

Coastal Current

(Incorporating Inverlochy Log)

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

Editor: Karl Jacklin

Issue No. 148 September 2025



© Marilyn Robinson

In this issue:

- President's Pen (Jan Morris)
- News and resources for family historians (Susan Clarke)
- Recent Events / Recent Acquisitions (Susan Clarke)
- Zograscope (Marilyn Wendt)
- Australian Connections of a migrant (part 7) - A scandal in the family (Susan Clarke)
- Jogging Memories (Jane Shennan)
- Creating Coogoorah - Delving into the archives (Jane Shennan)

Proudly supported by

Anglesea & District
Community Bank Branch



Bendigo Bank

Anglesea & District Historical Society Inc.
P.O. Box 98 Anglesea Vic. 3230
History House – Entrance 4, 5 McMillan St Anglesea
Phone: (03) 5263 3986
A&DHS Email: anghishouse@gmail.com
Family History Email: surfcoastfh@gmail.com
Follow us on Facebook

Historical Society Committee
President: Jan Morris Ph: 0448 526 311
Email: davejanmorris@bigpond.com
Vice President: James Kelly. Ph: 0424 647 267
Email: jhkelly@bigpond.net.au
Secretary: Susan Clarke Ph: 0438 070 560
Email: susanclarke3230@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Chris Guerow. Ph: 0419 890 736
Email: chrisguerow@gmail.com
Museum Curator: Susan Clarke Ph: 0438 070 560
Email: susanclarke3230@hotmail.com
Committee Members
Jim Tutt Ph: 0402 017 547
Email: jimtutt@gmail.com
Peter Bromley Ph: 0411 260 822
Email: peterbromley@optusnet.com.au
Judith Laird
Email: judithalaird@me.com

Surf Coast Family History Group Committee
Chairperson: Karl Jacklin Ph: 0436 606 377
Email: karlj@netspace.net.au
Secretary: Susan Clarke Ph: 0438 070 560
Email: susanclarke3230@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Chris Guerow. Ph: 0419 890 736
Email: chrisguerow@gmail.com
Committee Members
Peter Matthews Ph: 0402 158 828
Email: matthews@melbpc.org.au
Marilyn Robinson Ph: (03) 5263 1338
Email: mazza2paint@hotmail.com

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

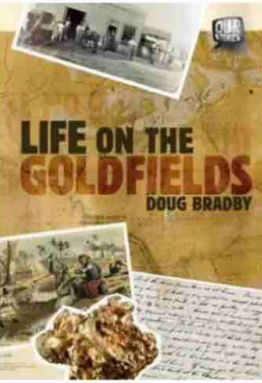
SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
10.00am THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
At History House, Entrance 4 McMillan St.



TOPIC
DNA BASICS
*Speakers:
Local experts
* Entrance free
* Morning Tea

Members & Friends Welcome

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Outing to Scotchmans Lead near Buninyong
Wednesday 17 September 2025



- Leaves History House 9.00am
- Cost \$25 includes transport, morning tea and tour
- Lunch at own cost
- Return by 4.00pm

Members & Friends Welcome

BOOKING ESSENTIAL: 0438 070 560

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COOGOORAH PARK
40th Anniversary Community Picnic
Sunday 28 September 2025



12noon: BYO BBQ or picnic or enjoy Lions Club Sausage Sizzle
Welcome & bridge naming

1-2pm: ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- Register from 12noon on the day for
- Guided flora and fauna walks
- Citizen science water monitoring
- Navigating the waters by canoe

Step aboard a CFA firetruck
Play on the "Inverloch" ship
Learn Coogoorah's story
See historic photographs

Information contact: Jane 0429 675 717

GREAT OCEAN ROAD
COAST & PARKS AUTHORITY

President's Pen

Jan Morris

GREAT NEWS! After many hours of work by our secretary Susan Clarke, Anglesea & District Historical Society is now a registered charity. This means it is endorsed to access tax concessions, most importantly income tax exemption. It should also result in a simpler annual reporting requirement.

