

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No 16 - MAY 1991

PRESIDENT - Edith LAWN - 631681
SECRETARY - Shirley FORSYTH - 631430

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS COMMEMORATING THE WORST YEAR - 1891 -
FOR SHIP WRECKS ALONG THE WEST COAST.

LORNE Historical Society has recently held ceremonies for the unveiling of plaques at the sites of the *WILLIAM*, *OSPREY*, *REBEL*, *OTWAY*, *HENRY* and the *HINEMOA*.

May 12th will have seen TORQUAY's commemorative service for the JOSEPH H SCAMMELL which came to grief at Point Danger on May 7th 1891; the format - a BBQ organised by the Rotary Club of Torquay followed by the plaque unveiling. Anglesea & District Historical Society has provided funds for the latter.

September 1st at AIREYS INLET - please note in your diary. Plans are already being formulated for a service of commemoration at the Split Point Lighthouse which was first illuminated on the night of August 31st, 1891. Your Society, with AIDA rep. and interested Aireys' residents have met - contact has been made with public authorities. Further information will be passed on to members as confirmation is received. We plan to have our calendar ready for sale on the day - the cover will be an attractive view of the tower - in colour.

A LINE ON OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

First meeting for the year in February was well attended to hear President Edith *relive* her visit to the Great Curnow Homecoming in the latter part of 1990. As well as the highlights of the Cornwall gathering members were most interested to hear about *Battle of Britain* celebrations 50 years on and to see pictures of the famous chapel and environs at Biggin Hill where so many young Commonwealth airmen were based.

In March John Howe, a comparative newcomer to his job in Geelong, fascinated his audience with the unusual features of working at the Commonwealth Animal Health Laboratories. He was kept busy too after his talk answering numerous questions - one feature we'll never forget is the number of *showers* taken daily by some of the employees - and the "inside watches, clothing, etc" and "the outside watches and

April - Anglesea revisited by Lucy King. Well known to many locals, the Kings had a very loyal association with the Society until moving to Perth a couple of years ago and still retain their membership to keep abreast with our activities. Lucy, on this occasion, spoke about a most relaxing and interesting holiday she and Jim had spent in Broome, a place steeped in history as the *home* of the Australian pearl industry. She also gave a *potted* picture of life in their retirement village at Sorrento, an attractive Perth suburb. We hope to see Lucy back with us at another meeting in the not too distant future.

May Most members will be aware of the *video project* - film available was shown at this meeting and after viewing, the audience was asked to suggest further topics that could be included on our *Life in Anglesea* tape. These will be *shot* before the big job of editing is commenced - suitable commentary will also be added before the final release.

June Jamie Mackenzie, a ranger with the Department of Conservation and Environment will give us some of the ideas he has formulated about our area since taking up the position and what his aims are for continued management of our natural resources. I'm sure you'll enjoy what he has to say - and during question time you might even like to quiz him about bike riding in the U.K.!!! especially about an extended trip from Lands End to Northern Scotland via Wales and Ireland!!!

July 7th NOTE:- Sunday afternoon 2pm - Meet some of the long time residents of Anglesea speaking on the Anglesea they knew.

ACQUISITIONS The long brown table which held magazines and albums etc for some years has gone and in its place a more compact cupboard, kindly given to us by Arthur Stanley. Thank you Arthur.

At our April meeting Jim Boyle made a presentation of a copy of the shorthand notes taken whilst he was a POW and from which his publication *Railway to Burma* was compiled. A comprehensive map was also given - it is hoped to feature these and other relevant items in a small exhibition at some time.

A very welcome addition to the Museum room is a glass display cabinet from the Gladys Abbott estate. We are grateful to Mrs Abbott's daughters for this gift.

An early cast-iron pressure cooker is on loan from Kath and Ian Armstrong and a wooden Biro pen turned from floor boards of the Presbyterian Church, Noorat are also on display.

The library has also gained some new volumes - "Railway to Burma", "The Geelong Advertiser Journals", and W R Brownhill's "History of Geelong and Corio Bay".

VISIT BY SECURITY CONSULTANT

The executive met with Mr Peter Wilson, an honorary consultant with the Ministry for the Arts recently. He had a good look at our building and his recommendations for the Museum have been received and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

ACTIVITIES

Our annual Easter Saturday Garage Sale again successful and our sincere thanks are due to supporters (not all members either) who generously donated goods. Our President's delicious cake was won by neighbour Betty Darby and proceeds from this competition and the goods sold totalled over \$500. The decision was made to give a quantity of left-over items to the Community House effort which was to take place the following day on the riverbank.

Our excursion to Point Cook Homestead, The Williams Point Cook Air Base and Werribee Park was fully subscribed. At the latter the group divided, some to view the Mansion, the others to take the Safari Trip in the zoo. A very successful day resulted in a profit of over \$300 to Society funds.

Two excursions in mind for the future - The Convent Gallery at Daylesford and a day in the Winchelsea-Deans Marsh area.

ANGAIR WILD FLOWER SHOW The Society will open the Museum on that day and will probably have the usual stall in the Memorial Hall.

ANNUAL DINNER An early reminder for Friday 1st November - please note! Mr Bill Huggins, former keeper of the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse, will be our guest speaker.

MEMBERSHIP Please check to see whether you have paid your "dues" for 1991. We have recently had to send the insurance to RHSV covering eligible members - this amounts to \$275 for our Society so if you have not paid, our funds are out of pocket!!! A small * will indicate if you are unfinancial at present.

PERSONAL Birthday greetings to our neighbour Mrs Fran Filkins who celebrated her 94th birthday in early May. Another neighbour Mr Ralph Smith is still in a nursing home and we all send messages & greetings for his well being.

It is with much regret that we record the passing of Gavin Cook, a past President of the Society and our sympathy is extended to his wife Elizabeth and family. Gavin's long time support for the Society will be acknowledged in a library volume.

DID YOU KNOW?

That the first permanent Scout Camp in Australia was at Anglesea.....

That it began in 1923.....

That one of our long-time residents, Stan Mervin, was a participant.....

That Anglesea was the location for a feature film RED GOLD.....

That Anglesea had its own Outdoor Cinema and regular screenings were held there, open to all.....

That the photograph below was taken in the 1920's.....

THESE AND MANY MORE INTERESTING ITEMS ARE CONTAINED IN THE FORTHCOMING BOOK "SCOUTING IN ANGLESEA" IN THE CONTINUING SERIES "ALONG THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD"

Publication date - later this year.

THE OUTDOOR PICTURE THEATRE IN THE OLD SCOUT CAMP

