

# Coastal Current

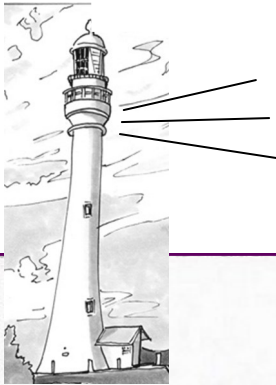
Quarterly Newsletter Of The

## Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 123

Winter 2019

*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

  
Bendigo Bank

**Are you financial?** Historical Society is \$20 for the first family member per year and \$15 for other family members (this includes insurance). People over 90 are free (no insurance). Family History (optional extra) is \$15 per family. Please notify if extra \$15 is Family History or extra Historical member. FEES DUE 1 SEPTEMBER\_Pay direct: Bendigo Bank—BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421—reference, your name, **OR** post to PO Box 98, Anglesea, 3230

**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 2 June  
Speaker: Ian McMillan  
Topic: Early Anglesea Family Relationships

**JULY:** 11.00am Thursday  
**18 Combined Winter Feast**  
Speaker: John Stewart  
Cost: \$ 10 includes lunch  
Topic: Alexander Webb,  
Pioneer Artist

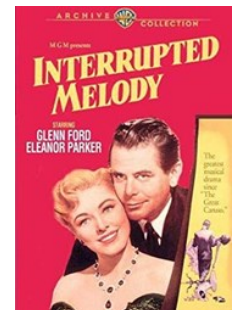


**Historical Society Committee**

**President:** Jan Morris Phone 0448 526 311  
Email - [davejanmorris@bigpond.com](mailto:davejanmorris@bigpond.com)  
**Sec. & Vice Pres.:** Karl Jacklin Phone 0412 619 219  
Email - [karlj@netspace.net.au](mailto:karlj@netspace.net.au)  
**Treasurer:** Chris Guerow Phone 5264 7602  
Email - [chrisguerow@gmail.com](mailto:chrisguerow@gmail.com)  
**Museum Curator:** Susan Clarke 0438 070 560  
Email - [susanclarke3230@hotmail.com](mailto:susanclarke3230@hotmail.com)  
**Researcher - Bruce Bodman** Phone 5263 1249  
Email - [bodman@netspace.net.au](mailto:bodman@netspace.net.au)  
**Committee Members:**  
**June Ford:** Phone:5263 1874  
Email - [juneford2@bigpond.com](mailto:juneford2@bigpond.com)  
**Keith Hornibrook:** Phone 0425 893 230  
Email - [gleebrook@gmail.com](mailto:gleebrook@gmail.com)  
**Jim Tutt** Phone 5263 1227  
Email - [tutthj@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tutthj@yahoo.com.au)

**AUGUST:** 2.00pm Sunday 4 August  
Members to bring a very old item and briefly talk about it

**SEPTEMBER:** Thursday 19  
September  
Outing to Dean’s Marsh & Film at  
Waterlands ‘Interrupted Melodies’ -  
story of Marjorie Lawrence  
**Cost: \$15** plus lunch at Moriac Hotel



**Members & Visitors welcome to all activities.**

Transport can be provided to all meetings and activities by phoning 0448 526 311.

*It is the policy of this society that no activities will be held on days of code red or extreme fire danger.*

**MUSEUM OPEN TIMES**

**Open & Staffed the second Sunday of the month**  
2.00 - 4.00 pm or by appointment - Ph.0448 526 311  
  
Unstaffed but open for browsing  
Mondays & Thursdays 1.30 pm - 3.30pm  
Tuesdays & Saturdays 10.30am – 1.00pm  
  
Open every Sunday during School Holidays  
2.00-4.00pm

**Photographs**

Anglesea & District Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs. Orders to Jan Morris:  
Phone:0448 5263 311 Email -[davejanmorris@bigpond.com](mailto: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.**

**C**ongratulations to Our Family History sub group that has recently celebrated their 20th birthday. It is quite an achievement to have been available on a regular basis to assist people with their family history research for 20 years. Their birthday celebration was held on Thursday 9 May.



*Historical Society members enjoying  
Thelma's 90th birthday*

Thelma Western - Several members enjoyed celebrating Thelma's 90th birthday at the Lions village. Thelma has been a key member of both the Historical Society and the Family History Group. She was a life member of the Historical Society after being the treasurer of both groups for seven years, always keeping an astute eye on both spending and income. She was one of the very early members of the Family History Group.