The July luncheon at the Anglesea Hotel went well with 36 attending and John Stewart giving an interesting talk on early Flour Mills. See photos elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our latest donation to the museum is an anchor that was once the anchor for the lighter of the Inverloch. It has eventually reached the Anglesea Museum 123 years later after the ship was wrecked here. See the article about the anchor elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have now received the \$4,000 bequeathed to us by Rodney Fernald. This money has been put in a term deposit account until we decide on a project that is suitable for Rodney's memory.

Plans to put photos in the front windows of History House have been put on hold, as some of the window frames need repair and others need replacing. This is currently on the Surf Coast Shire "to do" list as it owns the building. A large sign showing the wrecks along the coast has been mounted on the side of History House. The sign originally belonged to the Lightkeepers Inn Motel in Aireys Inlet. Thanks go to Jim Tutt and James Kelly for completing this job.

Angair volunteers have carried out planting along the fence beside the new drive. They have also planted in the front of History House the memorial garden acknowledging some of the crew and rescuers involved in the RAAF plane crash in 1944 that we commemorated last December.



It is 40 years since Coogoorah Park was developed to extinguish the peat that was still burning below ground, following the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires. They say something good comes from something bad. Coogoorah Park was the something good that we received from the bad fires of Ash Wednesday. We are working with GORCAPA to celebrate the 40th anniversary and make plans for further improvements. See the full article about the park by Jane Shennan.

With many people away for the winter, we decided to hold our August meeting at History House. It also gave members an opportunity to see the ever changing museum display. Marilyn and Susan do a great job, always having something new or different to see. The stories of weddings were fun to hear. The display of wedding dresses set the scene and became an interesting discussion point (see photos elsewhere in this newsletter). Our next outing, planned for Wednesday 17 September should be most interesting as we will be exploring Scotchmans Lead near Buninyong, an old gold mining area. Cost is \$25 for transport, the tour and morning tea. Lunch will be at your own cost. Bookings are essential. Book with Susan on 0438 070 560.

The Anglesea Primary School Prep students visited History House on Thursday 21 August to learn about how Anglesea has changed over the last 150 years. Susan Clarke, Marilyn Wendt and I spoke to them and conducted them around the museum. We look forward to hosting the Grades 1 and 2 students in September.



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





175,000 new historical records released by Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

175,000 new historical records are now freely available online in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland (VRTI) to mark the 103rd anniversary of the Four Courts blaze that destroyed the Public Record Office of Ireland, and with its seven centuries of Irish history. Among new treasures freely available online from 30 June for the first time are 60,000 names from the 19th-century census destroyed in 1922.

See the news item on the Trinity College Dublin website at: https://www.tcd.ie/news_events/top-stories/featured/. The VRTI homepage is at: <https://virtualtreasury.ie/> and the Population Portal is at: <https://virtualtreasury.ie/portals/population-portal>

Audiobook: Along the Tracks of Cobb & Co

Message from the author: Exciting news! My first audiobook, *Along the tracks of Cobb and Co. – The Roaring Days!* is now live. This collection brings history to life with the best stories and poems unearthed during my years of research.

State Library Victoria: Online collection Migration to New Worlds

State Library Victoria members can access hundreds of databases from home. Migration to New Worlds is a multi-archive database of sources relating to migration from Great Britain, Ireland, mainland Europe, and Asia to Australasia and North America. The database comprises of two modules: The Century of Immigration (1800 to 1924), and The Modern Era. To find out more go to the blog on the SLV website: <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/>

Turbulent tales within the archives

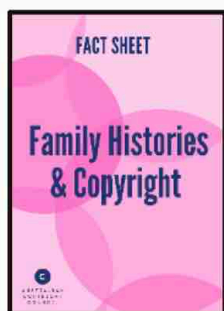
Abstract: Exploring the Carpenter family's saga via Public Record Office Victoria reveals a vivid tapestry beyond basic genealogical sources such as birth, marriage and death records. To read this story, go to: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/provenance-journal/provenance-2025/turbulent-tales-within-archives>

