

Coastal Current

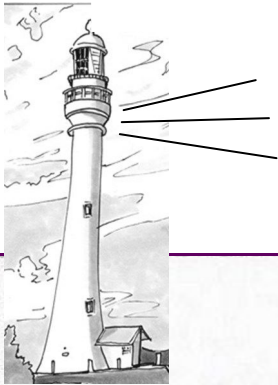
Quarterly Newsletter Of The

Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 115

Winter 2017

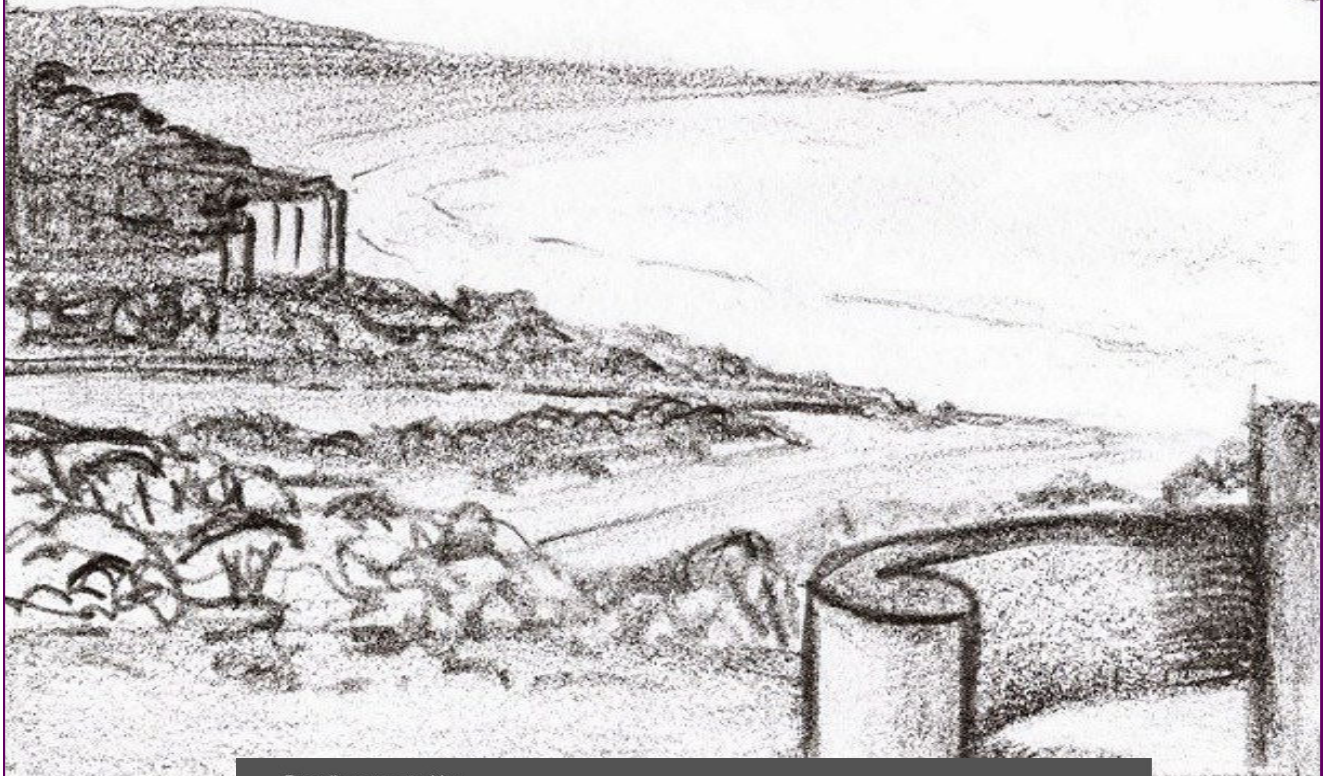
The Anglesea & District Historical Society is a not for profit organisation staffed by volunteer members of the community, whose aim is to research and preserve history of the local area.



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History

Keepers of the Museum



Marilyn Robinson

Proudly supported by

Anglesea & District
Community Bank® Branch



ARE YOU A FINANCIAL MEMBER? . Historical Society is \$20 per person per year (this includes insurance). Family History (optional) is \$15 per family. FEES DUE 1 SEPTEMBER

Pay direct: Bendigo Bank—BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421 **OR** post to PO Box 98, Anglesea
Members is free for people over 90 years of age but they are not insured.

Meetings & Activities

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

The Historical Society meetings are usually 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.

JUNE MEETING: 2.00pm Sunday 4 June, History House
TOPIC: **Royal Memorabilia**

With the Queen's birthday coming up, and many royal changes and celebrations, it is time for us to celebrate our royal stories. So bring along those items or memories of the Royal Family, any reign and any member of the Royal Family.

