

# Coastal Current

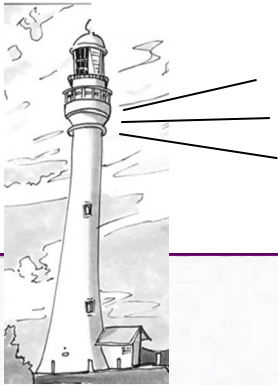
Quarterly Newsletter Of The

## Anglesea & District Historical Society

Issue No. 122

Autumn 2019

*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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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.

**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.0448 526 311  
  
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

**MARCH**

Combined outing with SCFHG to Inverleigh.  
Leaves History House 9.30 am  
Wednesday 13 March. Cost \$15 plus lunch.



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

**MAY** Wednesday 8 May Outing to Birregurra  
Visit Historic Churches and talk by Birregurra Historical Society. Lunch at Birregurra Hotel.

**JUNE** 2.00pm Sunday 2 June  
Speaker: Barry & Beth Davidson  
Topic: Scouting in Anglesea

**JULY** 11.00am Thursday 18 July Combined Winter Feast  
Speaker: TBA Cost: \$ 10  
Topic: The First 150 years of Geelong

**Members & Visitors welcome to all activities.**

Transport can be provided to all meetings and activities by phoning 0448 526 311.

*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. Orders to Jan Morris: Phone:0448 5263 311 Email -[davejanmorris@bigpond.com](mailto:davejanmorris@bigpond.com)

Prices		On high quality photo paper	On 100 gsm 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.**

**2019** has begun with a most interesting meeting on 3 February, when Chris Barr and Cheryl Baulch

spoke about the formation and development of the *Torquay Museum Without Walls*. This concept makes the local museum at one's finger tips as it is all online. They also produce an most interesting magazine *History Matters*, with articles about Torquay and district. We have copies of this magazine in our library and the articles are all listed on our data base. Being so close to Anglesea this museum and the magazines are of particular interest to us.

A small group of people opened the museum each Sunday afternoon during the school holidays. We had a steady stream of visitors coming to look at our collection. Some were long-term holiday makers who had some interesting facts to pass on to us.

There were a couple of unfortunate incidents during the holidays. Our long hose and a sprinkler were stolen from the garden, making it very difficult for the people on the watering roster. Thanks to those who were able to water and to Deborah who continues to maintain our native garden. She has planted several new species and spent many hours weeding the garden. Our garden was first planted out by a small team of Angair members. We are grateful to Deborah for her continued maintenance.

The other disappointment during the holidays was vandalism to the Bark Hut by two youths. Unfortunately, James Bell who lives opposite the hut, was on holidays. We are grateful to James for taking care of the hut, but he can't be there all the time. The youths attempted to pull the bark off the roof. While they didn't succeed in getting it off, they did quite a bit of damage to the roof. Fortunately the McConachy family have made temporary repairs and have plans to do more permanent repairs in the near future. The original Bark Hut was built in 1852 by Robert McConachy, the first permanent resident of Aireys Inlet. It was burned down in 1983 and a replica built by family members in 1986.

Keith Hornibrook, Kevin Purcell and Jim Tutt have been busy erecting the garden shed. It takes up very little space but provides an excellent store for the tools needed for the garden and maintenance of the property. This allows us to move tools from the garage and free it up for storage of museum items and as a workroom for preparing displays. The great thing about this shed is that it was donated. Gary Cooper, who previously had the Hardware store at Anglesea, gave us this shed when he closed his business. It was the perfect size for our needs. We also have a new side fence at the back of the property. This was built just prior to the erection of the garden shed. Surf Coast Shire paid our share of the fence.



*Keith & Kevin putting the finishing touches to our new garden shed*

*Photo: Jim Tutt*

We were saddened by the sudden death of Phyllis Lycett, a valued member of both ADHS and SCFHG.

She was a regular attendee at all of our meetings and outings. She donated several interesting items to our museum. Phyllis was a collector of many things including stamps, coins, and plants. Her daughters have donated to us several items of historical interest from her home. They have been added to the museum.

Our March outing promises to be interesting as we head to Inverleigh to look at their historic buildings, listen to a talk from their Historical Society and enjoy lunch at the Inverleigh Hotel. If you would like to join us, ensure your name is on the list at History House. This is a combined activity with the Surf Coast Family History Group. In April our speaker will be Gwen Threlfall. Gwen is Secretary of the Mt Duneed History Group and has an extensive web site. Her research is very detailed. She promises an enthralling talk.

I am looking forward to another year when our members enjoy their work of preserving the history of Anglesea and district as well as enjoying themselves in the process.

