

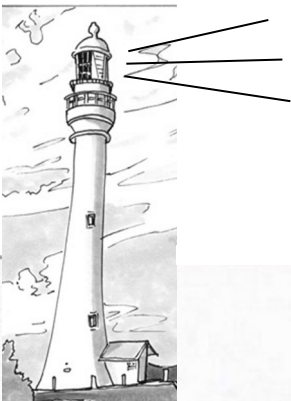
Coastal Current

Quarterly Newsletter Of The

Anglesea & District Historical Society

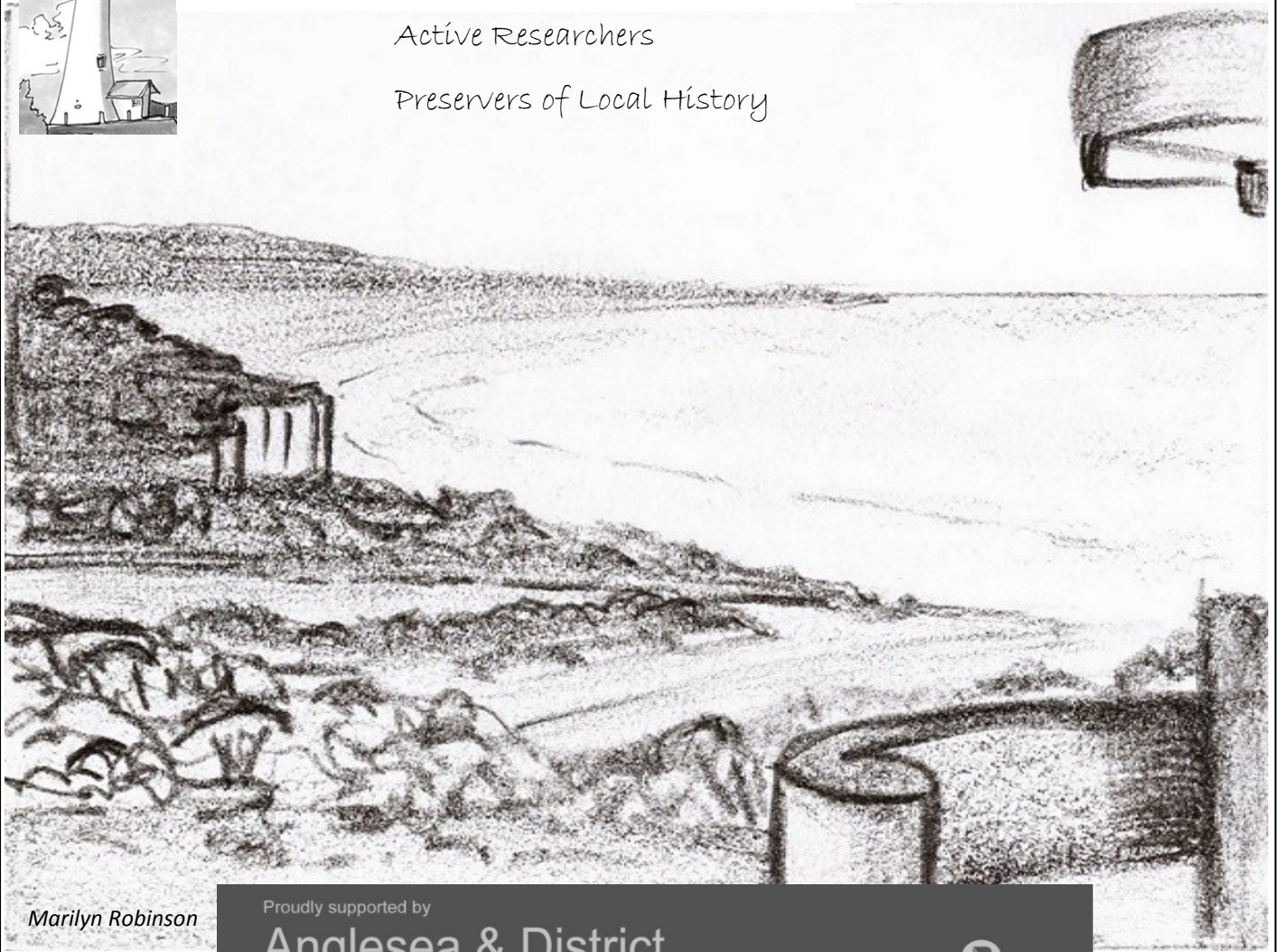
Issue No. 104
Spring 2014

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

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PLEASE NOTE - The Newsletter will be sent only to financial members.

