

Coastal Current

Quarterly Newsletter Of The

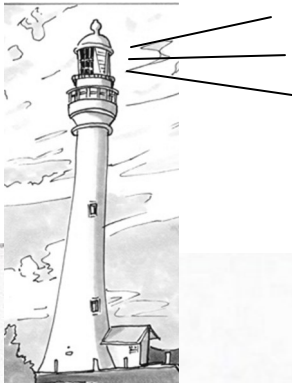
Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 101

Summer 2013

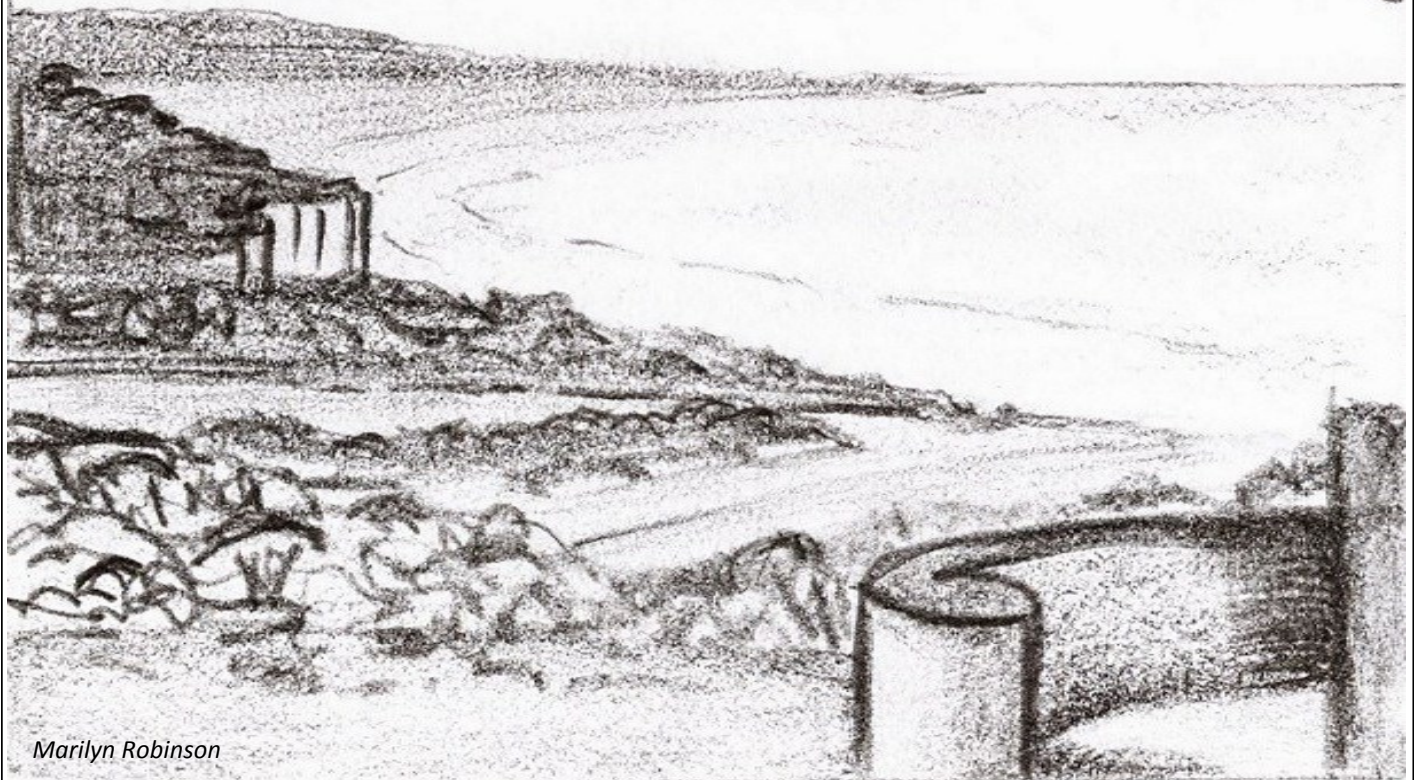
The Anglesea & District Historical

*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:

DECEMBER - Sunday 1 December, 2.00pm

Christmas special — Christmas Party, Queen's Message
- 1948 film 'Bush Christmas' Visitors welcome
At Museum

