

HELENSBURGH: Linking old and new

edited by Pam Thomas & Sue Edmonds

Published 1991 by Helensburgh Community Centre

P.O. Box 80

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(Price \$7.00 + \$1.20 postage)

This is another new and enterprising oral history recorded under the auspices of the Wollongong TAFE Outreach programme.

Beginning with a series of short reminiscences from various old-timers, the booklet then moves its focus to the wider 'community' by including verse, reflections on the study of history and short comments on life today in Helensburgh by local primary schoolchildren, before recording further recollections of some of the town's older identities.

The booklet has a fresh and appealing appearance, thanks largely to the layout and calligraphy by Pam Thomas. There is also a generous selection of photographs (many from the Illawarra Historical Society Collection) of old Helensburgh and it is a credit to both the editorial team and printers that they have been so well reproduced.

Like most oral history, this is a valuable addition to the historical record of the Illawarra. The book is a testament to the efforts of those who seek to record aspects of an Australian rural/coastal mining village life which has now largely passed and remains only in the memories of a handful of elderly residents of the northern Illawarra.

Joseph Davis