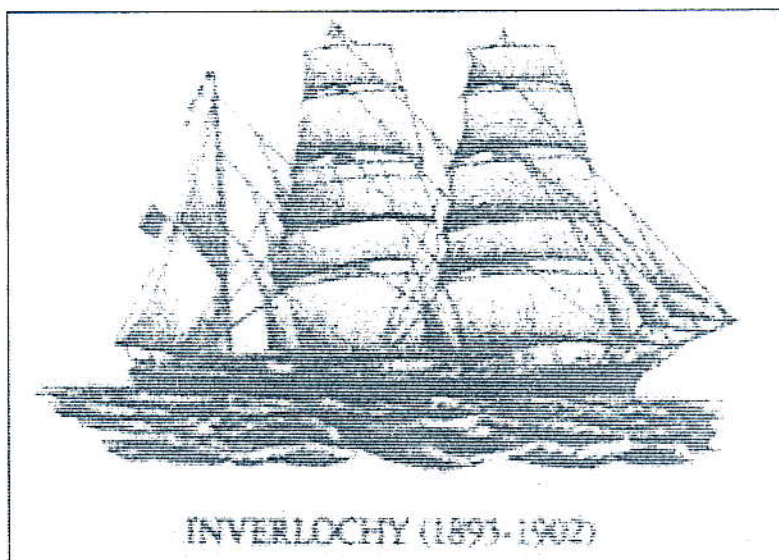


THE ANGLESEA FAMILY HISTORY
GROUP

AUTUMN EDITION
2001



INVERLOCHY (1895-1902)

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Anglesea Family History Group McMillan Street Anglesea.

PO Box 161 Anglesea 3230

Friday
Library and Research Facilities
Monday and Thursday 10am—2pm
2nd Sunday of the month 2pm—4pm

Group Meetings

2nd Thursday of the month at 10am
Historical Society Museum
McMillan Street
Anglesea 3230

New Members and visitors most welcome.

Web Site Historical Society
[Http://www.vicnet.net.au/~angen](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~angen)

Family History E-mail
afhg@free2air.com.au

Disclaimer

The Anglesea Family History Group does not hold itself responsible for the accuracy of statements or opinions expressed by Authors of articles published in this magazine.

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Members Story

Our Chairperson Pat Hughes immigrated to Australia in the late sixties and originally settled in northern Victoria with her husband and four children. They lived in a Caravan on the Murray River. How different a life for the family after leaving a green country side to the harsh realities of our hot dry land. The following is Pat's early impressions of her life in Australia.. We thank you Pat for your Contribution.

The Australian Bush

The night was cool and we sat reflecting on the struggles of the day. We looked back on the day and felt the satisfaction on placing our Caravan so neatly under the gum trees that nestled along the Murray River

My four children slept quietly while my husband and I sat listening to the sounds off the Australian bush. A soft breeze cooled the day's heat, while the moon rays softened the harsh land into soothing scenes. A Cockatoo 's cry pierced the nights silence. The night was so peaceful after a long and busy day.

We were to stay at our camp site for the next three months and were to experience many exciting events and activities during that time.

We desperately needed to build a toilet. Our first attempt was to dig a hole in the ground. Even though the squatting method is common in many countries I could not contemplate this action and at the same time keep my dignity. So we decided to make a trip into town to buy materials to make a better toilet. The construction was a wooden frame which we covered with black plastic and used an empty drum for the basin A piece of wood slotted neatly across the frame with a large hole in it to serve as a seat. This completed our most valued treasure. Facing the river and camouflaged amongst the trees you could discreetly sit and watch the pelicans swimming down the river.

Early mornings would bring the pushing and shoving noises from sheep all eager to drink from the river. Many variety of Birds would wade at the shallow edges all squawking or chirping into a frenzied sound. The children would jump from their beds to gaze at the wildlife and animals that gathered around our new home.

Being a Pom I knew nothing of the Australian bush, but I was to learn many things. We used to leave our barbecue bones nearby for our dog. To our surprise we were enticing Ants and Guanac to our camp.. The bones were like a written invitation to our campsite.

The Lizards were beautiful creatures, but when they stood up on their hind legs with their head high, I must admit I was scared. They ran and could climb a tree very quickly and you were never sure which way they would travel. One day I heard a spine tingling sound above my head. Looking up I saw a Guana attacking a Possum, suddenly the Possum fell from the tree and lay motionless on the ground. The fur had been ripped clean from parts of its body. This reminded me of the constant fight for survival in the bush.

One hot day we had a narrow escape. The children were playing by the river and I was sitting under a tree reading a book when the children started to scream out to me and I glanced up from my book to see a large brown snake between me and my children. Not realising the danger they began to run towards me and I screamed out "do not move", they were shocked into sudden stillness as the snake slithered past my legs as it disappeared into the scrub. I collapsed with relief and later told my children of the dangers of snakes in the bush.

