

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

NEWSLETTER No 27 - JUNE-JULY 1994

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What a happy thought - we have passed the shortest day - albeit by a day or two only, but no doubt a good deal of wintry weather still ahead! Numbers of our members will be enjoying warmer climates in the Sunshine State and extending as far afield as the U.K. where Myrle Smithwick is making the most of her months away from home; in a card received from Cornwall she sends regards to all her friends.

Our little excursion to Otway Roses and Apollo Bay Museum in mid April was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants - a visit to the former can be thoroughly recommended, although should be left now until Spring when the roses again will present a stunning display. The tea house makes an ideal spot for Sunday afternoon refreshments 'specially if you are wanting somewhere attractive to take visitors.

Our hosts at the Cable Station Museum were overwhelming with their hospitality and justly proud of the collection. The emphasis on lighting of the exhibits was particularly noted - something we would like to introduce at Anglesea. We have decided to defer any further excursions until Spring.

GUEST SPEAKERS - In April Alan Willingham gave a great talk about old buildings and their restoration, very well illustrated with slides. Owing to an unfortunate incident regarding 'leads', we were temporarily left without a workable projector - thanks to Ray Bush for smart action in collecting one from home we were soon 'in business'. One interesting fact was to learn that there had been quite an influx of Swiss/Italian settlers in the Daylesford/Hepburn Springs area before the turn of the century - their style of architecture still visible today - one of Alan's stories about an Italian family who had built a substantial residence which was his 'brief' to restore in recent times.

John-Claude Rowland's presentation of 'Visions of our Coastline' was shown to a capacity audience at the May meeting. We are most grateful to the Lions Village for the use of their Hall and to everyone who supported our effort for the Day Centre Appeal - a cheque for \$350 was handed to Ray Bush and Ray Murphy the same evening.

Quite a contrast for our first afternoon meeting in June - Stan Stott, perhaps better known as the Town Crier than a jeweller - had an interesting story to tell about the family business which has been operating continuously in Geelong since well back into the last century, although from various premises. Stan's favoured stone is the Opal - there were some interesting answers to his query "What thoughts does the opal stone evoke". Members were also anxious to show Stan various pieces of jewellery, not for an appraisal but from an interest point of view.

JULY MEETING - SUNDAY 3rd - 2PM AT THE MUSEUM

A change has had to be made to the advertised programme. We had been looking forward to hearing from Mr William Roadknight Dexter who was to tell us of his forebears, the Roadknights. However, a health problem has caused his medico to advise against coming to Anglesea and Bill has reluctantly agreed to take that advice. Now in his 80's, he's not as nimble as he used to be, but hopes to be able to keep his appointment with us later in the year - he has his notes all prepared.

Member Norma Smith has recently returned to her home in Anglesea after three months in Capella, "outback Queensland" where Bill took on the job of relieving Shire Engineer. At short notice she has agreed to give an insight into the life of the locals and also some history of the area. A name well known in parliamentary circles - FAIRBAIRN - will feature in her talk. The old family homestead is being restored - do come and hear for yourselves.

ACQUISITIONS - Again we are grateful to the following donors:-

1. Photocopy of marriage certificate of Harriet Amy Coutts and Charles Anglesea William Bubb (first baby born here) - Lindsay Braden.
2. Copy of agenda of the last meeting of the Barrabool Shire (after 129 years) Miss Elsie Samuel.
3. Name tag for Barrabool Shire function. Mrs Edith Lawn.
4. Photos of original bark hut at Airey's Inlet, pre and post restoration. The original hut was destroyed on Ash Wednesday and the present building stands on the same site. Mrs Edith Lawn.
5. Photographs of Sichlau and Jackson graves at Yea. Lindsay Braden.
6. Books from Mr John van Brandenstein.
7. Book from Mrs M O'Donnell - The Gay Provider - by Alan Marshall which tells the story of the Myer Emporium. It is planned to re-organise the cataloguing and storage of our collection. Members may borrow books from our 'eclectic' stock. We are hoping that Mrs Margaret Ingham will be able to assist us with this project.
8. Album for storage of photographs etc. Mrs Jean Wendt.
9. Updated research notes on early Anglesea families. Lindsay Braden.
10. Wheel Chair. We have an incomplete history on this forerunner to today's more streamlined functional models. Community Health Centre.

LINDSAY BRADEN'S NOTES

TELECOM'S SUDDENLY FOUND POINT ROADKNIGHT.

I notice in the latest 1994 telephone directory that customers on the south side of Harvey Street just above "Anglecrest" are now listed as living in Pt.Roadknight. Is this the first part of a sinister plot by a Government department to split our dear old Anglesea in half. We locals all know where Pt.Roadknight is, but what about strangers who live interstate. They can easily identify Anglesea on the map, but I doubt if they would know the whereabouts of Pt.Roadknight. It has also been proved that when outsiders phone for directory assistance, they are informed that there are no people of that name listed in Anglesea, and the assistant cannot find Pt.Roadknight designated in the postcode section of the very same directory - so already its not working.

Looking closer at white pages entries, one finds that for instance those living in Pickworth Drive are classed as living in Anglesea, and those living in Second Avenue are classified as living in Pt.Roadknight - so Harvey Street corner of Melba Parade must be the borderline.

