

Coastal Current

Quarterly Newsletter Of The

Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 100

Spring 2013

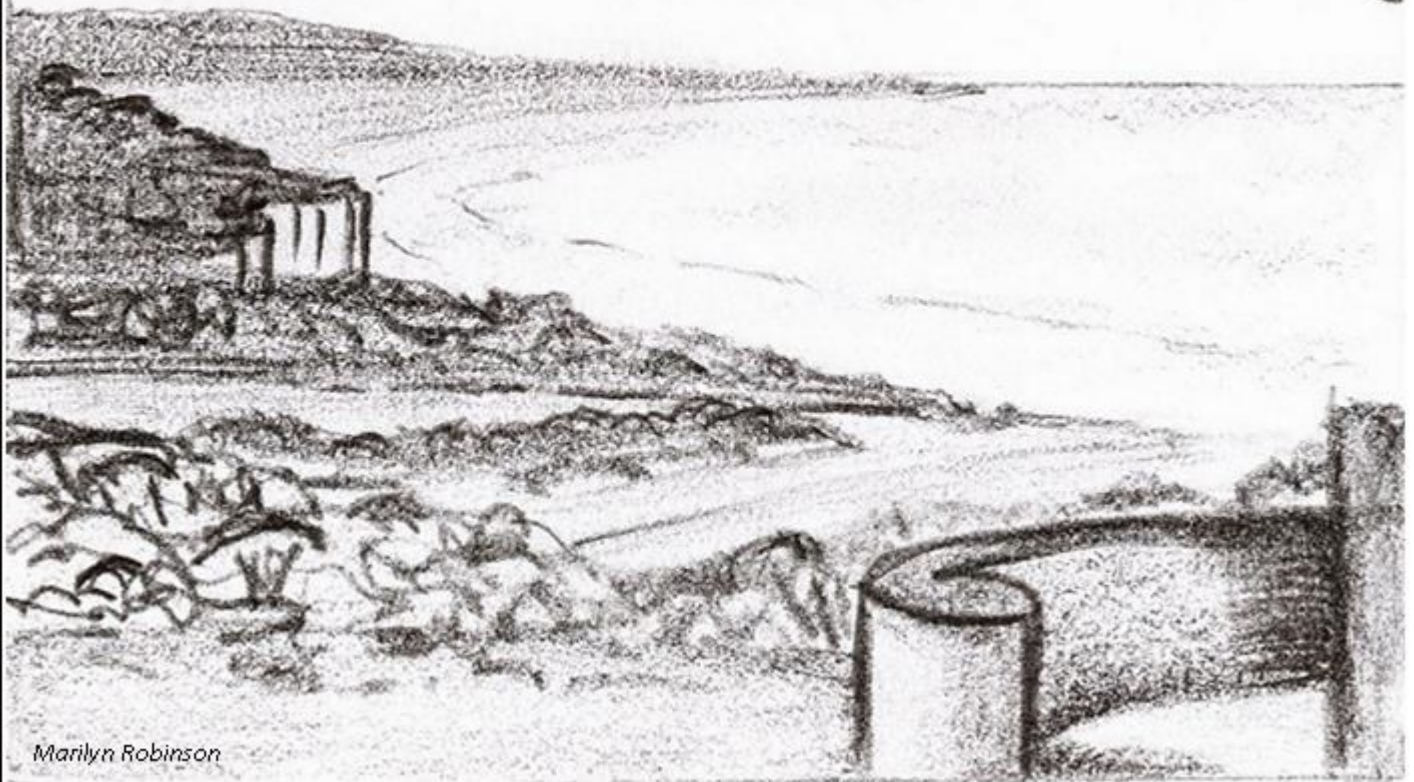
The Anglesea & District Historical

*Society is a not for profit organisation
staffed by volunteer members of the
community, whose aim is to research
and preserve history of the local area.*



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History



Marilyn Robinson

PLEASE NOTE - The Newsletter will be sent only to financial members.
Membership fees apply from 1 September to 31 August

Meetings & Activities

Meetings are held at the Museum
5a McMillan Street, Anglesea
Entrance 4 of the McMillan Street
Community Precinct

The Historical Society meetings are on the first Sunday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October & December).

Meetings start at 2.00pm followed by a speaker and afternoon tea.

Historical Society Committee

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Coming up:

SEPTEMBER - Tuesday 3 September 2., 10.00am

Tour of Anglesea Camps- Araluen, Wilkin, Burnside Eumerella, &YMCA. Bookings essential

Cost \$15.00 non members \$12.50 ADHS Members

Includes morning tea and lunch.

