

LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



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MERRY CHRISTMAS



High Street. Learmonth

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Published Quarterly

Restoration on the old wooden section



The City of Ballarat has received a grant of \$129,091.00 from the Commonwealth Government, which is to be spent on the restoration of the old wooden section, at the Old Shire Complex, Learmonth.

For anyone who would like to know what this grant is to be spent on, a display has been set up in the society for those wishing know about the restorations.

The City of Ballarat has formed a committee called the “Project Control Group” which consists of, Leigh Ditchfield (Manager Infrastructure Operations. COB), Facility Manager (Chris Hutton. COB), Brian Benson (Heritage Architect/Planner. COB), Susan Fayad (Heritage Coordinator. COB) & Lois Keating (Secretary. Learmonth & DHS).

This wooden section is to be restored using its own materials, where there is need for extra boards, etc, the City of Ballarat is hoping to be able to use some of the timber from the St Columbus hall that blew over at the Ballarat airport, the wooden building is to be restumped, new roof and guttering, new passageway, followed by new wiring.

Once the building has been restored, the City of Ballarat is looking for the society to use this section as a family history centre, the front room as the research room and the other as an archival storage room.

National Trust Visit

On the 25th October last, the society had a visit from the National Trust of Victoria, (Ballarat Branch) consisting of 25 people.

On their arrival at the society, they enjoyed a pleasant morning tea after which some of the people had a wander through the complex, this was followed by Bill Loader taking the group for a walk along High street to the Stag hotel, where the publican invited the group to look over the bar and dining room, and gave an insight into the changes within the building over the years. On leaving the hotel, the group were then taken back down the other side of the street to cafe 321, which by then Bill had the whole group enthralled with his fascinating stories of early Learmonth and some of its personalities.

After a relaxing lunch, the group then made their way out to the "Laurel's" homestead, a great day enjoyed by all involved.

A big thank you goes to all the society members who helped on this day, especially Bill Loader for his guided tour.

23rd November 2009

Come along to the Learmonth Primary School
for the

Learmonth Community Project Interest Group Meeting

7 pm

Can you give any input into the future development of the Township of
Learmonth

Thank you to Bonnie Walker for the donation of a microwave for our society, the guys from **BEST** who are making good progress on our shed out the back, have been using it.

Anyone wanting to have an article or would like to have a suggestion as to what they would like to see in the newsletter, please get in touch with the secretary.

The Learmonth & District Historical Society would sincerely like to thank the office of Karen Overington, MLA, for the printing of our quarterly newsletter.



Archibald Kerr 1858—1911

BALLARAT COURIER

28th JULY 1911

MAN DECAPITATED

A FARMER'S FATE RAILWAY TRAGEDY AT BURRUMBEET

Particulars of a shocking railway tragedy at the Burrumbeet railway station yesterday reached the coroner (Mr S. J. Goldsmith). From the particulars to hand it appears that at 7 o'clock yesterday morning, Ganger Foley was beginning to traverse his section when he noticed an object on the permanent way. He saw on approaching that it was the body of a man. The head was missing, and the body was fearfully battered about. The body was cold and rigid, indicating that death had taken place some hours previously, and probably during Wednesday night. Foley acquainted the station master at Burrumbeet and Const Hart of his discovery, and by their aid the body was removed to a building adjoining station. The remains were identified as those of Mr Archibald Kerr, a farmer residing at Weatherboard. Deceased left home early on Wednesday afternoon with the intentions of going to the Burrumbeet Post Office for letters. He fulfilled his mission, and left Burrumbeet at about 5.30 p.m., after expressing his intention of going home afterwards. He however, failed to reach his destination, and as the night wore on his wife and family became alarmed. They instituted enquires, and learned that Mr Kerr had left Burrumbeet early in the evening. A search was made for him. The first tidings they received yesterday morning were that his body had been found on the railway. An inspection of the line at the spot where the body was found showed that it had been carried backwards and forwards by passing trains, and this circumstance has led to the conclusion that deceased met his death early Wednesday night. How deceased came to be on the line is not known. Mr Goldsmith has empowered as Justice of Peace residing at Learmonth to hold an inquest to-day. The deceased occupied a high position in the estimation of the residents of the district, and his shocking death has aroused the deepest sympathy. He leaves a widow and a grown-up

family of three sons and two daughters. Only recently he had obtained a block on the Ercidoune Estate.

BALLARAT COURIER - MONDAY - 31st JULY 1911

OBITUARY NOTICE

The funeral of Mr Arch. Kerr took place on Saturday at the Learmonth Cemetery, and was largely attended, some of those present journeying from Melbourne, Birchip, and other place at a distance. The pall-bearers were Messrs John King (Northcote), J. N. Ryan, R. Purcell, Jas Kerr. Jnn., A. G. Thomas (Birchip), A. M. Greenfield. Jun., Jas Forsthye (Melbourne), C. Henderson, A. Dowler, sen., D. Stewart, A. McIntyre, W. Lamb, supported by W. D. Sara, F. McAvoy, R. Swan, J. Connolly, J. Rogers, J. Draffin, S. Blair, J. H. S. Reid, T. Buchan, W. Dobson, and R. Miller. The coffin-bearers at the house were Messrs Robert Creelman, John Creelman, John Henderson, and S. Sutherland (four brothers-in-law); and at the grave deceased's brothers, viz., Messrs Alex, James, William, John, and Alfred Kerr, and W. Miller (brother-in-law). The Rev. J. D. Landels conducted the service at the house and grave, and spoke of the brevity and uncertainty of life. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Chas. Morris.



A double grave of the Kerr family at the Learmonth Cemetery, located in the Presbyterian section.