Membership fees apply from 1 September to 31 August

\$15 per person - Historical Society , \$15 per family - Family History

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.

a speaker.

Historical Society Committee

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Coming up:

SEPTEMBER - Outing — Monday 1 September
Watervale Theatre Mt Moriac - Film **Genevieve** Transport
leaves History House at **9.45 am sharp** Cost \$10
BYO lunch

Bookings at History House or phone Jan 5263 3085

OCTOBER - Meeting 2.00pm Sunday 5 October

AGM Interviews with older Anglesea Traders

NOVEMBER - Outing to Bellbrae Cemetery -

Celebrating 150 years. \$5 BYO lunch Car pool will
leave History House at 10.00 am

DECEMBER - Meeting History House 2.00 pm Sunday

7 December Christmas Break up. Visitors welcome

MUSEUM 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	fine finish paper
A4	8.26X11.69 \$15	\$8
A5	5.82X8.26 \$8	\$4
A6.13X5.82	\$4	\$2

A3 maybe available by special arrangement 11.69X16.53

A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

VALE JOAN FORSTER It is with great sadness that we record the passing of our oldest member Miss Joan Forster. Joan passed away peacefully on 29 July having just completed her life story. Joan was for many years Principal of Methodist Ladies College Junior School. After her retirement to Aireys Inlet she joined many local organisations including the Historical Society, ANGAIR, AIDA, the Aireys Anglican Church. She was an enthusiastic conservationist and worked on many projects to preserve our native flora and fauna. Joan was a lady who set a wonderful example for others.

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

President's Pen

MUSEUM

We are slowly but surely reorganizing the museum. It will be in themes. We have new display cases donated by the Lions Club of Anglesea. We have others ordered, one for clothing and one for the Alcoa display. The Alcoa display is being brought into the museum.

CARPET

We have a problem with the carpet in the Museum Room. It is lifting because the floorboards underneath have not been sealed. We are discussing how to best remedy this, with the carpet layer.

BROADBAND FOR SENIORS

Whenever we are open, which is currently Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, we have computers available for the use of seniors. Tutoring is also available as required. Karl Jacklin is caring for the computers and is available for more complex tutoring. Chris Geurow and Jan Morris are available for simpler teaching.

GARDEN

We are extremely grateful to ANGAIR for creating for us an indigenous cottage garden. Jim Tutt is concreting in our restored bowser, cart wheel and seeder. Thank you to Lyle McConachy for restoring the seeder. We engaged Les Barnes to restore the bowser, a very complex task. Les has put in a lot of volunteer hours. The total cost for the bowser was \$1,500. We look forward to them being put in place in front of History House.

CATALOGING

Susan Clark has a small group researching and cataloging the museum items. They are also adding the stories of the items. The group meet at 1.30 on Mondays and are always looking for extra help.

ORAL HISTORY

Susan Clark is going to begin interviewing older Anglesea residents and story their interview for future reference. We are seeking a finance to purchase a suitable recorder costing \$350. Susan will start when we are able to buy the recorder.

MARCH OPEN DAY

We have agreed to join with the other groups on the Community Precinct and have an open day on Sunday 29 March 10.00am to 2.00pm. This will be a great opportunity to showcase our upgraded museum and our newly catalogued items. Mark the date in your diary and give us a hand to make History House a "must visit" place.

SEEDER

Lyle McConachy has had the old 1880's seeder sand blasted and painted. It has been coated with a protective layer so that it can be outside on display with the bowser and the cart wheel. Jim Tutt is concreting the display items in place.

MANGLE

For many years we have housed an old mangle in the garage. It was used for sheets etc. instead of ironing them. It is large but in good order. We would like to restore it and display it permanently on the front veranda. It will be bolted to the concrete floor and the story of it will be displayed beside it.

AGM

Our AGM is coming up in October. The AGM will be short if we have people willing to fill the vacancies on the committee. We will have some interesting traders to be interviewed. We will of course film these interviews.

President

Jan Morris

The 1950's, Aireys Inlet and My Grandmother

Aireys Inlet was a town full of old people. That's what I thought when I was a kid in the 1950's.

My grandmother, a widow in her late sixties, lived alone in the family beach house near the river mouth. My sister and I, city kids from Melbourne, spent every school holiday with her at Aireys and were drawn into the company of her friends who were mostly retired and therefore, in our childish eyes, old.

