

## ANGLESEA &amp; DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

NEWSLETTER No 15 - January 1991

PRESIDENT - Edith Lawn - 631681  
HON SECRETARY - Shirley Forsyth 631430

Greetings to all members for 1991 - do offer assistance when and where you can to ensure another successful year of activities for YOUR Society. If you have any suggestions that you feel would be of interest and achieve this result, do come forward with them.

**MEETINGS - past and to come**

Our annual dinner in November was attended by more than 70 members and friends. Mr Ken Nall was indeed the excellent speaker we'd expected - he delighted his audience and gave plenty of "food for thought" as he spoke about his travels and impressions in various countries and the changes taking place world-wide. The re-unification of the two Germanys was well to the fore just then - it would be interesting to hear an updated view in light of present events.

Neil and Jenifer McDonald entertained us at the Christmas meeting with word and tangible descriptions of their trip through the Australian outback. We did appreciate seeing the souvenirs etc the McDonalds showed us at the meeting, especially the "Enobs" - fascinating Jenny!!

As you'll remember our President Edith returned to Cornwall last year to participate in the Grand Curnow Homecoming. Her grandfather left there in 1866 with his 9 year-old son (Edith's grandfather) to migrate to Australia. We are looking forward to our February meeting (Saturday 2nd) to share some of Edith's experiences during her trip, which also included a visit to Kent for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain .

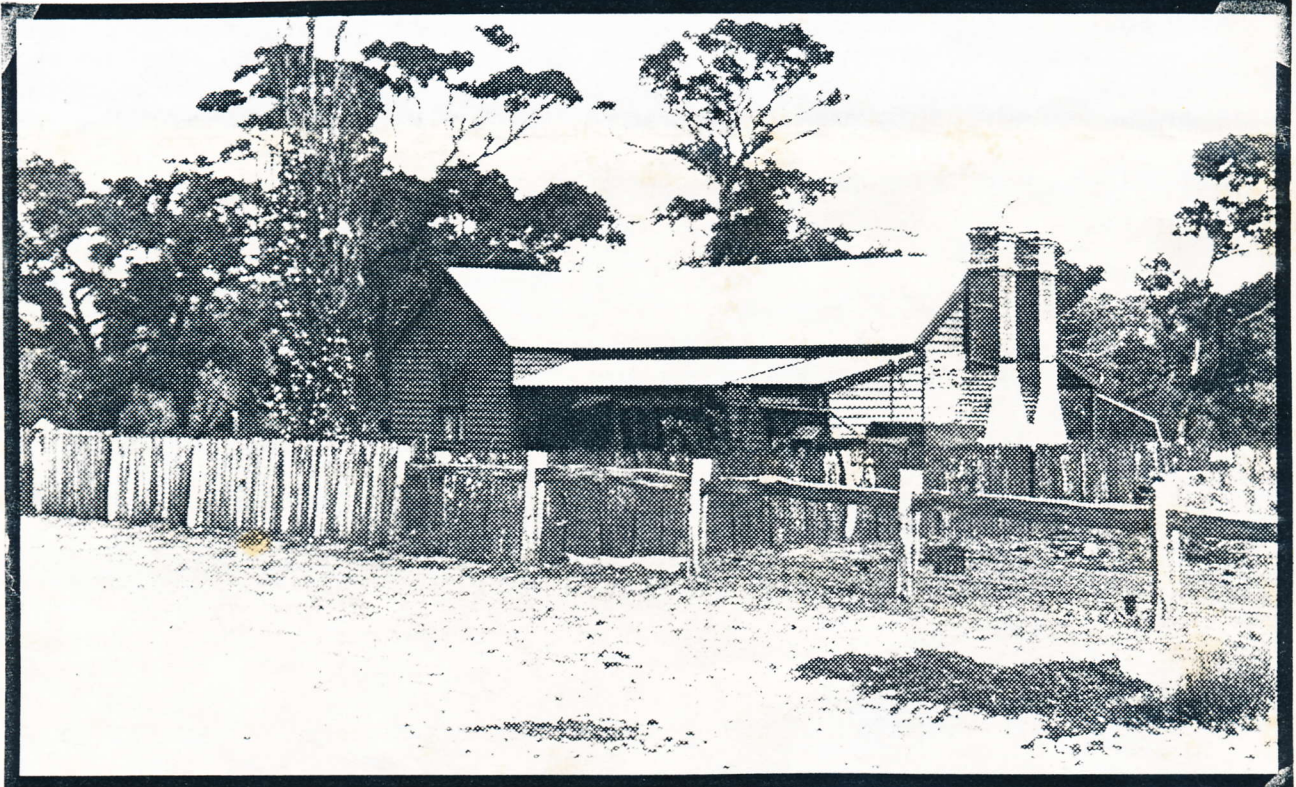
In March we shall hear from Mr John Howe who will tell us about the Commonwealth Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong and will also show us a video of that institution's activities.

