

Coastal Current

Quarterly Newsletter Of The

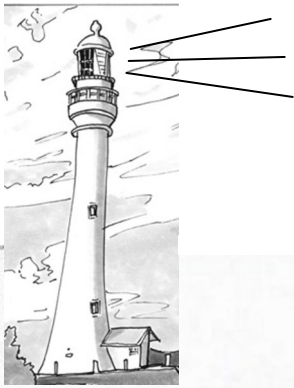
Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 98

Winter 2013

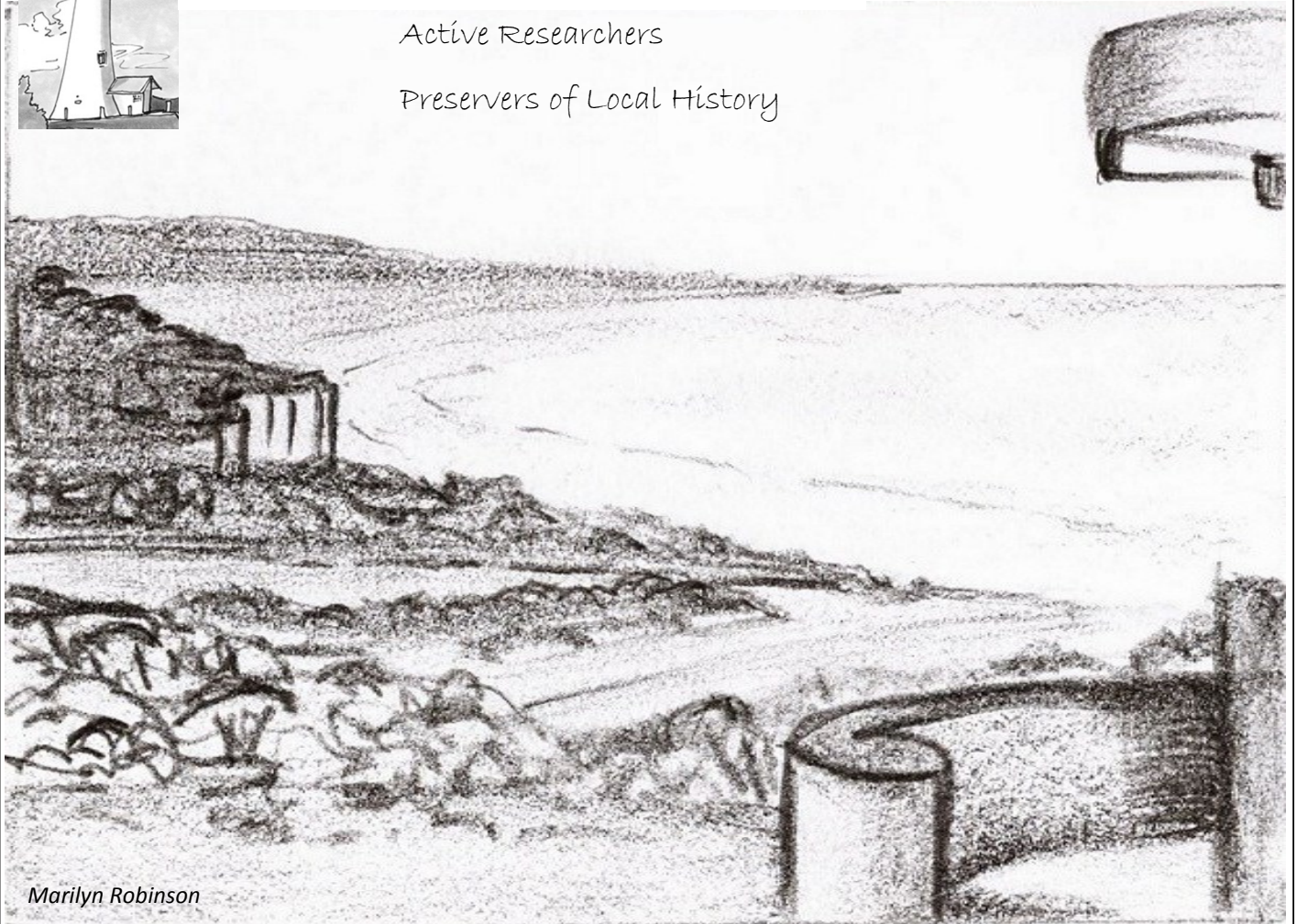
The Anglesea & District Historical

*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 area.*



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History



Marilyn Robinson

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

Meetings & Activities

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

The Historical Society meetings are on the first Sunday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October & December).

