

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 48 -OCT 1999

PRESIDENT
Val Amery
(03)52631852

SECRETARY
Shirley Forsyth
(03)52631430
Box 98, ANGLESEA 3230

TREASURER
Betty Lloyd
(03)52633442
9 Belton Av. ANGLESEA

ANNUAL DINNER - NOVEMBER 5th, 1999

As it happens, our annual dinner, which has always been held on the first Friday in November, will in 1999 be on the eve of quite an historic occasion - on Saturday 6th the referendum will be held. There is no doubt that this subject will be the essence of lots of conversations during the evening but I am sure that when our guest speaker rises to address us, our thoughts and attention will be firmly focussed on Robert Ingpen. We were delighted to have this noted author and illustrator accept our invitation to speak at our last dinner for this twentieth century. To whet your appetites I shall give you a little of the recent letter received from Robert where he intimated that the subject of his talk would be - 'AND STORIES HAVE A HISTORY TOO' in which I will attempt to explain how over the past decade much of my illustration work for books has been directed at helping to conserve classic stories in folktales and literature." Quite a thought provoking ideal as we enter the new millennium!

A tear off slip is included with this newsletter - the Klein family has always ensured an excellent meal and as usual there will be nibbles with a sherry beforehand. So make sure you are with us, and perhaps you'd like to bring a non member who would enjoy Robert Ingpen's talk. We would appreciate your reply before October 30th - to either the Treasurer or Secretary.

NOVEMBER 7th - SUNDAY AT SOHO

As has been the custom there will be no meeting on the Sunday following the annual dinner but this year we are arranging an outing to SOHO the historic property on the Bellarine peninsula. Owner, Peter Russell-Clarke has been chatting to our Jean Wendt and will host our visit. A colourful character, he will conduct us thru' his galleries and no doubt inform us of his plans to establish this enormous lemon plantation. Perhaps! we may even be able to see through the old Soho homestead. There will be a carpool departing from the Museum at 1p.m. Afternoon tea can be enjoyed in the restaurant there. Should you wish to participate and not attending the dinner (when arrangements will be finalised) please let President Val know beforehand.

A.G.M. held on Sunday October 3rd

Ray Bush took the chair for the election of office bearers and committee for year 1999/2000 - again in a most professional manner sprinkled generously with good humour and wit! He and Rhoda will be missed in the community when they "move house"! We wish them well in their new abode!

President Val again leads us, Loris Pavia, Vice President, Shirley Forsyth, Sec. Betty Lloyd, Treas, with Beryl Parsons asst, Lindsay Braden, researcher, Myrle Smithwick, Providor, Jean Wendt, Guest speakers, Pat Hughes, Family Hist. Grp. Elsie Samuel, Publicity, Max Lawless, Committee, Edith Lawn, ex.officio.

SIR CHARLES F. BELCHER (1876-1970)- solicitor and colonial administrator born at "Merchiston Hall" Garden St., East Geelong.

Those of you fortunate to have heard Joan Forster's delightful reminiscing about her early visits to Aireys Inlet will remember I am sure her special regard for a book given her some time ago - it is "Birds of the District of Geelong, Australia (372pp., 50 photographs). This was written by the above mentioned gentleman who, whilst working in the Reading Room at the British Museum from "wisps of material" which he had begun gathering in bird notebooks from the age of ten, wrote a very personal account of 244 species which he published privately in 1914. A major work to complete in just 3 months. He later reflected "-if I was to leave anything behind me that would appear worth doing, here was my field ..I had the songs and nestings of those birds in my blood ..I wanted to get something of that down on to paper so that a fragment of my real self might appear in it and survive my personal span" His status as a serious ornithologist is reflected in the names of two birds with which he is associated Slender Billed Prion- Pachyptila belcheri and Belchers Barbet -Buccanodon belcheri.

He had been in London as early as 1907 returning to Australia when his father died - he joined C.H. Birdsey to form a legal partnership in 1913 but retired from that to return to London when he joined the British Colonial Service in 1914. Postings included Conveyancer to the Government of Uganda, Chief Justice of Cyprus 1927-30) Trinidad and Tobago (1930-37) and then President of the Appeal Court of the West Indies. He was made an MBE in 1919, OBE 1923 and knighted in 1931.

