

# Coastal Current

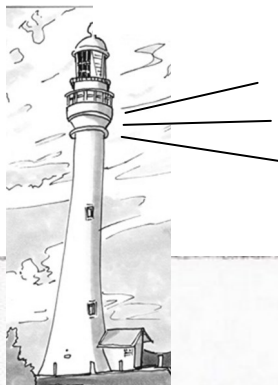
Quarterly Newsletter Of The

## Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 109

Summer 2015/16

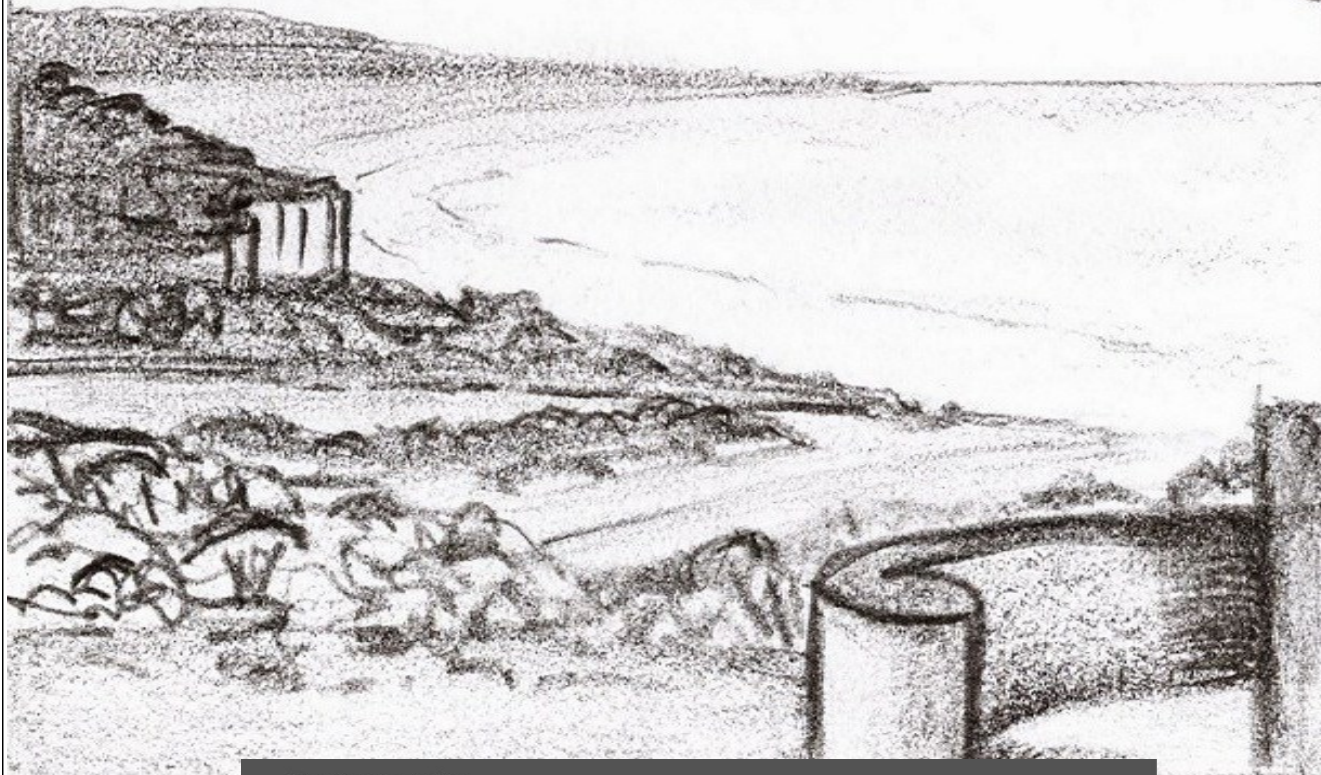
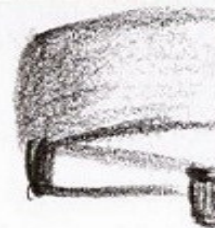
*The Anglesea & District Historical Society is a not for profit organisation staffed by volunteer members of the community, whose aim is to research and preserve history of the local area.*



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History

Keepers of the Museum



Marilyn Robinson

Proudly supported by

Anglesea & District  
Community Bank® Branch

  
Bendigo Bank

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2015/16 MEMBERSHIP?** . Historical Society is now \$20 per person per year (this includes insurance).

