

LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Meetings: Every third Tuesday of the month. 8pm

Where: The Old Shire Hall
High Street
Learmonth.

Time: 8 pm

2010 Dates

16th February

16th March

20th April

18th May

15th June

Friday 16th July — AGM

17th August

21st September

19th October

16th November. Ladies please bring a plate.
No meeting in December or January

Membership

Single \$15.00 — Family \$20.00

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2009\10

President: Desley Beechey. Ph 5343 2318

Vice President: Ruth Nelson.

Secretary: Lois Keating. Ph 5338 4361 or email
davidandlois@ncable.net.au

Treasurer: David Spenceley. Ph 5338 4361 or 0417
539247 email david252@ncable.net.au

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 Joe Helper, MLA, for the printing of this newsletter.

**LEARMONTH & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY INC**

FOUNDED 1983.
INCORPORATED 13/10/1986. INCORPORATION No. A 11213.
ABN No. 22 133 588 072.



High Street. Learmonth

NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Published Quarterly

Local Hotels 1869

ADDINGTON HOTEL, Addington
THOMAS GRIFFITHS, Proprietor

CAMP HOTEL, Learmonth
MRS RYAN, Proprietress

LADY OF THE LAKE HOTEL, Learmonth
JOHN FITZGERALD, Proprietor.

LAKE LEARMONTH INN, Learmonth East
JOHN BRIDGEWATER begs to intimate to his numerous friends that he has taken out a licence for this formerly well known hostelrie, and will be glad to see them *en passant*.

PRINCE ALFRED HOTEL, Learmonth East
MR. McGRATH wishes to be generally known that he is always at Home, and will be happy to see his friends make themselves at home.
Good accommodation paddock

STAG HOTEL, Learmonth
MURDOCH McKENZIE, Proprietor

TWO BRIDGES HOTEL, Windermere
ROBERT COMBER, Proprietor

WEATHERBOARD HOTEL
Weatherboard Hill, Learmonth
Commanding a fine view of the lake and of the surrounding
Magnificent scenery. Every accommodation for visitors.
CLEMENT ETTER, Proprietor

Advertisements in the Learmonth Thunder Newspaper. 17th Nov 1869

WANTED, WIVES for the Miserable and Forlorn
Bachelors of Learmonth. Apply personally to the
Editor of *The Thunderer*.

State taking over the school. The name of the school was changed to the Ercildoune Common School with a Board of Managers and Trustees of which Mr. Kerr was the president. In 18743 the Victorian Government purchased the school and land for the sum of £70. Following Mr & Mrs. Murray as teachers came Mr. Scott who was in turn followed by his son-in-law Mr Duffy. Following Mr. Duffy came Mr. Chapman who had control of just over 50 pupils. It was during Mr. Chapman's stay that the present



school was built. He was thus enabled to convert the former school room into additional living quarters. The present residence (a two storey building) was constructed in 1906 and was first occupied by Mr. Richards then Mr. Gould, Mr. Pitcher and Mr. Irwin. During the first world war the school was in charge of a reliever, Mrs Bull, who with the committee raised over £100 for the war appeal. Mr. Burr, came next, then Mr. Chambers and Mr. Stewart. Mr. Warriner took

charge of the school in 1937. During his time the Back To was organised in 1939, commemorative gates were erected with a plaque

inserted into one of the brick pillars. In the following years SEC was connected, a tennis court built and the introduction of the Annual Addington May Fair which raised funds and gained some fame for its success. Permanent teachers to follow were Mr. Delbridge, Mr. Hasting, Mr. Bradfield and Mr. Redfern. During his time a centenary celebration was organised for the 11 - 13th March 1960 with a plaque being inserted in the other pillar. Teachers to follow were Mr. Clancy, Mr. Corbett, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Dark and Mr. Hughes.



Addington School Children 1912



Front: Thorald Irwin, Jack Harrison, Alfie Harrison, Eric Harrison, Bill Harrison, Walter Tynan, Roy Harrison, Bill Shearer. Second Row: Lavri Harrison, Thorina Irwin, Ruby Robertson, Ruby Goldsmith, Myrtle Goldsmith, Elsie Shearer, Lily Robertson, Pearl Robertson. Third Row: Jim Robertson, Eric Constandine, Lancelot Irwin, Ethel Harrison, Myra Tynan, Olive Tynan, Peral Goldsmith. Fourth Row: Perry Constandine, Bernie Contessa, George Walker, Jim Robertson, Mr Irwin, Teacher

In 1969 with the closing of Glen Brae school due to lack of pupils, Addington received a boost to their numbers. However by 1973 numbers were again depleted and the school was de-staffed in 1974. A public meeting was held on the 30th January 1981. At this meeting Mr. L. O'Brien, Regional Director of Education declared No. 226 officially closed and shared its property with neighbouring schools

Addington (formerly Ercildourne. SS 226

First meeting of the above school, held on the 20th December 1859 at Mr Kerr's house.

