

Coastal Current

(Incorporating Inverlochy Log)

Quarterly Newsletter
Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.
& Surf Coast Family History Group

Editor: Karl Jacklin

Issue No. 147 June 2025



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Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.

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Museum and Library Times

The museum is open between 2:00pm and 4:00pm on the second Sunday of each month, and from 4:30pm to 8:00pm on each Friday evening the Community House has a "Twilight Market."
The museum is also open by appointment. Just phone one of the committee members listed above to arrange a mutually suitable time.
The museum library is accessible whenever History House is open.
The Family History collection of books and CDs is available by appointment.

No historical society meetings or activities are held on days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger days.

Forthcoming Activities of the Historical Society and Family History Group

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2.00pm Sunday 1 June Anglesea Hotel Function Room

Topic: History of Anglesea Hotel

- Speakers – hotel patrons over the years
- Entrance – gold coin
- Free cuppa
- Raffle

Starting in 1886 as an unlicensed boarding house to the present day hotel
Members & Visitors welcome



SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

WHEN: Thursday 12 June 2025

WHERE: History House
Entrance 4, 5 McMillan Street

TOPIC: Ancestors, Archives and Anecdotes

SPEAKERS: Group Members

ENTRY: Free

Morning Tea included

Members & visitors welcome



ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY & SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Mid-Winter Lunch – Anglesea Hotel



Come and have fun
while enjoying lunch

- 11.00am Thursday 3 July 2025
- Speaker – John Stewart
- Topic:
Flour Mills of Geelong District
(essential for early settlement)
- Cost \$30
- Choice of menu
- Tea & coffee included
- Drinks at bar prices
- Lucky numbers
- Raffle
- Bookings essential –
Susan - 0438 070 560

Members & visitors welcome

President's Pen

Jan Morris

Mitchell Bomber Crash Books

After commemorating the Mitchell Bomber Crash last December, we have now produced two books about that day. The first book is the display material that we had in History House. The cost of this book is \$30. The other book is of the photos that were taken on the day. This book is available at a cost of \$40 each, plus postage if they need to be posted.

Collecting History of Anglesea

Sixteen people went on the tour of Anglesea facilities in March. There were excellent speakers at each place and Karl was able to record what they said. These talks have been saved to our central computer for future reference and can be played at any time. As Coogoorah Park was very hot and dry we decided to relocate to the shelter by the Information Centre for lunch.

Camps Meeting

At our April meeting Geoff Caldwell spoke about the camps of Anglesea. Having managed Camp Wilkin for over 20 years, he focused on that camp. It is amazing how the standard expected of camps has changed over the years. The early camps when you brought your own bedding and cutlery, to today when there are ensuite bathrooms and amazing sporting facilities.



Contributors officially open the accessible pathway

Opening of Accessible Driveway

We are extremely grateful to many people for our new accessible driveway, giving an easy pathway to the ramp at the rear of our building. In March we shared the official opening with those who helped us financially. They were the Surf Coast Shire, the Bendigo Bank, the Lions Club of Anglesea, Seaside Seconds, and the Men's Shed.

Outing to Tarndie

On Wednesday 14 May a party of 23 visited Tarndwarncourt known as Tarndie. The property has been in the Dennis family since 1840 and the first part of the homestead was built in 1843. They run Polwarth sheep and are known for their speciality wool. After being escorted around the property, and through the homestead we were provided with a delicious afternoon tea, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Mid-winter lunch

Our mid-winter lunch for this year will be on Thursday 3 July to be held at the Anglesea Hotel. Our speaker will be John Stewart who will talk about the Flour Mills of the Geelong District. These were vitally important to our early settlers who every few months went to Geelong to purchase flour, tea and sugar, the staples they did not produce on their own land. Bookings for lunch are essential. Either book at History House or phone Susan Clarke on 0438 070 560. Visitors are most welcome.

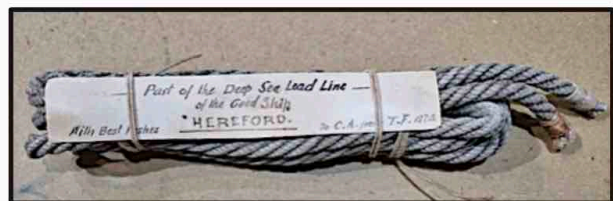


Photo: Marilyn Wendt

Museum

The museum is looking great with ever changing displays, thanks to the curator Susan Clarke and her talented off-sider Marilyn Wendt. We have recently added a small piece of rope from the deep sea line of the sailing ship the Hereford, which ran aground near Anglesea in 1881. The piece of rope was presented to Charles Atkins, a crew member of the Hereford. It has been donated to us by the grandson of Charles, 92-year-old John Richardson.

LUNCH, DINNER, DRINKS and FUNCTIONS



Public Bar
TAB
Lounge with a kids play area
Function Room
Thirsty Camel bottleshop

📍 1 Murch Cres. Anglesea VIC 3230
☎️ (03) 5263 1210



News and resources for family historians

Susan Clarke

New at PROV: April

Glenelg Shire Council spanning 1938 through to 2023, as well as Department of Education school council files, Ballarat Base Hospital Board of management minutes and agendas, and Supreme Court Council of Judges minutes and papers. These records are all now available to order for viewing in the North Melbourne reading room. While Walhalla Cemetery Trust letter books and ledgers are now available online. Read more at: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/glenelg-council-history-among-new-transfers-prov>

New at PROV: May

Melbourne tram history: more than 1,300 plans used to construct and maintain Melbourne's tramcar fleet have recently been transferred to the Victorian Archives Centre from the Melbourne Tram Museum (located in Hawthorn). Read more at: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/melbourne-tram-history-now-preserved-prov>

Family united with 121yo diary dropped off at Adelaide RSL club

Read about this serendipitous find: <https://www.msn.com/en-au/news/australia/family-united-with-121yo-diary-dropped-off-at-adelaide-rsl-club/ar-AA1EW6M8?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

The Family Histories podcast

I recently came across this series of genealogy podcasts made for and about family historians. There are four episodes under the category of Australia: <https://familyhistoriespodcast.com/category/australia/> There are many other categories of potential interest such as countries - England, Scotland, Wales etc. – and topics such as crime, emigration, military history.