Memoir Toolkit – to kickstart your family history project

Need help with writing your story? HistoryatWork has developed a toolkit to make it easier for more people to tell more stories so there is more understanding across generations and cultures. The DIY memoir, life story and family history guide:

- Helps you to get started and finished writing about your life or some part of it
- Helps you help other people with the same aspirations
- Prompts you to think about the thousands of events, influences and stages that make up your own personal story
- Provides tips and tricks for collecting your archive, fact-checking and technical tasks
- Provides encouragement and advice on writing, editing, footnoting and captioning
- Assists with using and incorporating images
- Offers advice and options for publishing

The toolkit can be purchased: \$33 for downloadable pdf; \$45 printed. Go to: <https://www.historyatwork.com.au/diy-memoir>.



Family Histories & Copyright

The Australian Copyright Council has a useful free fact sheet which gives a brief overview of copyright law as it relates to preparing family histories, including using copyright materials and protecting your work. Go to: <https://www.copyright.org.au/resources> and search on fact sheets – family histories.

Quote for this issue

“Writing about a real person, especially your own mother, is difficult. Unlike characters in fiction, real people's motives are muddled and obscure, their personalities seem to shift from one day to another, and their lives are full of events that come out of nowhere. Thinking about your mother as a woman, with a private inner life, is daunting. It can feel as if you shouldn't go there.”

[Kate Grenville, *One Life: My Mother's Story*]

Donation of resources

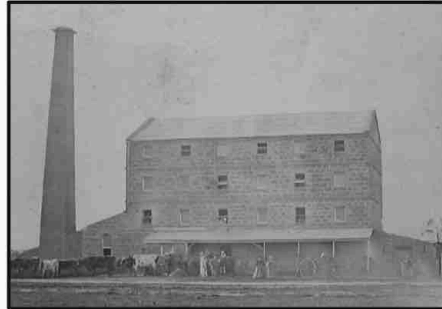
Pat Hughes has kindly donated resources, from her years as a researcher, to the SCFHG. We are looking for a volunteer to catalogue the hardcopy leaflets, booklets etc. Please contact a committee member if you can help with this project.

Recent Events

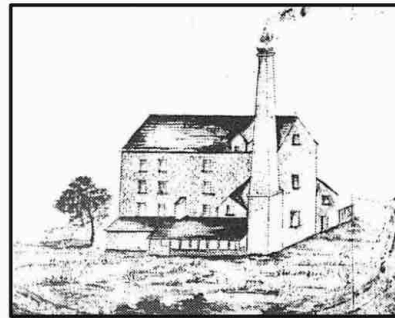


At the mid-winter lunch on 3 July, our guest speaker John Stewart (left) Unfortunately there was a failure of the supporting technology and John was unable to show the flour mill images he had intended to use to illustrate his talk. However everyone appreciated his perseverance under challenging circumstances and enjoyed both his most interesting presentation and the ensuing lunch. Attached are a couple of the missing images. We are hopeful of having the content of John's talk available at History House in the near future.

Liz Rushen was the winner of the inaugural quiz, devised and presented by Marilyn and Harry Wendt, about some of our museum collection objects. Well done Liz!



Liz Rushen and Marilyn Wendt



The August Historical Society meeting took weddings as its theme. There were several beautiful dresses shown on the day and some entertaining stories. The photo shows (from the left) the three dresses displayed by Marilyn Wendt: her daughter's, her own and her

mother's. The two dresses on the right are part of the museum collection. They were donated by Pauline Dean: her own (1967, with accessories) and her mother's (1942).

Marianne Messer gave an interesting talk to the Surf Coast Family History Group on Thursday 14 August about her family connection to the Eureka Stockade. Marianne stressed the importance of the event to the broader history of democracy in Australia and outlined the way the EurekaAustralia organisation is attempting to ensure that the Eureka story is not forgotten.

