

# Coastal Current

Quarterly Newsletter Of The

## Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 111

Winter 2016

*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

Keepers of the Museum



Marilyn Robinson

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 Bendigo Bank

**ARE YOU A FINANCIAL MEMBER?** . Historical Society is \$20 per person per year (this includes insurance). Family History (optional) is \$15 per family.

Pay direct: Bendigo Bank—BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421 **OR** post to PO Box 98, Anglesea **OR** pay direct to Chris. Guerow, treasurer.

### Meetings & Activities

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

The Historical Society meetings are usually 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

**President:** Jan Morris Phone 5263 3085

Email - [davejanmorris@bigpond.com](mailto:davejanmorris@bigpond.com)

**Secretary:** Bruce Bodman Phone 5263 1249

Email - [bodman@netspace.com.au](mailto:bodman@netspace.com.au)

**Treasurer:** Chris Guerow Phone 5264 7602

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**Museum Curator:** Susan Clarke 0438 070 560

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**Minutes Sec.,** - Marilyn Wendt Phone 5263 1369

Email - [wethem1@bigpond.com](mailto:wethem1@bigpond.com)

**Committee Member:**

Jim Tutt Phone 5263 1227

Email - [tuttj@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tuttj@yahoo.com.au)

### MUSEUM OPEN TIMES

Second Sunday of the month 2.00 - 4.00 pm or by appointment - Ph. 5263 1249 or 5263 3085.  
Open for browsing when groups in attendance.

Mondays 1.30 am - 3.30pm

Tuesdays 10.30am – 1.30pm

Thursdays 1.30 am - 3.30pm

Saturdays 10.30 am - 1.30pm

### COMING UP

#### JUNE

**Meeting** 2.00pm Sunday 5 June at *History House*  
Topic: "Then and Now Photos - Bellbrae to Eastern View." Gary Johnson and others.

#### JULY

**Meeting** 10.00am Thursday 14 July at *History House*.

Speaker— Bill Bubb, *Memories of Anglesea*

Followed by the usual **Winter Feast** (light hot lunch)  
Cost: \$8.00

#### AUGUST

**Meeting** 2.00pm Sunday 7 August at *History House*

Speaker: Ros Gibson

Topic: *History of ANGAIR*

#### SEPTEMBER

**Outing - 10.00am Thursday 8 Sept.**

leaves History House for  
*Geelong Heritage Centre*  
Booking Sheet on front desk or  
Phone Jan Morris on 5263 3085

#### Members & Visitors welcome

*It is the policy of this society that no activities will be held on days of code red or extreme fire danger.*

### 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](mailto:davejanmorris@bigpond.com)

Prices		On high quality	On 100 gsm
		photo paper	fine finish paper
A4	8.26X11.69	\$15	\$8
A5	5.82X8.26	\$8	\$4
A6	4.13X5.82	\$4	\$2

A3 may be available by special arrangement  
11.69X16.53

A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

**Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.**

**Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.**

## AUSTRALIA POST GRANT

We have applied for \$ 1,680 through the Australia Post Grant. We plan to bring together the interview we have from older Anglesea people and to interview other people. Then all the material we have will be pulled together into a video that will be available for people to watch in the meeting room.

## LIBRARY

Thanks to Karl and Barbara Jacklin who have moved both the Historical Society and the Family History Group libraries to the meeting room. The new combined library is more accessible. It has been named the Bruce Bodman library in honour of Bruce who has been secretary for 15 years and has always taken a keen interest in the library. The bar code reader will be attached to the computer at the front of the room, this will give easy access for borrowing. Also the nearby table and chairs are available for research and browsing.

## GEELONG NATIONAL TRUST

The Geelong National Trust Committee has requested to use our facilities on the afternoon of 31st May from 2.00-4.00pm. We are honored to have them as our guests. They will have their meeting first and then would like us to show them around our premises as they have heard good things about what we are doing. We will provide afternoon tea. There will be about 30 people. Can anyone help with afternoon tea?

## BACKDOOR DECKING

We are gradually adding display items to the decking Jim built at the back of History House. We have an old manual washing machine, the pump that was used to pump water from the underground tanks to the high tank at Anglecrest, the wheel from a 1928 Chevrolet truck, a hot water fountain that was used on the side of a one fire stove, a chip heater from a bathroom. Some bricks from the old primary school mural and other interesting items.

