**EVANDALE HISTORY SOCIETY INC**

**MINUTES - MONTHLY MEETING – 16 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Attendees:** Barry Lawson(President), Bob Strachan (Secretary/Vice President), Laurie Wotherspoon (Treasurer), Stephanie Dean, Lyn Louis, Tony McCormack, Bruce Argent-Smith, Julie Kenny and Steve Plowright.

**Apologies:** Jenny Carter, John Lewis, Sally Wilkinson, Judy Heazlewood, Maria Lawson, Lois Wotherspoon, Ally Argent-Smith, Jan Foote, Paul Kenny, Charlie Watson, Kim Polley, Cameron Richards, Tennille Cox’ Williams, Stephanie Kensitt, Susan Hodson, Susan Bedford and Belinda Hebbink.

**Minutes of the previous meeting held 19 October 2023:**

**Bob proposed** that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Seconded by: Tony. Carried.**

**Business arising from the previous meeting:**

* **EPS History Project/Murray Family information board – Pioneer Park.** Laurie advised no further feedback from the school. He has made a submission for a $2000 community grant from Cement Industries for the project. Nothing received back yet. Unless EPS advises us of its intention to continue with the joint project the EHS will undertake the project alone. It was agreed no action to be taken before the next meeting in February 2024. **Action: to be discussed at February meeting.**
* **Converting non-digital video images to digital format**. Barry has been away and is yet to commence the project. **Action: Barry to keep the Society updated on the progress of this project.**
* **Historic Trees.** Barry has commenced re-photographing trees of interest now they are back in leaf. He has asked the NMC about progress on its proposal to establish a heritage tree register. Nothing heard back yet. There was discussion about including trees of significance in the surrounding rural areas. Tony offered to approach land holders at the appropriate juncture. **Action: Barry to provide updates on this project as required.**
* **Hart Family file**. Charlie has advised Bob that he has tried to call Michael but without success, Tony said he will continue to engage with Michael concerning return of the borrowed material. **Note this agenda item will remain open until the material is returned.**
* **HMAS Sydney material in Murray VC Room**. Bruce has volunteered to develop a suitable [military themed] display to replace the HMAS Sydney photo in front of the fireplace in the Harry Murray VC Room. **Action: Bruce to update on progress as required.**
* **Display case – Evandale Memorial Hall.** Bret Goldsworthy (Hall Manager) spoke to Bob and Barry about putting forward a submission to obtain finds to refurbish or replace the glass front display cabinet in the foyer of the hall. Barry stated he has asked Bret to obtain a quote for the work – once that has been done, we can try and identify a suitable grant and make an application for funds. Bob said he had followed-up with Bret who had not yet got around to getting a quote. **Action: Bob to follow-up with Bret in the new year.**
* **Removing the above-ground power in the village.** It was agreed the Society needs to develop a strategy if this project is going to advance. This might include engaging with State politicians and/or a petition. Bob mentioned a possible meeting with Rebecca White (State Opposition Leader) in December when she next visits Evandale. It was agreed we need a strategy (preferably before the meeting with Rebecca). **Action: Steve, assisted by Barry agreed to develop a suitable strategy.**
* **Dehumidifier in museum.** The newdehumidifier unit is now working (it just needed the correct humidity settings). There was discussion that some of the Community Centre volunteers have complained that it is difficult to empty the water tray. There was also feedback that some of the Community Centre volunteers could not read the humidity gauges in the cabinets. It was decided we could probably dispense with daily readings of the gauges. **Action: Geoff to be advised the gauges don’t have to be read every day if this causes a problem.**
* **Book launch** Tony’s book launch *Reaching out from Willowdene  An Evandale Boy Kicks Goals -  Memoirs and Stories of My mentors*  will be held at the Launceston Golf Club 4:30 to 6:30 17 November 2023. Tony mentioned that when he visited Braeburn recently all the buildings and old fences (which were shown in the photograph of Braeburn in his new book) have been removed. Barry and Bob will represent the Society at the launch.
* **Updated Membership List.** Any member who does *not* want their details included on the list please let Bob know by COB Mon 20 November 2023. **Action:** **Bob to circulate the updated list to members next week.**
* **Christmas Lunch.** Combined Community Centre/EHS lunch will be held at the Community Centre on 12 December at 1230. Cost is $20 per head. It will be catered for by No 10. If you wish to attend, please add your name to the list in the Centre.The EHS Xmas lunch will be held at No 10 Russell Street on Thurs 14 December 2023 commencing at midday. It will be BYOG. It was agreed the Society will offset the cost by $10 per attendee (making the cost per member/guest $25 plus drinks. **Action: If you haven’t already let Bob know whether you are attending please do so ASAP.**
* **Deddington School admission records.** Lyn advised the Deddington School admission records have now been scanned and are ready to be returned. Charlie has advised Bob he will pick up the records shortly and return to the owner. **Action: Charlie to collect and return.**
* **Holding of books by the Society.** Lynadvised we have 508 books and pamphlets in our collection. She will print a list which will be noted with what books may be borrowed by members and what books must remain in the research room**.** Barry took the opportunity to impress on the members the need to sign-out any material borrowed from the research room**. Action: Lyn to produce a list of books to be notated with borrowing status.**
* **Diorama sound now working.** Laurie reported he has replaced an electrical switch and thediorama sound is now working. **NFA.**
* **Keys to research room.** Bob advised three new keys have been cut for the research room door. Keys to research room now held by Lyn, Jenny, Barry, Laurie and Anna. A spare set is locked inside the treasurer’s office (Geoff has the key to this office).Barry proposed we also get a key press with combination lock with a spare key. This was agreed. **Action: Barry to source a combination lock key press.**
* **Painting of Cambock.** Laurie said he thought John Cheek might hold an original painting of Cambock. **Action: Laurie to talk to John about whether he does hold the painting and if so, whether he would be prepared to donate it to the Society**.
* **Barclay papers and Cambock cannon**. **Laurie** said Gary (28 High Street) is likely to put the house on the market soon. Gary purchased one of the Cambock cannons last year and mentioned the seller had some papers relating to Captain Barclay. It was agreed the Society should contact Gary to see whether he is interested in selling the cannon and also get the details of the holder of the papers – so an approach can be made to have copies made. Barry advised he has tried to contact Garry but without success. **Action Barry to speak to Gary.**

