

Society Notes

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Pitfield: the village at the Wardy Yallock River crossing



The township of Pitfield about 1862: the 'Emu Inn' at centre

At last November's History Night, local historian Joan Hunt spoke on the history of Pitfield. The talk was wellattended, and provoked much interest, so we have reproduced it in this issue of Society Notes.

Also in this issue:

- Launch of the new publication: *Linton: A Photographic History*
- Report on latest research requests
- ANZAC Day in Linton a subdued beginning to the commemoration

Next History Night: Monday 5 March at 7.30pm in the Shire Offices

Launch of the new Photographic History of Linton and Christmas Celebration

Our new photographic history of Linton was launched on Sunday 10 December in the Shire Offices. After a welcome from the Mayor of Golden Plains Shire, Councillor Helena Kirby, the book was officially launched by local historian Joan Hunt. Joan stressed the enormous amount of research detail that had gone into the descriptions accompanying the photographs and the fact that each section had an Introduction that put the photographs in a broader historical context. Joan emphasised that this was not merely a book of photographs but indeed a visual social history of the town of Linton.



Authors Jill Wheeler and Del Atkinson signing copies of the book at the launch. Photo: Monica Keefe

Linton: A Photographic History includes over 100 pages of historic black and white photographs from the collection of the Historical Society, many never previously published. Chapters include: *Beginnings, Gold, The Early Town, The Later Town, Agriculture and Industry, Education, Religion, Sports, Clubs and Societies, Linton People, Celebrations and Commemorations.* There is also an extensive index.

The authors are Jill Wheeler, President of the Historical Society and Del Atkinson, Society member and regular volunteer at our Resource Centre. In her speech, Jill acknowledged the Local History Grant obtained by the Society from the Public Record Office that provided funding for the publication of the book; and the work done by member and volunteer Gary Hunt on enhancing the historic photographs.

The afternoon concluded with Jill wishing the crowd of almost 50 members and friends a very Happy Christmas and everyone enjoying the extensive afternoon tea.



Linton: A Photographic History is available at the Shire Offices, the café *Wares, Plants 'n Things* in Sussex St, and the Historical Society for \$30.00 (plus \$12 postage and handling if required).

Pitfield: the village at the Wardy Yallock River crossing

A brief history of settlement 1838-1858, by Joan E. Hunt, PhD, FRHSV

A mere three years after John Batman declared that the site of Melbourne was the place for a village, Henry Gibb (1812-1853) was living on his licensed pastoral station of Piggoreet on the Wardy Yallock creek.¹ He was in partnership with Charles Gordon² (1822-1857) from the end of 1838 until mid 1843, when the Piggoreet run of 33,000 acres was held under license, until 1848. In March 1848 the run was subdivided into the western run, number 117 (Piggoreet West), and the eastern run number 118 (Piggoreet East).³

Henry Gibb described a well-grassed and watered paddock of 400 acres at 'Pigaret Yallock' in August 1842, for the use of his powerful pure Suffolk Punch, *George the Fourth*, to cover mares at a charge of four guineas per month.⁴



The river system for the Woady Yaloak and early pastoral runs. (Map courtesy State Library Victoria)

Piggoreet West pastoral run abutted on Mindi⁵ (run number 146) comprising 10,024 acres to the south, that was taken up in 1841 by Peter Hardie. Hardie, at the same time, was landlord of his Emu Inn at the crossing over the Woady Yaloak river where the Geelong road led to the Western District.

Hardie and Gibb were part of a network of Scottish families holding large tracts of land under license, from Geelong into the Western District. When Henry Gibb made his will on 18 January 1850 he left his entire estate to Peter Hardie.

At Mount Bute Cottage, Wardy Yallock, on 20 February 1841, Peter Hardie married Elizabeth Hoyle, sister of Duncan Hoyle, who held land at Mt Bute and Drysdale.⁶ Another sister, Janet Hoyle, married Hardie's brother Thomas Kincaid Hardie in 1848, and yet another sister, Robina Hoyle, in 1845 married Henry Gibb of Piggoreet West.⁷

¹ *Port Phillip Gazette*, 30 September 1840, 2. Gibb, of Pigerit Yallock advertised that a £5 note "Taken from one of the Natives", could be claimed at Henry Gibb's station.