OCTOBER - AGM Sunday 7 October 2.00pm Speaker -

Jennifer Bantow, former President of the National Trust Geelong Branch

NOVEMBER - Wednesday 6 November Tour historic sites of

Aireys Inlet. Meet at the Museum at 10.00am, BYO lunch, tea & coffee provided.

DECEMBER - Sunday 1 December 2.00pm Christmas Party

- 194\$ film 'Bush Christmas'

Photographs

Anglesea & District Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs that may be ordered through Jan Morris ph. (03) 5263 3085

Email - davejanmorris@bigpond.com

Prices	On high quality photo paper	On 100 gsm fine finish paper
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A4	8.26X11.69	\$15	\$8
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A5	5.82X8.26	\$8	\$4
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A6	4.13X5.82	\$4	\$2
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A3 maybe available by special arrangement 11.69X16.53

A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children-last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it-hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

Secretary Snippets

A group from the Historical Society spent

an exciting day at the Bark Hut with the prep, grade one and two children from Aireys Inlet school. Taking the theme *they used only what they had*, we enjoyed old fashioned games and morning tea while helping them understand what life was like in the days of early settlement.

Our July combined meeting with the Surf Coast Family History Group was a cosy winter get together with Dr Ian Edwards taking us through some of his 25 years as an archeologist digging in Jordan. He gave us a fascinating insight into his work discovering past civilizations. It was good to have new people who are interested in local history and some visitors. A profit of \$83 for the day was shared between the two organizations.

Anglesea Businesses and Traders was the topic we covered at the first of our Anglesea Memories information gathering sessions as we collect the history of Anglesea from the second world war. Several long term residents gave us an insight into the streetscape of the fifties and sixties. Our next step is to film these people talking about the businesses. This will be the first of many topics covering our post war history. Two people have commenced training to use the new movie camera. Joshua Hughes is training them to film our *Anglesea Memories* series.

It is with sadness that we record the death of one of our long term members Pearl Pickett, who passed away in June and Dorothy Lewtas who passed away in August. Both had been valuable members of our Society.

Two tasks that have been on the books for some time are now complete. They are the assets register and the Indexing of the Newsletters, Coastal Current. We have also indexed the Inverloch Log, the newsletter of the Surf Coast Family History Group. Our next task is to index the 114 NewsAngles. Offers of help would be greatly appreciated

We have commenced our family file, filing the information we have on Anglesea's families. A temporary home has been found for these files in the top drawer of the plan drawers. This will suffice until we can obtain an A3 filing cabinet.

Recording Your story has commenced and can be joined any time. They meet on Thursdays 1.30 to 3.30 at the Museum. Participants are assisted to write their life story. \$30 for members includes a finished book.

Our August meeting was with one of our long time members Betty Butterworth as speaker. Betty answered questions about what Anglesea was like years ago and filled in gaps for many of us as we try to understand Anglesea's history. To have someone with Betty's knowledge who is still so active in the community is like having a rare and valuable library.

We look forward to the final quarter of our year. The speaker for Sunday 6 October is Jennifer Bantow, former president of the National trust Geelong Branch. In November, on Wednesday 6th we are taking a trip around the historical sites of Aireys Inlet. December will be our Christmas Party with the film you may remember from your childhood, 1947 *Bush Christmas*. So the term promises to be both interesting and enjoyable. As we plan for 2014 we have some good ideas but we also want to hear from you with ideas for speakers, outings and activities.

Bruce Bodman

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our October Meeting, to be held on Sunday 7 October, will include our AGM, with the annual reports from the president, secretary and treasurer. We will keep the meeting as short as possible to provide time for our speaker -

Anyone who would be willing to come on to the committee should speak to Bruce Bodman ph 5263 1249 or Jan Morris ph 5263 3085. The committee meets monthly on a Friday morning.

BARK HUT DAY AT AIREYS INLET

Using only the things that would have been on the farm, the grades prep., one and two students from Aireys Inlet had a day of fun and games at the Bark Hut on Friday 21 June. Four members of the Historical Society, Bruce Bodman, Lyle McConachy and David & Jan Morris, told the students about life at Angahook in the 1800s where Sarah and Robert McConachy raised their children while living in a bark hut.



With assistance from the teachers and some parents, we ran a variety of old time games. The tug of war and sack races were the most popular, but they also enjoyed the egg and spoon race, quoits, hooky and knuckles.

Lined up ready for the sack race

Morning tea consisted of biscuits from Sarah's recipe book, raspberry vinegar cordial and damper with butter and honey. A treat of home made toffees was enjoyed too. The children wrote on slates and signed the visitors book with an old steel nib and ink. They counted money in pounds, shillings and pence, as well as handling many old implements. It was stressed that there were no shops, however an abundance of sea food, dairy foods, potatoes and onions were available.