JANUARY - no meeting

FEBRUARY - Sunday 2 February, 2.00pm at Museum

Speaker: Spencer Leighton—History of Torquay

MARCH - Sunday 2 March Open Day at the Museum or
Outing on Wednesday 5 March Ghost Towns Along The
Princes Highway

Museum Our Museum at 5a McMillan Street open by
appointment - Ph. 5263 1249 or 5263 3085

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
A4	8.26X11.69	\$15	\$8
A5	5.82X8.26	\$8	\$4
A6	4.13X5.82	\$4	\$2

A3 maybe available by special arrangement
11.69X16.53

A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

THE POLE HOUSE

Have you looked at the Pole House at Fairhaven lately. If you have you would have noticed very little difference. Thanks to the efforts of the Dixon family, the rebuilding of the house had to be just like the original house on the outside. Most people would not be aware that it has been rebuilt. The layout on the inside is quite different its appearance has not

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

President's Pen

Welcome to our 2013/14 Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc. Committee. At the AGM in October, one new member, Melva Stott was elected to the committee. Melva has worked with the society for many years and we are pleased to have her as part of the team.

We were all sorry to hear our Secretary Bruce Bodman broke his hip. Bruce has been recuperating over recent weeks but is willing to take on the position of Secretary from next February. We are glad to hear he has made steady progress. We are grateful to Thelma Western who has filled in for Bruce as secretary and taken on the job as treasurer until we find a new treasurer. If there is anyone who would consider taking on the task of treasurer we would be delighted to hear from them.

We are pleased to announce that the interior of the museum will be painted in the next few weeks. This will necessitate a lot of packing and later re hanging of displays so members are asked to give whatever assistance they can when the call goes out. This is a wonderful opportunity to reorganize the museum and make maximum use of space. When we reorganize the displays we will have an emphasis on local history.

In preparation for the painting, a group of people have cleared the garage of excess items and set it up as a store come workroom. Some items will be stored in the garage and be given a rotating display. Many thanks to Chris Guerow, Lyle McConachy, Gwen Morgan and Susan Clark for their help in clearing out the garage. It is now set up for storage and working in. We have also set up a large photo copier donated to us by Jim Tutt. It is capable of copying plan size documents. It is now a place where we can work and get to stored items. We are negotiating with the council to have a roof put over the unused balcony to ensure the garage is waterproof.

Recording your story is continuing in conjunction with Broadband for seniors. People are being assisted to write their life story as well as the necessary computer skills. Through Broadband for Seniors we will receive a new touch screen computer that will be housed in the main meeting room near the screen. We will also receive a grant of \$2,000 from this organization.

During the last quarter we enjoyed Hearing Jennifer Bowton who spoke of the deserted town along the new double Princes Highway being built between Winchelsea and Geelong. In September we visited the camps of Anglesea, hearing about their history and enjoying a beautiful lunch at Camp Wilkin. In November we visited Historic Sites of Aireys Inlet. Many characters from the past re-emerged to talk to us. Our Christmas meeting will bring a message from the Queen and we will go back to our childhood when we watch the 1949 film *Bush Christmas*.

We are fortunate to have the books written by Lindsay Braden and Keith Cecil. Unfortunately we do not have copies of all of Keith Cecil's books. Keith's widow Marj. has kindly agreed to allow us to digitize all of Keith's books. This will take some time but will allow us to reprint them when needed.

Jim Tutt and Lyle McConachy are organizing for a concrete apron to be placed in front of the museum. Here we will display an old petrol bowser, cart wheel and onion seeder. Ryan McKnight is restoring the cart wheel.

Anglesea Memories are progressing slowly. We have had one filming session so far but plan further filming in the near future.

Plans are underway for our 2014 program. We plan to participate in the Bellbrae 150 year celebration, visit the churches of the district including the old Lutheran Church at Freshwater Creek, hear about early shearing methods, and Spencer Leighton, ex Principal of Anglesea School, will speak to us about early Torquay.