The photo (left) shows Marianne on the search for her ancestors, Anastasia and Timothy Hayes, who are central to the story of the Eureka Stockade.





RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Susan Clarke

Photos: Marilyn Wendt



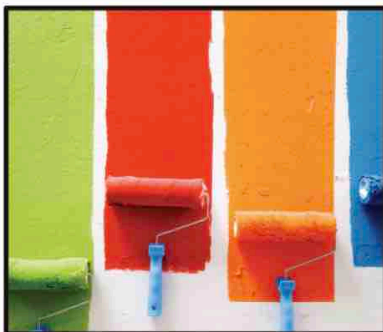
Inverlochy anchor

This anchor was recently donated to the museum, on the understanding that it is from the Inverlochy. It is from the estate of Bruce Phillips. Our consultant on maritime items, Eric Messer, has confirmed that it is from the correct period, correct design etc. The provenance attributed to the anchor is as follows. It was first given to a man named Brown at Point Roadknight who passed it on to his son-in-law Philip Whitelaw, and then on to Graham Gibb. Graham Gibb was a friend of Bruce Phillips who at that time had a house at Anglesea. On Bruce's passing it was to be returned here. It is a great addition to our collection of maritime items.



Drill bit

This drill bit has been donated to the museum by Judith Laird. It was used by Planet Oil when the company was drilling for oil in 1962. Judith recalls that you could see the rig offshore as you came into Anglesea. The geologist in charge was Peter Bollen. He stayed in Jackson Street while he was working in Anglesea and it is through friends he made here that the item eventually came into Judith's possession. The drill bit is extremely heavy. It is currently sited on the front veranda at History House. It is a great addition to the story of the search for natural resources in our district.



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.

ZOGRASCOPE - Marilyn Wendt



A few years ago the Historical Society was fortunate to acquire this Zogrscope (pictured) from the Seaside Seconds Op Shop. It came as an unknown object that was thought to be something used in embroidery. It took many weeks of looking before we (Susan Clarke and myself) finally had a 'Eureka' moment. We found a picture of an object online that looked exactly like the one we had. We finally knew what it was. It was a Zogrscope that was missing a pole and a mirror. We set to and organised its repair. Geoff Giles from the Anglesea Men's Shed, turned and stained the pole to look very much like the original. The Anglesea Glazier replaced the mirror.

So, what is a Zogrscope and what does it do?

Zogrscopes were popular during the early 1700's to 1900's in Europe as parlour entertainments. They allowed viewers to move their eyes over very large, printed scenes, yielding an immersive experience. They became for the first time, an 'entertainment machine' that created a 3D 'virtual reality' picture from a flat 2D picture. Most Zogrscopes that still exist from that time are fine furniture, having turned stands, mouldings, brass fittings, and fine finishes, which indicated that they were used by high society.

The principle of the zogrscope is that both eyes see the same image through a single magnifying lens. By looking through the magnifying lens, which is mounted on a stand in front of an angled mirror you can see an image created from a specially designed etching called a "Vue D'Optique" (or 'perspective view'). This gives the illusion of depth or a 3-dimensional scene.

So, now that we have a Zogrscope, and know how it works, from where do we get a "Vue D'Optique"? At first, we did not know what they were called, so until we were able to name what we were looking for, we could not find any examples. At last by chance we were successful and have managed to print a few for our use in the museum.

"Vue D'Optique" pictures are of a large size, are brightly hand coloured, have strong linear perspectives and have reverse printing in parts of the text, due to the use of a mirror reversing the image.

A fully functioning Zogrscope is set up in the Historical Society's Museum for visitors to look through. By standing a few feet in front of the Zogrscope with the lamp turned on look through the magnifying lens and move your eyes around while noticing the difference between what you see and the flat "Vue D'Optique" below. The name of the print we have at the moment is called "Vue de la Façade du Louvre du cote de St Germain l'Auxerois a Paris". You will see a small part of the object in 'virtual 3-dimensional reality'. This is the beginning of the moving picture and TV.



