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Barossa William Light Monument unveiled



Lyndoch and District Historical Society president, Ivan Randall; secretary, Anne Hausler and vice president, Quentin Nuske at the unveiling.



The Barossa William Light Monument commemorating the birthplace of the Barossa.

The Lyndoch & District Historical Society unveiled the Barossa William Light Monument in Lyndoch last Saturday when more than 100 invited guests witnessed the special ceremony.

The statue, erected at the birthplace of the Barossa, is a new landmark for the region. It is a life sized bronze statue of William Light on horseback.

The statue is on a large imposing marble pedestal. It took the artist more than a year to create the art work and to cast the bronze.

The unveiling of the Barossa William Light Monument has taken place 110 years after the unveiling on November 27, 1906 of the Light's Vision commemoration monument on Montefiore Hill in Adelaide.

The weight of the Barossa monument bronze is more than one ton and exceeds the size of the William Light Monument on Montefiore Hill in Adelaide.

The weight of the marble pedestal is seven tons.

The arm of William Light is pointing towards the Barossa Range and commemorates the moment when William Light bestowed on the entire range the name of Barossa

in Spain.

Hence, the Barossa William Light Monument in Lyndoch is the largest monument in South Australia commemorating the outstanding achievements of William Light.

At 6.30p.m. the event reached its peak. The inauguration ceremony started with a very touching speech by Mr Ivan Randall, President of the Lyndoch & District Historical Society.

Then, Mr Randall together with Mr Quentin Nuske, Vice President and Ms Anne Hausler, Secretary unveiled the statue by cutting the red ribbon.

The Lyndoch & District Historical Society has been deeply honoured on the occasion of the unveiling.

Mr Randall, President said, "This is a significant event for our community, for Lyndoch and the entire Barossa. The Barossa William Light Monument will be a new Landmark in the area."

Ms Anne Hausler, Secretary of the Lyndoch & District Historical Society

added: "The statue is a tribute to the work of the Lyndoch & District Historical Society for the past decades. We are very proud that our work has been

recognised with the erection of this monument."

The monument was commissioned with the support of the Auchli family and erected on private property at Lyndoch Manor estate in Lyndoch, situated on Yaldara Drive.

Tours of the statue are available for groups of 10 or more by prior appointment.

Subject to authorities' approval, it is planned that the adjoining park around the monument with a large scale white marble gazebo can be hired for functions and events such as weddings or concerts on an occasional basis.

The history of the Barossa and Lyndoch.

Colonel William Light, founder of Adelaide and first Surveyor-General of South Australia, commenced his discovery and exploration of the north-east of Adelaide on December 11, 1837.

Colonel Light and his retinue traversed the ground of the monument in the late afternoon of December 13, 1837.

From the location of the Barossa William Light Memorial, the explorers would have been able for the first time on their journey to have an unobstructed view

of the breathtaking vista over the Barossa Range at Lyndoch and the entire Barossa region.

He bestowed on this beautiful area the name of his friend Lord Lynedoch, famous Lieutenant-General and glorious victor of the Battle of Barossa in the Peninsula Wars (Wellington vs Napoleon) of 1811 in Spain in which Light participated as a young officer.

William Light recorded in his diary on December 13, 1837 "at length, about 5 p.m., we came to a beautiful valley which I named after my much esteemed friend, Lord Lynedoch".

On this same journey Light consequently bestowed on the entire range the name of the victorious grounds of the battle of Barossa in Spain.

The town of Lyndoch was established three years later in 1840 and is only minutes away from this monument.

Based on this historic moment of December 13, 1837 the Barossa William Light Monument commemorates the birthplace of today's world-famous Barossa Valley and Lyndoch as they have been discovered and named on this ground.