

Coastal Current

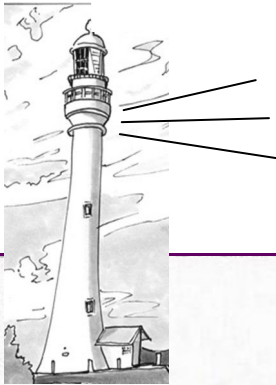
Quarterly Newsletter Of The

Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 121

Summer 2018/19

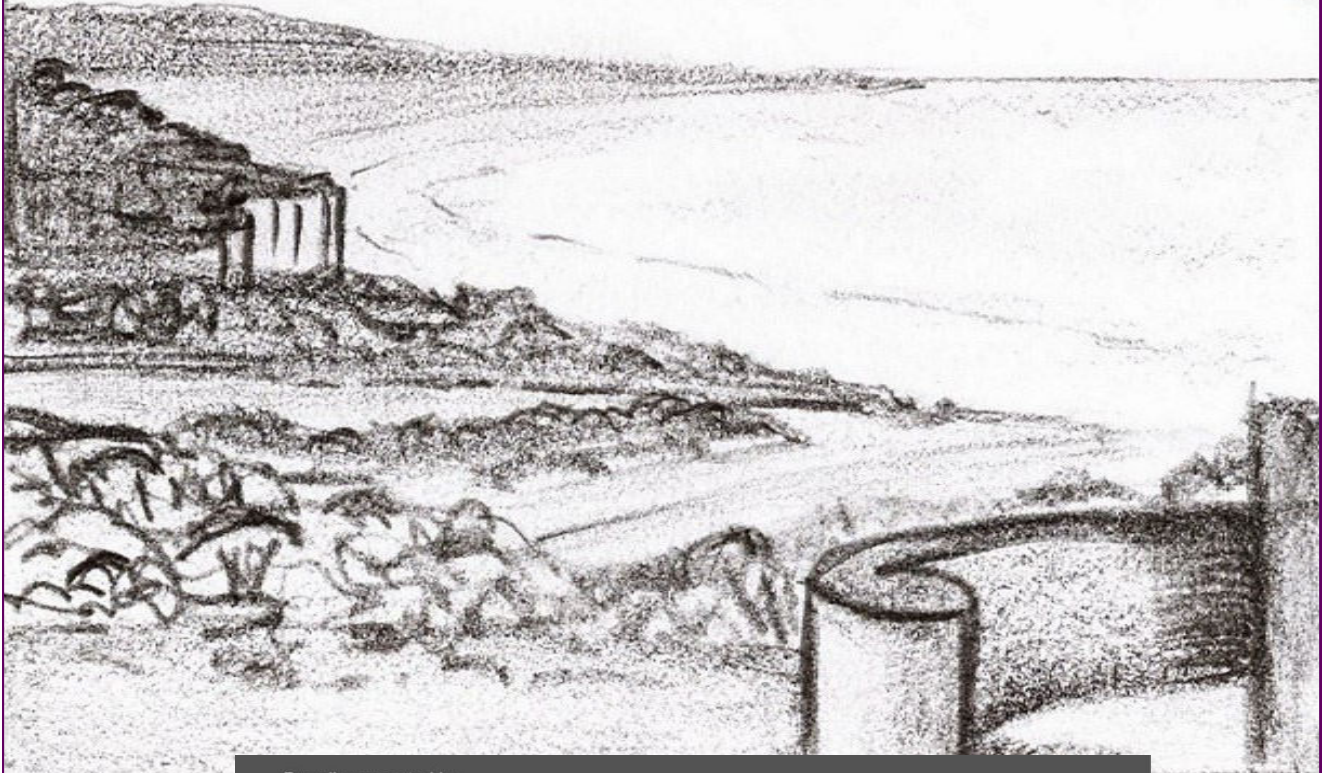
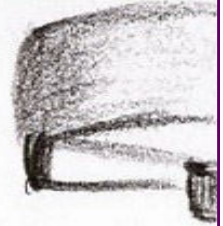
The Anglesea & District Historical Society is a not for profit organisation staffed by volunteer members of the community, whose aim is to research and preserve history of the local area.



Active Researchers

Preservers of Local History

Keepers of the Museum



Marilyn Robinson

Proudly supported by

Anglesea & District
Community Bank® Branch



Membership Fees Historical Society is \$20 for the first family member per year and \$15 for other family members (this includes insurance). People over 90 are free (no insurance). Family History (optional extra) is \$15 per family. Please notify if extra \$15 is Family History or extra Historical member. FEES DUE 1 SEPTEMBER_Pay direct: Bendigo Bank—BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421—reference, your name, **OR** post to PO Box 98, Anglesea, 3230

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.