FamilySearch Labs

This is a place where new features are being tried out before they become live on the site. There are various experiments that you can try out and then provide feedback. Of particular note are a User Owned Tree Feature (CETs) and Full Text Search. In the former, all users can see deceased persons, but only the owner and invited researchers can edit the tree data. This is completely different from the shared, or community tree which has been available for a while.

Full Text Search was released in 2024 and allows you to search images, using AI to pick out the words on the image, so they don't need to be indexed. The example at left shows a result where handwritten text has been highlighted.

The Labs area is available at: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/labs/>

Complaint, or Cause of Discharge	DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSONNEL					
	Where born	Height	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Trade, or Occupation
Chronic Rheumatism and dropsy	Dalhousie	5 8 1/2	brn	blu	fair	Laborer
Neuritis of left arm	Stirling Newcastle	5 8 1/2	brn	blu	fair	Wheeler
At his own request	Edinburgh Newcastle	5 8 1/2	brn	grn	fresh	Wheeler
Left of right arm	Leicester Edinburgh	5 8 1/2	brn	blu	fair	Laborer
Spitting in chronic Rheumatism	Edin N.H.	5 8 1/2	brn	grn	fresh	Laborer
Wheeler's Case of Rheumatism of the left arm in both legs	Barrhead Newcastle	5 8 1/2	brn	blu	fresh	Wheeler
Neuritis of right arm	Edinburgh Newcastle	5 8 1/2	brn	blu	fresh	Wheeler

Quote for this issue

The best family historians do local history. It brings people from the past back to life. Context also enables us to properly interpret and interrogate our sources. The people in our family trees were influenced by where they lived and worked and who they lived and worked alongside. We need the local to understand the actions of a particular person. [Joe Saunders, 'Why do local history?', <https://www.balh.org.uk/blog-why-do-local-history-2020-11-11>]



0435 654 600

<https://www.mcknightspainting.com>

At **McKnights Painting**, we are passionate about making your home, office or building beautiful by bringing colour to life with paint.

McKnights Painting is a Anglesea based Painting company providing Residential, Commercial, and Repair Painting services to homeowners and businesses across the Anglesea and Surf Coast Area.

We have a team of highly experienced painters who take pride in providing the highest quality workmanship and professionalism.

We try our best to make your painting project with us as enjoyable as possible by clearly understanding your expectations and then delivering on them.

At Mcknights Painting, we strive to deliver.

Anglesea Memories by Rodney Fernald - Part 2

Part 1 of his 'Anglesea Memories' concluded with Rodney recalling the excitement of Christmas morning.

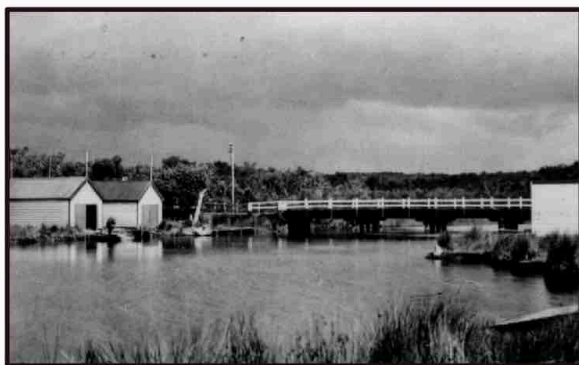
Uncle Dave in red dressing gown and cotton wool beard, always presided over the distribution, and loud were the squeals of delight by both adults and children over their loot. Christmas dinner was a slap up affair with all the trimmings; real coins in the pudding, which were carefully kept as long as possible before being spent.

New Years Day was a big affair with the Annual Regatta on the river. The day before, the racing boats would be brought out of the Recreation Association boatshed and put in the water to see if they still floated. I don't know how old they were, but they were beautifully built old craft. Two pair oared and two fours. Dad was in charge of getting the right crews into the right boats for each race, and Uncle Dave was usually the judge. I can't remember who was the starter, but it wasn't one of our family. Joan and a number of our friends rowed in both the pairs and the fours. June Baker was one, Barbara Bossance another, and I think that the McDougall girls, Dorothy and Sheena, as well. They seemed to win just about everything. I remember Jean complaining about the number of handkerchiefs and cheap scent she accumulated. We boys never won a darned thing.



Of evening entertainment in Anglesea there was none, so we had to make our own. Remember, there was no television back then, or radio, so board and card games were popular. The only light was from the big Aladdin lamp and the fire. Uncle Dave either read or dozed, helped no doubt by a couple of Scotches, and Dad either read or painted a room which needed it, by the light of a small kerosene lamp.

Mother and Aunt Ivy read, did crosswords, or stitched tapestries, a couple of which I still have, beautifully done considering the poor light by which they worked. Often our various games became a bit uproarious, but we were never told to quieten it down. I remember a couple of times the elder children put on a play which they had written themselves, either in the Boys Room or, if there was enough daylight left, out in front of the house.



Our days generally followed a similar pattern in that each morning we children would go down to the boatshed leaving the adults to wash up after breakfast, as well as do any of the other chores that we had managed to avoid. We would then spend the morning swimming in the river. The others followed as soon as they could, bringing lunch with them. A watch would be kept for the first of the TransOtway Buses to cross the bridge, which meant that the mail and newspapers had arrived at the Post Office. Two of us would be dragged from the water and sent to collect them. After lunch, which was sandwiches and tea boiled on the world's oldest Primus stove, it was either stay at the river or go to the beach. We had a wonderful beach umbrella with eyelets around the top at regular intervals into which we hooked a large piece of

material that reached all the way to the sand. It had large pockets at the bottom that we filled with sand, giving us, once it was erected, our own private changing room on the middle of the beach.

Dad taught us to swim at an early age by walking up and down along the river bank between our boatshed and that of the McMillan's, holding a long pole made from a tree branch. From the end of the pole was a rope, and attached to the rope was a canvas belt in which a small child was supported. We splashed happily in this belt doing the dog paddle until we suddenly found he was not supporting us any more. Having proved our skill by swimming unaided between the two boatsheds we were rewarded with a whole two shillings! The next test was to swim the width of the river, closely convoyed by older relatives. A brief rest on the other side and back we swam to collect a further reward. FIVE SHILLINGS! On five shillings we could (and I did) live like kings for a whole week.

