

# The Surf Coast Family History Group

Vol. 66 Summer, December 2017 Edition

(Sub group of the Anglesea and District Historical Society Inc.)

## Inverlochy Log



*From painting by Geoffrey Soames*

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Quarterly Journal of The Surf Coast Family History Group

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**Community Bank® Branch**



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Historical Society \$20, Family History \$15 per family, direct banking BSB 633 000, Account 1430 28421

Or send a cheque made out to Anglesea & District Historical Society, send to PO Box 98 Anglesea 3230

We have a wide range of indexes both Australian and overseas. We have internet access for researching.

Our equipment includes computers, scanners, printers, microfiche readers and an extensive library.

Need help with your research? Call in and we will help.

**Library and Research Facilities**

Tuesday 10.30am - 1.00pm

Wednesday by appointment

Saturday 10.30am - 1.00pm

**Meetings** held on the 2nd Thursday of the month

commencing at 10am at History House

unless an excursion has been scheduled

5a McMillan Street Anglesea 3230

Visitors Welcome

Enquiries: surfcoastfh@gmail.com

Susan Clarke: Phone 0438 070 560

**Forthcoming Activities**

**DECEMBER** 10.00am Thursday 14 December  
Christmas Breakup Quiz.

☺ Bring a parcel - value up to \$5, for our **Kris Kringle**.

**FEBRUARY** 10.00 am Thursday 8 February

Speaker: John Stewart

Topic:: *Genealogical Proof Standard*

**MARCH:**

**Thursday 8**

Combined visit to Beeac Windmill Park Followed by

\* Lunch at the Farmers Arms Hotel

\* Talk by local historian

\* Transport leaves History House 10.00am

\* Cost: \$15 includes transport and morning tea.

\* Lunch extra

Members and visitors welcome to all activities.

*No activities are held on days of code red or extreme fire danger for the Central Region.*

This newsletter is available electronically. If you wish to receive an electronic copy please email us on surfcoastfh@gmail.com



**Committee Members 2016 - 2017**

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Secretary  
Treasurer  
Committee Member  
Website  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
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The Surf Coast Family History Group does not hold itself responsible for the accuracy of the statements or opinions expressed by authors of articles published in this magazine

## NEWS AND RESOURCES

### Historic Plans Collection at PROV

Over half of the PROV collection of old maps and plans in Victoria has now been digitised and can be downloaded. So you can enhance your family history research via access from home to high resolution scanned copies free of charge. The items in the collection date from 1836 to 1984. You can search by parish, township or location name, and search across all records or digitised records only. See:

<https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/researching-land-and-property/historic-plans-collection>

### General Register Office for England & Wales (GRO) certificates

GRO supplies extensive legal copies of birth, death and marriage certificates. Good news! There is now an extended pilot scheme to provide digital PDF copies of some certificates at a discounted fee. These digital copies are not evidential so cannot be used for official purposes, but are sufficient for genealogical research purposes. Applications for each PDF cost 6 pounds sterling, must be made online, and include a GRO index reference. The certificates available are:

Births 1837 – 1916

Deaths 1837 – 1957

Search and find the certificate reference you need at: <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp>

### Find & Connect website

Following on from our November outing to see the film “Oranges and Sunshine” about child migrants, note this website which is funded by the Australian Government. It provides history and information about Australian orphanages, children's homes and other institutions. The site is easy to navigate with links from the home page to, for example, 'Searching for records of a parent or grandparent' and 'Tips for “reading” child welfare records'. See:

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>

### Reading old handwriting

There are many resources for helping you to read old handwriting. A couple of examples:

11 Tips for reading old handwriting

The FamilySearch blog included these tips recently to help get you started with your own palaeography research, but stated that the list is by no means exhaustive. See:

<http://media.familysearch.org/11-tips-for-reading-old-handwriting/>

The National Archives (UK)

TNA has a more detailed practical online tutorial on palaeography at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/>

### Queensland, WW1 soldier portraits 1914-1918

In September 1914, Talma Studios set up a tent in the soldier's camp at Enoggera, Queensland. They were there to take a photograph of each soldier in the camp for publication in *The Queensland Newspaper*. These photographs have been added to Ancestry.com.

