

President: Dorothy Warwick
Treasurer: John McKenna
Secretary: Helen Olde



Minutes of Public Meeting Held on Sunday 10 October 2010 Venue: Linnwood, Byron Road, Guildford

Welcome & Apologies

The meeting opened at 2.10pm. John McKenna welcomed everyone in attendance, and advised that unfortunately our Guest Speaker, Margaret Elder, could not attend due to ill-health.

In Attendance at today's meeting, as per the Attendee Sheet:

Helen Olde, Stan Thomas, Jan Thomas, Lawrie Thomas, Dorothy Thomas, Olive Wicks, June de Zoete, Adriana de Haas, Vanessa McNeill, John Walz, Judith Moller, Angela Caire, John McKenna, Dorothy Warwick.

Apologies:

Irie Olde, Raema Walker, Christine McKenna, Audrey Murphy, Julie Walz, Coral Hamilton, Pat O'Brien, Beth & Russ Werner.

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 8 August 2010

Moved by John Walz, seconded by Angela Caire, that the minutes of the Public Meeting held on Sunday 8 August 2010 were a true and correct record. Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

Helen Olde tabled the folder of correspondence and passed it around to the attendees for their information, drawing attention to the photocopy of the beautiful lace work of Linnwood made by one of our members, Alice Vokac who is also a member of the Australian Lace Guild.

President's Report

Good afternoon and welcome to Linnwood once again. As you might have noticed on your way in, things are happening at last!!!

It's been a hive of activity here the past 2 weeks and there's more to come! As reported in August there had been a hold up with the work starting with the new Scope of Works being tendered out by the Heritage Office. Unfortunately, we were told that no-one actually tendered for the work to be done so the Heritage Office then decided to ask the company who had done all the work on securing McCredie Cottage and refurbishing Faulds House, to quote on the work. We were actually quite happy with this as we had seen their work and knew that they would get in and do the job. Again, it took time to actually get started, but they really have done a lot in the time they have been here. The verandah ceilings have been cleaned and painted, except above the front portico. As it is original fabric, and of High Significance, extra care will be taken to clean and paint that area.

Repairs to the loose and missing tiles and loose marble edging is to start soon, together with repairs to the plinth at the base of the front steps. The marble steps have been cleaned, and the ones on the southern side now look white instead of black! The front room has had the ceiling repaired and the painting is just about finished, and the new carpet has been selected. The dining and billiard rooms have been prepared for painting and should be completed this week, and new floor covering has been selected for the old kitchen. As with anything to do with old buildings, there has been some hiccups with some of the work – once you start, you always find that there is more to do than at first thought, so some of the repair work has been more extensive than originally quoted on. BUT, I'm sure you will agree, it will be worth it in the end – those 3 large rooms are going to look SO good when they are finished. Now that the work has started, it's going to be very frustrating not to be able to keep going!

After commissioning the new scope of works, outlining ALL the work that needs to be done, the Heritage Office decided that they would ONLY pay to have some repairs to the roof done – just under \$9,000 worth. This is disappointing, as we were under the impression that there were going to be lots of repairs undertaken, but they have obviously decided not to go ahead with the rest of the work identified as needing to be done.

There has been no further developments regarding the Memorandum of Understanding and we wonder if this is because of the 'Big Announcement' that will be made towards the end of the year, that both the former Mayor and Mr Tripodi have alluded to, regarding Linnwood's future. This is most frustrating as we don't know where we stand and won't know whether to proceed with planning for next year. Whatever happens, we are still planning our celebrations for Linnwood's 120th Birthday next year. Again, we have been hampered by red tape in our plans to rebuild the Children's Rose Garden. With thanks to Holroyd Council, who have stepped in to help with the preparation of plans that the Heritage Office require, we do hope to start building the garden beds in the near future – depending on how long it takes to get approval. We also thank Clr Greg Cummings and his contacts in the ironworks industry, as we have now commissioned to have some replacement goat's heads made for the fountain pedestal. There are 4 missing and we are looking at having these made with a few spares as well – just in case. The cost for this is around the \$2,000 mark – with most of the expense being in the making of the cast.

With all the expenses being incurred, the committee has decided that some serious fundraising may be in order for next year and as a result, some of our prices may have to increase slightly. The cost of door entry and refreshments on open days may go up, and the cost for any tours will also increase. All tour groups we have had through this year have told us that we don't charge enough – so now, we will!

The September Open House was quite successful with over 200 people through, so we hope that November's will be a good turn-out as well. The last function of the year will be our Christmas Luncheon in December, so please see Helen if you would like to start booking your seats. The price will be \$15 per person.

Our 'show & tell' is a bit further down the list this month:

- In the minutes of the last meeting it was mentioned that we had received a volunteer's grant to buy some equipment – one item being a projector screen. After reading the minutes, our good friend Helen Cooper arrived on my front verandah with a screen, that has hardly ever been used – still in its original box – and we're using it today!
- Betty Williams donated many plants to our garden ladies for the last open day, and also donated these cast iron fry pans and pot – and they're really heavy! Adriana found this dainty little trinket box to add to our collection.
- Greg Brace, our guest speaker earlier in the year, has donated this plated taper holder with a cut glass base section.
- Doris Kelvington, a local resident who donated quite a few items a year or two ago when she moved into aged care, has donated this beautiful timber high chair which is over 100 years old and has been used until recently by her great-nephews. Doris specifically wanted the chair to come to Linnwood, so the family brought it up from Canberra last week.
- Today, Dorothy Lawrence has donated this lovely book on the building of the Sydney Opera House.

To all those who have donated items, we sincerely thank you.