Following that we would have to dive from the top railing of the bridge, which, I think, was worth ten shillings, but I chickened out as ten to twelve feet was a hell of a long way down for a seven or eight year old.

After we had lunch in the boatshed we were forbidden to enter the water for an hour, so we played cricket behind the shed, or fished. You could catch a reasonably sized bream by dropping a line between the planks of the landing. We occasionally hired a boat or canoe from Mr Hedley. I recall one craft in particular. It was an all metal thing about ten feet long, pointed at both ends, which were sealed and watertight, and propelled by a small paddle wheel on each side. These were operated by handlers inside the boat. The boat was painted red on the outside and yellow on the inside. I still wonder what became of it.

Anglesea Memories by Rodney Fernald - Part 2 (cont.)

So, we drifted on from day to day. After the initial Christmas period, the older male members would return to Melbourne to work, leaving Mother and Aunt Ivy in charge. I suppose there were the odd disputes, but they never seemed to amount to much. We were rarely disciplined.

A trip to Point Roadknight was always a highlight and involved a couple of days preparation. Firstly, a check of the tide timetables to see whether there would be a high tide in the afternoon. Then, Geoff would be instructed to trap a couple of rabbits to be skinned and cleaned ready for the big day. The crayfish nets would be brought out of storage, and on the day we would set out along the beach, everyone loaded to the eyebrows with the rabbits for the bait, crayfish nets, fishing gear, bathers, towels, warm clothes, food, water, cooking utensils and newspapers. The last items were essential to light the fire on the beach, and for private quick trips into the scrub.



Halfway along the beach was an outcrop known as Soapy Rocks, very slippery when wet, and there would be howls of laughter if someone misjudged a breaking wave and was soaked. Once over soapy it was a different world. In those days there was nothing at the Point apart from two fisherman's boatsheds on the beach. No houses, no shops, no toilets, nothing! Access by car was difficult as the only track (Melba Parade) was often almost impassable due to erosion, and the only other track further on, was risky because of the chance of being bogged in the sand. Sometimes we had the whole place to ourselves.

Once we had set up camp on the beach, it was in for a swim, or up and over the sandhills to explore the ocean

side of the beach. There were many snakes in the sandhills, so we had to be wary. As the tide dropped we would venture out on the Point itself, peering into the rock pools or perhaps fishing on the lee side. Dad always fished off the very end, usually catching something.

After a barbeque tea the serious business of crayfishing over the side of the Point began. It was considered too dangerous for Sandy and me to be on the Point after dark, so we were dragged kicking and screaming home with the adults while the older children and their friends were left with the nets. We ate nothing but crayfish for the next couple of days, for they wouldn't keep in the Coolgardie safe.

There was a scout camp down in a corner of the property roughly at the junction of today's Fernald Avenue and Murray Street. Many years earlier Grandfather Mawson had allowed a group of Naruans to camp there and they had built a semi-permanent camp out of local timber. I'm not sure where they came from, possibly they had been at the Gordon Institute in Geelong. I really don't know. When they were in camp, we were supposed not to intrude on them, but occasionally I would forget and wander along the track, only to have the daylight's scared out of me by a grinning face suddenly appearing out of the gumtrees. I didn't stick around long enough to make their acquaintance.

So our holidays came and went each year. I remember a couple of things that happened around the end of the war. The first was the sudden appearance over the top of Demons bluff of an RAAF aircraft which sprayed Ingoldsby Reef with cannon fire, sending up huge columns of water. They were big twin-engined machines, probably Beaufighters. I was fascinated. The other was the advent of day tripper buses from Geelong at weekends. We hated them. The people filled the swimming hole and the shops, wandering in and out our boatshed as though they owned it, and generally annoyed us. On one occasion a young lad stuck his head in the boatshed and asked if we could help him. "What's the matter?" We asked him. He said he was a bit worried about his friend who had dived into the river and hadn't come up.



"How long ago?" we asked. "Oh, about twenty minutes," was the reply. PANIC STATIONS! We all hurtled into the water and Geoff finally found him. A St John's man worked on him while an ambulance was on its way from Geelong, but to no avail, and sadly he died. Apparently he had had a large lunch at the Hotel and then went straight back into the water. We never grumbled about waiting for an hour after that.

In 1947 Cambridge House was destroyed in a bush fire. For a couple of years we tried camping on on the property, but these attempts were not a success, and after some fifty years, the Mawson family holidays came to an end.

Anglesea - the 1920s Picnic Destination by Jane Shennan - Part 1

The popular pastime of picnicking has been around for centuries. We read about them in novels, an industry revolves around tartan rugs and wicker baskets. They were mostly family affairs. But in the late 1800s Australia saw the rise of a new sort of picnic, the worker's picnic. Companies began treating employees to an annual day out, a day for goodwill between benevolent management and grateful staff. Unions designated a 'Picnic Day' in their awards, giving workers an organised and paid leisure day out together, often with families and usually involving competitive races and games and formal luncheons.

An 1898 item in the *Geelong Advertiser* said 'Picnics are unfailingly popular, and the coastal resorts offer special attraction for those who prefer to spend the day in homely enjoyment of this character. The various livery stables... run coaches direct to Barwon Heads, Anglesea and the other favourite coastal resorts.'

At that time, Anglesea River, as it was then known, was a diminutive and mainly summer settlement at the end of a long and ragged track. But the township hit its straps as a destination in the 1920s, not only because of the evolving Great Ocean Road but also the advent of motorised charabancs (right). These notoriously uncomfortable and unsafe but immensely popular picnic conveyances brought scores of picnickers to the picturesque riverbank and adjacent safe and sandy beach. These jaunts to the seaside were a boon to the town's small businesses, specially Alice Jackson's Anglesea Hotel and Reuben Mousley's 'Marine View' tearooms and the Angahook Café.

The companies and unions were soon joined by sports clubs, cultural groups, schools, traders and associations. The tiny township hosted woollen mills, gas company, woolbrokers, auctioneers and real estate agents, stock agents, law association, and bakers, grocers, bread carters and butchers unions. There were also the motor owners, the 'Englishmen', multiple sports clubs, choirs, footballers, schools and companies such as Dalgety, Cresco and the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust (GWST).

