

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 42 - APRIL 98

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SURF COAST MINOR GRANTS

At last we can report success!! Our efforts to obtain funds for the restoration work on the two valuable volumes given to the Society by Gordon Dixon has borne fruit - in the recent round of grants we have received \$300 towards this work and for suitable storage. This provides our Museum with a significant addition. President Val will attend a special "handing over" of this welcome funding on April 30th at the Shire offices.

Other acquisitions during the first part of 1998 have included a most welcome, if "everyday" item - a vacuum cleaner donated by Allan Poigndester, also an old Safeway paper bag from pre-plastic days!; a copy of MUFTI which carried an article about the plaque presentation honouring aircraft spotters during WW11 at the Loveridge Lookout: 3 old 78's featuring patriotic songs from Dot Hayes: a record player from Adele Davidson which is now in the hands of the Lawless' to affect a repair job so we can listen to Harry Lauder: more photos which we can copy and thus add to a collection of the early days of the Surf Club from Tony Garden who had been approached by Michael Hancock - both these gentlemen have had a long association with Anglesea surfing. Another great collection of newspaper cuttings covering more than 40 years put together by the late Nicholas O'Donohue and given by Peter O'Donohue. Member Ron Scott was watching afternoon tea hostesses coping with a larger than normal gathering with our just "average" teapot - he attended the next meeting and presented us with a generous capacity pot!!!

Plaques have been placed in our Museum recognising the gifts of chairs by the late Norman Must and the Office Bearers' Board by Mrs. J. Cameron Murch.

CATALOGUING SEMINAR - President Val and Treasurer Betty recently attended an all day session in Geelong held at the Wool Museum. They arrived back in Anglesea suffering cataloguing "overload" but hope to set the wheels in motion to get our entire collection "on line" and will be looking for plenty of assistance with this mammoth task.

Our researcher Lindsay Braden has finished another of his "in depth" little publications this time on Aireys Inlet - so interested did he himself become in the subject that he now hopes to take a group of members "over his tracks" sometime in the future and knows they'll be just as enthusiastic. This little gem is now on sale for \$6. per copy.

HERITAGE WEEK - our acknowledgment of this annual fixture was enjoyed by 5/6 carloads of members and friends who participated in the Church/Chapel excursion. The ornate interior and appointments of the Greek Orthodox Church in Bell Post Hill provided a stunning start and we were met by Father Anthony who explained many facets of his religion and how Easter is celebrated. Such a contrast just a short distance away when we visited the Grace McKellar Chapel - this attractive little building represents the only remaining part of the imposing bluestone mansion built for the Bell family - unfortunately the rest was demolished when "Grace McKellar" was being established in the 1950's following the gift of the property by the Misses McKellar.

The chapel of All Saints at Geelong Grammar School Corio was our third visit where we were fortunate to have the chaplain Father Philip Turnbull give many details of the benefactors of the beautiful building which is enhanced of course by its attractive setting alongside the Memorial Cloisters.

Christ Church in Moorabool Street is a building most of us if not all have passed innumerable times. Archdeacon Andrew Oddy, the current minister, told his audience about some of his predecessors, the significance of the beautiful windows and some of the furniture. Christ Church has the distinction of being the oldest Anglican Church in Victoria still on its original site.

Our final stop was at Deakin University where the Rev. Bob Thomas one of three chaplains there talked to us as we sat in the tiny Deakin chapel, the former Catholic Church at Steiglitz and furnished with windows from an Anglican Church in North Melbourne following its demolition. (I have noted with interest at least 3 weddings have taken place in this chapel since our visit according to the local paper, G.A.) This excursion promoted a good deal of enthusiasm for local spots of interest and we hope to organise another with perhaps a slightly different theme later in the year.

SPEAKERS - Sunday afternoons have proved popular with members - it has also relieved the exec. of finding willing folk to act as guides when the Museum is open as todate there has always been a volunteer among those present for the actual meeting. It has been suggested that perhaps visitors might feel slightly embarrassed to find a room full of people but it is always pointed out that they are most welcome to join in , which in fact has occurred on a couple of occasions.

In March Bill and Norma Smith entertained with a 'duo' presentation of their time in the Aboriginal settlement of Woorabinda west of Rockhampton where Bill was in charge of the engineering department. Problems and experiences with the local inhabitants were varied and despite the large sums of money that had been pumped into the settlement there were still many difficulties to be overcome and members along with our speakers were left to ponder just how this can be accomplished to the satisfaction of all concerned.

In April Jim Harrison gave an interesting talk on his grandfather namesake's life in Scotland prior to migrating and the many inventions and accomplishments credited to him during his life in the "new colonies". The Geelong Advertiser is a lasting result of this man's initiative and he was also instrumental in establishing refrigeration as a method sending produce to the UK.

