



Society Notes

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The Harmonies of the Welsh Valleys provided a successful Fundraiser for the Society



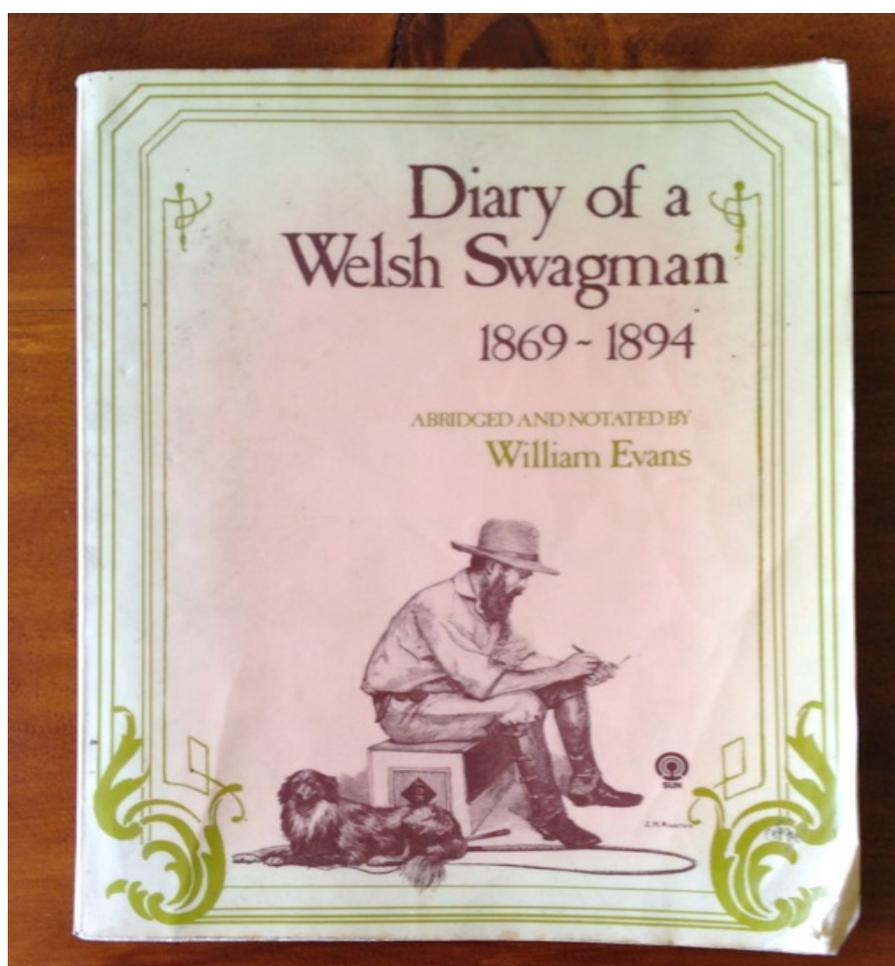
Photo: Jill Wheeler

The Society staged a highly successful fundraiser on Sunday 6 October at the Carngham Uniting Church, when the Victoria Welsh Male Choir presented an afternoon of story and songs. A full report of the concert is provided inside. While we are still waiting on final invoices on some of the expenses associated with the concert, the profit should come in at just under \$2,000, which will provide a wonderful contribution to the funds we are accumulating to help with maintenance of our historic buildings.

The *Diary of A Welsh Swagman* brought to life through story and song at our fundraiser concert

The Society hired the Victoria Welsh Male Choir to sing at its highly successful fund-raising concert at the Carngham Uniting Church, Snake Valley, on Sunday 6 October. Not only did the concert prove to be a lucrative fundraiser, but it was also a highly entertaining afternoon of musical delights, and interesting narrative.

In the first half of the concert, the choir told the story, in words and song, of the life of Joseph Jenkins, a Welsh swagman who, in 1869 at the age of 51, left his native Wales to spend 25 years in the goldfields region of Victoria, living the traditional swaggy's life, humping his swag from farm to farm to find work. Throughout that time, Joseph kept a diary in which he recorded his thoughts, and some of his prolific output of poetry. Joseph was a regular poetry contributor (both in English and Welsh) and prize-winner at Ballarat Eisteddfods. The choir's narrator told stories from the diary, and another chorister played the role of the swagman, speaking the swagman's words from the diary, and reciting some of his poetry. As the themes in the diary were explored – such as Joseph's love of nature, his religious beliefs, the importance of caring for the land, or the harsh life of the miner - the choir performed songs that reflected or expressed those themes.