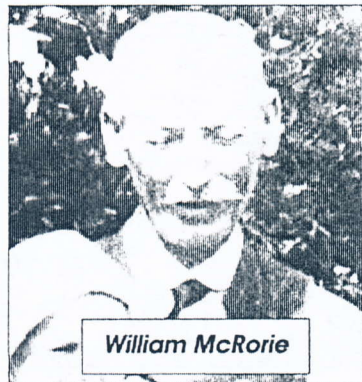
Closer to home he was a regular visitor to "Angahook" at Aireys Inlet being a friend of Claire Roberts father, Allan Noble. Claire remembers her grandmother saying what an unassuming fellow he was. On one occasion during a visit back to Victoria he was about to set off to a formal dinner at Government House when Mrs. Noble reminded him that he had odd socks on! Oh!yes! he realised but didn't think anyone would notice! In his earlier days he intensely disliked football and cricket but enjoyed rifle shooting, swimming, running, rowing, tennis and athletics, later rowing for Trinity and in 1897 the University crew. He demonstrated his stamina on one occasion by riding his bicycle on a Friday afternoon from the university to Geelong, dancing until 3a.m. cycling back to Melbourne, attending lectures, winning a 440yard handicap from scratch, then dancing until midnight! I wonder how many young men could better that feat today! or even equal it!

In retirement he and Lady Belcher settled in the Highlands of Kenya, subsequently moving to South Africa during the disruption of the independence movement but he kept his ties with Geelong and district during visits and correspondence. He even mentions the allotment he bought (5 acres with a w.b. cottage) for stg.150 in 1910 or 1911 where he used to take his wife and babies every weekend in a dogcart - it was at the extreme NE corner of the Torquay township subdivision of a map that had been sent to him in 1966. He mentions it as ANGLESEA. This information has been taken from THE INVESTIGATOR - No. 3 1999 and is well worth borrowing if you would like to read more about this interesting Geelong identity.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT; At the October general meeting tribute was paid to our secretary Shirley. She has been a member of the Society since 1985 and now commences her 15th year as secretary. In recognition of her dedication and sterling contribution a life membership was unanimously bestowed on her the motion being received with acclamation. How fortunate we are!

Others receiving mention in the Presidents report were the dedicated exec. & committee, the Shire for on going maintenance to our Museum, the work of our auditor Mr. J.O'Donnell and Public Officer Mr. B. Smith as well as many donors of memorabilia throughout the year, especially the Lions OpShop for some interesting articles. With such support continued growth is assured in the year 2000!

'The McRories' of Tonge Street



William McRorie

After retiring as a successful grain merchant in Melbourne, Bill McRorie financed many land sales in Anglesea and Torquay during the early Twenties

He launched into a new venture of presenting Real Estate as observed in Melbourne. Even before living here permanently, he astutely purchased large blocks of land at both Anglesea and Torquay for cash, sub-divided these into smaller sites, and resold on easy terms.

Geelong Agents Frank Roadknight and Norman Belcher helped him with the selling side of his business. In those exciting years, an increasing number of subdivisions close to the River Esplanade were auctioned over the Xmas/Easter holiday periods - Anglesea really started to emerge with sales confidence after this.

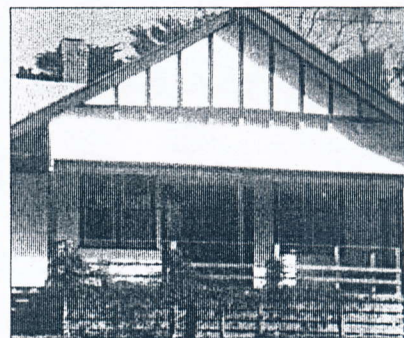
William McRorie's brother A.W. McRorie and his wife Elizabeth after retiring from rural life, owned Morongo from 1915 to 1919.

