

Nibbles: In this issue of Nibbles, it being Spring and all, we've decided to focus (in part) on our natural environment. Our blast from the past is an article by Jan Morris on our once existing pine plantations, whilst Susan Clarke, our museum curator, has included a piece on Edna Walling and the Great Ocean Road. Unfortunately we're still in the grip of the impact of the Corona virus and the resulting restrictions on travel and assembly, so we've been once again forced to cancel several of our planned activities. Our "Heritage Buildings" presentation, our "Barwon Grange" outing and our talk by Dr Fred Cahir will be rescheduled for 2022 when hopefully things have returned a little more to normal. But first of all some fun facts about nature (according to Google) which may help in your next game of trivial pursuits.

Did you know:

1. Bamboo is the world's fastest growing plant. On average it grows up to 10cm a day, but has been known to grow as much as 80cm in a day.
2. Owls don't have eye balls, but have what could be better described as eye tubes.
3. The human brain is shrinking. Fossil evidence shows us that over the last 10,000 years the average human brain has shrunk about the size of a tennis ball. No jokes about this please.
4. The butterfly proboscis does not have taste buds. Its taste receptors are on the backs of its legs.
5. The average person will grow 950km of hair during his/her lifetime. Some 2 metres of that is nasal hair.

What Happened To The Pine Plantation?

Jan Morris

Most people thought the Pine Plantation development at Anglesea, after the First World War was a disaster. The pines did not grow as anticipated. Although many men were employed to prepare the ground, plant the seedlings and care for them, the experiment was not successful. The ground was not fertile enough and the rainfall was too low. A lot of time and money was wasted and fire eventually took most of the poor specimens of trees that struggled to survive.



One of the houses built for the Forestry Pine Plantation workers.

They built two houses at Mt Inglesby, at the top of present Harvey Street. A managers house and four houses for workers were built in the valley coming down from Coalmine Road to Camp Road. They purchased one house on the corner of what is now Camp Road and Wray Street.

After the Pine Plantation had been abandoned the houses were no longer required by the

Foret Commission. They were sold to Alcoa when Alcoa took over the lease for the power station. Some of the houses were eventually moved to new locations. The two houses from Mt Inglesby were sold, the new owners taking them by truck and relocating them at Beaufort. The Hostel became the Recreation Camp.

In 1927 Davidsons lived in the house on the corner of Camp Road and Wray Street. In 1967 Alcoa sold it for removal and it was moved to Bellbrae, near the tennis courts. The current owners have substantially renovated it.





Edna Walling and the Great Ocean Road. (Susan Clarke)

The Australian Heritage database carries the following statement:

Eminent landscape designer Edna Walling's experiences of the environment on the Great Ocean Road from the 1920s-40s were a powerful influence behind her wide-reaching advocacy for the in-situ conservation of native plants, particularly along roadsides, and their judicious use in garden design.

Edna Walling's experiences were centred on the 16 acres of land that she owned on a part of Big Hill. The land was on a hillside overlooking the ocean and the fall of the land was one in three. Edna set about building her own house from the stones on the hillside, and her manuscript "The happiest days of my life" records the story (the manuscript is held in the State Library). She also kept a photographic record.

Edna eventually left the land to the Bird Observers Club. She was reluctant to leave but in the event "within the week, a bush fire swept up the hill and burnt up the little place leaving only the stone walls, stairways and paving built with so much joy".

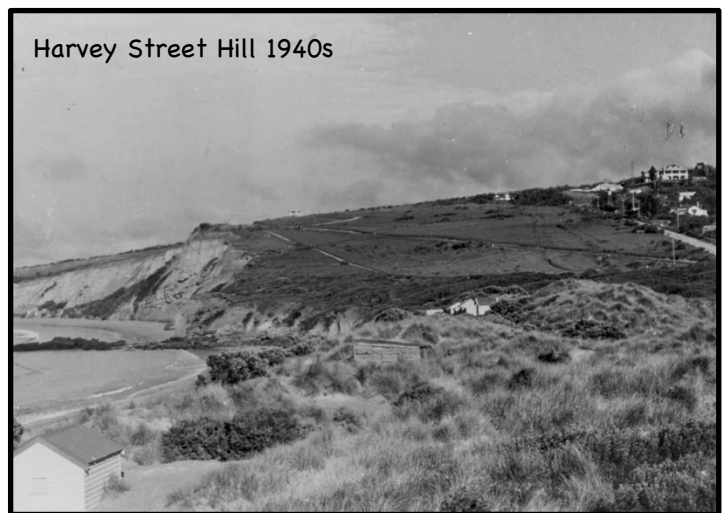
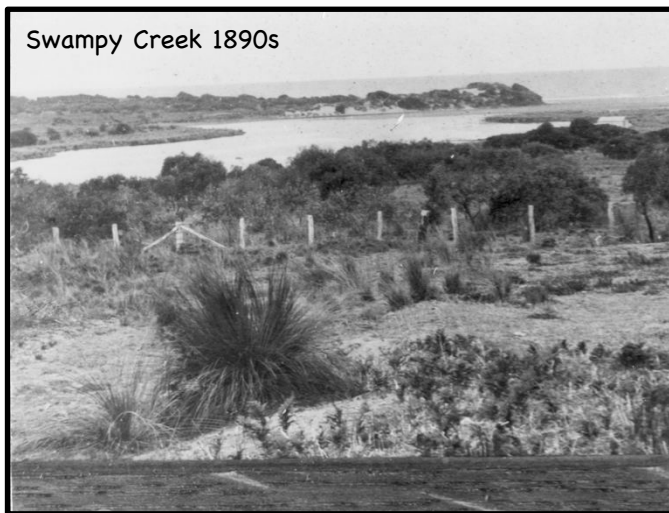