A typical picnic saw the revellers leaving Geelong early in the day and returning late. On the beach in the morning, senior staff and bottom rung employees took part together in sports and team games. Lunch, not in keeping with the notion of a picnic, was almost always indoors. Afternoon relaxing activities included a dip in the surf or the river, perhaps a clifftop walk or a visit to Aireys Inlet. Often the employees contributed a small portion of their wage to share the funding of the day with their union, company or association.

The digitised editions of the *Geelong Advertiser* from 1920-1929 on Trove confirm Anglesea's popularity, and *The Argus* and *Table Talk* occasionally entered the fray. Following is an extensive but far from exhaustive survey of the picnickers who came to our shores during the decade.

Among the earliest, in February 1920, was the Belmont Improvement Association's 'excursion'. '...a most enjoyable run of about an hour brought the party to the picturesquely situated little town of Anglesea. Here a very pleasant afternoon was spent, the varied beauties of the fine beach, the most interesting cliffs, and the rugged coast scenery, all being duly admired.' But it wasn't really a picnic as such, as 'dinner was excellently served at Host Mousley's tea rooms.' A week later the Paraparap Sunday School spent the day on the beach – this time an 'abundant tea' was provided by the ladies.



In December 1921 the Geelong Motor Owners and Telephone Society (left) 'supplied their own victuals', while the association funded prizes for the children's competitions. Thirteen cars took part in 'a run to Anglesea' before the drivers and their families participated in a sports programme. Later, the Shugg Brothers band 'added greatly to the enjoyment of the outing'. On the Motor Owners return in 1924, with the 'weather exhilarating, being neither too chilly nor too hot', many 'enjoyed bathing'.

Under the heading of 'The Englishmen's Picnic', in 1922 the Royal Society of St George (RSG), a patriotic society, visited Anglesea for the first time. RSG had held picnics for many years prior to the 1920s in the You Yangs,

Queenscliff or Clifton Springs. Over 100 members and friends came to town for the afternoon, the 'billy' was boiled under the trees near the river, and tea was served at 5.30. Picnickers were asked to 'bring their own eatables, but hot water, milk and sugar are to be provided'. The homeward journey was 'commenced about 7 o'clock'. The RSG returned in 1928, when the members gathered 'at an attractive spot on the bank of the Anglesea River to enjoy a tasty repast'.

The motor cycle trader's picnic in 1922 was a little different, taking the form of a trade fair. Strangely, a 'fleet of cars' conveyed the motor cycle enthusiasts to Anglesea for the annual picnic and sports meeting. 'A large body of representatives of Melbourne trade houses will be present at the gathering, which is one that has been successfully organised for many years,' said the *Geelong Advertiser*.

In 1923 the GWST enjoyed the first of its many picnics in Anglesea. The offices closed for the day and the staff were 'conveyed to their destination' in 'char-a-bancs specially engaged for the occasion'. The picnics were fairly staid affairs judging by the 1923 and 1927 reports with both lunch and dinner actually being catered meals at the Anglesea Hotel. The afternoons were always 'pleasantly spent in rowing, swimming and cricket.' The GWST Commissioners aided the staff picnics financially by giving generous donations towards the prize funds but it was mostly covered by monthly contributions by the members themselves. Most years the picnic experienced fine weather but in 1928 the heavens opened.



Brearley's Charabanc leaving Bull and Co.'s, 7 Malop street, SUNDAY NEXT, at 9.30. Return Fare, 5/-. Book at Bull and Co's.

Anglesea - the 1920s Picnic Destination by Jane Shennan - Part 1

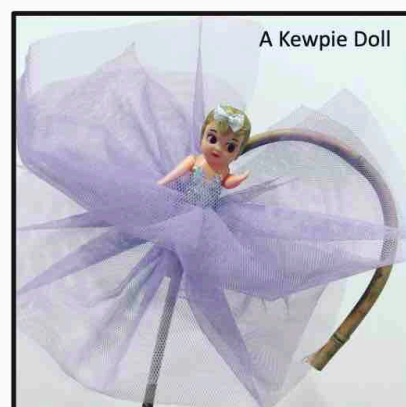
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'The weather in the morning was enjoyable, and the picnickers arrived on the sand to prepare for the sports while the tide was out... After lunch, they decided to indulge in mixed bathing in the river and surf, while others went for a motor drive to Aireys Inlet. While surfing was enjoyed the heavy clouds broke and drove the swimmers hurriedly from the water to secure their clothes which had been saturated on account of the dressing sheds having no roof protection. The owner of one of the bathing boxes volunteered the use of the box to some of the young ladies, and they were the fortunate ones in having dry clothes.'

The Belmont Progress Association made a major change to its program for 1924. When tossing around ideas for the next venue the members, who were unanimous that they had enjoyed a wonderful time at Anglesea, agreed 'the ladies should be present at such gatherings.'

Through the early 1920s the Grocer's Association closed all the Geelong stores for the day but split their event into separate Grocers' Employers and Grocers' Employees picnics. One year the bosses went to Torquay and the employees to Barwon Heads. Another time they divided between Anglesea and Torquay lunching at Torquay's Palace Hotel and travelling to Anglesea 'for an afternoon on the sand'.

The *Geelong Advertiser* report of the Grocers' Employees picnic of 1924 focussed on kewpies. Hoping for a glorious spring day, the picnickers were disappointed the morning at Anglesea did not look too promising. 'But one enthusiastic official in the hope of bringing good luck to the function presented to each member of the party with a dainty kewpie mounted on a miniature walking stick. Although the members of the party were mostly men of mature years, they eagerly accepted the symbol and carried it well aloft. However for once kewpie did not maintain her reputation for the day turned out decidedly boisterous.'



Dalgety's staff from as far afield as Horsham, Ararat, St. Arnaud, Maryborough, Colac and Hamilton travelled to Anglesea in 1924. 'Hitherto', said the press report, 'it has been the practice after the conference was held among the male heads of departments to hold a picnic but to 'promote the spirit of fellowship and co-operation among the whole staff', it was decided that 'all female members should join in the picnic.' Two charabancs and six motor cars left Geelong at 9.30am with about 70 picnickers aboard. 'After a football match, dinner was served at the Anglesea Hotel.'

