

# **LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

**FOUNDED 1983.  
INCORPORATED 13/10/1986. INCORPORATION No. A 11213.  
ABN No. 22 133 588 072.**



326 High Street. Learmonth. 3352

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **June 2011**

**Published Bi-monthly**

# INVITATION

*The Learmonth & District Historical Society*

## *Annual General Meeting & Dinner*

*To be held on Friday, 15th July 2011*

*At the Learmonth Bowling Club*

*From 6.30 pm*

*\$25 per head*

*Our guest speaker - Roger Southern*

*Speaking on*

*“History of Conservation*

*Volunteers Australia,*

*1982 - present”*

*RSVP by the 7th July*

*To secretary - Lois Keating Ph 5338 4361 or*

*Email [davidandlois@ncable.net.au](mailto:davidandlois@ncable.net.au)*

**A raffle will be held, if anyone is able to bring along items for the hamper, it would be greatly appreciated.**



**All Saints Anglican Church. 150th Anniversary Celebrations/Reunion  
(formerly the Wycliffe Church) Learmonth.**

**On Sunday - 24th July 2011. 9.30 am coffee, 10.30 am Church Service. Lunch  
available \$10. RSVP by 8th July. Inquiries: Mary Holland 5343 2247 or Jenny  
Ford on 0407 501 820.**



**BALLARAT STAR NEWSPAPER,  
29 August 1859**

“A Public Meeting of the Church of England will be held at the Wesleyan School Room, Lake Learmonth, upon Monday, 5th September, at the hour of 4 o'clock P.M. To consider the propriety of purchasing and erecting thereon a Church.”

History of the  
**CHURCH OF ENGLAND, LEARMONTH.**  
BY Rev. F. F. Fell.

Reproduced from the “**BACK TO LEARMONTH**’ Centenary Celebrations 1937. Wycliffe Church of England is a substantial structure of old English design, built of rough hewn granite quarried from the hills surrounding the township. It was erected (2nd Church) under the supervision of Mr. H. R. Caselli, architect, of Ballarat, who also supervised the erection of the brick vicarage as a residence. Wycliffe Church was opened for public worship on the 18th January, 1861. The church is nearly fitted up and has three fine windows which are much admired, one of which was dedicated in memory of Wilfred Campbell Wilson, Lieutenant Northumberland Company Imperial Yeomanry, second son of Sir Samuel Wilson, Kt., of Ercildoune, who succumbed to wounds received in the Transvaal. Another window was placed in the church by brothers and sisters in memory of Charles Vaughan, Sergeant Australian Imperial Regiment, who was killed in action in the Transvaal on the 18th February, 1901. There is also a window in the east end subscribed for by the church people. The vestry was added to the church at a later date in memory of Thomas Bath, J.P., and his wife, who were pioneer members and founders of the church. A porch was added also, and several tablets have been placed in the Church from time to time in memory of its early members. There is a large Honour Board in memory of those who fought in the Great War. A parish Hall (top left on next page) was erected near the Church and opened in September, 1906. **(Below, an original sketch of the church by Hy Caselli which was loaned to the society by the Wettenhall family).**



Henry Caselli  
Architect





The Church Hall



Stained Glass Windows

**The following article was research and written by Mrs Claudette Crick.**

On September 12th, 1859, the committee of the Presbyterian Church, through Rev. Mackie, received a request from the Episcopalian denomination to hold services in their Church. It was resolved to “grant the request of that body, by allowing the adherents of the Church of England to hold occasional services in our church”, (**from the minute book of the Presbyterian Church**). Land originally chosen by Wm. Vaughan, which was later forfeited, and an adjoining block purchased by Day, Brydon & Hedrick at the Learmonth land sales of 1859, was the land chosen by the members of the Church of England to build their Church. In the “Ballarat Star”, the Learmonth Correspondent wrote “The Church lately erected here by members of the Church of England was opened on Sunday last, 20th Jan, 1861 when an excellent sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Woolaston recently appointed minister of Miners Rest and Learmonth. About 90 persons attended the Church, several from a considerable distance. Caselli was the architect, and it is neatly fitted up. The parsonage is to be commenced at once in the adjoining church reserve”. The church was known as Wycliffe Church. This would have been a wooden church and the parsonage was to be built of brick. Two of the marriages that took place in this church in 1865 were - 28th Feb the marriage of Annie Bath, niece of Thomas Bath Esq to Robert Fawall Hudson (see below), also the marriage of Edmund Beseler to Emma Flower on the 3rd August..

6	Jurist, third February 1865	Robert Fawall Hudson	Bachelor	-	-	Manchester
--	Wycliffe Church Lake Learmonth	Elizabeth Ann Bath	Spinster	-	-	Plymouth

We do hereby declare that we are *Members of the Church of England*  
(insert Church, Religious Society, or Denomination, as the case may be)  
 Married in the *Wycliffe Church, Lake Learmonth* according to the rites of the  
 Church of England, after notice of declaration duly made as by law  
 provided, & the written consent of the legal guardian of the bride having  
 been delivered to me previous to the Ceremony.