When a few heads of families and other interested in the establishment of a school met, and the meeting was constituted with prayer by Mr Mackie, Minister.

Present Messrs Kerr, Edmonston, Baker, Griffiths, Blair, Edwards and Dunnet.

The Chairman reported that at the request of several of themselves he had opened a Subscription List with the view of procuring funds for building a school-house. He had also waited upon Mr. Learmonth and represented the necessity of a school somewhere in the locality where they were now met, and that Mr. Learmonth had very cordially consented to give them 2 acres of ground in the corner of the farm occupied by Mr. Baker. The Chairman further stated that a proposal had been made by Mr. Griffiths of the "Addington Arms" to sell his present house and half an acre of ground for the sum of £150 – the mode of payment to be one third cash, another third at three months and the remainder at six months.

After careful deliberation it appeared to be the un-unanimous feeling of these present that under the circumstances the proposal of Mr. Griffiths should be acceded to.

A motion to this effect was accordingly passed, conditional upon the report of a Committee to be appointed to examine the building, and the acceptance of the restoration by a public meeting to be called for placing the matter before them. The Committee to consist of Mr. Mackie and Messrs Blair, Dunnet & Kerr.

It was resolved that the school be in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The Committee above mentioned was instructed to and secure someplace in the meantime where the children could be collected and kept together till the regular opening of the school. It was also resolved to record a vote of thanks to Mr. Learmonth for his handsome offer of 2 acres of land and such vote is hereby recorded.

It was further resolved to call another meeting for Friday, the first at 7 in the same place. The meeting was then closed by prayer.

School History

The school consisted of a timber structure 30 feet by 18 feet and having a ceiling of nine feet. Attached to it were two rooms ten feet by twelve feet and eight feet by twelve feet which served as a residence for the teacher. The sum of £179/2/8 was spent on constructing the school, residence, fences and a well. The school building was situated to the south of the present building. Pupils paid the sum of two shillings a week for instruction, this money going to the board, who handed it to the teacher.

The teacher's salary was £160 plus school fees while the sewing mistress received £40 a year. It was 1860 before the school could be put into operation and an application was made to The Board of Education for financial aid.

Mr & Mrs. Murray then teaching at Happy Valley were the successful applicants for the position of teachers with Mrs Murray being the sewing mistress.

On July 23, 1860 the school commenced operation. Descendants of Mr & Mrs. Murray remained for a long time in the district. Mr. Raine, a descendant was formerly the engineer to the Ballarat Shire. In 1862 a changed of management occurred with the

Notices from the Argus newspaper relating to the township of Addington

12th May 1899 -- DEATH FROM CHOCKING - LEARMONTH - Thursday. A quarryman named Joseph Murphy, employed by Mr. W. Foran, contractor of Addington, was eating his dinner at the Addington Hotel to-day when he chocked himself.

He was taken to the surgery of Dr. Courtney, at Learmonth, where he was treated, but he only lived for a few minutes after admission.

9th March 1901 - ATTEMPTED SAFE ROBBERY - LEARMONTH, Friday

During last night entrance was gained to the Addington railway station ticket office by prising open the door. The iron safe, weighing 3cwt., was removed from the building to a distance of 50 yards away, and an attempt was made to open it. The robbers were doubtless disturbed in their work, as the lock was only broken and the door prized open about an inch. None of the contents were taken, which consisted of £1/18/6 in cash and 30/- in postal notes. Detective Armstrong and Constable Barr have the case in hand.

19th February 1904 - WILLS AND ESTATES - Archibald Kerr, late of Addington, farmer, who died on January 1, under a Will dated August 8 last left real estate valued at £4,950 and personal property valued at £2,270 to his children and grand-children.

3rd October 1906 - SUDDEN DEATH - LEARMONTH, - Mr. Neil Blair, farmer and grazier of Addington, died suddenly on Sunday morning at the age of 81 years. His daughter saw him at half past 2 o'clock in the morning, when he said that he was alright. She then retired to rest, and on going into her father's room later on in the morning she found him dead. He had been ill for some months. He arrived in Sydney in 1852 and journeyed overland to Victoria, taking up his residence at Addington in 1856.