Also picnicking in Anglesea that month was the Geelong Gas Company. Following the first successful foray into picnicking, a social club was formed and from then on the employees shared the cost of the day. 'After keen discussion on the location, three towns were considered.' A ballot was taken, and Anglesea got the nod ahead of Queenscliff and Torquay.

This picnic suffered from 'the adverse weather experienced in the early part of the afternoon, but everything went well. The party, in four charabancs, left the company's offices about 8.45am and after a pleasant run reached Anglesea shortly before 10am. The morning was spent at the beach where several men availed themselves of the excellent opportunity to bathe. A few keen swimmers also enjoyed a dip in the river, where there are very comfortable bathing facilities'. Owing to the heavy rain, the sports program was delayed but 'keen interest was evinced in the races and there were many close finishes.' The employees expressed their appreciation to the directors for granting the holiday and the financial assistance. 'It is hoped that future picnics would be carried out with the same fine feeling existing between the company and employees.'

In April, the Belmont Methodist Church Choir motored to Anglesea to hold their picnic. 'The trip out was much enjoyed by all, the scenery being much admired. A most enjoyable time was spent at the beach, where games and races, including boot racing, Siamese races, and high jumps, were indulged in. The happy party enjoyed a stroll around the beach drinking in the fresh breeze of the ocean. Tea was partaken of and much appreciated, as the balmy air had sharpened the appetites of all. After thanks was given to everyone who organised the day, the choir 'lustily sang "For They are Jolly Good Fellows"', reported the *Geelong Advertiser*.

'Geelong trade unions are fixing dates for their annual picnics. The operative bakers will visit Torquay on January 20 and on January 21 the retail butchers will journey to Queenscliff. The bread carters have selected Anglesea for their picnic on February 4 said *The Argus* in January 1925. *Table Talk* said 'the picturesque stretches around Anglesea have attracted a full quota of holidaymakers, and the advantages of its splendid beach have afforded much pleasure to the many visitors and surfers, the children especially enjoying their time on the sands and in the water... On Saturdays and Sundays the motor coaches and the char-a-bancs convey picnic parties from Geelong, the road via Torquay being an admirable motor road. The Anglesea river, with its boating and fishing facilities, lends pleasing variety...'



Anglesea even scored a poem in February. Headed 'Pipes of Pan, the Gas Employees' Social', the news article began:

'Along the golden sands of Anglesea
The merry pipers tripped about;
The shores re-echoed with their glee
As the pipes of pan rang out!'

A family picnic

Anglesea - the 1920s Picnic Destination by Jane Shennan - Part 1 (cont.)

Members of the Geelong Bread Carters Union, with their families, spent an enjoyable day at Anglesea in 1926. Wise's charabancs were employed to convey the picknickers. John Wise, a former Geelong tram driver had bought a T-model Ford and fitted it with a saloon body with rear access for the passengers.

The auctioneers and estate agents had held their picnic in Torquay for several years but in 1926 'it was thought a change was desirable this time, and It was decided to hold the event at Anglesea, and those who had the pleasure of visiting that place will admit that it is an ideal picnic spot.'

In November 1927 'there was an invasion of motor buses all fully loaded with school girls from The Hermitage. It was the occasion of the annual picnic... they took possession of the river and its environs, forming a very gay scene.'

It was the turn of the Geelong Law Association early in 1928. A big program of beach races, for married clerks, single clerks and lady clerks, was extensively recorded. The winner of the married clerks race 'showed great stamina and after training and trying for the past ten years he considers Leap Year a fitting time to disclose his true form.' After lunch, the challenge cricket match between Harwood & Pincott and 'Other Offices' resulted in 'a win for the latter after a most exciting finish'. The *Geelong Advertiser* joked that, many of the batsmen departed from the wicket with a grouch. 'It was quite evident that the rule "To give the batsman the benefit of the doubt" was wrongly interpreted. There is talk that a writ will issue within a few days!'

One of the last reported picnics of the era, the Cresco Fertilisers Co picnic, saw 'about 180 make the trip, being conveyed in nine of Hudson's buses. They arrived... after an enjoyable run of 50 minutes... sweets were given to the children, and ice cream to all.' As the tide was low, the sports were held on the beach. After these had been decided a swimming race was held in the river at the bridge, and was the cause of much excitement. Following: lunch on the beach, the children's races and finals of other events were run. After these the picnickers spent the remainder of the afternoon on the beach.' But, unbeknown to most until a further piece appeared in the paper, there was a near tragedy. 'The prompt action of Miss D. Hanby, a qualified lifesaver, in plunging into the river, rescued a young man from drowning.'

In 1929, the Water Trust and the Law Association returned. They were joined by the Geelong Swimming Club who were entertaining the competitors from their Eastern Beach carnival. 'A first-class cafe luncheon will fill the mid-day gap. All members are urged to attend as this is the foremost social event of the Club's year and a pleasant day is assured,' said the club's promotional blurb. Last report of the era was of the Geelong & District Master Bakers' Association whose guests included senior executives of several major Melbourne milling firms. And this time lunch was at the Angahook Café.

To be continued in the next issue of Coastal Current

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2.00pm SUNDAY 3 August @ History House




Members Stories & Pictures
TOPIC – Weddings in which you have been involved

- Bring your photos & stories
- Afternoon tea provided
- Entry free
- Raffle



Members & visitors welcome

SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
 August Meeting |
 Thursday 14th August 2025 @ History House
Entrance 4 McMillan Street Starts 10.00am




SPEAKER: Jim Maffett
TOPIC:
 Tales from his Family History
ENTRANCE: free
MORNING TEA:
 included



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Volunteers Needed



Maintaining and developing an organisation like an historical society takes a lot of human effort, and it's all made possible by volunteer helpers. If you have a spare hour or two each week you might be able to assist us by doing a bit of gardening, or undertaking some typing or simple database work, or keeping the lending library in order, or even helping us run some of our interactive programs. If you are interested, contact our Secretary Susan Clarke on 0438 070 560 or our President Jan Morris on 0448 526 311.

Paddle Boat Owner Needs New Lease by Jan Morris



Paddle boats in action on the river

Adrian Booth has operated Paddle Boats on the Anglesea River since 1976. They have become an icon of Anglesea. As you drive over the Anglesea bridge you see the boat sheds on one side and the paddle boats and canoes on the other. It really adds to the atmosphere for Anglesea, letting people know there is fun to be had on the water here.

