

Nibbles: In this issue of Nibbles we continue our focus on a theme, in this case "Anglesea Bathing Boxes." Our blast from the past is an article on this topic by our then historian Lindsay Braden published in Newsletter No. 68 of November 2004. Susan Clarke, our museum curator, has provided an article on the history of our own bathing box now located behind History House, and some information on the beach photo which is displayed in the bathing box itself. But first of all the quiz ...

Quiz: Try your luck at these more general questions. The answers are at the end of this page (no peeking).

- Q.1. In what year did the first "bikini" appear on Australian beaches?
- Q.2. In what year did bathing boxes first appear on foreshores in Australia?
- Q.3. How were bathing machines different from bathing boxes?
- Q.4. What famous English monarch used a bathing machine?
- Q.5. What restriction was placed on men's swimming costumes in England up to the year 1860?

MAIN BEACH BATHING BOXES

Bathing boxes were an important part of the Anglesea beach scene from 1900 / 1963.

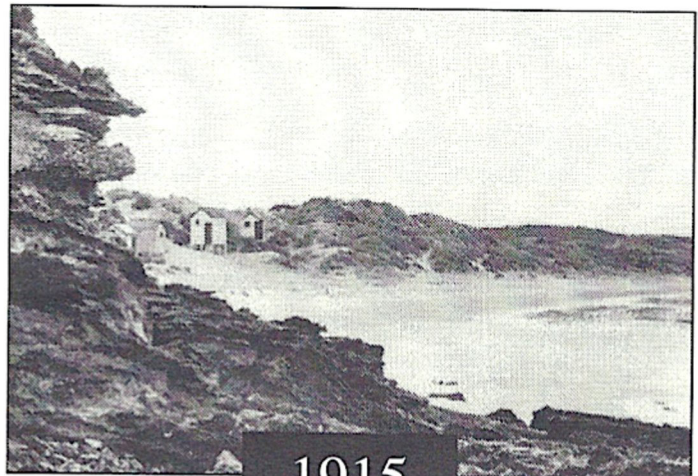
By 1915 the Department of Lands and Survey decided to raise some income from these popular shelters. From then, a yearly licence fee of seven shillings and sixpence (75c) was payable to the Receiver of Revenue.

These timber sheds nestled high on the dunes away from the incoming tide. Although Point Roadknight protects the main beach, a problem cool south westerly breeze was easily countered by sunbathing behind these popular shelters.

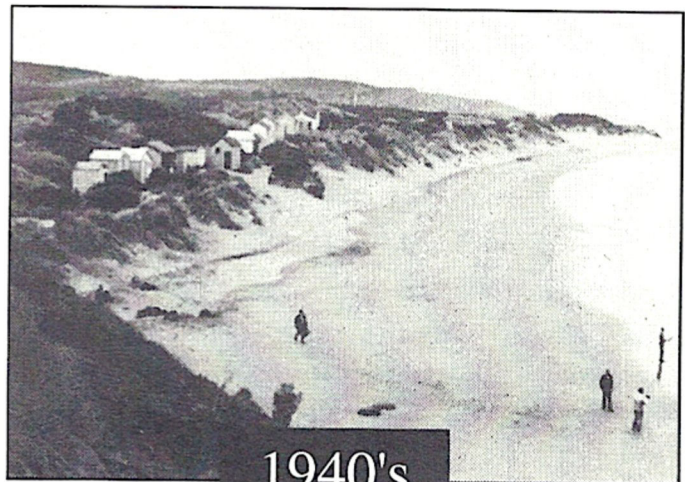
In 1927 a Journalist from Melbourne noted that Anglesea was one of the prettiest seaside resorts around Melbourne, and that the Hotel was providing improved main beach bathing boxes for it's guests.

By the 1960's Anglesea was no longer a remote seaside venue. The sand dunes were showing bad signs of wear and tear from large beach-going crowds.

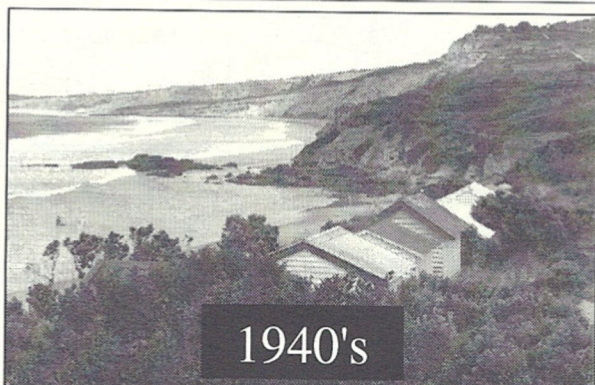
During 1963 owners were given a period of three months to remove their boxes, and the dunes were later fenced off and marram grass planted extensively- *so ended an era* ■ *L.B.*



1915



1940's



1940's

Answers to the Quiz: Q.1 1945 Q.2 1862 in Brighton Victoria Q.3 Women changed into their swimming attire in the bathing machines which were then wheeled to the water's edge. Q.4 Queen Victoria Q.5 Absolutely nothing. Men were allowed to swim naked, although swimming areas were segregated.

