

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 45 - JAN - 99

PRESIDENT
Val Amery
(03) 52631852

SECRETARY
Shirley Forsyth
(03) 52631430
Box 98, ANGLESEA 3230

TREASURER
Betty Lloyd
(03) 52633442
9 Belton Av. ANGLESEA

1999 - FEBRUARY MEETING - Sunday 6th at 2p.m.

Our first meeting for the year will be in the form of a short business session followed by a cuppa before we head for Torquay to visit the Surf Coast Museum - a car pool will operate. This should be a most interesting outing and we would like a really good roll-up - so please make sure the date is in your diaries.

Once again our annual dinner was most successful with about sixty members and friends enjoying the occasion when Brian Smith entertained with a great deal of wit and enthusiasm his trip to the West in a light plane along with ABC personality Allan Willingham - to hear of landings on remote beaches and "unguarded" airstrips in the outback was some eye-opener and intriguing to learn that the "Do It Yourself" Man is a dab hand at cooking in these out of the way places and appropriately, a good bottle of wine also accompanied the meals!! We would all like to have heard more as it has become a passion of Brians to explore the possibility of early Dutch explorers having actually landed on the W.A. coast and settled. Perhaps we will be lucky enough to hear him again at some time in the future.

Our Christmas meeting presented travellers tales of variety when several members recounted interesting incidents - they ranged from visiting beautiful buildings in Buda Pest, wandering the byways and bus routes of Britain, unusual plane experiences and the memorial to the crew of the ill-fated HMAS SYDNEY near Carnarvon in the west. President Val had the Museum looking most festive and presented each member with Christmas cake.

ACQUISITIONS

The sale of a Portsea bathing box has made news recently creating a record - one wonders what the fee might be for the privilege of having this structure on the beach. We have now in our collection Permission for a bathing box slip issued on 1/4/18 to the Paton family for 7/6d.!

Other additions to the Society include an old insurance sign which used to be placed on buildings to denote cover by a certain company. A variety of medals has also been received plus a couple of books for the library. Betty Lloyd would be most willing to assist members with the borrowing of volumes - this resource of ours is very much under utilised.

Sunday openings during January have been quite worthwhile with visitors learning something of interest as well as the rostered members. Thankyou to those who have assisted on this project.

The Society has a new venture - Annie Hams designs of Torquay is producing table mats, coasters etc. using some of our historical photos. These should be available locally at Shelby's Attic by the end of January. Lorne Society has entered into a similar arrangement and products showing some of their images are now on sale at Moontide. Of course we still have our fine china mugs and notelets when you are looking for that special little gift.

MEMBERSHIP

Subs. are now due at \$7:50 p.h. and Betty Lloyd would be pleased to hear from you if yours is still on the outstanding list. Our insurance is due early in the year and this takes about half of the sub. whether you are an active member or not. Betty's address: 9 Belton Ave., ANGLESEA 3230

A couple of items in recent copies of THE INVESTIGATOR magazine of the Geelong Historical Society warrant inclusion in our newsletter.

DID YOU KNOW THAT Geelong had a rather inglorious beginning? H.G Turner writes in his History of the Colony of Victoria, Vol 1.

"During 1838 a few rude erections found place on the,as yet unsurveyed,land despite the Sydney proclamation warning off trespassers. One or two, near the shore of the bay, were stores for the supply of the surrounding settlers, their stock of goods being water-borne from Van Diemen's Land and Melbourne. Others were public houses, or more correctly speaking,grog shanties where the shepherds and stockmen forgathered to carouse when they drew their wages. By October of the same year the town of Geelong had been surveyed and gazetted. By 1841 Geelong had 81 houses and 454 inhabitants. In January that year Geelong's first police magistrate, Foster Fyans, was still living in huts at Fyansford although he moved to his new house in Corio by the end of the summer. His successor, Nicholas Fenwick, was living with his sister in a half-furnished cottage and tents at Corio." A city on the move with all the new water front development a far cry from this humble beginning!!!