Adrian's lease has been with the Surf Coast Shire, but this year that has changed. The land where he stores his boats is now under the control of Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA). He needs to secure a lease with them by convincing them of the importance of the paddle boats to Anglesea. Anglesea & District Historical Society has written to GORCAPA, stressing the importance of the paddle boats to both the history of Anglesea and the attraction they provide for tourism.

In 2001 Randell Bell, Chairman of the State National Trust, met with Adrian Booth at the Anglesea River to inspect the 50-year-old paddle boats and recommend them for Heritage Classification at State level. Their ensuing classification by the National Trust resulted in articles about the paddle boats being published in the Geelong Advertiser and the Melbourne Age. Channel 7 also featured them on its evening news.

Maintenance for the paddle boats is high, due to their wooden pontoons. Special attention must be given to painting and glueing. Adrian has restored all of them and has them in use, except when the river level is too low for the wooden hulls. He also has motorised fun boats, aqua bikes and canoes that are can still navigate the river when it is low.



Adrian's boats by the banks of the Anglesea River

We support Adrian and express the hope that he will be successful in this lease application, and will continue to provide his boats for the enjoyment of both local residents and visitors.

The Statement of Significance at the National Trust:

The Anglesea Paddle Boats, most of which were constructed by brothers Frank and Raymond Hall c.1962, are of historical, aesthetic, technical and social significance at the State level.

Historically, the Anglesea paddle boats are important as the only intact fleet of timber paddle boats in the original style known to remain in Victoria. Nine of the fourteen boats were built by the Hall brothers, who are thought to have introduced paddle boats to Victoria. Frank Hall built the first boats of this type in Victoria in 1954, the concept and design having been modelled on images in overseas magazines, and operated them at Portarlington. The original nine boats were built in the garage of Frank Hall's Geelong home. The other five boats in the fleet were built by Mr Ian Isbister, the owner of the Anglesea fleet 1963 - 1974, copying the Halls' original design.

Apart from Portarlington and Anglesea, Frank Hall built boats for resorts and recreation places including Lorne, Lakes Entrance, Coburg Lake, Ballarat's Lake Wendouree, and Portland, as well as resorts in South Australia and New South Wales. These and timber paddle boats subsequently built by others, played an important part in the social and leisure time activities of families during the period 1954 to the early 1970s, when they began to be replaced with new designs built in modern materials.

The fleet is demonstrative of post World War Two developments in holiday activities in Victoria. The fleet is also expressive of Anglesea's rise as a holiday resort in the post-war motor-car era. They remain in good repair, but in recent years have had only limited operation over the summer season.

Aesthetically, the boats have a streamline style that is strongly expressive of the 1950s era. Other features, such as the heavy construction and timber slat seats, are also readily identifiable characteristics of the building technology and materials of the period.

Technically, the paddle boats demonstrate successful post-war improvisation in design, and successful construction by small-scale operators. The fleet's timber and metal components represent a construction type now superseded by the fibreglass, aluminium and plastics used for equivalent paddle boats of later periods.

Socially, the fleet remains a feature attraction of Anglesea, having been enjoyed by thousands of holiday-makers and tourists. The paddle boats have featured in Anglesea postcards, and many family photographs, over the years.

Classified: 06/08/2001

A Mystery of History - The Story of the First Anglesea Hotel by Jane Shennan



Imagine for a moment how astonishing this sublime building would look imposing itself on Anglesea's riverbank landscape today. Synonymous with the glorious hotels for which Queenscliff was, and is still, so famous, our town very nearly had its own resplendent beauty. Adjacent to the water, and looming three storeys above the treetops, it would be adorned with multiple intricate iron lacework balconies and an audacious viewing tower topped with a flagpole.

Just when we thought we knew the whole story of the Anglesea Hotel, history has thrown up a mystery. This drawing by Geelong architect and owner of

the first iteration of the Anglesea Hotel, John Stuart Jackson, popped up in a recent and random search on Trove. It was just one of many beautifully drawn Geelong buildings published in a Geelong Advertiser feature marking the Silver Jubilee in July 1887. With the discovery of the image came the questions 'Why hasn't this come to light in earlier searches?' 'Was it built?' and, if so, 'Where was it?'

To cut a long story short, the Anglesea Hotel was not in fact a hotel in its first years. Initially a 'house for public accommodation', Jackson logically named it Anglesea House. As Jackson was never granted a liquor license, he was obliged to retain its original moniker. Hence all searches for Anglesea Hotel left this drawing literally hidden in plain sight.

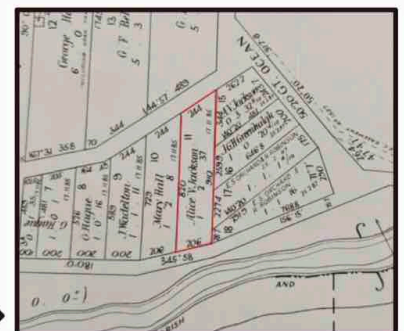
And alas, despite the elegant form artfully depicted by its owner, Anglesea House never became the grand dame of Jackson's dreams. His extravagant vision was not only beyond his means but it was also impractical in what was then a very remote location. The intended building materials, principally stone blocks and iron lacework, were impossible loads for horses to drag up hill and down dale on the rough bush trail which connected Geelong to Anglesea. In its stead a pared back building eventually rose above the trees. It was a timber construction, with the logs cut from the local forests. Nevertheless it was described in 1893 as the 'most pretentious building in Anglesea... a wooden structure of three storeys, of a style of architecture absolutely unique, forming a most picturesque feature in the landscape...' There were 24 guest rooms, the building was encircled by two large balconies and it was topped by a 75ft (23m) tower from which visitors could apparently enjoy 'an extensive view of Bass Strait'.

But exactly where was it? It has long been taken for granted the first hotel occupied the site on which the current hotel stands. It wasn't. As with the mystery of its design, so too has history obscured its location.

