

# **LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**

**FOUNDED 1983.  
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**326 High Street. Learmonth. 3352**

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **April 2011**

**Published Bi-monthly**

## CAN YOU HELP

The Learmonth and District Historical Society Inc, is endeavouring to build up our photo collection. We are particularly interested in photos of previous bus trips held by the society in earlier years, especially the trips to Ercildoune when owned by the Ridoch family.

We are also looking for information and photos from the district girl guide companies.

Any old or new photos of people, events and building of Learmonth and district that the society may copy would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any photos that you think could be of interest please drop in to the society and let us scan them.

A perfect example is the photo on the next page. This framed portrait was donated by Mr & Mrs Anderson, (owners of Arthur Goad's house) who found it in the shed amongst the dirt. The frame has since been restored and the picture remounted, it now proudly hangs in our research room for all to see.



**Wedding of Gertrude Jane Goad and Walter Taylor.  
9th April 1921 at St Andrew's Kirk, Presbyterian Church. Ballarat.**

The best man was Walter's brother, George Taylor and the bridesmaid Ada Hannah Grigg.

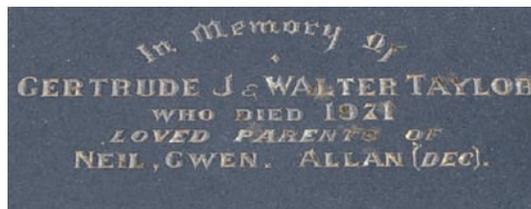
Gertrude Jane Goad born 1893 at Broomfield, was the daughter of William Thomas Goad and Sarah Binns.

Walter Taylor born 1897 at Dean, son of Gilbert Taylor and Jane Neuss.

Walter and Gertrude lived at Dean in a small house next to the Dean hall and opposite the local hotel. Walter worked for the Creswick Shire.

In April 1971, Walter and Gertrude were attending a function at the Creswick Museum, after they left, Walter was trying to do a U turn in Creswick and a truck run over his car, Gertrude was killed instantly, while Walter lived for another two weeks before succumbing to his injuries and passing away.

Gertrude was buried 19th Apr 1971, and Walter on the 12th May 1971 at the Creswick Cemetery along side there son Alan Walter Taylor who died in June 1930.



**ARGUS (Melbourne Newspaper) TUESDAY 8th APRIL 1902**

**MURDER AND SUICIDE**  
**A FATHER DROWNS HIMSELF AND CHILD**

**LEARMONTH, Monday.**

Edmund Foster, a highly respected resident of Learmonth, drowned his only child, a boy of 17 months old, and himself in Lake Learmonth on Sunday evening. No reason can be assigned for the rash act except that Foster received an injury to his head a week ago by being thrown out of a dray, through the horse he was driving bolting.

As far as can be learned from Mrs. Foster, who is naturally distracted with grief, her husband appeared somewhat strange in his manner ever since Thursday last. On Sunday evening he had his tea as usual, and whilst Mrs. Foster was washing up the dishes he took the child in his arms, and said he would walk across the road and see a neighbour about some ploughing. Becoming anxious shortly afterwards Mrs. Foster went outside and found that her husband had gone towards the lake.

She followed and could see nothing of the missing ones on the shore, but came across Foster's coat and waistcoat hanging on the fence close by. She waded in to the water a short distance, but finding nothing she went back to the township and obtained the assistance of her brother, Mr. Alexander Dowler, and her brother-in-law Mr. Andrew McIntyre.

They went to the lake and found the bodies of Foster and his child lying in about a foot of water. The child was strapped to his father's breast with a waist belt, and attached to a rope which was tightly tied around the man's neck, along with a bag of stones. An inquiry was held before the coroner, Mr. W. Dickson, P.M., when a verdict was returned that Foster drowned himself and his child whilst of un-sound mind.

**ARGUS (Melbourne Newspaper) TUESDAY 18th MARCH 1902**

**THE LEARMONTH SENSATION**  
**"EXCUSABLE HOMICIDE."**

**LEARMONTH, Monday.**

The inquest concerning the death of William Watson, who, whilst in the act of running away from the business premises of Mr. W. F. Barnes, which he has burglariously entered, was shot by Albert Robbins, a baker employ of Mr. Barnes, was held in the local Police Court to-day before the coroner, Mr. Dickson, M.P.

Detective Rogerson watched the proceedings for the crown, and Mr. Charles Hamilton represented Albert Robbins.

John Chapman, school teacher, Ercildoune, gave evidence that he was in company with Robbins at Great Western firing a rifle match, and was returning when he observed a light in Mr. Barnes's store. He remarked in a jocular way that it might be a burglar.

He could absolutely say Robbin's rifle was not loaded at the time he left him. After stabling the horse Robbins said he would come back and see if it was a burglar who was in the shop. He left Robbins and Lynch together and went home, which was about three miles distance. He did not hear a shot fired.

Stanley Lynch, blacksmith, said he was also at Great Western firing in the same match with Robbins. He and Robbins on seeing, went round to the back of Mr. Barnes's premises. From the position he could see no light, but they listened for about two of three minutes. They could hear nothing. Robbins handed him a box of matches, and told him to go towards the door, and he was about to do so when he saw a light in the oil room at the back of the shop. He went over to the Barnes's house. He tapped at the window, and immediately heard Robbins say, "Whose there?" and call on a man to "Stand, or I'll fire," which he repeated three times. Soon afterwards he saw the flash of a rifle, and Robbins ran after the man, who disappeared in the darkness. They then went to give information to the police, and, hearing groaning, they, in company with Constable Barr, proceeded to the spot from which the sound came, and found a man lying on the ground. He knew Watson, and he said to the man, "Is that you, Billy?" and he replied, "Yes." Constable Barr asked him what was the matter, and he replied, "I'm shot."