JULY MEETING Thursday 13 July, at History House
Combined Mid Winter Feast

Please note time 11.00am

\$10



Speaker: Lindsay Smail

Topic: *Weather Wonders of Geelong*

AUGUST MEETING 2.00pm Sunday 6 August
History House

TOPIC: **Historic Bridges of Victoria**

Speaker: Jenny McPherson

SEPTEMBER OUTING Thursday 7th September
Visit to Apollo Bay Old Cable Station Museum

Leaves History House 10.00am Cost \$20 + Lunch

Historical Society Committee

President: Jan Morris Phone 5263 3085

Email - davejanmorris@bigpond.com

Treasurer: Chris Guerow Phone 5264 7602

Email - chrisguerow@gmail.com

Vice Pres.: Karl Jacklin Phone 0412 619 219

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MUSEUM OPEN TIMES

Second Sunday of the month 2.00 - 4.00 pm or by appointment - Ph. 5263 3085.

Open for browsing when groups in attendance.

Mondays 1.30 pm - 3.30pm

Tuesdays 10.30am – 1.30pm

Saturdays 10.30 am - 1.30pm

The museum is also open at other times when working groups are present.

Photographs

Anglesea & District Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs. Orders to Jan Morris: Phone: 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

Digital images for personal use only \$5 each

A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

There was great excitement when the Bathing Box finally arrived and after a few days on the back of a truck, was placed behind History House. We were pleased to discover that the building was in better order than first thought. We are extremely grateful to the Surf Coast Shire that met all cost of moving the box and placing it on footings in our yard. They also put timber around the base and added a timber ramp and railing. These are in sympathy with the age of the building. Many thanks to Jim Tutt and Brett Morris for cleaning up the yard after the work had been done.

The Shire also had two old apple trees removed. We plan to replace the fruit trees, possibly with espaliered grafted fruit trees. It would be good if we can grow some of the old fashioned varieties of apples and other fruit. This idea is still in the planning stages.

With both our secretary, Marilyn Wendt and our Vice President, Karl Jacklin, overseas, some of our projects have been on hold for the present. However, Susan Clarke has been working on developing a detailed record on each of the World War 1 service people associated with Anglesea. There are a few people listed on the WW1 Honour Board that we are unable to identify. If anyone knows anything about G. Anderson, H. Anderson, or A. Bannister we would be glad to hear from you, even if it is only a snippet that might help us in further research. When this project is completed we intend to present a copy to the Anglesea RSL.



The Bathing Box is craned into place.

Photo Susan Clarke

VALE STAN STOTT

It is with great sadness that I record the death of one of our stalwart members Stan Stott, who passed away recently after a long illness. Stan and his wife Melva need no introduction around Anglesea, nor even much further afield. As town criers, the Christmas Scene by the side of the road, and a host of many other roles, where they dressed up, they always added colour, fun and interest to so many local activities. Just three weeks before his death Stan and Melva attended a Lions Club dinner where they were presented with a "Thank You Certificate" for their contribution to many aspects of life in Anglesea. The photo on the right shows Stan as a partner to Jean Wendt at the *Bridal Revival* put on by ADHS in 2000.



MOSAIC OF THE INVERLOCHY

We continue to have problems with our mosaic at *Loveridge Lookout*. The lifesaving ring that surrounds the mosaic has not stood up to the extreme weather at the point. We are grateful to Bob Dwyer who continually fills the holes. It seems a never ending job for Bob as vandals hit the ring with rocks. To make matters worse a group of ants has made the back of the ring home. The ring is part of the *Mosaic Walk* created around Anglesea six years ago.



WINTER FEAST

Don't forget the Winter Feast. Thursday 13th July at 11.00am. Please note the later time. This is always a great fun time when both the Historical Society & the Family History Group get together, have an interesting speaker and enjoy a hot lunch. Of course friends are always welcome. The cost is \$10, a real bargain. The speaker is Lindsay Smail who will speak on a topic that is always on our mind "Weather Wonders of Geelong." Bookings are desirable but not essential. There is a booking sheet on the front desk at History House.

WELCOME

Welcome to new members Tony Hodges, Dot Hutton, Philip & Jacqueline Watts. We look forward to having you as part of our group and sharing the History of Anglesea & District with you.

