

Coastal Current

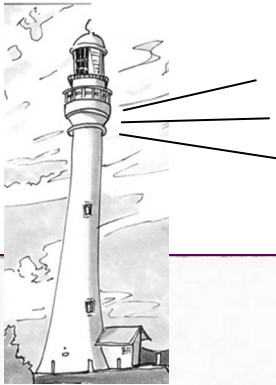
Quarterly Newsletter Of The

Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 126

Autumn 2020

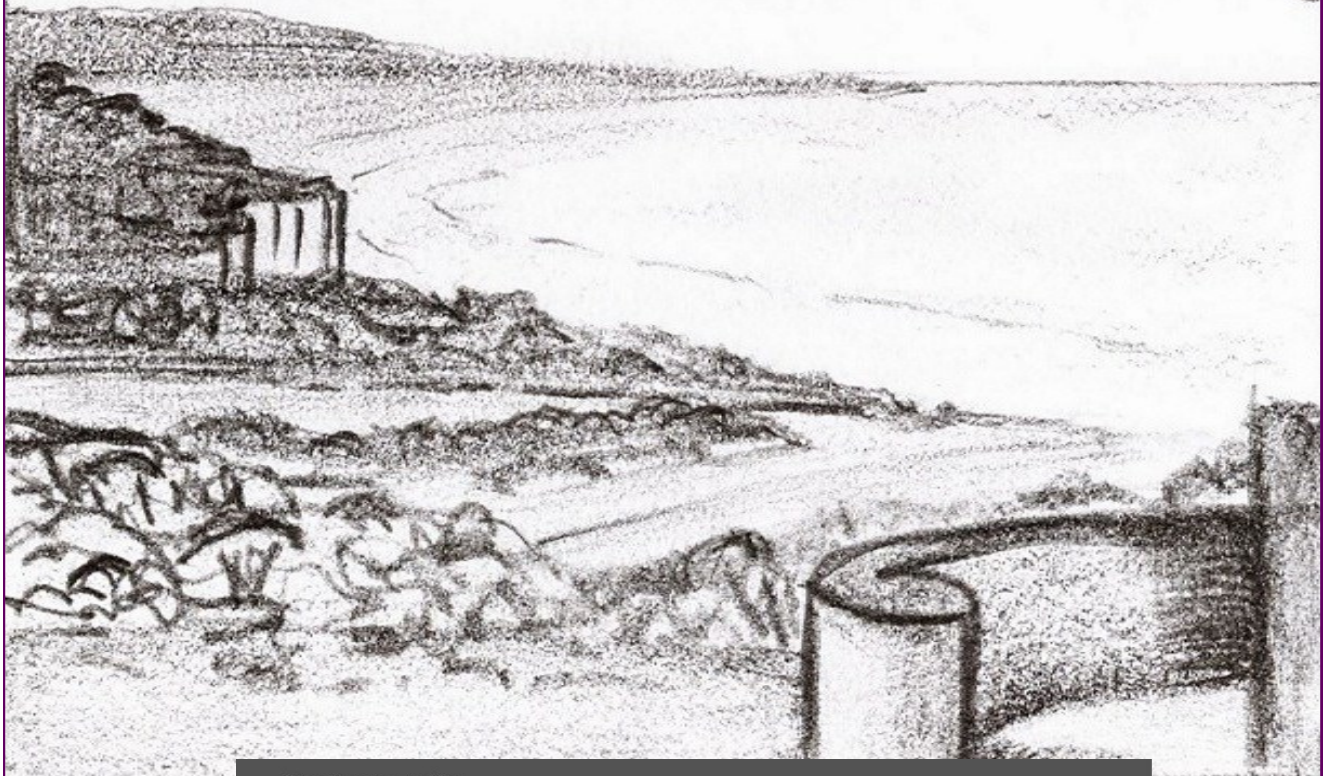
The Anglesea & District Historical Society is a not for profit organisation staffed by volunteer members of the community, whose aim is to research and preserve history of the local area.



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History

Keepers of the Museum



Marilyn Robinson

Proudly supported by

Anglesea & District
Community Bank® Branch



Are you 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.

MARCH
OUTING
Thursday
12 March Trip to *Mooramong*, Skipton
Leave 9.00am
Return 4.00pm
Cost : \$30 will include transport morning tea, tour of house and a barbecue lunch.



