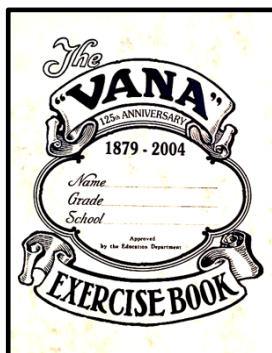
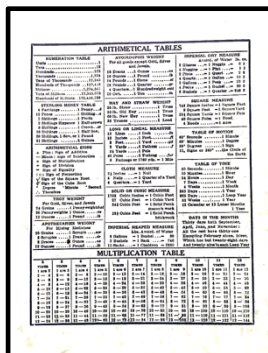


**Nibbles:** This is the first Nibbles for 2022, so a Happy and Safe New Year. In this edition of Nibbles we're focussing on education. Students and their parents have had a pretty tough time over the last two years as a result of COVID restrictions. Hopefully, this year we're going to return to more normal classroom teaching. However, as most parents will now realise, teaching methods and curriculum content have changed significantly over the years. The three Rs of my school days have given way to a much broader education program as the knowledge, technology, and needs of society have changed. Education is not just about knowledge and skill development, but also about adapting to a rapidly changing world.

I was born during the year of the creation of **ENIAC**, which stands for **E**lectronic **N**umerical **I**ntegrator **A**nd **C**omputer. It was the first programmable general-purpose electronic digital computer and was built during World War II for the United States Army. Its first major task was to do the calculations necessary for the construction of a hydrogen bomb. ENIAC weighed 27 tons, occupied a 15 by 9 metre area, and consisted of 40 panels arranged along three walls. It could do about 5,000 addition or subtraction calculations in a second. I only mention ENIAC because it operated during the period of my time at school, when most calculating was done by writing down numbers in columns on a piece of paper, and then adding them up in one's head. If you were born in the 1940s or 50s I'm sure you'll remember what it was like. In secondary school maths we used a reference booklet called "Four Figure Maths Tables" and in the senior classes we even got to use a slide rule. The thought of a computer such as ENIAC was like something out of the world of science fiction. Five thousand calculations a second. Wow! If someone had asked me then, what the world's technology might be like 75 years on, I would never have imagined in my wildest dreams what we have actually managed to achieve over the intervening period. That we now have mobile phones, which are essentially handheld computers, that have operating speeds some six hundred thousand times faster than ENIAC, and that the world's fastest supercomputer, Fujitsu's Fugaku, can do in a second what ENIAC would have taken more than two and a half million years to do, was even beyond the realms of the most imaginative science fiction in the 1940s.

If you're somewhat nostalgic (as I am), then drop in on History House and see our display of memorabilia from the early days of education in Victoria. I hope it will stir some pleasant memories. In my grade six class for instance, there were sixty students. We sat at wooden desks each seating two students. The desks were arranged in rows, and the teacher taught from a raised platform at the front of the class. The daily timetable was set in stone and the curriculum was imparted in a series of class lessons. There was no catering for individual differences in those days, and in fact, another "R" should have been added to **R**eading, **wR**iting and **aR**ithmetic; the R for Rote Learning. We practised our tables every morning, chanting them out in a monotonous monologue. We did our daily spelling and dictation exercises, learned our grammar rules, and obsessed over the four arithmetic processes. In the afternoon we'd read a story from the class reader, learn a bit about nature and history, study a poem, sing a song, and if time permitted, make something as part of art and craft. I recall that it involved activities such as sticking pussy willow catkins onto the outline of a cat, and weaving a cane basket. More than once I might add. At the end of each school year we'd be given a list of requisites for the ensuing year, which our parents would take to the local newsagent. There was the essential exercise book for our daily work, the space between the lines depending on one's grade level, a drawing book (no lines), an HB pencil and a set of twelve coloured pencils, a box of pastels, a rubber eraser, a twelve inch wooden ruler (30cm for those who went to school after 1975), and if you were in grade four, five or six, a dip-in pen with a few spare nibs. Those were the days when handwriting involved a firm down stroke and a light upstroke. On the back of our VANA exercise books were the twelve multiplication tables, as well as all the other tables relating to weight, quantity, capacity and money. How many pounds in a hundredweight, ounces in a pound, inches in a foot, yards in a mile, pennies in a pound? The move to the metric system certainly made arithmetic a lot easier. I do remember

ARITHMETICAL TABLES											
[Detailed grid of arithmetic tables including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division tables]											
MULTIPLICATION TABLE											
[Detailed grid of multiplication tables for numbers 1 through 12]											

that it was a great honour to be chosen as the ink monitor or to play the drums as the students marched into class after morning assembly. Our museum display may bring back such similar memories for you. (Karl Jacklin)

In this Nibbles, Susan Clarke, our museum curator, has written an interesting article about the "school slate." There's also a brief piece from the Lindsay Braden collection on the beginning of the Anglesea State School.

**Quiz:** But first, try your luck at these questions. The answers can be found on the back of a VANA exercise book, however you'll also find them at the end of this issue of Nibbles (no peeking).

- Q.1. How many yards in a furlong?
- Q.2. How many pounds in a stone?
- Q.3. How many shillings in a Guinea?
- Q.4. How many pints in a gallon?
- Q.5. How many feet in a fathom?

Before you complain, just remember, when I was a kid, we had to know these things off by heart.