DECEMBER Sunday 2nd at 2.00pm at History House.

Speakers - Les Barnes & Elizabeth Gooding
Topic: Gem Hunting in Central Australia
Christmas Break-up.

FEBRUARY 2.00pm Sunday 3 February
Speakers: Cheryl Baulch & Chris Barr
Topic: Torquay Museum Without Walls

MARCH 9.30am

Wednesday 13
March Combined
Outing with
SCFHG to
Historic Inverleigh
Cost \$15 + lunch..
Lunch at historic
Inverleigh Hotel.
Visit historic
school, churches, and other buildings



APRIL 2.00pm Sunday 7 April
Speaker: Gwen Threlfall
Topic: History of Mount Duneed

Members & Visitors welcome to all activities.

Transport can be provided to all meetings and activities by phoning 5263 3085.

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

Historical Society Committee

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MUSEUM OPEN TIMES

Open & Staffed the second Sunday of the month
2.00 - 4.00 pm or by appointment - Ph. 5263 3085.
Unstaffed but open for browsing
Mondays & Thursdays 1.30 pm - 3.30pm
Tuesdays & Saturdays 10.30am – 1.00pm
Open every Sunday during School Holidays
2.00-4.00pm

Photographs

Anglesea & District Historical Society has an extensive collection of photographs. Orders to Jan Morris: Phone: 5263 3085 Email -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

Digital images for personal use only \$5 each
A discount of 10% applies to financial members.

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.
Box 98 Anglesea 3230 Victoria Australia.

The opening of the bathing box was an exciting day. The culmination of so much work by so many people, combined with grants and financial assistance from both the Surf Coast Shire and Seaside Seconds Opportunity Shop, brought us to the point where we were proud to open the renovated bathing box. The display



Member & visitors at the bathing box opening photo: Dawn Hollibone



Ian McMillan officially opens the bathing box photo: D Hollibone

the touch screen computer

makes the bathing box an interesting point for visitors and members alike. This is an outstanding example of many people with a variety of skills, all working together to achieve an excellent result. Brian Smith told us about the old Inverlochy salvage sled he donated. That is on display at the back of the bathing box.

Seniors Week coincided with History Week this year so we planned our activities with seniors in mind. On the first Sunday we enjoyed hearing tales of old Anglesea from Alan Poigndester and his sister Dawn Hollibone. On the Tuesday we had a session of remembering the old days, using items from the museum. Some items brought back memories while others gave us a laugh. Karl alerted us to the pitfalls caused by cyber scams, an essential awareness in today's electronic communication. On Thursday, the Family History Group arranged for representatives from the organization *Vanish* to speak about

finding members of our family who have been adopted, fostered or become state wards. Several members are following up with this group.

We now have a new side fence and so the garden shed is being erected. The project was held up waiting for the new fence to go up. We are grateful to our 'hands on' members, Keith Hornibrook, Jim Tutt and Kevin Pollard for their work. We are now able to move gardening equipment and tools from the garage and allow it to return to a useable workroom.

The Surf Coast Shire has sorted the historical material they inherited from the old Barrabool Shire. We were given two boxes of documents and memorabilia as well as a USB listing scanned items that have been placed at other historical societies. Much of the more important material had to be given to the Public Records Office. In turn PROV is placing this material at the Geelong Heritage Centre. It will be available there for research.

Julie Dyer, the Arts Development Officer for the Surf Coast Shire, has retired. She has been of invaluable assistance to our society over many years and we will miss her advice and support as well as her co-ordination of the Surf Coast Heritage Committee. A farewell to Julie was held recently at the Anglesea Community Garden.

On 15 November a group of 24 visited the Maritime Museum at Queenscliff. After morning tea in the park we were taken on a guided tour of the museum. One of the items we saw was the barrel of a small cannon found at Point Roadknight earlier this year. It is estimated that the cannon has been in the water for over 150 years. It possibly came from an immigrant ship of the mid 19th century. Many ships carried small cannons to deter would be pirates.

Ingoldsby Reef is just off the main beach at Anglesea. It is where the sailing ship the Inverlochy was wrecked. It has wonderful garden of marine plants and fish. But, how did it get its name? Our research has come up with not one suggestion. Does anyone know? If you know or can suggest a possible answer please let us pass it on to us.

The garden has been looking beautiful during spring with many plants out in flower. We have a watering roster for November through to March. It is divided into weeks. We are hoping some people will be able to put their names down for a week. We suggest the garden be watered twice a week but that is dependent on the weather. If you can help, please put your name on the list at History House.

