

Nibbles: Well, we're back after an Easter break. We hope you had a safe and happy time. In this issue of Nibbles we're featuring the Loveridge Lookout which as you might know, was recently awarded Victorian heritage status. Susan Clarke, our museum curator has featured two items from our collection that pertain to our theme, and our blast from the past is a small article of relevance that appeared in the July 1997 edition of our society newsletter. Because of space, I've had to omit the quiz for this edition, but it will be back next time. A reminder that the Family History Group will be holding a "Show & Tell" at 10.00am on Thursday April 15th 2021 at History House at which members and friends are invited to bring along an object related to their family history. Finally, a special thanks to Peter Cecil who at our general meeting held on Sunday April 11th at the Anglesea Hotel (an excellent venue) gave a most interesting and entertaining talk about his father Peter Cecil who contributed a considerable and significant volume of research on the history of Anglesea and the surrounding districts. His publications can be purchased at History House.

From the July 1997 edition of the Anglesea & District Historical Society newsletter:

THE LOVERIDGE LOOK-OUT PLAQUE

During the afternoon of Anzac Day 1997, a large gathering (including the Mayor and local Councillors) saw Joan Cameron-Murch (who did watch duty at the Look-out) unveil a plaque provided by our Historical Society to recognise the 56 local Volunteer Aircraft spotters who manned the observation post between 1942/45.



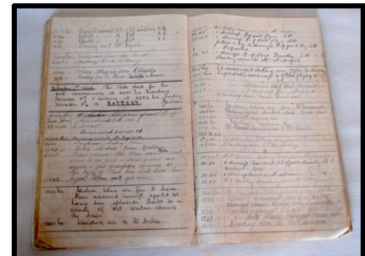
Arthur, Joan and Hilda
at the Look-out

Also amongst the surviving Spotters with Joan were Hilda Allan, Arthur Simmons and Jack Russell whose mother conducted the last recorded watch at the hillside viewpoint.

Fortunately the weather was kind to our outdoor cause. Conditions were perfect. Afternoon tea was later served at the Museum rooms ☐

Loveridge Lookout and WW2: items in the collection (Susan Clarke)

The most significant items that we have in the collection are the five logbooks that were kept by the Volunteer Air Observers from June 1942 to February 1945. They were completed by hand, and recorded sightings at sea and in the air. They list the names of the Chief Observer, regular observers and emergencies. (Item 0648/1217)



Another item of interest, although not unique to Anglesea, is the enamelled VAOC Observer badge. It has a single pin on the back and was made by Stokes of Albert Street, Brunswick. It is badge number 27582. There were three "ranks" in the VAOC: Commandant, Chief Observer, and Observer. Joyce Graham was the Chief Observer at Anglesea when on 1 December 1944, RAAF B-25D Mitchell (A47-24) crashed into the sea out from Anglesea. It was being tested at the Torquay bombing range out to sea from Pt Addis. Joyce saw the bomber practicing, then it caught fire, lost height and dropped into the ocean. Two crew members were lucky to escape but three did not survive. (Item 0567/1203)



Loveridge Lookout was built in 1938 as a memorial to James Loveridge by his widow Bertha Loveridge. The lookout is located near the former Loveridge owned property 'Anglecrest' (photo below) which was destroyed in the Ash Wednesday bushfires of February 1983. The site was selected by Bertha Loveridge as it was James Loveridge's favourite viewing location of Bass Strait. It was designed by the prominent Ballarat architect H.L. Coburn in the interwar modern functional style, and is the only surviving reinforced concrete structure of its type in Anglesea. Only a few years after being built, the lookout was used for important war defence. A small temporary room was built beside the lookout for the volunteers of the Volunteer Air Observers Corp (VAOC) who staffed it 24 hours a day. In 2013 Stage Two work on the upgrade of Loveridge Lookout site was completed by the Surf Coast Shire. This involved repairing a crack in the concrete, and landscaping the area. Our

historical society contributed over \$3,000 from its fund-raising to the venture. Next time you visit the museum at History House, make sure that you have a look at the Loveridge Lookout display cabinet.



1942



2013



Anglecrest was constructed on Lots 6-11 Sunnymead Road (now Harvey Street). The Loveridges moved in in 1927. They had no children and so, according to historian Lindsay Braden, it was bequested to the Trustees of the Church of England as a rest home for clergymen after Bertha Loveridge died in 1941.

WOOD RAFFLE: Thanks to Graeme and Prue Weber and some of our members we raised \$3,200 by raffling three trailer loads of wood. The first load was the old fence from the Bark Hut in Aireys Inlet. Loads two and three were dry messmate wood supplied by Graeme Weber. We sold the first load through our members and loads two and three in the street in Anglesea.

Winners were:

- Load 1 ticket No.043 K Gilhooley
- Load 2 ticket No.068 G Mahoney
- Load 3 ticket No.003 G Boak



Graeme & Prue Weber selling raffle tickets for a trailer load of wood

FLAG POLE: We have three of our members to thank for repairing and re-siting our flagpole. Jim Tutt and Barry Davidson took the old pole down and rebuilt it. Ryan McKnight repainted the pole before Jim and Barry put it up again in front of History House. They also put a new rope on the flagpole. We will have the flag flying when we have meetings, even if the meetings have to be elsewhere.

MAYOR'S UNVEILING OF LOVERIDGE LOOKOUT PLAQUE:

We are especially appreciative that the Mayor Cr Libby Stapleton will be available to officially unveil the Victorian Heritage plaque at Loveridge Lookout and the nearby Inverlochy mosaic lifebuoy ring restored by the Men's Shed. The ceremony will take place at 2.00pm at the Lookout. You will be most welcome to be part of these celebrations at Loveridge Lookout and later for a "cuppa" at History House.

LOVERIDGE LOOKOUT
HERITAGE REGISTRATION
PLAQUE
OFFICIAL UNVEILING

by Mayor Libby Stapleton

& UNVEILING OF THE
RESTORED
INVERLOCHY MOSAIC



2.00pm Sunday 18 April at Loveridge Lookout
Afterwards at History House, 5 McMillan Street



VISIT TO CAMPERDOWN: An outing to Camperdown will be held on Tuesday 4th May 2021. Camperdown is an early historic town, first settled by the Manifold brothers. We will go up the clock-tower donated by the Manifolds and visit the volcanic mountains and crater lakes. Lunch will be at the historic Commercial Hotel. Cost is \$20 plus lunch. Bookings essential. Book with Jan Morris 0448 526 311.

RESALE SHED: We recently received \$2,329.77 from our work at the resale shed. This is a great result for our efforts. Our next rostered day on is Saturday 29th May 2021. We will be most appreciative of any assistance on this day. We normally have two shifts, 10.00am to 12 Noon and 12.00 Noon to 2.00pm. Please let Jan Morris know if you can help on one of these shifts. Phone 0448 526 311.