



Society Notes

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Centenary of the ANZAC landing: the Historical Society's ANZAC display in the Linton Public Library

Centenary of the ANZAC Landings: Linton Remembers

Many Linton residents joined the children from the Linton Primary School to commemorate ANZAC Day at ceremonies held at the Avenue of Honour, and the War Memorial in Sussex St, on Friday 24 April. This year the ceremonies seemed to have extra significance and feeling, as it is 100 years since the ANZAC's landed in the Dardenelles on 25 April 1915, to launch the brave but disastrous Gallipoli campaign.

The day was organised by the Primary School, and this year the Historical Society joined the school to assist with the presentation of historical material relating to Linton's involvement in, and commemoration of, World War 1 (1914-1918).

The day began with the children, school staff and some parents setting off from school at 11:00 to walk to the Avenue of Honour. An aura of importance was added to the procession by Linton's policeman, Snr Const Tony Walker, leading the way in the police car with lights flashing, and stopping the traffic to assist the children safely across all the roads.

At the Avenue of Honour Memorial at the bottom of Clyde St, a minute's silence was held. Then Jill Wheeler, President of the Historical Society, spoke to the children about the history of the Avenue of Honour (see this address on the next page). Then the procession headed up the hill to the Sussex St War Memorial in front of the Shire Offices. For the lengthier and more formal commemoration service.



Children at the lectern are conducting the ANZAC Day commemoration service at the Sussex St War Memorial

Photo: Drew Hopkins

Here, many more community members joined the group. The last post was played, and a number of wreaths were laid, including one from the Historical Society. Another minute's silence was held. This service was conducted entirely by the older children, who battled valiantly against the noise of the passing trucks. A senior boy raised the flag on the Shire flagpole. The microphone was passed along the whole line of children, and each one read some words relating to an Australian military involvement or operation. All of Australia's involvements were mentioned, commencing with the Boer War, and including various peace-keeping operations (e.g. the Solomon Islands, Timor Leste).

Historical Display in the Library

The school children and some of the community members then went over to the library where, in conjunction with the school, the Historical Society showed a power point presentation of the 55 soldiers listed on the school's WW1 Honour Board. This presentation was developed by a Federation University student, Carissah Cain-Sultana, with

the Society's help in researching any information or photos we had on these men and their families. There are still some soldiers we have no photos of and very little information on, and many whose military contribution could not be ascertained. If any reader can add to our archives on these men, please get in touch with us.

The library looked very attractive, with two Australian flags hoisted (the red and the blue ensign) from the ceiling and a display of World War 1 documents and photos on the table (see the photo on the front page of Society Notes), including a large, framed photograph of landing craft and soldiers at Gallipoli. The display is still there and can be viewed at our next Open Day.

Everyone then adjourned to the Shire Offices for a morning tea prepared by the school parents. Amongst the community members was an elderly lady who was the daughter of one of the soldiers we had no information on - John Henry Baker. Her two daughters had brought her having seen our notice on our web page about the upcoming commemoration. They have photos, memorabilia and family information that will be very valuable for the Historical Society.



School Principal, Ian Forrester, holds the microphone as each child read a statement about a military operation in whci Australia has been involved.

Photo: Jill Wheeler

A History of Linton's Avenue of Honour

The following is the information prepared by the Historical Society President, Jill Wheeler, for the pupils of Linton Primary School, and presented to them at the ANZAC Day commemoration ceremony, on 24 April at the Avenue of Honour Memorial.

This Avenue of Honour was the idea of a group of local people in February 1918, that is, nine months before the end of the First World War. Its purpose was 'to commemorate Linton's contribution to the Australian Imperial Forces' who were fighting in the First World War in Europe at that time. The purpose of the avenue was also to encourage more local men to enlist with the promise that their names would be remembered forever on plaques attached to the trees.