Meetings start at 2.00pm followed by a speaker and afternoon tea.

Historical Society Committee

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Coming up:

JUNE - Sunday 2 June *Education in the Past*, - bring your old school memories and memorabilia, sign in with a genuine nib pen and ink. Raspberry vinegar available for afternoon tea.

JULY - Thursday 11 July at 11.00 am Combined meeting with Family History Group. Speaker archaeologist Dr Ian Edwards, followed by Winter Feast of hot soup and crusty bread. Cost—small donation towards lunch expenses

AUGUST - Sunday 4 August at 2.00pm speaker:

Interview with Betty Butterworth

SEPTEMBER - Tuesday 3 September 2.00pm Tour of Anglesea Camps—Araluen, Wilkin, Burnside & YMCA.
Cost \$10 including lunch. **Museum**
Our Museum at 5a McMillan Street open by appointment - Ph. 5263 1249 or 5263 3085

Photographs

Anglesea & District Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs that may be ordered through Jan Morris ph. (03) 5263 3085

Email - davejanmorris@bigpond.com

Prices	On high quality photo paper	On 100 gsm fine finish paper
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A4	\$15	\$8
8.26X11.69		

A5	\$8	\$4
5.82X8.26		

A6	\$4	\$2
4.13X5.82		

A3 maybe available by special arrangement
11.69X16.53

Australia's Longest Marriage 81 years, 259 days

Joseph Jo(z)e Zekulich born 22 born 1907
married 25 May 193 1
Rose *Ruzha* (née Beus) Zekulich born 1914

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

Secretary Snippets

We have been fortunate in receiving grants that will assist us to refurbish the museum. Seaside Seconds have given us \$500 to have new display shelves built in the entrance hall. Malcolm McDougall has been engaged to do this work. He will build them around the window, thus allowing more light into the entrance hall. The Surf Coast Shire have given us \$1,800 towards our *Anglesea Memories* project. Through this project we plan to film people telling the story of Anglesea History from 1950 to the present. This money has been used to purchase a camera, tripod and microphone. The Shire has also given us \$848 through the Small Grants scheme to purchase a flat screen TV with inbuilt DVD player. This will be mounted on the west wall. We need people to train in the use of this new equipment. Training sessions will be run at a date to be fixed. If you are willing to train to be part of the filming team please let Bruce or Jan know. We have approached The Bendigo Community Bank for further assistance with the *Anglesea Memories* project as we do not have sufficient funds to complete this project. However we will go ahead with the first subject, Anglesea Traders 1950-2000. Some people think history stopped in 1950. If we don't record it now, it will be much more difficult, if not impossible in 20 years time. We plan to record Anglesea's history over six topics, traders, education, sport, holidays, organisations and buildings. We will advertise the discussion days widely, inviting all those interested. At the discussion day we will make notes and invite chosen people to be part of a filming day. The filming will have more structured dialogue. The films will be edited and then shown at a public meeting. People will be encouraged to bring photos that we can copy into the film. Copies of each film will be available to those who wish to purchase them.

We have requested the Shire to schedule interior painting of the museum on the works program for the second half of 2013. We will need to pack the smaller things on display and the shire will organize the large items to be removed from the walls. We have also requested the Shire to provide new blinds as the old one are well past their use-by date. If they are unable to do this we will have to raise the money ourselves. This work will be a catalyst for us to reorganize our displays. We plan to have our display at eye height with cupboards below the displays. This means we will need more display cases.

We are developing a *Family File* in conjunction with the Family History Group. This will be an indexed file of families associated with Anglesea. This project will provide easy access to information when we receive requests from people.

A new cupboard built in the back room and a microwave in the kitchen have improved our facilities for members of both groups. Do you have ideas for speakers, ways to improve our museum, add to our collection or make our outings interesting. We welcome suggestions, please speak to Bruce, Jan or a committee member.