*Thelma with the flowers  
from the Historical Society  
& the Family History Group*

We have had two most interesting trips to historic towns in our area. In March we visited Inverleigh where a township had developed from 1843 following William Lawson's inn and blacksmith's shop beside the ford over the Barwon River. It was most interesting to drive around the historic markers in the town and then cross the river and see the new area where the blocks of land and the houses are much larger. Meeting up with another Historical Society is always enlightening as we see how others preserve their local history.

On 10 May a visit to Birregurra also was most informative, this being the first settlement in the district. The Buntingdale Aboriginal Mission was opened here in 1839 by the Wesleyan Church. Unfortunately it was not the protective mission that it was planned to be as the four indigenous tribes of the area were very aggressive towards each other. Birregurra has three beautiful churches with outstanding stained glass windows. We were fortunate to have a commentary from an Historical Society member at stops around the town. Morning tea in the Historical Society rooms gave us an opportunity to see their collection and to swap ideas with them.



*Members admiring the stained glass  
windows at Christ Church Birregurra*

On the home front Keith Hornibrook has made improvement to the Bathing Box, by adding a fold down seat and putting the screen on a swivel. People can now sit and watch the film clips.

The committee has been 'thinking big' We have approached the Shire regarding the state of the garage. Following a recent audit by the Shire, we have been instructed not to allow anyone on the deck above the garage. It is unsafe. We are therefore requesting that the garage be rebuilt and that at the same time a second storey extension be added on the top to extend the meeting room. We realize that there is a long process to go through and even if approved it will not happen quickly. However, we are hopeful of a positive outcome sometime in the future.

Congratulations to author Ros Gibson and Angair, for the recent publication of their excellent book, *Angair—the first 50 years*. They have given us a copy for our library. Copies are available for \$45 from Angair.

Looking ahead, at our June meeting we have Barry and Beth Davidson speaking about the Scouting movement in Anglesea. This is a follow on from Rex Bills talk last year about the Scouting movement in general. July is when we hold our annual Winter Feast combined with the Family History Group. We are fortunate to have John Stewart coming to talk about the pioneer artist Alexander Webb. We also have some surprises for this meeting. Of course the Winter Feast is open to all members, and their friends. The cost is \$10 per person. Please book at History House or phone Jan 0448 526 311 or Susan 0438 070 560.

## She hath done what she could: a fitting epitaph for Anna Mackay?

Susan Clarke

During March, which was Women's History Month, I wanted to acknowledge one of the women who contributed to the early history of our area. I settled on Anna Mackay. When Lindsay Braden wrote about this "early pioneer settler at Swampy Creek", he titled the article "The mysterious Anna Mackay". In the entry in *Early Anglesea Families*, he did not include details of her place of birth, and there is no indication of her life before arrival in Anglesea at the age of 65. I thought it was time to research afresh, given the wealth of information available these days for local and family historians. I am writing about what I have found to date, although I am sure there is much more to be found.



The headstone for Anna Mackay in Bellbrae Cemetery carries the epitaph "she hath done what she could", which apparently was a popular saying around at the time she died in 1901. We do not know who chose these words, but whoever it was presumably also organised the name on the headstone: Annathaize Maria Anna Mackay. It is interesting to note that this is at variance with the name on her will and other legal documents: Anthanaize Marian (or Marion) Anna Mackay – certainly an unusual first name! In trying to establish how fitting the epitaph is for Anna, all I have done this far is raise questions not find answers, but I suppose that is inevitably part of the process.

The earliest record of Anna I have found this far is in a Griffiths Valuation, 1847-1864, for the townland of Dromore in County Down in Northern Ireland. Anna was occupying a house and land owned by Roger Hall. There is no one else with the family name Mackay in the area. The next reference is in the Ireland Calendar of Wills & Administrations, 1867

[FindMyPast], where Anna Mackay is mentioned as the guardian of the children of Thomas Walsh:

WALSH, Thomas. Effects unadministered under £800  
2 September Letters of Administration of the personal estate of Thomas Walsh, late of Nassau Street Dublin. Bookseller, a Widower deceased who died 28 February 1849 at same place (left unadministered by Anthanaize Marian Anna Mackay the Guardian of Deceased's Children Minors) were granted at the Principal Registry to Matthew Anderson of the City of Dublin Solicitor the Attorney of William Walsh now residing in Melbourne the son and one of the surviving next of kin of said deceased. (Limited administration. Former Grant Prerogative Court 1849 folio 60)

This record raised a lot of questions, principally: what was Anna's connection to this Thomas Walsh?

