



THE NINNES LONELY GRAVE

and the legacy of Thomas and Maria Ninnes

No 11, February 2008

Edith began research into the story of 'The Lonely Grave', also known as 'The Pioneer Grave', in the late 1950's, when she lived on the property 'Robin Hill' with her husband and family.

Her first letter to the Bendigo Advertiser seeking information on the grave, was published on 17 July 1959.

In 1968 members of the Chapman and Roach families visited the Grave for the first time since the two surviving daughters had visited to ensure the site was protected, as requested in Thomas Ninnes's will.

**Congratulations Edith —
from all the Friends of
the Ninnes Grave**



Edith celebrates

Historian to mark century in Bendigo

THERE are few people who are as passionate about Bendigo's history and almost no one who can recall as much of it as Edith Lunn.

The local historian will celebrate her 100th birthday tomorrow and can proudly say that with the exception of some overseas travel, she has spent all those years in Bendigo.

"I can recall the day the First World War broke out," she said.

"I can recall when the streets were full of horses and drays and the roads were dusty because there were so few made roads and there were working mines every-where."

When asked what had drawn her to Bendigo's history, the published author, who was awarded an Order of Australia in 2002 for service to local history, responded simply: "I was born here".

Despite almost 10 decades of following local affairs, Mrs Lunn still retains an avid interest in what goes on in Bendigo.

When the clock on top of Pure and Natural Cafe at the corner of Mitchell and Hargreaves streets sprang to life again, Mrs Lunn not only knew about it but was

ready with the history of the prominent building.

It was the building's former life as a jeweller's shop that explained the position of the clock, she said.

Mrs Lunn has seen many changes over a century of Bendigo, and not all of them improvements.

She recalls a time when Charing Cross was a great social focus for the city.

"In those days it was a great focus for the Easter Parade, with people crowding the (City Club) hotel balconies," she said.

But despite the changing years, her ap-

proach to life and learning had re-

mained the same, she said.

"Wherever you go, whether it's school, church or work or making friends, there are lessons from them all.

"Don't go through life with blinkers on — if you don't live and learn you might as well not be living."

Mrs Lunn will celebrate at a family gathering on Saturday with her members of her extended family of three children, 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren "My family now are my world," she said.

Mrs Lunn will also hold an open day from 2 pm until 4 pm tomorrow for friends and visitors at her Holdsworth Manor home.

“Don't go through life with blinkers on”



A CENTURY: Edith Lunn will be 100 tomorrow.

Picture: BILL CONROY

Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday 26 July 2007, p 3

Family and friends gathered at Holdsworth Manor on Friday 27 July to celebrate with Edith.

The Ninnes family was represented by Moira Drew, and the Colquhoun family also sent messages of congratulation — having just welcomed their youngest member the day before.

Others known to us through the Ninnes Grave connection were Penny Burke and Carol Holsworth.

In her speech, Edith mentioned various parts of her life — giving thanks for each. She mentioned her research into the Ninnes Grave as one of her achievements—and I think we agree that she can be rightly proud. The benefits will certainly be recognised for generations to come.

The following day, all Edith's family gathered in Bendigo for a family celebration. It was the first time they had all been together at the one time.

Compiled by Moira Drew

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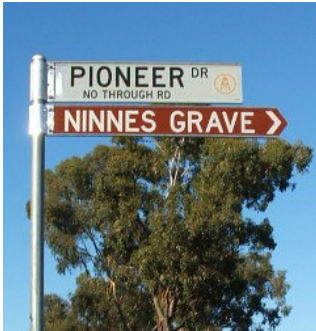
Available on-line courtesy of the Cornish Association of Victoria Inc

- <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~caov/program/program.htm> -

or to receive it by email contact: moiradrew@connexus.net.au

The Grave Reserve

Signposts:



The Grave is now easier to find, especially for those who have not visited for sometime and find that the area has changed significantly. Signs have been placed at the Sparrowhawk Road turn off from the Calder Highway, at Pioneer Drive as well as at both entrances to the Grave Reserve.

This has been instigated through the Council with the assistance of the Tourist Information Centre.

Planting in the Reserve:

After several years of low rainfall, there was some concern about the survival of much of the planting done in the Reserve, but there was obviously sufficient rain in early 2007 to boost the hardy survivors along. It was pleasing to see some of the small wattles blooming and the tree planted by the Dyer boys thriving.

Congratulations must go to Marilyn Sprague of Goldfields Revegetation for the selection of plants in the various areas.

The first section planted, along the pathway from Pioneer Drive, is doing especially well.

Right: The 'upper' section of the Reserve, looking down from Kawana Drive, with new growth visible (July 2007)



Wall Repairs:

Very positive discussions were held in mid 2007 with the Bendigo Council Heritage Advisor about possible funding for repairs to the Grave Wall.

Background information and photographs of the wall at different times have been provided for a submission to the Heritage Advisory Committee, but there has been no news on the outcome.

A dry stone wall builder has been located who can perform the work as stipulated by the Heritage Advisor in 2002. This work had not completed at the time of the 150th because the tradespeople who quoted were not able to fulfil all the requirements!

Recent visitors report that the situation is becoming urgent, so with luck our following up will be successful in the very near future.

Thomas Ninnes's Notebook:

A little bit like this issue of The Lonely Grave — better late than never!

Transcription of the notebook continues; some checking and proof-reading is still needed, and then a few final touches before it is made available on cd.

Congratulations

to Ross and Val Ninnes who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on the 10th Feb 2008