JOHN ALEXANDER BICKERS

World War 2 soldier

1916-2010

No VX11874

Staff Sergeant

Photo taken in New Guinea May 1944, aged 28

Jack Bickers donated artifacts from New Guinea to the Anglesea Primary School. When the Anglesea & District Historical Society started in 1981, the school passed the artifacts on for safe-keeping. Jack served with the Australian Army from April 1940 until the war ended in 1945. He served in Scotland before returning home for two weeks in 1943. As a staff sergeant with the 2nd Forestry Battalion, he was sent to Bougainville, New Guinea, where he served until the war ended two years later. Jack was given some artifacts to take home as souvenirs. He had to shorten the spears in order to fit them into his luggage.

Jack became manager at the Anglesea Forestry Commission Office and remained living in Anglesea with his wife Doris, after his retirement, until his death in 2010. His widow Doris died earlier this year. Jack was President of the Anglesea RSL in 1956.



EUROPEAN LABOUR ONLY

Kathryn Feather and her husband Ed picked up a wardrobe on the side of the road just going out of Anglesea. It was on the side of the road to be taken free of charge. They thought it might hold the cushions from their outdoor setting.

It is very sound and well made. On opening the door they saw stamped on the back wall

“European Labour

Only”

277 McKean Street,

N. Fitzroy. N 7

Date

23 May 1944”

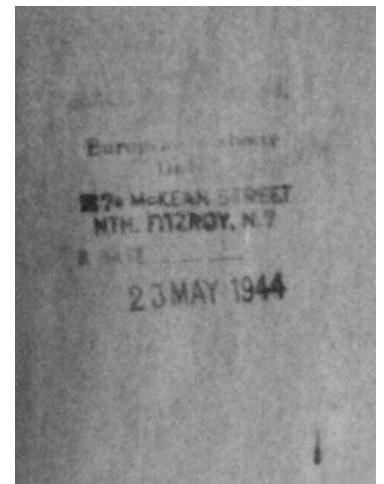


Photo: Kathryn Feather

Why would this be stamped on a piece of furniture? An investigation followed and the report below tells us the meaning of this strange stamp.

These stamps were common on furniture made in Australia before the 1960s. The ‘European labour only’ stamp was a legal requirement in Victoria, and in most other states. In Victoria it was set out in the Factories and Shops Act of 1896. It was later incorporated in different Acts over time under various names, finally remaining in 1958 as part of the Labour and Industry Act. The purpose of the legislation was to distinguish between furniture made in Victoria by Chinese workers and that made by Europeans, meaning Australians of European origin.

In the 1880s there was great concern about what was known as ‘sweated labour.’ It usually meant workers were subjected to very long hours, unsafe conditions, low pay and insecure employment. The Chinese community were often accused of making use of ‘sweated labour’, especially in the manufacture of furniture. This made the furniture from ‘sweated labour’ factories cheaper so European manufactures could not compete. It also made it difficult for workers of European descent to gain better working conditions. It was believed by some that furniture made in Chinese ‘Sweat Shop’ factories was inferior, although there is no real evidence for this. Many furniture shops proudly advertised that their furniture was all stamped *European Labour only*.

Various enquiries and regulations attempted to fix this problem but it was not until *the Labour and Industry Act 1958* that stamping was removed from furniture.

THE AUSTRALASIAN
FOY AND GIBSON,
SMITH-STREET, COLLINGWOOD.
BARAINS AND SPECIAL LINES IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.
We beg to draw Special Attention to Our FURNITURE DEPARTMENT.
All Our Furniture is made in Our Own Factory, and EUROPEAN LABOUR ONLY
is Employed.
WE HAVE THE
LARGEST FURNITURE FACTORY
IN AUSTRALIA.
SOVE NOT THE BEST MATERIALS USED
AND
THEY WAREMANNERS GUARANTEED
ALL ABOVE FURNITURE,
MADE IN
EUROPEAN LABOUR,
CAN BE THOROUGHLY RECOMMENDED.
Our NEW ILLUSTRATED FURNITURE CATALOGUE is NOW READY. Persons requiring
FURNITURE of any Description Kindly Write for Copy. We Send it POST FREE.
Four Drawer Chest Dressing, £12 10s
With Washstand, £15 10s
Four Drawer Chest Dressing, £12 10s
Washstand, £15 10s

The Australasian, 13 March, 1897, p. 4, advertisement

FISHING WAS CHARLIE'S LIFE

June Ford

Charlie Porter, one of Anglesea's well-known fishermen came to Anglesea from about 1955 when his parents purchased a house on a large block of land on the corner of Great Ocean Road and Third Avenue, Point Roadknight. A second storey addition to the original cottage enabled Charlie to enjoy holidays with his parents and siblings and to develop his love for the surf and fishing.