² PROV, VPRS 28/P0, Unit 19, Item 2/159, Probate and Administration Files, Charles Gordon, d.31 March 1857, settler, Wardy Yallock.

⁹ Billis, R.V. and A.S. Kenyon, Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip", 71.

Geelong Advertiser, 29 August 1842, 3. The advertisement was signed Henry Gibb, Piggerit, Wardy Yallock.

⁵ Note that the pastoral run is spelt Mindi, while the parish is spelt Mindai.

Marriage certificate no. 539, Robina Hoyle married Henry Gibb at Bute Cottage, Wardy Yaloak on 20 February 1841.

⁷ Public Record Office Victoria, VPRS 7591/P2, unit 52, item 20/057, will and probate of Duncan Hoyle, d. 21 January 1879, Bayswater Middlesex.



Peter Hardie's 'Emu Inn' at Pitfield, before the fire of 1853 (Sketch courtesy of State Library Victoria)

In 1850 Hardie transferred the license in his pastoral run to John Elder, who held the Mindi run for seven years, before transferring it to George Currie and Leonard Lowe in March 1857, by which time Elder had purchased the freehold of 640 acres of the property, known as a Pre-emptive Right. These pastoralists, commonly called squatters, paid just £10 annually for their license to a run of tens of thousands of acres.



Pastoral runs including Piggoreet and Mindi (Map courtesy of Bob Spreadborough)

Next to the Emu Inn was a store, known as the Emu Store, established by William Whytcross, a Scot from Angus, whose son was born at Pitfield in 1842, followed by Betsy, Robert and Charlotte, all born there to his first wife Betsy, who died at Pitfield in 1849.

William then remarried at Pitfield on 21 June 1854 to Ann Bates, who gave birth to a further eight children, all born at Pitfield.⁸ On 25 July 1895 William Whytcross died at Pitfield aged 80 years,⁹ and is buried at Pitfield cemetery with his two wives and at least three children, who died from scarlet fever.

^s Marriage certificate, registration no. 603, Schedule C, 21 June 1854.

^o Death certificate no. 10684, William Whytcross, 80 yrs, son of David Whytcross and Jean Lindsay, died at Pitfield 25 July 1895.

Opposite the Emu Inn was a grassy flat in a curve of the river, known as Buncle's Flat, after John Buncle who had emigrated from Edinburgh and married Helen Hutchison. After their first son was born in 1843 in Melbourne, the rest of their ten children were born at Pitfield between 1845 and 1862.

A carrier of private mail began in June 1846, running between Geelong and the Emu Inn, owned at this time by Edward Langhorne.¹⁰ The carrier was Terry Evans, running a one-horse vehicle and calling at Captain Ormond's inn at Shelford, and at other intermediate places.¹¹



The early route taken by travellers and the mail cart from Geelong to Pitfield (Map courtesy of Stephen Hunt)

By October 1846 Langhorne announced under the heading of "EMU INN" that his inn was undergoing a thorough repair, with additional rooms being added to it for the accommodation of families; and that he had laid in a fresh stock of wines and spirits of the best quality.¹²

The Emu Inn at Wardy Yallock was in the possession of P. Matthews in November 1850¹³, but by 13 January 1852 it is referred to as 'Mr Baird's Inn'.¹⁴ An extensive description is given of the inn when it was advertised for sale by auction, by order of the Curator of Intestate Estates from December 1851 until the end of June 1852.¹⁵ Built on 2 half-acre allotments at Pitfield, it was a commodious weatherboard building of three sitting rooms, six good bedrooms attached and two detached, a stone pantry, kitchen, bar, tap room, store and coach house. There was also a new ten stall wooden stable, but because it stood on Government ground, it was required to be moved after the town was surveyed.

William Whytcross (a.k.a. Whitecross) woke to disaster at 2.00am on Wednesday 11 May 1853, when a fire broke out in his Emu Store at Pitfield.¹⁶ Personal effects including clothing were burnt, but 30 to 40 lbs of gunpowder were able to be moved out of the reach of the fire. The Emu Inn was then engulfed, and by dawn both the store and the hotel were a heap of ruins, although much of the furniture in the Emu Inn was saved, along with the outbuildings and good, all of which were valued at £1,000.

