

# ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

NEWSLETTER No 30 - APRIL 1995

**PRESIDENT**

Val Amery  
631852

**SECRETARY**

Shirley Forsyth  
631430

REMINDER - Monthly meetings will be held on the first Sunday afternoon of each month at 2pm from May until September, inclusive. As our museum is also open to the public at this time please understand there could be slight interruptions to the scheduled programs. We do not have many offers of assistance from members to host "open afternoons" - this is one way we can perhaps encourage some budding "ushers" to assist. The afternoon meetings have also proved popular during the winter months when cold Saturday evenings could be better spent at the fireside hearth!

**MAY MEETING - SUNDAY 7th.**

This year being the 50th anniversary of both V.E. and V.J. days, World War 2, the Society will be participating in special "Australia Remembers" events. We are fortunate in having Dr Henry Millicer, a former Polish airman and aero-nautical engineer address us on Sunday Afternoon, May 7th at 2pm. Visitors will be most welcome. There will be a static display at the Museum with many excellent photos of wartime planes and other memorabilia kindly on loan from members and friends.

April Meeting - this was well attended and Elsie Samuel has given us details so that members who missed the talk by Alan Browning will be able to share some interesting information.

"Alan Browning from the Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative spoke about "Koori" culture. He explained that Kooris came from Victoria and well up into New South Wales. He came from Coolangatta, so was a Murri. Murri territory extended well into Queensland, therefore a hot climate. Kooris in cold sections made cloaks of possum skins, stitched with tendons from kangaroo tails, using an emu bone needle. Aboriginal crafts differed according to area, e.g., in the Northern Territory there was a supply of twisted saplings which had been hollowed out by termites. These were used to make didgeridoos. Alan played a didgeridoo for us - a lovely mellow sound with tones like an organ. His wife and three delightful children came with him and we were quite captivated by the family. Alan stressed that the most important feature for harmony between diverse cultures was "respect" based on mutual acceptance of the others worth."

Continuing the theme of the May meeting, Elsie suggested that members attend a lecture organised by the Probus Club of Anglesea at the main hall on Monday May 8th at 10.30 am. Peter Tobin will speak about "Weary" Dunlop. On the same morning the RSL will conduct a flag-raising ceremony at the flag pole near the post office. School children will take part in this ceremony. The RSL will hold a number of flag-raising ceremonies in the next few months to mark significant battles on World Wars 1 and 2. Watch for notices or contact the RSL for details.



There was a change of venue for the March Meeting and as Jean Wendt reports a small busload of members were driven by our Town Crier, Stan Stott to the Queenscliff Fort where they witnessed the ceremony "Beating the Retreat" As Jean continues - - - we were conducted very ably by Stan and his Lady (attired in official garb). Quite an advantage as on arrival we were confronted by a queue stretching as far as we could see. Escorted by our Criers, plus bell, the queue opened and let us elderlies in near the front!!! Thank you Stan!! It was a perfect autumn night, blue skies, perfect sunset, spectacular rise of the new moon. All surplus to a magnificent performance - historic ancient ceremony signalling the cessation of hostilities for the day at sunset (very civilised battle procedure not kept up now.) Martial music was provided by the Australian Army Band (Melbourne Division) who later changed hats and became the orchestra to accompany soloists both vocal and instrumental, culminating in a magnificent rendition of the 1812 Overture with guns (105mm Howitzer detachments) of 2/10 Company with the band now wearing hard hats. Then a haunting lament from a lone piper on the roof of one of the buildings. The Guard of Honour was from the Deakin University Company. The commentator was Major I T Campbell of the Command and Staff College and the Reviewing Officer Councillor L Irving-Dusting, former Mayor of Queenscliff. For anyone who has not witnessed this performance it is repeated each year. Really a must for all to see. Thanks again to our Town Crier for his safe driving to and from the performance.

Our President's Report - We gratefully acknowledge the following:

- 1 Australia Remembers Calendar - RSL
- 2 Early postcard of Four Kings Cafe - Mrs M Banham
- 3 Folder of snapshots of Anglesea, circa 1939 - Mrs Powell
- 3 A complete list of every photo held by the Society - in numerical order with a brief description of subject matter. (about 360 in all) Will be most useful when checking up of requests. Thank you to Keith C for this excellent resource.

The President and Secretary attended a meeting chaired by former Commissioner McCormack at the Winchelsea Shire Offices to discuss possible uses of this fine facility. An Historical Records Centre is being established there under the auspices of the Geelong Historical Records Centre. The opportunity was taken to visit the Winchelsea Museum and much was gained from an exchange of ideas with local members Mardi Banham and Geoff Mathison.