My grandmother didn't drive. Looking back now, it seems amazing that she managed so well in what was quite a small, relatively isolated coastal town. But there were good friends close by to help her (most notably Allan and "Ducka" Noble across the paddock in "Angahook"), there was the Trans Otway bus for trips into Geelong, and Mr Senior the butcher from Anglesea who delivered to the door once a week, as did the grocer. Socially there was the Country Women's Association, the church and the network of friends who met for "drinks".

What a convivial crowd they were - The Nobles, the Chancellors, the Majors, the Sutherlands, the Tomlinsons..... all of a kind really; warm, considerate, interesting people, rather British somehow, sipping their sherries and whiskeys and brandy and dries. Always with carefully prepared trays of "nibbles" or "pickers" as we used to call them. My sister and I regularly had the job of handling around these savouries. Old Mr. Noble, with his stern visage but wonderful sense of humour, used to confound us by accepting the whole plate and hanging onto it.

The gatherings, as I remember them, were always very sedate. They started about half past five and ended by seven. There was no "kicking on". It was off home for dinner.

My grandmother's name was "Vic" (short for Victoria) and she seemed to be forever sewing or baking for CWA fetes or fundraisers for the new community hall. She made little meat pies that attracted a loyal following and sugar paste mice with liquorice whiskers and silver cachou eyes. Her sewing involved small stuffed animals made out of felt. The fetes, sometimes held at the river mouth carpark, were quite big affairs, with all sorts of stalls and activities and spinning wheels. There was certainly no shortage of community spirit and endeavour in Aireys.

Being a countrywoman my grandmother always served a hot lunch at 12.30 on the dot (heat-waves notwithstanding) and Blue Hills was always on the radio in the background. In all weathers she slept on a gauzed-in east-facing verandah with roll-down canvas blinds that were only utilized in the most extreme gales. In the mornings, even the frosty ones, her gnarled old feet would be hanging out the end of her bed – she hated hot feet. Yet I never remember her having a cold or the flu.

Breakfast was always served in bed, on a tray, while we read our books. She was an avid reader and a regular customer at Griffith's Bookstore in Geelong. She was also a great story-teller and would relate fascinating tales of station life in the Riverina and the fascinating animals that had been part of her earlier years.

On really hot days in summer, "stinkers" my Mum called them, we'd all troop down to the beach and head for the cave (below the light house). Rugs, a picnic basket, a thermos for the tea and another for the milk, hats, towels, buckets and spades – it was quite an expedition. The aim was to last out in the shade of the cave until the cool change arrived. (What an exhausting trip back home when it didn't!)

The alternative to the cave on a really hot day was to sit cocooned inside until about 2pm by which time the heat beating down from the asbestos roof made life inside intolerable and then head outside into the shade of a tree with a feeble sprinkler spluttering at chest level amid the branches in an attempt to create a "Coolgardie" sort of effect. But my grandmother had lived on the Lachlan Plains – she knew how to survive the heat.

Aireys was going through something of a boom in 1950's. Harry Sutherland (who with his pencil moustache was a dead ringer for Happy Hammond) built his hardware store at the foot of the hill and the Alsops built their milk bar nearby. For my sister and I the milk bar was a God-send. Just a short walk across Noble's Paddock and we were in the land of Regal's Triple Treats and Honey Crunch Ice-cream as well as Jersey Toffees and Fizz-wizzes, all in the name of running an errand for our grandmother.



A very old photo showing the Split Point Lighthouse and cottages. In the bottom right hand corner is the house that is now James Bell's home. It was once the home of his grandmother.

And then one year (how modern was this?) the movies came to Aireys. Possibly as a fund-raiser for something, a big screen was set up in Noble's Paddock and there was an evening screening of some utterly forgettable American film. I vaguely remember Doris Day and fair bit of silly kissing. What was exciting though was the screen falling over half way through proceedings.

Like every other holiday house in the area, ours was well endowed with board games, jigsaw puzzles and the like, some dating back to the Ark. Our Monopoly Set *must* have been an original. The Chinese Checkers had been hand made with brightly coloured nuts (quandong nuts?) as counters. Table croquet (using an old blanket and little stick-through hoops) meant the dining table was out of action for the duration. We never actually played Mah-jong as Mah-jong but the tiles made terrific building blocks. From Snap and Old Maid we slowly graduated to more complicated card games. The tattered old copy of "Hoyle" was always there to settle disputes. My mother and sister would lose themselves in a jigsaw puzzle on rainy days, officiously categorizing like-coloured pieces on trays and boards before attempting the assemblage (and generally taking up far too much space for my liking.) My grandmother and her friends were addicted to Scrabble.

