

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

NEWSLETTER No. 50 APL.2000

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When visiting the Society's Museum in future members and visitors will be observing a change to "traffic conditions" - an IN and OUT road will be in use-landscaping of a large area towards the Community House will also give a very different aspect to the surroundings opening up visibility to the Museum.

And speaking of visitors - we have been in turn, visited by a number of history buffs interested in forming a Society at Torquay; then several members from the Lorne Historical group, and finally Apollo Bay enthusiasts (from whom we've had an invitation for a "return visit") - they have a fine Museum at the old Cable Station. A great exchange of ideas etc. resulted from these visits.

Two of our members, coming to us from the Family History Group. viz., Harry Davies and Winston Huggins, are setting about to clear the garage of "utility" items in readiness for highlighting some of our special treasures that don't exactly fit in with our Museum scene "upstairs" e.g., sporting items will be relocated as well as some "hardware". Harry and Winston will be happy to have assistance from any willing helpers.

**** BYGONE DAYS ****

This was a most successful fund raiser to assist the Family History Group with the purchase of more reference material. Ann Dixon is a passionate collector of gowns etc. from another era and has a wonderful social commentary to complement her display. Musicians Heather Weiss and Tim Gibson provided a very "apt" interlude with selections from Gilbert & Sullivan and the old favourite "Drink to me Only" for a moment or so, surrounded by the 19th century clothing, a gentleman's frockcoat with no outside pockets, collapsible top hat, starched free traders (have you ever worn any of these?!) we were "transported" into another world. Betty Vanderstoel with her fascinating collection of bobbins - some collector items - used in lace making also added interest.

The recent visit to the Eastern Cemetery also evoked memories of the past. This conducted tour was well attended with a delightful lunch provided by The Friends to follow at the Geelong Botanical Gardens.

Peter Russell Clarke hosted about 20 Society members who visited SOHO - they were taken thru' the galleries and garden before refreshments were enjoyed.

**** MAY MEETING **** Our speaker will be Brett Kelly - he has published an interesting book on the interviews he has conducted with some well known Australians - come along and hear him first hand on May 7th.

In April Brian Williams gave a wonderful talk to accompany a collection of slides which he put thru' an intriguing magic lantern! (about 100 years old) Mostly taken by his father in the Aireys, Moggs Creek area, they were of excellent quality and most interesting. We would like to see more of these slides sometime.

Our researcher Lindsay has been as busy as ever. He was very happy to meet up with some Harvey Family descendants who provided him with photos and maps to assist in his sleuthing!..Dr. John Tonge who also features in this newsletter, provided photographic material etc. We are indebted to these folk for their interest in our Society.

Some reflections for readers in the year 2000 of events just 100 years ago come from The INVESTIGATOR publication of the Geelong Historical Society.

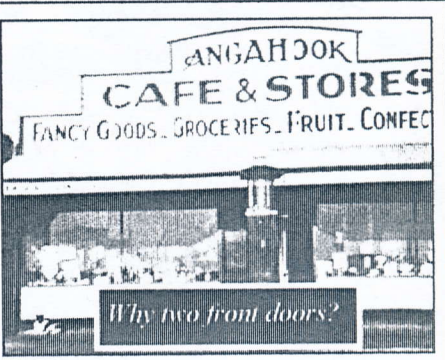
- APRIL 5TH 1900 - J.S. Mayall 'said to be" leaving SOHO near Drysdale for Gippsland - clearing sale to be held on April 11th.
- MAY 5th 1900 - C. Sandford, formerly of Newtown and Geelong Football Clubs 'said to be" appointed Captain of the St.Kilda Football Club.(a bit of trivia for the Saints followers)
- MAY 14th 1900 Hendy & Apted called 2 tenders closing May 17 for works assoc.with the new electric power station near YarraPier.
- MAY 29th 1900 Hanging of th pictures in the art gallery at GeelongTown Hall 'said--' been completed;Walter Withers assisted in the layout of 50 oils. Gallery officially opened May 31.
- JUNE 4th 1900 First pole in the supply of electric power erected on June 4th at corner of McKillop and Yarra Sts.-cables to supply Geelong proper were to go under ground!
- JUNE 6th 1900 Licence of the Factory Hotel transferred on June 5th from the late Daniel Ryan to Bridget Ryan and that of the De La Ville Hotel from Mary J.O'Toole to Annie Duff and later in the same year,Dec.15th, licence of Victoria Hotel, Queenscliff transferred from Maria Johnson to Nellie Florence Millard - earlier that year on March 13 the licence of the Hit or Miss Hotel in O'Connell St. West Geelong had been t/fd from Christina to M.Kennedy and also the Olive Branch Hotel from W.McGregor to Rose Scullin - women to the fore here!!!

