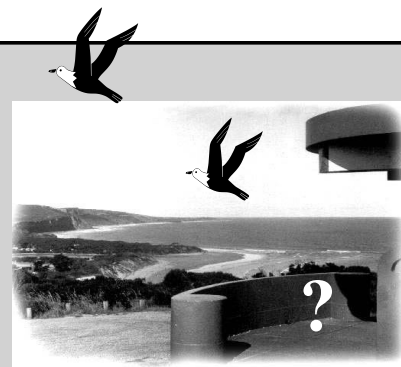


Coastal Current

seaside tidings from ...
The Anglesea & District
Historical Society Inc.

"active researchers!"



Winter Snippets

Our new Museum window sign "inspection only a phone call away" is working. A new type of enquiry has come from people travelling through our township. Also it is noticeable that the generation who enjoyed a holiday here during the early 4Kings day's, are now wanting to look back on vacation memories. Even a couple from Sydney who had landed at Avalon, hired a car, and were about to travel along the GOR, mobile-phoned for inspection of our 4Kings photos etc.

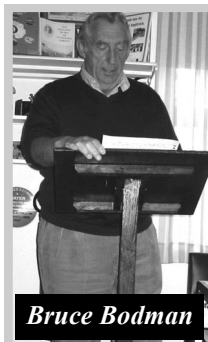
WE SINCERLEY THANK CHRIS BARR, Secretary of the Torquay & District Historical Society for her interesting article that appears on page 4 of this issue. It's great to diversify to other nearby areas.

A RECENT HOLIDAY VISITOR TO OUR MUSEUM, was Eloise Atkinson. Eloise has given us information including a press cutting on the circumstances of a 1951 river-mouth rescue involving her husband Jack Atkinson —an article on this will appear in a later Newsletter

At our June meeting BRUCE BODMAN delivered a well researched talk on THE DARING EXPLOIT of early aviator Lieutenant Arthur Long. This covered his service in WW1, his famous first crossing of Bass Strait, landing momentarily at Torquay, then continuing on to Port Melbourne - well done Bruce! Also at our June meeting Val Amery presented long time member JEAN WENDT a Honorary Membership certificate, together with a posy of flowers in appreciation of the dedicated work she has done for the Society.

OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON is scheduled for Friday 28th October at the Anglesea Golf Club -12 noon for 12.30pm. We are extremely lucky to have author EDITH MARTIN as guest speaker. Edith's grandfather R.G. Carey is acknowledged as one of Australia's aviation pioneers. He was initially involved in the motor industry prior to aviation and was also well known for his distribution of "Pals" a boys paper published by the Herald & Weekly Times. Carey also pioneered aerial photography with W. Hanson.

ELIZABETH NORTH guest speaker at our July meeting, gave an interesting insight on the White family, who were significant pioneers of the Torquay district. Wonderful reminiscences of life in early Torquay were also included. Thank you Elizabeth ■ L.B.



Bruce Bodman



Jean Wendt



Elizabeth North

Newsletter No 71
July 2005

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Meetings
The Historical Society meets on
the first Sunday of each month
unless otherwise notified

Museum
Our Museum at 5a McMillan
Street Anglesea, will be open
during the Xmas and Easter
holidays on Sundays 2-4pm or
by appointment.

Web site -
[http://home.vicnet.net.au/
~angen/](http://home.vicnet.net.au/~angen/)

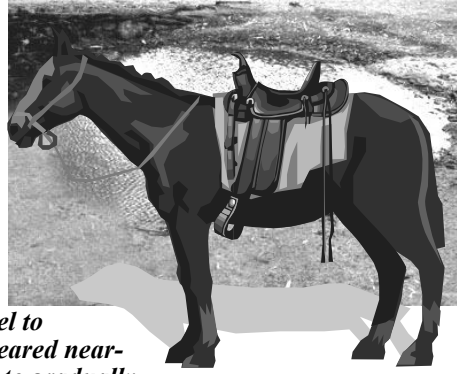
e-mail -
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McMillan Street waterhole

Prior to 1920 (when transport was mostly horse-drawn) the main road to Aireys after crossing the bridge went via Noble Street up to what we now refer to the power-line track, then along this middle route to the Inlet. Travel weary horses arriving from Geelong were taken to the unfenced McMillan street water-hole, before proceeding to the Inlet, or the nearby Gladstone Hill cottages. This once popular water-hole was **just west of the driveway to the Historical Society** - not everyone had a dam.

However, as the motor car became popular, travel to Anglesea was easier and many more houses appeared nearby, causing the old spring that fed the waterhole to gradually lose its zest. The watering place was eventually filled in ■ LB.



