

Korumburra and District Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER No. 42

June 2021

The next meeting of the Society will take place on Thursday 3rd. June, at 7.00 p.m. We will meet again at the meeting room adjacent the library. This will allow us more social distancing space, and is also easily accessed.

Barry Sykes' mine tour is on Sunday 6th. June, so still time to book if you are interested in this. Contact Janet for booking details.

David Anderson will be with us at our July meeting, to talk to us about prefabricated railway houses which were so much a part of our history.

There has not been much response to our letter to the editor, but you will know that Ken Myers is to meet with the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire on 1st. June. Maybe we will know more by the time of our meeting. Our thoughts and the article on the Top of the Town may have been seen by interested members of the community. Putting our thoughts out there cannot do any harm; we do need to express the thought that we should value what we have, and plan wisely for the future.

In looking back into our history, an article on the siting of the cenotaph jumped out. In the Great Southern Advocate dated 23rd. June 1921 we find the following. (*One hundred years ago, a change of heart*).

SHIRE MONUMENT SITE – Changed by Council

At the council meeting on Tuesday a deputation consisting of Messrs. A.P. Lloyd, R.S. Shegog, T. McCowan, J.T. McInerney and F. Elms waited on council with reference to the removal of the proposed site for the shire monument.

Mr. Lloyd said they were there to respectfully ask the council to reconsider their decision to erect the shire monument at the top of Radovick Street, in Commercial Street. From a traffic point of view they thought it would be a mistake to put it there. If a vehicle was standing in front of Mr. Fine's shop, the monument there, anyone coming up the street would have to go over on the wrong side of the traffic. It would also interfere materially with motor traffic, which was daily increasing in the district. A monument was a sacred thing, and it would have no setting at all if put where the council had agreed upon. The public meeting was in favour of a site at the top of Commercial Street.

Mr. McInerney said that the council had just spent a good deal of money in removing an obstruction in the street and it looked as if they were going to put another one there. The site at the top of Commercial Street appeared to meet with the approval of the whole of the townspeople.

Mr. F. Elms, as a country representative endorsed the remarks of Messrs. Lloyd and McInerney.

Cr. Twaddell: Did the public meeting express any opinion as to a site?

Mr. Lloyd said the public meeting favoured the top of the town, near the Bank of Australasia, the council to choose the exact spot.

Cr. Herbertson: What about the Park?

Mr. Lloyd: Personally I think it would be an ideal spot.

Cr. Herbertson: I think so too.

Messrs. Shegog, Elms, McCowan and McInerney all personally favoured the Park.

Mr. McInerney said they were appointed as a deputation to advocate a certain site. They were not in a position to advocate any other.

Cr. Cornish: Are you aware that the site at the top of the street has been filled in with earth, and it would cost a lot to get a foundation? It would also cost about £300 to alter Commercial Street so that the monument could be seen from Radovick Street corner.

Cr. Martin said he had heard that sometimes there were about fifteen motor cars stationed near the proposed site. If it would accommodate that many cars, there should be room for the monument. He was also informed that the street was sometimes turned into a horse breaking ground.

Mr. Lloyd said that was a matter for council.

Mr. Shegog said that in reply to Cr. Cornish re filling in, the site they proposed was in the street near the Fire Brigade, where the land was nearly natural state, and there had been no filling in.

Cr. Twaddell said they were paying an engineer a big salary for professional advice, and he had said the monument would not interfere with the traffic.

Cr. Scott said he did not think they should bother about that. The townspeople had decided themselves, that the spot was unsuitable, and they should fall in with their views. He thought the Park was a good site, but at least they should fall in with the views of the deputation and remove it to another site.

Cr. Herbertson said other people besides residents of Korumburra had to be considered. People from his part of the shire were opposed to the present site.

Cr. Twaddell: Why can't we adopt the site suggested by the deputation near the Fire Brigade Hall?

Cr. Herbertson: I am opposed to that site.

The Shire secretary, Mr. Hungerford, said the architect had told him that he personally preferred the site at the top of the hill.

On a formal motion that the site be changed, being taken, the only councillors to vote against it were Crs. Twaddell, Western and Cornish.

Cr. Twaddell said he would have voted for a change of site if he knew where it was to be.

Cr. Inches moved "That the site be in Bridge Street, near the Fire Brigade Hall."

Seconded by Cr. Morris.

Cr. Herbertson moved "That the site be in the Korumburra Park."

Seconded Cr. Kurrle.

On a vote being taken on the Park as a site, only Crs. Herbertson, Scott, Kurrle and Cornish voted for it.

The motion "That the site be in Bridge Street, near the Fire Brigade Hall." was then put, and carried.

For more information please contact secretary, Janet Wilson, (0409 248 603) janet.wil@outlook.com or P.O. Box 329, KORUMBURRA. Vic. 3950.

President: Mr. Bob Newton

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