BACK TO 2000 -----

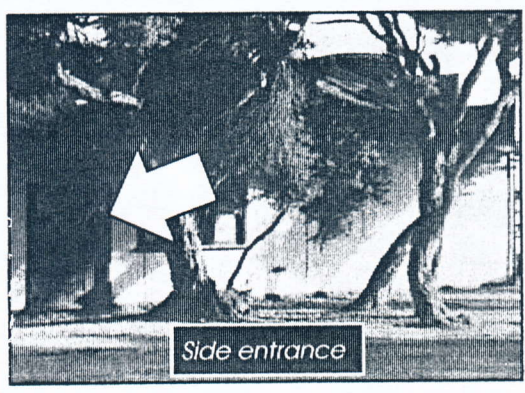
Annual subscriptions were payable last November. A red star beside will indicate if you are in arrears according to our files. If you wish to continue your membership please remit \$8 a.s.a.p. to the Treasurer.

Store doors from the past

As you enter Maid Marions store on the River Esplanade you will notice 2 access doors. Only one is used today - *why is this so?* Rex Baldry informed me that trading laws were different when his parents founded the establishment



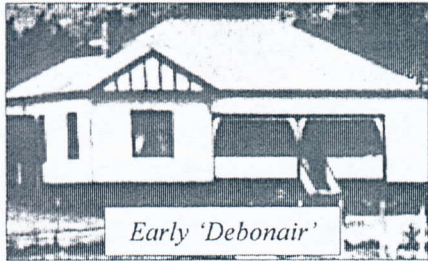
in 1927 - *groceries could not be sold on a Sunday.* This separate section was closed and partitioned off, and the General Store section kept open. Hence the two doors at the front were to keep legal with the unusual trading requirements of that time.



Also have you noticed the now un-used access door facing Minifie Avenue - *what was it's use?* This was once the entrance to the Angahook Café, which advertised seating for 60 people. Before the Community Hall was built many important township meetings were held at this venue. Saturday night dances were held here during WW2. *Take a closer look next time you call.* ■ -L.B.

HEDLEY STORY CONTINUES FROM OUR PREVIOUS NEWLETTER

After the War, Les and Nancy built a home in Harvey St. and when Debonair was for sale they bought it from Mrs



Beckingham. It was only a large house with a few extensions. Les then built all the extra rooms and an upstairs flat for

themselves. They were then able to accommodate about 40 people. Les also built the first six Motel units in Tonge St. as well as the tennis court. His wife Nancy attended to the cooking and staff and Debonair became a well known and popular guest house.

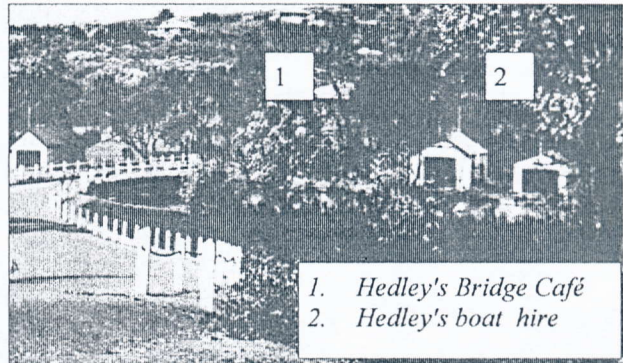
"Debonair" GUEST HOUSE

(N. Hedley, Proprietress)
Phone 21

Newly renovated, excellent accommodation and table. Wonderful sea view, right opposite surfing beach. Children welcome.

My father had worked for the PMG and was in charge of the "gang" of men who constructed the telephone line from the overseas Cable Station at Apollo Bay across the Otway

Ranges. It was quite a long job and the men boarded in farmhouses where ever possible. Ray Clarke of Eastern View and Anglesea told me my father gave him his first job when the men were staying at the Clarke's farm.



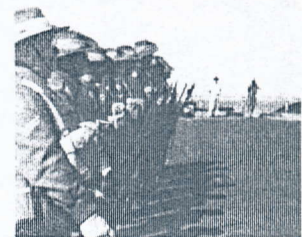
Many are the stories he told us of the great jugs of cream and wonderful meals served there. After arriving back in Geelong, the same men put the lines underground from Geelong to Melbourne.