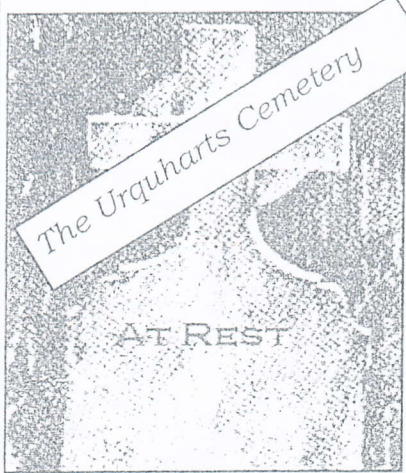
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MAY MEETING - Sunday afternoon - 2p.m. - the 3rd.

Mr. Ron Hilditch who spent much of his working life associated with the ceramics industry in Stoke on Trent but now a resident of Anglesea will be our guest speaker. He has an interesting story to tell.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY NEWS - A very timely article has appeared in the April issue. Anzac Day recognition has again been uppermost in the media. The novel "All Quiet on the Western Front" has been read by millions. 1998 is the centenary of the birth of its author, Erich Maria Remarque (1898-1970)who as an 18y.o German soldier in 1916 was sent to Passchendale for the 3rd Battle of Ypres (familiar names to many Aussie diggers).After only 6 weeks on the Western Front he was wounded by British shell splinters and saw no further action. However his experience on the Front was to change his life for ever but it was not until Jan 1929 that his famous book was published in Germany where it sold 200000 copies in the 1st 3 weeks and almost half a million within 3 months in Germany alone. The Australian connection!!! ARthur Wesley Wheen was born in country NSW in 1897 the son of a Methodist clergyman. He too found himself on the Western Front for most of 1916-1918 for which service he was awarded the M.M. After the war he attended Oxford and subsequently joined the staff of the Library of the Victoria and Albert in London in 1924 where he became a competent translator. Late in 1929 it was this Australian who made the first English translation of "Im Westen Nichts Neues."

Whatever happened to -



There is very little movement at the Urquharts Cemetery site today - *nor has there been over the past 100 years!*

This area came into being after permission was refused for the burial of Anna Mackay's remains in the 4 acre grounds of Anglesea's first Presbyterian Church high on the hill, near the corner of today's McRorie and McDougall Streets - she was committed to the earth at Bellbrae instead.

To appease the early township inhabitants 10 acres of Crown Land was set aside for a Cemetery in a remote area inland from Urquhart's Bluff. However it would appear that no person was ever laid to rest in the defined area.

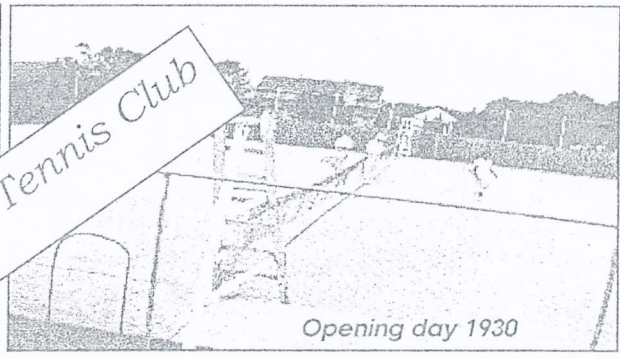
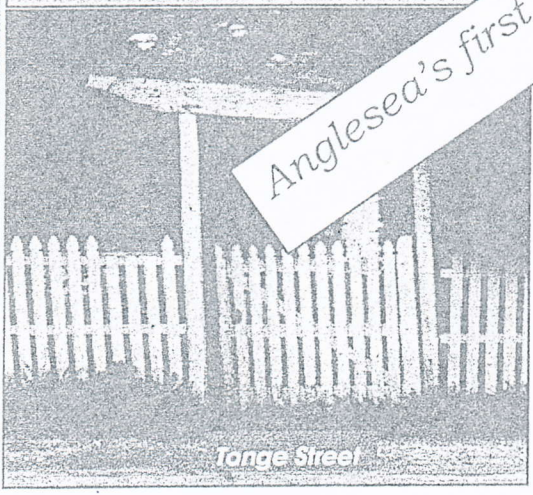
Charles J. Lane an early owner of 'Sunnymead' homestead stated in his will that he wished to be buried there, but was interred at St. Kilda instead.

Also someone is said to have dug his own grave, but failed to turn up and occupy it.

The inland reserve was revoked in 1962. Heavy bushfire re-growth now covers the unused region

□ L.B.

This gate once led to -



Early in 1930 land was acquired on the corner of today's Tonge and Parker Streets for the formation of Anglesea's first Tennis Club.

Two tennis courts, a pavilion and a miniature golf course were constructed. The exciting complex opened on Saturday 27/12/1930 and was closed during the early part of WW2.

The former sporting area was sold and re-subdivided back to home sites. □ L.B.

