

Coastal Current

Quarterly Newsletter Of The

Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 94

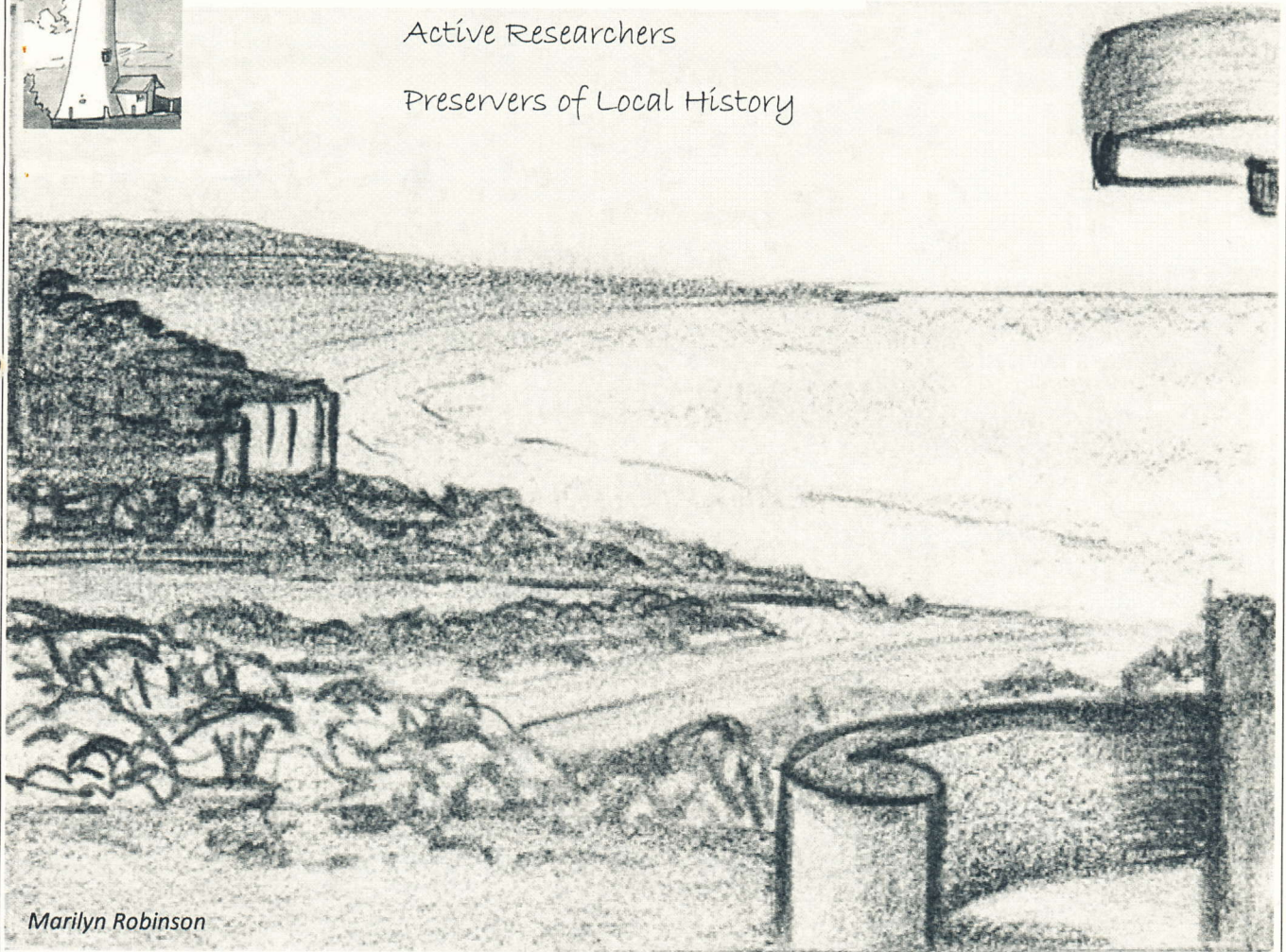
Autumn 2012

The Anglesea & District Historical Society is a not for profit organisation staffed by volunteer members of the community, whose aim is to research and preserve history of the local



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History



Marilyn Robinson

PLEASE NOTE - Coastal Current will be sent only to financial members.
Membership fees apply from 1 September to 31 August

Meetings

Meetings are held at the Museum
5a McMillan Street, Anglesea
Entrance 4 of the McMillan Street
Community Precinct

The Historical Society meets on the first Sunday of the month. Some months have other activities, consequently there is no meeting in that month. Meetings start at 2.00pm followed by a speaker.