Many of the songs were in the Welsh language, and included Welsh hymns and folk songs, and the popular mining song, *Working Man*, written by Canadian Rita McNeill.

In the second half of the concert, the choir presented more Welsh songs, but broadened the repertoire to include two opera choruses, and a spirited medley from the contemporary musical, *Les Mis*.

When at full strength, the Victoria Welsh Choir puts about 55 people on stage, but in a smaller venue like Carngham, it uses its *Cor Bach*, (small choir) of 25 people. The choir was established in 1980, and performs about 25-30 times per year. It has toured overseas six times, and was awarded a prize at the Welsh National Eisteddfod.

Last year it sang at London's Royal Festival Hall as part of the pre-Olympics massed choral concert, and this year sang in New Zealand's Male Choral Festival in Auckland where it received a standing ovation.

The Carngham concert was a sell-out, and with the choir and its support staff, about 230 people were seated in the church, with a couple of people listening outside! The Society established an organising committee for the event and planning began 18 months ago. Some very active marketing of the concert was required, as at least 95 tickets to the concert had to be sold before it could make a profit.

The Carngham Church with its historic Fincham and Hobday Organ erected in 1894 and superb acoustics was the perfect place to showcase this highly regarded Choir in an intimate and gracious setting. It was also the only acoustically appropriate venue in the area around Linton that could hold 230 people (as it was, about ten people, unfortunately, had to be turned away). Another attraction for concert-goers was the Devonshire tea afterwards that was provided by the Carngham church committee for \$5.00 a head.

The Victoria Welsh Male Choir and their own organising team were very impressed with the venue, so much so, that they said that they would be happy to give another performance in two years time! So, if you missed this year's concert, keep an eye out for the next one.

Congratulations to the organising and marketing committee – Kan McLachlan, Deirdre Nicol and Drew Hopkins – and special thanks to the ticket sellers on the day: Jan, Susie and Tim Cooke.

Copy of the Swagman's diary donated to the Society

A copy of *The Diary of a Welsh Swagman* has been donated to the Society by Lesley Cairns (nee Hart), one of our members from Queensland, and her cousin Maureen Stapleton, who read about the then forthcoming concert in the last edition of *Society Notes*. Joseph Jenkins original diaries are stored in the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, where they can be viewed by arrangement. The diaries were discovered 70 years after Jenkins' death in the attic of one of his descendants in Wales. The Library acquired these volumes in 1997.



CHRISTMAS DRINKS

For the Society's Christmas celebration this year we are having informal Christmas Drinks at the home of Jill Wheeler and Drew Hopkins

31 Waverley Street Linton

Friday, 6th December

From 5:00 to 7:30

Please bring a plate and a bottle of your own favourite.
Hope to see you there to say Merry Christmas!



RSVP by phone to Jill on 0439 895 939, or to Jan Cooke 5342 8554 or email jillianleawheeler@gmail.com or Jan at piggoreet-west@bigpond.com.au

Finding Linton

Via Folklore

My tribute to Letty Armstrong

As children, my sisters and I often overheard the name Linton being mentioned in discussions between our father John and his brother Robert who lived next door. There was also, something about a mine accident, with the names of Campbell, Edgar and Poultney being spoken of. In an age when children were to be seen and not heard, it was not pertinent to ask our father questions coming from our eaves dropping. Uncle Bob was a bit different. A bachelor, he was a loveable old soul who rambled on when we quizzed him, as though we knew all. He was a romantic who wrote and recited poetry, that later became of value.