A history of our bathing box: Our bathing box was moved from the beach to Cameron Road in 1963 for the use of the Scouts and Guides. Their main hall was built in front of the bathing box, which was used for storage, and is remembered by locals as the place where newspapers were kept. Next to it was the store containing aluminium cans. Both of these items were collected to generate income. Then it was used by the Art House for its storage. This continued until 2016 when plans were finalised to extend and refurbish the Art House premises. The plans involved the removal of the bathing box.

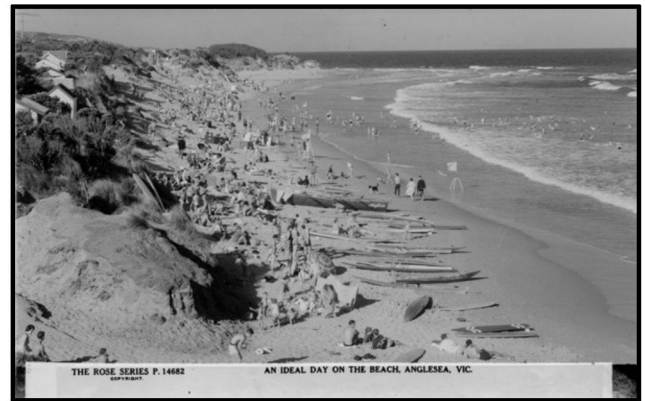


Fortunately the Historical Society was alerted to this development by one of its members, and it quickly put in an expression of interest to the Surf Coast Shire to have the bathing box relocated to the garden of History House, so that it could be conserved. The bathing box was craned into position in April 2017, and the renovation project commenced. Exterior weatherboards were replaced where necessary, and a new roof was installed to render the box weather-proof. There was also interior structural work, and finally the box was painted inside and out. This project involved many hours of work carried out by local tradies and dedicated volunteers. The box now commences the next stage of its life, hosting a display of photographs and objects from the collection on themes associated with the beaches in Anglesea and Aireys Inlet.

Bathing Box Mural: This photo has pride of place covering one wall in the bathing box. It shows Anglesea beach c1960. The photo includes the bathing boxes in the sand dunes, and the Anglesea surf boat. In the foreground there is a boy with Anglesea SLSC on the back of his t-shirt. As yet, of all the visitors to the bathing box, nobody has been able to say "That's me in the photo!". If you have not seen the photo, why not visit History House the next time it is open to check out whether you recognise anybody. We would love to hear from you.

Credit: An ideal day on the beach, Rose Stereograph Co., State Library Victoria

[<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/66679>]



Restored Inverloch Mosaic: At the request of the Anglesea and District Historical Society, the Anglesea and District Men's Shed have recently rebuilt the mosaic at Loveridge Lookout, commemorating the wrecking of the SS Inverloch in 1902. The work included the replacement of the "original life ring", repairing and cleaning the mosaic itself and installing the new work.

The Surf Coast Shire funded the restoration and Sue Ross repaired the mosaic tiles. From the Men's Shed the work was led by Alastair Duke and Simon Clark along with many others. The original mosaic was part of the Mosaic Walk built ten years ago and organised by Annette Dwyer of the Anglesea Community House. Artist Kate Van Nooten, was employed to work with each organisation contributing a mosaic. There are six mosaics in all on the Mosaic Walk around Anglesea.



Karl Jacklin thanks Eric Messer for his talk

The Night the Inverloch was Wrecked: On Sunday 7 February 55 people thoroughly enjoyed Eric Messer's entertaining and informative talk about the Inverloch that was wrecked in 1902 just a few hundred metres from our shore. Eric explained how they wrongly plotted their position, how the weather made conditions difficult, and how they had become confused about the lighthouse beacon they had seen. Being a seaman of years of experience, Eric had all the answers to how and why the disaster happened. Eric and his wife Marianne have dived on the wreck many times over the years and are familiar with the cargo that still lies on the bottom of the ocean. They have donated many pieces of crockery and other memorabilia to our museum. With Covid lockdown still partly in place we were fortunate to obtain at short notice, the excellent facilities at the Great Ocean Road Resort for our meeting. Members and visitors were generous and covered our expenses for the day. Thank you Eric for sharing your knowledge with us and giving us a memorable afternoon.