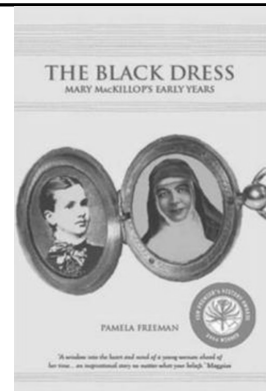
Bruce Bodman

THE BLACK DRESS by Pamela Freeman

Published by Black Dog Books

Can you love someone when you can't forgive them? Do you keep fighting for something you believe in when everyone is telling you you're wrong?

The *Black Dress* is the incredible story of Mary MacKillop – an unconventional young woman born into a time and a religion bound by convention. What Mary did with her life would change the course of Australia's history.



UNVEILING OF BRIDGE NAMES AT COOGORAH PARK

The bridges have names again at last!

Sunday 10 March saw the unveiling of the new bridge name plaques at Coogoorah Park. The original name plaques, put in place when the park was opened in 1996, had been destroyed by vandals long ago. Our new plaques made by the men's shed from cypress, and coated in anti-graffiti paint were put in place with one-way screws so we hope they are vandal proof. Jim Tutt has taken on the task of maintaining them in good condition.



Family and friends celebrated with the Anglesea Historical Society as they unveiled the new bridge name plaques at Coogoorah Park.

All six families whom the bridges have been named after were represented by descendants of those who attended the Anglesea State School on its first day of operation in 1927. Displays showed their family trees and told the story of their connection to Anglesea.

The DAVIDSON bridge is in memory of students Eric and Robert Davidson. Barry Davidson told us of the family history and the plaques was unveiled by his son Glenn.

The D'HELIN bridge is in memory of Joan D'Helin, the first Anglesea School Head Teacher. The D'Helin story was told by Melva Stott, in costume as Miss D'Helin and the plaque was unveiled by Joan's daughter in law, Wendy Fox.



Sister and brother Olga and Fraser celebrate the unveiling of the Russell plaque.

The EVANS bridge is in memory of student Stella Evans. The Evans story was told by Bob Armstrong and the plaque unveiled by John Evans. This bridge also marks the memory of Leslie Evans.

The SMYTHE bridge is in memory of student Elma Smythe and her father John Smythe who was president of the first Anglesea School Committee. Chris told the Smythe family story and Joan Nairn (nee Smythe) unveiled the plaque.

Russell and the plaque was unveiled by his 88 year old sister Olga.

The RUSSELL bridge is in memory of students Bill and Jack Russell. The Russell family story was told by Fraser

The MOUSLEY bridge is in memory of students Phyllis, Arthur, Thelma and Alma. Geoff Mousley spoke about the Mousley family history and the plaque was unveiled by Lorna Griffiths (nee Mousley).

Following the unveiling everyone walked to the bridges and watched Simon Clark and Bob Dwyer from the Men's Shed, attach the names to the bridges.

Despite the heat everyone enjoyed the afternoon and many family members joined a 'get together.' During afternoon tea a lady passing by declared, "That is my great grandfather's name" as she looked at the Smythe family tree. Sure enough she was a relative and was able to meet other Smythes.



John Evans prepares to unveil the plaque as Bob Armstrong speaks about the Evans family history.

SMYTHE FAMILY IN ANGLESEA 1924-1931



*Ethel Smythe (nee McHutchison)
1879-1941*

When the Coogorah Park bridges were named in 1996, the program said that very little was known of the Smythe family. In fact John George Smythe's great grand daughter was running Seas Café. It was another example OF "Firstly look in your own back yard."

John George Smythe gained employment at the newly opened Anglesea Forestry Commission nursery in 1925. There was no accommodation for his family and no school for his children so John George (as distinct from his father John James) moved to Anglesea alone. His wife Ethel moved to nearby Torquay where there was both



*John George Smythe formerly
Smith 1873-1957*

housing and a school. Education was very important to Ethel as she had been a teacher prior to marriage. By 1927 John George had obtained a house and he had become President of the newly formed Anglesea State School Committee. Their youngest daughter, Elma Marjorie Smythe was the eldest of the children starting school at Anglesea in 1927. Elma was 13 and in grade six. Elma transferred from Torquay State School. She and Stella Eavns were the only children who had any previous education. One can imagine how the teacher would have used her services as a monitor for the children who had not been to school before.

Elma, born in 1914 in Ballarat, was the youngest child of John George Smythe and Ethel McHutchison who had ten children. As president of the school committee, he remained in this position as his grand-daughter Betty came to live with them in 1930 following the death of her father who in a terrible accident had been run over by a train.

