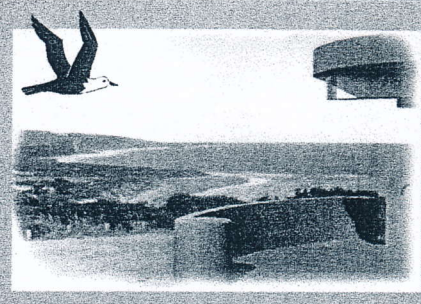


# Coastal Current

seaside tidings from ...  
The Anglesea & District  
Historical Society Inc.



Newsletter No 57  
January 2002

Anglesea & District Historical  
Society Inc.  
Box 98 Anglesea 3230  
Victoria. Australia.  
Incorporation No.  
A0009246F

President :  
Val Amery  
(03) 5263 1852

Secretary :  
Shirley Forsyth  
(03) 5263 1430

Treasurer :  
Beryl Parsons  
(03) 52631164

Meetings  
The Historical Society meets on  
the first Sunday of each month  
unless otherwise notified

Museum  
Our Museum at 5a McMillan  
Street Anglesea, is open on the  
second Sunday of each month  
2-4 pm.  
or by appointment

Web site -  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~angen/>

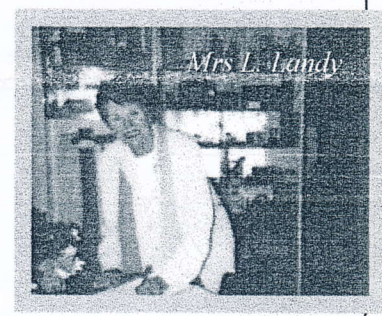
e-mail -  
[anghist@hotmail.com.au](mailto:anghist@hotmail.com.au)



## Summer snippets

VICE REGAL VISIT Mrs. Lynne  
Landy, wife of the Governor of

Victoria, included our Historical Society in her visit to the Surfcoast  
Shire on October 24th 2001.  
She was accompanied by CEO Ms  
Diana Patterson. Mrs. Landy is shown  
signing the visitors book.



A new year for our Society - what lies  
ahead??

GRANTS Three important items to  
report ! Our submission for a grant to  
provide gas heating for the rooms (it will  
be a portable unit) was successful and work should be commencing  
in February or March on the installation.

From a Small Grants program initiated by the Shire we set up the  
working program with the Primary children. This will involve them  
meeting with some of the Senior members of our community, taping  
the conversations and photographing the participants. The results  
will be formed into albums, one for the School, the other for the  
Society archives. We have been promised great co-operation from the  
School staff and look forward to this exciting project.

We have yet to hear the result of our 3rd attempt to gain funds for the  
restoration of the Inverloch Log Book, and have our fingers crossed!

But success on another front. With accompanying letters from the  
Anglesea Surf Life Saving Club and the State Body of Life Saving  
we proposed Paul Lunny as a worthy recipient of the Surf Coast  
Shire Citizen Award and we are delighted to report that this  
application was successful. The official presentation will be at the  
Lions Breakfast on Australia Day at 9 a.m.

This is most appropriate as the Anglesea Club will celebrate it's  
Jubilee in February with a number of special events, one of which  
includes an invitation to the public to attend a display on Sunday  
February 3rd.

OPEN DAYS Again a small band of volunteers has been respon-  
sible for roster duty on Sundays in January, but unfortunately public  
response has not been encouraging. Those who have taken the  
opportunity to visit have been most interested and enthusiastic.  
Perhaps members could help by bringing any house visitors they  
have over the holiday period to the Museum - you may have seen a  
poster or 2 in shop windows (prepared by Linds) - if you have any  
other ideas to promote awareness of what is to be seen at 5 McMillan  
St. please let us know.



*Summer snippets continued from page 1*

CALENDARS Another success story. After several years lapse the Society calendar was re-introduced in a more modest form - an "in house job" with Lindsay responsible for the art work, and assistance from Community House with the printing - a "sell out" !! Another money spinner devised by Linds. is a page of three photos showing familiar Anglesea landmarks - the past, more recent past and present - featuring Angahook Store (a.k.a. Maid Marion's) the bridge, Hotel, old Anglecrest Guesthouse to mention a few. At only \$5 per sheet they represent good value.



*Winston Wade*

PAST MEETINGS  
The Annual Dinner was enjoyed by over 50 member and friends. Jean Wendt's son-in-law Winston Wade entertained his audience with his experiences

in the employment field maintaining "There is life after redundancy".