The Emu Inn (pictured on the front page of this *Society Notes*) after it was rebuilt by Matthew Hamilton Baird, had a name change to the Pitfield Hotel. It was described at the end of 1855 as being a 'truly magnificent property' on an acre of land, substantially built of stone, and containing 7 sitting rooms 22 bedrooms, 1 bar, 2 pantries, 1 clothes closet, 1 underground kitchen and 1 underground spirit store. Detached buildings included a two-room

¹⁰ Argus, 5 June 1846, p.2.

[&]quot; Geelong Advertiser and Squatters' Advocate, 29 July 1846, p.3.

¹² Argus, 9 October 1846, p.3.

¹³ Geelong Advertiser, 3 May 1851, p.1.

[&]quot; Geelong Advertiser and Intelligencer, 16 Mar 1852, p.4.

¹⁵ Argus, 4 June 1852, p.1.

¹⁶ Colonial Times, Hobart, 21 May 1853, p.3.

stone store, a cottage of eight rooms, wash-house of two rooms, and stabling for eleven horses. It was advertised for sale between November 1855 until May 1856 but remained unsold.

It was advertised to let, and by October 1859 Margaret Rix was the housekeeper there and Thomas Rothwell was the storekeeper at the Pitfield Hotel.¹⁷ Two years later the hotel was taken over by the American Benjamin Ramsay Hickborn Fernald (1828-1890) (whose wife was Williamina 'Mina' Dunlop, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Linton). By May 1863 the publican's license was granted to James Arthur, landlord of the Pitfield Hotel.¹⁸

It seems that a long period of leasing took place after the sale of the hotel failed to take place. By March 1870 the hotel was no longer licensed, and the widowed Mrs Mary Rowe was living there.

Her late husband, William Rowe, had died in 1866 and their son Henry lived in the family homestead at Naringal after he married in 1868. His wife was Martha, a daughter of Archdeacon Theodore Carlos Benoni Stretch, at one time a household name in Anglican homes throughout the Western District). Henry's brother William Thomas Rowe married Martha's sister, Elizabeth Stretch, in 1863.

The Stretch family has a current connection with Pitfield, as the picnic ground, on the site of Buncle's Flat, commemorates John Crawford Stretch, 'Jack' (1927-1976), great grandson of the Archdeacon.



The township of Pitfield: surveyed in 1852

The township of Pitfield was surveyed within the Mindi Pastoral Run, declared in the *Victorian Government Gazette* of 23 April 1852. The bridge across the Woady Yaloak River is shown in this map, leading to the Emu Inn and Store at allotments 1 and 2 of Section IV, and the church reserves are identified.

Four History Nights each year

Our first History Night for the year will be on 5 March this year, rather than at the usual time in February. The Society has decided to have four History Nights instead of five per year to ease the load on our volunteers, and to help ensure that we maintain the high quality of speakers that our members have come to expect. History Nights will now be in March, June, September (AGM) and November.

¹⁷ Argus, 11 October 1859, p.5.

¹⁸ Star (Ballarat), 29 May 1863, p.2.

Next History Night

Monday 5 March 2018, 7:30pm, in the Shire Offices.

Guest speaker: from Clunes, Graeme Johnstone

Creative Clunes & Booktown – the transformation of a village utilizing cultural tourism and cluster marketing

With the decline of many small rural towns such as Linton, stories about how some towns have successfully reinvented themselves is an emerging topic in our rural Australian history. Clunes has done this successfully with its Booktown theme. Visitors welcome – please bring a plate to share.



Photo courtesy Graeme Johnstone

Linton on National radio

Radio Interview on ABC Radio National on Sunday 10 December

Jill Wheeler was interviewed about Linton and its history for the ABC Radio National programme 'Overnights' for a segment called 'Spot on the Map'. Here is the link to the broadcast, which aired at the unsociable time of 5am on Sunday 10 December (but had been pre-recorded with Jill the previous Wednesday). It goes for about 25 minutes – have a listen!

Despite the program's early morning broadcast time, we have heard from a large number of people who were awake and heard it. Many of Australia's insomniacs are now well informed about Linton's history.

http://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/overnights/spot-on-the-map-linton-victoria/9243998

Anzac Day in Linton: a subdued beginning to the Commemoration

The following article by Jill Wheeler on ANZAC Day in Linton was published in Society Notes eight years ago. The editor decided to re-publish it, as there have been many new members join the Society since then, and many of those who were around at the time (including the editor) might have forgotten what it said. It sheds light on how ANZAC Day began in Australia as a commemoration day, and in Linton in particular.

