

Coastal Current

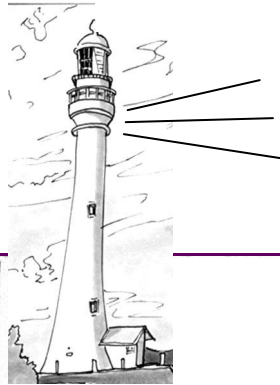
Quarterly Newsletter Of The

Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 114

Autumn 2017

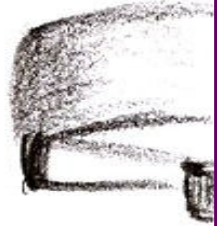
The Anglesea & District Historical Society is a not for profit organisation staffed by volunteer members of the community, whose aim is to research and preserve history of the local area.



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History

Keepers of the Museum



Marilyn Robinson

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 Bendigo Bank

ARE YOU A FINANCIAL MEMBER? . Historical Society is \$20 per person per year (this includes insurance). Family History (optional) is \$15 per family. FEES DUE 1 SEPTEMBER

Pay direct: Bendigo Bank—BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421 **OR** post to PO Box 98,
Members over 90 are free but are not insured.

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.

Historical Society Committee

President: Jan Morris Phone 5263 3085

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Secretary: Marilyn Wendt Phone 5263 1369

Email - wethem1@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Chris Guerow Phone 5264 7602

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Committee Members:

Lachlan Richardson Phone 5289 7029

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Jim Tutt Phone 5263 1227

Email - tutthj@yahoo.com.au

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 pm - 3.30pm

Tuesdays 10.30am – 1.30pm

Saturdays 10.30 am - 1.30pm

The museum is also open at other times when working groups are present.

MARCH OUTING - Thursday 9 March

Tour of *Coragulac House*

Leaves History House 9.30am

Cost \$40 includes transport, morning tea and lunch

Bookings at front desk or Jan 5263 3085

Payment by 1 March



APRIL MEETING Sunday 2 April 2.00pm History House

Speaker—Di Trewenick Topic:

'Changing Face of the Great Ocean Road'

MAY OUTING: To Lara Museum Wednesday 3 May
\$15 entrance, transport & morning tea. BYO lunch

JUNE MEETING: Sunday 4 June 2.00pm History House
Royal Memorabilia

With the Queen's birthday coming up, bring along those items or memories of the Royal Family, any reign and any member of the Royal Family. Share our memorabilia!

Members & Visitors welcome

It is our policy that no activities will be held on days of code red or extreme fire danger for Central Region.

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

Digital images for personal use only \$5 each

A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

Christmas Meeting This meeting was well attended and very festive, with Christmas decorations and refreshments galore. The theme was "Christmas Around the World," with committee members delighting the audience with stories of Christmases from a country of their choice.

Grants We have been unsuccessful in obtaining a Surf Coast Shire grant to help with the moving and restoration of the bathing box behind the Art House. We have been informed by the council that they will move the box to History House for us and we will then need to restore and maintain it from our own funds.

We were also unsuccessful in obtaining an Australia Post grant to develop our filmed interviews. A very disappointing result considering the time required to put together a submission and the lack of a result.

Sausage Sizzle This was held on the Saturday of Melbourne Cup weekend and was very successful. We not only raised \$560.00 towards the restoration, but also raised awareness of the existence of the last remaining bathing box. More funds will need to be raised to finish the project.

Inverlochy Ship Log The scanning of the log has been completed and the original carefully replaced in its 'acid free' box. Karl is now indexing the scanned pages to allow members and visitors to search the content and map her voyages.

Cataloguing the Museum Collections This is an ongoing project which meets Monday afternoons from 1:30pm. The object of the project is to photograph and catalogue each item in our museum collection. This includes a small description, the origin and maker or manufacturer of the item. Then Margo Matthews uploads this information onto the Victorian Collections website which is accessible for all to see. We now have 144 items on this web site. If anyone wishes to help out with this project just come to History House on Monday afternoons or contact Susan Clarke.

MAP Visit Susan Clarke and Marilyn Wendt met with two representatives from The Museum Accreditation Program in November. They provided much information on such things as the care of our collection items, legal requirements for prohibited items (spears) and shipwreck relics (Inverlochy Log) and Aboriginal Artefacts. They also provided information on policy development, loans, and donation forms. This information will help with the continuing museum development and preservation of items.

February meeting We were fortunate to have Ron Roberts speak at our February meeting. Ron gave an interesting and amusing account of the history of the Split Point Lighthouse. He also donated a recently published book on the Noble family.

Alcoa site Our request to Alcoa to be able to use the old information shelter outside the mine precinct, has been met favourably. This building is on Alcoa freehold land. Alcoa has not yet made plans for their freehold land but have indicated they will give serious consideration to our request.

Museum Visitors

Holiday time is when we have lots of visitors calling in to History House and saying their grandparents or other ancestors once had connections with Anglesea. These holidays we made connections with two families.