In 1960 our father died and the relatives gathered, among whom was dad's elder brother Uncle Will, some 18 years older. As he spelt his surname 'Hisshion' we began to query him about that, about Linton, the mining accident and about all the other names we had heard. He began by telling us that he like our grandfather Daniel, was born at Linton in Victoria, a small mining village near Ballarat. This was great to hear! The mining accident he said, involved our great grandfather William and his mining mate William (Bill) Edgar. One night when winching Bill Edgar from a mine shaft at Smythesdale near Linton, Bill fell to his death. We sat, ears glued, as Uncle Will enthralled us with this untold mysterious family history story. He said that not long after the mining accident our great grandfather William had married the widowed Margaret Edgar at Linton. Margaret we would find, had been born Margaret Campbell at Stirling in Scotland. We knew that the Hishions had come from County Cork in Ireland and that our mother's people were a mix of Welsh and English. Now we found that we had Scots blood. These revelations gave us much to think about, for that mix made us all dinkum Aussies.



**Daniel William Hisshion
1881-1961**

In 1982, married and with four children, our Christmas holiday venture was to drive overland to Adelaide via the Murray Valley, Swan Hill and Pinnaroo in SA, which we did enjoyably. The journey home saw Sovereign Hill at Ballarat a "must see" on the return trip. While studying the map at Portland for the trip to Ballarat, I spied Linton. I had to drop by! On a very hot 5 January 1983 we pulled into Linton. All was eerily quiet; the only sign of life was coming from the Post Office so I ventured over and told the lady behind the counter the nature of my calling. She advised that she was going to lunch, and if I chose to wait she would take me through the Library where a photographic collection was on display. She said casually that another party had recently made similar inquiries and that she would bring their names back with her after lunch. "Probably my cousin Jim Hishion" I thought. We waited! The children were thirsty and "How long are we going to stay here dad?" came from each of them in turn. I didn't know then, but as it turned out, over an hour. They have never let me forget that day; that very hot thirsty hour.

The lady on her return handed me the names of the recent visiting party. I could not believe what I saw! It read, "Bill and David Edgar, Bull Creek, WA." Astounded, I followed the lady to the Library, who by now had introduced herself as Letty Armstrong. When with Letty I entered to view the display, staring down at me was the photo of Robert Hisshion and his bride Annie McDonald; my grandfather's brother. Further along in a photo of a Linton cricket team was Robert and his son Bobby; dad's cousin.

Research And Story: Barry Hishion 02 9709.6917 bhishion@tpg.com.au

From Barry Hishion and Hughie McDonald:

The article on the opposite page was submitted by Barry Hishion, describing some aspects of his journey to discover his family's history, and Letty Armstrong's role in that journey.

In the August issue of Society Notes, we published another piece by Barry, and in response to this, Hughie McDonald sent us the following letter:

Further to the article on the Hishion family in the August issue of Society Notes, it seems I have a common heritage with Barry Hishion.

My grandparents also were Norman and Ann McDonald from "Langi Willi". My grandfather, was Annie McDonald's brother. He married Rose-Anna Lewis from Pittong and after some years at Pitfield Plains, moved to "Afton Grove", Skipton Rd., Linton, where Rose-Anna remained for the rest of her life. It became the home of three generations of McDonalds. The home was recently sold and is currently being renovated.

I remember Daniel Hishion bringing Annie (his mother) to see my grandmother, all the way from Geelong seated in the sidecar of his motorbike. That was in the mid-1930s.

Mining Accident 1861

From the Melbourne *Argus* November 12 1861:

The following piece was recently submitted to The Linton News, which is published by the Linton Progress Association. It is the first of what will be a regular contribution to their new section entitled From the Past.

MINING ACCIDENT.—We regret to have to report that an accident, resulting in the death of one of the shareholders in the Glamorgan Company, Linton, occurred on Friday. The deceased, George Downing, was removing a set of timber when the earth gave way, crushing him severely. It was about half an hour before he could be extricated, and life was then extinct, his neck having been broken. On the following day, an inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned.—*Ballarat Star, Nov. 11.*

The Glamorgan Company Mine was near the corner of what are now Gillespie and Cumberland Streets, right in the township of Linton, which had only just been surveyed as a town in 1860, so it was very new. In the early 1860s, the Glamorgan was very profitable, selling about £200 worth of gold weekly to the local Bank of New South Wales. By 1861, this would have been deep lead mining, involving machinery and deep tunnels underground. Miners who worked in these mines were often also shareholders in them. However, also by the early 1860s, mining accidents resulting in fatalities were becoming more frequent. A 'fall of earth' such as this one, was a common cause of death underground. The inquest would have been held in one of the Linton hotels and would have involved a jury of twelve local men who listened to a number of witnesses and were then obliged to decide the cause of death.