With Anzac Day upon coming up once again it is interesting to look into the aftermath of the First World War in Linton and the ways in which Anzac Day was commemorated in those early years. This is what a survey of the *Grenville Standards* from 1916 to 1921 reveal.

Guidelines for ANZAC Day laid down

In 1916, the Education Department laid down guidelines for the commemoration of the first Anzac Day in State schools. The first hour of the afternoon was to be devoted to the children singing patriotic songs. Then the children were to assemble in the grounds to sing Kipling's 'Lest We Forget' and 'O God, our Help in Ages Past.' There would then be addresses by visitors, saluting the flag, and concluding with the National Anthem, including the added verse, "God Bless Our Splendid Men." The *Grenville Standard* reported this ceremony was duly followed in Linton on the 20 April 1916. Apart from this and an Anzac commemoration service at St Paul's Church of England on 2 May, there was no other public commemoration.

The next year, although the State School celebration was carried out as prescribed by the Education Department, and a special church service conducted in the evening, the *Grenville Standard* reported on 28 April 1917 that Anzac Day was observed 'in a humdrum sort of way, the only outward evidence that the anniversary was remembered being a few flags here and there in the township.'

Hearty cheers for two diggers

In 1918 the only commemorative ceremony held in Linton was at the State School on 25 April. Two days later the *Standard* reported, however, that there had been 'a good attendance of the public.' Two returned soldiers, C. Nelson and R. Ferguson, were 'received with hearty cheers on entering the schoolroom.' The children were urged to 'do all they could in after life for the men who were fighting to secure their liberties now.' The word "Anzac" was traced in large letters on the school floor, and 'was covered with pennies for the Red Cross, and a fair amount realized.'

Old custom still followed

It is interesting to note that Linton's Anzac Day commemoration to this day still centres on the school children, which means that it takes place on a school day, and thus there is no ceremony in the town on Anzac Day itself.

In the *Grenville Standards* for 1919, 1920 and 1921 there were no reports of any local Anzac Day ceremonies at all. In 1919, the restrictions placed on public gatherings as a result of the influenza epidemic might have been a factor. All civic activities were dislocated by this epidemic that killed 12,000 Australians, put more than a million to bed, and made public gatherings a hazard to health.

However, some commemorative events took place at other times of the year. During 1920, St Paul's Church of England dedicated a new altar, given by the parishioners, in memory of the soldiers who died during World War I. And on 21 February 1921, an Honor Roll listing 40 names of parishioners who enlisted for WW1, presented to St Paul's by Mrs G.L Dean of Emu Hill Estate, was unveiled.

Deep divisions over conscription

There had been deep divisions in the Linton community at the time of the Commonwealth referenda relating to conscription for overseas service that took place in October 1916, and October 1917. On both occasions there were many public meetings in Linton arguing both for and against conscription. The town was almost equally divided into those who voted 'Yes' to conscription and those who voted 'No'. In 1916, the results were 'Yes, 272; No, 265'.

During 1917, the debate became fierce as the supply of local volunteers for service abroad had been drying up. Sectarianism increased community divisions, fuelled by the Sinn Fein rebellion in Dublin at Easter 1916 and the anti-conscription stance of the Irish Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, Daniel Mannix.

An editorial in *The Grenville Standard* on 15 December declared that the 'whole rumpus makes one feel very doubtful as to whether a democracy is competent to conduct a war,' and 'patriotism of the true stamp would brush

everything aside that was irrelevant to victory.' Women were urged to 'leave no stone unturned' in their efforts to 'make sure a "Yes" vote is recorded on December 20th.'

In the event, the voting in the subdivision of Linton was in favour, but only just: 'Yes, 267, No, 264, informal 3.' The *Standard* commented that a few people 'who are known to be strong loyalists were disenfranchised through being of German descent, and evidently some others could not make up their minds.'

Honour Board unveiled

On Christmas Day in 1917, five days after the second referendum, an Honour Board listing all the young men who had volunteered from Linton was unveiled in the Parish Hall. It was hoped that it would provide an opportunity for community healing. In his speech, Shire Councillor Mr Thomas Kennedy hoped that 'Linton people would drop sectarianism in these troublesome times,' and 'no matter what religion they belonged to, they should all be united in the common cause against the enemy, and to uphold the traditions of the Empire.'