Former Chapel at Modewarre

Peter Bromley pointed out this interesting structure from the past, whilst travelling back from Winchelsea with Ruth and Lindsay on Anzac day. It's a Chapel built in 1858 for the Bible Christian Siloam, during the day's of campaigns against the "DEMON DRINK." Ian Wynd's "Land of the Magpie" tells us that it became a centre for temperance activities in the area, and was used for liquor restraint lectures in 1860. Apparently people's interest in temperance faltered after that, as no further reports were received. Wonder if the deserted building has been used since?

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST nearby Freshwater Creek's "Gretna Green" Hotel was only licensed between 1859 and 1867, and Mrs Jackson's Anglesea Hotel did not apply for a full licence until 30 years after these abstinence campaigns weakened in the Geelong and Modewarre areas ■ LB.



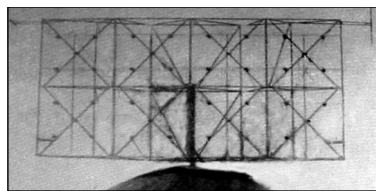
Cape Otway Radar 1942/6

Anglesea's Loveridge look-out played a role in the important WWII ground warning strategy of the RAAF. In our zone the effort was

divided into two divisions -Radar station 13 at Cape Otway and 14 across the sea at Wilson's Promontory, backed by air observation posts at Lorne, Anglesea and Torquay.

Dennis Kishere called to the Cape Otway Light Station on behalf of our Historical Society and obtained the following information —

No.13 Radar Bunker 1942/1946 used an early radar unit from Britain. The operator would manually sweep (by a small wheel attached to gearing) the antenna 360 degrees looking for blips on the "lathoole" ray oscilloscope trace line on the screen. If an aircraft or ship was detected, he would focus the antenna and pass range and bearing to a second operator. These co-ordinates were then plotted on a grid and passed on to the wireless/ telegraphy operator for transmission to Melbourne. If an aircraft was detected, as a series of coded short and long sequenced blips transmitted by the aircraft would appear on the bottom of the operator's screen. This code was known as IFF (Identification friend or foe.) If no IFF was detected, and emergency signal was transmitted to Headquarters and further action would then be taken. *Time has marched on since those days, and sadly the men who manned these lonely outposts are holding a final reunion this year ■ DK.*



Edna Walling's 'East Point' 1948/1965

Undoubtedly Edna Walling is respected as one of Australia's most noted landscape designers. She regarded *The Great Ocean Road* as one of the most beautiful and universally enjoyed memorials in Australia.

When this scenic route was under construction, the Trust (continually short of finance,) subdivided and sold 140 blocks on 'Big Hill', so as the proceeds would keep the work progressing.

Over two decades later in 1948 Walling purchased 6 hectares of this sloping land and erected her 'Villa' midst the black ironbarks.



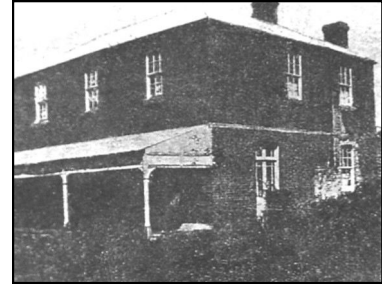
The Walling thumbprint can be still noticed along the narrow private access track. This was originally designed to save as many trees as possible on the climb up to East Point Villa. Frail areas of the side banking were strengthened with neatly placed rocks which gave no offence to the undulating scene.

'East Point' cottage proved to be one of Edna's favourite places. Unfortunately it was destroyed by the 1965 bush-fire.

Before departing to live in Buderim in 1967, Walling assigned the property to the Bird Observers Club ■ LB.

