

Nibbles: In this issue of Nibbles we're focussing on the Split Point Lighthouse at Aireys Inlet. Our blast from the past is an article on this lighthouse by Lindsay Braden, and our museum curator Susan Clarke tells us about her connection to Split Point. But first of all the quiz which (surprise, surprise) is on lighthouses.

Quiz: Try your luck at these questions. The answers are towards the end of this issue (no peeking).

- Q.1. What is the oldest lighthouse on mainland Australia?
- Q.2. What is the tallest lighthouse on mainland Australia?
- Q.3. How many lighthouses are there on the 25,760km coastline of Australia?
- Q.4. What date is celebrated each year as "National Lighthouse Day?"
- Q.5. Where is the "Round the Twist" lighthouse?

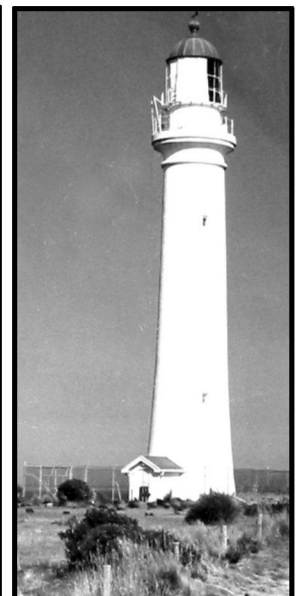
Split Point Lighthouse (Aireys Inlet) - an article by Lindsay Braden in Newsletter No.81 2008.

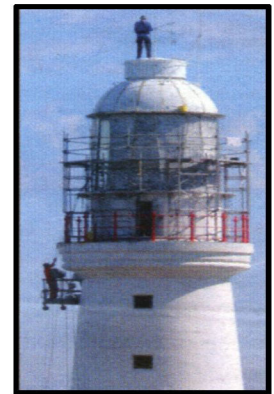
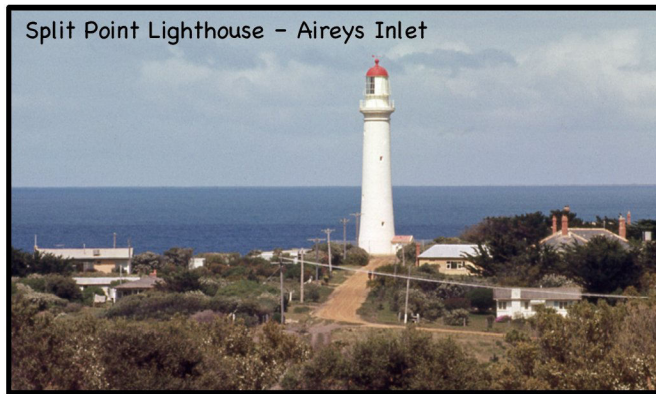
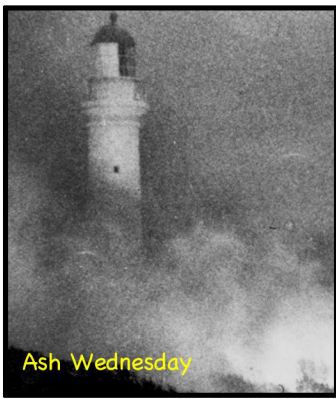
Victoria's treacherous coastline necessitated a string of lighthouses being set up from the border of South Australian to Queenscliff. Tenders were called on 2/5/1890 for the erection of a lighthouse, and staff quarters at Aireys Inlet. The construction of this landmark was let to R. Anderson and Sons of Richmond. Building material was at first thought to have been landed from a lighter in calm weather at Sandy Gully. After a vessel sank in heavy seas, working matter came via Wensleydale rail. The 83 feet high structure at the top of the cliffs made the light 220 feet above sea level. The light was at first of incandescent mantle and kerosene vapour type. This was converted in 1919 to automatic acetylene which flashed every 12 seconds. A change to electric was made in 1972. A pre-1919 story relates that a keeper *scratched a small hole in the black paint at the rear of the then fixed lantern.* This allowed him to retire to the Hotel and still check that the light was working! Adjoining cottages were originally built

for the head keeper and his two assistants. The head keeper resided in the large residence, and the semi-detached residences were occupied by his assistants. A speaking tube was used for cottage communication purposes. These premises became vacant when the manned light station was taken over by the Commonwealth Government, and converted to automatic control in 1919. After the light-keepers departed, the Commonwealth Government rented the staff cottages for £4-4-0 p.w. during holidays. *These were auctioned and sold with 13 allotments in 1935. The lighthouse stables were converted into a pleasant tea room and gallery in 1993 ■ L.B.*

Did you know that some lighthouses around the world are said to be haunted? Go to web site <https://www.beachcombingmagazine.com/blogs/news/haunted-lighthouses> for an interesting article in Beach Combing Magazine on five of them.

