

Nibbles: In this issue of Nibbles we're focussing on the festive season with just a touch of humour. Susan, our museum curator has written an entertaining article on Christmas postcards, and some anonymous mathematician has calculated what a remarkable person Santa must be given his ability to deliver presents to millions of good little girls and boys around the world on Christmas Eve. Our blast from the past is a photograph of the Anglesea Hotel at Christmas 1943. But first of all the quiz ...

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

- Q.1. In which modern country did St Nicholas first appear?
- Q.2. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?
- Q.3. What was the first company to use a predominantly **RED** Santa Claus in its advertising?
- Q.4. In the Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol," what was Scrooge's first name?
- Q.5. Three of Santa's reindeers have names beginning with a "D." What are they?



The Mathematics of Christmas: It is amazing that Santa can deliver presents to so many good little girls and boys in just one night. It's been estimated that there may be as many as 378 million of them in the world and that they reside in about 108 million homes. So, if Santa travels from east to west he will have almost 24 hours to deliver his sack of presents, however that means that he will only have about one twelve hundred and fiftieth of a second to park his sleigh, descend the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, consume the cookies and milk, climb back up the chimney, get into his sleigh and proceed to the next house. Given the dispersal of houses and the average distance between them, Santa is going to have to cover a distance of about 120 million kilometres in the available time. To do this his sleigh will need to travel at about 1,040 kilometres per second, some 3,000 times the speed of sound. And then there's the weight of the presents. If we assume that each individual present averages about one kilogram, the sleigh will be hauling about 300,000 tonnes, and that doesn't include Santa himself. Santa's reindeer must be pretty incredible, because given the strength and speed of normal reindeer, Santa would need about 215 thousand of them to pull his sleigh. Now to haul 300,000 tons of presents at a speed of 1,040kps, the sleigh and the reindeer would heat up like a spacecraft re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, causing the whole lot to vaporise in about 4 thousandths of a second, but not before Santa experienced a centrifugal force of some 17,500 times greater than gravity. Not to mention the accompanying and deafening sonic boom. That he apparently does all of this year after year after year, testifies to the wondrous magic of Christmas.

Now I can't vouch for the absolute accuracy of all of the maths presented above, because for a start, I can't be sure of just how many girls and boys have been really good during any given year. I understand that in all the letters Santa receives, the writers are adamant that their behaviour has been exemplary. So, if Santa was to operate at humanly achievable levels, there would have to be far, far fewer good little girls and boys in the world, and I'm sure that's not right. So, it must be magic!

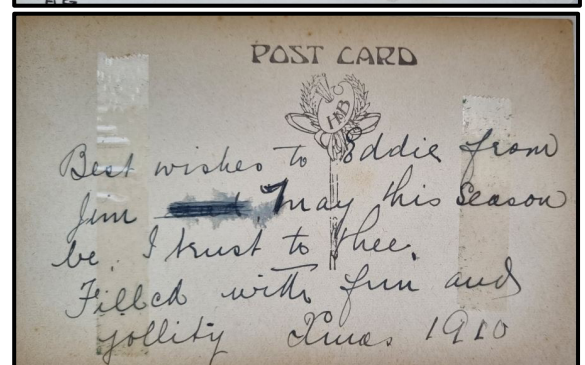
A Christmas postcard (Susan Clarke)

We have in the museum collection a small album containing postcards from the Edwardian era. It contains picture postcards of towns and landscapes, and also cards sent at Christmas like the one shown here, which was produced by the Harding and Billing company of Sydney and Auckland. The sender wrote across the whole of the reverse even though the division allowed a message to be written on one half and the address on the other. This configuration was not permitted in Australia until 1905. This change made it far more attractive to collect postcards and it is from this date that Australian cards became part of the global trend of collecting and exchanging cards.

The artist is Henry (Harry) Glede Garlick who was a Federation-era Sydney cartoonist. He was born in Orange, NSW in 1876 but moved to Sydney in 1895 and supported himself as a solicitor's clerk while studying art. He specialised in humour using birds and animals.

Source: <https://www.daa.org.au/bio/henry-glede-garlick/biography/>

Donor: Keith Hornibrook





Anglesea Hotel Christmas 1943

AGM: The Historical Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday December 5th and the following members were elected to positions on the committee:

President: Jan Morris

Vice President: Barry Davidson

Secretary: Karl Jacklin

Treasurer: Chris Guerow

Museum Curator: Susan Clarke

C'tee Members: Peter Bromley, Keith Hornibrook and Jim Tutt

Surf Coast Family History Group Committee 2022

Chairperson: Jan Morris

Vice Chairperson: Pat Hughes

Secretary: Susan Clarke

Treasurer: Chris Guerow

Website: Peter Matthews

C'tee Members: Peter Matthews, Gwen Morgan and Marilyn Robinson

Membership: We need more members. If you want to learn more about the history of Anglesea and its surrounding areas, and you enjoy listening to speakers and participating in activities with an historical aspect, then you can become a member for as little as \$25 for the first family member and \$15 for each other family member. You can also join the Family History Group for an additional \$15. If you're an existing member, don't forget to pay your 2021/22 dues. You can pay direct to the Bendigo Bank: BSB 633 000 Account 1430 28421.

Surf Coast Shire Small Grants: We were delighted when the Surf Coast Shire recently approved our submission for a grant of \$805 to enable us to provide a service for our sight impaired members. Currently our publications Coastal Current and Nibbles go out to members in a printed format either in hard copy or as an emailed digital file. What we now plan to do is also provide these publications as audio files (MP3). These files can either be emailed and played on a computer, or where this is not possible, on a flash drive that can be plugged into a simple audio player which we will make available on loan to members who are sight impaired. We also hope to extend the program to include the creation of an audio library of interesting historical stories. The program will begin early in 2022 and you will be notified of the participation process in a later edition of Nibbles.

Christmas Cheer: The President and committee of the Anglesea & District Historical Society and the Surf Coast Family History Group wish you a very merry festive season and a happy and safe new year. We would also like to thank all those members who have participated in our various activities during 2021. Your support has helped us maintain our operation during a very trying period.

Answers to the Quiz: Q.1 Turkey (originally Patara, a city in the ancient district of Lycia in Asia Minor) Q.2 Eight maids a milking Q.3 Coca Cola Q.4 Ebenezer Q.5 Dancer, Dasher and Donner.

A couple of Christmas facts: Jingle Bells was the first song played in "space."
If you received all the gifts listed in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" you'd need room to house all 364 of them.

Christmas Joke: The Santa Claus at the shopping mall was very surprised when Emily, a young lady aged about 25 years old walked up and sat on his lap. Now, we all know that Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him so he asked her, 'What do you want for Christmas?' 'Something for my mother, please,' replied Emily sweetly. 'Something for your mother? Well, that's very loving and thoughtful of you,' smiled Santa. 'What would you like me to bring her?' Without turning a hair Emily answered quickly, 'A son-in-law.'

And it wouldn't be Christmas without a bon-bon joke: What do Santa's elves learn at school? The Elfabet.