

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER NO. 43 - JULY 1998

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LOCAL NEWS

SCHOOL VISIT TO MUSEUM

Over eighty students from our local Primary School in Grades Preparatory, 1 and 2, accompanied by their teachers and some parents visited the Museum as part of a unit they were studying titled 'CHANGE.'

They were most interested in comparing items and incidents of yesteryear. It was a delight to open our rooms to such eager and enthusiastic children.

Three books – 'Barbarian tides,' 'Amazing facts about Australian Heritage and 'Australian Marine Life' have been purchased with donations made by the students. They have been suitably inscribed and are now part of our library.

ACQUISITIONS

The State Film Centre recently released a new video 'Melbourne in the 50's.'

The Society has purchased a copy along with a companion copy 'Melbourne 1896 – 1910. They may be shown at future meetings and also are available for members to borrow.

A new radiator will raise the comfort level at our winter meetings.

We have on permanent loan a speaker's lectern, per courtesy of Mr. Stan Stott.

SPEAKERS

In May Mr. Ron Hilditch gave us an informative talk on the Pottery industry and its development – illustrated with slides.

When next selecting a cup or mug we will know what to look for !

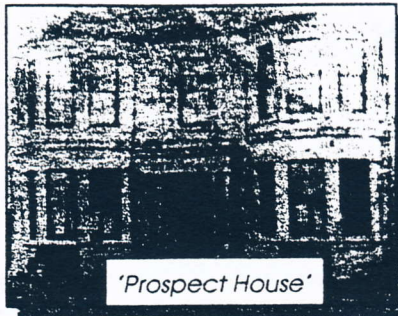
At the first of our winter meetings we were addressed by Reverend J. Winter whose topic was the building of the Parthenon in Athens.

A. P. McMILLAN'S 'BLINK BONNIE'

The 'Blink Bonnie' tower at the corner of Parker and Jackson Streets is familiar to most Anglesea people. This vantage point was built for Alexander P. McMillan whose home address was once



Alexander McMillan



'Prospect House'

Chairman of the Geelong Gas Company. Alexander McMillan (when aged 23) was amongst the first buyers of George Noble's 'Gladstone Estate' land. In 1885 he had purchased lots 43 and 44 at the corner of today's Parker and Jackson Streets and then acquired adjoining one acre

kitchen. Later a main dwelling, single quarters, look-out tower and billiard room were added. The overall ground plan is somewhat similar to a miniature rural station property, with the main dwelling surrounded by detached living quarters. The lookout tower was origi-



'Blink Bonnie'

nally built to take advantage of the once unimpeded view of the river mouth crossing and through to Port Phillip heads, which is certainly not available in today's conditions. Alexander

'Prospect house' Latrobe Terrace North (since re-named The Esplanade), overlooking Corio Bay in Geelong.

In 1886 McMillan's coach crossed via the river mouth

This dynamic man was a Banker, Geelong West Councillor, Harbour Trust Commissioner, Sharebroker, Credit Agent and in 1892

lots 45 and 46. His residence 'Blink Bonnie' started out as a bark hut with detached

McMillan died in 1907 at the early age of 45. **"Blink Bonnie" is still used by family descendants in 1998.** ▷

A Post Office has been part of Anglesea for over 103 years

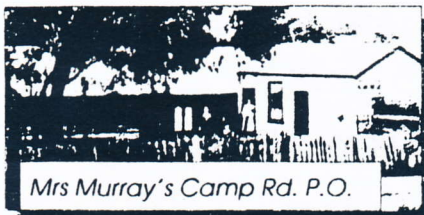
ANGLESEA'S MAIL

Yes it's over 103 years since dear old Agnes Murray opened the area's

This was burnt down by the 1908 fire and soon rebuilt.

In 1918 the postal licence changed to Reuben Mousley, who managed the business in conjunction with his main road general store.

Today's P.O. is still on part of that site. ▷

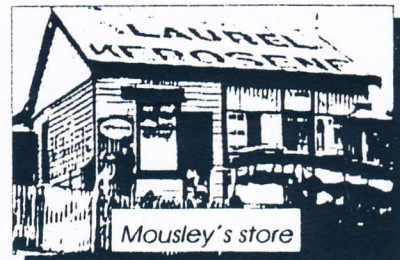


Mrs Murray's Camp Rd. P.O.



Jackson's Hotel

After Mrs. Murray left the district the Postal Licence changed to Mrs. A. V. Jackson, who operated the business from the side bar of the Hotel for period 1915/1917.



Mousley's store

first Post Office in what we now know as Camp Road.

SPEAKERS

In July, Bishop Bayton, on his second return visit, spoke of 'Roads throughout Israel's History.'