From the archives of the Linton and District Historical Society 2013

More than Bombs and Bandages: our AGM guest speaker

Our guest speaker at the 16 September AGM was Dr. Kirsty Harris, a Melbourne-based historian and writer, who has published a book about nursing during the First World War, entitled *More than Bombs and Bandages*.

Kirsty spoke about the experiences of Australian nurses who enlisted in World War 1, a subject that has until now been neglected in military histories. Little was known about what work the nurses actually did, although there were possibly as many as 3000 members of the Australian Army Nursing Service serving in locations as diverse as the Dardenelles, Egypt, France, Belgium, Germany, India and England. One such nurse whom we know about was Christina Morrison whose family came from Happy Valley, and who served in India before being moved to Egypt.



Kirsty Harris with her power point presentation on nursing in WW1

Photo: Joan Giles

Kirsty described how these previously civilian nurses developed an extensive range of skills through nursing battle casualties and the war sick. Some took on new roles as anaesthetists, X-ray nurses and in pathology laboratories, and their roles included medical support through a broad range of specializations, such as ophthalmic or cosmetic surgery. Yet others had non-nursing roles such as running hospital kitchens and managing accommodation and meals for hundreds. In addition, the Army nurses provided important caring roles to their patients, such as those of counsellor, caterer, shopper, protector, communications facilitator and 'morale officer', bringing the essence of home to their patients.

If anyone wasn't able to get a copy of Kirsty's book, *More than Bombs and Bandages*, on the night and would like to order a copy, just go to the Big Sky Publications website:

<http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au/searchedproduct.aspx?name=more%20than%20bombs>

DVDs of History Night talks are available for purchase from the Society for \$10 each – talks by Jim Stapleton (2012), Rod and Joan O'Beirne (2012), Bruce Adams (2013) and Aaron Kerr (2013) are available.

Next History Night

Monday 18 November, 2013

at the Shire Offices, Sussex St, Linton, 7.30 pm.

Discovery of the Springdallah Goldfields, 1852



The Devil's kitchen today, but once at the heart of the Springdallah gold fields. Photo: Gary Hunt

Local Historian, **Joan Hunt**, will speak on the research she is currently undertaking into the history of the Springdallah Goldfields, with a focus on their discovery in 1852. It's a great story of how the explorers were paid to find a goldfield near Geelong.

Come and join the discussion. Supper will be served at the end of the meeting (please bring a plate).

New Life Members Honoured

Also at the Annual General Meeting, long-time members, **Alan and Joan Giles**, were elected **Life Members of the Historical Society**, a rare honour that has only been bestowed on two other members, our late Secretary, Letty Armstrong, and former President, Joan O'Beirne.

Life Membership is awarded for outstanding service to the Society, and Joan and Alan have not only been members for 25 years, but have been actively involved throughout those years, holding a number of positions of responsibility and willingly carrying out a myriad of tasks.



New Life Members of the Linton & District Historical Society, Joan and Alan Giles, with their certificates
Photo: Ken McLachlan

President's Annual Report for the year to September 2013

Below is the text of Society President, Dr. Jill Wheeler's, annual report that was presented to the Society's Annual General Meeting on 16 September.

This is my third year as President of the Linton and District Historical Society. It has been another busy year, with our focus in two areas – the first, getting our collection in order, which involves sorting, cataloguing, and satisfactorily storing it; and second, maintenance of the two buildings that we manage, that is, the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre in the old Nelsons Undertakers building, and the 1874 Library. It feels like what I've been doing all year is applying for grants for renovations!

We have also developed a new constitution due to the number of changes that were made to the *Associations Incorporations Act*.

Membership

Membership remains healthy with 80 memberships at the end of August this year. Last year at the same time we had 77. As was the case last year, it is interesting to note that roughly half of our membership lives beyond the Linton-Ballararat district – in Melbourne, in other places in Victoria, and interstate.