We concluded the day with the students agreeing to become caretakers of the bark hut and ensuring it is valued and preserved.

HIT OR MISS TO KOOROOCHEANG

Scrounging among boxes of old items at a market our secretary Bruce Bodman found this old photo of Mr Joshua Murphy. On the back was recorded "Head Teacher Kooroocheang State School." Bruce headed to our library and looked up *Vision and Realization*, 1973 by Blake. In this centenary publication, issued by the Education Department of Victoria, Bruce found reference to Mr Murphy and other interesting facts about the school. Kooroocheang is a small town near Daylesford.

The school first conducted in 1858, was known as Deep Creek. It was on private land. In January 1867 *Head Teacher Joshua Murphy took charge with an enrolment of 33. He became involved in the community* and in 1872 when the wooden structure was burnt, he encouraged the locals to provide the finance and labour to build a new sandstone school. The stone was quarried locally. The completed school was handed over, free of charge, to the Education Department. The new school was known as *Hit or Miss*, the name the district was then known by; later being renamed Kooroocheang.

During the very long period when Mr Murphy was head teacher, an attempt was made to blow up the stone building with gunpowder. The powder was packed in a gap between stones on the north wall at the west end. As the powder had been loosely packed the charge blew out. The wall was cracked sufficiently to require re-plastering.

The building stood until it was condemned in 1950. A weather-board structure replaced it until the school was closed in 1963.

With five sons and three daughters, Mr Murphy lived on in the district until 1914 when he moved to Glenferrie, due to his wife's poor health. He named his new home *Kooroocheang*. His sons established Messrs. Murphy Bros., hay, corn and produce merchants, in Burwood Road, Hawthorn. Mr Murphy died at his home in 1917, aged 88.

From a chance find, rummaging at a market, an intriguing chase ensued. Our library has some great material for research. Make good use of it, you never know what you may find.



ANGLESEA'S PINE PLANTATION

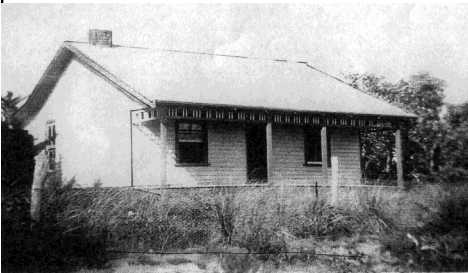
Planting huge tracts of pine trees in Anglesea's otherwise wasteland seemed a good idea at the time. As early as 1920 with troops returned from WW1, the government was looking for projects to provide employment. The Forest Commission was reported to be prepared to pay five shillings an acre for the land, but in the end they just obtained it through a transfer from one government department to another. It is interesting that the Forest Commission was prepared to pay only five shillings an acre for the land, when government land had been a minimum of one pound an acre from 1848 under pre-emptive right.



Teabreak as workers prepare land for planting of pine trees c.1927

A letter dated 31 January 1924 from the Forest Commission to the Lands Department describes land north and south of the Anglesea River as

an acreage of roughly 23,500 acres north of the stream, and about 6,000 acres to the southward,,,the vegetation is composed mainly of low stunted crooked messmate and peppermint, with grass-trees at frequent intervals....an indication of poor soil.



An Angl4sea Forestry House

Despite this report the Forest Commission went ahead and established a nursery at *Norsewood* (the site of the now BMX track) and planted out the first area of pine trees. There were no houses for the early employees, who had to camp or live in a boarding house, leaving their families elsewhere until houses could be built. Two of the families who came to work at the Pine Nursery, the Davidson and Smythe families have records of coming to Anglesea without their families due to lack of accommodation. Houses were eventually built on land purchased by the Forest Commission in Camp Road behind the now BMX track. Several were at the back of the old school site. Needing more workers to come to Anglesea, the Forest Commission donated the land for a school, to encourage families to come to Anglesea. In 1929 they advertised for six married men to come and work at Anglesea. By 1930, the Forest Commission had 80 men working for them at the busiest time of the year.

Fire became their constant enemy and the Commission cleared 300 acres of timbered country to provide fire breaks around the plantations. Plantations were located adjacent to Camp Road, near Mt Ingoldby and near Gilbert Street adjoining Aireys Inlet. A second nursery was established at Gum Flats.



The Pine Nursery at 'Norsewood' Camp Road, Anglesea c.1929

All did not go to plan. Some trees planted in fertile soil grew well, but those planted in poor soils were stunted, rather like the native trees that had been cleared for the plantations. The Age newspaper of 23 February 1936 reported that *Pinus Radiatus* were not doing well at Anglesea. Mr Lind, the then Minister for Forests, reported following his inspection, that coastal lands were not suitable for pine plantations and that the plantations were not doing well. The Forest Commission continued to maintain their plantings in Anglesea, but the pine plantations were only part of their work.

