

The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 51, Spring, March 2014 edition

(Sub group of the Anglesea and District Historical Society Inc.)

Inverlochy Log



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Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

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Anglesea & District
Community Bank® Branch


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The Surf Coast Family History Group

c/o P. O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230

The Society is housed in the Anglesea Historical Society Museum
McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Library and Research Facilities

Tuesday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Wednesday by appointment

Saturday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Meetings held on

The 2nd Thursday of the month

commencing at 10am at the

Historical Society Museum

McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries:

Pat Hughes Phone 5289 6686

Peter Matthews Phone 5263 1686

Feb 13th 2014 Meeting: Barbara Hawkins

Vice President & Newsletter Editor of
"Port Philip Pioneers"

Exciting News !

March 4th 2014

Lady Teviot Afternoon

Will replace March 13th General Meeting

April 10th 2014 John Stewart

"Topic to be confirmed"

The Shire have informed that they are painting the Museum & research rooms in February because of this we will be holding our meetings at the Anglesea Community House We apologize for any inconvenience to members

Please note flyers will be sent informing you of changes

Committee Members 2013 - 2014

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Librarian

Committee Member

Committee Member

Committee Member

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The Anglesea Family History Group does not hold itself responsible for the accuracy of the statements or opinions expressed by authors of articles published in this magazine

THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD PROJECT

Regarded as one of the most scenic roads in the world, the Great Ocean Road was constructed following the end of World War I by workers, the majority of whom were returned servicemen. To find information about ex-servicemen who worked on the road has proved to be difficult. Regional Historical Societies, combined with stories from descendants have provided 327 names of workers, although some 3,000 men were employed. Of these about 600 were civilians employed by bodies such as the Great Ocean Road Trust (GOR) and the Country Roads Board (CRB).

The concept of having a coastal road goes back to the 1870's when contact between farms and towns was confined to very rough tracks or by sea going vessels. Survey work began in 1910 but it was not until the CRB, led by William Calder, became interested, that the GOR Trust was formed at a meeting in Colac on 22 March 1918.

The GOR Trust headquarters were moved from Geelong to East Melbourne where the Managing Director, C. R. Herschell, had his offices. Herschell was a documentary film pioneer who is famous for the 'Rose' series of post-cards. During World War II, a huge number of newsreels were produced, and as these took up a lot of storage space, the GOR files were destroyed.

The CRB supplied Surveyors, Engineers and Planners and it may be that some records of these people exist, but the files are apparently not easily accessible.

Under the direction of Warrant Officer Jack Hassett, surveyors started marking out the road. Following behind them were men who hacked out a narrow foothold like a bridle path by men on steep slopes, tethered by ropes to trees, so they wouldn't fall. The initial path was gradually widened using crow bar, pick and shovel. Unwanted material was pushed down the slopes. When the track was a bit wider, wooden wheelbarrows with iron wheels were used to remove rubbish and then later horses pulling wooden or steel scrapers removed waste. Wooden sleds were also used. Gelignite and dynamite were used to break up solid rock and these materials were brought from the Deans Marsh Railway Station by coach. The driver carried the detonators in his shirt pocket for safety reasons!

The road when finished was only 8 feet wide, necessitating a one way system of travel at particular times of the day. Initially it was not properly gravelled and it became rutted and impassable in the wet.

Conditions working on the road were very tough. Author Peter Alsop has overseer's lists which provide an insight into the working conditions which caused some men to quit: too hard, too wet, too dangerous, too far from family, poor pay. However the men were paid 10 shillings a day, which was above average wages. The men were well fed, but the food was probably monotonous with a boiled leg of mutton providing meals for a week. Local farmers who worked on the road sometimes provided some fresh bread and vegetables. Cooks in the camps changed frequently.

Straggled rows of ex-army tents were set up at various places, such as Stoney Point, Big Hill and Grassy Creek. The Salvation Army encouraged card nights, singing, reading, and discussion groups. The names of a few 'Salvo' officers who helped fight for the rights of the workers are known. Fishing, swimming, hiking and rabbiting were other pursuits which helped to occupy spare time and to keep up morale, family picnics at the camps were often held.

On 18 March 1922, the section of the road between Lorne and Eastern View was opened. Toll booths installed on 21 December 1922 helped to pay for the remainder of the road which was opened many years later, on 26 November 1932.

The year 2007 saw the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Great Ocean Road and was marked with many celebrations as befitted this iconic road. Many speeches were given, as were thanks to the ex-servicemen and others whose toil, sweat, blisters, hardships, heat, cold and adversity resulted in such an astonishing memorial to those who fought for Australia during World War One.

Commenced in August 1919, the 400 kilometre stretch of road from Lorne in the east of Victoria, to Allansford in the west, it was not until 29th November 1932 that the road was officially opened by Victoria's Lieutenant-Governor, Sir William Irvine.

During the intervening years some 2,400 ex-servicemen and 600 civilians laboured on this massive project, initially earning 10 shillings and sixpence a day in sustenance payments. This was shortened to "susso" and was the forerunner of the "Dole" as we know it today. Many other projects in Victoria were undertaken with this scheme.