In December Geoff Caldwell from the Baptist Camp Wilkin spoke about the formation of the enterprise - an interesting

story in itself as Baptist involvement in Anglesea goes back to the beginning of the last century and longer!

There is a small booklet on Camp Wilkin available at our Museum. David Morris whose wife Jan is a member of our Society, is responsible for its "authorship".

TOWN CRIERS Stan and Melva gave us a "cameo" presentation of the Cape Otway Signal Station project celebrating the Federation of Australia by recreating the 22 metre high flagpole that signalled to the forefathers of a developing emigrant nation Australia.

The massive Flagstaff will be erected on it's original position at the most prominent point at Cape Otway. The flagstaff next to the Lloyds Signal Station and with it's national and signal flags flying will once again be a symbolic beacon of hope to shipping and boats entering or leaving Bass Strait.

The Flagstaff attracted Federal Government money. Tourism Great Ocean Road has funded the Lookout, and Friends of Cape Otway is launching an appeal to raise \$20,000 for the restoration of the Flag Room.

FIRST MEETING 2002.  
Our first meeting for 2002 is on Sunday 3rd of February. Please do make a special effort to attend - our speaker will be George Bottrliell and his subject - Norfolk Island -which of course has a highly significant place in early Australian history.

ANGLECREST DESK And now for some of our own history. We have been very fortunate to have the original Anglecrest desk donated to us by Brian and Betty Butterworth - it has been beautifully restored by our "do anything" man Harry Davies and the official presentation will take place at the February meeting . All we need now is a handsome oak chair to complement the desk - any offers?

We also have a fine new display cabinet which has been given to us by Community House - we are most grateful for these handsome additions to our premises.

OBITS  
On a sad note we record the passing of long time members Ted Faggetter, Ted Pavia and Nan Hooke - our sincere sympathy to their families.

Loris Pavia who has been an active member for many years will be leaving Anglesea to reside in Geelong. We shall certainly miss her, and wish her well and hope she will retain an association with us.

A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY  
Former President and benefactor Joan Cameron Murch celebrated her 90th birthday on January 27th. All members wish Joan a great 2002. ■ S.F.

**SUBS ARE NOW DUE ... PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE FINANCIAL**

**New concept. Three very reasonably priced A&DHS photos per A4 page (depicting then and now) - a great talking point!!**



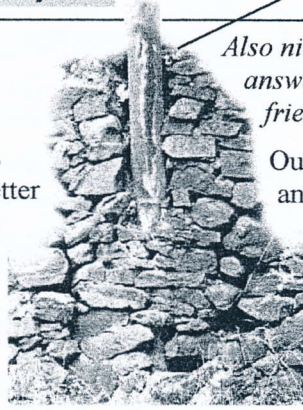
## EDNA WALLING'S hideway...

**T**here has been a renewal of interest in noted landscape designer EDNA WALLING.

Your may remember some two years back an article appeared in our Newsletter after four members visited the remains of 'East Point' Chalet - *Edna's hideaway*.

Recently an interesting site appeared on the Web. This is by Tantamount Productions in Association with the State Library of Victoria, in conjunction with "our" ABC.

These excellent pages provide access to Edna's garden plans, photographs, letters, articles etc.



### Remains of Chalet chimney

*Also niece Barbara Barnes reveals the answer about Edna's choice of close friends - which surprises no-one!*

Our previous article mentioned that Edna and helpers erected the small Chalet amongst ironbarks, giving her the opportunity to blend into the steep incline, negligibly disturbing the tranquil scene.

Apparently she did this work herself because no builder of that time was willing to work on this steep, one in three, remote site.

*Edna eventually moved to Buderim Q. The unusual villa was destroyed by the 1965 fire ■ L.B.*

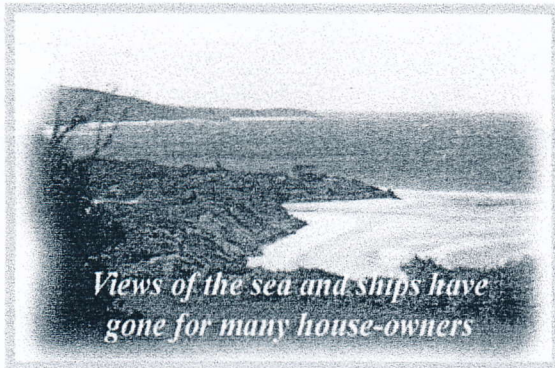
## EARLY ANGLESEA

*(part four) - continued from our previous Newsletter*

### Why were the first blocks to be sold on the western side of the river, positioned at the coastline .... the greatest distance from the town centre ?

