

Coastal Current

seaside tidings from ...

The Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.



Newsletter No 58
April 2002

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

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Secretary :
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(03) 5263 1430

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Beryl Parsons
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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 -
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Autumn snippets

Autumn is with us after an
extended summer - these
mornings there's a certain

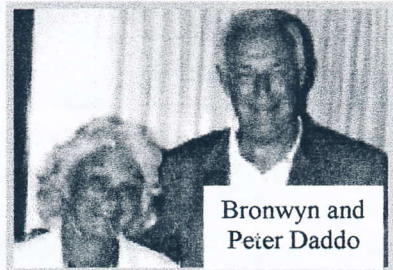
unmistakeable chill in the air ! The recently acquired gas heater,
(thanks to a grant from the Commonwealth Government celebrating
the International year of the Volunteer) will certainly be welcomed
by the Family History Group who busily carry out their research two
mornings or so each week.

Speaking of gas - an interesting par appeared in the latest
"Investigator" (produced by the Geelong Historical records) a report
dated January 29th 1902 from the Geelong Advertiser:

"As Belmont had previously been lit by lamp only, the Shire
President, Cr. J. C. Anderson invited the public to commemorate at
the Shire Hall the arrival of gas. The Geelong Town Brass Band
played 'selections' around the streets which were lit by gas -
followed by a brief programme at the Shire Hall. The President said
Gas Lighting was a step in the right direction - possibly electricity in
the distant future." *Here we are - going from electricity to gas !!
(for heating that is.)*

Now back to 2002 - we started our year with an interesting talk by
George Bottriell who with his wife spent some years on Norfolk
Island. So enthused were some members that a holiday at Norfolk is
a distinct possibility for some of
them.

In March husband wife team,
Bronwyn and Peter Daddo had
two sides of medicinal remedies
to talk about. Peter for a good
part of his working life was with
NICHOLAS (Aspro) and
Bronwyn indulges her passion
for herbs and their healing properties at their estate in Yea.



Bronwyn and
Peter Daddo

It would be difficult to upstage Murray Whitmore our April speaker
for enthusiasm. - he's a fanatical fitness
exponent for folk of all ages.



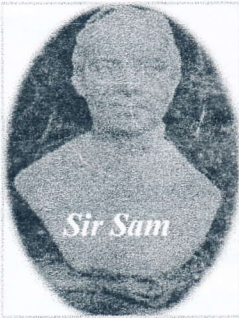
He has competed in many marathons including
the famous Boston and New York events as
well as participating in the Grand Canyon
areas.

At our May meeting Chris Richards will
entertain members with a special reference to
the early French explorers who navigated our
southern waters.

Autumn snippets continued from page 1

ACQUISITIONS

Recent acquisitions include a bust of controversial Sir Samuel Mogg, which disappeared in



mysterious circumstances from its original outdoor display site (near the Mogg's bridge) many years ago.

This was recently left (without explanation) at our Museum's front door. We will act as custodians, and for safety place it on display inside our premises.

Also a small plaster bust of the late King George VI has been donated.

Peg Cockerill has given for the Society to copy, an interesting shot of a Great Ocean Rd. construction team. Also a 1938 edition of the Broadbent RACV camping guide which contained an advertisement which turned out to be a "gem."

This cleared up a grey area regarding Baldry's General Store (now 'Angahook' Café) opposite the river, which was later purchased by Marion Francis.

Our research showed that Marion managed the store after the Baldry's departed for Lorne in 1937, and that she purchased this in 1942.

The 1938 advertisement stated that Baldry's owned stores in both Lorne and Anglesea - which verifies that Marion was only Managing the Anglesea Store at

that time. (Grey area cleaned up!)

We were pleased to receive 34 copies of "The Land of the Magpie" (written by Ian Wynd) from the Surfcoast Shire. The book tells the story of old Barrabool Shire, and is now available for purchase at \$10 per copy.

Jenny Crawford from our local Primary School has been busy cataloguing the rest of our books, and has also donated 3 volumes. Jill Giles has also made a further donation - we thank them both sincerely.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

The Society has recently purchased a digital camera and a CD writer.