Museum

Our Museum at 5a McMillan Street Anglesea, is open by appointment -
Phone (03) 5263 1249

Meetings

- **April 1st. Education in Lima, Peru**
speaker Margaret Sheehan

No **May** Meeting instead **May Outing "Follow the Saddleback Line"** We will car pool to follow the old train line to see where it left the main line, the bridges, stations and turntable. Surprise morning tea provided. **Wednesday 16th 10.00am**

June 4th - Speaker Russell Holloway- early farming in the district.

Historical Society Committee

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Photographs

Anglesea & District Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs. These may be ordered through Jan Morris Phone (03) 5263 3085
Email - davejanmorris@bigpond.com

Prices	On high quality photo paper	On 100 gsm fine finish paper
A4 8.26X11.69	\$15	\$8
A5 5.82X8.26	\$8	\$4
A6 4.13X5.82	\$4	\$2
A3 maybe available by special arrangement 11.69X16.53		

A discount of 10% applies to financial members

It must be noted that photo quality varies from excellent to poor. Our final product is dependent on the quality of the original photo.

Photos can be viewed at the museum when open, or by appointment.
- phone Bruce Bodman on (03)5263 1249

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

Secretary Snippets

B.B.

- The Society was saddened to learn of the death of Claire Roberts. Claire was a long time member of the Society as well as being active in the wider community. A longer tribute to Claire appears in this Newsletter.
- Again we have been blessed with the generosity of Alcoa who have donated several fossils that were found at the Mine. In addition, Surfcoast Family History Group has benefitted from \$500 and 2 laptop computers. We gratefully acknowledge Alcoa's ongoing assistance to the Society and the Family History Group.
- It is with disappointment we advise that the remedial landscaping/parking and signage work at Loveridge Lookout is still outstanding.
- A watercolour painting by local artist Jane Roble depicting the Alcoa power station circa 1960's has been donated to the Society. We know little of this artist and would welcome any biographical details that our members may be aware. Please contact our Secretary if you have any information.
- Included with this Newsletter is a survey sheet. Your committee urge you to complete and return the survey, as it will be used planning tool for future programming.
- At our April meeting it is anticipated that Mr. John Evans will be able to attend and unveil the memorial portrait of Pte Evans.

Bruce Bodman

TOWNSHIP OF LAYARD

Jan Morris

When the township was first laid out it was named Modewarre. For some time it was referred to as both Modewarre and Layard. It crossed the boundaries of the Parish of Modewarre and the Parish of Gherang Gherang. The streets were given English names Cambridge, Lyons, Raglan, Panmure & Russell. Blocks were made available in 1860. Most were bought by speculators. The last of the blocks were not sold until the 1950's. Eventually this township area became known as Layard and the area around the junction of Considines and Batsons Roads with Cape Otway Road became known as Modewarre.

In the 1863 my great grandfather, George McConachy, was one of the purchasers, buying six house blocks in the township of Layard, one already having a slab house on it. George later sold these blocks at a loss without making any further improvements to any of them.



When the Wensleydale railway line, known as the *Saddleback*, was opened in 1889, the township of Layard was served by a railway station. The *Saddleback* was never a profitable line and was threatened with closure many times before it was finally closed in 1948. The railway closure ensured the township of Layard never eventuated.

An interesting drive is to go along Cape Otway Road to Cambridge Street and drive into the remaining part of Layard. The railway platform and the streets can be easily identified.