Cont.....

The Great Ocean Road Project

Most records of the Great Ocean Road Trust were destroyed deliberately during World War Two leaving historians with absolutely no idea who formed the workforce that built the road.

Who bent their backs to earn their "susso?" Who built the bridges?

Who engineered the roads that hug the hills?

Who surveyed the trackless wastes to forge ahead and open up the land to farmers and graziers? Was your grand-dad, father, uncle, or brother a worker on the road? Did an aunt, great-grandma, mother, or sister assist with the feeding, cooking and other care for these men?



The Portland Family History Group is currently attempting to compile as complete a list as is humanly possible of those who had a connection with the road, and they would appreciate ANY and ALL information about your relatives or friends that you may be able to supply.

Anything at all such as names, age, where from, service in the armed forces, how long employed on the road, what job they had, which camp they were allocated to, copies of photos, or other memorabilia, written notes or other stories, how they coped with the work, in fact even the smallest piece of information would be of assistance in collating a list so that they can keep a small biography on all the names before this important knowledge is lost to all of us forever.

Contact details: Portland Family History Group Phone: (03) 5522 2266 Email: historyhouse@glenelg.vic.gov.au
Mail: PO Box 409, Portland, VIC 3305

Iain Grant Phone: (03) 5523 4550 Email: ij.grant@bigpond.com

A reminder of two ways you can keep in touch with what is happening in our group via the Internet:

1. Check our web pages

These will keep you advised of any news, including any changes to our meetings programs.

You can see our web pages at:

http://home.vicnet.net.au/~angen/fh_home.htm

(there is an underscore between 'fh' and 'home')

2. Send us your email address

If we have your email address we can advise you of any unexpected important changes or news. Your address will not be give to anyone else.



Send your email address and any other address changes to Peter Matthews, who keeps our address list up to date.

matthews@melbpc.org.au





Biographical
Database of Australia (BDA)

Just in case you missed it first time around

BDA is a new research tool for historians and genealogists comprising transcripts and indexes of many original records and published biographies of deceased individuals who arrived in or were born in Australia, starting from the earliest times.

This first release contains convict, muster, census, baptism, marriage and burial manuscript records for most of the New South Wales population 1788-1828, for Norfolk Island and Tasmania 1802-1811, and many immigrant and convict records from 1829-1837 along with full text of short biographies of 11,000+ residents of most colonies/states published 1881-1907.

Looks a very good site

One year's subscription to BDA is \$25 AUD

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>



The British Newspaper Archive What makes this project so special?

They have scanned millions of pages of historical newspapers and made them available online for the first time ever.

Search millions of articles by keyword, name, location, date or title and watch your results appear in an instant.

Compare this with hours of painstaking manual searching through hard copies or microfilm often requiring a visit to the British Library in North London and it is easy to appreciate the ground breaking nature of this project.

The British Newspaper Archive is a partnership between the British Library and brightsolid online publishing to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection over the next 10 years.



Christmas Raffle

Drawn: 21 Dec 2013.

1st prize: Ticket Number E002 - Wendy Howard

2nd prize: Ticket Number D236 - Adam



The Surf Coast Family History would like to Thank all Members for their kind donations and for purchasing tickets.

Thank you to our volunteers who sold raffle tickets it was a job well done

We would like to also thank the community for purchasing tickets and supporting their local family history group



What's new in Genealogy

New on Ancestry

Australia Birth Index, 1788-1922
Australia Marriage Index, 1788-1950
Australia Death Index, 1787-1985
Australia Cemetery Index, 1808-2007

Far North Queensland, Australia, Pioneers & Settlers Registers, 1825 -1920
Shoalhaven, Australia, Index to Births, Marriages, Deaths and Obituary Notices
from the Shoalhaven News, 1867-1873

Rockingham, Western Australia, Australia, School Indexes, 1830-1970
Perth, Western Australia, Australia, Rate Books, 1880-1946

Victoria, Australia, Index to the Children's Registers of State

1841 New South Wales, Australia, Census
New South Wales, Australia, Certificates for Publicans
New South Wales, Australia, Industrial School Registers, 1867-1925
New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests, 1821-1937
New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Police Employment

Tasmania, Australia, Immigrant Lists, 1841-1884
Tasmania, Australia, Passenger Arrivals, 1829-1957

UK Surgeon Superintendents' Journals of Convict Ships, 1858-1867
UK Royal Navy Medical Journals, 1817-1857
UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960
UK, Mechanical Engineer Records, 1847-1930

Web: Australia and New Zealand, Rootsweb Death Index, 1813-2003

These are just a few new records put on Ancestry
there are new indexes being added every day

You can view all records on Ancestry at our library

We are open Tuesdays & Saturdays from 10.30am-1.00pm



We have guest speakers every second Thursday of the month at 10.00am

Why don't you join us for morning tea and chat about your family history.

All Welcome