

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



Minutes of Public Meeting Held on Sunday 10 April 2011 Venue: Linnwood, Byron Road, Guildford

Welcome & Apologies

The meeting opened at 2.10pm, with John McKenna welcoming all in attendance. A special welcome was given to our guest speaker, Desmond Patrick Milligan.

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

Pam Richardson, Judith Moller, Hazel Keepence, Olive Wicks, Stan & Jan Thomas, Coral Hamilton, Adriana de Haas, Audrey Murphy, Pamela Zopf, Michael Griggs, Margaret 'McKay' Warn, Sue Evans, Del Donohoe, Kaye Weaver, D P Milligan, Helen Olde, John McKenna, Dorothy Warwick

Apologies:

Angela Caire, Pat O'Brien, Noelene Brown, Ann Ravenscroft, Christine McKenna, Irie Olde, June de Zoete

Confirmation of Minutes of Public Meeting held on Sunday 13 February 2011

Moved by Pam Richardson, seconded by Michael Griggs, that the minutes of the Public Meeting held on Sunday 13 February 2011 were a true and correct record. The motion was carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

Helen Olde tabled the Correspondence folder and passed it around to members for their information.

President's Report

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Linnwood once again.

Lots of things to tell you this afternoon so will try and keep it brief:

You may have noticed as you walked in this afternoon that we had all the rooms open with lots of our donations of memorabilia and photos out on show. This display was our contribution to Holroyd Council's CityFest for 2011 – so if you didn't have a good look as you came in, you will be able to have a look after the meeting.

A few donations since our last meeting:

- A "Crochet Made Easy" brochure (which cost tuppence) from Shirley McGlynan;
- Some old grocery items in original packaging from Stan Thomas, together with some 'dolly' pegs and 'blue' bag;
- George and Susan Young, who had an Australian Pottery exhibition at our March Open House, donated a lovely little piece of Nell McCredie pottery to add to our collection;
- Kevin Woodward has donated a Zeppelin Primus Stove;
- Audrey Meisenhelter has donated a Braun shaver.

Once again we thank those members and friends who have donated items to our collection.

The Autumn issue of the "Antiques and Collectables" magazine is now out and there is a GREAT article on Linnwood – nearly 2 double pages worth! Our thanks to Christine Kannard the journalist who wrote the article.

We have now received the money for the grant to do the electrical work on the house, so hope to be able to start that project in the not too distant future. We will have to try and look at the timing, so there is as little disruption to our Calendar of Events as possible.

Our website address has now changed with the upgrading of their system by Holroyd Council. It is now www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au/linnwood - the main difference is that 'linnwood' is at the end of the address instead of at the beginning. Helen and I have been able to upload some information onto the site ourselves – so think we are quite smart! This will save a lot of time if we can do it ourselves instead of sending everything to the IT people at Council.

We have bought and installed paper towel dispensers in both bathrooms and the kitchen, so this should hopefully make all areas a little tidier and hygienic.

For the Birthday Celebrations later in the year, we are hoping that the landscaping for the Rose Garden will start once CityFest is over. We thank Holroyd Council once again for providing the manpower for this project. Once the landscaping is finished and the garden beds made ready, we will be able to plant the roses and also replant the garden in the fountain itself. Swanes Nursery has offered to provide a number of roses to us, so we do thank them for their very kind offer. We would also like to thank John and Julie Walz for the loan of their Wishing Well to use for our Children's Garden Fund donations. We have also made a start on the book on the History of Linnwood – but it's going to be a bit of a slow process – there is so much to write about!

There are a couple of changes to our Calendar of Events, with the Lego Users Group now not coming until later in the year, but we do have a Display of Model Soldiers now coming in May. So with the Guildford Model Trains, and the Mini Car Club of NSW on the front lawn, it looks like being a day for the Boys! We will keep you posted on any other changes that occur – but hopefully most other exhibitors are now locked in.

Well of course the biggest and best news we have is that the Linnwood Estate has now been Gazetted as **Crown Land** – as of 25 February 2011. The property will be divided into 2 lots, with the largest lot, the Linnwood Estate Reserve Trust, containing all the buildings, to be administered by Holroyd City Council, for the purpose of "Public Recreation, Community, Heritage and Government Purposes". The other lot at the rear will be the Tamplin Road Reserve Trust, to be administered by Crown Lands, and this lot will be for "Public Recreation, Community Purposes and Community and Sporting Club Facilities". So – **no sale and no residential development!!** – which is what we have been advocating for, for so many years! Money from the lease of the rear lot will go to the Linnwood Trust for future conservation work and it is believed that McCredie Cottage will stay and hopefully leased on a commercial basis, again with all money going to the Linnwood Trust. The Friends of Linnwood will need to apply for a temporary licence to stay on in the short term and then enter into a lease or licence with Holroyd Council which will then have to be approved by the Minister. So, the next 12 months should be quite interesting. We are really very pleased with this outcome and would like to thank all our members and friends for supporting us over the past years and proving that this property really is a great community asset and *should* be kept for use by and for the community.

Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

John McKenna presented the Treasurer's Report for the months of February and March 2011, summarised below:

	<u>February</u>
Income	\$1,480.42
Expenditure	\$1,808.70

Major expenditure – replacing goats' heads for the fountain (\$1,056), function expenses (\$592).

	<u>March</u>
Income	\$1,875.35
Expenditure	\$1,372.88

Major expenditure – shelving for storage and cataloguing of donations (\$360), Council function (\$220), soft drinks (\$190).

Closing balance at end March was \$16,482.72. In March we received the money from the Capital Works grant for the electrical works (\$58,200), as well as interest on our Interest Bearing Deposit account (\$147.26). This account now has a balance of \$18,586.07.

Current cash in the bank - \$37,720.34; Current liabilities - \$1,267.88; Total funds (including grant money) - \$95,920.34.

Moved by Michael Griggs, seconded by Kay Weaver, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion was carried.

General Business

There was no general business raised during the meeting.

Guest Speaker

John McKenna then introduced our guest speaker, Desmond (sometimes called Patrick) Milligan, brother of comedian Spike Milligan.

Desmond has a very interesting background. Born 3 December 1925 in Rangoon, Burma, to Regimental Sergeant Major Leo, and Mrs Florence, Milligan. He was brought up in London and attended Reigate and Redhill School of Art from 1942-1944. He was conscripted and served in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry during the final phases of the campaign in Europe, and demobilised at the rank of Sergeant. Obtained four year final arts degree at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Freelanced in Fleet Street as an illustrator plus portraiture and other commissions. Migrated to Australia in 1952.

He was in charge of the Gravé decorative glass section of Crown Crystal Glass, for which he produced the glass display for AGM in their William Street building for the Queen's visit in 1954. He was recruited by Fairfax Newspapers in 1956 into their art department. During this time he started the PACT Experimental Centre for the Arts – this theatre organisation is now a youth as well as an experimental centre. Desmond was Chairman for seven years. He was elected Artist representative for the Australian Journalists Association and was on the Federal Executive board for five years.

He continued painting in oils and other media sporadically and became artist in charge of the SUN newspaper art department for approximately seven years. When the newspaper closed, he retired.

In 1991 he completed a 12' x 5' mural for the Retired Naval Association for the Garden Island Naval Chapel in 1991, plus several commissioned portraits and abstracts during that time, and to-date. Desmond taught for several years at evening college of the Seaforth Art School, and Meadowbank and Eastwood evening schools, and did a fast TV drawing spot on children's TV in the 1980's.

Desmond told the meeting that the Milligans were very Irish, and that their role in the British Army started in the great Irish famine of the 1830's – "they joined the British Army to get a feed!" His father went into the army at age 14, and the men on his mother's side joined the military for the same reasons. His family was also involved in theatrical shows in London.

Desmond's father eventually ended up in India, "a country steeped in history and invading cultures". The British Army arrived around the time the mogul empire was falling apart. To control the country, Indian regiments were formed but they were controlled by the British Army. His father joined a local amateur theatrical society, of which there were many at that time. His mother was 18 years old and also in the dramatic society.

By the end of WWI (1918), his parents were at a military station in India when his mother went into labour and was taken by bullock wagon to the hospital – and Spike was born. His parents continued their association with the theatrical society and were in many plays together.

Eight years after Spike was born and after the family moved to Burma, "along came Desmond Patrick Bryan Milligan". They were in Burma during the 1930's earthquake. Desmond remembers life in Burma, surrounded by jungles and lakes. Even though his father was only a Regimental Sergeant Major, in both India and Burma they lived in a large house, with servants who did everything for them. Everything came to the door – laundry, fruit and vegetables, household goods, entertainment (snake charmers) – they didn't need to go shopping for anything.

Desmond showed us some amazing photos of the family's time in India and Burma – both army photos and theatrical performances. His father had recognised that he was living in a very unique part of British history and took many, many photos.

When the family returned to England, Desmond's father secured a job with Associated Press of America. During WWII, they had to build their own Anderson Air Raid shelter in the back yard of their house. His father was called up for the war but didn't go overseas – he was a Captain by then – and Desmond joined the Air Cadets. Spike formed a jazz band with his army unit and entertained both troops and civilians during the war.

Desmond ended his presentation by reading “The Singing Foot”, written by Spike Milligan. It is very funny if you ever get a chance to hear it.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Friends of Linnwood will be held on Sunday 12 June 2011. Our guest speaker will be Michelle Cavanagh who will tell us all about Margaret Holmes – “The Life and Times of an Australian Peace Campaigner”.

Raffle

The raffle was drawn by Desmond Mulligan and won by John McKenna.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Confirmed:

_____ Date: _____