## HERITAGE CENTRE GEELONG

In March the Surf Coast Heritage Committee visited the new Geelong Heritage Centre. We were amazed at the facilities that are available there. We were taken into the back storage rooms including the compacter room that holds 43 kilometres of compacter shelves all filled with items of historical interest. We, as an historical society hope to visit the centre in July. I recommend you come and be as amazed as we were.

## MUSEUM

We are continually changing display items in the museum. Currently we have a beautiful, old, lace wedding dress on loan from Maree Davies. See article in Inverloch Log. We are also working on a scouting display and a display of spinning wheels.

## GEELONG ADVERTISER ITEMS

We are fortunate to have most of Keith Cecil's cutting books of the Geelong Advertiser from its inception to 1994. One book is missing. We have the index for that book but not the articles. We need someone (or more) to spend time at the Heritage Centre, photocopying the missing articles. Do we have any volunteers?

## BATHING BOXES & BOATSHEDS

What happened to the old bathing boxes and boat sheds? We are currently researching where they went to. Obviously some were dismantled but others were moved and given new uses. If you know where any went, please let Jan Morris know and she will follow it up. We need to record this information.

## OLD CLUB DOCUMENTS

We have made room in the garage, which is now water proof and vermin free, to archive the minutes and associated documents of any Anglesea organization. If you know of an organization that doesn't know what to do with their history, please tell them, we are happy to store them.

## TRAGEDIES ALONG THE COAST

On 18 May two mini buses took us along the coast to Wye River. We heard the tragedies that have happened along the coast over the past 150 years. Doug Sterling spoke to us about the tragedies near Lorne. David Walker organized for us to have the use of the Lorne Anglican Church hall, where we had lunch and were provided with a cuppa. As we discovered it often takes a tragedy before there is a big improvement, such as a lighthouse, Life Saving Clubs, improvements to the road, safety fences, etc.

We look forward to the combined winter feast in July when Bill Bubb will entertain us with stories of early Anglesea. \$8 entrance includes a lunch of soup, sandwiches, hot savouries and cakes.

We were sorry to receive the resignation of Dulcie Anderson from our committee. Thank you for your service on the committee Dulcie. We look forward to you continuing to work with us on some projects  
Jan Morris

## 100 YEARS AGO

*We are fortunate that Keith Cecil made cutting books of all Geelong Advertisers. He cut out any articles pertaining to Anglesea. Keith's children donated these books to the Historical Society and we have them filed for research by anyone who wishes to use them. Below are some excerpts from the Geelong Advertisers of 1916.*

### 6 January 1916

List of visitors at the Anglesea Hotel during the holidays :- Mr. and Mrs. FJ Leary, Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hooper, Mr. Fawkner, Rev Magaire, Mr. McDonald.

The Regatta during the holidays was a great success.

A successful Red Cross dance was given by Mrs. Jackson at the Anglesea Hotel on New Year's Eve. During interval Mr. Roadknight disposed of some sweets, which together with a Red Cross sheet collection, resulted in £8-10-0 being collected.

### 7 January 1916

#### REGATTA

The annual regatta, conducted by the Anglesea Recreation and Sports Club, was held on the Anglesea River on New Year's Day, and was attended by visitors from neighboring seaside resorts. The committee decided that all surplus money would be handed over to the Red Cross. ...It is expected that well over £20 will be the result. Winners of the Men's Four was WH Sichelau's crew

### 3 February 1916

#### GRIFFITH-BAKER

Aireys Inlet was the scene of an interesting event on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, when Annie Joyce, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. RJ Baker, Lighthouse Split Point Aireys Inlet, and George Harris, third son of Mr. and Mrs. JC Griffiths, of Dromana, were united in bonds of matrimony. The ceremony which was conducted by the Rev E

Jones of Winchelsea, took place at the residence of the bride's parents

### 23 March 1916

#### ROCKET PRACTICE

Last Saturday afternoon the quarterly rocket practice was held at Split Point lighthouse under most favorable conditions. The weather was perfect, and all the members of the life-saving crew were present. Quite a number of people attended to witness the event. Mr. Baker, head keeper, gave a practical demonstration of life-saving, which was listened to most attentively by both visitors and members.

### 28 September 1916

#### NEWS OF THE WEEK –

##### AIREYS INLET

Mr. Charles Hammond while endeavoring to cross the river at flood time, had a thrilling experience. He was walking across on a beam, partly covered with water, and when in mid stream lost his balance. Luckily he had the presence of mind to grasp at the beam and reached the other side drenched, but little the worse for his adventure.