Firstly a few words about its designer, architect John Stuart Jackson. Designer of many notable buildings in Geelong, some surviving stately homes and other gems sadly demolished, Jackson set up in his own business in 1884. His office was in the Geelong Exhibition Building which he had leased and 'luxuriously rejuvenated', adding a theatre, large ballroom and facilities for a Farmer's Exchange. From his office facing Malop Street, he also managed his entrepreneurial activities, catering for 'public amusements' in his building and bringing significant plays and notable performers to the city.

He was flying so high that his marriage in January 1884 was the social event of the year. '...successful young architect Mr John Jackson married Miss Alice Parker, daughter of Richard Parker, Ironmonger of Geelong.' The wedding breakfast was held in the lecture theatre of the Exhibition Building, and in the evening John and Alice hosted a ball in the new ballroom.

However John's enterprise did not go to plan and by 9 May 1885 he was sued for unpaid debts. Undaunted, he pressed ahead with grand plans for Anglesea, his creative mind alive with ideas for the undeveloped village with its pretty river offering opportunities for family holidays, boating, sporting and fishing parties. He would build Anglesea House, anticipating a license would come later, and he would organise Cobb & Co to bring families on summer holidays and fishing parties for weekends. But first he needed a site. Finding ways around his impecunity, when Jackson purchased land in Anglesea in November 1885 he did so in the name of his wife, Alice Victoria Jackson. The land is shown on a subdivision map titled 'Township of Anglesea, Parishes of Jan Juc and Angahook, Counties of Grant and Polwarth 1885' and marked as 11 Government Road (Camp Road today). With river frontage at the bottom of the hill, the land measured 1 acre, 2 roods and 37 perches (in today's parlance 0.7ha) and cost £60.



The site of the original hotel. The land is today transected by Hallam Grove. →

A Mystery of History - The Story of the First Anglesea Hotel by Jane Shennan (cont.)

The auction drew 'spirited competition', as 'everyone appeared to be anxious to secure a piece of land...' and Mrs Jackson's block was the most expensive buy of the day.

By the end of the month 'workmen', who must have travelled from Geelong, had cleared the land and put in the blocks for the house. It was to be 'a large and roomy one, so as to afford every comfort to visitors... there is to be a tower, from which a view of the ocean and the back country near the Anglesea river will be obtained,' said the Geelong Advertiser.

So fast did construction proceed that, at Christmas just weeks later, a 'tight merry time' was spent by the visitors 'who dined at Mr J. S. Jackson's new house, an excellent repast being provided for the 20 persons who sat to the table presided over by Mrs Jackson.' Even though the house was then only about a quarter of the size intended, it already offered guests a beautiful view of the ocean.

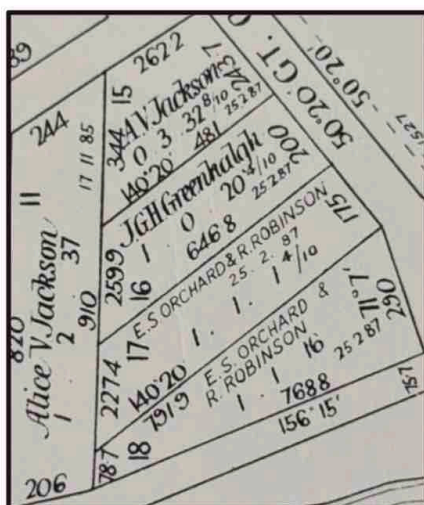
Anglesea's outdoor lifestyle was the drawcard. In the summer of 1885-1886 many families from Geelong erected tents, 'evidently going in for an extended camping out season'. Good hauls of fish were made by adroit anglers and rabbit shooting proved a popular sport. Already the river 'boasts of having eight boats ploughing its waters daily and nightly, and judging from the demand for their use double the number are required just now,' said the Geelong Advertiser.

By April 1886 Anglesea House was ready for public visitors. 'It is the proprietor's intention to make his property particularly attractive to families by introducing many outdoor sports suitable both for adults and youngsters, which are found at English houses, but are wholly absent from colonial watering places,' said the Advertiser midway through the year.

Then came the battle for the all-important liquor license. Even though the police spoke in glowing terms of Jackson's Anglesea House, they opposed his application on the grounds 'that it was within ten miles of a township or village'. It was the law of the times and a license was not granted. However, the inventive Jackson evolved the Tourists' and Anglers' Club, initially based in the Exhibition Building, and lodged another application to the Licensing Court. When it was granted, the Club speedily removed to Anglesea House, taking its 'Victuallers License' along with it. While Jackson could now open a bar for the Club's members, he was never able to name his premises Anglesea Hotel.

In November 1890, Alice Jackson, took over the accommodation house from her by then disgraced husband, and applied for a license for the premises. Alice's application was granted a month later, (John's Anglesea Tourists' Club license was cancelled), and Anglesea House was thereafter the Anglesea Hotel. The first known public notice under its new title appeared in The Age in February 1891.

ANGLESEA River, near Lorne.—Boating, fishing, shooting, bathing; Evans's coach leaves Albion Hotel, Geelong, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 3 p.m. Mrs. Jackson, Anglesea Hotel, via Geelong.



So when did the Anglesea Hotel appear on its current site?

In February 1887 Jackson purchased the land identified as Lot 2, marked as allotment 15 and later known as 15 Camp Road, on the corner of what is today known as Murch Crescent. It was once more in Alice's name and was about one third of a hectare. With admirable foresight he added the adjacent land, close to half a hectare, buying it in the name of JGH Greenhalgh, who later married Alice's sister Mary. Each block cost £40.

In the ensuing couple of years John and Alice's marriage disintegrated and in January 1889 John was declared insolvent. The last straw came when he was charged with obtaining money by false pretences. Tired of bailing him out, his family and friends raised sufficient funds to tide him over as he moved to the far side of the country, setting up as an architect in Perth. He died there in 1903.

Alice, with two young children but assisted by her family, successfully ran the Anglesea Hotel as sole proprietor. This 1893 review sang her praises:

A Mystery of History - The Story of the First Anglesea Hotel by Jane Shennan (cont.)

'The house is kept by Mrs A. V. Jackson, a most estimable woman, who is assisted by her sister, Miss Parker. So distinct is the bar kept from the dwelling house that visitors are never reminded of its existence. There are balconies to each storey, and a tower from which a splendid view is obtained. The terms are 30s a week, with a reduction for families. The accommodation is excellent; the fare good, well-cooked, and neatly served; while the greatest attention is shown to individual proclivities. There are two boats kept in a shed upon the river, at the foot of the garden, in which visitors may row and fish without charge.'

