

The Learmonth and District Historical Society, Inc.

Founded in 1983.

Incorporated: 15/10/16

Incorporation No: A11215

ABN No: 22 155 588 072.



The Society Happenings

March 2018

Welcome back to all our members, we hope to see everyone at our meetings and open days. On behalf of the society we wish to welcome everyone back from their holidays. This year will be another adventure for the Learmonth and District Historical Society.

The Replacement of the 2034-2035 Time Capsule:



Fon Ryan has been a key player in the story of the time capsules that were recovered from the school grounds of the former Learmonth State School.

The first time capsule was recovered from the gate post (placed there for the 1991 ‘back to’) and the second time capsule was exhumed out of the school grounds by Paul Beechey, David McKay, Fon Ryan and Bill Loader. Lois and Roy kindly offered to take photos of the occasion.

Unfortunately during the course of the removals the time capsule that contained the history from the period of 1984-1985 was damaged after the drill bit accidentally went through the plastic.

The time capsule that was placed in the school grounds to celebrate 150 years of education at the Learmonth Primary School. The Victorian Education Department was responsible for the collection of items that was inside of the time capsule.

On the 18th of February, Fon Ryan and Lois Spenceley carefully removed every item from the broken time capsule and relocated it into its brand new PVC tube, generously donated by Fon himself. The process was tricky and involved lots of turning and gentle nudging to get the items back into the new pipe.



Fon and Lois then very cautiously resealed the lid and secured it with a carefully placed bead of silicone to ensure that the seal is not broken until its designated original date of opening during the years of 2034-2035.



On the 20th of February 2018, a special meeting that invited not just members but the general public to attend was held for the presentation of the time capsules. Fon took the time to explain to the crowd that attended about the history of when the time capsules were placed in the school grounds.

The society was thrilled to bits to receive the time capsules that were placed on the school grounds of the former Learmonth Primary School from Fon Ryan and we will endeavour to care for and maintain them.

Donations:

On the 20th of February 2018, Ken Fraser made a very exciting donation to the Historical society, he has gifted us a large bible from the Waubra Uniting Church formerly the Waubra Presbyterian Church.

The society is very grateful and will take good care of the bible.

The church was previously known as St David's Uniting Church. It was established on the same site in circa 1873. The church was sold and is now a private residence.



Next Speaker:



The Guest Speaker for our meeting on the 20th of March 2018 will be Richard Gilbert. Richard is a former train driver and an avid train enthusiast.

He will speak about the history of the Waubra Railway Line and hopefully show us some photographs that are not often seen.

District Family History:



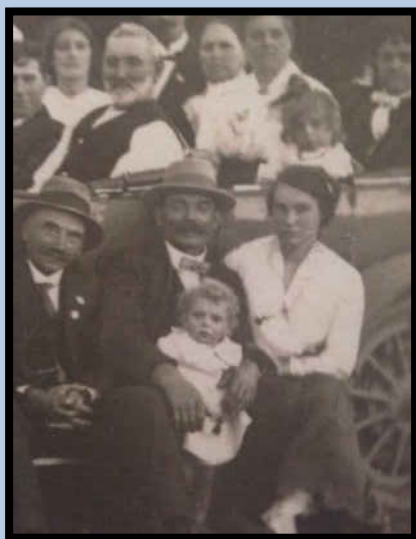
'Ivy Rock Station' Addington, the family home of Frederick Beseler and his family.

The children of Frederick and Susetta lived in the district and had their own children in Learmonth and Ercildoune. Their son's Edward, George and John were farmers on the Burrumbeet Road property owned by their father. Edward lived locally up until 1872 when he relocated with his wife Emma to Donald, Victoria. George stayed in the district with his wife Louisa Porter, and their 7 children. In 1860, Mary Amelia Beseler married a local farmer Lewis William Shelley on the 3rd of December 1861 at 'Ercildoune'. After the birth of their first child, they relocated to Kyneton, Victoria where Lewis owned a Butcher shop. They are pictured on the right.

The Beseler family has been an Addington and district name for over 120 years. The first settlers of the Beseler family were Fredrick Charles Beseler and Susetta Caroline Farckens, both were born in Prussia. In 1848 aboard the 'Pauline' they travelled to Port Adelaide with their five children, Edward, Johann (John), George, Mary Amelia and Augusta Henrietta. Frederick and Susetta made their way to Addington where they settled with their family. Susetta passed away on the 29th of September 1860 at the age of 49. Frederick passed away on the 11th of December 1862. Both are buried in the Learmonth Cemetery.



Lewis William Shelley and Mary Amelia Beseler



(Christmas 1915) Back: John Beseler, Front: Martin Beseler, Martin's wife Alice Walker and baby Alwyn Martin Beseler.

John Beseler stayed in the district until his death in 1925. Both he and his wife Bridget raised their children at the ancestral family farm 'Ivy Rock Station' in Addington. Bridget's passing in 1920 was one of the largest funerals in the area for some time. There was a horse drawn hearse, mourning carriage and about 120 other vehicles and motor cars. The Beseler's were renowned farmers, they had continually farmed, 'Ivy Rock' at Addington for nearly 70 years. The extended family also lived in the district of Learmonth and Ercildoune. John's son Martin Alwyn married Alice, the daughter of a local Addington Railway worker, Henry Walker. Martin and Alice moved to Melbourne where Martin had obtained work with the Public Works Department. After the birth of their children in Flemington, they returned to the Addington district where their children attended both the Addington and Weatherboard State Schools. Martin's son Alwyn also sent his children to the Learmonth School. Martin, Alice and young Alwyn are pictured on the left. The Beseler's were an unassuming pioneer family of the Addington district.