Family History (optional) is still \$15 per family. **PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE FINANCIAL**

Pay direct: Bendigo Bank—BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421 **OR** post to PO Box 98,

### Meetings & Activities

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

The Historical Society meetings are usually 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.

### COMING UP:

#### SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER - Christmas Break-up

2.00pm *William Fethers WW1 Christmas*

Bring Christmas afternoon tea to share

There will be **NO JANUARY MEETING**, however History House will be open each Sunday during the school holidays 2.00-4.00pm.

#### SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY - Meeting 2.00pm

Graeme & Prue Weber - *History of the Anglesea Surf Life Saving Club.*

#### THURSDAY 10 MARCH OUTING to

*Tarndie Historic Homestead, Warncoort*

- see ad below

### Historical Society Committee

**President:** Jan Morris Phone 5263 3085

Email - [davejanmorris@bigpond.com](mailto:davejanmorris@bigpond.com)

**Secretary:** Bruce Bodman Phone 5263 1249

Email - [bodman@netspace.com.au](mailto:bodman@netspace.com.au)

**Treasurer:** Chris Guerow Phone 5264 7602

Email - [chrisguerow@gmail.com](mailto:chrisguerow@gmail.com)

**Vice Pres.:** Karl Jacklin Phone 0412 619 219

Email - [karlj@netspace.net.au](mailto:karlj@netspace.net.au)

**Museum Curator:** Susan Clarke 0438 070 560

Email - [susanclarke3230@hotmail.com](mailto:susanclarke3230@hotmail.com)

**Minutes Sec.:** Marilyn Wendt Phone 5263 1369

Email - [wethem1@bigpond.com](mailto:wethem1@bigpond.com)

#### Committee Members:

*Dulcie Anderson* Phone 5289 6258

Email - [douglasdulcie@gmail.com](mailto:douglasdulcie@gmail.com)

*Jim Tutt* Phone 5263 1227

Email - [tuttj@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tuttj@yahoo.com.au)

### SPECIAL COMBINED MARCH OUTING

*Tarndie Homestead, Birregurra*

Thursday 10 March

See homestead & sheep, hear about the history of the family

**\$33**

Includes, transport, entrance, morning tea, talks & lunch.

Bookings essential 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](mailto: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 may be available by special arrangement 11.69X16.53

A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

### MUSEUM OPEN TIMES

Second Sunday of the month 2.00 - 4.00 pm or by appointment - Ph. 5263 1249 or 5263 3085.

Open for browsing when groups in attendance.

Mondays 1.30-3.30pm Wednesdays 1.30-3.30

Tuesdays & Saturdays 10.30 - 12.30pm

**Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.**

**Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.**

**H**istory week was a great success in October when we took 60 people on mini bus trips of Historic Anglesea. The idea was very popular and people were amazed at the history they heard and the old buildings they saw. We will certainly repeat this trip and also organise a similar tour of Aireys Inlet in the future.

We have been planning the program for 2016 and have some interesting outings and speakers. If you know of a place we should visit or a speaker we should hear, please let someone on the committee know. We start the year with an excellent program with Greame and Prue Weber telling us about the history of the Surf Club.

The AGM saw the return of most of our committee. A special thanks to Lyle McConachy and Melva Stott who were unable to re-nominate for the committee. We are grateful to both of them for their significant contribution to the Historical Society Activities over the years. We welcome Marilyn Wendt to the committee, Marilyn has agreed to act as minutes secretary for the committee. The minutes are available to all members who would like to keep up to date with the committees planning. The other change within the committee is that Karl Jacklin has stepped up to the position of Vice President.

A recent session in the garage workroom, was most profitable. Les Barnes assisted Allan Poidgnester to identify many items in storage. Allan was able to tell us where they were from, who donated them and what they were used for. These items will become part of the back veranda display.