'Times past' on the way to Anglesea

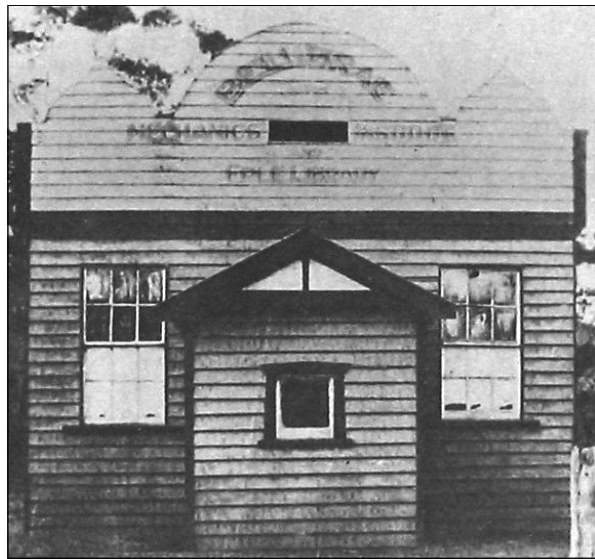
Iron Bark Station Homestead



Joseph Gundry's Iron Bark Station homestead, formerly a 2 storey local clay brick residence (timber at rear) of 11 rooms at Jan Juc (Bellbrae) was once on private land west of Anglesea / Menzel's Roads above Spring Creek. **This abode was later reduced to single storey, then used for hay storage, and eventually demolished.** Joseph Gundry took up Iron Bark Station in 1844. He was able to buy up a good deal of land around his run. Just before his death he offered his property of 7,721 acres plus conditional rights to adjoining lands; an eleven room 2 storey house; 6000 sheep and 60 cattle. Roderick Impey Murchison was thought to have been the buyer. He offered it for sale under the name of "Llamberis" in 1885. Later that year A.N. Hassall invited tenders for lots at "Llamberis." C. J. Cook was the occupant by 1888 ■

Bellbrae Mechanics Institute

A Mechanics Institute and Free Library was established in Bellbrae in 1887. This was instigated by the local townspeople. The building, near today's tennis courts, **was removed when a new bridge was erected during 1916.** This left the timber construction in the middle of the new (today's) route to Anglesea. It was not re-built ■



Bellbrae Post Office

Bellbrae Post office (once run by the Cunningham's) was originally on the eastern side of today's School Road. **It was moved further up the rise to the opposite side of the road during August 1973.** The P.O. later closed and only a Mail-Box remains ■

MOVING A TORQUAY BATHING BOX

Over the last few years the Torquay and District Historical Society have undertaken a project to record the cultural significance of the Bathing Boxes, small but significant pieces of Torquay's heritage that once dotted the beaches of the town.

We noted several remnant structures around Town and, last May began investigating the possibility of removing an original Bathing Box from an Anderson Street block that was about to be redeveloped.

A meeting was arranged between the owners, members of our group, and local architect Jim Bufton. Jim found that although the Box was in fairly poor condition, and the floor had deteriorated in some parts, he felt that it could be moved provided it was braced and reinforced internally.

Keith, our President, investigated the physical possibilities and felt it would not be too difficult a job given the openness of the block (plenty of room to manoeuvre) while I opened discussions with the owners about the price, explaining that funds for a little society were pretty slim.

Several things had to be organised before we could do much more. I visited the local Police to check on legal issues carrying the load through town. If we used a tray truck the maximum height allowance would be reached and this would require a Vic Roads permit, however if we were able to manage with a trailer and were under the limit, the Police would be happy to give us escort on the roads.

Worried about funds I contacted Julie Dyer at the Surf Coast Shire explaining our plans and asking her support. Julie was wonderful offering suggestions and hints as to where I might seek financial help. I then set about calling different people around town that I thought

would support us in this venture.

One of these phone calls was to Rod Goring at the Foreshore. I asked Rod for a letter of support from the Foreshore for our endeavour, thinking, that, as the Boxes were originally under the control of this body, they would encourage us.



This proved to be a most important contact as Rod called back saying that after discussions with his staff he would not only support us but in fact he would like to take the Bathing Box down to his work shed while we worked out a plan to re-



store it.

He suggested several options and advised me on things to consider, eg security after the project is completed, safe location etc.

This to me seemed a marvellous result, as the Foreshore support would be vital to the success of the restoration, but more importantly the box would be secure safe from vandals and eventually open for the public use. Rod also suggested that

after restoration the T&DHS might like to use the box for photo displays etc.

I reported the state of affairs to the owners, and they were happy with the idea and generously agreed that they would drop their fee if we recognised Mrs Dulcie Aldridge as the original owner. We agreed that either a small plaque or story-board inside explaining the "history" of the box would be appropriate

Things moved fairly quickly after this Keith being a man of few words but quick action set the date for the following Thursday.

Equipment for the coming task was gathered - large trailer jacks, shovels, chain, blocks and timber for bracing,

plus lots of manpower!

Keith and his team began the day digging around the stumps and removing dirt that had built up around the base of the box. The Box now served as a shed so we

had to empty it of garden tools and equipment. The earlier part proved easier than expected as some of the stumps were rotten and offered little resistance.

After lots of digging and jacking the box sat out of the ground on wooden blocks. Mrs Jukes came out for inspections and photos, and added to the oral history with some stories about Mr and Mrs Aldridge and their days as early traders in town.

■ Chris Barr . Secretary T&DHS

Part two will continue in our next newsletter