

Coastal Current

Quarterly Newsletter Of The

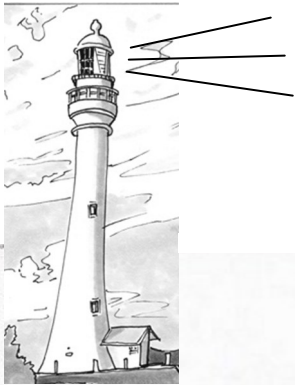
Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 98

Autumn 2013

The Anglesea & District Historical

*Society is a not for profit organisation
staffed by volunteer members of the
community, whose aim is to research
and preserve history of the local area.*

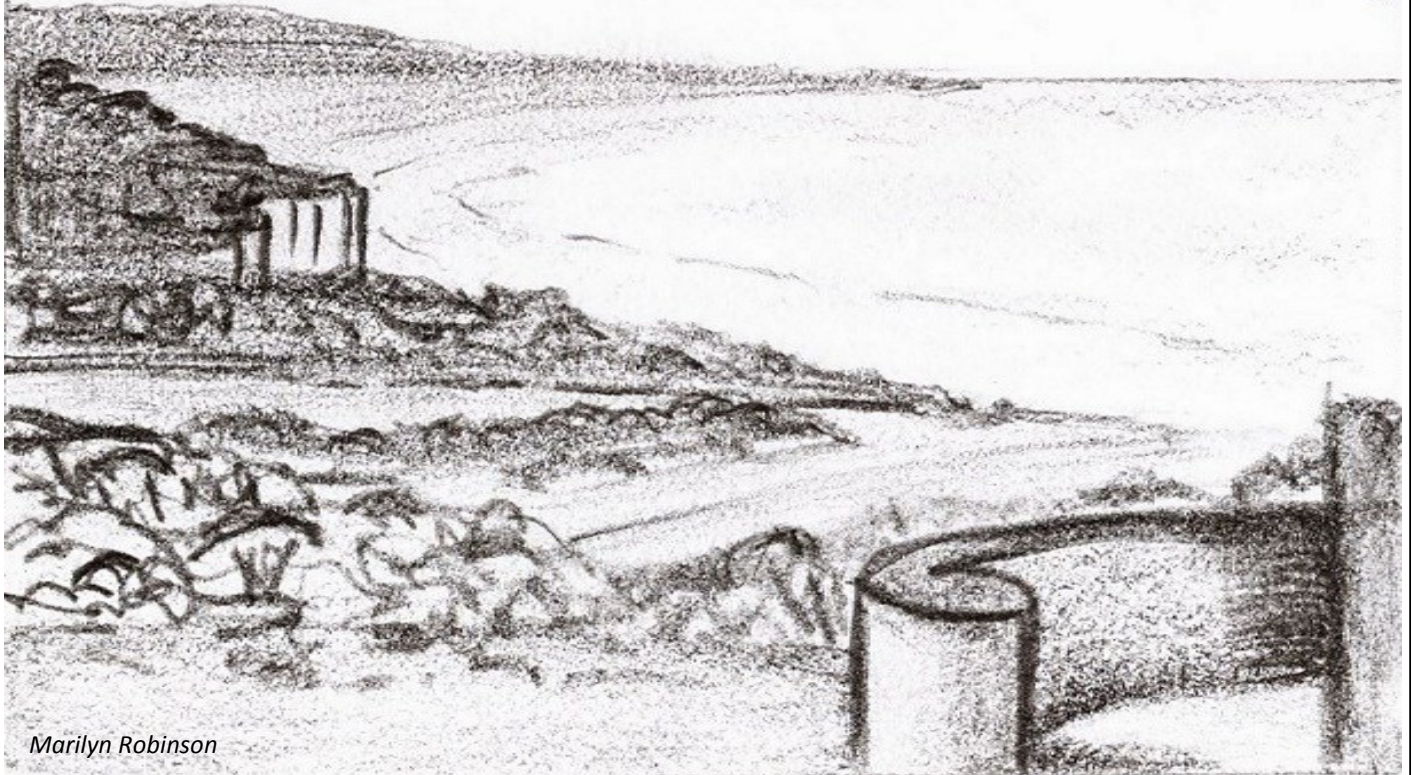


Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History



Marilyn Robinson



PLEASE NOTE - The Newsletter will be sent only to financial members.
Membership fees apply from 1 September to 31 August

Meetings & Activities

Meetings are held at the Museum
5a McMillan Street, Anglesea
Entrance 4 of the McMillan Street
Community Precinct

The Historical Society meetings are on the first Sunday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October & December).