It is with sadness that we record the passing of valued member Anne Barsby - she with Evan have been interested participants in Society affairs almost from its inception. Many members attended a memorial service for Anne in Trinity Uniting Church Anglesea just before Easter.

Our Secretary is taking a well-earned holiday and with husband Ken will be travelling abroad - Bon Voyage! Elsie Samuel has kindly agreed to look after the paper work during Shirley's absence.

Lindsay's Cameo - Again we have another interesting contribution from one of our "historians"

#### LOOKING AROUND WITH LINDS THE FIRST EUMERALLA SCOUT CAMP



Happened to be at a meeting the other night and heard Joan Murch mention in an introductory speech, that back in 1929 while rowing up the river she saw a group of people throw Lord Somers (Victoria's Governor) into the flow.

Now its not everyday that an English Lord (KCMG. DSO. MC.) is dunked into our Anglesea stream. However, this momentous occasion transpired when the first Anglesea Scout venue proudly hosted the initial Lord Somers Camp.

Naturally boys will be boys, and the popular Lord Somers (who was staying at the settlement for a week), was an obvious target for such an occurrence!

The early Anglesea Scout site was chosen by Harold Hurst, with a little help from his friends - Louis Whyte and Norman (Jarvis) Belcher. Louis Whyte of 'The Heights' in Newtown, knew that Harold Hurst (who manufactured wool bale hooks in his backyard workshop at 35 Skene Street) was looking for a large allotment close to Geelong to establish a permanent Scout Camp. He mentioned that the subdivided land just down the river from his boatshed would be an ideal location. Hurst liked what he saw, and in 1922 commissioned Norman Belcher a Geelong Estate Agent, to acquire some blocks for him on 'The Anglesea Estate'. Belcher came up with lots 1 - 10 on the west side of Camp Road, and lots 12 -18 on the south side of Wray Street.

The first Anglesea Permanent Scout Camp was established on lots 1 - 10 between Camp Road and the river, and a Scout fire lookout tower was erected higher up the hill on part of lot 18 in Wray Street (now Eric Davidson's front garden).

The encampment comprised of a tent section, a large mess hut, five bungalows, plus a hospital, cook-house, providor store and concert stage. A detailed map shows that in those days the venue (which accommodated 60 people) stretched down to the river. It also revealed that two unsewered latrines were located close to that particular unpolluted stream - *today's environmentalists would have done a double flip !* Also adjacent to the latrines were a boathouse, river-landing and 30 ft.high diving-tower - *maybe they just didn't worry in those care-free halcyon times !*

By 1946 both the successful camp and the township had expanded. It was obvious a new site was required for the Scouts future needs. Fortunately an untouched 1000 acre area suitable for expansion was acquired to the east on the hill, and Eumeralla bade farewell to its place adjacent to the river.

All the buildings on the old location were destroyed by the 1947 fire. 'Narambi' caravan park now occupies the pioneer camp area. Bingley Parade has been formed since those early days, and during last summer while rowing up the river, I noticed on the side of the stream a couple of disintegrating wooden posts marking the spot of the bygone landing, boathouse and diving tower. *Thankfully no trace can be found of those early latrines !*

We are fortunate to have such energetic researchers as Lindsay and Keith for really that is what Historical Societies are all about. Several contributors to the newsletter too make for more interesting reading as each one has a special style - we hope you the readers enjoy the variety.



TO COME - DATES FOR THE DIARY

SUNDAY AFTERNOON June 4th at 2pm. Reverend A Peerman will be our guest speaker - Alex was a chaplain to the Geelong Goal and will give us an insight into this particular field of pastoral care.

ANNUAL DINNER - Friday November 3rd - always a special event on our calendar. We are very pleased to announce that Lynne Russell, the Editor of THIS MONTH IN GEELONG has agreed to speak to us. She has a delightful personality, bright and witty and as well as the demanding job of running a highly successful publication, copes with a large garden and "chooks" as well as family on a property at Bellbrae. I'm sure she will endear herself to you all.

FINAL MEMBERSHIP REMINDER - To remain financial subs should be paid as soon as possible. A small X on your newsletter will show that according to our records the subscription of \$5 is still outstanding.



A GROUP OF SCOUTS AT THE ORIGINAL SCOUT CAMP ALONGSIDE THE ANGLESEA RIVER.