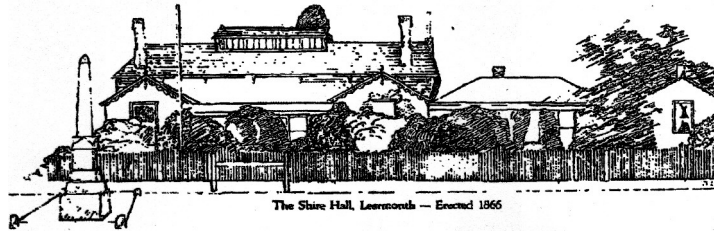


# LEARMONTH AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**NEWSLETTER**

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

FOUNDED 1983.

INCORPORATED 13/10/1986. INCORPORATION No. A 11213.

ABN No. 22 133 588 072.

## MEETING DATES

**September:** Tuesday, 16th. 2008

**October:** Tuesday, 21st. 2008

**November:** Tuesday, 18th. 2008

All meetings will commence at 8 p.m. Sharp and will be held in the Historical Society Headquarters (former Shire Hall) at Learmonth.

### Working Bee

13th September 2008.  
2 pm, at the Old Shire Hall.

### Obituary Notice—Thomas Cash

Ballarat Star—10th April 1894

Our Learmonth correspondent writes:—"The remains of the late Mr Thos. Cash, who died on Friday at his residence, Weatherboard Hill, after an illness extending over some years, were interred in the Learmonth Cemetery yesterday. The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. Father Rogers, and the funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr T. C. Barnes, of Learmonth. The coffin-bearers were Messrs P. Ryan, D. Doyle, P. Morgan, and H. Morgan. A large number of friends of the deceased followed his remains to their last resting-place, Mr E. Murphy, M.L.A., being amongst those present. The deceased, who for a long period was the proprietor and licensee of what was once known as Cash's hotel, but which was many years ago converted into a dwelling-house, was well-known as a quiet, unassuming man, and was highly respected. He leaves a widow and family of adults to mourn their loss."

## CHHA. Expo 2008

The theme for this year is

### "That's Entertainment"

**The Performing & Visual Arts.  
1850 to 1950's**



### Circus at Learmonth 1930 - 1940's

Claudette is looking for any photos, memories, school or Sunday school concerts, Deb Balls, Fancy dress, Choirs, any sort of entertainment attended (not sport), or any memorabilia that related to the above theme to help with her display at Expo.

The society will be in attendance on both Saturday and Sunday and anyone wishing to help should contact, Claudette Crick on **5343 2302** or contact the society.

## Memberships Now Due

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership for the 2008 - 2009 year. To those of you who have not renewed, the cost is \$15 a single and \$20 a family.

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## Annual Dinner Meeting

There were about 63 people who attend along with the Honourable Joe Helper MLA, Cr John Philips and the first secretary of the society, Lorna Maasdyke who said "Grace".

Ilma Bridgewater spoke about the previous twelve months as President. Cr John Philips conducted the election of Office Bearers for the next twelve months.

President - Desley Beechey  
Vice President - David Spenceley  
Secretary - Lois Keating  
Treasurer - Steve Corp  
Research - Bill Loader & Claudette Crick.

Following the elections Cr Philips presented the society with a grant for a new heater and its installation at the hall. Bill Loader did a tremendous job as MC for the night.

A big thank you to Ilma Bridgewater (President) and Terry Foran (Secretary) for all the hard work they have both put in at the society.

This was a wonderful evening with our guest speaker, Michael Lawrisky giving a highly entertaining talk on his book "Hard Jacka" a story about Albert Jacka VC.



## "Its a boy"

Congratulations Claudette and Geoff on the arrival of their new Grandson, Andrew, on the 1st August, 2008  
To Raeleen and Kris

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## Walking Tour Update

we are also compiling a booklet relating to the "Town Walking Tour". The brochure is complete and awaiting final approval before going to print, we are still waiting for the art work from the sign writer, before the plaques can progress any further.

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## Learmonth Historical Society Website

The society currently has a new website under construction, and we are looking for any old photos and historical information relating to Learmonth and districts to be included, keep an eye on your newsletter for notification as to when the site will be available.

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## Newsletter Items

Anyone wishing to have an item of interest included in the newsletter, please contact, the secretary at the societies address or email to [learmonthdhs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:learmonthdhs@optusnet.com.au)

# Weatherboard School No 656

The school, sometimes known as Weatherboard Hill, opened on 1st of August 1862 with Head Teacher James Richmond. The 40 ft x 22 ft bluestone building with slate roof stood



**Former Weatherboard School (Back)**

on a 3.25 acre site, part of Allotment 27, Parish of Burrumbeet, County of Ripon. On 2nd of August 1864 an application for aid, for extensions, alterations and repairs was accepted. 45 pounds was granted and the site vested in the board. In October 1866, when Joseph Nicholson was Head Teacher, a 20 ft square weatherboard residence of four bedrooms was built. In 1876, an extension of one room and back and front verandas was added. In 1875 the rent was 12 pounds per annum. Repairs to the school and dwelling in 1877 cost 139 pounds, 7 shillings. In 1889 the annual average of children was 20 to 26, with 33 enrolled in that year, and 44 in 1890. The unsatisfactory original residence was replaced in 1891 with a weatherboard cottage of four rooms. Rent was 15 pounds per annum. W. Purcell was Correspondent of the first 1911 Committee. The annual average in 1912 was 30 - 35. In 1915 Health Officer, Dr Willis, strongly condemned the old bluestone building as being damp and unsanitary. The school

carried on in the shelter shed while extensive renovations and repairs were being effected in 1923. The name was changed to Weatherboard in 1937. Pupil numbers had dropped to 6 by 1948 and the school closed on the 2nd of April 1948 .

For further reference to Weatherboard and district, Purchase your copy of Ken James', book , "A History of Weatherboard", from our launch. See back cover of this newsletter for more details.



**Former Weatherboard School & Residence**

*The Learmonth & District Historical Society Inc.*

*Cordially invites you to the launch of the*

# *History of Weatherboard*

*Compiled and written by Ken James*

*With assistance from Society members and local residents,  
is certain to be of interest to you and your families.*

*To be officially launched by Mr Graham Findlay  
A descendant of one of the original settlers.*

*At 2 pm. Sunday. 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008  
Old Shire Hall  
High Street. Learmonth.*

*signed copies of the History of Weatherboard  
will be available for \$25.00*

*Contact - Claudette Crick - 5343 2302 - Lois Keating - 5338 4361  
email - [learmonthdhs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:learmonthdhs@optusnet.com.au)*

*Ladies - a plate of afternoon tea please*

*Bring along your memorabilia of Weatherboard for display on the day*

If undeliverable please return to  
Learmonth and District Historical Society  
Post Office  
Learmonth Vic 3352