Then, in February 1898 disaster, in the form of a bushfire, struck. First the trees along the riverbank caught alight and when the stables and outhouses 'fell prey, the fate of the main building was sealed. It blazed like matchwood...'

Where many might have quailed, not so Alice. She promptly leased the property known as Norsewood as temporary premises for her guests, and set about making plans for a new hotel. Deciding to utilise the land John had bought her in 1887 she had her new hotel up and running and ready for visitors on the Prince of Wales birthday holiday on 9 November of the same year.

Described as 'modern and replete with all necessary conveniences', it was 'a one-storey framed building, plastered throughout, has spacious verandahs 7ft wide, and contains a dining room 30ft x, 20ft, sitting room 20ft x 15ft, bar parlor, bar with cellar, bathrooms, 12 single and double rooms, kitchen, scullery and outbuildings. Provision has also been made for a snugger and a look-out, which commands an extensive view of the ocean, and these should prove attractive to visitors to the hotel.'

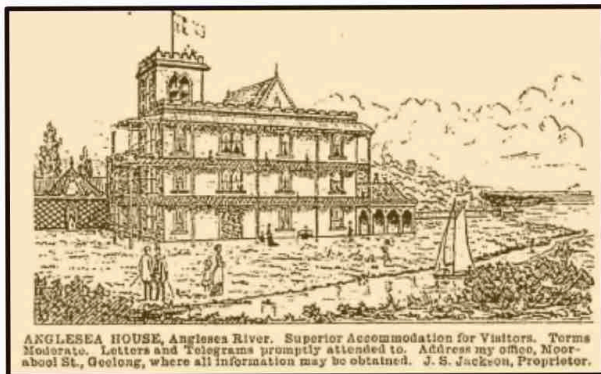
And giving the Geelong Advertiser the last word, on 22 November 1898, the paper said of the new Anglesea Hotel's opening weekend: 'A number of toasts were indulged in, the most important being "Success to the new hostelry," and also "The hostess, Mrs Jackson." The latter was highly eulogised for the determinedness with which she had stuck to the place in the face of many difficulties and losses with which she had been confronted...'

Postscript 1: Hidden peril of the Anglesea River

Much of the timber for the hotel was cut from the forest on the west side of the river and, without a bridge, the crossing point was at the river mouth. The sheer difficulty of transporting the material is illustrated by this news item from the Geelong Advertiser 22 July 1886.

'A sensational escape from a serious if not fatal accident was experienced on Monday by Mr Barker of Jan Juc and two other persons who were engaged carting timber from the forest for Mr Jackson's new house for public accommodation at Anglesea River. They essayed to make the passage across at the mouth of the stream, and deliberately drove the wagon and team of five horses on to what appeared to be a solid bed of sand, but which proved to be a large body of quicksand.

'The wagon disappeared from sight and left driver and friends seated on the timber, whilst the horses sank until only their heads could be discerned above the shifting sand. After two hours work the horses were released and dragged ashore in a very exhausted state, whilst it occupied about three hours to discharge the wagon's load of timber. The vehicle was not recovered until Tuesday forenoon.'



This is how the black and white image of Anglesea House appeared in the double page spread of the Silver Jubilee edition of the Geelong Advertiser on 23 July 1887 supplement pp3-4.

Postscript 2: John Stuart Jackson, gone but definitely not forgotten.

The montage in which it featured (drawn in color) included 30 local buildings placed around a central panorama titled 'View of Geelong, Victoria, Australia'. The poster was lithographed by F.W. Niven & Co Ballarat, and was one of a number of promotional posters about significant Australian towns. It is held today in the collection of the National Library of Australia. While no-one is credited with the artwork it is highly likely that Jackson, who was as accomplished as an artist as he was an architect, drew all 30 images and the panorama. To view the work go to <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-133209193/view>

A Mystery of History - The Story of the First Anglesea Hotel by Jane Shennan (cont.)

Just four years later Jackson created the Geelong diorama titled *Geelong from Sheehans Terminus Hotel 1891*. An extraordinarily detailed work measuring some 2.5m long, Jackson's unusual bird's eye perspective conveys old Geelong from Eastern Park to the You Yangs with a level of complexity rarely achieved. The fragile original is held at the Geelong Heritage Centre. The whole image is not online but fragments can be seen in this news article. <https://noelmurphy.com.au/portfolio-item/pen-ink-and-an-eye-for-detail/>

Moving to Perth, a year later Jackson produced the celebrated 'Cycloramic view of Perth 1892', a 2.7m long insight into how Perth looked from an elevated view, with a series of pictures of significant buildings surrounding the main part of the work. It is held by the State Library of WA. https://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b1931418_1

Both works are treasured by their relative cities and are frequently referred to when evaluating and determining the heritage value of their buildings.

Visit to Tarndie by Susan Clarke

On Wednesday 14 May, 23 members and visitors enjoyed a great visit to Tarndie, recognised by the National Trust as one of Victoria's oldest surviving homesteads. We were lucky to experience a mild autumn day which enabled us to start the tour in the garden. Host Tom Dennis, current family member who lives in the house, showed us the plaque created from a drawing done by John Dennis in 1842.

Tarndie (or more respectfully, Tarndwarncoort) has been owned and operated by the Dennis family since 1840. The property is home to Australia's first breed of sheep - the Polwarth sheep (below right) - and its listed buildings reflect the Cornish heritage of the pioneer family.



The family links to Tarndwarncoort started with Emma and Alexander Dennis when they left their shrinking family farm in Cornwall, UK in 1839. It was on the advice of Emma's ship captain brother that new farm lands were discovered in "Australia Felix". They landed 615 Merino sheep (below) at Point Henry in Geelong and found a suitable run at Tarndwarncoort by 1840. Here they began a dynasty of innovative farming that has seen boom and bust over seven generations. Inside the house, in the dining room, the ancestral portraits are on view.

Thanks go to Tom Dennis for providing an informative and entertaining tour, and excellent afternoon tea!

For further information about the property, go to:

<https://www.tarndie.com/>

<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/1186>



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Polwarth Sheep



Merino Sheep