

# ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

NEWSLETTER No 28 - SEPTEMBER 1994

**PRESIDENT**

Val Amery  
631852

**SECRETARY**

Shirley Forsyth  
631430

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of our Society will take place on October 1st - as pointed out by Vice President Edith at our September meeting, most of the present committee are prepared to stand for re-election - never-the-less we encourage all members to contribute fresh ideas to ensure the survival of our Society. Do think seriously about this. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary. The present committee is as follows - President: Val Amery, Vice Presidents: Edith Lawn and Arthur Stanley, Secretary: Shirley Forsyth, Treasurer: Loris Pavia, Author/Photographer: Keith Cecil, Researcher: Lindsay Braden, Publicity: Elsie Samuel, Committee: Jean Wendt, Beth Marsh, Joan Murch, Maintenance: Allan Poigndester.

A special attraction following the business part of the AGM will be the showing of Lindsay's latest video of Anglesea history, this edition from the years 1929 - 1946 and features include "Debonair", the old tennis courts and the "Four Kings". The 'Film Maker' is particularly pleased with the finished production and I know members will not be disappointed. Starting time will still be at 7.30pm - daylight saving will be in force for subsequent meetings over the summer period. 8pm start.

The Sunday afternoon format during the winter period proved popular and will be discussed further at the AGM - member comment appreciated - it has been suggested that the general meeting time be changed - if the first Sunday afternoon in the month was adopted the Museum opening time would need to be altered - upon reflection, an afternoon meeting on a hot February/March day might not be desirable! Another alternative might be to extend the afternoon timeslot an extra one either side of the now winter program - that would make five instead of three daylight meetings' viz. May, June, July, August and September. We look forward to hearing suggestions from members.

Our holiday reminiscences proved to be a happy occasion and thank you to those who shared humorous incidents - Val's winter warming potion was much appreciated and the volume of chatter did rise a decibel or two after a couple of tots! Jean Wendt entertained to the September meeting - her descriptions of South Africa were so graphic that listeners could see themselves there enjoying the sights too. Jean's view of Soweto, a name so familiar to us all, certainly contradicted the impressions we have come to accept from TV and other media items.

We were disappointed that Mr Bill Dexter was unable to speak to our July meeting but we were most grateful to Norma Smith who was able to accept our very short notice invitation to share her experiences, with husband Bill, during their three months stay in Capella in central Queensland. We learned something about the impact of coal-mining on these previously "all rural" Communities - the heat endured during the summer months, the drought of which we have all been made aware, and whilst they were there the incredible wet when inches of rain fell overnight causing enormous damage to roads etc, but sadly leaving no 'long term' benefits. Such a short time after hearing Norma we were saddened to hear of the Moura mine disaster.

## ANNUAL DINNER - Friday November 4th - Anglesea Hotel Bistro Dining Room

The annual dinner is always a must and we do look forward to your continued support. Frank Flynn will have an interesting story to impart - his life long love affair with the sea has produced many side lights, and a highlight - "Shipwrecks in the Surf" will be the theme of his talk. A tear-off slip is provided at the end of this newsletter and we would appreciate your reply by October 24th - thank you.

Our researcher had been busy in the past months gathering information about another Anglesea landmark - the local golf club - this will appeal to golfers past and present.

## OUT OF THE ROUGH! by Lindsay.

Anyone for golf? Actually this cry was not heard on our part of the coast until 1936 when the Eastern View Golf course was opened adjacent to the Great Ocean Road archway near Coalmine Creek. On that particular day His Excellency the Governor after giving a keen speech, stepped forward to drive away the first ball to open the course - Yes, you've guessed it ! Unfortunately in front of a huge gathering he did a dreaded "air" shot, leaving the little white missile motionless on the tee. In true British spirit he seemed quite unperturbed, and after swinging the club back for the second time, belted the ball a reported 130 yards straight up the freshly prepared fairway - followed by great applause from the intrigued onlookers.

