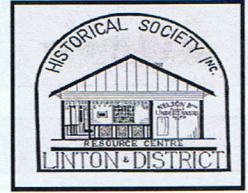


# Linton and District Historical Society Inc.

Report for July 2016



## **Graeme Ellis presents a popular History Night**

Over 40 people came to the Shire Offices for our June History Night to hear Graeme Ellis, longstanding resident of Mannibadar, present his talk on his family's history at Mannibadar and the history of the Soldier Settlement Scheme in that district.

Graeme explained how the pastoral station of Mt Bute, south of Linton, was acquired by the government and divided up into Soldier Settlement blocks at the end of the Great War 1914-1918. This area takes in the Districts of Mannibadar, Willowvale and Bradvale. Graeme's grandfather, Will Ellis, a returned serviceman from the Western Front was assigned a block of land on the Mannibadar-Linton Rd that he named "Enhallow" after a property in Glasgow Scotland where he had been billeted whilst on leave. He took possession on the 19th May 1921 and the Ellis Family has been farming in the Mannibadar/Bradvale District over four generations.



Marilyn and Graeme Ellis at the Linton & District HS History Night 20 June 2016

Although Will had had farming experience, the going was still tough, and the family struggled in the early days, as did many of their neighbours. Often the land they had been allocated was poor quality, the blocks were too small, they lacked farming experience, and the annual interest demanded by the Settlement Board could not be paid. Many men who had been assigned Settlement land walked away to find employment elsewhere. This sometimes gave their neighbours some opportunity to increase their holdings.

The Depression of the 1930s and the devastating bushfires of 1944 were two other setbacks that the soldier settlers had to endure. It was not until the wool boom of the 1950s that saw the fortunes of farmers enhanced in such a way that they were in a position to invest in new machinery and expand.

Graeme showed his own collection of some great photos of the early days of Mannibadar and told some amusing stories of the people, places and events that influenced his life growing up on the farm.