Because of ill health, my father retired in about 1942 and built up his boat hiring business which was very popular. He taught several people to row to make up crews for the regatta held on New Years Day. Great was his excitement when two TV Stars whom he had taught to row, won the women's pairs. As there was no trophy to commemorate their win he presented one which I think is still in use. One of these women rowers was Joan Bilco. The Bridge Café was leased for several years and finally bought by Jim Solly. There was a hand operated petrol bowser in the front and when construction work was being done for the new bridge alignment, the old tank was discovered when excavating. * LUCY R.. KING (nee HEDLEY) - to be continued in our next newsletter

Surf Coast wartime plaque unveiled



Through the efforts of Jim Ferguson and the Torquay and District Ex-Servicemens Club, a plaque was unveiled at nearby Pt. Addis on Sunday April 9 to commemorate war time action in the Surfcoast. *Re-enactment groups gave atmosphere to the occasion.* Because focus was on the action up north, very little was recorded of the happenings down here. Pt. Addis was acquired by the RAAF in 1943, and a camp established and used until 1960. The area just out to sea became a busy bombing and strafing range. Until 1945 reconnaissance planes from Pt. Cook passed overhead twice a day searching for enemy submarines. The turrets of Lincoln bombers were tested at Addis. A B25 Mitchell bomber equipped with extra fuel tanks in the bomb bay and replacement bomb sights, crashed out to sea 12/44. *Bruce Ruxton AM. OBE. unveiled the important commemoration plaque. L.B.*



A.H.S. group outings - Harvey's rock and Eastern Cemetery



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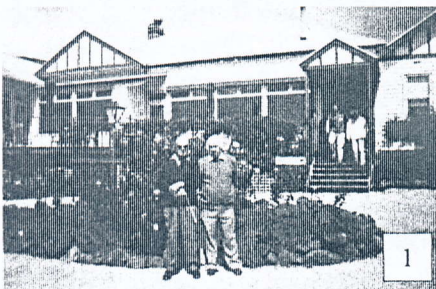
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1. Little did Troward Harvey imagine that an AHS group would gather 100 years on, at his rock carving.
2. Harry clears the sand from the famous rock etching
3. Some of the Eastern Cemetery group lunching at the Botanical Gardens.
4. At Eastern a sudden chill came into the air when Agnes Murray floated across to see Stan Stott/Harrison.
5. Lunch at the Bot. Gardens

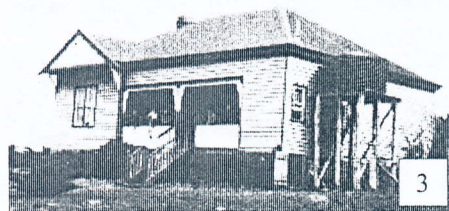
'Debonair' re-visited



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A sprightly Dr. John Tonge (whose parents built 'Debonair' as a holiday cottage in 1916) came down from Brisbane and made a welcome return visit to Ken Hume's 'Debonair' Guesthouse & Motel in November 1999.

During an enjoyable and informative interview John mentioned how his family originally travelled to Geelong by Bay Steamer, and then by horse drawn wagon, arriving at Anglesea late afternoon.

John's parents originally purchased the site from Harvey Sichlau. They selected local builder Walter Harrison to construct their seaside cottage. This was placed to look across the river mouth towards the ocean. Arthur Tonge had a keen sense of humour and named their new abode 'Debonair' to be in frivolous harmony with Harvey Sichlau's 'BonAir' directly next door - these names still remain.

'Debonair' was built to accommodate a large crowd. Each of their five children usually brought a friend(s). There were two bedrooms plus two large bunk rooms - one for boys and one for girls.

The Tonge's boathouse was in the Parker Street group - their boat was named 'Plain Jane.' They also participated in the annual regatta, and made great use of the surf beach opposite. Cray fishing at Roadknight was a popular past-time. A brisk beach hike to the cave at Addis was often indulged.

In 1929 they sold their cottage to Mrs. Annie Beckingham, who established 'Debonair' as a Guest House ■ -L.B.

Photos - 1. Dr. John Tonge (LHS) outside the 'Debonair' rose garden & guesthouse in 1999. 2. Dr. John explains details of an early photo. 3. Tonge's 'Debonair' holiday cottage in 1917.