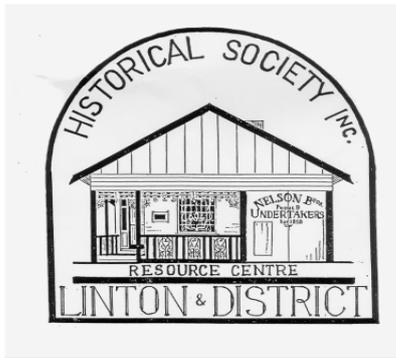
There were lots of other avenues planted at this time in the district, notably in Ballarat, which in 1918 had planted 4000 trees. Originally this avenue consisted of 100 alternating oaks and elms. It was decided to place a soldier's name on each tree for each of the Linton men who had enlisted.

Why in Denison St? In 1918, this was like the main street in Linton because here was the entrance to the railway station, & in those days that was the main form of transport into & out of the town. Hardly anyone had cars. Later, when cars took over as the main form of transport, the area around the station faded in importance.

Local people did all of the work of buying & planting the trees for free. People donated money to buy trees, or for tree-guards. There were several working bees to cut the wood for the guards, & to dig the holes, & to actually plant the trees in May, June & July 1918. They had stalls selling things and afternoon tea, a concert at night & someone even wrote a funny poem about the planting of the avenue, listing the names of all the local people involved! By this time, Linton had lost 13 men killed in action or died on service in the war. The bodies of the men who died during the war were never brought home to Australia – their families just never saw their loved ones again. They never had a funeral or a grave to which they could go & remember their son or brother or husband. This was very hard for them. The trees in the Avenue of Honour therefore became important memorials for these families.

Over the years, some of the trees died, & at some stage (no one can now remember exactly when) all of the elm trees and the name plaques were removed. Today, 44 oaks and 4 elms remain. When the railway closed to passenger trains in 1976, the avenue became just a leafy country lane, and the story behind its planting faded from memory. So in 2008, the Linton Historical Society erected this monument to remind everyone of why the avenue was planted.





Linton and District Historical Society

Next History Night Monday 1 June, 2015

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

Gerry and Hans Ver Doorn



The Ver Doorn family emigrated from the Netherlands in the mid-1950s and came to settle in Linton. Two of the Ver Doorn sons, Gerry and Hans, will talk about their memories of this experience and of growing up in a small country town. With two locals with such a unique take on a Linton childhood, this is sure to be an interesting and entertaining evening!.

Come and join the discussion

Supper will be served at the end of the meeting. Please bring a plate.

Melbourne Friday November 19th 1852

My Dear Parents

As I stated to you in my last letter that our party was fully determined to start for the diggings on Monday Sept 7th but

For we were not sufficiently satisfied where to aim for the best diggings as there are so many. But hearing such favourable accounts of a new digging just discovered which induced us to go and try our luck at it which is called the Eureka diggings. And I will just give you a slight idea of our travels from Melbourne up to the Eureka diggings.

We left Melbourne on the morning of the 10th and proceeded from there to a little town called Geelong by a steam boat upwards the distance of 40 miles we paid 12⁰ each for our trip we staid at Geelong all night Lodgings being very scarce, The Landlady of the ^{Public} house where we staid gave us the use of a large room for the night to find our own beds which we very readily agreed to do we had blankets and rugs with us and slept very comfortable. After we had partook of breakfast we all started off to the diggings they being 40 miles off. We were heavy loaded each man having 2 swags to carry one before him and the other behind the two straps across his shoulder to keep them

Copy of historic letter from the Diggings written in 1852 has been given to the Historical Society

A letter from Melbourne written by John Thomas Danby 12th. November 1852 and sent to his family in Fishtoft, Lincolnshire, England describing his first experience of gold digging. He later married Mary Bloss Farrow, a daughter of an emigrant family, her father also a miner. John Thomas, Mary Bloss and their growing family settled in Linton, Victoria.

(This copy is for the use of Linton & District Historical Society.

