

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

NEWSLETTER No 23 JULY 1993

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Dear Members

Our winter bulletin comes to you in the most appropriate weather conditions! The past couple of weeks have been chilly indeed; numbers of our members have fallen victims to the bouts of flu etc that have invaded our town and environs. President Edith has unfortunately had to postpone her trip north, cancelling her flight scheduled for July 1st. She now hopes to spend September with her daughter in FNQ; best wishes for a complete recovery from all members to you Edith. Ivy Luke has recovered well from eye surgery, Myrle Smithwick HAD to slow down when a nasty cold caught up with her recently. Another committee member Jean Wendt has been on the sick list since her return from visiting her family in Bali - best wishes for your recovery Jean. Committee member Rita Whitelaw was recently hospitalised but has improved greatly. She's always happy to have visitors "Pop In" for a chat. To the other members who have been on the not-so-fit list, cheer up - we have passed the shortest day and once the days lengthen perceptibly, with more sunshine everyone will feel the benefit.

VISIT BY THE BISHOP OF GEELONG

Despite the big cold, we were delighted to have a sizeable audience to hear the Rt. Reverend John Bayton speak to us on June 12th. Although his designated subject was Icons, he enthralled everyone present with his thoughts on such diverse matters as the Mabo controversy, the Australian flag, symbols in clerical vestments etc. Mary Soames thanked Bishop Bayton most eloquently and has written the following par about his talk.

On Saturday June 12th, the Anglican Regional Bishop of Geelong, Bishop John Bayton gave us a most enlightening address - with the aid of slides - on the subject of Icons. He explained that an Icon is an image - a sacred image, or figure of a holy personage, often painted on specially prepared wood, sometimes directly onto walls and whilst most hang in the Orthodox Churches throughout the world, many Eastern European homes used them for spiritual meditation, as an Icon is read and tells a story.

The slides showed many of these ancient works of art plus a number more recently painted by one of the priests of the Ukrainian Church in Bell Post Hill, Geelong.

Bishop John explained how these Icons from the early ages have the same meaning as the ancient aboriginal paintings which have been found in the sacred caves in Australia and which were painted for the

same reason - the telling of a sacred story. Bishop John has worked and lived amongst the aborigines in Northern Australia and has been privileged to learn this and many other interesting facets of their lives which have been a great influence on his own. Time, unfortunately allowed him to share only a few of these fascinating stories with us.

When Bishop John began his study of Icons twenty years ago, he found this form of art not being taught in Australia so, being an accomplished artist himself, he set up his own schools, two of which have been already opened in Geelong since his office of Bishop to the diocese began there a few years ago.

Those of us who attended were fortunate indeed and thank Bishop John for giving us his time so willingly

We have two Sunday afternoon meetings coming up for the coldest months of July and August. On July 4th at 2pm at the Museum, "Winter Memories" will be canvassed in an informal way so that anyone, or better still, everyone can participate. On August 8th at 2pm, again at the Museum, Jamie Mackenzie, Ranger with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will speak about penguins - to be illustrated with slides. Those who enjoyed his first visit will remember the excellent quality of the slides shown of native flora and fauna etc. I feel sure he will present another excellent selection, so don't miss him.

The Veteran Car Club will be visiting Anglesea during the morning of the 8th. Mr Thompson, an employee of Barrabool Shire, (and Veteran Car devotee) has arranged for a small par (written by Lindsay Braden) about Anglesea's development to appear in the Club's newsletter. With this publicity we hope some members will take the opportunity to visit the Museum during the stopover here.

September 4th - at 7.30 - We hope Mr Ken Berryman from the National Film and Archive Centre will be with us - his visit has been unavoidably postponed a couple of times.

Sunday October 3rd - 2pm - Annual General Meeting. A change of day and time because of the visit of the International Harvester Choir to Anglesea on Saturday October 2nd. Following the election of the office bearers a new "Lindsay Braden Video" will be shown - most of you are familiar with the excellent work being done by Lindsay bringing Anglesea's early history to us on the screen. He has another very interesting subject in the pipe line - early Anglesea houses, mostly owned by Geelong residents, and the owners' "city" dwellings. Sadly some of the latter have only recently been demolished - so one can see how important it is to continue to have history put on film. Lindsay has kindly written an item about his work, for which we are grateful.

