

Ken Beames' Linden Observatory
- K. Abel

LINDEN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter July 2013

Next meeting – Guest Speaker + AGM

Thursday 18 July 2013 7.30 pm

Guest speaker: Ian Bridges: Ken Beames & the Linden Observatory
(for more details see item below)

Location: RFS Shed, Burke Road, Linden

■ Guest speaker – Ian Bridges



Ian will talk about Ken Beames and the Linden Observatory. Ken Beames was Australia's foremost optics manufacturer for much of the 20th century. His life work, the Linden Observatory, was added to the State Heritage Register in 2010. Ian was Ken Beames' final apprentice and is a Trustee of the Observatory. (See also Observatory update on page 2.)

■ Lucky door prize



Attend the meeting for a chance to win the lucky door prize. If you are a first time attendee, you will get two chances to win.

■ AGM – Thursday 18 July



The LCA is your organisation and we encourage you to participate. By attending meetings, communicating with us or even joining the Committee, you could make a contribution which would benefit the community of Linden. If you feel you have something to contribute, come to the AGM next Thursday when all Committee positions will be declared vacant and nominations sought to refill the positions for the coming year.

■ Vine & Verse – Saturday 17 August



We have pleasure in again presenting "Vine & Verse", a winter warmer with all the usual characters, including Greg North and Johnny Furlong (of Two Furlongs Winery). This is a major fundraiser for the Family Christmas Party to which residents, friends and family members aged 18+ are invited. Refreshments – cheese, bikkies, tea, coffee etc – will be provided.

When: Saturday 17 August 2013 at 2.00 pm
Where: RFS Shed, Burke Road, Linden
Cost: \$7.50 per person (free for entertainers)

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**TO BOOK – PLEASE PHONE KATHIE ON  
4753 1208 BY 13 AUGUST**

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■ Historical walk – Saturday 31 August



Charles Leonard and Greg North will be conducting an historical walk on Saturday 31 August, commencing at 9.30 am and finishing around 2.30 pm. Sites to be visited include Donohoe's Grave, Kings Cave, the railway water tanks, Linden Lodge, Lady Martin's Bath, Caley's Repulse and Cox's Road in Dawes Park. Thanks to our "local historians" for this opportunity to explore some of Linden's past. RSVP by emailing Greg secretary@lindencitizens.asn.au by 29 August.

■ Dates for your diary

July 18	Members meeting + AGM
July 21	Bushcare work afternoon
August 17	Vine & Verse
August 18	Bushcare work afternoon
August 31	Historical walk
September 15	Bushcare work afternoon
September 19	Members meeting
September 28	RFS Open Day + Garage Sale & LCA Secondhand Saturday
October 20	Bushcare work afternoon & raffle draw
November 17	Bushcare work afternoon
November 21	Members meeting
December 8	Family Christmas Party
December 15	Bushcare work afternoon
January 27	Australia Day Sausage Sizzle

■ Watch this 'green' space!



We have received funding from Keep Australia Beautiful from conducting a litter survey in Linden. We are planning to put this \$300 towards a native hedge in the park to help beautify the park, reinforce the fence, make it safer and attract small birds to also enjoy our park. We are currently seeking support from council for this to increase our resources. Watch the newsletter for an update on when we will be planting – the more the merrier!

Robbie Beale

■ RFS Community Engagement update



At the recent brigade AGM we re-elected Colin Anlezark as Captain for 2013/2014. Senior Deputy Captain is Peter Bradshaw. Congratulations to Colin, Peter, field officers and various position holders.

If your local brigade is to survive in the future, residents are urged to consider volunteering. The brigade cannot survive without a core group of firefighters and now it could be your turn to help your local brigade. Come and learn new skills and find new friends. You could be saving lives, homes and the environment. Come and talk to us during our training sessions, which are currently held every Wednesday night at 7.30pm. For details on how you can help your brigade, contact the Senior Deputy, Peter Bradshaw, on email bradshaw@pnc.com.au.

As a great quantity of rain has fallen recently, don't forget to check and clear any blocked gutters and downpipes of accumulated leaves and debris. For the upcoming fire season it is never too early to



Suzanne Kinsley, Community Engagement Officer

■ Linden Observatory update



The final work carried out under the NSW Heritage Grant was completed in late May. The repair to the top shutter of the dome was very successful. Overall the work achieved using the heritage grant was beneficial and could not otherwise have been done. We will continue to apply for grants to assist in the conservation program for the heritage items.

The 30" telescope was remounted with computer control and optically adjusted thanks to support from Western Sydney Amateur Astronomy Group (WSAAG). The telescope can now be controlled using an iPad by pointing to an object on star charts in an app. This telescope has been transformed from being very difficult to use to a functional semi-professional instrument suitable for research work.

