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ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

NEWSLETTER No 32-OCTOBER 1995

PRESIDENT
Val Amery
631852

SECRETARY
Shirley Forsyth
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Loris Pavia
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Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Museum on October 7th 1995. Following is a copy of the President's report.

The A.G.M. is an appropriate time to review the past year and assess the progress of the Society.

A feature of the Society's activities which I judge to be very successful is the excellent calibre of our speakers. Briefly recounting. We ended last year with Mr. Don Chamber's talk on Boss Hurst (scouting) and in February Messrs G. Wilson and D. Hume gave us an engrossing account of their journey from Hobart to Melbourne on the Endeavour replica—a story made more memorable by the telling of the epic recovery of the anchor of the original Endeavour by David Hume. In April Mr. Alan Browning from Wathourong Co-operative spoke on Koori culture—subsequent to his visit we handed over some aboriginal artefacts which we felt rightfully belonged to the indigenous people.

In keeping with the spirit of Australia Remembers it was fitting that we were addressed in May (V.E. day eve) by Dr. Henry Millicer A.M. a Polish pilot and Aeronautical engineer. In June the Rev. Alec. Peerman, a former chaplain to the Geelong Gaol, gave us an insight into life behind those stone walls.

Come July Anne Clarke spoke of Alpaca farming at Bellbrae. In August we learnt many facets of South African life from Mr. Winston Wade and in September our own Stan and Melva Stott spoke of their great passion—Town Crying.

All will agree the speakers informed and entertained us. We are grateful to them for their presentations and willingness to share their knowledge and experiences with us.

EXCURSIONS

- . To Melbourne to visit the A.N.Z. Gothic Bank Chamber, Old Mint, Treasury Building and Rialto Tower.
- . To the Bellarine Peninsula to the Court House Museum, Port Arlington Mill and Soho Gallery.
- . To the Queenscliffe Fort for the "Beating the Retreat" (in lieu of March meeting)
- . In conjunction with Anglesea Probus to Warrnambool to view the Mary Rose exhibition and Flagstaff Hill.
- . More recently to the Western Ring Road, Woodlands Homestead and Organ Pipe National Park.

GRANTS

We have currently lodged two applications for grants to further our work.

- . With ARTS 21 for improved book storage.

With C.N.R. for restoration of Loveridge Lookout (you will recall we were unsuccessful last year-twelve months later the need is even more pressing!)

OBITUARIES

It is with regret that we record the death of the Society's founding President-Mr. Gil Johnson. It is due to the initiative of Gil and a small band of members that we have developed to our present position with an evergrowing collection. A model ship he constructed is a reminder of his contribution to creating an awareness of our Anglesea history.

During the year two members, Mrs. Anne Barsby and Mrs. Rita Whitelaw, died. We were enriched by their friendship and mourn their passing.

ACQUISITIONS

The computer given to us by Mr. Des Hayes and supplemented by a printer, purchased by the Society, has proved a great advantage (albeit a challenge to Shirley and I) in creating documents. Thank you to all who donated various memorabilia to our collection.

The Society is maintaining a close relationship with the Surf Coast Shire Historical Records Centre based at Winchelsea and I suggest people wishing to do genealogical or local research consider doing it there.

We appreciate the assistance given by the Surf Coast Shire in printing our newsletters and maintenance of the museum and surrounds (a new roof this year)

I thank secretary Shirley and researchers Lindsay and Keith for their contributions to our quarterly newsletters-the feedback we get from readers is both positive and rewarding.

I would make a plea that more members volunteer for rosters on Museum Open days and manning the Information van. Both activities are worthwhile in bringing an awareness of our aims before the wider community.

We have been ably served by a dedicated committee-all have contributed with their special talents. I thank Elsie Samuel, who is taking a well earned rest, for her fine reporting and wise counsel.

Finally thank you all for your support and friendship throughout the year

VALERIE J. AMERY

STOP PRESS

We have just received advice that our application for \$400 towards shelving has been successful!!!

The election of office bearers for the ensuing year was carried out by Rev. Alec Peerman and resulted as follows-

- President-Val Amery*
- Treasurer-Loris Pavia*
- Past Pres-Edith Lawn*
- Photographer-Keith Cecil*
- Ex-officio-Joan Murch*
- Secretary-Shirley Forsyth*
- Vice Pres-Arthur Stanley*
- Researcher-Lindsay Braden*
- Maintenance-A. Poigndester*
- Committee-Betty Lloyd, Beth Marsh, Nancy McDonald, Myrle Smithwick, Jean Wendt.*

We welcome two new members to the committee-Nancy, well known to most of you and Betty a newcomer to Anglesea. President Val was thanked for her leadership over the past two years by the secretary and past president and presented with flowers.