Jim Tutt is building a decking at the back of History House. This will provide a display area for several items we currently have in storage. Jim has provided us with several more two drawer filing cabinets. We now have a wall of filing cabinets in the garage work room, providing safe storage. We have replaced the old hot water service with a new one, giving us hot water to the kitchen and the laundry. It is now easier and healthier when washing up dishes and cleaning.

Karl has combined all of the 7,500 photos from Lindsay Braden's collection. He is in the process of sorting, archiving and indexing them. He is also very busy indexing Lindsay's articles, videos and DVDs. Karl has completed his tablet program that accompanies the museum displays. We have applied to the Surf Coast Shire for a grant to assist us in purchasing tablets and earphones to run the program. We are applying for a Local History Grant to purchase another computer for the museum room. The camera collection from Keith Cecil and has been catalogued by Marilyn Wendt and is being rehoused where it can be seen more easily.

Susan Clarke continues to run the cataloguing group on Monday afternoons. She is uploading the catalogue on to the Museums Australia website, where people will be able to view the items we have in the museum. This is a slow and tedious job but a small band of workers are gradually getting the job done. The *Family File* group work on a Wednesday afternoon, indexing the information we have on Anglesea families. They are progressing well at entering the data we already have about the early families in Anglesea.

Our museum will be open every Sunday in January from 2.00 to 4.00pm. We can give a very interesting tour for children and we have puzzle sheets about the museum to make their visit more interesting. We are looking for people willing to staff the museum on some Sundays. We like to have two people on duty on open days. If you can help please see one of the committee members.

We are making regular changes to many of the museum displays. We are in the process of putting a beautiful 1920s wedding dress in the large display cabinet. It is accompanied by full details of the dress and the wedding. The dress is on loan from Maree Davis.

Our native garden is growing well thanks to the ladies from **ANGAIR**.

## Christmas Break-up



Sunday 6 December 2.00pm @  
History House

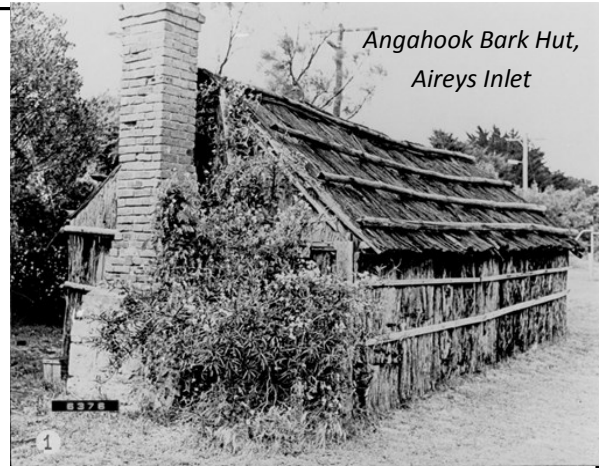
Come and:-

- Hear about William Fethers 1915 WW1 Christmas
- Share a Christmas afternoon tea
- Learn about Christmas From The Past

## BARK HUTS OF ANGLESEA & DISTRICT

Our earliest settlers built their houses from whatever materials were at hand. They couldn't afford commercial building materials and even if they had the money, getting the materials to Swampy Creek was impossible prior to the 1860s. There wasn't even a proper track here from Geelong.

The first bark hut was built by Robert McConachy in 1852 at Angahook, now Aireys Inlet. Although he built close to the beach the iron bark poles and the stringy bark sheets were ideal materials. The only materials he brought were the hand made nails and lead from the lining of tea chests. The floor was compacted earth. The brick chimney was added in 1920. This hut was destroyed by the 1983 fires but replaced by an authentic replica.



Angahook Bark Hut,  
Aireys Inlet



Henry Bubb jnr. and his wife and child

Henry Bubb, the first Anglesea resident built his bark hut in the same manner, however it was a much more sophisticated building. It had windows and was considerably larger. Usually the kitchen was a separate building outside, to prevent fire spreading if it accidentally caught fire. This hut was built in 1873 near what was later the Alcoa power station. Henry had 98 acres which he developed into a farm. To supplement his income he drove a coach between Geelong and Anglesea, prior to Cobb & Co. establishing a service.