A couple of difficult observations have been attempted recently - occultations by Nix, the second moon of Pluto, and Chariklo, a trans-Neptunian comet-like object. Although wind and other conditions hampered both attempts, the telescope performed at or beyond expectations. An occultation occurs when one object obscures another, in this case light from a star being blocked by Nix and Chariklo. Timing and light curve measurements provide information about size, position and, to some degree, shape of the occulting object with more than usual precision.

The A-frame house is still a work in progress, with additional quotes being sought for termite treatment. We hope to rent the property soon and begin to receive a regular income stream which can be used to fund further maintenance of the Observatory.

Ian Bridges

■ Secondhand Saturday – 28 September



We have rescheduled Secondhand Saturday to coincide with the RFS Open Day and Garage Sale.

Have you got a lot of stuff lying around in the garage or shed and keep thinking you should have a garage sale? We have the answer for you! Join in our *Secondhand Saturday*.

- *What do you have to do to be involved?* Sign up and pay a \$5 registration fee (to cover advertising costs). You then hold your own garage sale on your property (we will advertise house numbers).
- *What's in it for you?* You get to have a clean-up and keep all of your own profits!

If multiple households hold a garage sale on the same day, we will attract even more people to come and buy. Everyone wins!

To register, email president@lindencitizens.asn.au or phone 0410 079151 by **6 September**.

■ Draft Sydney Trains timetable



We heard from a concerned resident about train timetable changes proposed from October 2013. Under the new timetable, only every second train would stop at Woodford, Linden and Faulconbridge during peak hours. (Though it appears that the overall number of trains stopping at Linden will not reduce.) The changes may result in more people driving to Springwood to catch trains to avoid having to wait for a train that stops at Linden on the return journey. Then, if fewer people are using Linden Station, that could open up the possibility of our station being abandoned altogether in the future. If you commute from Linden to the city, we suggest you review the draft timetable which you'll find at <http://images.smh.com.au/file/2013/05/16/4277920/timetable.pdf>.

The draft timetable will be discussed at the LCA meeting on 18 July and we will consider whether we should write to our local member as a community.

■ Bushcare or bust!!

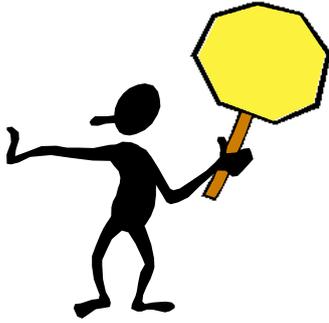


As you may know, Linden formed a Bushcare group in late 2012. But already our group needs an SOS! If we don't increase our numbers, Council will not continue to support us. A Bushcare Officer attends each month, but with only a couple of regular members, Council will have to use this resource elsewhere unless we can increase our numbers. Bushcare is only once a month for 3 hours on a Sunday afternoon and we are learning heaps! Many Caley's Lane residents have already benefitted and you can too!

Please come along on **Sunday 21 July** at 1:30 (meet at Caley's Repulse) and help our local environment while learning how to best manage any weeds in your own garden.

Robbie Beale

■ Slowing down traffic in Linden



This item will be on the agenda of our meeting on 18 July. To hear about the latest developments and to have your say, please come along to the meeting.

■ LCA committee – contact details

President:	Barbara Gow	(ph: 0410 079151)
	president@lindencitizens.asn.au	
Vice-President:	Jeremy Leather	(ph: 4753 1211)
Secretary:	Greg North	(ph: 4753 1197)
	greg@gregorynorth.com.au	
Treasurer:	Philip Moss	(ph. 4753 1214)
Executive Officers:	Robbie Beale	
	Patricia Hall	
	Marilyn Pride	
	Margaret Smith	
	Ian Winchcombe	

We have pleasure in publishing this poem written by Karen E. Budin and performed for the first time at the LCA meeting on 16 May 2013 to introduce the talk given by her husband, John Budin.

The Railway Lad

The Railway Lad had fronted up with some fear and trepidation,
For his first day of duty, on Linden railway station.
He's told you all about those days, which were never seen as boring,
But that's just the beginning, I'll continue with the story.
Perhaps the day they had a visit from the railway's No.1 official
Will set the scene for you to see, our railway lad, is someone rather special.
They'd all been warned to comb their hair, and mind their ps' and qs',
Press their trousers, look the part; even shine their shoes.

The big boss passed along the ranks, and stopped before our railway lad,
It was clear just by the boy's young age, the lack of schooling that he had.
"Now tell me son," the big boss asked, "What would your ambition be?"
"I'll have your job sir," his prompt reply, "just you wait and see."