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Melbourne Friday November 12th/52.

My Dear Parents

As I stated to you in my last letter that our party was fully determined to start for the diggings on Thursday Sept. 16th but we did not start until the morning of the 17th. For we were not sufficiently satisfied where to aim for the best diggings as there are so many. But hearing such favourable accounts of a special digging just discovered which induced us to go and try our luck at it which is called the Eureka diggings, And I will just give you a slight idea of our travels from Melbourne up to the Eureka diggings.

We left Melbourne on the morning of the 17th. and proceeded from there to a little town called Geelong by a steam boat upwards the distance of 40 miles. we paid 12s 6 each for our trip we staid at Geelong all night Lodgings being very scarce, The Landlady of the Public house where we staid Gave us the use of a large room for the night to find our own beds which we very readily agreed to as we had blankets and rugs with us and slept very comfortable,

After we had partook of breakfast we all started off to the diggings they being 70 miles off, We were heavy loaded each man having 2 swags to carry one before him and the other behind with two straps across his shoulder to keep them - - together either an axe shovel spade or pickaxe in his hands amounting altogether to above 4 stone each man,

The first part of our roads were very good and we went along comfortably pleasantly & delightfully The first station that we came too was a Public House 7 miles from Geelong, we staid there some time and refreshed ourselves with some meal and bread and some fountain water And when all was ready on we started again knowing that the other 63 miles was through the bush and the roads being very bad, We could see no particular road only just a wild beaten track here and there a tree felled and now and then the scream of a parrott and a very peculiar cry of a bird called the Laughing Jackass Which made the woods shake,

The shouting of the bullock drivers and the tinkling of the bells sounded over the valleys like some distant village church bell, As soon as the driver has unyoked the bullocks he fastens to each of their necks a bell, so as to enable him to find them when he wants them to yoke again, the bullocks are then turned in the bush to graze or if there be no herbage for them to eat he must then fell a tree and they are soon all around it devouring the leaves,

We pitched our tent at a place called Muddy water hole, by the side of 2 very large trees There was a small quantity of water not being very good We soon struck up a good fire for there was plenty of dead wood all over and slung the pan and had some Mutton Chop and bread and boiled some tea for supper Chopped a sufficient quantity of boughs and laid them on the bottom of our tent to sleep on and slept very sound on our bed of boughs as we were very tired having come 20 miles that day and carrying such a weighty load this being the first night in the bush.

Sunday Morning Instead of us keeping this day as a Sabbath day we got up at 6 o clock

cooked our breakfast commenced packing up our bedding and tents and proceeded on our journey the next station being 12 miles off and knowing our provisions were all exhausted we arrived there at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and sat down and eat a hearty dinner bought provision there and walked 4 miles further and pitched tent against some good clear water soon made a rippin fire cooked supper and retired to our bed of boughs slept sound

until morning got up cooked breakfast, Packed up our bedding and tent and again proceeded on our journey next station being 12 miles off arrived there at 12 o'clock in the morning partook of dinner and got ourselves dried as it rained very hard for above 2 hours and we soon got into some very bad walking being shoe top deep and having several swamps and old gullies to cross which some of them was very deep pitched our tent 4 miles further than the

last station it being about 4 o'clock in the afternoon but we being nearly footbet,

It rained nearly all night which proved very uncomfortable for us for the boughs were all wet and we had nothing to put at the bottom of our tent and we got but very little sleep and the poor bullocks were ranging about with their bells tinkling all night, our tent being pitched against 2 bullock drays that night We got up in good time in the morning being but very little better for our broken slumber last night packed up again our things and proceeded to the next station being only 4 miles off which is a little village town called Buninyong we had dinner there and it rained hard all the remaining part of the day so we took lodgings for the night as we did not get a very good nights rest the other night

we left Buninyong in the morning and walked up to the diggings arrived there at 12 o'clock in the morning, Pitched our tent by the side of a large hill and soon chopped of plenty of boughs for our beds Ransacked our swags and felt heartily pleased that we had reached the end of the journey as our swags felt twice as heavy as they did When we first started, Many of the old diggers asked us if we had carried them swags from Geelong we said yes, They said you must be foolish fellows to weigh yourselves down with such a load as that particularly so bad as the roads are, I dare venture to say myself that I will not do it again, We then went and bought half a sheep for 7s 6d, Sheep is 15s each Meat is very cheap here.