HISTORY RESEARCH NEWS - Keith Cecil and Lindsay Braden hope to make a video towards the end of this year about the Great Ocean Road, past and present. Lindsay has just about completed a video called "From Whence They Came". This shows the holiday houses of our early residents and where they came from in Geelong and Melbourne. Some of the families mentioned are the

Harveys, Mawsons, Colledges, Minifies, McMillans, Webbs and Bingleys etc. Lindsay is also half way through part 3 of the Anglesea History video. This should be ready early next year.

November - Friday 5th - ANNUAL DINNER one of our well supported fixtures each year, we look forward to having your company again - more details later. We hope to have Peter Staughton who works on National Trust projects as our guest speaker. His brother Richard is an Anglesea resident.

December - Saturday 4th - 8pm - Our Christmas get-together. Most of you will know that Keith Cecil has been doing a teaching stint in Queensland. Of course Keith would never be parted long from his camera/video and took the opportunity to film rural life in the outback. With some cutting/amalgamating he's going to have a super video to illustrate a talk about his experiences on a cattle station, being one of the family - we look forward to hearing you Keith.

ACQUISITIONS - After several hiccoughs the ALCOA corner is starting to take shape. Arthur Stanley kindly offered us some pegboard (and thank you to Jim Amery and Allan Poigndester for erecting same) on which to hang the Alcoa pictures. The first batch of fossil material has arrived and we are hoping for more. Edith has listed other items passed on to the Society in recent times. It would be much appreciated if donors could attach a note advising name with any item, and any relevant information when leaving on the table; this is especially important on meeting nights as it can be difficult to recall details at a later date when there has been chatter etc going on as it inevitably does when members are all wanting part of the action. No matter how large or small your contribution to our Museum may be, we are always grateful to receive anything that will extend our history reminders of the past.

In April we received a view-finder from "Concern" of early vintage. The 1993 Queen's Speech was received from Joan Murch. Alcoa were generous in helping us set up a history of their power station by presenting numerous board mounted photos and descriptive titles to go with each. We have a special spotlighted show case in which we are setting up this display.

In May two early radios were given to the Society, one from our Secretary S Forsyth and one from Mr & Mrs B Hall. The latter was the first portable type ever designed and switches on when the front is opened - it still works!

In June Mrs D Jones presented us with two sets of early photos of Anglesea in 1972 plus two sets of questions for school children that once were used for class work. It is amazing how Anglesea has changed in 20 years.

Beth Marsh has offered to take over treasurer duties whilst Loris and Ted are enjoying Queensland's sunshine. Good to have Beth's expertise in these matters to the fore - many thanks.

Val Amery has been giving a resume of interesting items gleaned from RHSV news and the Museums Publication at meetings - some are listed below.

- 1-5 May 1893 A five-day "bank holiday" operated in Victoria following the closure and reconstruction of several banks, to allow the banks to reorganise.
- 3 May 1893 The NSW Government passed the Bank Issue Bill to allow bank notes to be legal tender from May 15.
- 6 May 1943 Australia's worst level crossing accident took place at Wodonga when a bus collided with a train. 23 soldiers and two other people died.
- 16 May 1893 Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria and his wife visited Sydney on their world cruise in their yacht Kaiserine Elizabeth.
- 21 May 1793 Governor Arthur Phillip arrived in London following his departure from NSW.
- 1 June 1893 The libel case instituted between Richard Speight, the Railways Commissioner and Mr David Syme of THE AGE began in the First Civil Court in Melbourne before Mr Justice Hodges and a special jury of 12.
- 7 June 1943 Rationing of butter and household drapery began.
- 14 June 1893 Paddy Hannan with his mates Tom Flanagan and Dan Shea found payable gold on the site of what was to become Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.
- 19 June 1843 The first opera performance in Australia occurred in Sydney when Rossini's Barber of Seville was staged.
- 20th June 1893 The first Australian designed sovereigns and half sovereigns were struck in the presence of the Governor at the Melbourne Mint.
- " " " The report of a rush to the old Tubba Rubba gold field near Dromana was published in THE AGE.
- 23 July 1793 Governor Arthur Phillip, now in London, submitted his letter of resignation to the Colonial Office.
- 31 July 1893 The Australasian League held a two-day conference promoting Federation at Corowa on the Murray River, NSW.

A submission has been made for a grant from Arts Victoria to provide a cataloguing kit. We should know by the end of this year whether our request has been successful. You will recall that our last grant of \$1,000 was for the upgrading for security measures at the Museum, currently being carried out by Barrabool Shire. We are also having additional shelving put up on which to display more photographs. Our new carpet has received total approval from members at the June meeting. Heating is also being investigated - we should have a much warmer venue for winter meetings when the latter option has been finalised.