APRIL
MEETING 2.00pm Sunday 5 April
Speaker: Fred Cahir
Author of *My Country all gone. The White men have stolen it: The Invasion of Wadawurrung Country 1800-1870.*



MAY
OUTING to Sorrento Historical Society. This outing is on Thursday 7 May. We will need to leave at 8.30am to get the 10.00am ferry to Sorrento. We will take one car to ferry passengers to the Museum. Cost will be \$30 for ferry and entrance. Morning tea can be purchased on the ferry. Lunch will be a BYO.



JUNE
MEETING 2.00 pm Sunday 7 June
Speaker: Eric Messer
Topic: *The Wreck of the Inverloch*



Historical Society Committee

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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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?

Have you paid your 2019/2020 subs for Anglesea & District Historical Society? A large part of your \$20 fee goes to insurance. We do not charge people over 90 as we are unable to insure them.

If you are unsure if you have paid or not, please check with the treasurer Chris Guerow

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.
Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

This year started with a successful meeting day when we had John Birt, renowned sportsman as our speaker. John as a teenager, was a member of Anglesea Golf Club at the opening in 1953. There was a good attendance and everyone appreciated his stories about golfing and Anglesea club in particular.



Douglas Anderson unveils the blackwood hall chair from the home of Adiel Anderson surveyor of Aireys Inlet 1927
Photo Marilyn Wendt

At the end of his talk John opened *Anyone For Golf? Local Links 1909-1966*. Susan Clarke and Marilyn Wendt have developed this display that tells about the early attempts at developing golf courses in the area and the history of the present club. Items such as wooden shafted golf clubs and a series of old photos make the display most interesting. Make sure you come and see it.



John Birt receiving a gift of fruit box from Keith Hornibrook after his entertaining talk. Photo Marilyn Wendt

The other important item on the agenda for our first meeting of the year was the unveiling of the hall chair, donated by the Anderson family. Adiel Anderson was the surveyor, who in 1927 surveyed much of Aireys Inlet for housing. The chair was once in Adiel's parents home in Moreland. His son 93-year-old Douglas Anderson unveiled the chair, which has been restored by Malcolm McDougall. It has been placed just inside the entrance of History House.

Our plans for the rebuilding of the garage had to be abandoned after the Heritage Advisor to the Shire objected to the way the rebuild would change the appearance of the house. History House or *Rangi Marie* as it is named has a Shire Council Heritage overlay, so is subject to protection. It is owned by the shire and is our responsibility to retain its original appearance.

However, the new plans will provide us with much better facilities. It is planned to build a new room at the back of the current house, as well as do extensive repairs to the garage. The plans include removing the wall between the kitchen and the meeting room to make the meeting room larger. It will also refurbish the current bathroom, toilet and back veranda to provide a new kitchen and ambient toilet. The new room on the back will provide space for a compactus, and working space for both Family History and Historical Society working groups. Volunteer architect Tony Hobba has drawn up concept plans. We need to do some serious fund raising to meet our part of the funding. Plans are afoot for fund raising but we can't start until the shire gives official approval for the project to go ahead.

We received an encouraging letter from Thelma Western before Christmas. She is now in care at *Somercare* in Somerville. We have also received news that Lindsay Braden is now in full time care in Essendon. He is in the same complex as his wife Ruth who is still living in their independent unit. Both Thelma and Lindsay are remembered for their huge contributions to our society.

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the death of Barbara Evans, the wife of John Evans. It has been John and Barbara that I visited when I wanted to check an Anglesea historical event. They both had excellent memories and were able to clarify many facts for me. Our sympathy goes to John and family.

The extremely hot days over summer have taken their toll on our garden. However the faithful watering by some of our members has saved most plants. We have had an extra two water taps installed to make it easier to water the garden. The Evans memorial tree took a battering on the very hot days, but I am happy to report that it now has new shoots. Weeding is a constant job, but several people pull out a handful of weeds each time they go past and every little helps.

We have recently received Martin Hooper's latest book *Bellbrae Post Office*. The book tells the story of the first Bellbrae post office opened in 1862 and serving the community until 1982. Thanks to Martin Hooper we now have this interesting and informative little book in our library, available for loan.

CLIFF JUDGE (1928-2002)

Linda Judge

I recently inherited one of my Father's early paintings of Anglesea from my Aunt, his sister. I hung it, along with several others that have pride of place on the walls of my home in Anglesea. They are all local bush scapes; one featuring grass trees, another of the reeds along the Anglesea river, but this recent acquisition focuses on the built environment like many of his very early works. It has no date, but I am guessing it was painted around 1960 after he built a two roomed fibro holiday house in Lubel Street.