## THOSE MANIFICANT MEN IN THEIR FLYING MACHINES IN ANGLESEA

Jan Morris

You could get a pleasure flight from Anglesea as early as 1920. The period following the First World War saw a sudden influx of the men in their "Magnificent Flying Machines". Many servicemen had learned to fly when members of the Royal Australian Air Force. Aeroplanes were still unusual enough to warrant media attention. A number of references exist in the Geelong Advertiser files of the sightings along our coast of these new contraptions. The details of the first recorded flight by one of these aeroplanes over our coast, was reported on Tuesday 15 February 1920!

" Lieutenant Charles Pratt piloted Mr Norman Belcher, a well known holiday home owner in Anglesea, together with Mrs F Donaghy, on a flight down to Lorne and return. This appearance caused a sensation when they appeared over Loutit Bay (Lorne), but, on their return flight, their appearance over Aireys Inlet 'filled the spectators with admiration of the wonderful inventions of man' when Mr Belcher dropped a parcel at his friend Mr Noble's residence, *Angahook*. They then proceeded to 'buzz' *Mountain House*. (a guest house then owned by Mary Anderson, but now Aireys Inlet Caravan Park). What the plane did over Anglesea is not recorded.

It had to happen that, sooner or later, one of these intrepid aviators would come to grief but fortunately, as the following extract notes, no one was injured and, to the best of our knowledge, there was no aircraft fatality until the years of the Second World War, and even then, censorship made those details obscure.

Geelong Advertiser January 4th 1921

"At Anglesea on Saturday afternoon the vagaries of the wind were responsible for a mishap to Lieut Pratt's Avro machine. He had taken several passengers for flights and others were waiting their turn.

"A sudden change in the wind deflected the machine which landed on the ti tree and caused some damage. No one was hurt and the aeroplane will be brought to Geelong for repairs.

"While naturally concerned at the damage to his aeroplane, Lieut Pratt was even more annoyed by the actions of some contemptable person or persons (believed to have been members of a motor car party). During the brief absence of the aeroplane's attendant yesterday afternoon, the mascot (a kewpie) was removed. Every effort is to be made to trace the thief; but Lieut Pratt is so anxious to secure the mascot that if it is returned he will take no further action in the matter. It is understood that a reward of five pounds will be given to anyone producing information that will lead to its recovery.

Unfortunately subsequent issues of the paper do not indicate whether the kewpie was ever recovered, however.

Pratt continued with his flights, including popular joy flights over the Surf Coast for many years.



Pratt's plane giving joy rides on New Year's Day 1930

Source -

*From the unpublished research of Keith Cecil*

## MOGGS CREEK 50 YEARS AGO

*From the Memoirs of the late Joan Forster*

I first began to get to know Aireys Inlet district in the 1940s when I came to stay in the school holidays with Marjorie Mellor of Fairhaven. Ten years earlier her father, Bruce Mellor, had owned 80 acres of land along the Great Ocean Road from *Fairhaven*, called Spout Creek, to Moggs Creek. His sister Mrs. Cowan ran the guest house *Fairhaven* with her husband Robert Cowan.

In 1967 I bought land in Moggs Creek and built a house at the foot of the ridge. Many of my neighbors there had originally stayed at Mrs. Cowan's Guest House, *Fairhaven*. They had enjoyed the district so much that they bought land when it was subdivided in the 1950's and built their own houses. Many of them were involved in education and I had met some of them in Melbourne. Dr. Anita Rogers was living at *Mooroolbeck* in Kew to help the resident students, when I was a student there in 1935. She was the matriarch of Moggs. She was 70 years old when my house was being built high up on stilts. It was still only a frame when one of our frequent wind storms blew up. I came down to check progress and Anita told me she had climbed up on the builders ladder and walked across the joists to secure one of the windows which was banging in the wind. When the house was finished, I came down to stay for weekends and for school holidays. Anita would often arrive at the door with a bunch of large, white, strong smelling daisies saying "Here"! as she presented them. Anita also came saying "Are you coming for a walk?"

I enjoyed many walks with her in the bush behind Moggs and along Love's track, Distillery Creek and Gentle Annie. When Anita was lecturing at Melbourne University, she invited one of her German Professor friends to come to stay and walk with us. On the first day they we were deep in the bush, after an hour's walking, not a house or road in sight - imagine the feelings of this urbanized European - the further we went the more agitated he became until he said, "Where is a telephone - where is the telephone?"