There were three ventures - separated by many years - to commence the game of Golf in our coastal area, described in a Government report of 1924 as having some of the poorest soil in the State. (Curators beware)! By 1927 a new generation of holiday-makers was arriving in the region for the summer and Easter vacations. Fishing and hunting were no longer the main attraction, and different leisure-time enticements were sought. The local Progress Association, spurred on by the new owners of the Hotel, held a meeting to acquire land and form an 18 hole Golf Links east of the river mouth reserve. The area was mostly Crown Land, and the layout eventually planned in the vicinity of the top end of Purnell Street and today's sewerage outlet track. In 1928 a contractor with a team of seven sturdy horses pulling a three furrow plough broke up the ground, but that years dry weather delayed the planting of grass on the proposed fairways. Maybe this hold-up was just as well, because the Lands Department then specified only to give permissive occupancy of the site. The Progress Association met and decided that they were not prepared to make any further improvements without a lease, or a future option to purchase. The proposed links was abandoned and went back to the rough.

The second attempt at Golf as already mentioned was at Eastern View. The Great Ocean Road Trust, decided to construct a picturesque nine hole links adjacent to their new carriageway, and immediately opposite a glorious surf beach. The layout had room for future expansion to 18 holes. It used sand scrapes instead of greens, and was described as a sporting course with interesting natural hazards - An ideal picnic resort! The links was closed at the beginning of World War 2 and never re-opened.

As the saying goes - "third time lucky!" - In January 1950 an enthusiastic public meeting was held at the Regatta boatshed to form a Golf Club. A nine hole course was proposed on land off Noble Street. Fifty acres of virgin forest was purchased from Mr. Phil. Harvey for a mere £500, and another similar 90 acres generously donated gratis by Mr. Nicholas O'Donohue. Working capital was urgently required. Debentures were sold, and part of their land in the Noble Street area was subdivided and marketed. In December 1953 the first nine holes designed by V. Morcomb were opened. On that grand occasion a crowd of 1500 witnessed an exhibition game between Ossie Pickworth, Len Boorer, Burt Cheney and Joan Fisher. On the 1st July 1955 the first stage of the Clubhouse was officially opened. By April 1961 the course had been extended to 18 holes. One year later a further 82 acres were purchased on the western and northern boundaries at a very generous price and terms from Nicholas O'Donohue. The outward nine holes were then re-designed to complement this.

In 1994 The Anglesea Golf Club features a 18 hole par 73 course (complete with Kangaroos) set in attractive surroundings. A modern Clubhouse with Bistro meals, Tabaret pokies, and a club professional enhance the complex. It's a far cry from the tin shed pre-clubhouse days of the early 50's.

## RESEARCH CORNER

An early visitor to Anglesea was Louis Australia Whyte from Newtown.  
Research on his family reveals the following :

WHYTE LOUIS AUSTRALIA. died 5/4/1911 Aged 59. WHYTE MANNA ELIZ. died 14/5/1938.

WHYTE. LOUIS MELVILLE. s.o. L.A.W. Born 2/6/1890. Died 10/4/1975 aged 84. Western GN536.  
"The Heights" 140 Aphrasia Street. Newtown. Investor.

WHYTE. ELLA LAYTON (Marnie) WYETT. w.o. L.M.W. Born 25/1/1896. Died 18/9/1975 aged 79.  
w.o. L.M.W. Married 1934.