### 9 November 1916

#### OPENING OF NEW STATE SCHOOL

The new State School, erected on a new site, was officially opened by the chairman of the School Committee, (Mr. Seiffert) on Tuesday afternoon, in the presence of a fair number of parents and friends. Mr. G Murray, head teacher, welcomed the parents and visitors, and under his direction the scholars rendered several patriotic songs.....The next item on the agenda was the presentation to the school of a beautifully mounted enlargement of a photograph of Corporal RG Scott, who was head teacher of the school when he enlisted..... Mr. Seiffert, on behalf of the committee, on a previous visit had asked the Premier for a new

school and the Premier had agreed. .... Mr. R G Scott, the head teacher advised Mr. Seiffert to hang on and as a result five acres was purchased and tenders called, so that really Mr. Scott was entitled to the greater part of the credit for getting the new school.

#### RIDING ACCIDENT

The friends of Mr. C Bubb, of Jan Juc, will regret to hear that as a result of a riding accident he had his right collar-bone and also one rib broken on Thursday night. He was conveyed to Geelong, and his injuries attended to by Dr McCallum. He is progressing favorably.

### Australia in France - 1916 was a terrible year.

In July, on the Somme, Australian soldiers were thrown into one of the bloodiest, most destructive battles in history. Over several weeks, in a series of determined attacks against strong defences around the ruined village of Pozières, the Australians suffered a rate of casualties so great as to be nearly unsustainable for the volunteer army of a small nation. The AIF confronted its single worst day of the war at the battle of Fromelles, then endured six long weeks of fighting in the murderous ordeal that is Pozières. The year ended in the most severe winter of trench warfare ever seen.

Many households were cast into mourning. In the face of such terrible losses, Australians were asked to decide whether the conscription of civilians should be introduced.

*Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military service, for the term of this War, outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?*

The ensuing debate left the community riven with bitter divisions.

The referendum was defeated with 1,087,557 in favour and 1,160,033 against.

# FIRE BOMBING PRACTICE 1947

Bush Fires have always been a threat to Anglesea so it isn't surprising that Anglesea was the place of choice nearly 70 years ago to trial bombing fires from the air. Glen Davidson found this report in *The Age* of nearly 70 years ago.

**THE AGE Friday 17 January 1947**

**BOMB TARGET:**

**BUSH FIRES**

**Spectacular Tests Near Anglesea**

By an Observer of "The Age" with the R.A.A.F. Formation

It was almost like "the real thing" again yesterday for R.A.A.F. aircrews who manned the six aircraft participating in spectacular aerial bush fire-fighting tests near the beach resort of Anglesea.

Instead of Japanese ammunition dumps and concentrations in South-West Pacific settings, however, the crews had for their target a man-made scrub fire on a Forests Commission reserve only a mile or two from Anglesea. Their job was to extinguish it! With some - 30 - bombs specially made from bomb containers and converted belly tanks filled with a solution of water and sulphate of ammonia, and weighing either 500 to 650 pounds.

After a detailed briefing at Point Cook Flying Control, the formation of two Liberators, one Lincoln, two Mustangs and one Mosquito took off for the target area at 2:15 p.m. It was led by Wing-Commander I. F. Rose, commanding officer of Central Flying School. Point Cook.

**Twenty minutes later, after quickly tracing some 90 miles of Victoria's coastline south west of Melbourne, the formation had sighted the target — a minute spiral of white smoke silhouetted against the blue haze of the horizon.**

Getting their bearings, the two Liberators circled the target, now an ugly patch of flaming smoking bush. First sweeping out to sea, they came in from the north-east for the "kill," one shadowing the other, but reserving its bomb/ load.

**Stubborn Fuses**

As the big planes swept down from high altitude, the outside world leaped past in amazing kaleidoscope.

Then, at just over 100 feet, the first Liberator went in over the target, and smoke, from the fire completely enveloped it. But, alas, anti-climax! The bombs refused to leave their racks.

The electric fuses, which had given trouble previously, had got stubborn again.

Further attempts to dislodge them failed, so there was nothing for it but for the second Liberator to take over. Here was triumph, as the plane hurtled six of her scrub-fire-busters right into the blaze. To spectators automatically waiting for explosions, the result looked somewhat tame. Temporarily there seemed to be only an intensification of the smoke.

After the Lincoln had dropped two of her bombs, the Mustangs took over, wheeling like hornets and dive-bombing the now definitely discouraged bush fire. Finally, the Lincoln let it have another six bombs.