Anita also took me to visit Mrs. Noble in Angahook, the original farm in the district. I was charmed by our hostess and the character of the old house. It had an extensive library - the books had been lent round the district for years. The house was beside a willow fringed pool where water birds fed among the reeds. Four towering Norfolk Island Pines and a great Morton Bay Fig were land marks and a foil for the colorful roses, verbena and other perennials. As well as the main house there was the remains of a small building made of brown stones, a white weatherboard building with a red roof and a bark hut still in reasonable condition. It had been lined with lead from tea chests and papered with ancient newspapers. Mrs. Noble had let some girl guides stay in it. They showed their gratitude by tidying it up and stripping off all the historically valuable newspaper!.

My near neighbors at Moggs were Jean and Vic Wendt. When I first began to come down I thought of him as the "man who mows his lawn" which he always seemed to be doing when I arrived. One of their daughters, Jill, taught with me in the Junior School at MLC. When Vic retired from Ballarat and they came to live permanently they became good friends. Jean and I shared our interest in the plants and animals and Vic used to drive me to the Angair meetings each month.

Another charming friend was Dorothy Boyd who was secretary to Miss Constance Wood at *Tintern*. We shared many happy times with two of *Tintern* staff members, Aileen Stooke who built on the Old Coach Road and Joyce Tuddenham who shared a house in Steven Avenue with Isla Stamp who was Director of one of the kindergartens where I trained.



*The Neuk before it was destroyed in 1983 fires*

Dorothy's house was The Neuk, built beside the shelter of the Ironbarks along Moggs Creek - another charming old world house built of flat planks with interesting glass paneled double front doors and a delightful sitting room with a window each side of the fire place. In the garden there were swathes of the old type double daffodils flowering in late winter and a large Norfolk pine growing in the front of the house.

In 1983 all this world was destroyed by fire and is now unfortunately only memories..

**Joan Forster** rebuilt at Aireys Inlet after her Moggs Creek house was burnt down in 1983.

She was an active member of Anglesea & District Historical Society for many years until her death in 2014.

## Catalogue item 0652: the joke is on me

Susan Clarke

Managing the items in the museum collection involves a steep learning curve for me much of the time. This is clearly demonstrated by the case of a framed certificate which hangs 'out the back' at History House (catalogue number 0652). Since working on the collection, I had glanced at this certificate many times in passing and was immediately struck by the beautiful illustration in which the sprigs of yellow wattle stood out. I therefore assumed that the organisation, Australian Natives' Association, was something to do with native flora. What ignorance on my part! My excuse is that as a migrant I had scant formal education in Australian history. Yvonne Schneider had catalogued this item, so I had not had cause to research the certificate.

Recently I have been reading Geoffrey Blainey's *A History of Victoria*, and I came across a reference to the Australian Natives' Association in a chapter about nationalism:

A stumbling but assertive nationalism had appeared in many Victorian institutions. The Australian Natives' Association, a society with 4000 Australian-born members by 1886, flourished in Melbourne and on the goldfields; in years to come the Australia Day holiday was to be known in Victoria as the ANA Weekend.

This set me on a personal quest for further information.

The National Museum Australia's website contains excellent information about the background and significance of ANA, which was formed in 1871. In summary, the Australian Natives' Association (ANA) lobbied strongly for the political union of Australia's colonies at the time of Federation. It sought to shape Australia's nationhood and identity and was a training ground for politicians. Non-partisan and non-sectarian, the ANA was established as a friendly society for Australian-born men. By 1910 it had developed into a nationwide association with real political and social influence.

Many of Australia's early prime ministers such as Edmund Barton, Alfred Deakin, James Scullin and Francis Forde were members of the ANA. Although it lobbied government to redress injury and hardship to Indigenous people, resulting from government policy, the ANA was firmly of the view that Australia's future as a socially harmonious nation lay in it being a society of white people.

The ANA remained a vocal pressure group through to the 1980s, although it never again reached the heights of political influence or membership it had attained between the 1890s and 1930s. The Association's friendly society benefit activities assumed greater importance by the 1950s. From 1961, the ANA's business operations included a building society, life insurance and private health insurance, health-care facilities and dental clinics. In 1993, the ANA merged with Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, a British fraternal society established in Australia in 1840, to become Australian Unity Ltd.

The Museums Victoria website has photos of several objects of ANA memorabilia. The item in our collection is a branch number 311 ex-president's certificate recognising J W Read who occupied the position from 20/11/45 to 25/2/47. So the questions remain:

how did this item come into our collection? who was J W Read? where was branch 311 located?

If you can help with any information, please let me know.

### Sources

Geoffrey Blainey, *A History of Victoria*, Cambridge University Press, 2006, p. 135

National Museum Australia: <http://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/australian-natives-association>

Tout-Smith, D. (2003) Australian Natives Association (ANA), Melbourne, Victoria in Museums Victoria Collections <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/1852> Accessed 28 November 2018