The painting is of the view from behind the current recreation and sports club building which replaced the old wooden red rooved boat shed shown in the foreground of Dad's painting. It faces the Surf Coast Art Space which is where I exhibited his paintings, along with my own work, in January this year. This oil painting on masonite, shows four of the iconic rust red rooved, boat sheds standing where the boat hire now operates. Beyond them, on the other side of the road, is the old Maid Marion's, and then further along, two more boat sheds along the river front close to the beach. One of the boat sheds is so faded, that it is no more than a ghost like impression but when a friend sends me a photo taken in 1940 from almost the same spot that my father must have set up his easel, I can see that it must be the furthest of a row of eight boat sheds that were built beside the bridge along the river.



Early painting of Anglesea River by Cliff Judge
Photo Peter Schwarcz 2020

Dad was born in Geelong and spent his childhood holidays camping with his family at Aireys Inlet. He worked full time as a psychiatrist at Kew Cottages where we lived on the grounds of the institution, but we spent most of our weekends in Anglesea where Dad would disappear into the bush to paint *a plein air*. He would load the car with his easel, canvas and a shopping trolley that was cleverly converted into a paint box and seat, and drive along one of the gravel roads towards the Otway ranges. When he returned, several hours later, the car would reek of turpentine, and a large unfinished canvas would be lying flat in the boot. The paintings, at this stage, didn't resemble the landscape, instead they were a jumble of lines and dashes in different colours, but these weird hieroglyphics were a language that Dad had developed with his early depictions of Anglesea life, and from them in the studio in the evening he would be able to recall the details of the landscape without ever having to reference photographs.

Dad initially exhibited his work at home in Kew, and later, when he bought a larger house in Bettleigh street Anglesea, he would hold exhibition weekends. My two sisters and I would be roped in to help move the furniture and spot paint the walls. I was always given the job of salesperson which generally involved placating those who had missed out on a painting or resolving disputes between two people who wanted to buy the same one.

To this day, Dad's work is tightly held by the families of those who bought pieces in the eighties and nineties, and at the recent exhibition of work from their collections, I was not surprised to see that new audiences are still drawn to his understated palette and sensitive line work.

REMEMBERING EARLY ANGLESEA

From the Memoirs of Betty Butterworth

When I first came to Anglesea in 1948 as a bride of two weeks, I didn't know anyone. Naturally I missed family and all my friends, being a long way from everyone, but it was wonderful to have been warmly welcomed by Brian's many relatives in Geelong, including aunts, uncles, and cousins. Especially Auntie Leila, who was like a big sister to me. Years later my own sister Eva and her family came to live in Geelong, which was lovely.

Everyone in Anglesea was friendly, especially Lil and Pop (Harold) Edwards who had the Post Office. They asked me to come and help in it, so I soon got to know everyone, because everyone had to come to the Post Office to collect their mail. Later they asked me to run the Post Office while they went on holidays. The 24 hour telephone switchboard was a full on job. I soon felt part of the community. The Post Office was closed on Wednesday afternoons but open on Saturday mornings.



Post Office and store 1952

Soon after coming to live here, Nancy Hedley invited me to join the Country Women's Association (C.W.A.) and the Red Cross. Both of these organizations were well established before the war, and were the only clubs except for the Ladies Guild at the church. Soon I found myself as Secretary of the C.W.A. and Treasurer of Red Cross. No doubt it was good to have someone new to take on these positions, especially as most of the other members were older women. The population of between 100 and 200 were predominately older folk, including many retirees. When David was born a couple of years later, he was the only baby in town so was made a great fuss of. As I walked everywhere, and the streets were all gravel, I wore out two sets of pram wheels. Prams were not sturdy like they are today. Petrol was still rationed long after the war.

In my early years at Anglesea there was no doctor, no chemist, no baker, no ice, no sewerage, no Baby Health Centre, no ambulance, no hall, no police. There were no newspapers and no mail delivery in Anglesea BUT we had the Forestry Hut that was really a hall. It was where the new school is now. We used it for school concerts, square dances and other occasions. The Pines Hostel was there for forestry workers. We also had dances at Marion's store that had a large room attached. Having grown up in the country (Riverina) the lack of facilities didn't present a problem to me. Anglesea was, and of course still is a beautiful place to live, to make our home, and a wonderful place to bring up our boys.