John George SMYTHE and Ethel McHUTCHISON were married in 1898. They originated from Creswick where John was a miner. He had turned his hand to many jobs but the family had been in mining for several generations.

John George was born in 1873 at Timor near Maryborough; his mother dying in child-birth. His parents were John and Sussanah nee Lee. John George moved to Queenscliffe and later Geelong. He died in Geelong in 1957 aged 83 years. His wife Ethel nee McHutchison was born 1879 at Sebastopol. Her parents were Duncan and Margaret nee Hewitson. She died 1941 in Geelong aged 61 years. They are buried together in Geelong Western Cemetery, in the Methodist section. There was once an Ethel Smythe seat along the Anglesea River. It was near the fork where she loved to sit and enjoy the river. Their children were:-

1898 John Hewitson SMYTHE b. Creswick, was killed first WW1 6 April 1918. He attended the Ballarat School of Mines before joining the army. He was a signaller then a sniper. He was killed at Villers-Bretonneux .Prior to John enlisting in the army, the family had used either Smyth (no 'e') or Smith. John asked them to spell the name with an e so his mail would not be confused with others of the same surname. From then on the family used Smythe continuously. .

1900 Cecil George SMYTHE died Melbourne East 1930 aged 30 as the result of an accident. He married 1922 to Ada Lillian PITCHER. In 1941 Ada re-married John Thomas BROWN. There were no children from her second marriage. John Brown died 1971 and Ada died in 1972. Both are buried in the Eastern Cemetery Geelong. Cecil's children were 1924-1997 **Gordon** Keith SMYTHE, 1925-2011 Betty Lillian, 1928 Dorothy **Joan** .

1901 Doris Ethel SMYTHE born Broomfield, died 1963 aged 61 at St Vincent's hospital from burns received after she fell into a fire whilst burning refuse. She married James Clive Knowles MILLER b. 1899, in 1924. Children.1929-2000 Gloria, 1932 Patsy MILLER

SMYTHE continued.... p6



VISIT TO BARWON PARK

The good old days were very good for some people. On our visit to Barwon Park we saw how the aristocracy lived in the mid 1800's. That row of bells in the courtyard to summons any of the 26 servants was luxury we could hardly imagine. It seems hard to believe that a family who had come to Australia as a convict only thirty years before built this mansion. James Austin who was on the same ship as William Buckley in 1803 went to Tasmania. He encouraged his nephews to come to Australia. About 1830 his brother John came out bringing the rest of the family with him. One of these sons, James, chose wisely when he



1880's pram

selected land at what is now Winchelsea. Neither James nor his wife Elizabeth had come from English aristocracy but they obviously knew all about the life style. In their new home they helped create an Australian upper class.

Seventeen members of the Historical Society thoroughly enjoyed their trip down history lane. Our guide recreated in our minds, the way things were done in the 1800's. The stable with their buggies and blacksmith's equipment fascinated us. The butlers' pantry, quite distinct from the ladies pantry showed how the hierarchy of servants operated. The huge dining room with seating for 24 made one realize



John George Smythe with his daughter Dolly Miller and grand children Gloria & Patsy

SMYTHR FAMILY continued from page 5

1908 Mabel Verna (Maie) SMYTHE born Creswick, married Isaac John SPLATT, a shearer & labourer, 1934 Shirley 1944 Heather 1949 Jennifer

1910-1981 Eric Kitchener SMYTHE born Creswick died Geelong aged 71. Electoral Roll 1977, Nurseryman and inspector, lived Leopold, wife Elmor Neill LAWSON (1913-2013 married in Rockhampton, Queensland in 1938. Eric had gone to

Queensland to cut cane

during the depression. They returned to live in Geelong. Allan John SMYTHE, was their

only child. Their son Steven Allan SMYTHE born in 1975 is the only remaining descendant with the Smythe name..

1914 Elma Majorie SMYTHE born Ballarat - not married, no children, lived Ararat 1977 and later Geelong until her death on 13 December 2010, aged 96.

Four of John George and Ethel's children died young 1903 Elsie Margaret Susannah, 1905 William Gordon, 1906 Robert and 1913 Harrison Hugh.

Many of the Smythe descendants live in or near Geelong. Some of them met for the first time at the bridge plaque unveiling.



Mabel Verna (Maie) SPLATT (nee SMYTHE) beside her parents grave