Meetings

Since this time last year, we have had four **History Nights** - in November, February, April and June, plus a **Christmas break-up dinner** at the Linton Railway Hotel in December attended by 20 members.

Our **April History Night** was one of our '**Secret Life of Things**' evenings, where we ask members to bring along old objects, documents or photos, and tell us the stories behind them. On this occasion, due to the proximity of **Anzac Day**, members brought war-related memorabilia such as diaries, photographs, uniforms, and pieces of equipment and souvenirs from the front.

The other three History Nights - in November 2012, and in February and June this year - were well-attended and successful evenings in our series, *Stories from the Elders*, where we invite longstanding or former Lintonians or their descendants to tell us of their memories, or their family's memories, of Linton.

We have been fortunate to have some very interesting speakers - **Rod and Joan O'Beirne**, whose family have been part of Linton's history for several generations; **Mr Bruce Adams**, who related the memories of his grandfather, H.A. Adams, who was proprietor of *The Grenville Standard* from 1897-1915; and **Aaron Kerr**, one of our younger 'elders', who is a fifth generation Lintonian with a wealth of memories of his many ancestors who lived here.

Our sincere thanks to all of our speakers for agreeing to share their important oral histories with us. We have made DVDs of each of these occasions that we have placed in our archives for posterity and which can also be copied for anyone who is interested, and purchased from the Society for \$10 each.

The everyday business of the Society has been handled by the **Committee**, which has had seven meetings in the last year and reported back to the members at History Nights and via *Society Notes* on any matters of general concern to the membership.

Grants

Local History grant: Last year I mentioned that the Society had been awarded a State Government Local History Grant via the Public Record Office of Victoria to produce an A4 size book, entitled ***Linton: a Photographic History***. A small sub-committee has been working on the layout of the book and on photo selection, the latter no easy task as we have so many photographs, not all of them digitised. We have until the end of next year to complete this project.

Golden Plains Shire Community Grant 2012: The Community Grant we received last year from the Shire for \$1754 was to help preserve our archives in the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre and prevent their deterioration through damp, or their loss through fire. With it we bought a range of acid-free storage materials and upgraded the old electrical switchboard to meet current regulations. We matched this grant not just with our voluntary labour, but also by having new bookshelves made that enabled us to move our paper archives into another room and away from damp.

**Have you paid your membership subscription?
Did you pay by via direct deposit?**



You might have received a letter with this copy of Society Notes advising you that your payment of this year's subscription has not been registered. This could be either because you have not returned your renewal form (another is enclosed) **or** because you paid with a **direct deposit**, and did not use an identifiable reference, such as your surname. Please follow the directions in the letter regarding how to correct this. If you are confused, phone Ken McLachlan 0409 814 201!

Golden Plains Shire Community Grant 2013:

This year the Society requested \$5,000 from the Shire to contribute towards a major project - the replacement of the roof at the Resource Centre, the old Nelson's Undertakers building, which is owned by the Shire. The roof has been in serious disrepair for some years, contributing towards the damp conditions we have referred to. The total cost of this project is \$10,000 – the remaining \$5,000 to be made up from Society funds and in-kind contributions in the form of volunteer labour. As it happened, the Shire reduced the amount of money it allocated to Community Grants this year across the board and initially we were only offered \$2,500. However, following discussion with the Mayor, this was subsequently increased to \$5,000 from Council's maintenance budget. We hope that work will commence on the roof in early October when the weather is a bit more conducive.

Coalition promise

Another major matter of concern in terms of the maintenance of heritage buildings this year has been Linton's 1874 Library for which the Historical Society is the Committee of Management. Most of you have heard me at length on this topic. As we all know, the Library is currently not used by the community as it is in a poor state of repair, despite the fact that it is considered to be a building of 'historical, cultural, social and architectural significance to the township of Linton and the State of Victoria.' Its collection of books and memorabilia is regarded as 'very rare and probably the best surviving of a small library in Victoria.' However, before any restoration is undertaken it is necessary to undertake a Conservation Management Plan that will tell us what needs to be done, and how, and in what order, and will also advise on possible future uses for the building.

The Shire has agreed to pay \$6000 towards a Conservation Management Plan for the Library, but much more money will be needed down the track to pay for the restoration of the Library for use by the community.