Following the A.G.M.our guest speaker,Mr.Rod Charles from Deakin University,was introduced.Mr.Charles used old bottles of different shapes and sizes to illustrate the importance of line ,symmetry and proportion and how these attributes affect our perception,particularly in the built environment.Some excellent slides reinforced his discussion.He led us through different styles of architecture-the symmetry of the Parthenon,the proportions of a courtyard at Urbino in Italy,the breathtaking beauty of the Taj Mahal.....Art Deco buildings originating in France circa 1925-the Police building in Russell St.Melbourne is an example of an Art Deco sky scraper.Mr. Charles is enamoured of our Anglesea River boatsheds-a landmark he never fails to admire when passing by.He hopes they remain for many years to come-they personify design,framing and space.Omaru.a little Victorian era town in New Zealand stands today unchanged.We were taken on a wide ranging tour through centuries of change but ~~were~~ were able to recognise the unifying thread of man's needs and aspirations .Our guest was thanked by Alan Yates.

If you have ever wanted to know more about the cluster of buildings atop the hill on the Deakin campus at Waurm Ponds, here is your opportunity to satisfy your curiosity!

Mr. Charles has offered to take members on a personally conducted tour and if there is sufficient interest we could include the Viaduct, closed to foot traffic by Barwon Water but still visible-and perhaps the Wool Stores now becoming part of the Deakin campus.Final arrangements could be made at the Annual Dinner if members give it some thought now.

MEMBERSHIP is now due.As previously intimated subs.are \$7.50 (necessary to cover public liability,newsletter postage etc.)

ANNUAL DINNER:Tickets for the Annual Dinner to be held at the newly refurbished Anglesea Hotel Bistro on November 3rd also enclosed.An excellent three course meal with choices plus pre-dinner drinks and savouries is being offered.

Lynne Russell,our guest speaker with her bubbly personality will endear herself to you. As editor of "This Month in Geelong"-an award winning publication- she has her finger well and truly on *the Tourism pulse*.

DECEMBER MEETING

We look forward to having at our Christmas meeting Mrs. Kate Millicer (wife of afore mentioned Dr.Henry) who also has interesting tales to tell.Meeting starts at 8p.m.on December 2nd.Note time change due to daylight saving. Welcome to new member Rosalie Wells.

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ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

Please find enclosed my\our annual subscription of \$7.50 per head for 1996 membership of the Society.

Name.....

Address.....

41

PARKER'S HOLIDAY COTTAGE

What a pity Anglesea has lost so much of its early structures because of fire. Lindsay, our researcher, gives us a pen picture of the home built by the man who gave his name to Parker Street. "Mr. Parker was a leading Geelong ironmonger whose well known business could be seen at 54 Moorabool St. In 1886 he purchased one of George Noble's blocks on the west side of the river and built a cottage there named "Marguerite House". William Parker used this lodging as a rental investment and occasionally occupied it during the popular New Year period. It would seem that his interest in the area came through his sister, Alice Jackson, who owned and ran the first Anglesea Hotel. Although the cottage did not appear on the Shire of Winchelsea's rate books until 1889, a once only advertisement in the Geelong Advertiser of 19\1\1887 advised that a comfortable furnished cottage was to let at Anglesea River and to apply at Wm. Parker's Ironmonger Shop in Geelong. This small never to be repeated announcement was completely successful, as over the years apparently by word of mouth, many of Anglesea's pioneering holiday-makers stayed at Parker's. They then "sussed" the area out before acquiring one of Noble's acre blocks for a future "getaway" cottage.

The three bedroom double-fronted holiday abode occupied a one acre space, which fronted today's Parker Street just below McMillan's *Blink Bonnie*. All the materials for this cottage would have been carted across the soft sand at the river mouth, as the bridge did not exist at that time. It was placed to enjoy the magnificent scenery on the coast towards Pt. Addis and the Port Phillip heads. This beautiful view was eliminated by tall trees planted by some of our early families further downhill - no thought given to the future!

What happened to the cottage - you may well ask. "Marguerite House" was burnt to the ground by a bushfire. Whereas it was saved from the disastrous 1908 fire, it was not so lucky with the calamitous one of 1919, which fanned by a northerly wind swept downwards into the valley and raced across to the seaboard. A nearby neighbour who witnessed the cottage's demise described it as "*going up like a matchbox*". Just one year previously William Parker had sold the property to Mrs. Elizabeth Appleton, sister of Annie McMillan in *Blink Bonnie* next door. Although the Geelong Advertiser reported that the structure would be rebuilt almost immediately, it never eventuated. The fire-cleared land was later sold to a well known Geelong Solicitor who, during 1955, re-subdivided into 8 sites just west of today's Peter Avenue. As a matter of interest Elizabeth Appleton was the wife of William Thomas Appleton, after whom Melbourne's "Appleton" dock is named.

William Parker was a prominent member of the Geelong Football Club. He retired to Fischer Street Torquay, died in 1928 aged 79 and is buried at Mt. Duneed."

Maps of the subdivisions mentioned above, along with many others, can be seen at the Museum in McMillan Street.