Meetings start at 2.00pm followed by a speaker and afternoon tea

Historical Society Committee

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Coming up:

SUNDAY 10 MARCH - *Unveiling of Coogoorah Park*
Names 2.00pm—bring your friends

APRIL - **Sunday 7 April 2.00pm** Speaker
Rex Bills - *Bills, Beds & Birds*

MAY - **Wednesday 8 May**

visit to Barwon Park, leaving 10.00 am from Museum
Book with Jan Morris 5263 3085 \$10 (\$7 conc.)

JUNE - **Sunday 2 June 2.00pm**
Education in the Past, - bring your old school memories and memorabilia

Museum Our Museum at 5a McMillan Street Anglesea, is open by appointment -
Phone 5263 1249

Photographs

Anglesea & District Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs that may be ordered through Jan Morris ph. (03) 5263 3085

Email - davejanmorris@bigpond.com

	On high quality photo paper	On 100 gsm fine finish paper
A4	\$15	\$8
8.26X11.69		
A5	\$8	\$4
5.82X8.26		
A6	\$4	\$2
4.13X5.82		
A3 maybe available by special arrangement		
11.69X16.53		

**Australia's Longest Marriage
81 years, 259 days**

Joseph Jo(z)e Zekulich born 22 born 1907
married 25 May 193 1
Rose Ruzha (née Beus) Zekulich born 1914

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

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Secretary Snippets

The year 2013 is promising to be an exciting one. We are making changes to the museum. The installation of the air conditioner was the first step and we have really appreciated the comfort of having it in operation. We have taken down the curtains and the blinds will be replaced with new eco-friendly blinds that will help keep the temperature at a more even level.

Thank you to the people who attended the working bees in February. We were able to clean up the Museum both inside and out, get rid of a lot of rubbish and make way for new items we intend to purchase. The workers were a small group but they achieved a lot. At the Bark Hut the small band of workers replaced bark, renewed the internal display and cleaned the dusty cobwebs away. Good work!

The Remembering Jack Burgess, Head teacher of Anglesea State School 1949-1962 was enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Jack's nieces, a fellow teacher, parents and ex students all spoke in glowing terms of the greatly loved Mr Burgess.

The unveiling of the bridge name plaques on Sunday 10 March at 2.00pm will be an interesting celebration. We have traced the six families involved in the first school at Anglesea. A bridge is named after each family. We will have representatives of each of the families and a display of their family history. This includes Joan D'Helin, the first Head Teacher.

We have applied for a *Wise and Wild Ideas* grant of \$5,000. This project will take two years. We plan to hold a series of *Anglesea Remembered* videos with people talking about different topics relating to the history of Anglesea. Our plan is to concentrate on the period 1950-2000. Groups of people will be brought together and after some planning and directions, we will film the discussion and include old photos, certificates and memorabilia as part of the film. In 2014 we will screen these films at *Nostalgia Afternoons* and invite senior citizens to come and view the film and join in a discussion.

Have you ever seen one of those old horse troughs that were put in just about every town early last century? They had plaques on them to show they were donated by George and Anna Bills. A member of the Bills family, Rex Bills is our speaker on 4 April at 2.00pm. The amazing Bills family will be a fascinating topic.

Don't forget to book for the trip to Barwon Park in May. Come and see the recent one million dollar restoration and upgrade at the old mansion. Best wishes as we continue to make history, research history and record history.

Bruce Bodman

LOVERIDGE LOOKOUT UPDATE

Stage two work on Loveridge Lookout has been completed. The Surf Coast Shire has repaired a crack in the concrete, and landscaped the area. Information plaques telling the history of the area, including the sinking of the *Inverlochy*, have been placed beside the look-out. The shelter was built in 1938 by Bertha Loveridge. It is a memorial to her husband. The Historical Society contributed over \$3,000 from fund raising.