Following discussions before the Federal election with the now member for Corangamite, Sarah Henderson, the Society was invited to apply for a grant for the Library under a new Coalition Community Heritage Grants scheme. Just before the election, we received a promise of \$10,000, should the Coalition become the government, towards the Conservation Management Plan and subsequent repairs to the Library. So now we are hoping of course that this will become a reality!

On the down side of grants, we missed out on the Commonwealth Government Volunteers Grant we applied for to buy a new digital projector and a screen so that we could reliably have power point presentations at History Nights, and in other venues in the community, particularly when we have guest speakers, like tonight.

We also missed out on a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal that we applied for in April to go towards a Conservation Management Plan for the Library.

Help from Imerys

We are grateful to the local kaolin mine, Imerys Minerals, for donating their time and expertise to repairing a badly rotten sash window at the Resource Centre. This had also been the source of wind and rain entering the building and contributing to the dampness that has been our bugbear. Imerys have also offered to work on repairs to the front veranda and the weatherboards at the side of the building in the near future.

Cataloguing, sorting, scanning and storage

The sorting, scanning cataloguing and storage of all the items and paper documents in our collection has continued apace throughout the year. We have had a number of very productive working bees, with 6 or 7 members working together on these tasks. Thanks to our member Joan Hunt for her advice and hands-on help on these occasions. Joan also ordered a range of acid-free storage boxes and plastic sleeves to store items in our collection, the money for these coming from the Community Grant we obtained from Golden Plains Shire last year.

Apart from bursts of group activity at working bees, much of the day-to-day slog of cataloguing our collection on the computer has been done by one of our new volunteers, Del Atkinson, whom we thank sincerely for her perseverance and dedication to the task.



An attentive audience at the AGM listening to our guest speaker, and Ken McLachlan's question. .Photo: Joan Giles

We have begun to overhaul our museum display at the Resource Centre and make it more interesting and accessible for visitors. With the anniversary of the First World War beginning next year, we plan to include a display of war memorabilia.

Town Walk Book

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.

Website

The website has proved to be an important asset in our contact with the public beyond Linton. It continues to be a work in progress, with updates being added regularly.

Ken McLachlan has recently taken over the maintenance of it, so it should now always be completely up to date!

Donations

This year, we received a \$2,000 bequest from the estate of the late Alwyn Roberts, one of our long-standing members who died last year. Alwyn spent his childhood in Linton, and was a valued contributor to the Historical Society over many years. We were very touched to receive this donation and will allocate the funds to a specific purpose in due course.

In addition to this, *Susie's on Sussex*, Linton's own recycled clothing store, donated a proportion of their profits over the year to the Society. And, since we obtained tax deductibility status in 2011, our donations account has steadily built up, with a number of smaller donations throughout the year.

Linton Involvement

We worked with the architect for the **Linton Community Precinct**, where the Rail Trail meets the Glenelg Highway, providing historical information and photos for the 8 interpretive boards that form part of this project. These are now complete. They cover various aspects of Linton's history, for example, the gold rush, civic development, the Linton family, the Chinese settlers, etc. Visitors who stop here will hopefully learn something of the town's history while they pause for a rest, and this might also encourage them to explore a bit more of the town.

The Linton Cricket Club celebrated its 150th anniversary this year and we were asked to provide memorabilia, including photographs, old membership tickets, and a Premiership Cup, for display at what was apparently a very successful anniversary dinner held at the Recreation Reserve Blue Room in February.

Community Planning process

The Society has been involved in the meetings held during the year to devise the Linton Community Plan. We have stressed the importance of preserving the heritage buildings in the town and making them useful to the community. We argue that the preservation of Linton's heritage streetscape will contribute to a sense of community pride, as well as enhance the town as a tourist destination.

On **Anzac Day** this year, the Historical Society laid a wreath at the war memorial, as it always does, in memory of all the local men and women who served in both World Wars.

Research Requests

In the course of the year, in my role as Research Officer, I have responded to 24 individual requests for help with local and family history research. That is eight more than last year. 15 of the 24 requests came via our enquiries email address on our website and I am sure that the increase is due to the fact that the enquirers can now reach us more easily this way.