15th October 1940 - FARMER FOUND DEAD - BALLARAT. Monday. - The district coroner (Mr. A. R. Hill. PM) received a report to-day that David Scott, 51, farmer of Addington, about four miles from Learmonth, had been found dead on Saturday in a cowshed at his farm. The discovery had been made by Scott's wife. Following a post mortem examination, certain organs were taken to Melbourne for analysis of the contents.

11th March 1942 - BALLARAT NEWS - STOCK ACT PROSECUTION - David Joseph Williams, dealer of Avoca., was charged in the Ballarat Police Court yesterday with failure to drive a flock of sheep at least 6 miles per day in a direct course towards its destination. George A. Fraser, grazier of Addington, said that in January he saw defendant between Addington and Learmonth with a mob of about 1,000 sheep, which were around the locality for 3 days grazing in the lanes. On February 3 he saw the sheep on the main road about 5 miles from where he had seen them on January 29. Mounted-Constable L. H. French, of Learmonth, said that when he interviewed Williams on February 11, the sheep numbering 1,365, were still grazing within 3 miles of Learmonth. He had received complaints that the sheep had been getting into the neighbouring paddocks, and when dogs were sent in after them the farmer's flock had been upset. Williams was fined £20

LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
invites you to the

"ADDINGTON"
STATE SCHOOL
150th
ANNIVERSARY

to be held at the
"Old Shire Hall"
High St. Learmonth on
Sunday, 25th July 2010
from 11am to 5pm

BYO your own lunch, tea, coffee & afternoon tea
will be supplied.

ALL WELCOME, there will be a display of
photos and memorabilia.

**If you have any photos or articles you would
like to share with the society, please bring them
along to be copied and added to the society's
collection**

For further information please contact the
Secretary L&DHS: Lois Keating; Ph 5338 4361
Email davidandlois@ncable.net.au

226 ADDINGTON: formerly ERCILDOUNE:

The Learmonth brothers, impressed with the possibilities of the area for farming, established Ercildoune Station. Other squatters soon followed, and eventually education facilities were required. In November 1859 the Rev. George Mackie applied to the Denominational Schools Board for a salary and building grant to found a Presbyterian School. Thomas Learmonth in 1860 gave, for school purposes, 1 acre of land, part of Allotment 3, Section 36 in the Parish of Ercildoune. The Trustees, William Frazer, Dunnett, Blair, and Kerr, elected the previous June, received information of the gift in December 1860. The Local Board at this time consisted of the Rev. Mackie, T. Griffiths, J. Baker, C. Edmonston, A. Kerr and A. McKenzie. Later 3 more acres adjoining the original one were reserved 'as a teacher's garden and paddock'. Ercildoune Presbyterian School opened on 23rd July 1860, under HT Allan Murray with his wife as SM. It was a shingle-roof, weatherboard building (42ftx18ft), lined with pine and canvas. The teacher's residence, attached to the school, consisted of two rooms (13ftx13ft), a veranda, and two small skillion rooms. Two other skillion rooms, added to the building, were not connected internally with the rest of the dwelling.

The school first obtained the number 226 in 1863 when, under the Board of Education, the present-day numbering system began; in that year the NE was 65, with an a.a. of 44. In 1873, with 74 enrolled, the school was sold to the Minister of Public Instruction for £70. Later the numbers dropped slightly and the a.a. remained about 45 for many years. Henry Bell of Ballarat carried out extensive repairs in September 1875, in 1877, and again in 1879-80. Water was obtained from a well 21ft deep and 5ft in diameter. By 1886 the old residence had become so dilapidated that the HT was allowed to live in it rent free. Three years later when the schoolroom itself had fallen into disrepair a new wooden building (30ftx18ft) was erected for £260 and opened in February 1890. HT John Chapman used furniture and fittings from the old schoolroom in repairing the dilapidated thirty-year-old residence. In June 1905 the 'residence' and polluted well were condemned by the Shire Health Officer. The following February the £396 15s tender of Bolger and Son to build a new five-room residence was accepted, and the building completed in July 1906. In 1909, No. 226 was still being called 'Ercildoune', but, as Ercildoune was about 10 miles away, the name was changed to Addington in 1912. The two storey residence, reported by the Health Officer in 1912 as being constantly damp, was condemned. Repairs were carried out in 1915, but were not permanently effective. NE at this time was 23. The Minister, the Hon. Sir Alexander Peacock, visited the school and promised repairs and renovations, which were carried out in 1924. Further renovations and extensions to the residence were carried out in 1934 and 1946, with the installation of electricity in 1949. The school celebrated its centenary over the Labor Day weekend in March 1960.