### DO YOU HAVE NEWS?

Have you made any good discoveries in your family history lately? Have you discovered new websites or rich stores of resources? Please share any news or resources that you feel would be of interest to our members. You can share via our 'show & tell' segments at History House meetings, or via this newsletter column.

## EARLY ANGLESEA FAMILIES – DUNOON Donald Campbell



DC Doonan and grand children Ruth and Elaine Richardson. Photo: R Armstrong

In 1924 Colac architect, Donald Campbell DUNOON, retired to Geelong and built two houses. His retirement home was in Geelong but his holiday home, where he spent a lot of time, was in Anglesea. He chose a block on the corner of Murray and Minifie Streets, to build what was to become a long-term family holiday home.

Robert Armstrong in his book *A Fine Romance* tells us that Dunoon's holiday house, *Summerglen*, was quite small but had three bedrooms, a lounge with a huge open fire-place, kitchen, bathroom and an outside WC. The house was made completely of cedar. The kitchen and bathroom were unlined. The only hot water was from a chip heater in the bathroom. There was a Coolgardie safe and later an ice-chest. Electricity was connected in 1937. A mantle radio and a wind up gramophone were also added for entertainment at what became 23 Murray Street.

In Geelong, Donald Dunoon purchased lot No.12 Nantes Street, where he designed and built his timber bungalow in 1925.

Donald Campbell Dunoon was born in Colac in 1862, the son of Donald and Mary (nee Miller) from Thirso, Caithness, Scotland. Raised in Colac, in 1892 he entered the Colac architectural practice of Alexander Hamilton, as an assistant. In 1896 Dunoon married Jessie Margaret Reddie, the same



*Summerglen, holiday house Anglesea*  
photo: Robert Armstrong

year he became a partner in Hamilton's architectural practice. In the ensuing years Dunoon combined his practice as an architect and his civic duties, being a councilor of the Colac Shire and serving as Shire President. He was also secretary of the Newtown-Beeac Railway Trust. Dunoon was elected an associate of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1922. Many buildings designed by him still stand in Colac today, with one of his last designs being the Colac Municipal Abattoirs.

Another of Dunoon's designs that still stands is St Andrew's

Uniting (Presbyterian) Church in Cressy. The red brick church designed by D.C. Dunoon replaced the first bluestone church, built in 1862. The foundation stone was laid in 1911 and the church opened in 1913.

In 1928 Donald was a member of the new Anglesea Golf Club committee that was organizing a golf course on the cliff tops of Anglesea. From 1932–42 he served on the Anglesea Marine River Frontage and Recreation Committee. Donald was also an inaugural member of the Anglesea Fire Brigade formed in 1940, holding the position of vice-president. He had been one of the vocal lobby group,



*Ruth outside the Summerglen bathing box*  
photo R Armstrong

that stressed the need for such a brigade and contributed financially to the purchase of equipment. After Donald's death in 1946, aged 83, his children Mary, Edith, Lewis, and Jessie, and his grandchildren continued to enjoy *Summerglen*, the Anglesea family holiday home. His wife Jessie Margaret died in 1952 aged 79. They are buried in Colac cemetery.

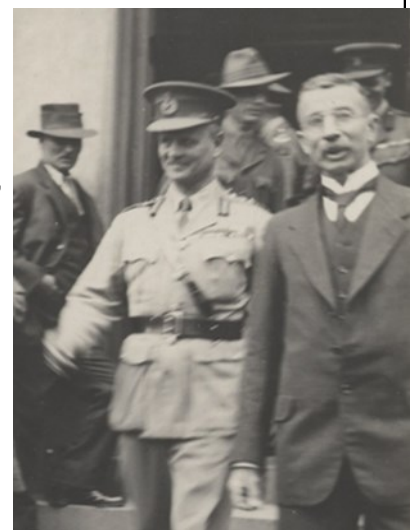
### SOURCES

Dr David Rowe & Wendy Jacobs: - *Newtown West Heritage Review 2016*

Robert Armstrong *A Fine Romance 2015 Pub. R Armstrong*

K.C Cecil *The Red Steer 1993 pub.1993, Anglesea & District Historical Society*

Prue & Graeme Weber, *The Grand Challenge, A History of the Anglesea Recreation Club*



*General Sir W.R. Birdwood with the Shire President Cr D.C Dunoon on the occasion of his visit to Colac 1920*  
Photo: Australian War Memorial

## QUOTE

Historian Graeme Davison delivered the speech 'Do we belong here? Reflections on family, locality and community' at the 2017 Victorian Community History Awards held at the Arts Centre , Melbourne on the 16th of October for History Week. He shares his speech with us on the PROV blog.