Jonas Hollingworth was acknowledged as a

skilled builder of bark huts. He first built a hut at Spout Creek in 1879. Jonas also built himself a bark hut at Point Roadknight in 1885. He and his two sons often stayed there. After his wife died in 1909 he lived there permanently. It stood for some years just near the present Yacht Club. He caught fish by netting the shallow bay and collecting shell fish along the rocks. Jonas' hut was destroyed by the 1919 fires.



Jonas Hollingworth's hut at Point Roadknight

Jonas later built a bark hut for the McMillan family. Built in 1895, this was the first of several buildings known as *Blink Bonnie* at the corner of Parker and Jackson Streets, the holiday accommodation for the extended McMillan family. This was a most substantial hut with windows, doors of sawn timber and room divisions.



McMillan family outside their Bark Hut

Earlier this year Douglas and Dulcie Anderson visited Birka, a small island whose Viking past is displayed with typical housing of the time. The Vikings lived over 1,000 years ago in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. They invaded Britain in 793 bringing their skills with them. Like our early colonist they used local materials to built their houses, including stone, turf and wattle (woven sticks, covered with mud). Maybe they passed down their house building skills to the British, who in turn used them when settling Australia. On the isle of Birka the population in 700 AD, was over a thousand people. Today just 11 people reside on the island. The last leader of the island was Eric the Victorious who made a pact with Denmark and took over the island. Power shifted to Stockholm and Birka fell into ruins, giving archaeologists of today a great opportunity to gather information.



Doug Anderson at a Viking hut, Birka

A Viking boat, as well as models and artefacts of daily life are also displayed at the museum. The people's most personal, treasured possession was their comb made from elk or other bone. Their strength was reputed to be in their hair and if an enemy got even a strand of hair, curses could be put on them. At death their possessions, including their comb were bunt and buried.

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 100 YEARS

1. In 1915 Australia was a young nation in more ways than one — our average age was just 24 compared to 37 today.
2. In Australia in 1915, those aged 65 were classified as being of 'old age'. Less than one in 20 Australians was aged 65 or over compared to almost one in five today.
3. The percentage of the Australian population aged under 15 has halved over the last 100 years. While the under 15's comprised 31 per cent in 1915, today they comprise just 15 per cent.
4. In 1915 there were just 2,465 university students in Australia while today there are almost 1.2 million — an increase of 480 times!
5. While a loaf of bread would have cost you 3½ pence in 1915, today a loaf could cost you around \$3.50
6. Back in 1915, the vast majority of the population (96 per cent) associated themselves with the Christian faith, while today this has dropped to 61.1 per cent.
7. By the end of World War 1, 420,000 men had enlisted which was around 39 per cent of the population of men aged 18 to 44. In 1915 there were 367,961 males aged 18 to 26.
8. When WW1 began in 1914, there were 161,910 more males than females in Australia. By the end of 1918 there were 83,885 more females than males nationally.
9. In WW1 there were 219,461 Australians killed, captured or injured in battle which was a casualty rate of almost two thirds of all those who embarked.
10. Australia's European-born population has also decreased from 15 per cent of the total population in 1915 to 10 per cent 100 years later.

### DOMESTIC ICE CHEST c.1925 - 1960

This *Mawson* ice chest was manufactured by Carricks Ltd of Queensland. They began making ice chests from 1925. We estimate this chest to be manufactured in the 1940's.

Donated by Allan Poidgnester and Dawn Hollibone, this chest came from their parents' house. It had been stored in the Historical Society garage for many years. Malcolm McDougall removed the back, base and top as they were infested with borer. The rest of the chest was made from hardwood with galvanized iron lining. He replaced infested wood parts with wood as was used in the original chest. The catches and hinges were soaked in citric acid and cleaned. Malcolm sanded and varnished the restored ice chest with four coats of walnut varnish, rubbing it down with steel wool between coats.

