



Leongatha & District HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mechanics' Institute, McCartin St., Leongatha

Newsletter Volume 11 Number 4 November 2014

Preserving Our Heritage

President: Robert Sage

Secretary: Lyn Skillern Tel 56686304

Tel: Society number: 56622492. The Society rooms are open Thursdays and Fridays between 12 noon and 4pm

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Latest news

New email address. Recently the Society's email account was hacked and a distressing message was sent to all our contacts. As a result we have a new email address leongathahistory@gmail.com. If any of our members and contacts wishes to re register their email address please contact Lyn on this email.

Our annual end of year celebration lunch will be held at *Hollyside* the home of Pat and Jim Spinks on November 29th at 12 noon. Please contact Pat to let her know if you are coming and what you are going to bring to share as part of our lunch. 56686365.

Grants. We have received two grants in recent months. The PROV grant is for placing information plaques on historic buildings in Leongatha and a Federal Government grant to enable us to have 50 World War 1 photographs nicely printed and mounted. We are still seeking photographs of local men and women who served in World War 1

Australia Day Monday January 26th 2015. The rooms will be open from 12 noon. Our exhibition is on World War 1

The Society's 50th Anniversary celebration

On October 12th the Society held a very successful luncheon to celebrate our 50th anniversary. Those who attended enjoyed a very pleasant meal, interesting chat and some entertaining presentations. The Mayor Jim Fawcett and Mrs Joan Fawcett attended, as did some of our life members and relatives of past President Don Clarke and noted historian Daisy Bacon.

President Robert Sage welcomed all present and introduced John Murphy to speak about the history of the Society. He spoke at first about working in the Post Office and then some interesting stories about the early days of the group. These included details of when we had no home and how we eventually moved into the Mechanics' Institute. He mentioned the removal of the stain glass windows from the front of the Mechanics' Institute and how the Society eventually raised the funds to have these beautiful windows replaced. Wal Cayzer gave John a well-deserved vote of thanks. It was wonderful to have our founding President still with us 50 years on.

Margaret Stokes, herself a life member, presented a Life Membership to current secretary Lyn Skillern. Lyn has been a member since 1981 and served as secretary on two occasions. She was very thrilled, surprised and of course honoured by the award.

Thank you to all who provided food for the luncheon it was delicious



Presidents of the Society at the celebration. John Murphy (founding President), Lola Bailey, Jennifer Hamilton, Robert Sage (current President) John Hyett, Geoff Michael and Ian Lester. The two other past presidents, Don Williams and Don Clarke have passed away.



Margaret Stokes and Lyn Skillern after the presentation of the Life Membership to Lyn



Some of those present enjoying the celebration

New items from World War II

Don Kent and his wife recently came to Leongatha to donate 2 original certificates presented to Don's brother John Kent by the Shire of Woorayl on August 9th 1946. The Woorayl Shire gave certificates to the men from the Shire who served in WWII.

John was born in Poowong in 1926 and was in Meeniyah at the time of his enlistment in 1944.

The photographs below were taken by Laura from *The Great Southern Star*

The Kents with the certificates



Lola Bailey and Don Kent

Do you know who they are?



These three young men are believed to be from Leongatha and District but we do not know who they are. Can anyone help?

Saturday November 1st was the 100th anniversary of the departure of the first Anzac convoy from Albany. On the transports were some young men from Leongatha and district.

They were Tom Alexander, Horace Bair, William Cook, John Carl Due, Leo and Llew Gwyther, Ernest Muhleison, Allan Robertson, Leslie Rump and William Williams. Alan Roberson was later killed in action in April 1918. Also on board the HMTS Benella was former Leongatha High School woodwork teacher Bill Colvin who enlisted in his hometown of Rutherglen. He survived Gallipoli but sadly lost his life at Pozieres in August 1916.

We have started having the photographs of those men killed in World War I printed and framed and some will be ready for Australia Day.

The Streetscape project

Ian Lester has taken wonderful photographs of the shops and business in the town centre of Leongatha and the plan now is to find photographs from the past of the same sites. We will be writing the story of each site based on information obtained from those with good memories of the town. Can you help? It would be great if our members and friends can let us copy photographs of the shops and businesses they used to run. We will be placing Ian's photographs on Facebook and hope to gain more information from this source.



Dales Newsagency McCartin St, circa early 1940s. Photos from Jan Bruce via Facebook. Thank you Jan.

We need new members

The Society needs new members to help with all our activities. We need our members to ask others to join. We need local people to come to functions, take photos, scan slides, and to join working groups. The workers are getting a bit tired.

Facebook If you have a chance to see our Facebook page please do so. Why not ask a young member of your family to show you. The Leongatha Historical Society is accessible to anyone on Facebook.

Opening Dates for January. The rooms will close on Friday December 19th and open again January 15th.

Membership for 2014-15 is now due

Leongatha and District Historical Society
P O Box 431
Leongatha 3953

Name.....

Address

Telephone number.....

Email address

I do not wish to have my contact details passed on to any other group

Family \$35

Single \$25

Newsletter only

Your donation is be most appreciated