

11

**ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY Inc.**

NEWS LETTER No 10

PRESIDENT

Edith Lawn 631681

SECRETARY

Shirley Forsyth 631430

**ANNUAL DINNER SUCCESS**

Our Annual Dinner held at the Anglesea Hotel on the first Friday in November was an outstanding success with an attendance of 95 members and friends. Mr Jack Loney, the well-known maritime author, entertained his audience with interesting and witty stories of wrecks along our southern coastline, embroidering his account with much detail. Mr Neil McDonald voiced everyone's appreciation when he thanked Jack for his address. Special efforts (kindly donated by Mrs K Morgan and Mrs J Murch) were won by Mesdames J Jones, S McFadzean and J McDonald and Mr B Stanley. Special attention by the hotel management and staff added to the enjoyment of the evening.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We are delighted to welcome several new members, viz, Mesdames C Crocker, P Thomson, M Henderson, E Mann, Mr & Mrs J Harrison, Julie Hanson and Paul Paridaen, and Dr Darby.

You will be pleased to hear that Jim and Lucy King are settling well into their new home in the West and we were happy to be able to read their greetings to members at the Dinner.

**CALENDARS AND CARDS**

Don't forget your 1990 copy of the Historical Society Calendar now available at \$4.50 to members. The Volume 1 of "Anglesea History" would also make an ideal Christmas gift for a friend interested in the "makings" of our town - \$12 to members. Our new Correspondence Cards should also be available within the next couple of weeks.

**RIVER BANK EFFORTS  
AND  
INFORMATION CARAVAN**

Members manned a stall on the riverbank at Anglefest in November - two more dates coming up for our stalls, January 1st, Regatta Day and the Wood Chop on Sunday January 14th. We do need help on these occasions so please, if you can give an hour or two of your time it would be appreciated. We already have helpers for the Annual Art & Craft Show at Aireys Inlet over the New Year period.

We have also undertaken to man the Barrabool Shire Information Van on Tuesdays during January - this is a community project, so here is your chance to be an ambassador for your town - please advise the Secretary if you can help - shifts from 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm. We would like two folk for each session - we'll try and fit in with time you can make available.

The Museum will also open on Sunday afternoons during January - so again, we look to members to assist - we enjoy what we have accumulated in our collection and want others to do like wise - so please, if you feel happier in this environment rather than the river bank or information caravan, do advise me.

### SUBMISSIONS

We are still awaiting advice as to whether our submissions have been successful. The first to the Ministry for the Arts was for a grant towards the purchase of the video machine. The "back-up" for this project is to make a video of the old homes and historic sites in Anglesea - if this idea can be promoted among other Historical Societies, we could envisage an exchange of films, and so it would prove a means of getting to know the historical backgrounds of other Victorian towns - this in turn would make a subsequent visit to the locality so much more enjoyable and meaningful.

Members can help with this exercise by providing information about old buildings and any old photos they may have. Mrs Dorothy Gerlach has recently given us a delightful little watercolor she herself painted of Colonel Appleton's old home in Camp Road - the scene will be familiar to some of our members who may perhaps recall the house as the home of the Pohlner family for many years; or as Brearleys'.

The second submission made was to the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands and the Ministry for Planning and the Environment concerning a special heritage grant. If successful we have in mind to purchase a show cabinet in which to house fossil specimens from the Alcoa mine plus other samples, information and data concerning the brown coal deposits. Both Dr Christophel, known to members for his excellent talks on "digs" undertaken at the mine site, and Mr Des Hay, Power Station Manager, have expressed willingness to assist us with this project.

### ANNUAL MEETING — Alteration to the Constitution

Our Constitution states that the Immediate Past President becomes one of our two Vice-Presidents - a motion will be put to the next AGM that this be amended to read....

*The Immediate Past President becomes an ex-officio member of the new Committee. Also that the position of Recorder be changed to Librarian.*

Office Bearers for 1990 are.....

