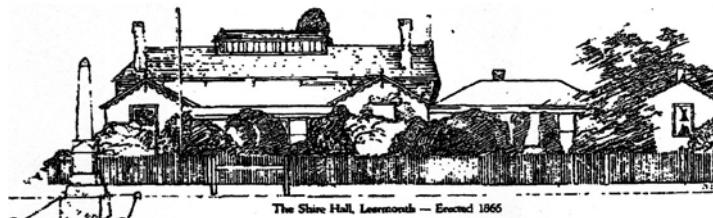


LEARMONTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Shire Hall, Learmonth — Erected 1865

NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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MAY 2006

MEETING DATES

JUNE: Tuesday, 20/6/2006.

***JULY:** Friday, 14/7/2006.

AUGUST: Tuesday, 15/8/2006.

*The July meeting date is the date of this Annual Dinner/Meeting, full details of which can be seen in the following item in this edition.

The June and August meetings will be held in the old Shire Building on dates shown, commencing at 8 p.m.

THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

As shown above, this year's annual dinner meeting will be held on July 14th at the Learmonth Bowling Club. An invitation is enclosed with this newsletter.

After keeping the meal cost the same for the past 5 years, the Bowling Club has found it necessary to raise the price of the 3 course meal this year. The meal cost, for 3 courses, will now be \$20 per head, remarkable value compared to what you would pay elsewhere.

Membership fees will remain the same, i.e. \$10 per person, \$15 per couple or family, and \$7.50 aged concession. Since the founding of the society, there has been only one increase in fees.

GUEST SPEAKER AT DINNER:

Our guest speaker this year will be Phil Roberts. Phil recently wrote the History of Ballarat College and has now been invited to write the 150 years history of the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society.

The members of the A. and P. Society were involved in the formation of the Ballarat Roads Board, and a number of them belonged to both organisations. As the offices of the secretaries (sometimes the same person for both) of both these institutions were at Learmonth, and the A. and P. Society also had a Reserve in Learmonth, this area has played an important part in the history of the Society.

Phil Roberts is extremely interested in history and has been in regular contact with our researcher, Claudette Crick, about the forthcoming book.

He is grateful that our society has a good collection of memorabilia about the A. and P. Society.

We are sure you will be most interested to hear Phil speak on the forthcoming book, which will be published later this year. If you have any photos or memorabilia relating to Ballarat Show days, you might like to bring them along to the dinner meeting for members to view.

POSITIONS VACANT

SECRETARY for Historical Society based in Learmonth.

No experience necessary, but common sense an asset. Successful applicant can expect an approximate wage of \$ 0.00 per annum, but lifelong satisfaction of having played his/her part in working for the community good. Apply to President, Learmonth and District Historical Society, phone 5343-2366.

TREASURER also required by above organisation.

After many years of service from both Secretary and Treasurer, the society now finds itself in need of replacements for both positions, with both officers advising that they will not be seeking the positions again at this year's annual dinner meeting. We ask all members to consider whether they may be able to take up one of the positions, or if they may know someone, not necessarily a current member, who may be suitable for either position.

Neither position demands many hours' work each month although, obviously, there are occasions when there is a

little extra work needing doing but committee members are always willing to help on such occasions. There is an excellent working relationship between all committee members. We have a computer at the historic centre, to recording data and for word processing tasks. If you'd like to help, please contact Ilma Bridgewater on 5343-2366, or Terry Foran on 5331-7642. We would welcome a non-member, if you know of anyone you may think suitable for either position.

GLIMPSES OF A PAST ERA

After we initially decided we would not reprint the book of photographs, the demand by people who missed out has become so great that the second print is under way. Our President, Ilma Bridgewater, has orders for quite a few copies and those of you who have ordered will be contacted when the book is available. At this stage, it is anticipated that it will be available in the first week of June. If you don't have an order in and would like a copy, phone Ilma Bridgewater on 5343-2366, Marie Loader 5334-6330, Claudette Crick 5343-2302 or Terry Foran on 5331-7642.