We had to give 10d per lb for flour, After we had partook of our dinners we went round to look at the diggers to see where we was to have a jive in and we soon and we soon found that some was sinking to the enormous depth of 70 feet There is ten of us came up together but 2 of them cannot stomach the diggings at all so they have gone to town again whose names are Rainforth & Benton so there is only 8 of us left now we are 4 in each tent. Me Edwards Trusswell & Wadsley in our tent In the other tent is Mumby Jones Borne & Blackburn

We have divided into parties of 2 each as it seems the general thing throughout the whole diggings for only 2 can work one hole Me and young Wadsley has joined together he is own cousin to Joseph Day's wife, The first hole that we sank was in a gully called Poverty gully we sunk it 12 feet deep and got up 1 oz o gold with driving that is what you term undermining and sold the hole for £6 to Sam Jones & Mumby they worked at it 4 days but was money out of pocket

The tools are an abominable price We had to give 12s for a shovel 10s 6d for a pick £3.0".0' for a puddling tub you might buy such a one for 3s.6d with you £1.0.0 for 2 tin dishes to was the gold in, Potatoes to 1s. per lb there is no bread here we have to make our own bread we make it of flour and water and bakes it in stick embers it is called damper it is the only bread a man can get up in the bush, We can live for £1.0.0 per week each man, So you see If we only get ½ oz a day which is considered but poor work we shall be able to save something but we must not grumble for we are strange hands to the work.

And another thing I did not feel disposed to take out a licence for 8 days as there was only 8 days left in the month, Each man has to have a gold digging license which is 30s per month, And If the Commissioners come to you and demands your Licence and you have not bought one you are then fined £5 and £1.10s for the license amounting to £6.10s and pay the fine immediately or otherways have to walk alongside him and his troopers up to Ballarah Jail, At the commencement of the month Me & My mate fetched our licenses and sunk another hole alongside the old one and got 4oz ¾ between us we then sank another 6 feet deep and it was a blank and another 6 feet deep blank also The next hole that we sank was a serious loss to us We sunk it 45 feet deep bottomed and not a speck to be seen, I thought I used to work hard when I was at home but I can call it only play comparatively speaking to what gold digging is,

Well we sunk another on a flat 9 foot deep and when we got within a foot or two of bottom we came on 4 springs boiling up like fountains we bailed it all the afternoon but we soon found that the springs did not weaken at all Well we consulted to ourselves that we must be very unfortunate indeed.

Pondering over the columns of the newspaper we saw part of a column informing of very rich and new diggings called the/ovens which lies more up to Sydney by the side of the Snowy Mountains, Well we made it up in our minds to go and hearing of a butcher who was a going and and going to take five teams with him up to these new diggings, we went went to him to see whether we could go with him He said yes he would carry our swags for us and find us in victuals down to Melbourne well we agree to go with him we left the Eureka on Saturday Novr. 7th bound for Melbourne which is the distance of 90 miles and then from Melbourne up to the Ovens which is 220 miles we was five days getting down to Melbourne one of the carts broke down Sam Jones threw the cart he was driving and shaft horse over altogether going by the side of a hill we was bogged once or twice,

The third night coming to town we was forced to keep watch for there had been some awful depredations carried on by the Bush Rangers there was nine of us and it being dark only 9 hours we each took an hours watch with a brace of loaded pistols in our hands, Three bush rangers has been captured during this week, You cannot put any faith in any man whatsoever they are so deep and artful, Most of the Lincolnshire men are the biggest greenhorns that come out here especially those who reckon themselves double cunning are the easiest picked up There are plenty of boys here possessed of more sense than men in England,