DID YOU KNOW THAT in the early 1840's most immigrants who came to Geelong were from vessels which had docked in Melbourne? In July 1841 the Aphrasia brought 40 migrants who had arrived on the Royal Saxon: in February 1842 17 Families arrived in the revenue cutter Ranger which brought another 60 migrants in March, 32 in August,17 in September, an unspecified number in October and 27 in November. The following extract is taken from an account by an Ebenezer Cuzens who penned same some fifty years after the events but does tie in with the above.

He states that despite the natural beauties of the Township they sadly missed the comforts of the their English homes. 'HIS' ship was a cargo carrier in the Calcutta trade with accommodation for a dozen passengers under the poop deck. However, it was converted so that the whole of the tween deck space was made into small cabins of cheap unpainted wood.A man and wife had one cabin and if there were children a second cabin given. For big boys and single men there were 4 or 5 in one cabin. All bedding and utensils were the property of the passenger. Occupants after getting their meal from the cook ate in the cabin.The rations were served out 2 or 3 times a week when someone from each cabin had to be on the spot with dish or bag to receive same. Meat was the chief difficulty= the Chief Officer stood opposite a cask filled with beef and brine -he was armed with a 3 pronged fork which was dug into the cask to bring out a chunk of meat to which was attached a tin tag with a number and the weight. If it was too big for the waiting family it was thrown to one side and the digging process went on til a suitable piece turned up. Then it was taken to the galley where it was placed in the boiler, then retrieved and the number on the tag called out to be collected by the appropriate family! The journey took 16 weeks - on arrival at Point Henry all the crew except the chief Officer and the cook had disappeared leaving passengers the task of getting their furniture and belongings transferred to the lighter to be brought ashore - this took a week to accomplish and finally at 6 p.m. one evening a party of them were dumped down on the Yarra Street pier,the only one in existence at that time! House hunting!! this is an example - Mum,Dad and 9 children in a brick 2 storeyed house opposite what is now the Eureka Hotel built as a shop + 4 rooms -no blinds or stove or oven, no wood and the nearest water in the Barwon with the furniture coming off the wharf at 8p.m!

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Some interesting snippets:

A Mr. Hayes from Portland Victoria has written asking for any information we may have about The Herald being delivered to Anglesea during the period December 27th 1920 and January 8th 1921 by plane!

According to his source INTO HISTORY, under the heading "Commercial Aviation" this speedy form of communication and transport was exemplified when the proprietors of the Herald and Weekly times Ltd. chartered a number of planes to make air deliveries principally at holiday resorts, including Lorne, Portarlington, Clifton Springs, Drysdale, Queenscliff, Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads, Torquay, Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Cowes, San Remo, Mornington, Sorrento, Portsea, Flinders, Mordialloc and Frankston: the residents were reading the day's news as early as residents of the suburbs of Melbourne. A Major H. T. Shaw in a Shaw-Ross AVRO was the first airman to land at Flinders. One might wonder where they would have landed at Lorne!! But perhaps there may be among our readers someone who has heard of this venture and could let us know if and where the "landing" took place in our town - I'm sure Mr. Hayes would be delighted with any response to his request.

Another "flyer" received was a copy of some extracts from The Maitland Mercury of 1843 - heading the list under COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE - Port Phillip District was an item to catch my eye! " An aboriginal boy named Neddy who has been in the service of Dr. Martin for some years and was quite civilised, was barbarously murdered by five natives of the Buninyong tribe at Mr. Airey's station on the night of Tuesday May 23rd. Three of the murderers are known, but not captured." Writing to the husband / wife team putting all the information together in microfiche form I was grateful for their speedy reply - unfortunately they could offer no more about Mr. Airey but this is part of their letter - "In the index to the Mercury for 1843 there are over 16000 entries, and when we made up the flyer we just extracted a few entries at random as a general example of the content. I guess as there were only 23 entries on the flyer, then the chances of a particular entry being relevant to any Society in particular is 700 to 1, so the fact that the very first entry on the flyer was something that was of interest to your society was very remote indeed." They have done a quick run-thru the first 3 months of the 1844 Mercury, but alas no more mention of a Mr. Airey!