As you know, today we scan photos directly into a computer, they are no longer processed in a darkroom. Recently our Museum's 463 photos were copied onto a CD disk for safekeeping.

For some time Lindsay has been worried about his collection of 1276 local photos. Our new CD writer has enabled us to also copy these onto disk, now giving the Society a combined total of 1739 photos.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to our Society and none more than Rodney Fernald and his



sister Jean Ireland, descendants of the Fernald and Mawson families whose holiday cottage complete with outbuildings and tennis court was once on a large tract of land in from the south east corner of

Noble and Murray Streets. Both these families have local Streets named after them.

They have loaned many interesting local photos to copy for our display, for which we thank them both.

Members will be sorry to hear that Pat Must (now living in Sydney) has recently been hospitalised for surgery - we wish her well. We also look forward to having Alice Brook back with us after an op. in Melbourne, and it is with much regret that we report the passing of Margot Boyle who was an interested and valued member.

This is a bumper mail out as you will have discovered. Our constitution has been revised - necessary as we now have the Family History folk as a sub-group and also eliminate references to the Barrabool Shire, which has been out of existence for some years!

This will have to be voted out of existence at our June meeting - so please make sure that you are familiar with the document.

The FHG Inverloch Log is also enclosed - both newsletters will in future be sent out at the same time.

There are still a number of unfinancial members - if you fall into this category a small red star will appear here.

Please remit your \$10 ADHS fee to Treasurer Beryl A.S.A.P. and if you do not intend continuing with membership please advise the Secretary.

In these days of "hard to find apprenticeships" an item in the Geelong Addie 28/11/1840 makes for interesting reading. Under the heading - AD-LIB -

Wanted, a youth, as an apprentice to the Printing Business. His education will be attended to. Apply at the office of this paper !

■ Shirley Forsyth

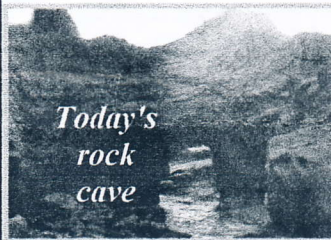
The Blow Hole at Red Rock

Until last month our photo collection did not include a shot of the old blowhole in action - *we now have 2 - both from albums.*

A WALK TO THE CAVE

Nearly every local would have walked to the cave around the corner from Urquhart Bluff. This was once part of the blowhole!

Some years back after parking near the rocket tower, you skirted the driftwood pile and headed towards Red Rock. The spot where the late Frank Buckhurst fished for plaice was soon passed and then a pause at the lovely rock pool.



surrounding the Bluff. Their cottage, shed and orchard were once high in the valley that leads down to the beach.

At Red Rock (depending on the tide) it is still possible to scramble through the ledges of a cave that remains from the old blow hole.

Before the 1950's, a dirt road traversed from the Great Ocean Road to an unofficial camping area above the old high tide air current site once known as the Grotto.

TIME MARCHES ON - *Ivan Roadknight moved Buckhurst's cottage into Aireys. Their orchard succumbed to bush fires. The blow hole collapsed during the 1940's. The scenic dirt road and camping area were closed, and the rocket tower at the Bluff was dismantled and carted away. Driftwood ceased with the coming of modern container ships... Only memories remain. !*

■ Lindsay Braden

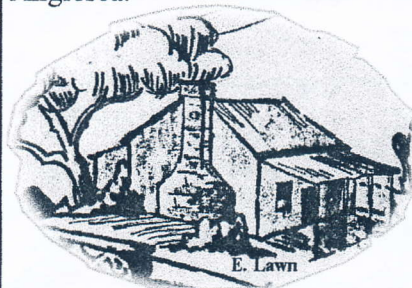


EARLY ANGLESEA FAMILIES THEIR LAND AND HOUSES (part 5)

Why were all the early Anglesea buildings constructed of timber ?

Simply because - *it was almost impossible to cart bricks there over the existing two wheeled tracks with horse drawn vehicles.*

Research shows there were no suitable bluestone deposits known to be available near Anglesea.



