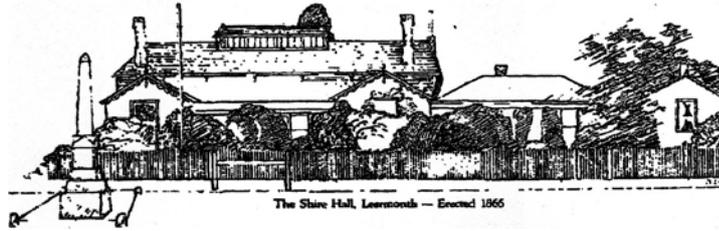


# LEARMONTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**NEWSLETTER**

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

**JANUARY 2008**

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## MEETING DATES

**FEBRUARY:** Tuesday, 19/2/2008.

**MARCH:** Tuesday, 18/3/2008.

**APRIL:** Tuesday, 15/4/2008.

All meetings will commence at 8 p.m. sharp and will be held in the Historical Society Headquarters (former Shire Building) at Leamouth.

A calendar has been drawn up, showing dates of general meetings for the entire year. You will find it on the back page of this newsletter.

## WELCOME TO 2008

We didn't manage to get a newsletter out before Christmas 2007, because of uncertainty on a couple of matters, but we will now take the opportunity to wish all members a happy and rewarding 2008. In particular, we hope that those of you who may have experienced health problems recently will have a better year this year and that you all enjoy good health in 2008.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members Lois Keating, and David Spencely, to the society and hope they enjoy being part of our

organisation and we look forward to seeing them at meetings and/or functions from time to time. It is always pleasing to have new members and Lois and David seem to be most enthusiastic about making a contribution in some way.

## ARTHUR GOAD

As most members are aware, Leamouth's senior citizen passed away recently, only weeks short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Arthur was highly respected and valued by the society because of his vast knowledge of the history of the area and his willingness to impart this knowledge and share it with other people. He kindly left a collection of personal papers to this society and they will be a prized addition to our holdings.

## THE ANNUAL BUS TRIP

Sorry, we haven't finalised details for the bus trip this year. Our organisers are still checking out a couple of likely venues. Obviously, this year's trip won't be in February/March, as is usual, but we hope we will be able to advise you of a date soon, most likely in April.

## HERITAGE GRANT FOR WALKING TOUR OF LEARMONTH

The society received good news late last year, with the announcement that we had received a \$12,000 Victorian Heritage Grant for an interpretative walking tour of the township. The money will go towards research (30 sites earmarked), designing a fully explanatory brochure of the sites, manufacturing and affixing marker discs, as well as designing a website. Our local member Joe Helper met with President Ilma Bridgewater and Secretary Terry Foran and a reporter and photographer from the Courier at the Historical Society headquarters just before Christmas to make the announcement. Bill Loader was the society's driving force in making the application for the grant and we must also thank Mandy Jean, the Heritage Consultant to the City of Ballarat, for her invaluable assistance and advice in completing the application form. Obviously, this project will be a major topic for discussion at our first meeting for the year.



Terry Foran, Ilma Bridgewater and Joe Helper, MLA, at the announcement of the walking tour grant for Learmonth.

