

# ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 47 -JLY 1999

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Our "Welcome to Winter" June meeting was a great success. Our new members through the newly formed Family History group were warmly received by President Val who had again prepared her special brew to warm the cockles of the heart and was appreciated greatly. Our speaker organiser too, Jean Wendt, proved her worth as a committee member when at the very last minute, she herself gave a great talk on Alaska. (The subject had been the scheduled one for the day but unfortunately a bereavement had caused a change of plan). An opportunity was taken too to thank Arthur Stanley for his many years on the committee as liaison officer with Angair and treasurer- Arthur is moving to Geelong but hopes to retain his links with the Society. He was presented with a small gift in recognition of his service.

In July members had the opportunity to learn more about family history when our guest speaker was Lorraine Lange. There's no doubt about it - our newest members are an enthusiastic bunch! You will have already noticed an extra inclusion with the newsletter - this is to be a regular feature (along with Lindsay's local history segments which have become so popular) and I'm sure now if you haven't been keen to investigate your forebears in the past, a spark of interest will be ignited and as the article suggests - "who knows what you might find in the closet - skeletons or maybe blue blood!!!!"

AUGUST MEETING - SUNDAY 1st at 2p.m.

We are delighted to announce that long-time member, Joan Forster, will speak to us - her subject 'MEMORIES OF AIREYS INLET' as seen thru' her eyes over a period of - how many years Joan??? Again we look forward to a 'FULL HOUSE'.

A REMINDER -

Mr. Robert Ingpen is to be the guest speaker at our annual dinner on November 5th - please make sure the date is recorded in your diary

ACQUISITIONS - Real finds!!! We have been given photos of Louis Whyte (THE HEIGHTS) and SUNNYMEADE, the latter by a grand daughter of a lady who at one time ran the guesthouse. Lindsay has grouped them together to provide 2 excellent display presentations.

SICK LIST - Popular members Pat Must and Claire Roberts have our best wishes- both have had health problems - and to others who perhaps we haven't heard about, we hope you are soon on the road to recovery.

HERITAGE TOUR

- More than 20 members of Historical Societies in our district recently enjoyed a Heritage Tour organised by Julie Dyer, Arts Development Officer with Surf Coast Shire. Places of interest were visited in Torquay, Anglesea, Winchester, Lorne and Aireys Inlet. It provided a wonderful input into a broader understanding of the cultural background in our community.

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### CHANGES AT THE MUSEUM

Most of you will be aware that the Jim Lawn workroom is now providing space for microfiche reading by delvers into the family history - the floor has been carpeted to make it more cosy.

We have been fortunate to receive an AppleMac computer from Leisure Networks- this can be used for cataloguing, word processing etc.

Since monthly meetings have been held on the first Sunday afternoon (rather than the Saturday p.m.) an increasing number of museum visitors seem to be coming to the door and in some cases this has proved somewhat of a distraction as voices of those welcoming and assisting the inquirers etc can be heard in conflict with the speakers etc. Some thought has been given to this and the probable solution is that we will open on the second Sunday afternoon of the month for the public. This of course means that we will need a roster of members - so if you are prepared to help out even an hour or so on an occasional basis please get in touch with Val or Shirley or let us know at the August meeting. It so happens that we will have an apology from our President for that day - she, with Jim, will be enjoying the sights of inland Australia, Alice Springs and Uluru etc.- we wish them well for this very well earned holiday. Our photos and book sales are important to the Society's finances visitors are what we need to keep up this source of revenue.

STUDENTS' VISITS - A group of Oberon Secondary Yr.12's visited the Museum - their teacher has rowed in the unique New Year's Day Regatta several times. A young Melbourne student has also spent time researching for a project.

A GEELONG LANDMARK - as recorded in the June "INVESTIGATOR"

Next time you travel along Mercer Street you might look upon No. 98 - THE TERMINUS HOTEL - and ponder over its rather illustrious past!