The first day we arrived in Melbourne we made it our duty to enquire about these news Oven diggings and to our sorrow we soon found that we had jumped out of the frying pan into the fire For we found that we had left better diggings that these new diggings were And meeting many old diggers coming from these Oven diggings who advised us by no means to go to them as they were not of any account $\frac{3}{4}$ On the following morning I and Sam Jones started to see if we could find out Mr. Hurrey he knowing Mr Hurrey while he lived at Spalding we went and found him and likewise Mrs. Clarkes daughter he wished us to stay breakfast which we did

They were both heartily pleased to see us I being the only one that she had ever seen in the colony that knew anything about her relations Mr Hurrey gave us an invitation to come and take tea with him and smoke a pipe after tea which we did After tea was cleared away the evening discourse began I asked him if he had seen many people in this colony that he knew, Yes he said he had and amongst them was one John Pike from Donington the very man whom Mrs Harley told me that if I should meet him or hear anything of him to send her word, He is at the present time a very wealthy man, Mr. Hurrey says that he told him when he first came in this colony he brought between £500 to £600 but now he says I can command from 20 to £30,000 of my own private property when he first came to Melbourne he used to milk cows and sell the milk and from that he rose up to be the owner of a sheep station up in the county He has now been in the Colony 11 years and has sold his sheep station and he means returning to England very shortly but he say's he has slaved hard for it, And so must all who comes here, I mean return.

... ing back to the old Eureka diggings and stay at them until I do accumulate a hundred £s or two and then I mean taking a farm The farmers make £20 per ton of their hay only the worst thing they cannot get labour they have all turned gold diggers has the labourers But Im living in hopes of my luck changing when I return back to the digging's It is not to say that I am unfortunate the first month or two that I am to remain so. I have known parties on the same diggings where I was that had sunk above 20 blank holes and had made up their minds to go to town and some of them refused and said they would sink another then they would go and they commenced sinking another and it runned above 60 feet deep well what was the result the result was as this that each man took out of that hole £1500 worth of gold there being 4 of them They then went down to town and began to spend it as fast as they could and after it was done they would come up again to the diggings and work for more $\frac{3}{4}$

There is hundreds arriving in this colony daily Great part of them being lawyer's clerks and assistant shopkeepers And many are returning back to old England.

I am given to understand that one of our brave Bostonians as was represented cannot bear the thoughts of forsaking Old England any longer and has embarked on board of a ship as steward to Calcutta and from thence to England Who I should have thought one of the last to have done it whose name is W. B—n but there is an excuse for him because he has a wife in England I consider it myself the beautifullest country that ever I set my foot on in my life and is allowed to be the finest country in the whole world The scenery that we saw only coming down from the diggings to town was a most splendid sight, But furthermore than that the very idea of leaving a golden country like this to go to England No I do not show myself in England without I have realized an indepen- dant fortune

I am informed that Mr. Hoff late of Holbeach has arrived here he failed a short time since The Great Britain Steam Ship arrived in the Bay on Friday last with close on 700 passengers It appears that Emigration has only just commenced in England I think I can remember of hearing that youth who is an apprentice of George Fletchers saying that he was coming out here as soon as he could It would be the best thing that he could do, The blacksmiths up at the diggings charge 2s. 6d for sharpening your pick and you must not think much of waiting 3 o 4 hours either and if you begin to hurrey them they will fling your pick outside of the door and tell you to walk with it they only charge 1s per stroke

I must now conclude as I cant find any more intelligent news to tell you and perhaps this may not be in your own estimation But however give my best respects to all old friends and associates and if any of them enquires after me tell them I am in the land of the living and has not such a particular desire to return to England yet) I should naturally suppose that by the time you have received this letter that my brother Charles will be on his passage to this colony therefore I shall Beg to be excused writing anything about him because Im living in hopes of meeting him personally some day or other before long