### **“The Ballarat Star”. 11th January 1862.**

PROGRESS OF LEARMONTH.— Since our last visit to Learmonth the township has undergone a pleasing change, and buildings of every description are on all sides being erected. There are now four places of worship within the township, belonging to the members of the Church of England, the Presbyterians, the Wesleyans, and the Roman Catholics. There are two schools, and a building for a national school is now being erected near the Weatherboard Hill. The most noticeable of the recent erections within the township is a large brick ironmongery, grocery, and drapery store, erected for Mr McKay, of the Stag Hotel. Annexed is a post-office, with a tolerably sized waiting-room for the convenience of the public. The front is stuccoed, and the walls are of brick, and the roof of English slate. The foot walk in front is paved with red tiles from the Mopoke Pottery Works. The Roman Catholic Chapel has recently been extended, by an addition to the Western wing. The new police barracks are now completed, and present a neat appearance. The building is a brick one. It has a neat veranda to the east and is roofed with English Slate. Within a few yards, the stables for the horses of the troopers have been erected. The Government have conditionally reserved a piece of ground, between the police reserve and the Temperance Hall reserve, for a public library, the books of which at present are under the charge of Mr. Crockett, in the Presbyterian School. Some two years ago the teetotallers got a conditional grant of a piece of ground for a Temperance Hall, but as yet they have made no use of it; and, strange to say, the only toper in Learmonth is located on it in a canvas tent, where he and his wife have frequent quarrels, and run to the Court of Petty Sessions pretty often for summons to have each bound to the peace. The Church of England parsonage and the Wycliffe Church, recently erected, are condemned by every person in the locality as wretched specimens of brick and stone architecture, and present a miserable contrast with the new police barracks. The church not having been braced, has shifted both wall and roof some six inches towards the eastern end, and the mortar is crumbling to pieces for want of a reasonable quantity of lime in it.

The same may be said of the parsonage. Mr. McMaster is now erecting several cottages adjoining the stone reserves, and several stores have recently been erected in the township, all of which seem to be doing a very fair trade. There is a tolerably fair supply of water in the lake, but within the last few days the quantity has rapidly decreased.

A long line of footwalk runs along the main road, and was formed by the residents, who each made that portion in front of his residence and allotment. The road board was so liberal as to gravel it for them, and now a good substantial footpath is the result, and is evidence of what may be done by a number of persons uniting for a purpose. On the whole, Learmonth is a rapidly rising place, and is making great strides towards becoming a municipality, and with a good water supply would be a delightful place to reside in, particularly in summer. The road board reserve has undergone a complete metamorphosis. It has been fenced in and gates erected, and in front at both sides of the office a neat flower garden has been formed and tastefully planted by the secretary.



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**It is with regret we announce the passing of Mrs Dorothy Baird and the brother of Mr.Fred Wren, deepest sympathy to all their families.**

# HARRISON

## Reunion Waubra



James Harrison with his son's, Christopher & William

**10 - 11th November 2012**

**At Waubra**

**Contact: Tania King. PO Box 308. Koroit. Vic.**

**Phone 03 5560 6241**

**Email [candtking@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:candtking@aussiebroadband.com.au)**

**Website [www.harrisonfamilywaubra.weebly.com](http://www.harrisonfamilywaubra.weebly.com)**

There will be a "Harrison Family History Waubra", book published and released at the reunion and as much information as possibly is needed on parents, grandparents and great grandparents etc, these may include, "Family Stories, Where they lived and any relevant information regarding the Harrison families. Also needed are "Photographs", please scan and email to the above address.

LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

**Meetings:** Every third Tuesday of the month. 8pm

**Where:** The Old Shire Hall  
326 High Street, Learmonth.

**2011 Dates**

15th February

15th March

19th April

17th May

21th June

15th July — AGM Learmonth Bowling Club

16th August

20st September

18th October

15th November. Ladies please bring a plate.

No meetings in December or January

**The society is now open on the 4th  
Sunday of every month except December &  
January, or by appointment,  
phone the secretary below.**

**Membership**

Single \$15.00 — Family \$20.00

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2010\11**

**President:** Desley Beechey. Ph 5343 2318

**Vice President:** Ruth Nelson. 53342237

**Secretary:** Lois Keating. Ph 5338 4361

9 Langstaffe Drive. Wendouree. 3355

or email [davidandlois@ncable.net.au](mailto:davidandlois@ncable.net.au)

**Treasurer:** David Spenceley. Ph 0417 539247 email  
[david252@ncable.net.au](mailto:david252@ncable.net.au)

**Research:** Bill Loader Ph 5334 6330 or  
Claudette Crick. Ph 5343 2302

The Learmonth & District Historical Society would  
sincerely like to thank the office of Sharon Knight, MLA, for the printing of  
this newsletter.