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| PRESIDENT       | Mrs E Lawn  |
| VICE-PRESIDENTS | Messrs A Poigndester & P Denham                               |
| HON. SECRETARY  | Mrs S Forsyth   |
| HON. TREASURER  | Mr A Stanley  |
| COMMITTEE       | Mesdames J Murch, B Marsh, J Wendt<br>Messrs K Cecil & G Cook |

### ACQUISITIONS

Mrs Gerlach has again provided us with some items in addition to the little painting previously mentioned. We have an interesting collection of tools etc which belonged to the late Alf Hollibon who built the house we now occupy. Also an unusual set of skittles, the large wooden variety - we'd be delighted to learn of their original owner if someone can provide a clue - Mr K Cecil and Mrs P Cockrell have also given items.

Mr Garry Armstrong has very generously made available for use by some of the community based organisations in the town, a Public Address system - this should be a great asset for those hard of hearing - they will no longer have to make a bee-line for the front seats!

### SOME EARLY RECOLLECTIONS

The following comprises excerpts from an account of early life in Anglesea as experienced by Mrs Adele Davisson's husband Robert who joined the Forests Department (now the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands)L in 1924 after leaving Scotland.

I arrived at Anglesea in December 1924. My wife Martha and two sons, Eric and Robert arrived in September 1925 on BORDA, P & O Line round Capetown. They got off at Fremantle as the stewards were on strike and I arranged for them to come by train, trans-continental railway, to Adelaide and then on to Melbourne. where I met them and then train to Geelong. We stayed at THE GABLES, Geelong West overnight and then caught Draytons Bus Service for Anglesea next day. We got into IVANHOE on the road to THE FARM (now Alcoa) Camp Road (corner of Wray Street - then not a street). The Forest Department bought the house IVANHOE from Mr Levine, a florist in Geelong. It was his seaside house. A third son, Cyril Jack Davidson was born on 30th July 1926. The house had no electricity at first. There was no water laid on (but tank water), no bathroom (bath by galvanised wash tub - two handles. The washing of clothes was also done in this, also kerosene tins for boiling clothes hung on hook suspended from iron rod held by two forked sticks stuck in the ground. A few bricks and stones were the fireplace and this was outside. The clothesline was galvanised wire hung from tree to tree and the clothes prop a straight messmate stick forked at one end.

The kitchen was unlined. A Colonial oven with the fire underneath and also on top. We had a kerosene primus for frying. Grilling was done outside in the fireplace. We had 20 fowls and a cow from Dick Purnell, Moriac - a pure bred Jersey but with no written pedigree. We rented for 2/- per year 2 acres across the road belonging to Mrs Hastie's Estate. We kept the fences etc in good order (Mrs Murray was her mother and she was postmistress and guest-house keeper opposite the school). This was burned down by bushfires approximately 6 years before my arrival. I never met Mrs Murray. There was a shed where I kept the cow feed and another I used for a cow bail and there was an underground concrete well for water for the cow. We separated the milk by using a ONE COW DEMO SEPARATOR and had milk, cream and butter stamped with a thistle brand. At that time milk was 4d a pint, cream 6.5d per half-pint and butter 2/6d per pound. I grew vegetables on rented land fenced from the cow. Potatoes, beetroot, tomatoes, lettuce, onions, cauliflowers, cabbages, kale (seed from Aberdeen). I sold spare vegetables to others, the highest price caulies 2/6d, sometimes 8d and 9d. Twenty-three years and no bushfires came through the town.

#### PEOPLE

Evans' Farm (now Alcoa)  
 Next door Mr & Mrs Symons (Bill)  
 Mr & Mrs Renton Mousley, parents of Phyllis Simmons had the Post Office and Store which was the only shop. None over the bridge.  
 Bill McRorie opposite tennis courts)  
 Phil Harvey  
 Bingley  
 Mrs Mawson  
 Herbert Brearley  
 Bill Hale-(a year after I came)  
 Mrs Jack Beckingham at DEBONAIR.  
 Humes - pipe people  
 Jackson, contractor from Oakleigh for the Education Department built the school and boarded with us for a time.

\* More of this account will be published at a later date.

#### SPEAKER FOR DECEMBER MEETING

As announced at our Annual Dinner and in the local Press, members look forward to hearing well-known identity Ken Ingraam give some of his recollections of early Anglesea.