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. In the latter cases we increased our fee for research assistance from \$20 to \$30 this year because of the time commitment involved. 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.

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.

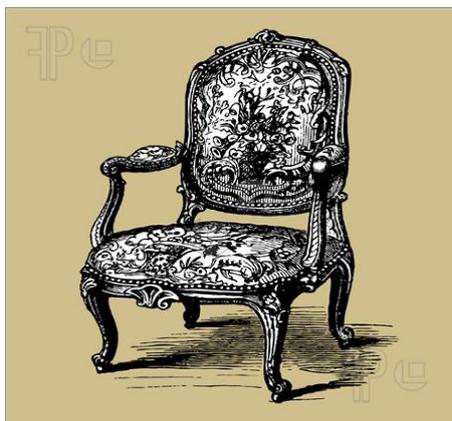
Society Notes

Has continued to be produced quarterly, under the editorship of our Secretary, Drew Hopkins. It is usually 12-16 pages, and includes historical news items (often including articles reproduced from old *Grenville Standards*), regular reports on Society business, summaries of talks by guest speakers at

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Ron and Erica Davey

meetings, notices about upcoming events, and photographs, both historic and contemporary. This year, we have been pleased to note it has begun receiving reader contributions.

Plans for the year ahead

Our first activity is our fund-raising concert on 6 October with the Victoria Welsh Choir at the Carngham Uniting Church.

Our first major project is the long-awaited replacement of the roof at our headquarters, the old Nelsons Undertakers building, due to commence next month.

The second major project will be the overseeing of the Conservation Management Plan for the Library next door, which will take several months and will, we hope, also commence before the end of this year. These two projects will begin the process of securing these two important historic buildings in Linton for the future.

The Society plans to continue to present and record more talks from senior current and ex-Lintonians as part of a *Stories from the Elders series* 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, and specifically on putting together our photographic history in the coming year.

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:

Alan Giles, for his role as Vice-President, but also for all the other jobs he does around the place, and for his reliability and perseverance in these tasks over many years.

Jan Cooke, for continuing to do a brilliant job in the thankless role of Treasurer. It is always a struggle to find a treasurer in any voluntary organisation, but we are lucky enough to have Jan who always goes that extra mile when she is asked. Also for her efforts at *Susie's on Sussex* over the road, which in effect operates as a branch office of the Historical Society, enthusing locals and visitors alike about the Society and its activities. Special thanks to Jan and Susie both for also directing some of the profits of their recycled clothing shop to the Society.

Jan and Susie also regularly clean the Centre and the Library, and have done a myriad of 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 and in drafting our new constitution, but also to me personally, acting as an ever-patient sounding board, and in many more supportive ways throughout the year.

Deirdre Nicol, who has collected, sorted and listed our mail for committee meetings and written a report on Society activities for the Linton News every month. She has contributed to the sorting and organising of our collection, as well as doing a lot of tea and supper making.

Warwick Madden, who has continued working on our photograph collection, and our computers, which has often been a frustrating job, and for being a regular helper on Open Days and working bees.

Our newest member **Ken McLachlan**, who was co-opted onto the committee this year, and who has already done so many jobs around the place – from sorting out all the Linton primary School records to managing our website – it has been wonderful to have his energy and expertise on board.

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

Firstly, **Joan Giles**, who as Membership Secretary, has continued dealing with all the administration associated with our members, as well as many other admin tasks besides. She has most willingly sorted, filed, tidied and generally kept our affairs in order.

Secondly, to **Joan Hunt** for her advice, expertise and hands-on input at working bees which we have found invaluable. Thanks, too, to Tim Cooke for lawn mowing and wood supplies, to Chris Grigg for lawn mowing, to Jenny Stuart for typing the envelopes for *Society Notes*, to Kath Blackwell for all her work in the garden, as well as advice in her capacity as Cemetery Trust Secretary, and to Del Atkinson for her efforts with our cataloguing tasks.

Finally, I want to finish by stressing the vital role of local historical societies as the custodians of the history of a community. We are the keepers of the memories of the people of this town and district, both past and present. A community with a strong collective memory, a robust sense of its past, will have a strong sense of its own identity, which will lead to a more viable and confident future.