BUS TRIP TO DAYLESFORD AREA

There were not quite as many this year on our bus trip, but all who took part had a wonderful day. A highlight was Cricket Willow at Shepherds Flat, where owner, Ian Tinetti, told us all about the history of cricket bat manufacturing in the early days and

also present day. Ian was a genial host and the memorabilia on display was most impressive. As we took lunch there, we had plenty of time look around all the rooms and to have a good look at the "bowling green" smooth cricket oval, which is kept in marvellous order all year with recycled water.

Our plans to see a bit of Daylesford were thwarted somewhat by rain, but we were still able to see plenty from the comfort of our bus seats. All in all, another successful trip. If you know of any other locations we could visit on a day trip, please let us know. We are open to all suggestions.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"You cannot have a proud and chivalrous spirit if your conduct is mean and paltry; for whatever a man's actions are, such must be his spirit."

Demosthenes (384-322 B.C.)

"Fight for your opinions, but don't believe they contain the only truth."

Anonymous

"Self-discipline is that which, next to virtue, truly and essentially raises one man above another."

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

"To be able to practise five things everywhere under heaven constitutes perfect virtue: gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness"

Confucius (551-479 B.C.)

SPORT IN BYGONE DAYS

Members don't need to be told that, from early settlement, sporting events were the occasions which enabled residents of the district to get together and socialise and were always attended by everyone in the district.

At this year's Central Highlands Historical Association History Fair, the theme will be Sports and our society will participating and will have an exhibit in accordance with that theme. Bill Loader is confident we have enough material on Sports to enable us to hold our own Open Day at the Historic Centre on that subject later this year.

At our May general meeting, Bill showed photographs of action in sports such as Horse Racing at Learmonth Oval, Sailing, Wood Chopping, Tennis, Cricket, Cycling, Shooting, Football, Power Boat Racing, Golf, Hunting, Bowls and Ploughing. It would be appreciated if any photos or memorabilia held by members, of any of these sports, or any other sports not listed above, could be lent to the Society for this exhibition.

In conjunction with this exhibition, it is proposed to do a Roads Board display, this being the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Roads Board in Learmonth. Again, if any member has any memorabilia relating to this organisation, we would love to borrow it to place on display for the occasion. The Open Day will probably be held in September, before the CHHA Expo.

INTER TOWN FOOTBALL RIVALRIES BURIED DURING THE WAR

The society recently received a generous donation from Fred and Gwen Wren, in the form of team photographs from Fred's playing days, mostly with Waubra.

Interestingly, there is a photograph of a combined team for Learmonth and Waubra from 1944. Fred recalled that, because of the war, neither club was able to field a team on its own, so they joined forces and entered the team in the Ballarat League. While the team did not win the premiership, it acquitted itself with distinction. In the last game before the finals, Learmonth-Waubra needed to defeat Redan by at least 6 goals to make the finals. While they did win, they did not win by the required margin, so missed out on the September action. It is interesting to note that, this year, both Waubra and Learmonth teams are unbeaten at time of writing. No doubt, some of the names in this photo will bring back memories!

LEARMONTH-WAUBRA FOOTBALL CLUB 1944



BACK ROW: Eric Yates, Jack Moran, Bob Treweek, Keith Goldsmith, Bob Coutts, Les Dean, Lloyd Hucker, Arthur Dean

CENTRE ROW: Allan Harrison, Lin Harrison, Don Baird, Les Harrison, Joe Finn, Tom Harrison, Ian Sandlant

FRONT ROW: Billy Gallagher, Les Bandy, Kevin Flynn, Fred Wren, Max Hucker

THE LAST WORD: If you have any friends you think may be interested in joining the society, why not ask them along to the Annual Dinner/Meeting? New blood is always most welcome and the society would certainly benefit from youthful additions to the committee. See you on July 14, at the Bowling Club.