**EVANDALE HISTORY SOCIETY INC**

**MINUTES - MONTHLY MEETING – 19 OCTOBER 2023**

**Attendees:** Bob Strachan (Secretary/Vice President), Laurie Wotherspoon (Treasurer), Stephanie Dean, Lyn Louis, Jenny Carter, Sally Wilkinson, Bruce Argent-Smith, John Lewis, Julie Kenny, Steve Plowright and Andrea Sindorff (visitor).

**Apologies:** Barry Lawson(President), Maria Lawson, Lois Wotherspoon, Judy Heazlewood, Ally Argent-Smith, Tony McCormack, Jan Foote, Kim Polley, Chris and Heather Leggett, Paul Kenny, Charlie Watson, Cameron Richards, Tennille Cox’ Williams, Stephanie Kensitt, Susan Hodson, Susan Bedford and Belinda Hebbink.

**Minutes of the previous meeting held 21 September 2023:**

**Bob proposed** that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Seconded by: Laurie 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 is preparing a submission for a $2000 community grant from Cement Industries for the project. He will bring a copy to application to the next meeting. He will contact the School to confirm it is still interested in being involved in the Project. **Action: Laurie to contact the School and update on progress.**
* **Converting non-digital video images to digital format**. Barry is currently absent from Evandale. No progress on this project during the previous month. **Action: Barry to keep the Society updated on progress.**
* **Historic Trees.** Barry is currently absent from Evandale. **Action: Barry to provide updates as required.**
* **1929 Flood Marker.** Laurie has fixed the sign to the timber paling fence near the corner of Leighlands Road and Evandale Road.The property owner has removed the sign and written to the Society asking that the sign not be put back on the fence. Bob has written to her and asked if we could have the sign back – no response has been received as yet. It was agreed we should take no further action on the sign until after the property changes hands. **Action: This item will be removed from the agenda.**
* **Hart Family file**. Tony and Charlie will approach Michael concerning return of the borrowed material. No update as Tony and Charlie absent. **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.Sally asked that Bruce check whether water has been coming down the chimney as the humidity in the room is unusually high.Bruce has been away and not yet been able to start the project. **Action: Bruce to update 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 Brett 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. **Action: Bob to follow-up with Bret.**
* **Removing the above-ground power in the village.** The matter was discussed at the Council meeting on 24 August. Council decided to take no action at present but to examine grant opportunities and to write to State MPs to gain support for underground power for Russell, Street between High Street and Macquarie Street. Tas Networks has advised the Council this work would cost around $1M which did not include removal of existing poles or connections to residence. The matter has been picked up by the local press with articles in the Examiner on 1st and 9th October. Bob was interviewed on ABC Radio on 10th October. 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. **Action: to be discussed further once Barry is back.**
* **Dehumidifier returned for repair.** Sally advised the dehumidifier has stopped working. It is still under warranty. Sally has returned the unit to Breville for repair/replacement.Sally advised Breville has said the unit cannot be repaired but they will provide a replacement. **Action: Sally to update on progress.**
* **Book launch.** Bob reminded all of Tony’s book launch *Reaching Out From Willowdene  An Evandale Boy Kicks Goals -  Memoirs and Stories of My mentors.* The book launch will be held at the Launceston Golf Club 4:30 to 6:30 17 November 2023. All EHS members are invited – RSVP to Tony. His book will be on sale at the event for $15 (half RRP).

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

**Correspondence Inward:**

* **22 September 2023. E-newsletter from RHSV *‘Old News- What’s On’*.** If you want a copy speak to Bob.
* **26 September 2023.** **Email from Jacqueline Swan – Evandale** advising flood sign has gone missing and expressing interest in joining the Society.
* **26 September 2023. Email from Sally Ryan – Evandale Road** advising she had removed flood marker from her fence and asking that it not be put back.
* **2 October 2023. Email from Charmaine Manual – *The Examiner*** seeking an interview concerning the underground power issue.
* **6 October 2023. Emailed letter from NMC** concerning underground power and Council resolution.
* **7 October 2023. E-newsletter from RHSV *‘Old News- What’s On’*.** If you want a copy speak to Bob.
* **8 and 15 October 2023. Emails from Ann Haylock** thanking Lyn for research work.
* **8 October 2023. Email from Jon Warner** seeking information on Warner family who had a shop in Russell Street circa 1890. Jon is visiting Evandale next year.
* **10 October 2023.** **Email from RHSV** concerning upcoming grants (none applicable to EHS).
* **11 October 2023.** **Email from Don Garden – Tasmanian History Societies Group** concerning up-coming auction of art, collectables, etc by Royal Society of Tasmania – Sandy Bay 5 November 2023. If you want details, including catalogue speak to Bob.
* **13 October 2023. E-newsletter from RHSV *‘Old News- What’s On’*.** If you want a copy speak to Bob.
* **Thank you card from Jason Ross (UNE)** for research assistance provided by Lyn regarding Harry Murray VC.
* **Family History Book** *The trials of Isa HM Convict 16761* by Ian Billing sent by Anne Haylock as a gift to the Society**.**