### **School slate and pencil.** (Susan Clarke)

As the start of the new school year approaches, it seems appropriate to highlight a historic piece of school equipment from our collection. Most people would know that slates were used in schools until about 1950. They were originally used when paper was scarce or expensive. But why do the two slates in our collection (and all other examples from Australian collections that I could find) have "made in Portugal" on them? Initially this seems an unusual source of Australian imports.

It transpires that, historically, the Portuguese slate industry had a good relationship with the UK. In fact, the development of the slate industry was done in the first stages by Englishmen. The modern slate mining in Portugal began in 1865 with the foundation in the region of Valongo of the English company called The Vallongo Slate & Marble Quarries. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the company exported over 40 tons of slate to different countries, but mostly to Great Britain\*.



The decline of the Welsh slate industry has in part been attributed to the import of cheap slate from countries like Portugal. But I also read that another blow to the industry was the discouragement given by the English Board of Education to the use of writing slates in schools. Who would have guessed the significance of these simple pieces of equipment.

\*source: 'Iberian roofing slate as a Global Heritage Stone Province Resource', Dept of Geology & Soil Science, Ghent University, 2014



### **ANGLESEA STATE SCHOOL CAMP ROAD 1927**

The Forest Commission donated three blocks of land, to enable a State School to be erected at Anglesea River - the nearest School at that time was at Bellbrae. The new building and cloakroom opened as Anglesea No. 4332 on 25/9/1927. Miss Joan D'Helin was Head Teacher from 25/9/1927 to 7/1/1928. *Net enrolment was 14.* Extra land was purchased in 1954 for new additions to be erected. During 2011 the Primary School was closed and moved to a larger site ▷

Lindsay Braden

A more detailed history of the Anglesea Primary School appeared in the Coastal Current (Issue 112 2016), and the Inverloch Log (Vol. 45 2012) has an interesting article on "The Class of '41." These can be found on the A&DHS web site.

**News for family historians:** A reminder that every year on 1 January hundreds of state archives are made public for the first time as part of PROV annual Section 9 record openings. This year's files include: Ballarat Court of Petty Sessions Maintenance Register 1904-1920; Alfred Hospital Master Patient Index Cards 1944-1946; Supreme Court of Victoria divorce cause books October 1945 - November 1946; Geelong Courts Index to Convictions in Children's Court 1907-1922; Mont Park Mental Hospital Trial Leave Registers June 1920 - April 1946; and lots more. See the full list at: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/i-will-swear-jinnette-did-it>

**Answers to the Quiz:** Q.1 220 Q.2 14 Q.3 21 Q.4 8 Q.5 6

**School Jokes:** John comes home from his first day at school, and his mother asks him "What did you learn at school today?" "Not enough apparently," John replies, "They said I have to go back tomorrow."

Mum: What did you do at school today?

John: We did a guessing game.

Mum: But I thought you were having a maths exam.

John: That's right.

**Elizabeth Violet Butterworth OAM**



We were not surprised to read in the Australia Day honours that Betty Butterworth had been awarded the Medal (OAM) of The Order of Australia in the General Division, for services to the community through a range of organisations. Congratulations Betty, well deserved. There will be more detail about Betty’s work in the March edition of Coastal Current.

**Anglesea & District Historical Society**  
**2.00pm Sunday 6 February**  
**Function Room Anglesea Hotel**

Speaker: James Kelly  
 Topic: Anglesea Beaches 1950s & 60s  
 Members & visitors welcome

**SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

**10.00am Thursday**  
**10 February**  
**At History House**  
**5 McMillan Street,**  
**Anglesea**

**SPEAKER: Pam Jennings**  
**TOPIC: Inquests**

Members & Visitors welcome

**ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**& SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**  
**Outing Thursday 10 March**  
**Barwon Grange**  
 Leaves History House 9.30am  
**Cost \$15 plus lunch**  
 Lunch at Great Western Hotel

Morning tea at Balyang Sanctuary, site of home of Foster Fyans, Police Magistrate and inaugural Mayor of Geelong

**Bookings Essential**  
 Susan 0438 070 560  
 Jan 0448 526 311

**Upcoming Events**

**Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc./The Surf Coast Family History Group**  
 Attendance at our special events is open to members and other interested visitors. However, why not join our society and get the benefits of our society publications, as well as access to our collection of historical artifacts and reference library. Contact Jan or Karl at:  
[anghosthouse@gmail.com](mailto:anghosthouse@gmail.com)

**Australia Day Celebrations:** Congratulations to the Anglesea Lions Club and to organiser Jim Tutt for what many thought (including Betty Butterworth OAM whose husband organised the first of these Australia Day celebrations in Anglesea) was the best one yet. Given the uncertainty of the weather of late, we were fortunate to get ideal sunny calm conditions for our riverside setting. After the official opening and the national anthem we were greatly entertained by the Billy Tea Bush Band and later by well known speaker and performer Mike Brady, each of whom had their audience singing along with them at appropriate moments; who couldn’t join in when Mike sang “Up there Cazaly.” We also had a recital of some of Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson’s poems by Haydn Ricky and Karl Jacklin. Jan Morris, President of the Anglesea & District Historical Society, spoke of the history of Anglesea, and Dr Anthony Dillon, our principal guest speaker, gave an address which was most warmly received by the audience. The Torquay Lions Train kept the “littlies” entertained and the Anglesea Lionettes kept us all well fed. When David Morris of the Anglesea Lions Club finally brought proceedings to an official end, it was generally agreed that a great time had been had by all, and that we all felt privileged to be Australian and to be in Anglesea.



Mike Brady entertains the audience with “Up There Cazaly”