**S**imply because at this stage the bridge did not exist, and these blocks were the ones nearest to the river mouth access, *which was the closest way back to town.*

Being near the beach they had magnificent views of the Ocean and Bass Strait. *No tall trees to block your view in those days.*



Early photos and *interviews with several pioneer family descendants*, confirm that most of today's local high eucalypts and pines were planted by their great grandparents- who gave little thought as to how HIGH they would be in future years - and of course now to the great grand-children's dismay, *their childhood views of the Ocean HAVE GONE!!*

Most of these tall eucalypts were planted by our

pioneers, and are not original to this area.

In other words the early Gladstone Estate Hill from Harvey St. to Noble Street was just grazing land, with a smattering of light scrub. The Point Roadknight area was also clear, as in earlier times it was used for growing farm crops.

#### Why were the first subdivided blocks as large as one acre ?

You must remember that transport at that time was by a horse drawn vehicle. If you came in your own conveyance, space was needed to tether the horse. Also a dam was required to water the horse.

Another fact of life, in those early days there were no such things as a septic tank or sewerage, hence a spot was needed for an outside drop toilet.

I have been reliably told that huntsman spiders caused many a panic in those early exterior 'hooses'. *As you can imagine, a one acre block was just sufficient for early household requirements*

■ *Lindsay B.*



- *To be continued*



# Nancy McDonald's ANGLESEA

The late Nancy McDonald addressed our ADHS on June 2nd 1984. These edited highlights give a fascinating insight into Anglesea's past.

Part 2 of 4



**There were wonderful rock pools at Roadknight and Urquhart Bluff in the thirties. I had my first colour film about 1938 and took photos of anemones and all kinds of sea grasses - the pools were living wonders !**

**M**r. Monks arrived about that time and built a shack near the beach. He lived there for some years with his family. He had a little boat, and would net the bay. He'd row across and we'd swim behind with the net. He had incredible eyes, and was able to see the garfish moving. 'Now's the time' he would say, and we never failed to get a catch.



At first this shop was used as the Sunnymead Estate land sales office, and you could also buy vegetables and cakes there.

As soon as they started selling cakes Marion followed, and things started looking up as far as town baking facilities were

concerned.

**Regarding fires - we were here when part of the old wooden bridge was burnt .....**

Any garfish under 12 inches we would throw back. Fifteen to eighteen inches was the usual size. Fish were just so plentiful that generally we had twenty five fish each, and Syd. had three baskets full to sell in Geelong. Hand netting was legal in those days.

During the war years two more fishermen arrived, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Milliken. They built the first two huts on the beach. As they did not have boats they used to swim out with the nets. After the war the price of crayfish had increased to 2/6d for a dozen.



We wanted to take some back to Melbourne. I ordered 12 and Jess ordered six.

I think this was in the mid-forties. There were very few men to fight the fires as they hadn't come back from the war. All the able women in town had backpacks, and we fought the fires all morning.

*We went home to the corner of McMillan Street for lunch.....*

Whilst there Mrs Sudhill (*who always was inclined to overplay things*) came in and said that the fire was at the back gate. We said 'oh yes' and when we looked out the back gate WAS

**BURNING** - and the flames continued right down McMillan Street. Wray's fence was burnt, but the house was saved.

**Mr. Morrow placed these in a damp bag and they went into Geelong on top of our bus.**

At the Geelong Station we decided to transfer six of them into another bag. You will remember that there used to be seats all around the waiting room walls. There were women and kids everywhere. Anyhow we got the bag into a corner and as we started to transfer one of the crays someone cried out '*it's alive!*' You know the waiting room just cleared - you never think of getting live crayfish these days!

Syd. Monk eventually bought Noble's old house at the back of today's ladies hairdressing salon, and also built the shops where the Salon is today.

We went along to find Mrs Monk's mother, and there she was sitting on the veranda. The fires by then were all around and she said "*I'm not leaving!*" She had a two year old with her, *we sprayed them both with water so as they wouldn't catch fire!!!* We filled our backpacks from a mobile tank at the river.

Part of the bridge decking was burnt, and it was declared unsafe. To get across the river we had to detour around the back way on an incredibly rough road.

This was always a bad bridge as the planks had been laid the wrong way - it was skiddy! ■

*- from N. McD. address 1984.....*

**to be continued in our next newsletter.....**