



Franklin History Group Newsletter March 2020

Next Meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 20th March 2020, at The Evaporators

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News:

The Evaporators is for sale and members of the history group have been actively searching for a new 'home'. We were kindly offered a lovely building; sadly it is in Cradoc, not Franklin.

The February meeting of the FHG was held at the Franklin Masonic Lodge; sincere thanks to Noel Woodrow for providing access and his attendance.

This meeting gave members the opportunity to tour the public areas of the Lodge which includes one very large, and one smaller, meeting room, a fully equipped kitchen and amenities. After the tour and discussion, members voted to obtain the necessary public liability insurance and to negotiate a '6 month' lease. This would include (with some exclusions required by the Masonic Lodge), use of the public space to hold meetings, to mount displays for public viewing and have a space to re-locate the Franklin History Group research library. As well as access from Main Road (opposite Franklin Marine), there is level access via a 'right of way' from New Road.

Now that the insurance is confirmed, we plan to have the lease signed this coming week.

The meeting this Wednesday will include a celebration of the wonderful times we have shared at the Evaporators, a chance to say 'Thankyou' to Martin and Judy for their amazing generosity and support. We really would have been 'lost' without them.

We will also begin planning the 'move'. Please be prepared for a phone call requesting help; that is, if you have not already volunteered.



The Franklin Lodge can be seen 'centre right' of the photo. (google screenshot).

The Franklin Hydro Scheme

The Huon Council had taken out a substantial loan to fund the Franklin Hydro Electric Works and where possible opted to save moneys. To this end, instead of accepting the quotes from contractors for the laying of the pipeline and building the dam further up Prices Creek, local day-labour was employed. With hindsight this appears to have been a costly mistake, both in time and damages. The pipes were not correctly laid or connected and the subsequent leaks caused costly damage to New Road and also to nearby properties, washing away topsoil and crops.

The dam construction was delayed due to the need to dig deeper than originally planned. The distance between the station and the outlet in the dam had also been miscalculated and extra pipes had to be ordered.

Over the course of the life of the station there were several engineers. The work-hours their duties required were generally limited unless problems were encountered.

Mr. Burns was appointed 'Superintendent of the Franklin Electric Lighting Works' at a special meeting of the Huon Council in November 1915. On the evening of Tuesday the 9th November the town burst into light much to the amazement of residents and light was beaming from 'The New Road to the jam factory at South Franklin'. This factory was south of the Catholic Church. The pipeline was not yet completed and this meant further delays.

Mr. Burns later secured other employment so 'young Weldon' was put forward. Concerns were expressed regarding his qualifications and experience. Other engineers employed were John Linnell who was followed by his brother Owen (Skipper) Linnell when John enlisted in the Air Force.

On the next page is a photo of a one-design yacht, (one of a pair) that was given to a family member in the late 1950s. These were built by the original owner (Jack Backhouse), for his sons. Restoration was done by the current owner for his sons.

The first photo had the sails replaced; the second photo shows the original sail on the second yacht.

I am hoping someone can supply me with more information and possibly help to find a new home.