"At the end of the little track we looked down on grassy creek"



"The chalet through the ironbarks"

The changing Anglesea landscape:



News and Notes:

It was anticipated that the Museum at History House would be open on Sunday afternoons 2.00 – 4.00pm during the school holidays (with restrictions on the number of visitors at any one time), however until the current Surf Coast Shire Covid lockdown is over, the museum will be closed.

In order to use our kitchen once again, we needed a dishwasher for washing our crockery. With a donation of \$1,000 from Seaside Seconds Opportunity Shop we have been able to purchase and instal a Bosch slimline dishwasher. So, cuppas are on the list again at History House.

The Men's Shed have built some display cabinets for the War Memorial Wall display that will be held in the Memorial Hall from 30 April to 2 May. These have been completed and we will store them at History House until they are needed. After the War Memorial display is finished, they will come permanently to History House. We have ordered cupboards to go under the display cabinets. We are most grateful to the Lions Club of Anglesea who are assisting us in paying for these cupboards. They have given us a cash donation of \$399 and have indicated they will hold a raffle to raise further funds for this project.

The Family History Group has decided not to run a Christmas Raffle this year. However, the Historical Society will be running a raffle just before New Year's Eve, selling tickets in the street. The prize will be a crayfish, with wine, fruit, cheeses and other trimmings. You will hear more about this in our December Newsletter.

Annual General Meeting: As a result of the current Covid restrictions we have decided to postpone both the Historical Society's and Family history Group's Annual General Meetings until early next year. This is within our constitutional rules.

Unfortunately, Covid restrictions also meant that the Surf Coast Family History Group shearing shed cinema outing planned for September, did not eventuate.

It is with sadness that we record the passing of a long-time member Val Taylor. Val and her husband John were very active when the museum was first developed. Our sympathy goes to Val's two daughters and their families.

The ANGAIR Wildflower and Art Weekend for 2021 has been cancelled due to COVID-19, however, the [ANGAIR Nature Show website](http://www.angairnatureshow.org.au) is now online and has something for everyone! If you haven't visited the site yet, take a look at www.angairnatureshow.org.au.

ANGLESEA WAR MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTION BEGINS (Adrian Hunter)

The exciting turning of the first sod for the long-awaited Anglesea & District War Memorial Wall took place on 5 September. Following the essential groundworks, the elegant wall of beautiful Aireys Inlet stone will take shape during September with works expected to complete in October.

The plan has been on the drawing board since 2015, when it was first discussed by the community group consulting with VicRoads over changes to the Great Ocean Road roundabout in the centre of Anglesea. A community committee combining members of the Anglesea RSL, Lions Club, Historical Society and residents was then formed to get the idea up and running.

The Anglesea War Memorial Appeal was launched in 2019 and was enthusiastically embraced by the community. Despite the setbacks of the Black Summer Fires and the Covid-19 pandemic, the target of \$65,000 was reached by mid-2020. The committee is appreciative of the support given by the Surf Coast Shire, the Bendigo Bank and the Lodge of the Great Ocean Road, a wonderful group of local Gold and Silver Donors and the Anglesea community.

With the funds raised ensuring the future of the project, work began on the plans which were drawn up in conjunction with the Surf Coast Shire. Despite the delays caused by Covid lockdowns, and surmounting the difficulties of finetuning the design and costings without being able to hold meetings, the drawings were finalised early in 2021.

At the same time the search for names for the plaques was instigated. In addition to calling for community nominations, the committee searched local Honour Rolls, RSL membership and historical records, resulting in 395 names being included on the plaques. These are now being printed in readiness for mounting on the wall. Nominations are still welcome and will be included on an addendum plaque.

A ceremony to officially open the Memorial Wall is planned for Sunday 14 November at 1.30pm and everyone is welcome to attend. The flags will be unfurled for the first time and the guest speaker is Michael Ronaldson. An exhibition originally intended to coincide with the opening has been postponed due to the current lockdown and will now be held Saturday 30 April to Monday 2 May. It will tell the stories of many of the men and women named in the plaques. Told in themes it will focus on people from Anglesea to Bellbrae and Eastern View, from farmers to lighthouse keepers to war artists and military surveyors. It will be augmented by displays featuring the original Anglesea Avenue of Honour, the work of the Air Observers Corps at Loveridge Lookout, the commemoration at the RSL and the building of the Anglesea Memorial Hall.



The Loveridge Lookout display at History House which will be part of the War Memorial display early next year.

You might find these of interest:

"On the land: our story retold" <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/naidocweek/article/item/8d93d80614d6ab0.aspx>

"Necessity: waggas and the art of making do" <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/nwm/calendar/item/8d93fc7812b2bd3.aspx>

Plant Joke: Psychiatrists say that it's quite healthy to talk to your plants, however you should seek help if they start talking back.