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

New Committee Member Ken McLachlan



Ken at work sorting archival material in the Letty Armstrong Resource Centre.

Photo Jill Wheeler

The Society's committee of management has received a boost and an injection of new ideas with the election of Ken McLachlan at the AGM. Ken had already been very active in the Society for some months, and was a great driver of the marketing and ticketing for our recent fund-raiser concert at the Carngham Uniting church.

Ken's responsibilities include handling membership and website management. The new committee for 2013-2014 consists of: Jill Wheeler (President), Jan Cooke (Treasurer), Drew Hopkins (Secretary), and general members Warwick Madden, Deirdre Nicol and Joan Giles. The position of Vice President is vacant.

Welcome to new members

A big welcome to these new members of the Society:

Fiona Collins, David Dumbrell, Eugene Grigg, Timothy Grigg, Cheryl Lesley-Baker, Catherine Rogers.

Recent Research Requests

Jill Wheeler reports: Since May this year, we have had the following research requests:

WALSH and COX families – Roger Walsh requested any information on his great-grandmother, Eliza Cox, born in Linton in 1863, who married George Walsh from Ballarat in Smythesdale in 1898. Roger and his father visited the Resource Centre. We found some information and a photograph in a Cox family file, and Roger subsequently found two Coxes buried in Linton cemetery.

TREWARTHA and EBBELS families – Rebecca Tomlins requested information on William Trewartha, a chemist, who lived in both Happy Valley and Linton in the 1860s. He had connections with the Ebbels family of Linton, and other Happy Valley families of that time. Rebecca visited the Resource Centre and photocopied information in the files and bought scans of photographs.

RAYNER, Samuel – John Stennett requested any information on his great-great-grandfather who died in Linton in 1855. Although this date is very early in the history of the town of Linton – it was in fact 'Linton's Diggings' with families living in tents – we had a copy of an inquest into Samuel's death in our collection. Samuel and his wife Mary were storekeepers on the diggings, but Samuel had a drinking problem and was found lying dead near Linton 'from natural causes accelerated by intemperance.'

MORRISON Christina - as we had a guest speaker at our AGM speaking about Australian nurses in WW1, we explored the history of Christina who was one of these nurses who came from Happy Valley and enlisted in Linton. The Morrisons were a longstanding family in the Happy Valley area and Christina also had connection with the Wrigleys of Scarsdale.

NESTOR, Joseph and Ann – Christine Walker requested any information we had on this couple who were buried in Rokewood. Explained we did not cover the Rokewood area.

BEAMENT, George and James – a second request from Phyllis Elson who is trying to find a connection between these men in Linton in the 1900s. She believes they are brothers but cannot find proof. We could not add any further information, but suggested a visit to the Public Records Office in Melbourne for assistance was advisable.

WALKER, James – also a second request from E. G. Hudgson-Walker for any further information we might have on this man who was his father. We had a record of his enrolment at Linton State School in 1922, but nothing further.

SWINDLE, Mary – Sue Dahlke requested any information on her ancestor who was born at Lucky Woman's in 1859. We referred this to member Joan Hunt who was able to assist due to her extensive knowledge of the Lucky Woman's/Happy Valley gold fields.

EDGAR and TRELOAR families – Yvonne McCredie requested information on these connected families who lived in Linton in the 1860s. We have some information but the enquirer has yet to recontact.

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

If any readers think they might have further information on any of these families or topics, please let us know. The Society charges a \$30 fee for detailed research, plus small fees for copies of photographs and other documents.

the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – Sundays 10 November and 8 December. Then after the Summer break, resuming Sunday 9 February. Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**.

Next Meeting: Our next History Night will be held on **Monday 18 November 2013 at 7.30pm**.

Joan Hunt will speak on the discovery of the Springdallah Goldfields in 1852. Join in the discussion and supper (please bring a plate).

First 2014 History Night: Monday 17 February (speaker to be advised).

- Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. Please contact the Treasurer for details.
- Lots of information is on our website www.lintonhistory.org.au
- **DVDs of History Night talks are available (Jim Stapleton, the O’Beirne family, Bruce Adams,, Aaron Kerr): \$10 each.**
- **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be February 2014.**

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Website www.lintonhistory.org.au



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