STOP PRESS

On the Angair Wildflower Weekend, 20 & 21 September, the museum will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm both days. This weekend usually attracts a large number of visitors. We are seeking volunteers who can spare a couple of hours to be on duty at the museum. In addition, this year we have a display board in the Memorial Hall recognising the 40th anniversary of the opening of Coogoorah Park, and volunteers are also needed there. If you have not volunteered at the museum previously, you will be rostered on with an experienced volunteer. Please contact me to let me know your availability, and if you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch. (Susan Clarke)

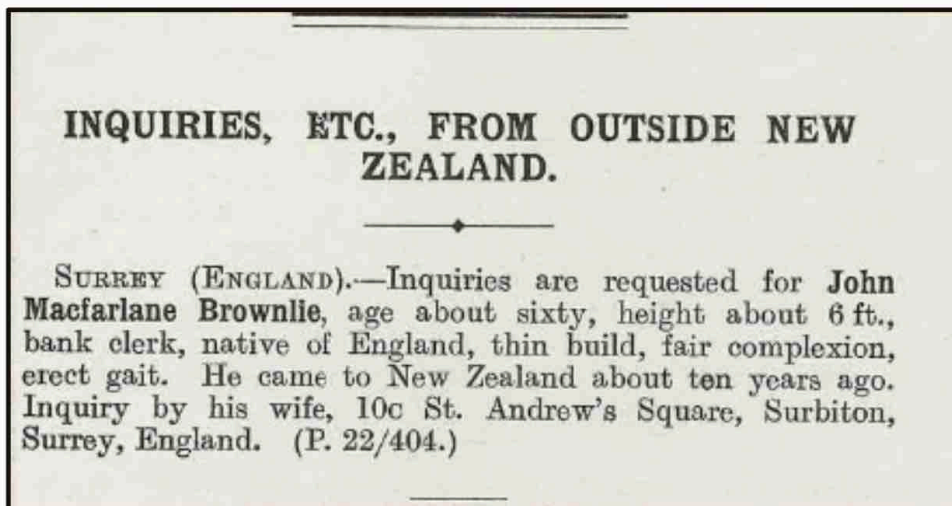
A scandal in the family

My family connections to Australia continue to emerge. The latest research find is that one of my great aunts was living in East Melbourne 100 years ago!

I have been up against a brick wall for some time now, trying to find out what happened to two of my paternal grandmother's sisters after 1901: Martha Ellen Lees born 1867 and Beatrice Emma Lees born 1871. In 1901, they were both listed in the UK census as nurses at the Western Hospital, Fulham. From 1884 this hospital had become primarily a fever hospital. The majority of smallpox patients were then treated on the Metropolitan Asylums Board hospital ships moored on the Thames. Shades of convict days! When I started searching I could not find either of the sisters in the 1911 census, nor could I find any marriages, so the trail went cold.

Family oral history had it that one sister married and went to live in New Zealand. The other married and became a poultry farmer in Twickenham. Two rather different life trajectories. One piece of information I did uncover was that Martha (Mattie) reappeared in the 1939 Register living with their oldest unmarried sister in Lambeth. Her surname was Brownlie and although I could not find a marriage record, she was listed as a widow. I also ascertained that her husband's name was John and he had been a bank clerk. Given that it would be a big leap from poultry farmer to bank clerk I decided that it was probably Mattie who went to New Zealand if the story that had been passed down in the family was correct.