PATON VISITORS Elizabeth Chapman is the grand daughter of Rev. Frank Paton who built "The Hut" in Parker Street. "The Hut" still remains today and is used by Frank's descendants. Frank, like his father was a Presbyterian missionary in New Hebrides (now Vanuatu). During late November last year Dave and Jan Morris and Doug and Dulcie Anderson visited a Paton Memorial Church in what is now Vanuatu. They re-established the link between Anglesea and the Vanuatu Presbyterian Church.

PURDUE VISITORS Shirley Lepore is the second cousin of Colonel Purdue who fired the first salvo marking Australia's entry into World War 1. He chose Anglesea as the place to retire. His portrait hangs just inside the front door of History House.

Interviews

It has been most worthwhile interviewing people who have had contact with Anglesea over many years. Many people came here for holidays and then retired here. They have information about Anglesea that will be lost unless we record it. If you know someone whom you believe would be worthwhile interviewing, please speak to a committee member.

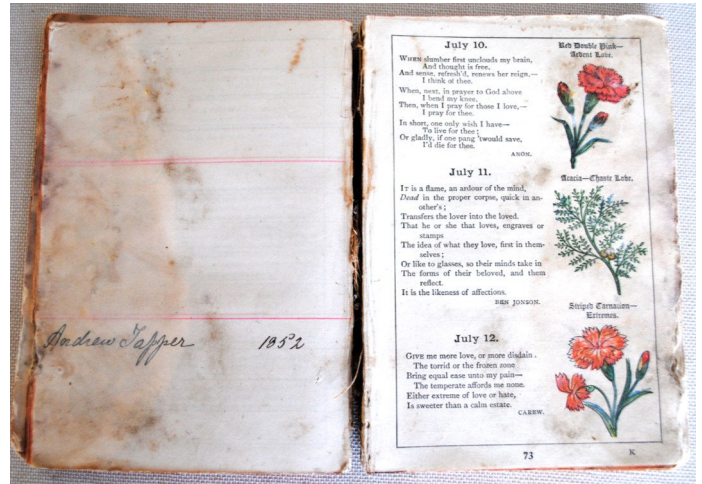
Items from the collection – Mawson family

Susan Clarke

In this edition of the Inverloch Log you will find an article about the Mawsons. In cataloguing the Anglesea and District Historical Society collection, we have so far identified three items related to this family. They are described here. Do look out for them next time you are at History House.

The Floral Birthday Book

This book is definitely in a 'distressed' condition! But this is understandable when you know that it was found at the Anglesea tip in the 1990s. It was found by Bonnie Anderson, and donated to the Society in 2015 by Susan Tayler. The book contains many names for the Mawson, Tapper and Hunt families who are mentioned in the early Anglesea families article. For example, there is an entry for Samuel R.J. Mawson 1870. This is the Samuel who together with his wife Emma (nee Hunt) were so highly respected in Anglesea. There is an entry for F.S.W. Mawson 1842. This is Frederick Sunderland Wood Mawson who was Samuel's father, and who married Jane Allen Tapper. The little book is very charming, and by comparing the names with the family tree, one could soon establish the connections.



Photographic developing dishes

The article on the family talks about Samuel's interest in photography, and we are fortunate to have in the collection a couple of small pieces of his equipment. We have developing dishes that were left in a Mawson property in Geelong. They were donated to the Society by Geoff Giles.



Real estate advertising poster

After the family's 'Cambridge House' (see photo in article) was destroyed by the 1947 bushfire, the Mawson Estate was sub-divided into 84 allotments. Amongst the collection of real estate posters in the collection is the one for the auction of the land. The poster contains the proud boast that 'Anglesea has Main Water and Electric Light Services'.



AVENUE OF HONOUR

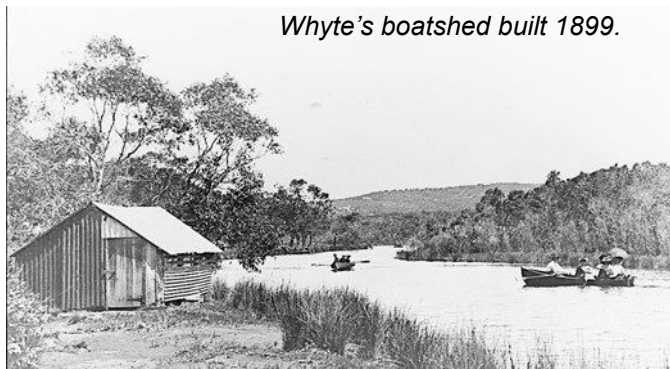
Here are some further interesting facts to add to the Mawson story in the Family History section of the newsletter.