We are indeed fortunate to have people of scholarship in our midst willing to share their knowledge and experiences with us.

ADHS EVENTS AND NOTICES

AUGUST MEETING

Mr Robin Stewart of Melbourne and Aireys Inlet has recently written and had published his book 'GOAT ON A HILL.' He will take us through the whole train of events from writing the first line of the first chapter to the final launch.

SECRETARY ON TOUR

In the absence of our Secretary Shirley on an Australian Safari, Elsie Samuel has temporarily taken over her duties.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. John Duncan and Mr Dermot Clancy to our Society.

DISPLAY AT SHOPPING CENTRE

Our change of display featuring 'Pubs along the Great Ocean Road' has created considerable interest.

An arrangement has been made with the Hi Browse bookshop whereby our booklets can be purchased at their shop next but one to the Supermarket.

MRS GWEN YATES.

It is with sadness we record the death of long time supporter Mrs Gwen Yates. Our sympathy is extended to Alan and family.

EARLY PHOTOS

We sincerley thank both Brian Williams for forwarding his interesting photo of a wartime mine at Step Beach, and Dora Duval for some early Inlet snaps. These will be put to good use by our Historical Society..

Please let us know if you have any interesting early district photos that could be copied. Our researcher is continually updating information. We can easily copy photos from your album without having to remove them They all help our Society collection.

An era recalled

Our popular Historical Society committee member Jean Wendt is just back from an Alaskan tour.

Just before she departed on this exciting trip, we enjoyed hearing of earlier times at Moggs Creek, when visiting this splendid seacoast region with her. A Court at that location has been named after her family.

The Boyds were still in residence at the historic 'The Neuk' when Jean and Vic first came upon this tranquil scene in 1949. They decided this (then) remote area was the place for their family, and approached one William Boyd to see if any of his delightful land was for sale.

Luckily William had one gem of a block remaining. This was a prime two acre site seated atop a creek bank incline, formed by the stream as it cut towards the beach mouth. Their holiday house was built to overlook the old wooden bridge and sleepy lagoon.

They occupied this during the long weekend of

January 1950. At that time (apart from 'The Neuk') their's was the only house on the eastern side of the creek. No such luxuries as town water or S.E.C. available to the area in those days. Just tank water, 32 volt lighting system and a kero fridge..

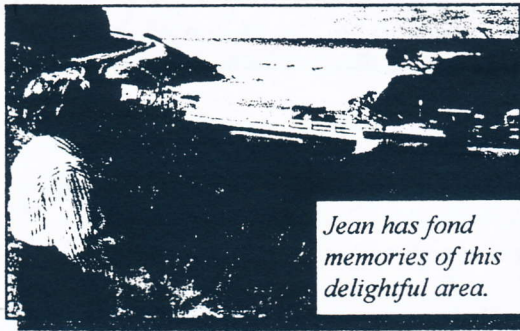
The Wendt family often clambered down the adjoining steep creek bank, and rowed their boat under the old bridge to the mouth of the tranquil stream. This was before the new carriageway altered the agreeable features of the creek mouth lagoon. *Here they really enjoyed hot summer days, on the almost deserted beach.*

When Vic retired from his famous Ballarat Peugeot business in 1970, they moved permanently to Moggs. During 1977 they subdivided their two acres, and moved to a new cottage at the far end of the block. The 1983 fire missed the original cottage, but consumed their new one, plus belongings. This was later rebuilt - only to be damaged again by the 1994 fire.

After the 1983 fire, they found and purchased a pleasant fully furnished abode in Charles street Ang

glesea. Vic died in 1985. Jean keeps the Moggs Creek cottage for her family and friends to enjoy.

Fortunately we still manage to catch up with busy, busy Jean, between her visits to her children in Melbourne, Adelaide and Bali, plus overseas trips



Jean has fond memories of this delightful area.



The original bridge

Jonas Hollingworth's Roadknight Hut.



Destroyed by the 1919 fire

Well known early settler Jonas Hollingworth would often row his heavy wooden boat from Eastern View to Pt. Roadknight. He erected a timber hut there, from driftwood found on the beach.

Jonas and his two sons would often net the bay - fish and crays were in abundant supply at that time. You must remember that in those early days the Gt. Ocean Road had not been constructed, and ac-

cess to the area was limited. Peggy Bunton (Paton) mentions in her book 'The Hut' that they called

Near today's boat ramp

Jonas' structure 'Robinson Crusoe's Hut.'

It was once near where the boat ramp is today. The shortest

route to this was via a pretty walking track through the thick ti-tree above the cliffs. Sometimes they obtained lovely fresh fish from Jonas. His hut was destroyed by the 1919 fire. □ *Lindsay Braden*