When Mum or Dad weren't able to come to Aireys with us my sister and I would be sent down on the Trans Otway bus which left from the Ansett terminal in Swanston Street in Melbourne. The highlight of the trip was when the bus swooped into the cavernous space of the Trans Otway depot in Geelong on the corner of Ryrie and Fenwick Streets and we'd alight for a quick visit to the "refreshment" shop in the waiting room. When we got to Aireys the bus would pull up at the bottom of the hill at "Noble's Corner". Our grandmother would be waiting for us there at the cream stand and we'd walk around the swamp with its deafening night-time chorus of frogs and arrive at our grandmother's home.

She'd spoil us unashamedly. There would always be a new book or a surprise under our pillows when we first arrived. (Humpty Dumpty Magazine was a favourite.) And there'd be lovely things to eat, perhaps something gooeey like meringues made with brown sugar and chocolate bits. (I would turn these upside down and fill the indent in the bottom with cream.) She must have cooked and prepared for a week before our arrival. I wonder if she collapsed in a heap when we left?

Being a grandparent myself now, I think I know how much joy she must have felt.

I hope my grandchildren fifty years from now will have memories of Aireys that are as happy as mine.

James Bell

TROVE

Trove has a wonderful collection of historic newspapers, to which they are continually adding. Since 27 May 2014, this is the list of Geelong Advertisers that have been added to Trove online:

From 1859-07-01 to 1859-12-31	From 1860-07-02 to 1860-12-11	From 1906-01-02 to 1906-12-31	From 1908-07-01 to 1908-09-30
From 1910-04-12 to 1910-07-30	From 1910-11-17 to 1911-03-08	From 1913-12-18 to 1913-12-31	From 1860-01-02 to 1860-06-30
From 1860-12-12 to 1861-05-31	From 1864-09-12 to 1865-02-28	From 1865-08-26 to 1866-02-23	From 1866-08-25 to 1867-02-21
From 1867-08-24 to 1868-02-19	From 1871-03-01 to 1871-08-31	From 1872-03-14 to 1872-10-31	From 1875-01-02 to 1875-06-30
From 1881-01-03 to 1881-06-30	From 1884-01-01 to 1884-06-30	From 1885-01-02 to 1885-06-30	From 1885-07-01 to 1885-12-31
From 1886-07-01 to 1886-12-31	From 1902-07-01 to 1902-12-31	From 1903-07-01 to 1904-06-30	From 1904-07-01 to 1904-12-31

BOOK REVIEW—**The Cattle King**

Sir Sydney Kidman started out as a 13 year old with five shillings in his pocket and a one eyed horse. He came from a big family, had little education and his father had died when he was very young. He had to his own way in life and learn many lessons the hard way. He drove cattle, camped rough, experienced droughts and floods. He became known as the Cattle King with a string of cattle stations from northerner Queensland to central South Australia. This allowed him to drive cattle to Darwin, Brisbane, Sydney or Adelaide. He could take cattle to whichever market was the best and they could be driven between station ensuring they always had water. This plan developed over many years while his wife remained at home and brought up the children.

Syd Kidman was a hard man with a soft heart. Worked hard and expected his men to do the same, but he treated his employees well and helped many a struggling settler on their way. This is an inspiring book of the history of central Australia.

DRAWSAW

We have a large 1950's draw saw about three metres in length. We are unable to display it and just have it stored in our work room. We thought another museum or organisation or person may want it. It is on two inflated tyres. We do have some notes about its history. Anyone interested should contact Jan Morris on 5263 3085. We need the space in our workshop.

100 YEARS SINCE WW1

August 4th 1914, was the start of World War One. At our meeting on Sunday 3 August we honored those who fought and gave their lives that the British Empire might be free. It is 100 years ago since the call went out to the young men of Australia to go and fight for their country. Australians responded with 416,809 enlisting. Of those 58,961 made that supreme sacrifice. They did not return.

Alfred John Evans was the only one who was born and bred in Anglesea River, as it was then called. He enlisted on 24 October 1916, and joined the 58th Battalion. He was killed in action on the 4th July 1917. A memorial tree in his honor was planted in the Anglesea Community Precinct in 2012.

There were others who gave their lives for their country. They either lived at Anglesea River or visited here regularly. They were:-

**APPLETON W CROWL J T DOUGLASS G FREEMAN H GAVENS H GAVENS G SLATER
J STORRER H H STORRER CM YOUNG C L ALFRED JOHN EVA**

Another 48 Anglesea men fought for their country and returned. Many of them suffering the effects of war.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