VALE CLAIRE ROBERTS

Sadly in February another of our valued members passed away. Claire Allen Roberts (nee Noble) had been an active member of the Historical Society for many years. Her special interest was Aireys Inlet where she had lived for 36 years. She moved to *Angahook Homestead* permanently in 1975, having been widowed seven years before.

Claire knew *Angahook Homestead* well. Her parents Allen and Estelle Noble had retired there, as had her grandparents George and Fanny Noble and several of her unmarried uncles and aunts.

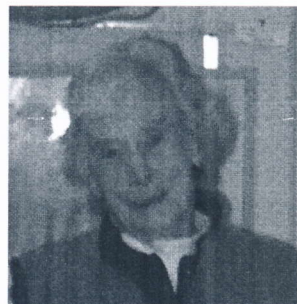
When Claire was a child her father, Allen Noble, and her mother Estelle, known as Dot, had lived at Birregurra, where Allen managed *Bleak House* for the Dennis family. Claire attended the Gellibrand State School. She rode a pony to school, as did most of the students.

Miss Lewis was the only teacher at the school and taught all year levels. Of course the older children, as monitors, did much of the teaching of the younger ones. Claire used a slate to write on, as paper was expensive. The younger children practised writing on a slate as it could be wiped off and the slate used again and again. There were about 15 children from four families at the school.

The school only went to grade six, so Claire went to board at *The Hermitage Church of England Girls' Grammar School* in Geelong when she was 11 years old. Her stories of life at boarding school were ones of a rather regimented life. They slept in dormitories and discipline was very strict in keeping with expectations of the times. The girls were not allowed to play any sport on Sundays.

in 1926. Claire, with her three brothers Stephen, Allen and Tim, as well as her sister Susan, to spend the summer school holidays with their grandparents George and Fanny Noble who were then living at Anglesea. When interviewed four years ago Claire recalled Fanny ensuring each of her grandchildren could swim. Dressed in a long flowing black skirt, she swam breaststroke style in the Anglesea River between two dressing sheds situated on the banks. Claire cherished those six weeks of summer school holidays. She then came each year to Anglesea for a holiday with her grandparents who lived just behind the present Diggers Parade. Their home *Glissy* was described in 1936 when it was for sale, as "a comfortable, furnished seaside residence with detached kitchen, wash house and

bathroom." In those days the rooms that had cooking and water heating were detached from the house in case of fire. The main house consisted of dining and sitting rooms, three bedrooms and a sleep-out. It faced the bridge, with a 112-foot land frontage and 618 foot depth along Colledge Street. *Glissy* can still be seen today behind the shops in Diggers Parade.



In 1946, Claire's parents Allen and Estelle retired to the old *Angahook Homestead*. Allen was a strong conservationist and was responsible for the swamp beside his home being turned into a sanctuary. It was later named the *Allen Noble Sanctuary* in memory of Allen, who had encouraged birds and discouraged duck shooters. Thanks to Allen the Sanctuary is now home to many water birds including moorhens, coots, wood ducks, and water hens.

In 1975 Claire's mother Estelle was living alone at Aireys Inlet and Claire decided to move to *Angahook* and care for her. However Estelle passed away before Claire arrived, but Claire decided to still make the move to *Angahook*, which she purchased from her brothers and sister, following the death of her mother.

At the age of 17 Claire left school and went to the home crafts hostel Invergowrie in Melbourne, where she did a domestic science course, and spent two years making many friends. She later went to work at Kerrisdale where she met Ian Roberts. They married in 1938 and began married life at Edi out of Wangaratta.

Claire's husband Ian trained as a pilot with the Australian Air Force. He then became a trainer of paratroopers for the Air Force. Ian was discharged from the Air Force in October 1946.

After the Second World War, Claire and Ian purchased a property nine miles out of Harrow. There was no school nearby so Claire became teacher for her two eldest children, Wendy and Dick. They were sent correspondence lessons each week. Claire spoke very highly of the standard of the correspondence lessons and the help and advice she received from the Correspondence

School. In 1945 a school bus became available to take the children to the Harrow school, so Claire's duties as teacher ceased. Her younger two children, Ron and Sally, attended school from the commencement of their education.