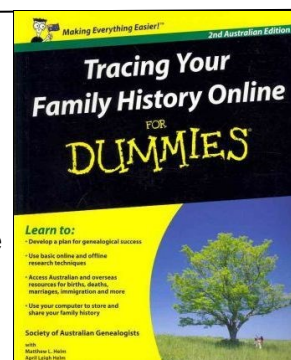
"Family history and local history are inextricably connected. Only when we place the family story in its local or community setting do we truly understand it. Only when we walk in the paths of our ancestors, do we begin to feel that we belong.

## Tracing your Family History Online for Dummies

2nd Australian Edition 2009.

This easy to use book teaches you to develop a plan for genealogical success and how to access Australian and overseas resources for births, deaths, marriages, immigration etc etc. It shows how to use your computer to store and share your family history. It covers all important aspects of genealogy and family history and not just the Internet aspects. It also includes two good lists of web sites - one for Australian research and one for overseas research.

Margot Matthews



## FINDING MY CONVICT GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER

Kevin Pollard

On March 6, 1788, the British colours were raised over Norfolk Island. Just six weeks earlier, Britain's First Fleet had arrived at Botany Bay (soon to become Sydney) to establish the penal colony of New South Wales. Hand picked from the ranks of the First Fleeters were 23 settlers: seven freemen, 15 convicts and the commandant, Lieutenant Phillip Gidley King.

Ellen Wainwright, alias Esther Eccles of Rishton Lancs, aged 17, a single woman, had been sentenced to seven years transportation at Preston Quarter Sessions in January 1787, for theft of a scarlet woollen cloak, a blue stuff quilted petticoat and a black silk hat. In the following April, with Eleanor Fraser and Mary Spencer she was brought to Portsmouth by the turnkey of Lancaster Gaol and embarked for Port Jackson, on the Prince of Wales, 350 tons, built on the Thames 1785.

In March of 1790, Norfolk Island received 300 new people to its shore per the ship *Sirius*. The Norfolk Island reef grounded its first British ship. The ships *Sirius* and *Supply* had brought two companies of Marines plus new convicts from Sydney, where dwindling supplies of food had become a serious problem. The 540-ton *Sirius* and most of its provisions were lost on the coral reef. One of those convicts on board was Ellen Wainwright. Ellen was on the voyage as Esther Eccles. She was probably chosen because she had received six lashes for theft on 16 September 1787.

At Port Jackson on 24 May 1789 a daughter, Mary Anne had been baptized. She was born to Esther and James Wilson, a sailor on *Sirius*. With the child, she was sent to Norfolk Island by *Sirius* on 4 March 1790. She lost her child on 9 April 1792. By June 1794, with another child, she was sent to earn a living by dry nursing. By 3 November 1795 she returned to Port Jackson by *Supply*. By then she had two children, Henry born 1791 and Mary born 1795. With her children she returned to Norfolk Island on 18 January 1796 by *Reliance*.

Three more children followed for Esther, Ann born 1800, Elizabeth born 1802, and Frances born 1805 by Thomas Guy. Ellen remained at Norfolk Island until 1808 when she and Thomas Guy with the three children moved to Van Diemen's Land by the ship *City of Edinburgh* in October of that year. When Thomas Guy LEFT Norfolk Island he left a two story house, 18 feet by 11 feet, shingled and boarded and three outhouses valued at 40 pounds. He was classified as a second class settler.

Ellen, alias Esther Guy, was reported to be 72 years old when she died at Back River, New Norfolk, on 8 November 1839. She was found dead of natural causes. She had married Thomas Guy at Hobart on 24 May 1812.

Reference: Founder's of Australia by Mollie Gillen.



*Sirius*. 540 tons, leading the First Fleet into Sydney Cove 26/1/1788 Photo of original painting by Ian Hansenn

## USING SCHOOL RECORDS

At our October meeting Jan Morris spoke on using school information, including school rolls, for family history research. An example is the Wensleydale School operating from 1869 to 1953. A commemorative booklet was published by the school, with lists of students in different years. This book was preserved by Dulcie Quinlan and included below is some of the information from that book. School admission rolls gave date of enrolment, date of

birth, class level each year, attendance, father's name and occupation and family address. One can also find records for siblings, friends and neighbours. Closed school records should be stored at PROV.