I remain

*Your Affectionate Son
John Thomas Danby*

P.S. Send me all the paticular and latest news from the little village of Fishtoft and how some of those flash Parishioners get on & how old Mastin and Graves fights the combat & whether there has been any great alterations taken place in this little time, You need not expect any more letters from me until I can send you better news of me becoming more successful As I have written this with a very bad heart, You must excuse the bad writing and blots and mistakes you have not the time to spare here for writing as you have in England nor yet the conveniences

Our February History Night: Doug Bradbury on how he develops young people's interest in history

The guest speaker at our 16 February History Night was Doug Bradby whose talk was entitled "The Importance of Being Earnest about Local History". Deirdre Nicol has prepared this report on the evening.

Doug, a retired teacher, is very passionate about the need for young people residing in a community to feel connected to the history of the place where they live. He works voluntarily with the Buninyong Primary School Grade 4 students, and the teachers and parents, and has been instrumental in developing in the children a sense of belonging to a village, a place in which they feel happy and proud.

Doug talked about his work with these children. He sees it as very important to impress upon them that the ancestors who also resided in that place made history just as they themselves will make history for future generations. Children, according to Doug, need to know the stories of the past so as to have empathy with the people of past generations, to get involved and so get connected in order to relate to other people living in the same community. Doug feels that a society that does not have empathy with their past has no understanding and no reflection and runs the risk of remaining disconnected.



Doug Bradby with one of his maps of the goldfields at our February History Night Photo: Joan Giles

To address this Doug has produced a series of children's books that tell these stories of the past, funny stories, brave stories, stories that children can relate to and enjoy. It is important that this enjoyment of history be fostered by creating a simple framework of child-centred topics, and Doug has a special focus on gold rush history, in particular the Ballarat goldfields. He also emphasises activities and excursions that lead the children to pursue their own interests, e.g. the making of models, photographic and creative art projects and story writing.

Doug also talked about the history of the Ballarat goldfields, and he brought along some of the Buninyong children's history projects to show us, several maps of the Ballarat goldfields and copies of his books to sell.



Merit Award 2014

Citation

Joan Elizabeth Hunt FRHSV

Merit Awards are made by the Federation of Australian Historical Societies to recognise a meritorious contribution to the community history movement at a national level, or at a State/Territory level where the contribution has had national implications. Joan Hunt was considered by the Fellowship Committee in 2014 to be a worthy recipient of that honour.

Joan Hunt has made an extraordinary contribution to the community history movement over a period of more than 40 years. Most of her contribution has centred on Victoria, where she has served on a succession of historical societies, but she has also made a notable contribution at a national level through active membership of the FAHS and through her various publications.

From 1974, when she first joined the Dandenong Historical Society, Joan Hunt has been a committed contributor. She is a past president of the Ballarat Historical Society, a founder and past president of the Woody Yaloak Historical Society, a past chair of the Ballarat and District Genealogical Society, and co-founder and inaugural secretary of the Central Highlands Historical Society. Alongside her regional commitments she also served on the Council of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for a total of 13 years, during which time she represented the RHSV on many external organisations and committees.

Through her six years as Convenor of the History Support Group in Victoria, Joan Hunt had a notable impact on the growth of the community history movement across Victoria. She organised innumerable seminars and workshops to provide training to historical society members, and had an added interest in improving the care and interpretation of the material history collections held by many societies. She was also instrumental in initiatives aimed at better preserving Victoria's built heritage, with a particular interest in rural heritage.

Joan Hunt was made a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in 2008.

Joan Hunt is the author of several local history books and articles, including *Forest and Field: a history of Ross Creek, 1840 – 1990* (1990), and a *History of Smythesdale Fire Brigade 1862-2012* (2012), with Geoffrey Perry. She is currently researching the history of the Springdallah district south-west of Ballarat as a PhD candidate at the University of Ballarat.