To Superintendent Steel.- He remembered telling Robbins to put a cartridge in the rifle in case it was a burglar.

To Mr. Hamilton.- Robbins did not put the rifle to his shoulder, but held it near his hip. Michael Clanchy, head state school teacher, corroborated the evidence of the previous witness.

Mr. Courtney, L.F.P.S., gave evidence as his examination of the wounds, and stated that death was due to internal haemorrhage, caused by injuries to the lungs and arms.

Robbins's evidence agreed with that given by Lynch.

Other witness gave evidence, and the jury, after a few minutes' retirement, returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, and that the homicide was excusable, and that no blame attached to Robbins.

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### **ARGUS (Melbourne Newspaper) SATURDAY. 14th JUNE 1902**

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Some hard swearing was done at the city on Friday, when Mary Lynch charged her husband Stanley Nugent Lynch, of Learmonth, with deserting his second child. The parties were married on May 24, 1900, the complainant giving her name as Mary Smith, and defendant being registered as Thomas Lynch, and his place of residence as Colac. They did not live together, as, according to complaint's statement Lynch did not want his father to know that he had been obliged to marry, because of his impropriety. She sued her husband for the maintenance of a child that was born three months after the marriage, and as a result a deed of separation was drawn up. This provided for maintenance for the child. Eventually the payments ceased, and on May 25 of last year Lynch visited his wife, at Cape Clear, in regard to the matter. Complainant alleged that they occupied the same room that night, and she gave birth to a second child last February. She was employed as a housekeeper to Edward Scott, **Continued over -**

# INVITATION

*The Learmonth & District Historical Society*  
***Annual General Meeting & Dinner***

*To be held on Friday, 15th July 2011*

*At the Learmonth Bowling Club*

*From 6.30 pm*

*\$25 per head*

*Our guest speaker - Roger Southern*  
*Speaking on*

***“History of Conservation Volunteers Australia”***

*1982—present*

*RSVP by the 7th July*

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**Continued from previous page** —at Cape Clear. Defendant totally denied the paternity of the child. He had not cohabitated with his wife since they parted, and was never at Cape Clear in his life. The Bench dismissed the case, and the marriage certificate was impounded by the police.

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#### **STANLEY NUGENT LYNCH**

In 1914, Stanley Nugent Lynch married Mary Mabel Bennett and they had two girls,

Stanley was born in 1881 at Coghills Creek, to Nugent Lynch and Miranda Lyan,  
He died on the 24th March 1956 at Ballarat.

Mary Mabel was born in 1881 at Ballarat, to Nicholas Bennett and Sophia Bell.

She died on the 7th December 1953 at Waubra.

Both are buried in the Learmonth Cemetery.

Alma Margaret Lynch born 1916 and Thelma May born 1918, both born at Learmonth.

Alma married Robert George Fraser in 1938.. Both buried at Ballarat.

Thelma married Leslie Ormond Hucker in 1942. Both cremated at Ballarat.

# LEARMONTH DAY

Sunday. 1st May.

- **VENUE; ALEXANDER PARK** next to the camping ground, on the lake foreshore, by the jetty from 10 am.
- **COMMUNITY BBQ** all day from 10 am.
- **PADDLE BOATS** on the lake, fun for all, hope for a fine day.
- **HISTORICAL SOCIETY** open from **10 am**. Guided historical walk with Bill Loader around Learmonth starting at The Stag Hotel, **1 pm**.
- **COMMUNITY GARDEN** come and look! Corner of Sunraysia Highway and Queen St, the fruit trees though still small are growing well. Feel free to join our working bee.
- **LAKE FORESHORE** clean up, your chance to walk, talk and work (bring your own tools)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ph Liz Charles 53432554 or 0413930269

Be part of this special day for Learmonth

LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

**Meetings:** Every third Tuesday of the month. 8pm

**Where:** The Old Shire Hall  
326 High Street, Learmonth.

**Time:** 8 pm

**2011 Dates**

15th February

15th March

19th April

17th May

21st June

15th July — AGM Learmonth Bowling Club

16th August

20st September

18th October

15th November. Ladies please bring a plate.

No meetings in December or January

**The society is now open on the 4th  
Sunday of every month except December &  
January, or by appointment,  
phone the secretary below.**

**Membership**

Single \$15.00 — Family \$20.00

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2010\11**

**President:** Desley Beechey. Ph 5343 2318

**Vice President:** Ruth Nelson. 533

**Secretary:** Lois Keating. Ph 5338 4361

9 Langstaffe Drive. Wendouree. 3355

or email [davidandlois@ncable.net.au](mailto:davidandlois@ncable.net.au)

**Treasurer:** David Spenceley. Ph 5338 4361 or 0417 539247 email  
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**Research:** Bill Loader Ph 5334 6330 or  
Claudette Crick. Ph 5343 2302

The Learmonth & District Historical Society would  
sincerely like to thank the office of Sharon Knight, MLA, for the printing of  
this newsletter.