Looking forward to next year, we have some interesting speakers and outings planned. We will start the year with speakers from the Torquay Museum Without Walls. Our first outing will be a combined one with the Surf Coast Family History Group. We will be visiting Inverleigh, an interesting historic town.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish all members a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

ANGLESEA PIONEER SURFER - Carl William Millar HALE 1901-1986

Jan Morris

Carl William (Bill) Hale was born in 1901 to William Millar Hale and Eva Newham, who had married the previous year. He initially lived in Elsternwick with his parents and grandparents. His father, also named Bill Hale, died in St Kilda in 1909, aged 36.

In 1921 Bill purchased two lots of land (just under 31 acres) in Anglesea. The land bordered both Harvey and Parker Streets. At that time these two high blocks had a beautiful unobstructed view down to the sea. He married Millicent Constance Corbould Sculthorpe in 1923. Also in 1923 Bill and Millie built their house *Ben Nevis* at the top of Harvey Street, just below the reservoir at Sparrow Avenue, and moved there to live permanently. They had one son William (Bill) junior, born in 1924. Bill jnr was an early pupil at the Anglesea State School. *Ben Nevis* is still owned by family members.

Bill was the site manager when the original *Anglecrest* was built in 1927. He was a community minded citizen, being involved in the forming of the Anglesea Surf Life Saving Club in 1929, and also secretary of the first Golf Club in 1928. Bill was for many years a regular correspondent providing local Anglesea news for the Geelong Advertiser, recording many Anglesea incidents and giving the Anglesea Sports and Recreation Club Regatta (AS&RC) prominence.



R-L Louis Whyte, Alan McGillivray, 'Blue' Harper and Bill Hale on the Lorne beach 1920

Photo: Torquay Surfing Museum

Bill was involved in the Volunteer Air Force Observation Corps stationed at the *Loveridge Lookout* during World War 2. He died in 1986 and is buried at Lorne with his wife Millie who outlived him by six years.

Bill rowed in the Anglesea Regatta in the 1920s and 30s, often in the *Ben Nevis* crew. He joined the committee of the AS&RC in 1927 and served for 20 years.

Bill became interested in surfing after it was introduced in 1919 to what later became known as the Surf Coast by Louis Melville Whyte. Bill went to Hawaii with Louis in 1929. They spent from 29 June to 28 August in Hawaii, presumably surfing, using long, solid, red-wood surfboards. Louis Whyte kept his surfboards in his boat shed at Anglesea on the Eastern side of the river. Bill Hale was one of Anglesea's earliest surfers and encouraged surfing among the young people living or holidaying at Anglesea. He was instrumental in commencing the Surf Club in Anglesea.

Carl William Millar Hale served during World War 2. He joined the military on 5 October 1942 when he was 41 years old. He served in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve as a volunteer.

His son Carl William Millar Hale jnr, married Evelyn Kemp and they had three daughters. He died in 2017 and is also buried at Lorne. His daughters are Jillian (Ranson), Juliet (Thompson), and Susan (Allan).

Sources:

Graeme & Prue Weber 2009, *The Grand Challenge*, A

history of the Anglesea Recreation and Sports Club 1911-2010.

Lindsay Braden 1999, *Early Anglesea Houses and Structures*,

Death notice Published in *The Age* on June 26, 2017

Solving puzzles while cataloguing museum items

Susan Clarke

In the museum collection we have a pair of military jodhpurs with no record of provenance. However, there is a tailor's label bearing a name and date (see photo). A search of military records at the National Archives Australia produced a surprisingly small number of soldiers with the Conran surname, and one name seemed to fit: Captain Hugh Marcell Conran. The information on the record stated that it consisted of an empty envelope only because the contents had been amalgamated with this person's WW2 documents. My interest was immediately piqued!

It transpired that there was a lot of information easily accessible online about Captain Conran, who had returned to Australia in 1916 after serving in WW1, and had taken a Closer Settlement block at Redcliffs near Mildura and become an orchardist. He served in the Citizens Military Force after the war, and served in WW2, notably as Commanding Officer of 39th Battalion for a time. He died at Blackburn in 1957.

Captain Conran was born into a military family. His father was Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Charles Conran (1820–1893), who had acted as aide-de-camp to Sir Charles Latrobe when he was Governor of the colony, and was the first sergeant-at arms in the parliament of Victoria. Hugh Marcell Conran was in fact born at sea on 9 July 1889, so he was young when his father died at "Barrabool House" Highton in 1893.