Whoever approved of this momentous departmental decision, must have stumbled across the subdivisional history of the area, and noted that before the Great Ocean Road came into being, the expanse to the south of Harvey Street between Melba Parade and O'Donohue Road, known as lot 12 (273+ Acres) ran right down to the ocean. It was first purchased by G. F. Belcher, who in the early twenties sold to C.J. Lane a Tailor from Melbourne. Lane subdivided all this area as the "Sunnymead" Estate and effectively cut the sweep in two by (at his own expense) creating the Great Ocean Road. Why after all this time has dear old Telecom (apparently without consulting the people listed in the directory) decided to rename Anglesea's Sunnymead Estate extent all the way up the hill to the south side of Harvey Street as Pt.Roadknight? If they have this bee in their bonnet about re-naming the area, why not call the section to the south of the Ocean Road- Pt.Roadknight, and the hill area on the north side of the Ocean Road- Anglesea.

I realise that Anglesea has its connection with the Roadknight family, and know that the Point was named after William Roadknight Snr. Also Frank Roadknight, a Geelong Estate Agent had many dealings in early Anglesea. He resubdivided the land north of the Four Kings, and once had a holiday cottage on the east side of Tonge Street. Next thing we know, someone in departmental office will discover that when the Shire of Winchelsea's boundary went as far as the west side of the river, the area was called Gladstone (after the British Statesman). Will Telecom at the stroke of a pen, also decide to rename this area? Can't wait for the next issue of white pages.

Lindsay Braden.

**WHY IS THERE A LACK OF GRAND OLD BRICK HOUSES IN ANGLESEA ?
THE FOLLOWING ARE MY THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER - DO YOU AGREE WITH THEM ?**

Most of Anglesea's pioneer homes (pre-1910) exist only in history. Bushfires, white ants and developers have taken their toll. Unfortunately only a couple of the early houses remain in 1994, both are of timber construction - one is "Blink Bonnie" in Parker Street, the other originally named "Hereford House" by the Colledges, is in Holmwood Avenue. In days gone by, (apart from the Sichlaus whose timber farm-house "Norsewood" was in Camp Road) graziers built further inland and utilised Anglesea only as a outstation for their sheep and cattle -hence no large bluestone brick pastoral homesteads were ever built in or near the township. Closest to our area were "Angahook" at Airey's, and Gundry's Ironbark Station at Jan Juc (Bellbrae). "Angahook" built from stone quarried from a nearby hill was destroyed on Ash Wednesday, and Joseph Gundry's Ironbark Station homestead, a two storey brick house of 11 rooms at Jan Juc (Bellbrae), was later reduced to single storey, then used for hay storage, and eventually demolished. However many people from the land used Anglesea as a summer holiday or retirement venue and built their timber cottages here. Another reason as to the lack of early brick houses in the region, was that an almost impenetrable Iron bark forest from Freshwater Creek to Bellbrae made access to the area near impossible, and offered very little inducement for carriers with horse drawn wagons to bring heavy building commodities such as bricks into the sector. In the middle twenties a couple of houses were constructed of hand made cement bricks manufactured on site, but this idea did not become popular.

DO YOU THINK COST HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE LACK OF EARLY BRICK HOMESTEADS IN OUR TOWNSHIP AREA ? *Your thoughts would be appreciated. Kindly write to us c/- P.O. Box 98 Anglesea 3230, or contact me on (052)633311. Lindsay Braden. Researcher.*

FROM THE RHSV NEWSLETTER - JUNE 1994

I wonder whether anyone could help this researcher?

HELP WANTED - The first Australian Exhibition of Women's Work, held in the Melbourne Exhibition Building in 1907 includes the display of some 16,000 items made by women. As part of research into the Exhibition I am attempting to locate surviving items as well as relevant souvenirs, certificated or medals, photographs and references in personal papers. I would be grateful if anyone who is aware of such material could contact me. Mandy Paul - 133 Donald Street, East Brunswick, 3077 - phone 03-3860614.

Some dates worth noting:-

May 7	1894	The railway from Korumburra to Jumbunna in Gippsland was opened. (Is it still operational?)
May 12	1844	Governor Gipps published the purchase regulations requiring squatters to purchase 320 acres every 5 years.
May 18	1944	The Borovansky Australian Ballet began its first national tour in Adelaide with 40 dancers. (I was there - Sec)
May 22	1844	Australian Philharmonic Society held its first concert in Sydney with Isaac Nathan as conductor.
May 23	1944	John Newcombe tennis star was born.

and from the Victorian Historical Journal - June 1994:-

WHERE DID THEY BURY CHARLIE GRAY? Mapping errors and a certain amount of confusion about the actual route taken by Burke and Wills during their epic journey across Australia in 1860-61 have led to the belief that team member Charles Gray was buried at Lake Massacre.

A fresh look at the tracing of Will's original map, and the discovery of several actual campsites have forced a review of all modern maps that depict the expedition's route and challenge the marked site of Charlie Gray's grave. Much of the earlier 'evidence' has proved to be misleading or inaccurate.

The Burke and Wills Memorial in Melbourne originally stood in the middle of the intersection of Russell and Collins Streets (near Scots and St Michael's churches) but has subsequently 'travelled' more than the explorers until reaching its 1994 resting place in Swanston Street Walk. If you would like to read more, take the opportunity to borrow this booklet from our library.



OUTSIDE JONAS HOLLINGWORTH'S HUT AT POINT ROADKNIGHT - EASTER 1904