**EVANDALE HISTORY SOCIETY INC**

**MINUTES - MONTHLY MEETING – 18 MAY 2023**

**Attendees:** Barry Lawson(President), Bob Strachan (Secretary), Laurie Wotherspoon (Treasurer), Stephanie Dean, Lyn Louis, Jenny Carter, Judy Heazlewood, Tony McCormack, Steve Plowright and John Lewis.

**Apologies:** Maria Lawson, Lois Wotherspoon, Charlie Watson, Bruce Argent-Smith, Chris and Heather Leggett, Cameron Richards, Tennille Cox’ Williams, Stephanie Kensitt, Jan Foote, Susan Hodson, Sally Wilkinson and Kim Polley.

**Minutes of previous meeting held 20 April 2023:**

**John** proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Seconded by: Lyn Carried.**

**Business arising from the previous meeting:**

* **EPS History Project/Murray Family information board – Pioneer Park. Laurie,** advised no further feedback from the school on the research project. **Action: Laurie** **to update on progress.**
* **Donation from Buffalo Lodge in memory of Peter and Teecie Cruse**. **John** said the revised DA for the table and seats to now be placed in Buffalo Park would be sent to NMC this week. **Action: the Society will monitor progress**
* **Converting non-digital video images to digital format. Barry** reported no progress on this project during the previous month. **Action: Barry to keep the Society updated on progress.**
* **Historic Trees.**  **Barry** reported he has been seeking advice on the scientific names of trees on public land identified as having historic significance for inclusion in his research project. **Action: Barry** **to provide updates as required.**
* **1929 Flood Marker. Laurie** has located the missing marker and constructeda steel support post ready for the marker to be placed in situ. **Action: Laurie and Barry will identify the appropriate location for the sign and arrange installation.**
* **NMC request for photographs of Evandale Council Councillors and Wardens. Lyn** has been in contact withGail Eacher who said she is busy on other tasks at the moment but will contact the Society at a later date. **This agenda item is now closed.**
* **33rd anniversary of EHS - 11 Jun 2023. Bob** circulated a menu for a lunch on Tue 30 May at No 10.A number of members mentioned they could not make this date.It was decided therefore tostick with **Thurs 15 June 2023 following the monthly meeting) at the POW. Action: Bob will make a booking at the POW for 12:30 pm.**
* **Hart Family file. Tony** has spoken to Michael and the borrowed material will be returned shortly. Tony said Michael had expressed a wish to re-join the Society. **Action:** Bob to send Tony an Application Form for Michael. **Note this agenda item will remain open until the material is returned.**
* **Launceston Probus – Walkaround Evandale.** Barry has contacted Rod Oliver the Launceston Probus Club organiser. The proposed date is 6 June and we expect around seven visitors. **Action: Barry has agreed to conduct the tour and will use the Evandale historic walking notes booklet as a guide.**
* **Bryan family (Evandale Butcher). Barry** spoke to Rob Bryan. Rob has had a look at what information we hold on the Bryan file.It appears that there is information from two possibly three Bryan/Bryant families in the folder. **Action: Barry will work with Rob to sort the material in the file, into relevant family lots.**
* **ANZAC Day 2023. Bob** said the feedback for ANZAC Day was very positive, including from Senator Askew. **Bob** read a letter from Colin Jetson thanking the Society for its efforts on ANZAC Day. **Bob** said we broke even on the cost of tea and coffee after the Dawn Service and the morning tea after the main service from donations. There was general agreement that next year we should attempt to decorate inside the Hall with relevant display items to mark the Day. There was also discussion about the honour boards and why they have not been put back on the walls. **Barry** mentioned that the display cases in the foyer require repair or replacement. **Action Bob will talk to Bret the Hall Manager.**

**Financial Report: Presented and moved: Laurie**  **Seconded by: John**. **Carried.**

**Correspondence Inward:**

* **21 April email from RHSV.** Newsletter dated 21 April. [Let Bob know if you want a copy forwarded to you].
* **24 April email from RHSV.** On line workshop – volunteer engagement and retention.
* **[undated] letter from Colin Jetson.** Concerning ANZAC Day.
* **26 April email from Gary [NSW] via ECC.** Seeking information onburial locations ofTimothy Quin, Rachel Wright and James Jordan.
* **26 April email from Carolyn, researcher for SBS program *‘Who do you think you are’:***

**…***looking into the story of the Lette/Stevenson family who owned Curramore at White Hills.  I am particularly interested in the story of Peter and Elizabeth from their arrival in 1817 to Elizabeth’s death as Stevenson in 1864. I am contacting you in the hope that you might some information about this couple and that there might be someone in your society who knows about the early land grants and about Curramore in particular Any assistance that you can offer about this family would be greatly appreciated.* [**Jenny** dealing with this inquiry].