The Surf Coast Shire contributed the remainder. Stage two work was carried out by the Surf Coast Shire who have done an excellent job. This Anglesea icon was restored by the combined efforts of local business, community members and

ANGLESEA'S FIRST HEAD TEACHER

Look first in your own back yard is what I was told when I first starting researching history. How I wish I had followed that advice. Over the last two years I have been looking for descendants of Anglesea's first Head Teacher, Miss J D'Helin. After finding no luck in indexes I started phoning people with that name. No one knew her, in fact they knew very little about their family and were keen for me to pass on any discoveries I made. I followed up Miss Jean D'Helin only to discover I had the wrong person. Miss Joan D'Helin was our teacher. A search of old newspapers on Trove gave me an account of her wedding and the birth of her two children. The death index gave me the death of her grandson, thus I now knew who her daughter was. After months of searching the internet I found her daughter in Queensland. An excited phone call from me, abruptly brought home that old advice. 'Yes, my sister-in-law lives in Harvey Street Anglesea,' I was told. It is only metres from where I live. *Look first in your own backyard. Ed.*

MISS JOAN D'HELIN

The first Head Teacher appointed to Anglesea State School was Miss Joan D'Helin. At just 21 she had attended the Melbourne Teachers' College, the only teacher training college in existence prior to 1926.

Joan was born in Geelong to Herman Jean D'Helin and Alice Thornley. She was one of four daughters. Her education was at the Hermitage, Geelong. The Geelong Advertiser of the time carries many references to Joan competing in musical competitions and tennis championships. Her father Herman, had a high profile in the community, holding the office of Mayor of West Geelong, as well as holding positions on various committees including the Geelong Agricultural Show. The depression of the 1930's brought Herman on hard times as Herman was involved in the stock exchange. Like many other families at that time they were forced to sell their two-story home on the Western Beach and move to a much smaller house.

After Anglesea Joan D'Helin went to Chute State School. The Argus Wednesday 28 March 1934, reports there was a profit of about £15 on a fancy dress ball held in aid of the Beaufort Roman Catholic bazaar when Miss Joan D'Helin teacher at Chute, was presented by residents with a cheque before she left for Geelong. However she received more than a cheque as this is where she met Fred Fox, her future husband. After teaching in Geelong, Joan then went to Ararat where she taught until her marriage.

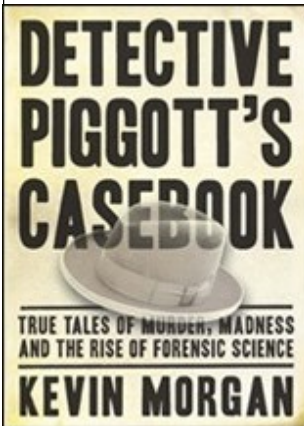


In 1939 Joan Thornley D'HELIN married Frederick John FOX. They went to Stawell where Fred was a clerk with the Country Roads Board. Their two children, Wendy Anne [1943] and Rodney James [1946] were born at Stawell. In 1948 they moved to Ballarat where they remained for the rest of their lives.

In 1956 Joan returned to teaching part time at Ballarat High School where she taught physical education, mathematics and general subjects to the junior forms. Joan continued her keen interest in sport playing tennis, golf and bowls regularly, with great success. She was still playing bowls at the age of 91.

Of her two children, Wendy married Ian Quick and had three children Peter, Judy and Anthony (deceased 1979 aged 8), Rodney married Wendy and had two children Andrea and Stuart. They lived in Anglesea for several years before his death in 2005. Rodney competed in the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. He was a member of the Kayak 4. In 2000 he carried the Olympic torch into Bunningyong.

DETECTIVE PIGOTT'S CASEBOOK by Kevin Morgan



Welcome to hell, a world at war. The streets of Melbourne – no longer a tidy grid, but fractured with laneways like cracks in old varnish; a hotchpotch of chaos, of shanties and factories, woodpiles and chimneys. Here crime flourishes, the damaged fester and the wicked plot: a circle of the damned into which strides Frederick Piggott – enforcer of the King's law.

This book presents for the first time the riveting inside facts on nine of the most important Victoria Police investigations of the early 20th century, drawing on the long-hidden personal papers of forensic pioneer, Frederick Piggott. Likened by his contemporaries to Sherlock Holmes, Piggott's investigations – conducted in the shadow of World War I – covered the state's most gruesome and mysterious crimes.

These uncensored accounts expose the graphic and often perplexing nature of the period's criminal investigation work and point to the dawn of a new era in Australian crime detection – the rise of forensic science. *This book is available for loan from our library.*

Editors Note. When writing a book about my family, I carefully omitted any reference to a terrible murder in our family. When I picked up this book, here it was, our family secret was case number 1.

Jack Burgess Anglesea Head Teacher 1949-1961

Whenever his name was mentioned someone seemed to remember him fondly. Then there would be a story or two about Jack's virtues. 'A great musician', 'he taught us all about orchids', 'he made sure we could all swim,' were some of the comments which brought about our February meeting *Memories of Jack Burgess*. Several members and visitors shared their memories of Jack.