**In for the Kill**

A lively referee for all these operations was the single Mosquito hovering above all the other planes, spotting marksmanship and recording all results. At one time before all the salvos had been fired the fire looked so seedy that fresh brands were projected into the scrub by Forests Commission ground staff to give it fresh life.

When the formation turned for home it was quite apparent from the feeble wisps of smoke that it just "could not take it." The fire was rapidly being smothered, to eventually die out. During the flight back to base it remained for the first unsuccessful Liberator to pay the full price for her shame by having her bombs prized off her racks by a mechanic with a screwdriver, and dropped uselessly into the sea.

Back at Point Cook at 5 p.m., Wing-Commander Rose said that the accuracy of the bombing was reasonably good; and the method, of combating bush outbreaks was capable of being developed into something of definite "operational value." He emphasised, however, that its main purpose was to extinguish small outbreaks or "spot fires" before they had a chance of spreading.

## VALE - SHIRLEY FORSYTH - 1926-2016

It is with much sadness that we record the passing of Shirley Forsyth, secretary of the Anglesea and District Historical Society Inc. from 1988 to 2002. Shirley was a tireless worker for this society. She was not just the secretary for 15 years but she was a driving force in the club. She organized speakers, encouraged research, proof read publications and ensured there were always interesting snippets of local history at each of the meetings. Shirley and her husband Ken moved to Belmont 15 years ago, but Shirley always kept an interest in the Historical Society and for many years still came out to meetings. Her last visit was in 2015 when she officially opened the Lindsay Braden corner of our museum. Ken predeceased her by 12 years and her health has been indifferent for the last couple of years. Shirley was made a life member of ADHS in 2002, in recognition of her outstanding work. A memorial service was held at St Johns, Anglican Church, Highton where she worshipped regularly. She had been an active member of Trinity Uniting Church when she lived in Anglesea. She played golf regularly with Val Amery who was President of ADHS for many of the years when Shirley was Secretary. It was Shirley and Val that introduced Lindsay Braden to the Historical Society. Val and several of our members attended the funeral. Shirley leaves two sons John and Randall and their families. Our organization is much the richer for the work done by this wonderful lady.



### PLANTING POTATOES IN AIREYS INLET

Recently this photo was found in the Winchelsea Op Shop by Lorene Lloyd. It is of Albert Anderson planting potatoes along the flats of the Painkalic Creek. This is probably the most fertile soil in Aireys Inlet as silt has been washed onto the flats over thousands of years. This is the first land selected to buy after land became available to purchase, as opposed to squatting rights. It is estimated this photo was taken about 1910. The Lighthouse can be clearly seen in the background. Note the lack of vegetation on the hill surrounding the lighthouse. There are only a few trees around the lighthouse and some to the left of the photograph.



### ENTRANCE TO AIREYS INLET 1898.

Hanging in the Geelong Art Gallery is a painting by Lili Berthon in 1898, entitled 'Entrance to Aireys Inlet. It depicts the Painkalic Creek with a small clinker boat in the foreground. While looking through some of the research of Lindsay Braden, it appears that boat was there for a long time and for a good reason.

Lindsay once went with the late Ray Clarke along the coast to Eastern View. Ray having lived all his life at Eastern View was somewhat of an expert historian regarding the area. Ray told Lindsay how he had walked from Eastern View each day, along the seashore to the Aireys Inlet school. Through winter the Painkalic Creek would be in flood. Local, George Nobel, a kindly old man who lived nearby at *Angahook* would row them across the creek each morning and each afternoon. Ray indicated the exact spot where the boat was beached ready for its daily passengers.

A few years ago there was an inquiry at the Historical Society regarding the pioneering Berthon family from *Wybellenna*, further up the Painkalic Creek at Aireys Inlet. They drew Lindsay attention to the fact that This oil painting by Miss Lili Berthon was at the Geelong Art Gallery. Lindsay called at the Art Gallery to view Lili's work of art.

'*Lili who?*' asked the lass at the reception desk. She picked up an intercom and asked for details of the painting, which was unknown to her. To her amazement the item not only existed but it hung close by in the foyer. Lindsay was most impressed with Lili's seascape. He would have liked to have it hanging on his lounge room wall. The portrayal, that was donated by George Belcher, who had a holiday house in Anglesea, was oil on cardboard, entitled *Entrance to Aireys Inlet 1898*.

The thing that intrigued Lindsay was that the clinker boat was clearly depicted, beached at the precise position mentioned by Ray Clarke. There is little doubt, this was the one George Noble used to bring the school children across the flooded stream.

Next time you are in Geelong, visit the Gallery and admire Lili's painting.