Eight years after Claire retired to *Angahook*, the disastrous 1983 *Ash Wednesday Fire* swept through Aireys Inlet destroying everything in its path, including *Angahook Homestead*. Claire had the house rebuilt, reusing the stone from the original home. When the new house was completed, several truckloads of stone had to be carted away, even after fences were constructed from some of the leftover stone.

Claire was very community minded during her 36 years as a permanent resident at Aireys Inlet. She was a member of many organisations including an original member of the committee that had the tennis courts built. Although shy to admit her contributions, she had her father's passion for conservation and her mother's sense of community. She belonged to many local organisations including ANGAIR and AIDA. She has worked weeding the area and cleaning up the beach resulting in the total eradication of bone weed from the river mouth area.



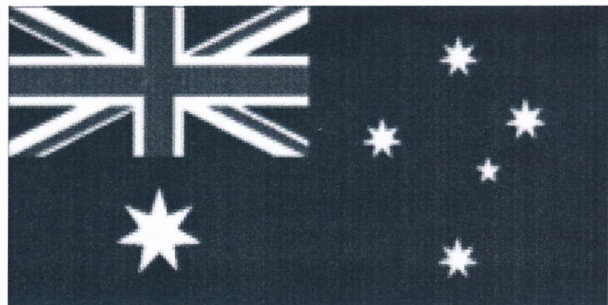
Claire outside her rebuilt 'Angahook' home

Claire was also actively involved in Red Cross, and has been featured in their recent book. CWA and the Historical Society benefited greatly from Claire's work. She enthusiastically supported the Heritage Day activities and displays held at the Bark Hut. She kept an eye on the Bark Hut and was always willing to talk to visitors who were interested in the history of the area. Spare bark for repairs were kept in Claire's shed.

Claire will be sadly missed by her family, friends and neighbours.

Keep The Flag

author unknown



Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night
In our southern sky of blue,
And the little old flag in the corner,
That's part of our heritage too.

It's the English, the Scots and the Irish'
Who were sent to the ends of the earth,
The rogues and the schemers, the doers and dream-
ers,
Who gave modern Australia its birth.

But those, who are shouting to change it,
They don't seem to understand
It's the flag of our law and our language,

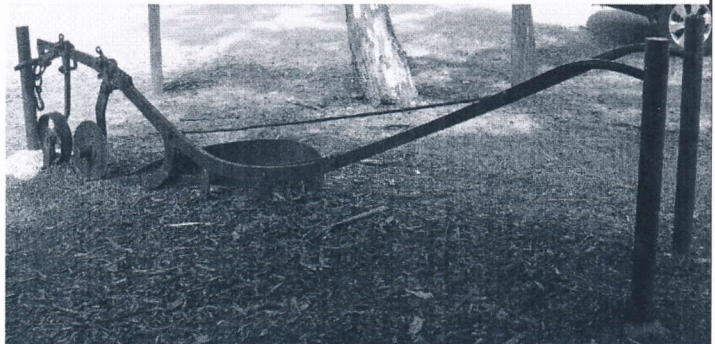
There are plenty of people who'll tell you,
How, when Europe was plunged into night,
That little old flag in the corner,
Was their symbol of freedom and light.

It doesn't mean we owe allegiance
To a forgotten imperial dream,
We've the stars to show where we're going
And the old flag to show where we've been.

LENNON, HUGH (1833-1886) manufacturer of early Victorian farming machinery

Much of the early farm machinery used in this district was designed by Hugh Lennon. Lennon was born in County Armagh, Ireland. The family moved to Scotland when Hugh was young and at 15 he was apprenticed to R. Gray & Sons of Uddington as a plough maker. He accepted the 'hard discipline' at Grays and became a good tradesman. He then moved to Glasgow and decided to do master engineering. However, constant work undermined his health and in 1859 he migrated to Victoria 'with a broken down constitution and a good character'.