## ALBERT JACKA V.C.

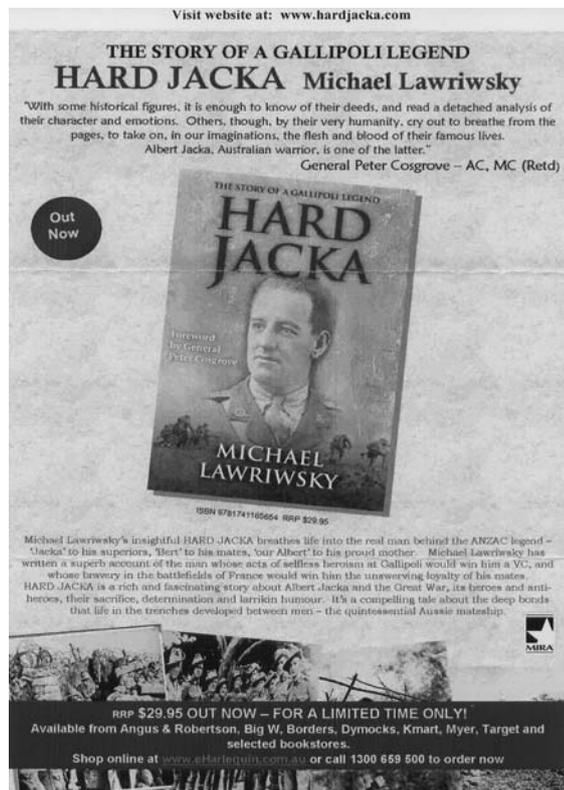
Melbourne author, Dr. Michael Lawriwsky, has released a book about Albert Jacka, "the man behind the Anzac legend".

He has written to our society, offering to give a talk about the book, complete with overhead slides. He makes this offer because Jacka served with the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, AIF, and many members of that battalion were from rural Victoria. We would need to make it worth his while to come here to give a talk and would be interested to hear from members who would be interested in attending. The author advises that he would prefer to do his talk on a weekend, rather than a Tuesday meeting night and it is felt this could be arranged without too much trouble. Family and friends of members would also be most welcome. To gauge whether there is enough interest to ask him to give a talk, could you please let Ilma (5343-3266) or Terry (5331-7642) know before the February meeting.

Michael Lawriwsky had an article about Albert Jacka on the editorial page of the Herald-Sun on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January. Not only was Albert a genuine war hero, but he later served on the St. Kilda Council and became Mayor of that city. Jacka Boulevard in St. Kilda is named after him and he is remembered not only for winning the VC, but also for his tireless and selfless work with the poor and

unemployed during the depression, until his life was tragically cut short in 1932 at the age of only 39.

**See the flyer below for details of the book.**



## TOO MUCH WATER IN THE LAKE!

It seems hard to believe these days that Lake Learmonth had problems with overflowing in the early days, so much so that Thomas Bath, then owner of "Ceres" wrote the following letter to the Shire of Ballarat on 7/10/1867:

"Gentlemen,

As the water in Lake Learmonth is now very high and the water still increasing, and likely to overflow and likely to do considerable damage, I beg to make the Council an offer to put in an outlet to the lake, to run off some of the surplus water.. I propose cutting a race, or drain, through some of my land and through that of Mr. Eaves on to the road between the farms of

Messrs. Rennie and Eaves, thence to the lake. For the present, I would make a very shallow outlet from the lake, but in the summer I would put in a race about 3 feet, 1.5 inches below the present surface of the lake, which would be 1 foot, 6 inches above the lowest of last summer's level. (And) I would put in a permanent culvert or bridge of stone or sustainable wood with a lock or stop for the water, of sufficient strength. During the summer, I would have the use of the water for irrigation, and would not run and water out of the lake when it is within 18 inches of the lowest of last summer's level. The Council should have the power of preventing me taking any water from the lake at any time by paying me all expenses for the work I had done on the road and culvert, and such expenses not to exceed 2 hundred pounds.

**I am, Gentlemen, your humble servant  
Thomas Bath.**

## WANT A COMPUTER?

As the society has updated its computers in recent times, we find we no longer have a need for our original one and would like to see it go to a member who may be able to put it to use. As computers go, it is quite ancient, being about 16 years old, but still in good order and would be ideal for someone wanting a machine to write letters, stories or recipes. Using the computer for this purpose is not much more complicated than using a typewriter. There is a printer that goes with the computer. For further details, contact Ilma, 5343-2366 or Terry, 5331-7642.

**THE LAST WORD:** First meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> next. See calendar on back page for dates if all general meetings for this year.