The closest, just west of Freshwater Creek was mined to construct that area's Lutheran Church. Also, the early tracks through the ironbark forests presented enormous *physical*

difficulties for horse drawn wagons to cart hand made bricks to this newly discovered locality.

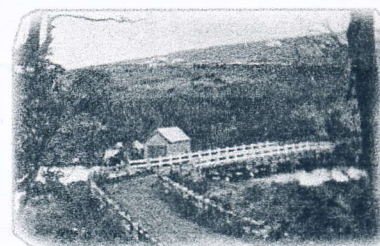
However - some bricks did reach the district for the construction of house chimneys. Many chimneys were also built of just local rocks.

Anglesea at first was only used as a summer holiday retreat, and a timber cottage was the popular way to go. In the twenties a couple of houses were constructed of cement bricks. These alternate building blocks were manufactured on site - but the idea did not become popular.

During 1886 an 1887 there was another two releases of Nobles land in the McMillan Street, Jackson Street, and River

Esplanade areas.

In 1892 the much needed bridge was built, making the Noble street area closer to the township. Land in this vicinity was then released for sale.



Even after the bridge was built the permanent population of Anglesea remained on the eastern side of the river, and the holiday-makers kept mostly to the western side.

I have been reliably told that local children seldom crossed the bridge ! ■ L.B.

Nancy McDonald's ANGLESEA

*Edited highlights from an address by our popular member the late
Nancy McDonald on June 2nd, 1984 Part 3 of 4.*



In 1944 Marion's store was the hub of Anglesea. Marion was short and stout and had definite ideas on how to run everything on earth. She stocked all you could imagine, and knew exactly where every item was. If you wanted hooks for schnapper she would pull everything out, produce the hooks, and then put everything back.

There could be six deep in the shop, and she would look over the crowd and say "what do you want." Someone non local would probably say "I was here first" and Marion would answer "regulars first." Or sometimes she would be even firmer and say "they're residents." The other people could either wait or leave it!

They had a large room behind the shop in which Marion would serve anything up to 100 meals each week-end. It was a big thing (especially when there was rationing) to come down to Anglesea for a mid-day dinner.

She was an excellent cook, and it was a marvellous meal. How she did it was a source of wonderment. Her mother would be in the background, but it was Marion who did it all, and looked after the shop at the same time.

As well as being Secretary of the local Red Cross she was also an Air Observer up at the Loveridge look-out, which was manned 24 hours each day.

Everyone who went up there rode a bike, as petrol was rationed. Marion bought a bicycle which she never learnt to ride. She used to push it up to the look-out every time, and then walk it down to the bottom of the hill. She would then get on and

coast down to her shop. I used to say that the whole procedure was



Marion Francis

wasted effort, but she would reply that everyone had a bike and she would have one also.

Because of shortage of space she kept the bicycle next to her bed. But to get into bed she had to wheel it into the next room. Burta Cheney asked her one day if she would sell the machine she said "oh no." When Burta reminded her that she had a car,



Marion's reply was that there might be another war.

She would never let anybody else handle the petrol sales. She often said not to trust anybody at the pump. When she died the number

of old rusty tins and cartons of wartime cigarettes that were taken to the tip was amazing.

Many truckloads were needed to clear the old side shed. When something was completely off she would throw it out. You never got the freshest fruit or vegetables there. Milk in those days came in large cans and was ladled out.

One day we went into the shop, it was just after the war, and she was very upset. She said that there was a family wedding near Bendigo and indicated that she would have to miss it. We said that we would run the shop for her.

We found that she had hundreds, literally hundreds of tins of red salmon, which you couldn't buy for love or money during the war. They were stacked in her bedroom this deep. We asked her why she didn't sell them.. She replied that the war might have gone on for ever, and they might be needed some day.

We ran the shop for the weekend, and the three of us couldn't credit how she coped.

Fortunately she did ask someone to come in and wash up, but we served 60 lunches that day after Marion left for the wedding □

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

*Final of this popular series
in our next Newsletter*