On this day:

In keeping with the theme for our upcoming speaker, the article I have chosen is in relation to the Waubra Railway Line. It was printed in 'The Ballarat Star' newspaper, on Tuesday the 5th of March 1918, Page 6. This article was printed at a time when there was a discussion around the accessibility of the train services for rural and country children who were attending schools that required public transport to get there. The council finally understood that children needed train services to attend inner city schools.

Country News.

WAUBRA TRAIN SERVICE.

PROPOSED ALTERATION.

BALLARAT SHIRE VIEWS.

Learmonth, Monday.

With regard to the proposal to secure an alteration of the Waubra train service. Mr G. W. Reed to-day waited on the Ballarat Shire Council to place his views before it. He was introduced by Cr Henderson.

Mr Reed said the object was to get an alteration in the time-table so that children attending school could reach Ballarat earlier. Under the present time table the children lost a lot of time. If the train were to start 30 minutes earlier and leave 30 minutes later it would be great benefit to the children attending the schools.

He had interviewed the farmers at Waubra, and they were sympathetic. It was a serious matter and it took three years now for children to do the work that town children could do in two years. Technical training was necessary for children, and the alteration would give the country children a better opportunity.

The president said that the people of Waubra, Lexton and Evansford had to be considered. The mail difficulty would affect these people. As far as Learmonth was concerned it did not matter. Cr Baird said local people would have to put up with some slight inconvenience owing to the late hour the mail would be received. He was prepared to waive this objection in the interests of the children.

Cr Henderson said the matter should be allowed to stand over in order to hear the views of the outside people as to whether they would like the alteration. The president said he would not like to do anything without the consent of the whole of the people, and would like the matter held over to allow the Lexton Shire Council to consider the proposal.

Cr Troup moved that the council give the suggested alteration its hearty support providing it fall in with the desires of the Lexton Shire and others. The motion was seconded by Cr Walton and carried. Mr Reed thanked the council for the courtesy shown him.

Members Area:

Keith Hucker:

On the 25th of February 2018, one of our founding members Mr. Keith Hucker was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship award 'for dedicated humanitarian services'. The Mount Bolton and District branch of the Lions Club planned to surprise Keith and another award recipient Raymond Trounson with the award at a special Public function. In 2007 he was a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for 'service to the community through a range of school, welfare, sporting and historical organisations.



Claudette Crick:

THINKING OF YOU

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We look forward to seeing you back at our Learmonth and District Historical Society meetings and open days.



Reg Kinnersly:



The society wishes to express our condolences to the family of Reg Kinnersly, he was a former Ballarat Shire Councillor and later President from 1988-1989 & a member of the Learmonth and District Historical Society for many years.

The following notice was printed in the Courier newspaper on the 16th of March 2018:

REGINALD (REG) KINNERSLY

(Late of 'Boovando' Tourello)

On March 14 2018, peacefully at home aged 88 years, loved and loving husband of Margaret (dec.), much loved father of Paula and Tim Clarke, Steve and Ruth, proud and loving grandpa of Olivia and Ryan. Dear friend and partner of Lola Pierce. Thank you for being my friend. Thank you for being such a wonderful Dad.

Upcoming Events:

THE LEARMONTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

Would like to extend an invitation to come along and enjoy the memorabilia
of

John & Jenny Dunn's vast collection of rare objects.

Come along and enjoy a trip down memory lane.

WHEN : Saturday. 24th March 2018

WHERE : "Arana", 591 - 3 Trawalla East Road, Brewster.

Bring along a "Picnic Lunch" (with a chair), starting at 12.30 pm.

Early arrival would be advisable.

For further information, please contact :

Lois - 0428 928 318 or

Desley - 0429 075 173

THE LEARMONTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

Would like to present

"GOING BACK TO SCHOOL"

Come along and see the memorabilia from the district schools.

To be held from Friday 20th to Tuesday 24th April, 2018

10 am to 3.30 pm

At the Old Shire Offices

326 High Street, Wendouree

Devonshire teas and slices available

Contact : Lois 0428 928 318

Or Desley : 0429 075 173

We are looking for any memorabilia for the display, bring in and show us your school Photos,
etc.

Meeting Dates:

20th of March – Talk on the
Ballarat to Waubra Railway line.

17th of April

15th of May

19th of June

AGM - 2nd Sunday in July (TBC)

21st of August

18th of September

16th of October

20th of November

Open Days:

25th of March

22nd of April

27th of May

24th of June

22nd of July

26th of August

23rd of September

28th of October

25th of November

NB: Everyone is welcome to come to the meetings.

Please remember to bring a plate of food for supper for after the meetings.

2017/2018 Office Bearers:

President:

Desley Beechey
Ph: 0429 075 173

Secretary:

Lois Spenceley
Ph: 0428 928 318

Vice President:

Ruth Nelson

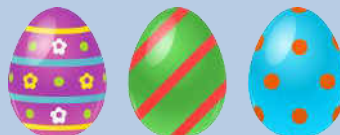
Treasurer:

David Spenceley
Ph: 0417 539 247

**Research Officers: Bill Loader &
Claudette Crick.**

Newsletter Editor: Carissah Cain-Sultana.

**If you are interested in adding to our
'Society Happenings' newsletter, please call
Carissah on: 0458 677 742.**



*On behalf of the Learmonth and District
Historical Society, I would like to wish
you and your families a Happy Easter.
Don't go eating too much chocolate!!!*