* **28 April email from RHSV.** Gifted display cases available to societies.
* **2 May email from RHSV Newsletter dated 02 May 24.** [Let Bob know if you want a copy forwarded to you].
* **3 May email from Carolyn [SBS].** Thanking for responding.
* **4 May email from Faye Bransgrove to Lyn .** Chasing up whether we hadreceived the photo of 18th 7EFTS Course and details on James Orgill Simpson, born Dandenong, Vic and present in the photo.
* **9 May email Julie Kenny [NZ] to Lyn.** Thanking her for information regarding former names of Evandale.
* **10 May email from Patricia Deering.** NMC has given approval for new grave marker on Antone grave – Pioneer Park. Also requested banking details wishes to make a donation.
* **12 May email from RHSV Newsletter dated 12 May 24.** [Let Bob know if you want a copy forwarded to you].

**Correspondence Outward:**

* **21 April email Lyn to Gail Eacher [NMC].** Concerning photos of Evandale Wardens and Councillors.
* **28 April email Lyn to John Gardiner.** Providing research resultsburial site of Amy & Annie Garden.
* **28 April email Lyn to Gary [NSW**]. Providing research results on burial locations of Timothy Quin, Rachel Wright and James Jordan.
* **30 April email Barry to Nic Childs.** Re information on the Evandale Jubilee Hedge [Morven Park].
* **3 May email Bob to Carolyn [SBS].** Holding response.
* **5 May email Lyn to Faye Bransgrove.** Providing research results on James Orgill Simpson [ex 7EFTS].
* **9 May email Lyn to Julie Kenny [NZ].** Providinginformation on Evandale’s former town names.
* **13 May email Bob to Patricia Deering.** Providing banking details.

**Bob proposed correspondence be noted. Seconded by: Laurie**.  **Carried.**

**Research:**

**Lyn:**

* **Evelyn Vadasz [ECC Librarian and National Trust Volunteer – Clarendon] wished to know when was electricity was connected to Clarendon Estate.** Evelyn has looked through the Clarendon file – it seems there was a phone in 1902 – so possibly electricity at that time. There was discussion on this matter by the members. **Bob** indicated that mains power wasn’t necessarily required for a telephone service. **Barry** pointed out that Evandale only went onto the power grid in 1929. It seems unlikely therefore that Clarendon would have had mains power before Evandale.
* **John Gardner seeking information on burial site of Amy & Annie Garden.** (Twins) born 19 Oct 1895 died 21 Oct 1895 (could they be in an unmarked graves at St Andrews Presbyterian Church?) Research found parents were Douglas & Elizabeth buried at St Andrew Presbyterian Church site S5 in 1900’s No record of Amy & Annie. There are NO unmarked graves at St Andrews.
* **Gary [NSW] seeking information on burial locations of Timothy Quin, Rachel Wright and James Jordan.**  Timothy ‘s death registered at Launceston. Rachel’s death registered in Hobart. James record of 2 buried at Longford. No record in our cemeteries.
* **Faye Bransgrove seeking details on James Orgill Simpson**. Born Dandenong, Vic and present in photo of 7EFTS Course No 18. Part of Lancaster Bomber crew, heading for Hanover, Shot down. P.O.W. Stalag Luft 3, Sagan now Zagan, Poland. Lyn has printed 11 pages of his service file.

**Jenny:**

* **Jenny** has been working with Carolyn, researcher for SBS program *‘Who do you think you are’* looking into the story of the Lette/Stevenson family who owned Curramore at White Hills. There seems to be plenty of material about from a range of sources.

**New and General Business:**

* **Possum skin rug query. The following email was received via the Community Centre:**

*Hello, my name is Geoff and I am a Tasmanian Aboriginal, and local Launceston, historian and I was recently gifted a possum skin rug by a lady from Victoria who had bought it at auction (Leski's in Melbourne) some years ago. Her knowledge of its origins was scant apart from knowing it was originally from Evandale circa 1910. She thought it may have been Tasmanian Aboriginal in origin, but I believe it is colonial and a 'buggy rug'. It shares some similarities with the Tasmanian Tiger/Thylacine 'buggy rug' (circa 1903) that was purchased at auction by the Federal Group in 2003 and then donated to TMAG/QVMAG (*[*http://static.tmag.tas.gov.au/decorativeart/objects/misc/P2002.63/index.html*](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fstatic.tmagtas.gov.au%2Fdecorativeart%2Fobjects%2Fmisc%2FP2002.63%2Findex.html&data=05%7C01%7C%7C16eccb63d47b43bb7a4408db533ee3ba%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638195301914757970%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=npghElAHdd6%2Fp%2FV%2FHgq020xg%2BKKNDaCOerJvzrHag6Q%3D&reserved=0)*). As such I wouldn't be surprised to find out that my buggy rug was from the same place of Pleasant Banks that the Thylacine rug came from.*