Charles Ph.Fassert was the first licensee who claimed (8/8/54) he had managed hotels in France, Germany, Holland and England, and that he intended to run the house on continental lines with continental cuisine. But by 12/12/54 the furniture was for sale and Edwin Hooper became the licensee in 1855. He catered for the banquet at the opening of the railway on June 25, 1857. In 1856 Madame Anna Bishop (1810-1884) stayed at the hotel. She was an opera singer and had married, at age 16, Sir Henry Bishop (1787-1855) the composer of 'HOME SWEET HOME'. Another interesting guest in 1857 was William Bower Forwood, aged 17,, who was later to become Sir William and a mayor of Liverpool. In 1867 Mrs. Bedford was managing the hotel and she catered for the after-ball supper for the Duke of Edinburgh held on December 2, 1867.

The funeral of Maria Barbara Agentina, the wife of Abram Atkins, aged 58, late of Macks Hotel, left from the Terminus Hotel on 30/9/1875. The Rev. W. M. Finn the brother of Garryowen, died at the hotel on April 18, 1880. aged 42, and on January 29, 1876, the funeral of the Chief of the Comunn Na Feinne, Major John Bell, of Bell Park, left from the hotel. "The Builder" of 1855 described the hotel as being of three stories, built of brick, having 46 bedrooms and eighteen other rooms including a ballroom 96ft x 23ft!! A point of additional interest is that the Geelong Architect, Joseph Watts, (when in his seventies) did some work on the building in 1890-1891. The social history of the hotel shows links with royalty, and with local, national and international luminaries.

### / VALE /

It is with sadness that we record the passing of several valued members - Pat Cornfoot, Nancy McDonald, Adele Davidson, Ivy Luke and Margaret Ingham. An interesting tribute to Margaret was recorded in THE AGE by a fellow member of the Children's Book Council (Vic). She writes -I knew her horrific wartime story though she rarely mentioned it. I had read the book and seen the film "Lifeboat". She was always amused that her screen self had been played by Tallulah Bankhead ". (Unfortunately the book is out of print).

# Louis Whyte *Boatshed, Surfboard and a Roller*

## Imagine !

The exhilaration of *thundering across to Anglesea* during the twenties in a soft top Rolls Royce (with the hood down), picking up your Hawaiian redwood surfboard, resting it across the top of the seats, and heading off along the coast in search of a big wave!



**Louis Melville Whyte from 'The Heights' Newtown did this with nonchalant ease !**

The Whyte family's connection with Anglesea came about when parent Louis Australia Whyte arrived here after receiving reports of the first class fishing readily available in the river.

He had a boatshed constructed just downstream from the Sichelau. This was of the local 'dugout' design, cut into the eastern bank of the tidal stream. This construction was a well known landmark for many years near the corner of today's Bingley Parade and Wilkin Street.

It was built about 1899 of timber frame and clad with corrugated galvanised iron. The structure was moved across the road in 1946 by Les Hedley and helpers, and became part of Leo McMahon's house.

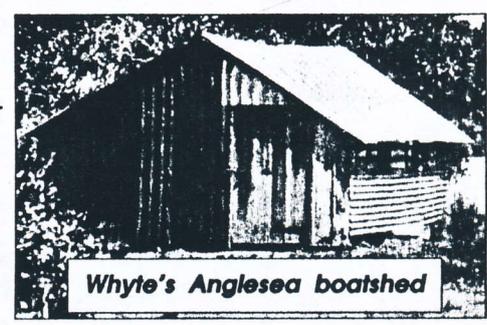
As mentioned before, his son Louis Whyte junior, often travelled to this boatshed in his 1919 Rolls Royce (cabriolet) - not to pursue the sport of fishing as his father had done, but to pick up his surfboard stored there.

After the Great Ocean Road was built he had easy access to the waves along the coast between Anglesea and Lorne.

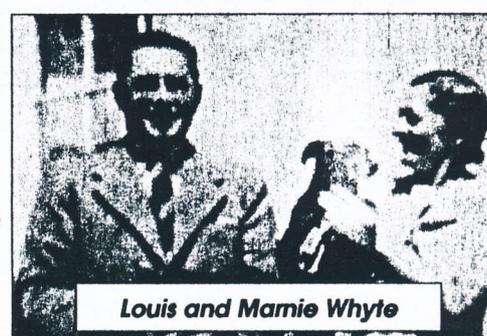
It is said that Louis had a small problem - His mother Minna (who apparently controlled the family purse-strings) refused to let him marry.