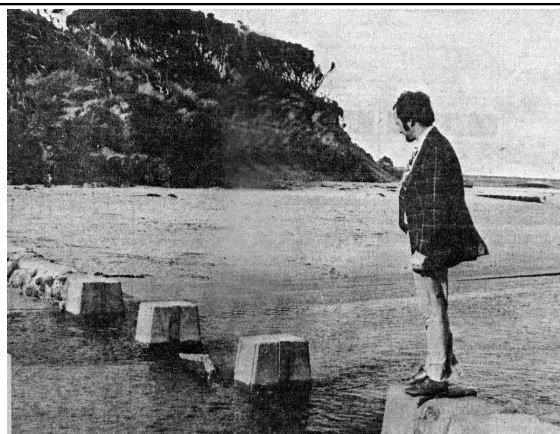
Happy Christmas everyone

Jan Morris' President

HISTORY SNIPPETS OF THE ANGLESEA'S RIVER

In 1960 in their wisdom the authorities built a sea wall at the mouth of the Anglesea River. They believed that it would improve the management of the river. History has proven that problems with the river have continued and possibly been increased by the river mouth wall. Discussion have been endless over the years. The fish dying in the river have been incorrectly blamed on Alcoa, on water boring, on the sea wall and many other things when in fact the problems come from natural causes. Looking back on old Geelong Advertisers we find report of problems with the Anglesea river for over 100 years. The authorities in their wisdom recently decided to remove the wall from the river mouth. This proved to be more difficult than anticipated. They were able to remove about half of the wall. The remainder may be removed at a later date or it may be left where it is. Most people are unaware that the sea wall was even there. Most of the time it is covered by sand.

Recently Lurlene Nunn produced a photo of swimming in the river in the 1930's. In the foreground is the spring diving board. The Historical Society has photos of the diving tower but this photo pre dates those. The spring diving board was there long before the diving tower was erected. Lurlene and her friends learned to dive from this board.



Rivermouth wall 1975



Spring diving board on the Anglesea River

CUISENAIRE RODS

A set of Cuisenaire rods have been donated to our museum. Cuisenaire rods were used to teach mathematic in Victorian Primary schools in the 1960's and 70's. They are designed to give students a hands-on way to learn math concepts, especially the four basic arithmetic operations and working with fractions. In the early 1950s, Caleb Gattegno popularized this set of colored number rods created by the Belgian primary school teacher Georges Cuisenaire (1891-1976).

The educationalists Maria Montessori and Friedrich Froebel had used rods to represent numbers, but it was Cuisenaire who introduced their use to teachers across the world from the 1950s onwards. He published a book

on their use in 1952 called *Les nombres en couleurs*. Cuisenaire experimented in 1931 with a set of ten rods sawed out of wood, with lengths from 1 cm to 10 cm. He painted each length of rod a different color and began to use these in his teaching of arithmetic. The invention remained almost unknown outside the village of Thuin for about 23 years, until Gattegno came to visit him and observe lessons in 1953. With Gattegno's help, the use of the rods was developed and popularised in many countries around the world.



A set of Cuisenaire rods has been donated to the Historical Society and will be on display. Perhaps your children learned maths using this method. The standard of maths was very high when this method was used correctly. Unfortunately some teachers did not master teaching using this method.



THE WRECK OF THE NETHERBY - A miracle survival

It was 21st July 1866 when a small party from the ship *Netherby* sailed a small 23 foot whaling boat to Point Roadknight. They had come with the news that nearly 500 people had been wrecked on King Island. King Island's only inhabitants were the people who manned the lighthouse. There was no shelter for the passengers and crew, who had been rescued and even worse there was no food. If not rescued from King Island they would starve. The lighthouse whaleboat had been equipped with provisions, water, a compass and other essential equipment, and it had set off for Melbourne with the second officer 23-year-old John Parry in charge and the four strongest men as crew.



A sketch of the wreckage, years later in front of the rocks where the Netherby was wrecked nearly 150 years earlier.

Amazingly, three days later they landed at Point Roadknight, hoping to find civilization but no one lived here. This was two years before James Noble began grazing this area. The Shire of Barrabool had been declared a shire just one year previously and what we now call Anglesea had just been named Swampy Creek. Point Roadknight had been named some 20 years previously. It was named after William Roadknight who had first gone to Tasmania and had transferred to Portland Bay where he took up the *River Station* in 1836. He later took up *Stoney Rises*.



The bell salvaged from the sailing ship the Netherby

Parry and his party were lucky; they met an old man caring for some sheep. The man directed them to a survey party working in the area. Parry was loaned a horse which he rode to the telegraph station at Queenscliff. He caught a train to Melbourne to raise the alarm. He then travelled back to King Island on the rescue ship *Victoria* and remained, with crew member D. McFadzean, to protect the salvage rights of the ship after all others had left.

