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"Nibbles"

Special Lindsay Braden Edition



It was with sadness that the A&DHS Committee learned of the death on September 17th 2020 of Lindsay Braden, who passed away from the effects of COVID-19 at age 90. Lindsay, was one of the early members of our historical society, our principal researcher up until his retirement, and a respected life member. Lindsay had spent his last few months in a nursing home.

We extend our sincere condolences to Lindsay's wife Ruth and their family.



As a recent member of the A&DHS, I did not have the privilege of knowing Lindsay other than through his many publications, articles and photographs which focussed on the history of Anglesea. I am informed by our President Jan Morris that Lindsay had a "cheeky" sense of humour and a rigorous and professional approach to his work. The high quality of his historical publications goes without saying, however even though I never met him, I can testify to his sense of humour. In several of our photos of early Anglesea there is the unexpected appearance of William Buckley. I suspect that Lindsay was familiarising himself with the features of the then newly released Adobe Photoshop and was using his skills to see how observant his readers were. A bit like the well-known cartoon series "Where's Wally?"

In our society database we have copies of most of Lindsay's publications, many of which contain short articles on topics of historical interest such as Loveridge Lookout, Coastal Shipwrecks, early Anglesea identities and their homes, street names, as well as many other aspects of Anglesea's history. One series of articles which appeared in our newsletter "Coastal Current" he referred to as his "One Page Specials." In one of his major undertakings Lindsay studied the rate books of the Barrabool Shire, from its inception to 1970 when they became computerised. He traced the ownership of each block, noting when they were bought and sold and by whom. He made extensive notes from this research and could look up any piece of land he was asked about. Unfortunately rate books after 1970 were no longer accessible to researchers as they were in an unreadable computerised form. His contribution to the Anglesea & District Historical Society will continue as a valuable resource long into the future. In fact, expect to see reprints of some of Lindsay's articles in the "Blast from the Past" section of our "Nibbles" newsletter.

President Jan wrote a comprehensive background piece on Lindsay in the 2009 April edition of NewsAngle. A copy of the article is available on both our database and web site. One of the fascinating snippets from the article includes the fact that Lindsay hired a plane to fly him over Anglesea in 1963 to search for a suitable place for a holiday home. Now that's really keen! He finally settled on a weatherboard house in Jackson Street which he later had rebuilt in brick. When Lindsay and his wife Ruth retired to Anglesea in 1987, it wasn't long before representatives of our Historical Society, who had heard of Lindsay's interest in history and photography, encouraged him to become a member, and to make several films about the history of Anglesea. He did, and we have copies of them in our database as well. The rest, as they say, is history.



Lindsay and Ruth on the balcony of their home in Jackson Street

Karl Jacklin
Editor of Nibbles.