At its Annual General Meeting in 2014 the Federation of Australian Historical Societies determined that Joan Elizabeth Hunt was an outstanding candidate for a Merit Award.

Joan Hunt Honoured by the Australian Federation of Historical Societies

Congratulations Joan!

Members of the Linton and District historical Society will be delighted to hear that one of our members, Joan Hunt, has been honoured by the Australian federation of Historical Societies by the presentation to her of that Society's *Merit Award*.

On the page opposite is reproduced the full citation which accompanied the award, and which explains why Joan is a worthy recipient of the award



Joan Hunt addressing the Australian Federation of Historical Societies after receiving her award. On Joan's right is the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, who presented the award. On the left of the picture is the distinguished Australian historian, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, who also received an award that day.

The Society's Mid-Winter Break – July and August

Readers will recall that the *Linton and District Historical Society* takes a **mid-winter break in July and August** – the months when people do not feel like going out at night to a History Night meeting.

After our June History Night on 1 June, the next meeting of the Society will be the **Annual General Meeting** to be held in the Shire Offices, Sussex Street Linton, on **Monday 21 September**, at 7:30 pm.

The next edition of *Society Notes* will be published in August.

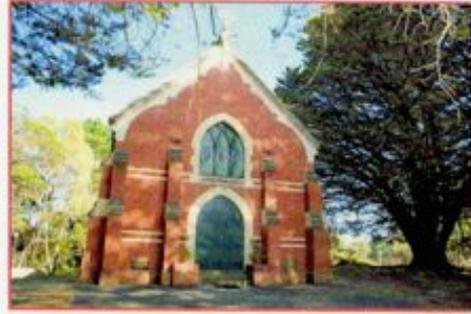
Open Days are held on the second Sunday of the month, so the next **Open Day** will be on **June 14**. There will be no Open Days in July and

August. They will resume on **Sunday 13 September**.



SAVE THIS DATE

To mark the Centenary of St Peter's Catholic Church, Linton a Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird on Sunday 31st May 2015 at 10.30am. A light lunch will follow at the Linton Recreation Reserve. You are warmly invited to join in this joyful celebration



For enquiries and to RSVP for catering purposes please contact John Kennedy on 5344 7305, Maureen Holding on 5340 3520, Tess Brodie on stpeters100@westnet.com.au or linton@ballarat.catholic.org.au

A photo board will be created for the occasion and images of relevance can be emailed to: stpeters100@westnet.com.au or linton@ballarat.catholic.org.au

A Word from the President

A History Day in Beaufort

On **Sunday 19 April**, a small group of our members braved the cold and showery weather to visit Beaufort and meet with Shirley Boyle the President of the Beaufort Historical Society who took us on a heritage walk of the town centre. Shirley pointed out the many historic, well-preserved government, business and community buildings, giving commentary on the existing significant features and background information as to who, when and for what purpose they were built.

After a lunch break taken at the Golden Age Hotel we again met with Shirley at the Court House, home to the Beaufort Historical Society. Built in 1864 as a Warden's Court for settling gold and mining disputes it was last used as a Court in 1982 and closed until the Beaufort Historical Society was granted permission to establish a repository for the important documents, books and artefacts pertaining to Beaufort and surrounding district.

Shirley explained that the Court required much restoration, which was achieved with the help of generous grants, and the work of a dedicated group of volunteers working tirelessly to collect, restore, research and catalogue the collection, thereby ensuring that the history of Beaufort is preserved for future generations.

At the end of our most interesting and informative tour we made a visit to the Egg Gallery to have coffee and a friendly chat before returning to Linton.

We thank Shirley and her team so much for the opportunity to visit and see the work achieved and also the projects in progress. Sharing together with other historical societies does generate enthusiasm for the work of our own Society.