We would now like to ask if any of our members would consider taking on some volunteering roles. We always need more help on open days and also on days when we have tours come through – both in helping with the morning or afternoon teas –including the washing up, but also in helping with the actual tours. Our committee members have been involved with these over the years, but with some of them working and at times, others having prior commitments, we are in need of people to help on the day. Also, our cataloguing of donated items has fallen behind this year and we would really appreciate some help in getting this up to date. This may not get off the ground until the New Year, but if anyone is interested in this or either of the other activities, please see me after the meeting.

To finish with, I just have a couple of community announcements to make – the first being that St Patrick's Primary School is celebrating its Centenary later this month and is looking for old school photos or memorabilia that can be copied or scanned for the records and display. The school began as St Joseph's Primary School and the name was later changed to St Patrick's. So if you have any old photos, please contact the Principal, Jenny Webb. There will also be a dinner dance held on Saturday 30 October in the new school hall if it is finished in time (they do have an alternative venue, if it isn't).

Next, you may have recently heard the announcement from the State Government about a proposal to create a Wet'n'Wild theme park on a site at Prospect. At a meeting of Historical and Family History Societies Pat and I attended yesterday, the Prospect Heritage Trust asked if we could support their campaign to have the location moved from the proposed site near the Prospect Reservoir entrance, to more suitable land within the adjacent Western Sydney Parklands, which has been set aside for recreational facilities. If the development goes ahead

on the site proposed by the Government, it will involve the destruction of one of the last pieces of truly rural land in the area, and also the last stretch of the oldest road in Australia - the original road over the Blue Mountains - both items having great national heritage significance. I have some information sheets here if anyone is interested, with contact details of politicians and papers to send letters or emails to. We are hoping that 'people power' might influence the powers-that-be to rethink what they are doing to our heritage items.

Well, I think that's it for now. Hopefully by the November Open Day you will see a BIG difference to the house when you enter. It is really quite exciting to see all this work finally being done. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

John McKenna presented the Treasurer's Report for the months of August and September 2010, summarised below:

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
Income	\$1,742.00	\$1,918.70
Expenditure	\$ 222.55	\$ 988.53

Total Assets at end September (including \$50,000 Capital Works grant money and \$5,000 grant money from Holroyd Council for the 120th anniversary event in 2011) are \$90,274.71. Of this, over \$30,000 is our own money.

General Business

Vanessa McNeill asked about the date of the 120th anniversary event next year and if it would be a special Open House. Dorothy Warwick advised that the date is Saturday 22 October 2011, and guests would be by invitation only. Invitations will be sent to all Members of the Friends of Linnwood, ex Linnwood girls and former Faulds House and McCredie Cottage children, members of the McCredie family, Holroyd Mayor and Councillors, local Federal and State parliament members, relevant State Government department representatives, CLAN and DOCS, and probably a few others! We envisage the November 2011 Open House will be a continuation of the celebrations.

At this stage our planning efforts are concentrated on re-establishing the rose garden around the fountain, and repairs to the fountain. Further details will be advised at each Public Meeting next year.

Guest Speaker

As advised, our Guest Speaker was not able to join us, so Dorothy has produced a PowerPoint presentation showing some wonderful old postcards and some old photos she has collected, as part of her involvement with Holroyd Local History Research. She is now an avid member of the Post Card Collectors Society and is a self-confessed "post card tragic". She buys them at Post Card Collectors fairs, via E-bay, or through a couple of international organisations similar to E-bay (but at much cheaper prices, including postage, than those purchased in Australia). Some of her post cards are blank on the back, but she does prefer the ones that were sent to family and friends as these usually include the date they were written.

Post cards and photos shown were from the late 1890's to 1950's, and included old Sydney, Parramatta, Guildford, Granville, other nearby suburbs, both World Wars, Newcastle Collieries and Trains, early 1900's birthday and New Year cards, and some very cute little children, beautifully dressed, with amusing captions. There were also postcards of two English actresses (who we've never heard of) and Pat and Dorothy were able to research who they were - Miss Zena Dare and Miss Phyllis Dare - popular English stage actresses of the early 1900's who were sisters, both changing their family name of Dones to their stage name of Dare.

One postcard (dated 21 April 1909) was of St John's Church in Parramatta, sent from a sailor from "HMS Pioneer" to a young lady, Miss Ellisman, organising a double-date with a friend of his and a friend of hers. Another was of the submarine "HMAS Rankin SSG 78" which was named after Lt Commander Robert Rankin (a Merrylands boy) who was in command of "HMAS Yarra". On 4 March 1942, while protecting a convoy of ships they came under attack from enemy ships. He told the convoy ships to scatter and then put the Yarra between the attacking ships and the convoy. He was killed while on the bridge after ordering the crew to abandon ship. The Yarra was sunk with only a few survivors. There is a group of people and a website dedicated to trying to have Robert Rankin posthumously awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions. Pat and Dorothy are publishing a book later this year on the Men of the Merrylands Memorial (the WWII Memorial outside the Council Chambers) and have researched all those servicemen named on the memorial.

Dorothy has already been asked by two local Historical Societies to give this presentation at their upcoming meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 13 February 2011 – guest speaker to be advised.

Raffle

The raffle was drawn by Dorothy Warwick and won by Dorothy Thomas.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Confirmed:

_____ Date: _____

Membership Renewals

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2010/11, unfortunately these will be the last minutes you will receive. Please call Helen Olde (9807 3224) or email helen_o@bigpond.net.au if you need to check your membership status.

Perpetual Members, Honorary Members and those who are Paid up in Advance, do not need to renew.

Members' Christmas Luncheon

**Sunday 12 December 2010
12.30pm for 1.00pm**

It's coming up to that time of year (again!). We're now taking bookings, so please phone Helen (9807 3224), or Dorothy (9632 9203) to set aside a place for you (or let us know at the November Open House).

Our sumptuous chicken, salads and desserts will be served.

Cost this year: \$15 per person