*Wensleydale students outside their school 1919*

Back

Row:- Alan McConachy, Mrs Rye, Luke Strickland, Foster McConachy, Myrtle Mawson, Lily Parish, Janet Alsop, David West, Bill Parish, Whatley West

Second Row:- Hal Rye, Ada Drayton, Lena Bell, Annie Parish, Jack Reynolds, Albert Strickland, Tom Drayton, Steve Reynolds, Percy West,

Third Row:- Iren Also, Florrie Mawson, Mary Bell, Mabel Parish, Anne Rye, Les Bell, Annie West, ? Mawson, Charlie Drayton, Percy Mawson

Front Row: Tom Drayton, Bertha Parish, Henry Alsop, Charlie Bell, Eleclid Strickland, Vincent Strickland, Willie Mawson, Alf Reynolds

Some early teachers were:-

1869-1877 Mark Hallyard

1877-1885 Robert Brooks

1879 George Adcock

1886-1887 D.F. Martin

1887 F.C. Symington

1887-1888 H.Y. Dentry

1888 Miss Smyth

1889 Jane Clancy

1889-1892 Thomas Wilkinson

1895 Edith Batson

1896 P.F. Brown

1896-1900 Grace McTaggett

1905 Julia Carroll

1905 Elizabeth Mott

1906 Minna Fordyce

1909-1913 Harry Rye

On 17 August 1867 an application went to the New Schools Board requesting one hundred pounds towards a building for a mixed school at Wensleydale. Those who signed this request were H Hopkins, J. Burtlett, Thomas Clark, Maurice Woulfe, Henry Hager and David McConachy. One acre of land for the school was donated by Henry Hopkins.

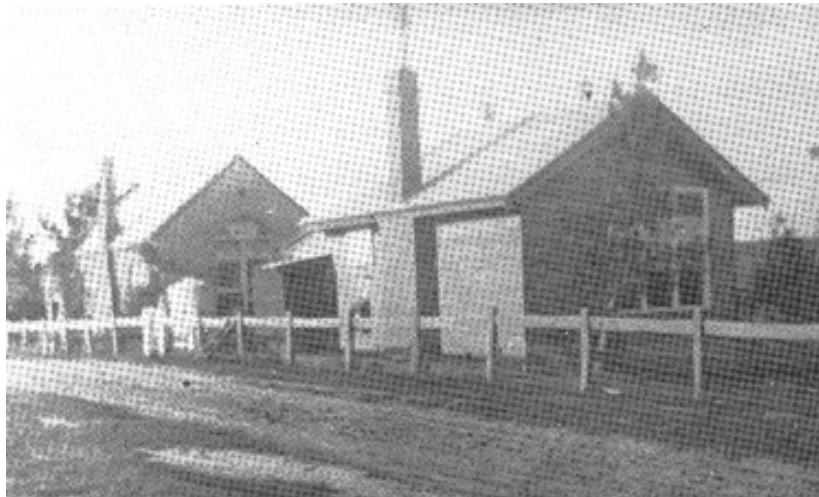
Wensleydale school opened as a Common School on 1 January 1869. Following the Education Act of 1872, In 1873 Wensleydale became a State School and given the number 894. The school was a brick building which could take 60 children. It had a three-roomed attached residence, and cost 150 pounds.

In 1892 a petition was sent to the Education Department, requesting that the position of the school be moved to a more central place, as some children had to walk four miles each way through swamp, to get to school. They wished to amalgamate the school with Wurdi Boluc. This request was denied.

Forty one years later a new school building was opened on 3 April 1914 at a cost of 284 pounds.

In 1888 a petition was sent to the Education Department requesting that the relieving teacher, Miss Smythe, be retained at the school as she was such an exceptional teacher. This petition was signed by John Parish, Henry Hager, William Bell, John Dorman, David McConachy, Benjamin Mawson, Thomas Clark, Thomas Walsh, Joseph Parish and Edward Drayton.

The attendance gradually fell off and the school became unstaffed in 1951. On 16 December 1953 the school was officially closed and the buildings were moved to Colac West School.



*Wensleydale State School 1910*