**Correspondence Outward:**

* **1 October 2023. Email from Bob to Sally Ryan** regarding flood marker.
* **1 October 2023. Email Bob to Jacqueline Swan** regarding flood marker and membership of the Society.
* **2 October 2023. Email Bob to Charmaine Manuel** regarding interview with the *Examiner*.
* **15 October 2023. Email Lyn to Anne Haylock** regrading research.
* **15 October 2023. Email Lyn to Jon Warner** regarding research.

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

**Research:**

**Lyn:**

* **For Jon Warner** – Warner family shopkeepers Evandale circa 1890. Lyn said she thinks Jon has the wrong Warner family and his Warners were from Hobart and probably have no Evandale connection .

**Jenny:**

* Jenny had some feedback from **Sarah Hunt** who she had done some research for. Sarah had visited Evandale and the site of Cambock where here ancestor had worked.

**New and General Business:**

* **Updated Membership List.** The list is currently being circulated to check that the details are correct and that members are happy to have their details included.
* **Christmas Lunch. John** Lewis advised the 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 No10. If you wish to attend, please add your name to the list in the Centre.There was agreement from the meeting for a separate lunch also for the members of the EHS. No 10 was suggestedas a venue.Anytime from late November to around mid-December was suggested. **Action: Bob to check dates and a menu from No 10 and advise.**
* **Kettle, Byrne, Hardman and Yates family histories.**  Andrea Sindorff, visiting from Launceston spoke about her family history research and the linkages of a number of her descendants to Evandale, especially convicts Robert Kettle and Anne Byrn. Robert Kettle worked for Andrew Barclay and was convicted of stealing from him resulting in an additional 14 years added to his sentence. He acquired some land on the Nile Road. Anne seems to have disappeared from the records without trace. Andrea also mentioned the Hardman and Yates families. **Action: Andrea will discuss her research with Lyn with a view to exchanging research information.**
* **Deddington School admission records. Lyn** advised the admission records have now been scanned and are ready to be returned. **Action: Charlie could you please collect and return.**
* **Donation of Book by Anne Haylock. Lyn** spoke about the book*The trials of Isa HM Convict 16761* by Ian Billing sent by Anne Haylock as a gift to the Society**.** The bookcontains details of the Billings family who had a blacksmith shop and land at White Hills. **Bob** asked whether we have a list of books that the Society has in its library that members might wish to borrow. **Lyn** said it might be possible to print one from the Mosaic catalogue. **Action Lyn to investigate and report back.**
* **Diorama sound not working. John** said the sound on the diorama in the Community Centre Museum is not working. **Laurie** said he was aware of the problem if so and had identified someone who may be able to fix it (Laurie thought the activation button might not be functioning properly). **Action: Laurie to arrange to have someone look at the problem.**
* **26 Russell Street – removal of veranda.**  **Jenny** mentioned there was construction work at 26 Russell Street and the veranda had been removed. She noted the house had no veranda when it was sketched by John Richarson Glover. It was noted no development application seems to have been submitted.
* **Missing records.** **Stephanie** talked about historical records that have gone missing from a range of organisations including our own records. **Bob** reiterated the policy that visitors were only allowed to be in the records room with a member and that they were to be closely supervised. He also mentioned the problem of records being removed was one of the reasons we are digitalising our collection.
* **Clarendon House architect. Stephanie** mentioned she had recently visited Clarendon House and Patterdale on the trip organised by the NMC. She discussed that at one time the architect of Clarendon House had not been identified, however recent research suggests it was James Blackburn (convict forger). Blackburn had designed a number of significant churches and public buildings in the colony.
* **Tasmanian Community Fund – Workshop 6 November. Laurie** mentioned the Tasmanian Community Fund are having a workshop at the East Launceston Bowls Club on 6 November between 11 am and 1 pm on writing grant applications. Cheryl Walker will be speaking. **Anyone interested in attending please let Bob know**.
* **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. **Action Bob to speak to Gary.**
* **Next meeting Thurs 16 November at 10:30 am.**

Meeting closed at: 12:15am.