Congratulations to Malcolm Graham (President of the Lorne Historical Society) for being awarded Surfcoast Shire's Citizen of the year. Malcolm a long time resident of Lorne, was recognised for his efforts in recording the history of Lorne, and for his many years of voluntary service to Community organisations. *Well done Malcolm!*

Whose rock carving ?



It's nearly 100 years since T. U. Harvey carved his name into a rock close to the cliffs near today's Anglesea Lifesaving Clubhouse. The etching is dated 17/3/00 which suggests that it was done during the Easter holiday period of that year. The Harvey's arrived in Australia during 1853 and settled at Newtown. Frederick Harvey then established a Produce store in Ryrie Street. The family first came to Anglesea in 1887 and rented Parker's holiday house on the hill.



Harvey' holiday cottage

By 1889 they had purchased 2 acres with cottage from F. B. White, in what is now the Bannister Street area. Our file shows that Troward Harvey, the eldest son of Frederick and Una Jane Harvey, was probably the person responsible for the near 100 year cut into the rock face. *No computer shut-down worries at the time of that particular turn of the century* ▷

EARLY ANGLESEA FAMILIES - 'THE PATONS'

**In 1912
Torquay
became too
crowded !!**

Most Australian urban dwellers have an appetite for a holiday *that is away from it all*. In 1912 this was the case with the Paton family. They considered that Torquay was becoming too crowded, and changed to Anglesea for their annual break. For the next 3 years after Christmas, they rented a large white house on the hill from William Parker. They shared this holiday house with their friends the Forrests, and a enjoyable time was had by all concerned.

The name of Paton is well known in Anglesea -



May Paton and Frances Boyd

especially in the Uniting Church circle. When they first came to Anglesea there were only about 15 houses including the Hotel and the Evan's farm. Roads were just narrow grey dust tracks, which in summer burnt the children's feet as they ran home for lunch from tree to tree, trying to keep in the shade.

The family at first travelled to Anglesea from Grovedale in farmer Winkler's dray. As there was no local store until near the end of WW1, food supplies

also had to be taken with them. The trip was a leisurely one, with a stop for lunch to rest the horses. The track into town then went parallel with the river and their first stop was at the Evans' farm (where Alcoa is now) to order a daily delivery of milk.

In 1914 the Rev. Frank and Mrs Clara Paton purchased rear adjoining one acre lots 2 and 12



'The Hut'

Gladstone Estate for the princely sum of £30. The Forrests chose lot 2, and the Patons lot 12. Local builder Walter Harrison erected "The Hut" for them in 1916. Originally this consisted of a living room with a log fire place, kitchen with fuel stove, a dressing room and sleeping facilities consisted of a wide verandah with canvas blinds. Cooking was done on a wood fuelled stove and washing boiled in several modified kerosene tins. Rain water was stored in tanks.



Mail came by Cobb & Co.

Peggy Bunton (Paton) mentioned to me during a video interview, that one of her first memories of the district was the excitement as Cobb & Co's coach with it's team of horses galloped up to the Hotel to deliver the mail. As everyone stood expectantly waiting, the

mail bag was thrown down, and names called as each letter was drawn out.

Sunday was an important day for the family. Usually The Rev. Paton and the Rev Forrest and Prof. Wilkin organised a roster for the service. At first the Presbyterian Church was located at today's School corner in Camp Road. There were no other Churches and all denominations worshipped together. The Rev. Arthur Tonge came along in later years.

The family shared a river boatshed at the bottom of Parker St. with the Forrests. They would row to Church from this and moor their boat at the landing close to the place of worship.



Paton's boatshed (3rd from l.h.s.) was in Parker St. group

In 1917 the Church Building was re-located to it's present site in today's Murch Crescent. The Rev. Frank Paton was there on the day it was moved. He and the Rev. J. L. Forrest conducted the opening service.

Another one acre block situated on the high side of 'The Hut' at the corner of McMillan and Jackson Streets was later purchased by the family.

Ken and George Paton each erected a holiday house on part of this lot.

All these houses are still there, and used by descendants of the Paton family. □ L.B.