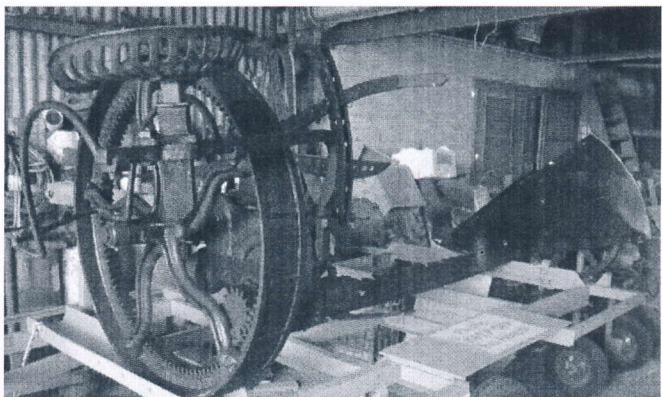
At the Hyde Park Engine Works Lennon had become interested in machine tools and invention. In Victoria, seeing the need for good agricultural machinery, he produced a plough suitable for dry farming on the northern plains. Among other innovations it was made of wrought-iron to minimize repairs and replaced the brittle English cast-iron mouldboard by a patented one in cast-steel. The technical superiority of his plough over imported rivals ensured it control of the market, and after August 1870 the sales of his single- and double-furrow ploughs were phenomenal. In 1871 he expanded his works, introduced a more sophisticated plant and developed a new reaping machine. By November demand exceeded supply and he was producing two machines a day. Mowers were also produced and in 1879 the 'New Imperial Stripper' was patented, the equal of any machine made in America and containing many of Lennon's



The Lennon Reaper outside the Bark Hut, Aireys Inlet

innovations, including a revolutionary new method of gearing. In the late 1870s he also developed a winnower that, with the stripper, provided the best harvesting unit in Australian market. By the mid-1870s Lennon employed over a hundred men and operated such machines as steam hammers. The expansion continued in the 1880s and was financed by the reinvestment of profits. By 1884 the capital investment exceeded £25,000 and the firm was the largest of its kind in the Australian colonies, selling 700 ploughs, 224 reapers, 60 strippers and many winnowers, earth scoops, horse-works and harrows each year. He exported machinery to New Zealand.

Lennon was active in local affairs. In 1882 he was elected to the west ward of the Hotham (North Melbourne) Borough Council but was defeated next year and took no further part in politics. From the early 1870s he was on the committee of the Agricultural Society of Victoria and its president in 1879-80. He was also active in his Presbyterian Church at North Melbourne and in the Royal Society of Victoria. A brilliant innovator and entrepreneur with a flair for advertising and sales promotion, he was described by a contemporary as 'a great, rough man' but he had a deep love for Burns and Shakespeare. His papers reveal a complex character: he was very egotistical but fond of his family. Aged 52 he died on 22 July 1886 survived by his wife Isabella, née Don, a son and two daughters. He left an estate valued at £20,000.



The restored Lennon reaper mounted on a trailer for display, owned by Lyle McConachy

From article by George Parsons

The Anglesea & District Historical Society owns a Lennon plough, displayed outside the Bark Hut at Aireys Inlet. Lyle McConachy owns a Lennon reaper, mounted on a trailer. He displayed it at the last Bark Hut Heritage Day.

Members will be aware of the drop off in the number attending our Sunday Meetings.

Recently we had speakers come from Melbourne to address the group, only to find our members were otherwise occupied that Sunday, and it was disappointing for our guest speakers.

To help your committee decide what direction to take the Society in the future, we are asking that you complete the survey below and return it by April 30, so we may collate the replies and know which direction the member wish the Society to follow.

Unless our member numbers increase, we are not confident in attracting Guest speakers to travel to Anglesea for a small response.

Meeting bi-m onthly, with Guest speakers	Suggesting we miss Mothers Day, Fathers Day, Easter and similar events	Yes	No
Is there a better meeting day – example a week day or a Saturday	Weekday	Yes	No
	Saturday	Yes	No
Are you interested on outside visits – such as the trip to Birregurra		Yes	No
Any other suggestions			