A distant family history connection to the lighthouse: My mother-in-law's maiden name was Timmins. Her Great Great Grandfather George Timmins, who was a Birmingham industrialist, had a niece Phoebe Timmins who married William Chance. William Chance was a member of the Chance family who ran the Chance Brothers glassworks in Birmingham. Phoebe and William's son, James Timmins Chance (1814 - 1902), became a full partner in the business in 1839 and became an expert in lighthouse optics. He was awarded a baronetcy in 1900, and is revered as a notable nineteenth century Birmingham industrialist, philanthropist, and director of the London and North Western Railway. The original first-order Chance Brothers Fresnel lens is still in use in the Split Point lighthouse. A Fresnel lens is a type of composite compact lens developed by French physicist Fresnel for lighthouses. It has been called "the invention that saved a million ships". (Susan Clarke)





OLD GOLD TOWNS “We are standing where I once went to school.” Marilyn Robinson told us, as we enjoyed morning tea at Bunjil’s Lookout at the small township of Maude. There were 31 of us to enjoy the old gold towns of Maude, Steiglitz and Meredith. What was once the school grounds at Maude are now the sight of a lookout, erected like an eagle in flight. The shelter shed walls tell the history of Maude. Marilyn made that history come to life as she recounted her childhood in the area. Steiglitz a few kilometres down the road, now has a population of 9. It once had almost 3,000. Peter Sharp gave us a most interesting story of the disappearance of the indigenous Waddawurrung peoples. Once gold was discovered in the 1850s, Steiglitz population exploded. We all looked through the Court House and went down Regent Street to see preserved buildings and read about what was once there. A real ghost town! Meredith was our final destination. No gold was ever found here but the town thrived on gold diggers passing through the township needing supplies. Pioneer Park was the ideal setting for a picnic lunch. Thanks to those who prepared the delicious food. Meredith also serviced the surrounding squatting runs and farms.



Listening to Marilyn Robinson at Maude
photo R. Coutts

Members of the local History Interest Group spoke to us about the development of the area over the last 180 years. On a drive around town, we saw many old houses, the Railway Station built in 1862 and several old churches. Our next outing will be to Camperdown where the Manifold family first settled. Keep Tuesday 4 May free, for what promises to be a most exciting day. (Jan Morris)

APRIL MEETING: KEITH CECIL - Anglesea teacher, researcher, photographer, and author

Keith Cecil was born at Castlemaine in 1926. After leaving school, Keith joined the RAAF and trained as a radio operator. Following WWII, he trained as a teacher. He met Margery at the Lord Mayor’s Camp at Portsea and they married in 1949. Keith transferred to the Visual Education section of the Education Department where he was introduced to photography, an area in which he became a true professional. In 1963 he moved his family to Anglesea. Keith continued to teach in Geelong and at Anglesea. He was a member of the CFA fulfilling the role of Communications Officer. He fought many bushfires including Ash Wednesday. In retirement Keith became passionate about the history of the Great Ocean Road region. The first book he wrote, with Roger Carr, was the *White Queen*, published in 1986. This book was followed by 26 others. His photography and research has provided valuable resources for researchers. His son Peter Cecil will speak about his father as we celebrate the legacy he has left Anglesea.



2.00pm Sunday 11 April at the Anglesea Hotel (Back Meeting Room)

Surf Coast Family History Group: Next meeting: Thursday 15 April, 10.00 am, “Members show & tell.” Bring along an item of family history memorabilia and tell us the story behind it. [Note change to third Thursday in April on account of school holidays]. (Susan Clarke)

CHANGE OF PROGRAM

The May outing of the historical society had been planned to go to Sorrento. However, we have had to postpone the trip to another time. Instead, we will be going to historic Camperdown where the Manifold family first settled in 1838. We have been in touch with the Camperdown Historical Society who are keen to host us. Camperdown is full of history, so this should be most enjoyable trip including driving to the top of Mt Leura.

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May Outing to

CAMPERDOWN



- Tuesday 4 May
- Leave History House 9.00am
- Cost \$20 includes travel, morning tea and entries
- Lunch at Hotel at own cost

Bookings- Jan 0448 526 311

Susan 0438 070 560

TRIP INCLUDES

Drive up Mt Leura, Botanic gardens. Lake Bullen Merri, Climb up the clock tower, old Court House, Heritage Centre and more.

Answers to the Quiz: Q.1 Cape Otway Lighthouse built in 1848. Also known as the "Beacon of Hope." Q.2 Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse 39 metres tall. Q.3 More than 350. Q.4 August 7th Q.5 The Split Point Lighthouse - Aireys Inlet.

Lighthouse jokes: What did the pirate say when he saw the lighthouse? Answer: "Thar she glows!"
What did the ocean say to the lighthouse? Answer: Nothing, it just waved.