*And finding out more about it and where it came from is my challenge and as such I am reaching out to your group and people as someone may know more about it...or know where to dig deeper. And, of course, its financial value would be useful to know...although being possum skin it is unlikely to be anywhere near what the Thylacine rug was purchased for! And I am not wanting to keep the rug as a personal possession but am looking to find an appropriate home for it where it can be preserved, and displayed, as I believe it is an important colonial artefact and probably quite rare.*

*Ok, I look forward to seeing back from you soon and hopefully with some insights into its origins and where you may think it could find a home at.*

*Cheers Geoff*

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**Tony** said he thought he might have details of the auction where the rug possibly from Pleasant Banks was originally sold. He may be able to get hold of the auction catalogue. He will provide details/a copy to Bob who can talk to Geoff. Discussion followed about where the rug should be displayed and it was agreed the Society did not have the expertise to hold and display such a potentially historic item. **Action: Bob to contact Geoff.**

* **New items for the EHS collection. Lyn** has done a clean-up at home and passed the following items to the Society:
* Photos of Farmers Arms - White Hills. Charles Watson brought photos in some time / years ago Lyn has a digital copy on USB.
* Transcribing Tasmanian Convict Records by Susan Hood. Copied in 2010 from Rootsweb. Ancestry
* Photo of No. 7 EFTS Course 47B. Donated by Dunstone family. Cliford Robert Leonard Dunstone Service record has not been digitised as of 21 Apr 2023.
* April 1856 ELECTORAL ROLL. List of Persons entitled to be placed on the Electoral Roll for the return of Members for the House of Assembly for the Electoral District of MORVEN.
* H.M.A.S. Sydney medallion. Belonged to Neil, I do not know why.
* Information from Adrian Jobson research.

**Lyn** also passed on to the Society the following material which had been in Adrian Jobson’s possession.

* Great Australian Secret: Evandale 5 pages, Part of Page 4: During 1820’s the town continued to grow. It went through several name changes, including being called Collins Hill, New River and Morven. In 1829 it was EVANSDALE in honour of George William Evans, a surveyor. In 1836 the name was changed again, to Evandale.
* Examiner 1936 Information about the old Municipality which included Evandale, Nile, Deddington, Blessington, Breadalbane, Powranna, English Town and Relbia. Evandale was proclaimed a municipality in Oct 1865. The article lists the names of the first Council Members & Council Clerk
* Map of Evandale, date 12 Feb 2007, Existing Zoning & Layout for development of Cambock Lane as Approved. Urban Growth Boundary & Reserved Residential areas.
* Perth Tasmania, Information about the village and crossing of South Esk River by Punt, also photocopies of the Village, South Esk River and a property nearby.
* **Inclusion of Perth Tasmania historical records and Items by EHS. Lyn** has suggested we consider including Perth, Tasmania as part of our area of research and begin including Perth research material in our files. The matter was discussed and it was decided we should hold any Perth related material that came into the Society’s possession until we come up with a firm policy on whether to formally include Perth in our historical area of interest.
* **Banking arrangements and Cheque account. Laurie** mentioned that several banks had now stop issuing cheque books and that many individuals disliked receiving funds via cheque, preferring EFT. **Action: Laurie to propose a method of payment and banking that is more efficient and convenient than the current arrangement. Laurie may wish to consult Lyn who has some useful ideas on this subject**.
* **HMAS Sydney material in Murray Room.** There was discussion about whether there is any Evandale connection with HMAS Sydney. This seems not to be the case. After the meeting **Lyn, Jenny, Bob and Barry** agreed that we could remove the HMAS Sydney display in front of the fireplace in the Murray Room and replace it with photos and material related to Evandale.
* **General items of interest. Stephanie D** brought along and discussed a number of newspaper clippings and other material relating to the following matters:
* **The Grave of John Beaumont.** Beamont died 1872, was the son in law of Sir George Evans and is attributed with the discovery of the Great Lakes.
* **Death of Lyn Rigby.** Lyn Rigby resident of Breadalbane had life-long connections with Evandale especially with Evandale Football Club.
* **Book on history of Tasmanian Tiger.**
* **Curramore/Lette family.** General information.
* **Thomas Tuck – Nile Inn. Steve** mentioned he was writing some fiction but using material concerning Thomas Tuck, one-time inn-keeper at Nile. **Steve** was encouraged to make available to the Society any historical material he came across as a result of his research.
* **Museum – display case lighting fault. Barry** said he had brought a replacement globe for the light in the one of the display cases which is not working – however when fitted the light is still not working.

**NOTE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW PAYABLE $10 or $15 FAMILY.**

**Next meeting Thurs 15 June at 10:30. The meeting will be followed by lunch at the POW Hotel [subject to confirmation of avialbility].** The lunch will be ala carte with members to pay their way.

* Meeting closed at: 12:45 pm.