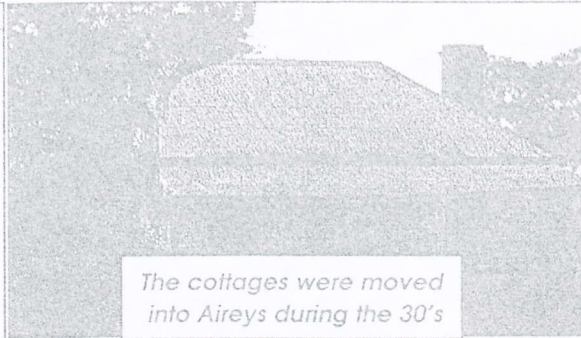


Let's go for a row!

Can you imagine the Cameron children's excitement of not only moving into their new Anglesea holiday cottage but also of having their own family rowing boat

This 1920 photo shows Joan (aged 7) and her brother Hugh propelling their proud parents along our beautiful stream □ L.B.

BUCKHURST'S HOLLOW AT URQUHART'S BLUFF



The cottages were moved into Aireys during the 30's

Many people, especially those from Aireys, can remember seeing remains of an aged cottage that once nestled in the hollow at Cutler's Hill. *Henry Buckhurst lived there after he selected lot 20a of 309+ acres in 1889.*

This glorious piece of land with picture postcard outlook, stretched from Gilbert Street to the Ocean. It also extended a couple of hundred yards east of Urquhart's Bluff - strangely only the orchard and cottage portion of this was enclosed by fencing.

He tiered the hollow and built his cottage above the Bluff, just inland from today's Great Ocean Road -(which of course didn't exist in those early days).

A walking track traversed from his place of living to the beach below. Crayfish were plentiful from the nearby rocks during that pioneering time.

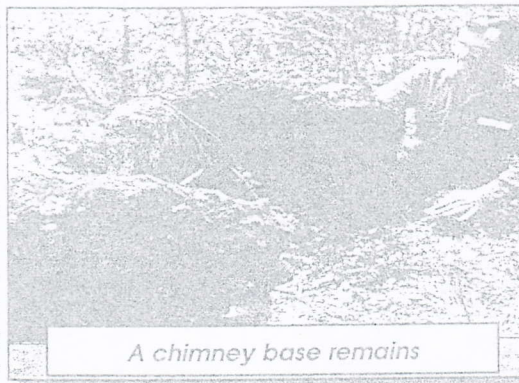
Henry described himself as an orchardist and a farmer. Apple and pear trees were planted in the 10 acre fenced hollow.

His two children Gertie and Eva attended the Aireys School. Typical of the times no mention is recorded of his wife.

A map shows that by 1915 there were two cottages at the site. This was to accommodate other members of the family who often

travelled from Melbourne for their holidays.

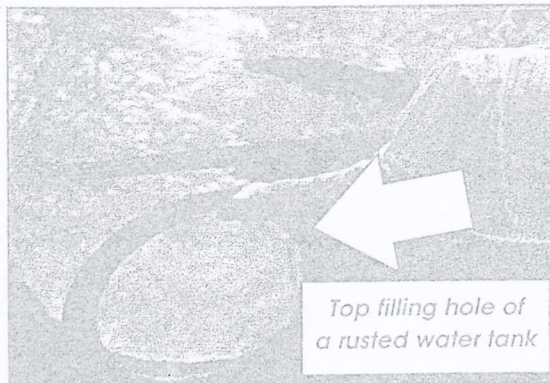
Henry's daughter Gertie and her son Osbert came back to live with



A chimney base remains

him after her husband George Cutler from Aireys died. - hence the name of Cutler's hill for the old incline

.After Henry died in 1910 the remote property went into the



Top filling hole of a rusted water tank

name of Frank Buckhurst, a Chemist in the old Mutual Store opposite the Flinders Street Station. Frank with a large bamboo rod was an expert at catching sweep as large as dinner plates, opposite the pool. He died just after the cessation of WW1.

At that time Cutlers beach was a popular destination for horse-back riders from Aireys. Also

Anglesea fishermen drove their buggies along the sand to reach this enviable remote area -locally known as Red Cliffs.. A spring just above the sand provided fresh water for the beasts of burden. The same outlet still supplies the Urquharts change-sheds.

Barrabool rate books record that the property was purchased by Charles Lane in 1920, and later the Great Ocean Road was constructed through the middle of the large broad acre block.

It would appear that the old cottages remained unoccupied after the property passed from the Buckhurst's hands. A once nearby neighbour wrote that the structures were moved into Aireys by caretaker Ivan Roadknight in the early 1930's.

When we inspected the area during October 1997 very little remained from the old establishment. Two stone fireplace bases could be identified. Rusting metal from a 4ft. x 4 ft. straight sided riveted water tank was flat on the ground. Old household snowdrop plants struggled for survival. A lonely fruit tree had seen better days.

One cannot not help thinking how Henry would have disliked the roar of the heavy G.O.R. traffic which now disturbs this once tranquil scene. □ L.B.