Hugh saw pre-WW1 service starting as 2nd lieutenant in 7th Australian infantry regiment in 1910. On 28 April 1915, he enlisted as lieutenant in 23rd battalion in C Company, and embarked on HMAS Ulysses on 8 May 1915. He was promoted to Captain on 24 February 1916, and returned to Australia at the end of that year, after he had been wounded in action on 29 July with a gun shot wound to his left arm. Shortly after his return, on 10 January 1917, at St Andrew's Kirk, Ballarat, he married Edith Robina Cooke. Hugh obtained his soldier settlement block, and is on the electoral rolls for Mildura from 1921 to 1942.

There is a colourful description of Hugh's WW2 activity serving in the 39th Battalion, in Peter FitzSimons' book *Kokoda*:

... in mid-October 1942, the Battalion's Commanding Officer [was] the vastly experienced Colonel Hugh Marcell Conran who had been a lieutenant with the 1st AIF in the 23rd Battalion. He was not a bad sort of fella to be leading a newly formed outfit like this. For while he was very much old school and had all the fortitude and command of one who had successfully hauled himself up in life by his own bootstraps – and believed that others could do the same – he was also a family man with a strong streak of compassion and a high sense of duty to Australia ...

Note that the Australian War Memorial record indicates that Hugh was commanding officer from October 1941 to May 1942, when he was deemed medically unfit for service, and on 24 May he relinquished command. Hugh died on 11 October 1957.

Sources

Australian War Memorial: <http://archive.fo/K118> <https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/records/471525>

National Archives of Australia:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=3280045>
<https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/records/471525>

The Argus, 16 February 1917: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1597385>

Find a Grave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/151436363/lewis-charles-conran>

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/39th_Battalion_\(Australia\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/39th_Battalion_(Australia))



Name tag sewn into the jodhpurs



Hugh Marcell Conran in uniform

Anglesea's last Bathing Box

Jan Morris

It's restored, inside and out. It has a wonderful marine and maritime display and a computer screen that tells the stories of Anglesea coastline. We are proud of *Our Bathing Box*. It tells of the era when private bathing boxes were the "in thing" for those who could afford them and a holiday house at Anglesea.

I think back to when Bev Davies alerted us to the fact that this last bathing box was going to be demolished because the art house was being extended. I went to look at it and soon realized there would be a lot of work to renovate it. There were holes in the floor, the roof leaked, the window was missing (replaced by a sheet of old corrugated iron) and many weatherboards were rotted or missing. I estimated that it hadn't been painted for at least 60 years.



Bathing Box at the Art House



Bathing Box being craned into position at History House

How to even get it to History House was number one problem. The Surf Coast Shire came to the rescue, they braced it, transported it and sat it on new stumps just behind History House. Jim Tutt and Brett Morris cleared the site and Seaside Seconds Baptist Opportunity Shop gave us a grant to reroof it. A to Z plumbing put on the new roof at an excellent price. We now had it waterproof and could start work. Keith Hornibrook and Kevin Pollard commenced the massive job of repairing the outside and replacing weather boards while Malcolm McDougall repaired the door and floor, and rebuilt the window. Keith and Kevin came back to line the box using reclaimed lining boards from Lyle McConachy's farm. They also rebuilt the cupboard and bench. Ryan McKnight did a great outside sanding and painting at a discount. Red Dog sanded and coated the lining boards and Marilyn Wendt painted the inside, single handed. Malcolm again got to work and made the Perspex cupboard doors and a bench for the computer. The Surf Coast Shire again came to the fore and had electricity connected and gave us a grant to purchase a photo hanging system. As you can see this bathing box is the result of the work of many people.



Keith Hornibrook and Kevin Pollard work on the Bathing Box

With the box ready, a small committee was able to put to use the photographs and marine and maritime items they had been saving. Susan Clarke, June Ford and Marilyn Wendt carefully displayed many items including a ships steering wheel they found at Seaside Seconds, a compact fishing rod that was used last century by June Ford's grandmother (Mrs. Greeves), a hand knitted woollen 1930s man's bathing costume, knitted by Marilyn Wendt, and a large photo entitled "An ideal day at the beach Anglesea c.1960".

They have overcome many difficulties in researching the owners of the bathing boxes. The findings are now on display inside the box.



The fully restored Anglesea Bathing Box

The last item we obtained was an old sled, once used to drag salvage from the wrecked sailing ship, the *Inverlochy*. It was donated to us by Brian Smith and has been displayed behind the bathing box. It is now ready for visitors. Come and see!

Photos by Marilyn Wendt and Susan Clarke



Marilyn Wendt beside her hand knitted bathing costume