The family lived in Ivanhoe, Melbourne, and Charlie was educated at "The Parade" a Catholic School in Ivanhoe. He didn't enjoy school very much, so his father had to apply for special permission for Charlie to leave at the age of 14. For a short time, Charlie settled in Port Lincoln, South Australia, but he soon decided that the shark infested waters near Port Lincoln were not for him and he settled in Anglesea in about 1964. Charlie often went fishing with Ronny Evans, a local fisherman, as a young school boy. He credited Ronny Evans for teaching him the fishing trade, and for helping him to develop his love of surfing which he usually did from off the point at Roadknight. Charlie's eventually bought Ronny Evans' boat.

Initially Charlie, with his brother Bernie, would launch their boat the "Marie 2" at Point Roadknight using one of three winches on the beach – a job that required a fair bit of muscle. They were joined by local fishing identities like Willy Monks, Syd Morrow, Bill Hughes to name a few. Charlie's other brother, Arthur, eventually bought Willy Monks' boat.

The routine was an early start until around 10 am with only very rough seas deterring them from the task of looking after 12 crayfish pots in an area from Point Addis to the Airey's Lighthouse. On a good day a rubbish bin full of crays was 'a good catch' and any other fish like barracouta or snapper caught was a bonus. The catch was sold to Bill Hunt whose ice works was located in Camp Road, Anglesea. Locals could also buy fresh crays and fish from the Porter's house.

Launching and manipulating the heavier boats at Point Roadknight proved to be a slower process so after the ramp was built around 1968 preference was given to using the smaller "tinny" with an outboard motor. The "tinny" proved to be useful on numerous occasions when the local Policeman, Bernie Dalton, called on the brothers to help rescue people from their 'up-side-down' catamarans because no other rescue services were available in the area.

Charlie retired thirty years ago but he still goes out casually with the only fisherman in the area, Gary Bonner. Times have changed from Charlie's early fishing experiences. Gary Bonner's catch all goes to Melbourne for sale. Charlie thinks the introduction of quotas has spoilt fishing and that running the business now involves too much red tape.



Roadknight beach where there were three winches and a boat shed photo Charlie Porter

AGNES LANE

Recently named Agnes Lane, the street that runs from the western end of Wray Street to the river, has been named after Agnes Murray, the first Post Mistress of Anglesea.

Agnes and her husband Robert Murray, a blacksmith were very early residents of Swampy Creek, now Anglesea. Their exact arrival date is not known but they were certainly here by 1880.

Swampy Creek had been discovered as an excellent spot for fishermen and shooters. Mrs Murray opened a very basic boarding house prior to 1880, where she charged one shilling a night for accommodation. This, in what is now Camp Road, was not much more than a shack. It was burned to the ground in 1883. It was quickly replaced by a more substantial building and Mrs. Murray opened a post office in the building. Unfortunately this was also burned to the ground in the 1898 fires that swept through Anglesea.

Agnes was not a woman that gave up easily. She reopened her boarding house, come post office, come general store. As there was no licensed hotel when she started her boarding house, it was known that she kept the



Agnes with her family outside her Post Office / Boarding House.

boarders supplied with alcohol, on the quiet. The Geelong Advertiser of 24 July 1886 reports that Agnes Murray of Anglesea was charged with selling alcohol without a license. As the inspector who charged her had done so after tricking her into believing he was staying to go fishing, she was acquitted. Her boarding house and Post Office were finally burned down in 1908 and the Post Office business moved to the hotel.

Agnes died in 1919 and is buried in the Geelong Eastern Cemetery. For many years there was no headstone until the school children of

Anglesea raised the money to have a brass plaque placed on her grave. Agnes was a cornerstone of developing Anglesea, so naming Agnes Lane after her is a fitting memorial.



The new Agnes Lane sign



Agnes with her grandson William

VISIT TO LARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The old Lake Bank Hotel is now home to an outstanding museum that tells the story of the development of the Lara township. A group of 20 of us were most impressed with the location, the displays, the talks and of course those delicious scones. The Lake Bank Hotel was delicensed in 1908 and from then on used as a private residence. The owner of the hotel, a local developer, has completely restored the hotel and made it available to the Lara Historical Society. The rooms of the hotel have been used to advantage to display all aspects of early life in Lara. There is an excellent display of old photos depicting early industries and life style.



*A restored vintage car used at Lara in 1920s
Photos by Bob Smith*

The extensive outdoor sheds have amazing displays, including a pan dunny, a "swaggy" in a shed, a T model Ford and lots of tools and farming equipment. The bakery used when the hotel was operational, is still standing as it was over a 100 years ago.

The museum committee provided us with Devonshire Teas for morning tea and a cuppa at lunch time. The President spoke to us about the hotel and also about the families that developed Lara.

If you weren't able to come, a visit to Lara Museum would make a great days outing. It is open every Wednesday and Sunday afternoon.



A member of the Lara Museum welcomed us on our arrival