However in 1936 at the age of 40 he secretly wed Marnie Wyett of Geelong, at Melbourne.

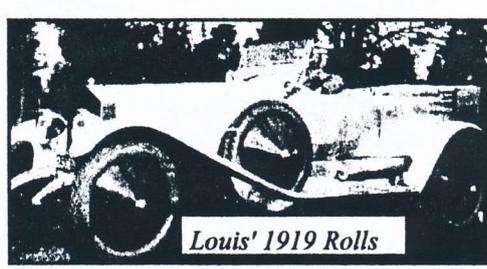
When his mother died in 1938, the couple moved into 'The Heights' and lived there until 1975.



*Whyte's Anglesea boatshed*



*Louis and Marnie Whyte*



*Louis' 1919 Rolls*

The old boatshed hole in the riverbank can still be seen near the top of Bingley Parade. River ducks often use it as a shelter.

*Louis White's Newtown home 'The Heights' is classified by the National Trust and open for inspection at specified times. His redwood surfboard is on display at Torquay's Surfworld Museum.*

□ Lindsay Braden.

# 'ROBIN HILL' Of THE INLET

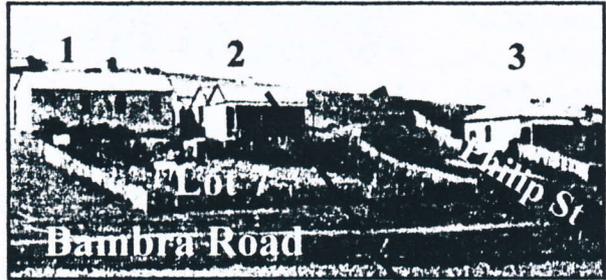
**L**et's take a step back in time and examine the changes made to the Inlet's oldest surviving house 'Robin Hill' constructed for the Hasty's in 1889

William Hasty died in 1902. His wife moved to Loddon Vale. James, Annie and their son 'Young William' shifted to Lalbert.

Over it's lifetime this *historically significant* establishment has seen many transformations. Built on lot 7 at the corner of Bambra Road and Philip Street it was at first named 'Seaview House.' In later years this was altered to 'Robin Hill.'

The mail run and business was leased to G.S. Warner. William Dorman succeeded him. The property and business was sold in 1911 to Albert Anderson, who shifted the extra bedrooms and the School room up the hill to his Hotel site.

After this move he operated the butchers business, Post Office and mail coach from the rear of the Inlet Hotel. The once active house



William Hasty and his wife conducted a boarding house business at 'Sea View' (No.2 in the above photo). Accommodation charged was 1/- per day.



then stood empty, except for seasonal holiday rentals.

If you look at the 1998 photo it is apparent that the design of 'Robin Hill' has changed.

Their son James married Annie Murray, daughter of Anglesea Postmistress Agnes Murray, and lived at Lulotte (No.3) on the opposite corner.

The original portion of the cottage (enclosed by black lines) shows that the bulbous local rock chimney (No.5) is no more. This was replaced by a brick one constructed to the inside of the original wall. A skillion roofed room (No. 4) has been added to the LHS. Part of the front verandah has been enclosed and a hip roofed room (No.6) extended on the RHS. The original large corner block has been cut into four sites - two facing Philip Street, and two fronting Bambra road.

James was proprietor of the Aireys to Anglesea "four-in-hand" coach service, which at first departed from outside the front door of 'Robin Hill.' A site on the opposite side of Bambra Road was used to stable the coach horses. He was also joint owner with his father, of land further up the road, used for a slaughter yard in conjunction with their butcher's shop.

Only recently we learnt about the fate of the old mail coach. It lingered for many years in the Hotel's back shed. During the late 1970's this was cleared out, and the coach removed to a property in Bambra Road - where sadly it was destroyed by the 1983 fire.

William built several bedrooms at the rear of 'Sea View,' plus a detached dining-room (No.1) at the side, to accommodate workers when the erection of the Lighthouse was proposed. 'Sea View' became a post office, butchers shop, and general store. The worker's dining-room was eventually used as the district School.

*Fortunately historic 'Robin Hill' survived the 1983 fire. It has seen may alterations over the past 110 years. L.B. ▷*