Following the lead of the name of Thomas's son, William Walsh "now residing in Melbourne", I unearthed two other instances of the rare name Anthanaize. It was used as a middle name for two of William's daughters, and one can only presume that he was fond of the family guardian because he honoured her name in this way.



But perhaps the most intriguing document that I have found to date is Anna's will. It includes various beneficiaries, predominantly female, from three main families, spread from Melbourne to Geelong. The names in the will are as follows:

James Robinson, servant at Anglesea guesthouse – beneficiary of money  
Betsey Armstrong of Killearnan, North Brighton – beneficiary of chattels & land  
Mary Helen Clarke – beneficiary of chattels  
Mary Bruce daughter of John Munro Bruce of Flinders Lane, Melbourne, merchant – beneficiary of chattels  
Esther Ann Fagg, daughter of William Fagg of "Highton", South Geelong – beneficiary of land  
Constance Clarke, daughter of the Reverend John Clarke of Williamstown – beneficiary of land  
Edith Loudon Bruce, daughter of George Williamson Bruce – beneficiary of land  
Mary Bruce, wife of the said John Munro Bruce – beneficiary of remainder of real estate  
William Fagg of Highton, South Geelong – beneficiary of remainder of personal estate & Executor

I proceeded on the basis that finding out about these people might provide some clues about Anna's life before she arrived in Anglesea. This has led to much speculation, although not much hard information!

I started with Mary Bruce, daughter of John Munro Bruce of Flinders Lane, Melbourne, merchant. It transpired that the Bruce family was very important in Melbourne history, and indeed the history of Australia as a whole. Mary's brother was in fact the future Prime Minister, Stanley Melbourne Bruce! John's wife, another Mary, was also a beneficiary under Anna's will, as was Edith Loudon Bruce, daughter of George Williamson Bruce, John Munro Bruce's brother. Anna clearly had a strong connection with the family. Was she perhaps a governess to some of these younger females? Or was she a household employee, or even a friend?

*Continued on page 5*

Continued from page 4

The second family of note in Anna's will was the Fagg family of Geelong. Esther Ann Fagg, daughter of William Fagg of "Highton", South Geelong was a beneficiary of land. And William Fagg himself was a beneficiary (only the second male beneficiary in the will) and also executor. Had Anna worked for the Fagg family, or was the connection through her boarding house establishment at Anglesea? Interestingly, William Fagg renounced his position as executor of the will, and administration passed to the Curator of the Estates of Deceased Persons (later to become part of the Office of the Public Trustee), as evidenced by this sale notice that appeared in the *Geelong Advertiser* on 25 December 1901.

Lastly, the references to the Clarke family lead to Reverend John Clarke of Williamstown who was a veteran preacher and Presbyterian minister at Williamstown for many years. This ties in directly with Anna's commitment to the Presbyterian Church in Anglesea, but it does not provide the personal link.



And let's not forget Mrs Betsy Armstrong of "Killearnan", North Brighton. She was a beneficiary of chattels and land in Anna's will, but she was clearly a well-connected lady, as evidenced by this picture of "Killearnan".

My research has generated some information about Anna Mackay's life, but there are still enormous gaps that need to be filled. If anyone can supply any information, I would be delighted to hear from you.

#### Sources

Griffiths Valuation, 1847-1864 [FindMyPast]: <https://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=IRE/GRIFF/085/118&parentid=IRE/GRIFF/085/085118/007/1>  
Ireland Calendar of Wills & Administrations. 1867 [FMP]  
Will: PROV, VPRS 7591/P2 unit 318, item 79/329  
TROVE: *Geelong Advertiser*, 25 December 1901

#### HOLLEBONE'S FLATS

The Historical Society resides in the house called Rangi Marie. It was once the home of Alfred Hollebhone. Descendants of Alf tell us that the garage was erected first so they could camp on the block. He built the house in 1955 at the far end of the one acre lot. In the summer holidays a tent and caravan provided extra accommodation for his extended family. Alf also built five fibro holidays flats along the driveway up to the house. These were sold in 1972 to an investor and five years later purchased by the Barrabool Shire, that



*Rangi Marie as it is today*

had them demolished.

When the Community Garden first began in 2015 using this land they discovered pieces of fibro sheeting which contained asbestos, obviously from the old holiday flats. To avoid contact with the asbestos, they use raised garden beds only. An outdoor shower block was built along what is now the road into the rear of the Lions Village. The remains of this block was only demolished in 2017 and a new retaining wall built in its place.