The Society joined with the Linton school's **ANZAC Day commemoration on Friday 24 April**, and details of this event are set out on pages 2–4 of this issue of *Society Notes*.

It was a most successful commemoration. I think LDHS came out of it looking good. I hope it will mean we can work together with the school on things of an historical nature in the future. Many thanks to Del for digging out the WW1 stuff we have in our collection & typing the labels for display & helping Carissah with her research where possible. Thanks to Jan & Susie for cleaning the library & supplying the rosemary. To Chris Grigg & Phil Papas for hanging the flags & setting up the screen. To Alan & Joan for lending the photo of the Gallipoli

landing. To Deirdre for ordering & collecting the wreath. Karen Ronan & Monica Keefe were also helpful in setting up the display the afternoon beforehand

We have made a huge effort to get the **Linton Library placed on the Victorian Heritage Register**. This has involved a formal submission to the Heritage Council in December 2014, another in February 2015, and our subsequent representation at a Heritage Council hearing in February arguing our case as to why we think our Library is of State significance. There are legal technicalities involved that might defeat us, despite our making what we think is a very good case for its inclusion. We should hear the result sometime soon.



Shirley Boyle showing LDHS members some of the extensive storage facilities that the Beaufort Historical Society is fortunate to have.

Photo: Jill Wheeler

Regardless, we hope to commence some **repairs to the Library** in the second half of 2015 using the remaining money we received from the Commonwealth Heritage Grant last year.

The Society has put in an **application for a Shire Community Grant** to continue the restoration of the old Nelson's Undertakers' building. Last year, readers will remember that we got a grant to replace and repaint the weatherboards on the north wall of the building, many of which had been badly damaged by rainwater. This also involved removal of asbestos from this wall. So now we have one beautifully repaired, heritage colour-painted wall!

This year we have applied for a grant from the Shire to repair and repaint a section of the exterior weatherboards at the front of the building, including the verandah, the verandah posts, rails and iron lacework, and the front door. The amount requested is \$2,825, with the Society contributing the equivalent in-kind plus paying for the paint. We will not know the outcome until July.

In the meantime, we hope to see you at our next History Night on Monday 1st June (two weeks earlier than usual), which should be a fascinating occasion with the Ver Doorn family talking about their experiences as Dutch migrants and their memories of arriving in and growing up in Linton in the 1950s.

Jill Wheeler, May 2015.

DVDs of History Night talks are available for purchase from the Society for \$10 each + \$5 postage/handling – talks by Jim Stapleton (2012), Rod and Joan O'Beirne (2012), Bruce Adams (2013), Aaron Kerr (2013), Rob Lewers (2014), Chris and Bill Grigg (2014), Joan Hunt (2014) are available. Contact Joan Giles: joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au, or tel: 5309 1770.

the Bulletin board

- **Next Open Days at the Resource Centre** – The first Sunday month: 14 June, Opening times: **2:00 – 5:00 pm**. *The Centre is closed for the July-August mid-winter break.*
- **Our next History Night will be on Monday 1 June and will feature an address from the Verdoorn family (see notice on page 5)**
- Donations to the Society are **tax deductible**. Please contact the Treasurer for details.
- Lots of information is on our website www.lintonhistory.org.au and follow us on [facebook](#)
- **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): \$10 each + \$5 postage and handling. Contact Joan Giles: joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au Tel: 5309 1770**
- **Welcome to New Members:** Marilyn Gough (nee Wishart); Amanda Dickson.
- **Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be May 2015.**

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



Our Guest Speaker at the AGM on Monday 21 September 2015

Our speaker, Dr Ross McMullin, is a distinguished and prize-winning Australian war historian. Dr McMullin's books include two WW1 biographies: *Pompey Elliott*, and *Will Dyson: Australia's radical genius*. His most recent publication *Farewell, Dear People* contains 10 extended biographies of young men who exemplified Australia's gifted lost generation of World War I.