With each new day came new experiences to the family. The weather was so different for us out here in Australia. In the heat of the day every living thing seemed to stop and wait for the coolness of late afternoon when once again life would move on and along the river. On these days we would lie and soak on the waters edge, being nibbled at by hungry Yabbies.

As the weeks turned into months our hair got blonder and our skins were darkened to the colour of the burnt ruddy earth.. Our stay in the bush was one of the best part of our lives.

We came to love the land called Australia and are proud to call this our home.

Bridal Revival

The Anglesea Historical Society and Family History Group are holding a fund raising function on Saturday 14th April 2001, commencing at 2pm in The Senior Citizens Rooms McMillan Street Anglesea.

The function will be a display of wedding gowns of yesteryear and a parade featuring these gowns. Afternoon tea will be provided. Entrance fee is \$8.00 and tickets can be purchased at the door. All welcome.

Welcome To New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Jack Pascoe — Jack's interest is in the Maryborough District and in Cornwall,UK.

Mavis O'Donnell

News From The Library

The following publications are in our library:-

Footprints—A History of the Shire of Tullaroop
How to trace your Convict Ancestors
Ancestors for Australians
Life on the Australian Goldfields
Family and Local History Sources in Victoria
A Treasury of Australian Frontier Tales
The Australian Clan
Sydney Cove 1788

We also exchange magazines with the following Historical and Family History organisations.

Hamilton	Ballarat	Benalla	Bendigo	Swan Hill
Port Fairy	Warrnambool	Echuca	Geelong	Colac
Nathalia				

These magazines are available for perusal in our library or may be borrowed to read at home.

Future Meetings

April Family Traditions

May Old Photographs

June Using the internet for research

LIFE ON THE GOLDFIELDS

Life on the goldfields was not easy. Here are some extracts of life for the goldfield residents in Victoria:

In the days of the first gold rushes to Victoria men made up the bulk of the goldfields population.

In those early gold digging days the arrival of a woman was the signal for a cry and a crowd gathering. "There is a woman" emptied many a tent of diggers the sight of a woman evoked memories of far away homes, of mothers wife and sweethearts.

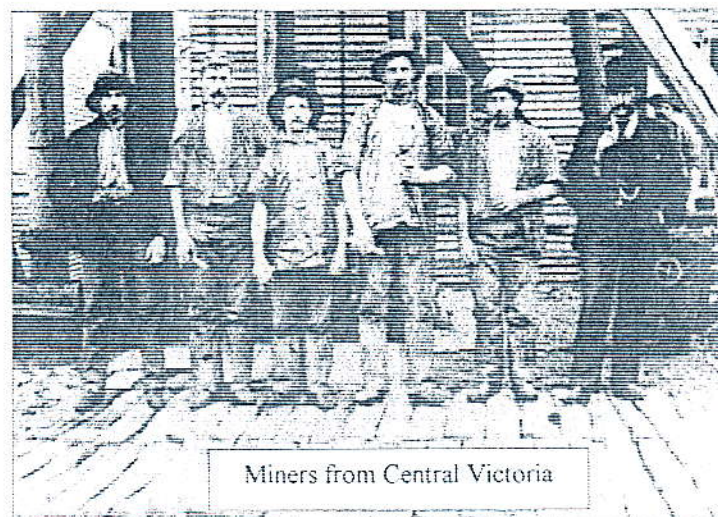
Escaped felons numbered largely amongst the diggers. They are said to have used obscene and brutal language that was heard on all sides.

The Victorian Government were fearful of lawlessness on the ill-policed fields and made the sale of alcohol illegal. This law proved impossible to enforce.

Fighting and brawling were commonplace events and, in fact provided a form of recreation. The Irish were particularly drawn to a good free for all.

Cricket was played on some very strange fields and the participants much more likely to be wearing clay spattered moleskins than the conventional creams.

Lola Montez an Irish entertainer notorious all over Europe for her string of famous lovers, spent a number of years on the goldfields where her spider dance and dramatisations were much appreciated.



Birthday Celebrations

The Anglesea and Family History Group celebrated it's first birthday in November last year.. Pictured below are some of the members enjoying the function.



My Family Tree

I climbed my family tree and found
It wasn't worth the climb
And so I scrambled down convinced
It wasn't worth the time
Some branches of the tree I found
Were rotten to the core
And all the tree was full of sap
And hung with nuts galore
I used to brag my family up
Before I made the climb

But truth compels now to tell
Of those not worth a dime
I beg my friends who boast aloud
Of ancestors so great
To climb their family tree and learn
Of those who were not so straight
I have learned what family trees are like
That's why I have scrambled down
They are like a "tater vine" because
The best are underground