We often hear about the wreck of the *Hereford* in 1881 and the wreck of the *Inverlochy* in 1902, but little is ever mentioned of the *Netherby* because it was wrecked so far away, yet Point Roadknight was important because it was here that the party landed on the mainland of Australia to get help. The *Netherby* was wrecked 35 miles from the King Island lighthouse. Even getting to the lighthouse was a difficult trek over rocks and dense vegetation. This had to be negotiated before they could even embark on the unlikely trip to the mainland. It is an absolute miracle that they ever managed to make Point Roadknight. It was another miracle that they quickly found a shepherd at Point Roadknight. Miracle or not they did manage to reach Melbourne and raise the alarm.

The wreck of the *Netherby* changed many people's lives. Most of the passengers were immigrants whose passage was being subsidized by the Queensland government. They were being brought out because they had skills the Queensland government needed to develop the state.

COBB & CO COACHES



Cobb & Co. Coaches came to Anglesea from Geelong from the 1880's until 1920's. As the road to Aireys Inlet was very steep in places, Hartly's coach took passengers from Anglesea to Aireys.

Cobb & Co. was established with the intention of servicing the Victorian goldfields, Cobb & Co quickly developed to become the most successful coach company of its kind during the 19th Century, pioneering transport routes, delivering mail, gold and passengers throughout the country and contributing greatly to social growth and the expansion of pastoral settlement across Australia. Cobb & Co was set up in Melbourne, Victoria

in 1853 by a small group of immigrant Americans. The company's first passenger coach left Melbourne for Forest Creek (now Castlemaine) and Bendigo on 30 January 1854; the list of routes was expanded shortly thereafter to link the newer goldfields and settlements with the Victorian capital. Soon, mail contracts were awarded to the business and the Cobb & Co operated a gold escort, passenger and mail service based on reliable and efficient schedules.

Pearse brothers, Henry and Tom from Aireys Inlet, drove Cobb and Co coaches. They were the drivers of the first coach to cross the Otway Ranges. It left from Brady's shop in Moorabool Street Geelong in 1869. The road was rough but the old coach bumped along; sometimes it missed and sometimes it deepened the numerous ruts along the track. On reaching Big Hill they changed to pack horses for the remainder of the journey to Louttit Bay (Lorne). Source A Diary of the Day published in The Argus Nov 5 1938

Bellbrae Cenetry will celebrate 150 years next year. It was first declared consecrated ground on 17 October 1864. Each year there are around 20 funerals – a total of some 650 since it was officially “gazetted” in 1864. With no cemetery at Anglesea Bellbrae has been the burial ground for our town. Many people significant to our history are buried there. The earliest burial on the cemetery records are the Caldwells. Elizabeth in December 1874 and her husband James just three months later in February 1875. They were early settlers of the district.



The grave of Annathaize Maria Anna Mackay, known as Anna, is at Bellbrae. Anna opened one of the first boarding house on the Anglesea River in 1883.. Anna donated the land for the first Presbyterian church. The parcel of land was four acres as Anna planned a cemetery with it. The government would not grant permission so Anna is buried at Bellbrae
 Joseph Gundry and his wife Elizabeth were early settlers on the Iron Bark squatting run, now Belbrae. People coming from Geelong to Anglesea were often reliant on directions from Joseph Gundry to negotiate the

Henry and Eunice Bubb, the first farmers in Anglesea are intermed at Bellbrae. They had 12 children so it is not surprising that some of their descendants are also buried at Bellbrae. The Farm was sold to John Evans who married Mary Kate Simmons. They spent their lives in Anglesea so it is not surprising that they are also buried there. Ray Clarke was a wonderful source of historical information regarding this area. He is quoted in many of Lindsay Braden's books. His parents had a farm at Eastern View. Ray and his wife Netta are buried at Bellbrae, as are his parents George and Mary. The Mousleys opened the first store in Anglesea. May died in 1944 following a car accident. Alf, a former soldier suffered from war wounds. He died in 1957.

Three people buried at Bellbrae lived to be over 100 years of age. Ina Myrtle May died in 1992 aged 100. Catherine McKeown was aged 100 when she died in and 1990 and Phillip Simon reached 101 before his death in 1991.

Bellbrae Cemetery has 150 years of history and is well worth a visit. You can be assured of finding many more interesting graves. It is anticipated that this burial site will