**STALLS**

Thanks are due to members who helped on our stalls and on the riverbank and are continuing to "host" Sunday afternoons at the Museum throughout January and the Information Caravan on Tuesdays during the holiday season. We seem to be the only local organisation to have taken on the responsibility of a regular time spot for this particular community venture.



Our Treasurer has been working out his sums and at the February meeting will present a little statement showing what profit has been made on our stalls. There has been an increase in the charge for these riverbank market sites and the "three for less" option no longer applies. In view of this, your executive, after some thought, decided to forego the last market, i.e. Woodchop Day (for which we will not be charged) and open the Museum from 10.30am to 4pm using several signs to promote the fact. We weren't exactly rushed but those folk who did visit our premises were most impressed by what they saw - one can perhaps hope "word of mouth" will ensure more visitors in the future.



ANGLESEA'S SECOND POST OFFICE - Rebuilt after the disastrous 1908 bushfire which destroyed Mrs Murray's original building.

#### ACQUISITIONS

A handsome painting of the late Colonel Purdue by local artist Jim Foley is a recent addition to our Museum collection and for this we thank Mr Brian Butterworth. Colonel Purdue had the distinction of firing the first shot in the First World War from Fort Queenscliff.



Colonel John Purdue, OBE, lived for some years in Murray Street. He died on 24th March 1980 at the age of 90 years. After war had been declared in London at 11.30pm on August 4th 1918 (it was 9.30am on the 5th in Australia) word was not received by the Australian government until 12.30pm owing to inadequate communication between England and Australia - just contemplate the difference with the present Gulf War - media at saturation point!! A German ship, the PFALZ, had left Melbourne at 7.30am that morning and the Government ordered that it be stopped. As there was no telephone contact between Melbourne and Fort Nepean the Government telephoned the fort at Queenscliff asking that Fort Nepean be signalled with flags!! Fort Nepean on receipt of the message signalled to the PFALZ to heave to or be sunk. When the directive was ignored Colonel Purdue was ordered to fire a shot over the bow of the ship which he did at 12.50pm. When captured, the PFALZ was found to have war-like stores worth more than £90,000 in the hold including a number of four-inch guns. It also had several gun plates on deck ready to take the guns and authorities believed it was destined to become a merchant raider in the Pacific. The gun from which the shot was fired is displayed outside the training school at Portsea.

Donations are already coming in for our annual Easter Saturday garage sale - please check out your cupboards - you may have missed something in last year's "out of season" spring clean, or perhaps you need space for your recent Christmas gifts etc necessitating parting with something that hasn't been used for years - remember there's always someone wanting to "enjoy" your surplus goods.

The Society has purchased a fitted hose and "rain-wave" sprinkler attachment for use in the grounds - it is "housed" in the garage. If you happen to be on duty at the Museum and feel the "lawn" needs watering, please set the hose up - the tap is to the left of the garage alongside the driveway running into the property immediately to the back of our grounds. The garage key is clearly marked - it is kept on the shelf in the cupboard opposite the kitchen door.

#### PHOTOS

Our historical photos are undoubtedly one of our prize draw cards; we have recently catalogued them all in sequence (with colour coding and brief description also noted). This should assist both from a selling point of view when looking for a particular series of pictures, and also ensure that when a new group is being done for the Museum display, duplication is avoided.

At least half a dozen of our pictures will be winging their way to America next week having been purchased by a member of the Hume family.



It is rewarding to observe the number of young people showing such interest when these historical photos are on outdoor display - queries about what year etc they'd been taken originally, perhaps to be judged by the earlier style motor vehicles or dress styles make for interesting conversations!

#### VIDEO

You may remember the Ministry for the Arts Grant received for 1990 was made following our submission for funds to produce a video of Anglesea and surrounding areas. We had some amateur cameramen on the job on Regatta Day and at the Woodchop. The best of these shots will be incorporated in our video (and the photographers rewarded with a blank video as compensation). Australia Day proceedings will also be "shot" for inclusion. Alcoa has again come up with assistance. Actual mining procedures, re-vegetation and fossil digging are featured in material given to us as another facet of life in Anglesea.

#### EXCURSION

The postponed excursion to Point Cook RAAF Museum and the Werribee Mansion will hopefully take place some time in March when the rose garden should be at its spectacular best - more details nearer the time.

#### REMINDERS

1. A Committee Meeting will be held on Friday 1st February at 10am at the Museum to plan further activities for 1991.
2. February meeting - Saturday 2nd at 8pm - CORNWALL REVISITED
3. Items for the Garage Sale - Easter Saturday, March 30th - and helpers too please.
4. Excursion to Point Cook and Werribee Mansion - Tuesday March 5th - confirmation at February meeting.
5. Subscriptions due from October 1990 for 1991 membership. If you are one of those folk who has not already sent in your \$5 (a small X appears along subs) the Treasurer would be pleased to hear from you - Box 33 Anglesea will find Arthur Stanley - or better still, come to the February meeting and make payment then.
6. March Meeting - Saturday 2nd at 8pm - John Howe - Commonwealth Animal Health Lab., Geelong.