And so it was the railway lad, who hadn't owned a pair of shoes,
Worked up and down the western line, but doubted his dream ever would come true;
But other folks, who knew the ropes, with a discerning eye,
Encouraged our railway lad, "Come on, give it a try!"
And so he burned the midnight oil, and memorised the rules,
Listened well, took it all in, attended railway schools.

The years passed by from that first day on Linden railway station,
The railway lad was now a man, perseverance his foundation.
He quickly rose up through the ranks, and was a great success.
The youngest ever A.S.M., who knows what would be next!

He joined a team of engineers, to visit 13 nations,
Rode the Bullet train and T.G.V. from famous railway stations;
Helped design a brand new train, both vandal proof and fast,
You must agree our railway lad, had realised his dream at last.

But he wasn't one for accolades, or pride in his ambition,
His only goal was safety first and service, efficiency not personal recognition.
And so, you know, it matters not, how humble your beginning
If honesty's your policy you'll make the grade, just like the railway lad from Linden.

WORKING AT LINDEN STATION IN THE 1960s

John Budin, who worked as Junior Station Assistant at Linden Station in the early 1960s, gave a talk at our May meeting, a summary of which follows. To start, John's wife Karen read a poem about John and his life entitled "The Railway Lad" that gave a great insight into his life and was well received by the meeting. Karen wrote the poem specially for the occasion. For your enjoyment, the poem is printed on page 3 of this newsletter.

John was the third eldest of eleven children and was made to work from a young age. He hardly went to school but decided to study hard in his final year in order to obtain a good reference so he could gain a good full-time job. Despite his teacher's prediction that he would only ever be a labourer or end up in jail, John came first in his class that year. He left school at age 14 and applied to the railways. He had a medical, sat their exams, but failed the spelling test. The examiner, influenced by John's school results, decided to offer him employment.

John was appointed junior station assistant at Linden in 1963, aged 17. The station Master was George Sweeney and he lived in a cottage at the eastern end of the platform between the two rail lines. Mrs O'Brien later replaced Mr Sweeney but didn't live in the cottage. She was a renowned player and teacher of tennis and one of the first females to progress from a level crossing attendant to working in stations. She was known to do her washing in Linden station's large kettle, which often made the tea taste soapy.

Linden Station was also the post office. Outgoing mail in a bag was held out for the mail train to collect as it passed (without stopping) each afternoon. Mail was sorted on the train and transferred to the GPO. Incoming mail was dropped onto the platform from a passing train. Part of John's job was to sort the mail into wooden pigeon holes – one for each Linden household (32 in total). A wind-up telephone was used to ask the operator to transfer the call to particular Linden residents (no phone numbers then) to advise they had mail to collect.

John came to know many residents and could often predict who was approaching from the sound of their steps. Mrs Warwick and Ken Beames are some people he remembers. Telegrams were also received and conveyed to residents over the phone, or left in their pigeon holes for collection. Outgoing telegrams were conveyed by phone through the operator. The railway pay bus visited each fortnight and counted out cash into an envelope for each employee who had to provide their name and employee number.

Linden had a rail siding on the northern (or up, in railway terms) side which was used to store defective railway cars. Whilst negotiating the steep grades, some railway car axle boxes would heat up and become defective. These cars were detached and moved into the siding for repairs. The existence of the Linden railway station was due to this siding.

With Linden having no shops, railway employees had to bring their lunch or go without. Sometimes they phoned Hazelbrook Station to organise a meat pie delivery on the next train, with payment being sent back on the next train up the mountain. One day a local chicken was caught, plucked and boiled in a pot in the Linden station office for lunch. Linden station had a waiting room with a pot-belly stove, a station master's office with an open fire and a signal box with signal and points levers, a bank of telephones and a cabinet for mail.

John married Karen at age 18 and began to further his studies and rise through the ranks of the railways. Following a 2 year course that he completed in 6 months, John became the youngest assistant station master at age 21. He later became traffic inspector, district superintendent and passenger manager. As part of the Tangara train project, John visited 13 countries studying their railways. He was also responsible for overcoming union objections to the removal of brake vans and guards from freight trains, which has proven to be safe.

A \$1 million project that John proposed was an express sleeper train to Brisbane's Expo 88. It was a flop, with the service cancelled half way through. Ticket holders had to be contacted and their money refunded. With spelling being a problem for John, his wife Karen typed up his reports. Management was very impressed by the reports and to this day, no one knows that Karen was responsible for them. In later positions he had secretarial staff to whom he could dictate his reports and letters.

John left the railways after 26 years' service to become a commercial real estate agent and property manager. He now works ten hours a week as a consultant and enjoys telling stories (as he has done since a child) to his grandchildren.

President Barbara thanked John and Karen for their interesting insights into Linden and John's career.