The death toll

At the end of the War, Linton's death toll was sixteen men either killed in action or died of wounds out of a total of 108 enlisted, representing almost fifteen per cent of those who volunteered. Many others returned home injured and traumatised. It is probably not surprising that Linton's commemoration of Anzac Day in the immediate post-War years was relatively subdued.

This low-key celebration in Linton was typical of the country as a whole. Generally the mood was not one for a celebratory national pageant. Many of the bereaved preferred more personal forms of mourning or simple commemorative church services, and many veterans were wearied by the war and did not wish to remember or commemorate it. It took some years before ANZAC Day took on the significance it holds today. (Editor's note: please let us know whether you enjoyed having this article re-published).

Sources: Grenville Standards 1916-1921; Sydney H. Smith, Centenary History of St Paul's, Linton 1862-1962; Alistair Thomson, 'Anzac Day,' in *The Oxford Companion to Australian History*, ed. Graeme Davison, John Hirst & Stuart Macintyre, 1998; K.S. Inglis, Sacred Places, War memorials in the Australian Landscape, 1998.



A new Ballarat History – Lal Lal Falls

Mark Cauchi has asked us to publicize a new Ballarat local History entitled *Picnic at the Falls – A History of the Lal Lal Racecourse and its Railway.*

Mark tells us that this publication includes much local Ballarat history and might be of considerable interest to Linton & District HS members

For enquiries contact Mark Cauchi

mark.cauchi@monash.edu

Phone: 0417 157339

Piggoreet, Golden Lake, Grand Trunk and Happy Valley Old Scholars' Association Annual Reunion Saturday 17 March 2018 At the Happy Valley School

- Hall open (Historic photograph display) 11:00 am
- Luncheon : 2 course meal and meeting
 12:00 noon
- Bus Tour: Happy Valley and Piggoreet townships 2:30 pm
- Afternoon tea

4:00 pm

Costs, all day: Adults \$15 Children \$10 Under 5 free

Bring along your memorabilia – Time for a chat and a cuppa throughout the day

To assist with catering arrangements, please reply by 5 March to: Ian Getsom, Vice President, c/- Post Office, Scarsdale 3351, Phone: 0417 374 187

RESEARCH REQUESTS JULY 2017-DECEMBER 2018

Jill Wheeler reports on Research requests

Between July and December 2017, we had 16 research requests, compared with nine for the second half of 2016. Below is a summary of them:

CORBETT, Archibald – Elizabeth Trudgeon asking if Archibald Corbett ever owned a business in Linton in the mid-1940s. We found evidence that the Corbetts were a Skipton family, so referred the enquirer to Skipton Historical Society.

BLURTON family – Lyn & Laurie Blurton enquiring if any Blurtons in the Linton cemetery. We referred them to the Cemetery Trust Secretary for information & sent them some information we had in our archives on this family who lived in Linton in the late- 19^{th} -early 20^{th} centuries.

GRIBBLE/BURGE families – Kim Besso wanting information about her ancestors who lived in Happy Valley in the 1860s & general information on emigration to the goldfields at that time. Joan Hunt supplied a family record & we provided the gold rush history.

GRAHAM family – Shirley Graham sent photos for our records of herself & siblings in Linton school groups in the 1950s. She asked us for exact dates when she & her brother & sister attended the school. Their father was the Linton policeman. We provided information that they were at Linton SS in 1956-57.

LINTON POST OFFICE – Mark Lutnant asking for photos & history of the Post Office

which he & his partner now own. We supplied 5 historic photos & some historical detail.

ALLEN, Frank – Daryl Colwell wanting information on this WW1 soldier from the Cape Clear area. We had no information on him. This was dealt with by Joan Hunt who did the research on behalf of the Cape Clear Historical Society.

CHINESE LEPER – Clayton Keefe, a photographer from Snake Valley, wondering about the whereabouts of a hut inhabited by a Chinese leper in the late 19th century. Explained we had no knowledge of this & that the hut would be unlikely to still be there in any case.

GLAMORGAN MINE – Michelle Coxall wanting to make sure a property she was buying in Linton was not over a mineshaft of the Glamorgan Mine. We had no information about the workings of this mine, only its location & output in the early 1860s.