His nieces Anne and Peta told us of his early life in the Burgess family. Jack Newton Burgess was born on 14 October 1912 at Warracknabeal. His father was a farmer at Brim. He was the second in a family of six boys. He attended school at Brim and learned to play tennis and to play the piano. His nieces had great memories of visiting Jack in Anglesea where they swam, went beach combing and walked in the bush identifying birds and orchids. Jack was a fountain of interesting information.

Despite being a pacifist Jack did 'his duty' during WW2 serving as an instructor in naval A.A. gunnery and other weapons training. Betty Butterworth and Gwen Morgan spoke about Jack from the point of view of parents of his students. Gwen told us that the school was not in good shape when Jack arrived. There were lots of broken windows, pens hanging from the ceiling and the students somewhat undisciplined. Jack soon changed all that. In those days the strap was the accepted form of correction, although Jack seemed to use it sparingly. Barry Davidson, Lorna Griffiths, Jill Wilson and Heather Campbell remembered Mr Burgess as their teacher. It was not only school hours but he would teach them to play tennis after school. Gwen also spoke of people calling at his house in the early hours. Jack would get up and there would be a sing song around the piano. Several ex students still have the pressed orchids they had collected. They recalled his piano accordion at school, but they sometimes went over to the house to practice as he had a piano there.

A collection of photos, a written record of Jack Burgess and the film of those who spoke at the February meeting is available at the Museum.

Continued on page 6

Memories of Jack Burgess continued.....

Rosalie Cannon, nee Irvine, summed it all up in her story of Jack. - As a 19 year old teacher with one year's experience, I was posted to Anglesea Primary School in 1960, and so began the happiest two years of my 35 year teaching career. Jack Burgess was Principal and Jenny White taught preps, 1 and 2, while Jack and I taught Grades 3 to 6 in the other room until a new room was completed.

It didn't take Jenny and I long to realise Jack was a unique and wonderful man who treated the children in a way which allowed them to thrive. He was a shy, humble, kind and extremely knowledgeable man; a great sportsman, pianist, cook and host and a man knew his place in the natural world. We didn't ever hear a raised voice or a cross word and the children blossomed in this happy atmosphere.

We covered the set curriculum, but the children also gained a wonderful knowledge of plant species, learning both common and scientific names. I can remember Kenny Butterworth, aged 8, saying 'I saw a patch of *Pterostylis nutand* on the way to school Mr Burgess.' I didn't have a clue what he was talking about but I soon learnt as we used to go for bush walks to observe seasonal bloomings etc.

My classroom had two low windows on the passage side. Jack had fitted shelves where there were displays of sponges, sharks' eggs, skeletons and other items collected by the children.

During the summer, beach bags hung in the passage and when the temperature reached a certain point we all walked down to the river for swimming lessons.

Throughout the winter, Jack emptied the small bottles of school milk into a boiler, warmed it and added a frothy milo mixture. It was beautiful. The children lined up at recess with their mugs and enjoyed a chat as well as their milk drink.

At the annual combined district sports day our children all had a turn in an event. I don't think we had trials or practices to find the best,. We never won but we all just had a great time. In the past Jack had made sports uniforms for the children whose parents couldn't afford them. He could turn his hand to anything.

From my classroom I could see concrete and stone bird baths which the children had made. We used to watch white-plumed homey eaters and lots of other small birds, which the children identified, drinking and bathing . Heavenly!

Jack also organized a wonderful concert in 1960. 53 years later I still remember the song *How Many Kinds Of Sweet Flowers Grow In An English Country Garden*. My parents and friends were in the audience and thought it was marvellous.

Jack was wonderful to us out of school hours and enriched our lives in so many ways. He was our mentor and dear friend and we kept in touch until his death. When I arrived in Anglesea I had to board at the hotel and Jack gave me the school cleaning money to help me out. Then when Jenny and I moved into a shack behind the school Jack took us shopping for food once a week and for a drive to learn more about the area.

When Bob Gosbell reopened Aireys Inlet school, in the church, at the beginning of term 2 1960, Jack was fantastic. Bob says that he could not have managed without him. The four of us got together every Wednesday night, played sport and had a wonderful meal followed by table tennis and a hot supper. We also played cards.

In Bob's words, 'Jack was unique. There was no one like him. My children loved him and often quoted him.'

Our lives were made richer because we were lucky enough to spend time with this wonderful man and we all took with us the lessons we learned from him.