Fires continued to be a constant threat. The beginning of 1945 saw fire once again sweep through Anglesea. The Age of 1 January 1945 reported 50 acres of pines had been burnt at Anglesea.

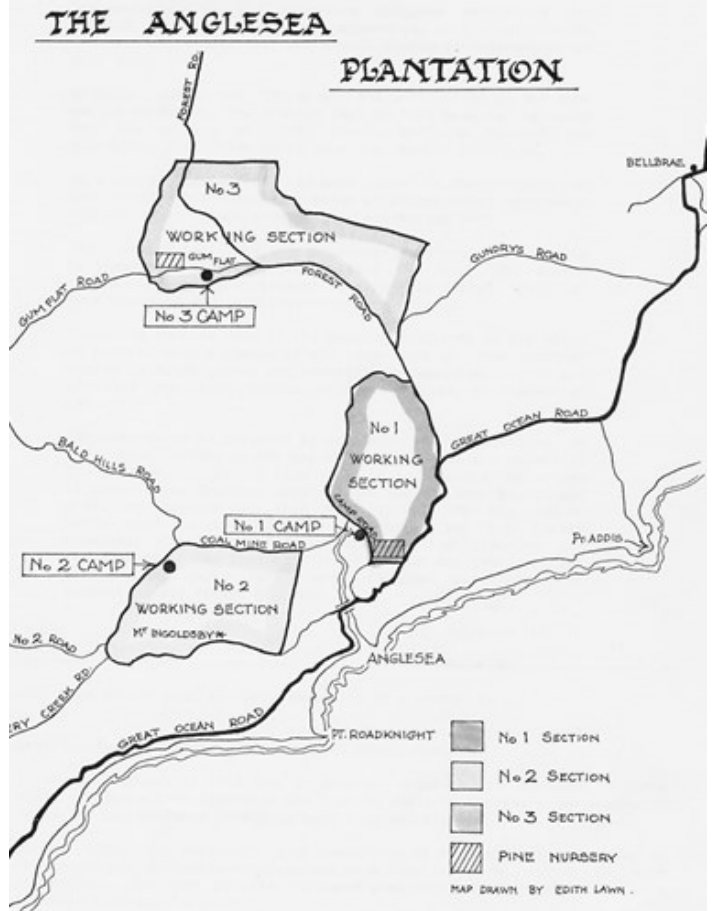
GEELONG, Sunday: Two thousand acres of the Anglesea district were swept by fire, which broke out on Friday, and 50 acres of pine plantation and 1,000 acres of wattles were destroyed. The main pine plantation was not damaged. The home of Mr McDougalli, forestry officer, caught fire, but was saved as a result of efforts of the volunteer fire fighters.

Unfortunately, after the plantations were eventually disbanded many of the pines were not removed.



Forest Commission Office

This has caused invasion of pines into the Great Otway National Park and the Alcoa



lease area. Weeding of pine trees around Anglesea is a continual task. If anyone finds a small pine tree growing in the bush, you may have a good Christmas tree and weed our bush-land simultaneously.

WATMUFF

In the Uniting Church in Murch Crescent is a beautiful stain glass window in memory of Ian Dennis Watmuff, who died 14 March 1959, at only 19 years of age. This window was taken from the old Presbyterian Church that was previously in the same position. The window was presented to the church by Ian's parents Geoffrey and Alma Watmuff.

The Watmuff family came to Anglesea in January 1948. Geoffrey was English, he was born in Yorkshire, Liversedge in 1906. He came to Australia by the ship *Ulysses* arriving in September 1919 with his parents Emma and Gilbert Watmuff. They lived in Melbourne where Gilbert worked in the woollen mills, at Yarra Falls and later Geelong. Geoffrey, who also worked in the woollen mills, married Almira (Alma) Boyd in Geelong in 1932. They moved to Anglesea in 1948 purchasing the farm known as *The Wattles* from Tom and Bernice Lugg. They continued Lugg's milk delivery round, in Anglesea. They eventually sold the farm to Alcoa in 1959 and the milk round to Bill Hunt. Geoffrey and Alma had two sons Gordon and Ian and one daughter Heather. Tragically they lost both sons, Ian who died in an accident in 1959 and Gordon who died in 1986. Gordon had been in the air force, serving in Malaysia and Maralinga before returning to Anglesea to live. Alma died in 1985 and Geoffrey in 1990. They