Ice chests replaced the Coolgardie safe that was once kept under the tank stand, with water dripping over it. The ice chest however was a nicely polished piece of furniture that was kept inside the house. An ice chest had two doors, the compartment at the top held a block of ice. The central, largest part of the chest acted like a refrigerator and was used for milk, meat, butter etc. The tray underneath caught the drips as the ice melted. Depending on the weather the block of ice would last between three days and a week.

In Anglesea ice could be purchased from the dairy beside the hotel. In larger towns ice was delivered by an Iceman, a horse and cart which would proceed slowly down the street, with the driver yelling out "Ice...ice...ice". He would deliver the ice to houses, or residents would come out to the cart to pick up their blocks. The block was about 18 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches and cost one shilling in 1950.

Ice chests were superseded by refrigerators, either electric or kerosene driven. Kerosene refrigerators were used in places where there was no 240 volt electricity. The kerosene tank had to be filled regularly and the wick was kept in good condition so it burned evenly.

This restoration was paid for by a grant from Seaside Seconds, to whom we are most grateful.



*Our restored Mawson ice--chest*

## AFTER THE ADHS HIGH TEA

Melva Stott

I'm a coffee drinker, having given up on tea decades ago. So I really only went to the High Tea because Jan asked me to be a hostess.

I'm now glad she did, as it was a great social afternoon, with the most delicious food . . . and it has changed my life.

After trying a cup of the brew, I was most surprised to find that I actually enjoyed it . . . with a sugar cube and slice of lemon. And (shock! horror!) I ended up having three cups!

This confirmed my earlier convictions that tea isn't meant to have milk in it.

A few days later I learned a few facts about tea that hadn't been mentioned in the History & Traditions of Tea presented on the day.

\* In the 1880s in England fresh tea leaves were so expensive that only the rich could afford it. The lower classes had to make do with 'renewed tea'. What's that? You may well ask. How do you renew tea? Well, recycling isn't new! Enterprising money-makers would go around and collect used tea leaves from upper-class households. They were then dried out, spiced up with herbs, and dyed green by adding copper. This was then hawked around the poorer neighbourhoods. The brew was weak but affordable, although it had a sharp tang of copper! Imagine what that did to your constitution.

\* Furthermore, damp tea leaves were strewn over floor rugs to help collect the dust before the rugs were swept.

\*. Another interesting tea fact is that since 1945 all British military tanks have been fully equipped with tea-making facilities. It's almost as unbelievable as drinking copper additives!

## HISTORIC BUS TOURS

Our bus tours of Anglesea during History Week in October, were very popular. We transported 60 people around Anglesea explaining the early settlement of Swampy Creek and Gladstone, now Anglesea. We saw where the proposed cemetery was going to be, where the turkey farm was and heard about the illegal distillery. Our passengers were amazed at how our town once operated using a boat landing as the main connection between the two sides of the river.

Thanks go to the people who assisted in many ways to ensure the tours went smoothly. Our driver did an excellent job, the tour guides had the story off pat, the people back at History House provided excellent service both with refreshments and information about the museum.

We have been asked if we could repeat this trip. The answer is definitely yes. We can hire the small bus for groups of 10. This could cater for a group up to 20 with half at History House while the other half go on the trip, then swap. We can also do this with groups of four to eight.



*A Happy group of passengers return after their Historical Anglesea*

### IGA REWARDS SCHEME

Did you know you can help both the Historical Society and the Family History Group through the IGA rewards scheme?

Register with IGA naming either The Anglesea & District Historical Society as your beneficiary. You will then be issued with a card. Every time you shop at IGA use your card to have points added to the organization you have named. Each year the points are added up and the money they have earned is paid to that organization.

Please think about joining the IGA Rewards Scheme.

### MUSEUM OPEN TIMES

We plan to have the museum open every Sunday afternoon during the summer school holidays. We will advertise it widely and have simple activities for children. A new computer in the museum will give film clips, photos and other information.

We need volunteers to open the museum and put the new lightweight signs out. There is a roster at History House. For Sunday 27 December, 3, 10, 17 & 24 January. If you can help please put your name on the roster or let Jan Morris know —Phone 0448 526311.