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

**Correspondence Inward:**

* **20 October 2023. Email from Belinda Hebbink (member)**. Coming to EHS room on Thursday 26 October to meet with Lyn for information on Blacker, Clark, Dowling, Gibson, Knight and Murray families.
* **20 and 27 October 2023. E-newsletter from RHSV *‘Old News- What’s On’*.** If you want a copy speak to Bob.
* **22 October 2023 and 26 October. Emails Ralph Clark (Secretary Bundanoon (NSW) History Society).** Bundanoon History Society is visiting Evandale 27 October 2023 and is seeking a local guide for bus tour through the village.
* **23 October 2023.** **Email from Jon Warner**. Thanking Lyn for research into Warner family.
* **26 October 2023. Email from Ann Lawry.** Seeking photograph of Clairville.
* **3 November 2023.** **Email from Rosemary Cameron RHSV.** Relating to Victorian affiliated history societies – not relevant to EHS.
* **3, 5, 6, 9 and 13 November 2023. Emails from Peter Simons.** Visiting Evandale early November and seeking information on his wife’s descendants (Whittle, Sutherland, Lett/Lette and Trethewie) including location of various local properties connected to the families.
* **12 November 2023. Email from Ian Hird and Kathleen Rutherford (East Melbourne).** Visiting Evandale on 06 December and would like to see what records we have on **George Robotham**(1809–81) and his wife **Ann Harris**(1816–68), their son John and John Powell and his wife **Mary Ann Powell (née Baker)**.

**Correspondence Outward:**

* **23 and 25 October 2023. Emails from Lyn to Jon Warner.** Regarding Warner family history. Warners were shop-keepers in Russell Street.
* **24, 25 and 26 October 2023. Emails from Bob to Ralph Clark.** Regarding visit to Evandale of Bundanoon History Society.
* **30 October (x2). Emails from Lyn to Sue Lawry.** Regarding photo of Clairville.
* **5 November (x3), 6 November (x3), 9 November and 12 November 2023. Emails from Lyn to Peter Simons.** Regarding family history research.
* **13 November 2023.** **Email from Lyn to Ian Hird.** Regarding visit to Evandale.
* **16 November 2023.** **Email Bob to Cr Terret raising concerns about proposal to remove the hedge corner of Arthur and Macquarie Street.**

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

**Research:**

**Lyn:**

* **For Belinda Hebbink:** Blacker, Clark, Dowling, Gibson, Knight and Murray families.
* **For John Warner:** Warner family shopkeepers owned Brown’s Store, Russell Street circa 1880.
* **For Peter Simons:** Whittle, Sutherland, Lett/Lette and Trethewie families also various properties in the White Hills area (*Rocklands*, *Mona Vale* and *Watery Plains*) and *Lilyburn* near Deddington.
* **For Sue Lawry:** photograph of Clairville.

**Jenny:**

* NTR.

**New and General Business:**

* **Arthur Street hedge removal.** The Council is discussing the issue of the removal of the Arthur Street hedge at next Council Meeting. Bob has written to Cr Paul Terret advising that the Society is not in favour of the hedge being removed.

**Bob moved we write to Council before the Council meeting. Seconded Bruce. Carried. Action Barry to write to NMC stating the Society’s opposition to the removal of the hedge.**

* **Franklin Coaches tours of surrounding properties.** Tony advised Franklin Coaches has asked him to be a tour guide for bus tours around the district’s rural properties. These tours are planned to commence in 2024. **NFA**
* **The Russell Album.** Steve asked whether any research had been done on identifying and describing the photographs in the Russell Album. No member present was aware of this being done. Steve indicated he would be interested in taking this task on as a project. **Action: Steve to scope-out the project and report back to the Society.**
* **Newspaper clippings on Andora and Woodlands for sale.** Stephanie circulated some newspaper cuttings concerning Andora and the proposed sale of Woodlands both on Nile Road. **NFA**

Meeting closed at: 12:00.

**Xmas Function 12:00: Thursday 14 December at No 10 Russell Street.**

**Next meeting Thurs 15 February 2024 at 10:30 am.**