The Post Office and General Store were where the Post Office is now. The Shell petrol station and garage, run by Jack and Ruby Ringham, was situated about where the supermarket is now. Their residence was at the rear of the garage. Jack would supply a taxi service if required, and also some basic plumbing. The Angahook Café and Store, run by Marion Francis, was the same as it is today on the outside, but different inside. There were two entry doors, so that the grocery side could be locked off from the milk bar and dining room on Sundays. Marion served dinner every Sunday. This was the dining room sometimes used for meetings and dances in aid of Red Cross. There was a petrol pump out front also.

The camping ground was very popular, providing an inexpensive holiday for families. Many would set up their sites and stay for the full six weeks of the holidays. There were no restrictions on numbers. They could have as many as they wished on the site. On Boxing Day there was a swimming carnival held on the river. There was a diving platform near the bridge. New Year's Day saw the boat races on the river as it still is today. The boat shed was there to store the boats in.

The Bridge Café, with petrol pumps out front, was situated at the end of Noble Street. It was built by Les Hedley, and run by his wife and Jean Lewis, while their husbands were in the army. On the opposite side of Noble Street, at the end, where the community units are now, there was a small cement block fire station. They didn't have a fire truck, members used any vehicle available. The hotel was at the same location as it is today, but smaller.

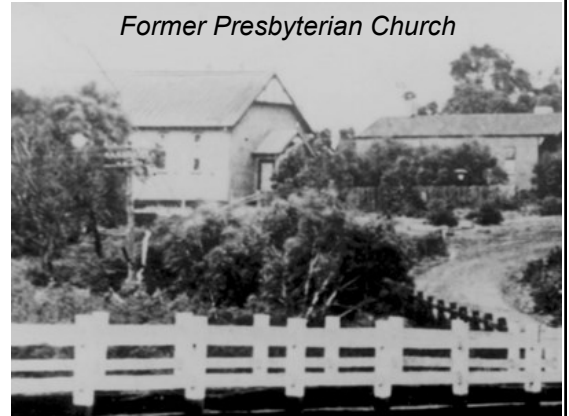


Former Bridge Cafe

Trans Otway ran a bus service; one each way daily. The bus came from Lorne bringing high school students and passengers, picking up the Clarke children from Eastern View, and others from Aireys Inlet, to go to the Anglesea School, by 8 am, then on to Geelong with Anglesea high school students too, and passengers. Returning in the afternoon with these high school children, picking up the children from Anglesea School, to return to their homes in Aireys, Eastern View and Lorne. It was a very long day for children. The Anglesea School was a one-room building, with one teacher, Jack Burgess. Jack was a wonderful teacher, who also came to Anglesea in 1948 and stayed until the 60s.

The old Presbyterian Church was in the same place as the new Uniting Church is today on Murch Crescent. But this was the main road leading onto the old wooden bridge at the time. There was only one Church and one Sunday School in Anglesea for many years,

The Forestry Commission was still operating, and had a big camp (Pines Hostel) in Camp Road, where the new school has been built, The Forestry Office and residence was in Betleigh Street. The Camp recreation hall was still used for many functions, such as dances and school concerts, after the Forestry Camp was no longer used for workmen.



Former Presbyterian Church



Forestry huts for workers at the Pine Forest. We used the large hut as a hall.

Milk was delivered to the door daily, by Geoff Watmuff, who bought the Evans farm. That was where Alcoa Power Station was built in the 60s. We left the milk billy out on the verandah, and every day fresh milk and sometimes cream was delivered. Joe Walker, the butcher in Torquay, came to Anglesea twice a week with meat in the back of his little

van. He'd blow the horn and I would go out to choose some meat from the floor of the van. Joe used a gum tree switch to keep the flies away. I could only keep meat fresh for a day or two, as we didn't have a fridge or ice chest. Mr. Mason was the baker in Torquay, he delivered bread to two shops in Anglesea two or three times a week. You were lucky to get any during holiday time.

There were two fishermen at the time in Anglesea and sometimes we were able to buy some barracuda fish from them at Point Roadknight. They mainly fished for crayfish, which they sent away. The carriers in Anglesea were Jack and Charlie Russell, who ran a reliable daily service to and from Geelong.

The Four Kings Roadhouse was very new and very modern. Built and run on American lines, just after the war, by Alex King, his wife and two sons (1947). People came from far and wide, to see and patronize the *Four Kings*, even though there was still petrol rationing. It was a special day's outing! Today there is a new building built on exactly the same site, and a similar shape but although a food outlet it is much smaller than the original Four Kings.



The Four Kings Roadhouse, established in 1947