After the First World War, Emma Mawson organized to have an Avenue of Honour made up of flowering gums, planted along Murch Crescent and Noble Street. These trees were later cut down to make way for electricity lines. Like other gum trees, some shot from the remaining stumps and still exist today. The one pictured here is near the Backpackers Hostel in Noble Street. Look carefully at how thick the base of the trunk is and you can see how the branches sprouted and regrew into a tree. Mawson Avenue, which intersects Noble Street where the trees were planted, is named after Sam and Emma



ANGLESEA BOAT SHEDS

Anglesea river is ideal for boating. It's safe, scenic and sheltered and a great feature of our seaside town. When people travelled here in horse drawn vehicles, there were no such things as golf, bowls or surf clubs. In those early days recreation activities were focussed on the river. You either fished, swam or went for a leisurely row. Cheryl Baulch recently discovered papers at PROV showing that George Green, a Geelong chemist, built a boat shed in 1884. This is probably the first Anglesea boat shed. It was near what is now Wilkins Street. In 1891, at the June Barrabool Shire Council meeting, a letter was read from the Lands & Survey Department asking if Council had any objection to the applications by Henry Bannister and Frederick Harvey for sites for boathouses at Anglesea River.



Whyte's boatshed built 1899.



Whyte's boatshed became part of this house

Before the car and trailer came upon the scene, a shed was required to house your heavy timber boat. Green's was the first shed built in 1884. Sichalu was next at the river fork. Sichalu's was a large comfortable shed and Walter Harrison, the builder, lived in it when he first came to Anglesea in 1911. The boatshed of Louis Australia Whyte was built about 1899. It was just down from Sichelau's. It was of timber frame and clad with corrugated iron. It was cut into the riverbank near the corner of Bingley Parade and Wilkins Street. In 1946, after Louis Melville Whyte no longer kept his surf boards in the shed, Les Hedley with helpers moved it across the road and it became part of Leo McMahon's house. Brearley's boat shed was close by on private land on the east side of the river about half way between the hotel and the fork of the river.

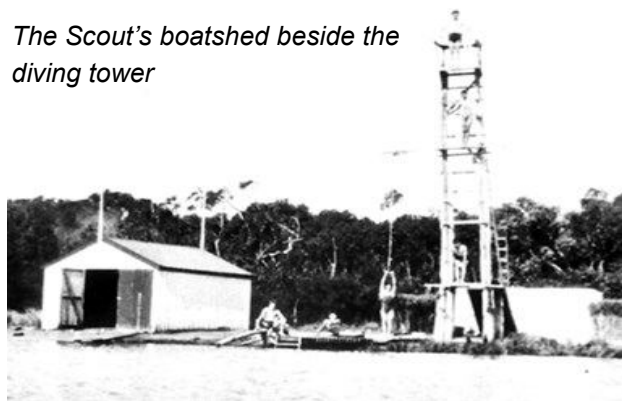
By the late 1930s there was a long line of sheds on the west bank just south of the old bridge. The Regatta shed was opposite, and is still there today. There were once ten sheds on the west bank near Parker Street. The Paton and Forest families shared one, which was a double boat shed. There were also boat sheds on the east bank, including the Scout shed.



Purnell's Boat shed 1924



The Scout's boatshed beside the diving tower



In 1914 the Anglesea Recreation and Sports Club celebrated the opening of their new club house, the one which still exists near the bridge. The opening ceremony was performed by the wife of the President, Mrs S R J Mawson in front of an audience in excess of 300. In her address she stated that she was very pleased, on the third anniversary of the formation of the club, to have the duty of declaring the club house open. She also noted that the clubhouse had been erected through the generosity of many local residents and that it was completely free of debt. In the Memorial Hall book made by Arthur Bubb, it mentions that this boat shed served as a hall, as it was the only place available for entertainment before the Memorial hall was built.

During 1970 the Shire gave most boatshed owners three months to remove them. Brian Smith understands they either had to move them to the northern side of the bridge on the west bank or demolish them. Three were moved to that position and remain there today. Several others were moved onto house blocks.

Where were these west bank sheds moved to? Two went over the road and became part of 113 Great Ocean Road. Architect Harry Little drew up plans and had these boat sheds made into a house. The task of tying them together, adding a bathroom and kitchen was quite a task for builders Arthur Bubb and Arthur Simmonds. The unique boat shed house still stands today and has been tastefully extended to make a comfortable home.



A Parker Street boatshed is now in Minifie Avenue and used as a games room.



A Parker Street boatshed is now an art studio in River Reserve Rd.

One boat shed went to a house in Minifie Avenue and is used as a games room.

Another went to River Reserve Road and is used as an art studio.

The three surviving boat sheds on the west bank of the river are of local historic significance. They are the only remaining examples of the boat sheds that were once so popular along the Anglesea River. They are a nostalgic reminder of the popular river boating era. The centre shed of these three, was built for the Bingley family

Many families kept their boats in their shed, hoisting them up to the rafters. This allowed them to use the shed floor for recreation. Parties would gather on the ramp from the bridge to watch the rowing. Other sheds were in the water and the boats could be rowed right into the shed.

Of course the New Year's Day Regatta was always a popular event, when all boat sheds were used by spectators at the Regatta. It was the social event of the year for Anglesea.

If you know where any of the Boatsheds are now please let us know at the Historical Society. We would like to document what happened to as many of them as we can trace.



The three remaining boat shed on the west bank



McMillan's boatshed c. 1920

Brian Smith outside his home that was built around two of the boatsheds from across the road on the rivers edge.