BRAY Richard James – Cheryl Wallis wanting to locate the grave of 2-year-old Richard Bray who died in 1865. Confirmed he is buried in Linton cemetery & recommended the enquirer get his death certificate for more information.

AH HIAH family – Mark Hillyer wanting information about his ancestor who lives at Brown's Diggings in the 1870s. Referred him to Woady Yaloak Historical Society. Supplied him with historical context of gold digging at that time in the area.

LINTON POST OFFICE – Jenny Colman wanting information about when the Post Office closed for a book she is compiling about Victorian Post Offices built prior to 1900. We supplied her with the date – 30 April 2014 - & she sent us her information on its history.

CRAWFORD family – Raelene Copeland requesting research into her ancestors who lived at Pitfield in the 1850s. Referred this to Joan Hunt who provided family records & information about Pitfield at that time.

HOLLAND/HILDEBRAND – Damien Donohue asking about this 1860s Happy Valley family of German & Irish heritage. Referred this enquiry to Joan Hunt, who supplied extensive information.

STRATTON family – Robert Hayward came to Open Day enquiring about his ancestors who lived in Linton late 19th-early 20th centuries. Subsequently supplied us with family tree information & we provided him with family photos.

FLETCHER/WILDER/KERR/WEIR – Lyn Hansch enquiring about her ancestors who ran a hotel at Happy Valley in the 1860s. Referred this to Joan Hunt who could provide family history records & general information about Happy Valley at that time, but we have not heard further from the enquirer.

BLOCK OF LAND – Daryl Petersen asked for historical information on a block of land he has bought in Linton. We could not identify the property from the description & recommended that we meet Daryl to peruse maps.

(Many 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.

Available Resources on Linton's history

DVDs of the following History Night talks are available: Jim Stapleton; the O'Beirne family; Bruce Adams; Aaron Kerr; Rod Lewers; Chris and Bill Grigg; Joan Hunt (two talks); Hans and Gerry Ver Doorn; Graeme Ellis; The Kvapil/Hayward family and the Snake Valley Displaced Persons camp.

\$10 each + \$5 postage and handling. Contact Joan Giles: <u>joangiles@ hemsleypark.com.au</u> Tel: 5309 1770.

Linton Makes History: an Australian Goldfields Town and its Past On sale at the Shire Office, and at *Wares Plants, 'n Things* in Sussex St. Or buy direct from the author Jill Wheeler – <u>jillianleawheeler@gmail.co</u>m - email Jill for electronic banking transfer details or send a cheque for \$30.00, plus \$8.00 postage & handling, to Linton & District Historical Society, 69 Sussex Street, Linton 3360.

Linton: A Photographic History A history of the small gold rush town of Linton as told through selected photographs from the collection of the Linton and District Historical Society. \$30.00, plus \$12.00 postage & handling, Bank details as above, or cheque payable to the to Linton & District Historical Society, 69 Sussex Street, Linton 3360.

A Walk-Drive Tour of Linton: \$5 plus \$2 postage and handling. Bank details as above, or cheque payable to the Linton and District Historical Society, 69 Sussex Street, Linton 3360.

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



- Next Open Days at the Resource Centre the second Sunday of the month: 11 February 2018, 11 March 2018, 15 April 2018. Opening times: 2:00 5:00 pm.
- Our next History Night: Monday 5 March, Shire Offices, Sussex Street. Topic: Creative Clunes & Booktown the transformation of a village utilizing cultural tourism and cluster marketing'
- The following History Night will be in June the date and speaker will be notified in the May issue of Society Notes
- Donations to the Society are tax deductible. Please contact the Treasurer for details.
- Lots of information is on our website <u>www.lintonhistory.org.au</u> and like us on <u>www.facebook.com/lintonhistory</u>



New Members: Welcome to Raelene Copeland.

Publications:

• DVDs of History Night talks are available: Jim Stapleton; the O'Beirne family; Bruce Adams; Aaron Kerr; Rod Lewers; Chris and Bill Grigg; Joan Hunt (two talks); Hans and Gerry Ver Doorn; Graeme Ellis; Chris Uren on the Kvapil/Hayward family and the Snake Valley Displaced persons camp. \$10 each + \$5 postage and handling. Contact Joan Giles: joangiles@hemsleypark.com.au Tel: 5309 1770.

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• Society Notes is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be May 2018.

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Applause: A Big Thank You to all our Donors

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