THE FAMILY OF ARCHIBALD KERR & JANE MITCHELL

1. **Archibald Kerr**, son of **Alexander Kerr** and **Ann Gordon**, was born on 22 Jun 1827, died on 1 Jan 1905 in Learmonth. Victoria at age 77, and was buried on 3 Jan 1905 in Learmonth Cemetery.
Archibald married **Jane Mitchell**, daughter of **Alexander Mitchell** and **Annie Catneek**, on 12 Oct 1851. Jane was born on 13 Oct 1831 in Ballater. Scotland, died on 3 Aug 1900 in Learmonth. Victoria at age 68, and was buried on 7 Aug 1900 in Learmonth Cemetery.
Children from this marriage were:
2. M i. **Alexander Kerr** was born in 1852 in Ashby (Geelong). Victoria, died on 20 May 1921 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 69, and was buried on 23 May 1921 in Ballarat Old Cemetery.
Alexander married **Margaret Mitchell Swan**, daughter of **James Swan** and **Margaret Mitchell**, in 1884 in Victoria. Margaret was born in 1863 in Burrumbeet. Victoria, died on 21 Jun 1925 in Creswick. Victoria at age 62, and was buried on 23 Jun 1925 in Ballarat Old Cemetery.
3. M ii. **Archibald Kerr** was born in 1854 in Ballarat. Victoria and died in 1854 in Geelong. Victoria.
4. M iii. **James Kerr** was born on 12 Oct 1856 in Ballarat. Victoria, died on 16 Sep 1912 in Thalia. Victoria at age 55, and was buried in Sep 1912 in Wycheproof Cemetery.
James married **Mary Park Durie** on 22 Sep 1882 in Donald. Victoria. Mary was born on 29 Oct 1860 in Redan. Victoria and died on 25 Feb 1938 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 77.
5. M iv. **Archibald Kerr** was born in 1858 in Ballarat. Victoria. Australia, died on 26 Jul 1911 in Learmonth. Victoria at age 53, and was buried on 29 Jul 1911 in Learmonth Cemetery.
Archibald married **Ann (Annie) Mary Creelman**, daughter of **James Creelman** and **Essie Murdoch**, in 1886 in Victoria. Ann was born on 2 Aug 1859 in Lake Learmonth. Victoria, died on 4 Feb 1913 in Learmonth. Victoria at age 53, and was buried in Feb 1913 in Learmonth Cemetery.
6. M v. **William Kerr** was born in 1859 in Ercildoun. Victoria. Australia and died in 1947 in Elsternwick. Victoria at age 88.
7. M vi. **John Kerr** was born in 1861 in Ercildoun. Victoria. Australia, died on 30 May 1952 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 91, and was buried on 2 Jun 1952 in Learmonth Cemetery.
8. F vii. **Ann Kerr** was born in 1864 in Learmonth. Victoria, died in Jan 1943 in Ararat. Victoria at age 79, and was buried on 12 Jan 1943 in Learmonth Cemetery.

- Ann** married **Walter Miller**, son of **Robert Miller** and **Jane Morton**, in 1905 in Victoria. Walter was born in 1872 in Durham. Victoria, died in Dec 1959 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 87, and was buried on 14 Dec 1959 in Learmonth Cemetery.
9. F viii. **Jane Kerr** was born in 1866 in Learmonth. Victoria, died on 22 Feb 1918 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 52, and was buried on 25 Feb 1918 in Learmonth Cemetery.
10. M ix. **Benjamin Thomas Kerr** was born in 1868 in Learmonth. Victoria, died on 29 Aug 1941 in Fremantle. Western Australia at age 73, and was buried in Sep 1941 in Fremantle Cemetery.
Benjamin married **Kath Dorothea Piening** in 1891 in Victoria. Kath was born circa 1872, died on 1 Apr 1937 in Fremantle. Western Australia at age 65, and was buried in Apr 1937 in Fremantle Cemetery.
11. F x. **Isabella Mitchell Kerr** was born in 1870 in Learmonth. Victoria and died in 1956 in Parkville. Victoria at age 86.
Isabella married **Patrick Edward Sullivan** in 1895 in Victoria.
12. M xi. **Alfred Gordon Kerr** was born in 1873 in Learmonth. Victoria, died in 1954 in Addington. Victoria at age 81, and was buried on 24 May 1954 in Learmonth Cemetery.
Alfred married **Ethel Ann Bailey Dean**, daughter of **Robert William Dean** and **Georgina Murray**, in 1908 in Victoria. Ethel was born in 1886 in Learmonth. Victoria, died in Aug 1968 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 82, and was buried on 19 Aug 1968 in Learmonth Cemetery.
13. M xii. **George Kerr** was born in 1876 in Learmonth. Victoria, died in Jan 1952 in Ballarat. Victoria at age 76, and was buried on 25 Jan 1952 in Learmonth Cemetery.



The Kerr Family
 L-R Back , George, William, Archibald Jun, Alexander, James, Alfred
 & John.. In the centre Benjamin
 L-R Front, Ann, Jane nee Mitchell, Archibald Snr, Isabel & Jane .

LEARMONTH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Meetings: Every third Tuesday of the month

Where: The Old Shire Hall
High Street
Learmonth.

Time: 8 pm

2009-2010 Dates

18th August

15th September

20th October

17th November. Christmas breakup

No meeting in December or January

16th February

16th March

20th April

18th May

15th June

July AGM to be advised.

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

Address C\o Learmonth Post Office. 3352

Treasurer: David Spenceley. Ph 5338 4361

Research: Bill Loader Ph 5334 6330 or
Claudette Crick. Ph 5343 2302

As this is the last newsletter for this year, the society
would like to say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all its members and families