\*\*\* Louis Australia Whyte of "The Heights" Newtown, was a foundation member of The Geelong Golf Club in 1892. He was also Australian Amateur Golf Champion in 1894 and 1900. His boatshed, cut into the eastern bank of the Anglesea river, was a well known landmark near the corner of today's Bingley Parade and Wilkin St. It was built in approx. 1899 of timber frame, and clad with corrugated gal.iron. The structure was not noted in the Barrabool rate books of that time. His son, Louis Melville Whyte, travelled to the boatshed in his Silver Rolls Royce (soft top) and would often spend week-ends there. He made surfing history after arriving back from Hawaii in 1919 with 4 secondhand redwood boards purchased from the famous Duke Kahanamoku. He came in through the surf standing up on one of these long 16' boards, to the applause of startled onlookers. He often surfed between Anglesea and Lorne with Bill Hale Snr. who had also brought a redwood board back from Hawaii. In 1946 his boatshed was moved across the road by Les Hedley and helpers, to become part of Leo McMahon's house. (per Mrs. I. McMahon). Although Louis Whyte's boatshed was in Anglesea, his holiday house known as "Salad Days" was in Lorne.

IDENT.1994... Recess cut into the River bank can still be seen.

From Lindsay Braden's "Early Anglesea Families".

## ACQUISITIONS

We are grateful th member Edith Lawn for arranging a new supply of crested note paper 'at the right price' through her son-in-law in Ballarat.

Mrs Gerlach has passed on some copies of newspaper cuttings showing beach scenes at Anglesea in 1934 - we shall be looking for assistance to identify some of the bathing belles - these are a very interesting group of photos.

Mr Goldie was a familiar sight sitting on his small bench seat in Camp Road as he watched the passing parade - never without his tartan tam. We are grateful to Betty Butterworth who has had the cap cleaned and along with some interesting news items about the family has passed them on to the Society for presentation in the Museum. Mrs Goldie was for many years a Sunday School Teacher at the Presbyterian Church and also ran the first kindergarten in the town. Her photo with two of her pupils in also in the Museum. The following cutting is also of interest.

**LOCAL IDENTITY DIES** - Anglesea lost one of its well-known identities when 94-year-old Mr Tom Goldie died recently. During the last 30 years he was a familiar figure with children passing his cottage on their way to school. A keen gardener, Mr Goldie would either be working in his garden or sitting on a seat at the edge of the footpath ready for a friendly chat. In his younger days Mr Goldie was a keen rower and yachtsman and competed in races from Sandringham to Geelong.

A carpenter and market gardener by occupation, he and Mrs Goldie moved from Melbourne to retire at Anglesea in 1951. At Anglesea they quickly established at interesting native garden. Many of the garden items were made from driftwood which Mr Goldie collected on early morning jaunts along the beach. For many years he was a familiar sight returning on his bicycle with a sugar bag full of interesting flotsam and jetsam.

Mrs Goldie, a former teacher, formed the first kindergarten in Anglesea and later became assistant teacher at the local primary school for several years. She was also a Sunday School teacher at the Presbyterian Church for about 20 years.

In a tribute to Mr Goldie this week, a local resident said: "The whole town knew and loved Mr Goldie. We will all miss the man with the 'Tam O'Shanter' sitting on the garden seat" (from newscutting August 1984)

ANGAIR WEEKEND - The Society presented a static display in the Hall and the Museum opened on both Saturday and Sunday between 11am and 4pm. Thank you to all the members who assisted with the roster, About 80 folk took advantage of our open invitation and visited the Museum over the two days - the continuous video proving popular.

EXCURSION - No! We have not forgotten about it - another possible venue has been added - the newly refurbished Treasury Building - where an exhibition display has been mounted. So that makes for a most varied program taking in the Royal Mint (RHSV Headquarters), the ANZ Gothic bank building, the Rialto Tower and the Treasury. A date will be decided at the AGM.

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To be posted to P O Box 98, Anglesea, 3230, or handed to the Secretary Shirley or Treasurer Loris -----

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

I/We will be attending the Annual Dinner at the Anglesea Hotel on Friday 4th November - enclosed payment of \$20 per head/

Three course dinner with choices at 7pm following nibbles at 6.30.

Name in block letters please.....

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ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

Please find enclosed my/our annual subscription of \$5 per head for 1995 membership of the Society.

Name

Address

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