This Rangi Marie house was used as emergency accommodation in 1983 following the Ash Wednesday fires. The Historical Society took it over in 1986. It is owned by the Surf Coast Shire.



*The holiday flats that were along the drive*

BY G. B. APPLETON.

TO-MORROW. TO-MORROW.  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26th.  
On the ground, at 12 noon.  
ANGLESEA RIVER.

In the Estate of the late Miss Mackay.  
4 ACRES and HOUSE, on the River.  
Upset Price, £150.

G. B. APPLETON has received instructions to sell by auction, on the above date:

The well-known property of the late Miss Mackay, comprising cottage and about 4 acres, fronting the main road and river. Title perfect. Terms at sale.

G. B. APPLETON,  
Auctioneer, 131 William-street, Melbourne.

TO-MORROW. TO-MORROW.  
AT ANGLESEA RIVER, ON BOXING  
DAY, at 12 noon.

In the Estate of Miss Anthanaize M. A. Mackay, about 7 acres, being part of allotment 6 section 1, Parish of Jan Juc, adjoining the church at Anglesea River.

G. B. APPLETON has received instructions from Dr. Bride, the Curator of deceased persons' estates, to sell as above. For absolute sale.

G. B. APPLETON,  
Auctioneer, 131 William-street, Melbourne.

## An item from our collection – one hundred years old Commemorative sash – Peace Day 1919

Susan Clarke

There may have been a cessation of fighting in Europe in 1918, but the peace treaty to conclude hostilities was not finalised until July 1919. When the Treaty of Versailles was signed there were official celebrations in all parts of the Empire, including of course Australia. Locally, there were parades in various centres of population on 19 July which was a declared public holiday. In Geelong, the mayor Howard Hitchcock, produced sashes bearing his name, and we have one of these in our collection, thanks to Gwen Morgan.



Commemorative sash donated by Gwen Morgan [item 599/1328]

## IT HAS COME BACK 144 YEARS LATER

Jan Morris

A lady earlier this year read the article Susan Clarke wrote about the Modewarre Bible Christian Chapel. The lady had a book presented to 14 year old Thomas McConachy in 1875 at that Bible Christian Sabbath (Sunday) school. She contacted Susan asking if that family name was still in the area. When Susan replied that there was, the lady posted the book to her. Susan passed the book onto me as my maiden name was McConachy. The book has now been placed in the Anglesea Museum with the following notes about Thomas McConachy who received the book in 1875. The book was presented to:

THOMAS JAMES MCCONACHY who was born in 1860 at Modewarre, the eldest son of George McConachy and his wife Elizabeth Ewart. Tom's father came to Geelong in 1841 as a six year old with his parents and seven brothers and two sisters. Thomas was named after his grandfather Thomas McConachy who had six grandsons named Thomas.

This Thomas' parents and both sets of grandparents lived at Modewarre. He attended Modewarre State School, where his father was the correspondent (secretary) to the school committee. The family attended the Modewarre Bible Christian Chapel. Tom, as the eldest son, was expected to work on the farm with his father who farmed 714 acres at Modewarre, while his sisters helped their mother run a general store that had once been the Bridge Inn Hotel at Modewarre.

In 1879 at the age of 18 Tom went to Patho, near Echuca, where his father had purchased 1,000 acres adjoining Tom's other grandfather, James Ewart's 320 acres granted in 1862. This was where Tom met and married Mary Jane Bail in 1884. Their first six children, were born there. When his father George, purchased further land at Cobden in 1885, Tom stayed behind and managed the Patho property, growing wheat and grazing cattle. Tom played the organ and was superintendent of the Patho Bible Christian Sunday School for seven years. In 1902 the Bible Christian Church amalgamated with the Wesleyan Church to form the Methodist Church. This is the same year that Tom moved with his wife and children to the Colac area. His father George had purchased a 324 acre property known as *Nettley* at Cororooke near Colac.

Tom was an innovative and progressive farmer. He built his own cheese factory beside his dairy. He was the first person in the district to manufacture cheese, which he marketed under the brand "Four Macs." He was also the first farmer in the district to install milking machines. He found the pressure of the suction cups made the cows udders swell. This he overcame by making a small hole in the side of each cup to allow some air in. Many other farmers visited *Nettley* to see Tom's farming practices. In 1928 Tom sold *Nettley* and moved into Colac where he and his wife spent their retirement.

