**

**Monday 3 June 2019, 7:30pm, in the Shire Offices**

**Guest speakers: the Harney Family**

*Memories of living in the Railway Hotel 1959-1972*



Right to left: Jack Harney, Margaret Harney, Peter Harney, and two boarders who worked in Linton.

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

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## Mystery solved

Thank you to those of you who responded to our pleas for help with identification of the 'mystery' building in the photograph of Sussex St that we published in February's *Society Notes*.

As a result, we are now fairly sure that the building was Dr Donaldson's barn when he lived on the north-west corner of Sussex and Grant Streets. Evidently his house was set back further up this block from the barn. The barn would have housed, amongst other things, the horse and buggy he used to do his patient rounds (that is probably it out the front of the property in the photograph). Later in his life he evidently lived in a house in Grant St, on the northern side, just up from the corner. We imagine his surgery was where his house was, in each case.





# Guest speaker from Ballarat at our March History Night delighted the audience with a history of the Ballarat Avenue of Honour and Victory Arch

Ballarat historian Phil Roberts was the guest speaker at our History Night on 18 March. Phil has written a number of books about Ballarat local history and on this occasion his topic was the Ballarat Avenue of Honour and the Arch of Victory. His power point presentation covered the history of the famous avenue since the first planting of 1917; the construction of the Arch of Victory; the involvement and funding contribution of the 'Lucas Girls'; the people of the avenue; and the recent history of the avenue.

The 'Lucas Girls' were women employed by the textile company E. Lucas & Co (after which the new Ballarat suburb Lucas was named). They contributed significantly to the fund-raising to establish the Avenue of Honour, and to the construction of the Victory Arch. This included making regular donations from their pay. However, their contribution was not just financial, but also physical as they lent a hand to the planting and construction processes involved in these projects.



Lucas staff pay tribute to the returned service personnel at the laying of the Victory Arch foundation stone, 7 February 1920

The Avenue has more than 3,800 trees along its 22 kilometre route, which manages to cross the Western Freeway. Planting of the avenue began in 1917, and once it was completed, attention turned to the construction of the Arch. Some of the funding of the arch was literally kicked off by a women's football match between the Lucas Girls and women from the Commonwealth Clothing Factory. This was one of the first women's football matches in Victoria, and drew a crowd of 7,000 to the Eastern Oval.

Over the years, some trees have had to be replaced, but the avenue still retains plaques commemorating and acknowledging the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and nurses from Ballarat who served in World War 1. Much restoration was carried out in preparation for the 2015 centenary of ANZAC and the Gallipoli landings.

Throughout the goldfields area there are many avenues of honour, including one in Linton in Denison St in front of what was then the entrance to the town, the railway station. Its beautiful autumnal colours can still be enjoyed this month. An especially impressive avenue that is worth visiting is the very long avenue leading into Kingston, located off the main road from Creswick to Daylesford.



The attentive audience at our March History Night with Phil Roberts

Photo: D Hopkins

Phil brought along the coffee-table size book that he has written on the history of the Avenue and the Arch of Victory entitled *Avenue of Memories*. The book details the development of the avenue and contains stories of many of the service personnel. It features a great many fascinating photos and a list of all the names that are included on the plaques attached to every one of the 3,800 trees in the avenue that stretches all the way to Learmonth. The book retails for \$40.00 and can be obtained by emailing Phil at [proberts@ncable.net.au](mailto:proberts@ncable.net.au).

### Joan Hunt's book launched at Happy Valley

The book version of the late Joan Hunt's PhD thesis, entitled *Springdallah: a goldfield mining community mid-19<sup>th</sup> century*, was launched by Jill Wheeler on Saturday 9 March at the Piggoreet and Happy Valley Old Scholars' Association reunion in the old Happy Valley School.

Joan died tragically in September last year and her husband Gary has brought this important piece of local historical research to fruition as a published book. *Springdallah* is a detailed analysis of the now forgotten mining communities of the district in the heyday of the deep lead mines. It has many wonderful photos, maps and tables, and an index that will be of assistance to people wanting information on particular families. Email Gary Hunt to order a copy: [gary\\_hunt@bigpond.com](mailto:gary_hunt@bigpond.com)

### Digitisation of *The Grenville Standard*

We have been looking into the possibility of getting the old Linton newspaper, *The Grenville Standard*, digitised. This would enable us all to access copies of the paper via the National Library of Australia's online repository **Trove**. At present, at the Resource Centre, we have the first five years, 1895-1900, in hard copy, and the years of World War One are already digitised and available on Trove (as are all newspapers in Australia for those years of WW1).

The State Library of Victoria holds microfilmed copies of *The Grenville Standard* up to when it closed in 1941. They could send these to the National Library for digitisation, but with a page estimation at 9268 pages @\$2.31 per page, the cost is over \$21,400. And that doesn't count the years that aren't microfilmed and would need to go through that process first – an extra cost.

Clearly, we would have to apply for grants to get this done. So, watch this space – this is one of our goals. The local newspaper is a wonderful way to discover a town's history and it is important to preserve this so that anyone can access it.

# the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – the second Sunday of the month: 9 June, 8 September. **Opening times: 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The centre will be closed for the Winter Break in July and August.**
- **Next History Night: Monday 3 June** (note slightly earlier date than usual) **'Memories of the Linton Pub 1959-1972 shared by the Harney Family'.**
- **Annual General Meeting: 16 September 2019.**
- Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. Please contact the Treasurer for details.
- Lots of information is on our website [www.lintonhistory.org.au](http://www.lintonhistory.org.au) and like us on [www.facebook.com/lintonhistory](https://www.facebook.com/lintonhistory)
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## 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. Details see our website. 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, at Wares Plants, 'n Things and The Known World Bookshop, all 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 St, 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 \$12.00 postage & handling. On sale at the above outlets. Or email: [enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au](mailto:enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au) to order.
- **A Walk-Drive Tour of Linton** - Currently out of print, a new edition is in the pipeline.
- **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue after this one will be August 2019.**

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

Donations to the Society are **tax deductible** (receipts issued on request). We have been thrilled that 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, Karen Ronan, [enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au](mailto:enquiries@lintonhistory.org.au)