Bill married at Geelong on 28/11/1911 and lived in Orrong Road St. Kilda. His wife Mary Ann (who came from Aberdeen Street West Geelong), was the sister of the well known Geelong identity Harry Hooper, whose popular Grocery store was then in mid-town

Moorabool Street.

Although Bill and Mary Ann purchased their Tonge Street land in 1918, it was not until 1924 that their timber house was erected, enabling them to come and absorb the pleasures of living at the coast.

Bill McRorie was also a keen member of the local Progress Association. He had a busy time with this group in 1936 as Hon. Secretary of their Public Hall Investigation committee - unfortunately he died before construction of this community meeting place took place



McRorie's Tonge St. house

They both watched with interest as the new concept 'Four Kings' was built in 1946, and were narrowly missed by the savage bushfire one year later.

In 1948 the sun set on their time at Anglesea. Failing health caused them to depart for Geelong, and sell to the Salmons.

McRorie Street (near the School) is named after them ■

Lindsay Braden

Trivia

1. Where was the area's original Fire Station building?
2. Where was Anglesea's first Roman Catholic Church situated?
3. Where was Boss Hurst's first Anglesea Scout Camp sited?
4. Where did James and Bertha Loveridge live?
5. What year was the Loveridge Lookout built?

RAAF CAMP - Pt. Addis

During and after W.W.2. RAAF aircraft made frequent use of the Torquay gunnery and bombing ranges out to sea off Pt. Addis.

Quite a few retirees along the coast received their first view of this area from the inside of a lumbering old Avro Anson bomber, as they droned their way from Pt. Cook or Cressy to the indicated 'splash' zone at Addis.

They aimed dummy smoke bombs at a target in the ocean, or used the coastal gunnery range.



WW2. RAAF infanteers train for duty



Anson bombers made use of the practice range off Pt. Addis during WW2.

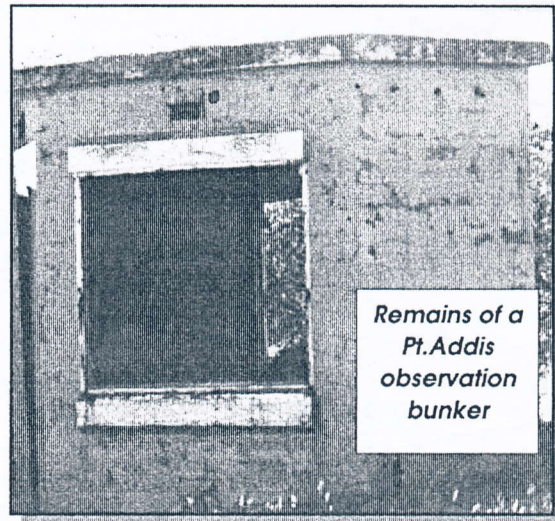
teach ground personnel how to meet likely defensive situations around the perimeter of newly formed airstrips in the Islands..

A couple of the old Camp concrete observation bunkers and RAAF huts remain on private properties. Spent machine gun cartridges stamped 1942 are still occasionally found in the area. Scuba divers have retrieved bullets aimed at the reef.

Ground personnel sheltering in a concrete observation post (*hoping against early release or overshoot*) used R1082 /T1083 communication sets to advise the airborne trainees of their accuracy.

Early in WW2 the RAAF compulsorily acquired farmland, and established a Training Camp in the Pt. Adds Area. A RAAF 'Prohibited Area' sign was prominent at the corner of the old Pt. Addis track and the Anglesea / Geelong Road, with a sentry post just inland. This instructional bombing and strafing zone remained active until the end of the National Service era.

RAAF Infantry also trained in the nearby forest. Every Unit was primarily responsible for it's own defence. They were taught how to look after themselves - military fashion. Training programs were originally compiled to



Remains of a Pt. Addis observation bunker

Even in the 1990's RAAF reservists have been observed on ground exercises in the forest region east of Eumeralla. ■ L. B.

Trivia answers - 1. No. 1. Noble Street. (north side) 2 Cnr. Noble and Murray Streets. 3. Now 'Narambi' Caravan Park in Camp Rd. 4. 'Anglecrest' in Harvey Street. 5. 1938.