Recently I decided it was time for a serious assault on the NZ records. I eventually found a John Macfarlane Brownlie living in Auckland with his wife Mattie from at least 1914 to 1922 and he was listed variously as a clerk, an accountant and an insurance clerk. It seemed likely that I had located my great aunt. The confusing issue was that there were several records in online databases showing John married to an Emily Maud Brownlie in England. Then I came across the following notice in the NZ Police Gazette from 1922:



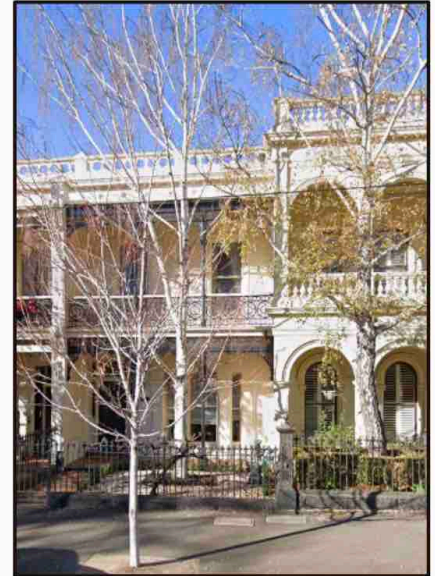
It appeared John had abandoned his wife in England and taken off to New Zealand with Mattie around 1912.

The record suggestions of online databases are as often confusing as they are helpful in my experience, but in this instance there was a suggestion provided which proved invaluable – a wife's petition for judicial separation dated 1911. The petitioner was Emily Maud Brownlie and the grounds were adultery. Mattie was cited and I have no doubt this was regarded as a terrible scandal by Mattie's family. John was ordered by the court to pay his wife 100 pounds sterling per year. A newspaper report of the court case at the time did not hold back on the details. This sort of publicity was one reason why many judicial separation cases were settled out of court.

John and Mattie had settled in Auckland as a married couple despite the fact that after a judicial separation the spouses remain married to one another and are unable to remarry. In 1922, John's wife was trying to track him down – no reason is stated but it may have concerned payments. Perhaps this was the catalyst for another change of location for John and Martha. In 1925 they were living at 121 Powlett Street in East Melbourne, and John was listed as an accountant. John died two years later and is buried in Springvale Cemetery.



121 Powlett Street, East Melbourne



86 Powlett Street, East Melbourne

Martha was still on the electoral roll in Powlett Street, albeit at number 86, in 1931. She must then have decided there was nothing holding her in Australia and she returned to England. By 1939 she was living with her older sister Jenny at 32 Corrance Road, Lambeth as mentioned at the beginning. The end of Martha's story came in 1941 when she died at Dulwich Hospital on 26 August. Unfortunately there are no family photos or letters to illustrate what Mattie was like. I only wish there were.

Postscript on Judicial separation: in 1912, a Royal Commission pointed out that, because neither spouse was allowed to remarry, they were 'subjected to enforced celibacy', the alternative being 'immorality, and misery to the parties, both the innocent and the guilty'. The eventual solution to this situation was the expansion of the grounds for divorce rather than changing the nature of judicial separation (Probert 2015, p. 81).

Sources

TNA: Divorce Court File: 1724. Appellant: Emily Maud Brownlie. Respondent: John Macfarlane Brownlie. Type: Wife's petition for judicial separation [wjs]. Ref J 77/1046/1724 [accessed 26 June 2025]
Picture Victoria: ID: 15310; Photographer: Burchett, Winston; <https://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/melbourne/EastMelbourne/15310.html> [accessed 26 June 2025]
New Zealand Police Gazette Mar 1922, p. 180: Archives New Zealand; Wellington, New Zealand; Item: IE26576964; Roll: R15423695; in Ancestry.com. *New Zealand, Police Gazettes, 1878-1945* [database on-line] [accessed 26 June 2025]
Rebecca Probert (2015), *Divorced, Bigamist, Bereaved?*, Takeaway (Publishing), Kenilworth, UK

Our professionals live in and service the Geelong area. We have specialists in **Accounting, Agri Business, Financial Planning, Legal, Loans & Finance** and **Marketing** to assist individuals and businesses to thrive.

So whether it's a website, your tax, your farm finances, your conveyancing, your home loan or your retirement planning - let our experts help!

M MULCAHY & CO
www.mulcahy.com.au

35 Gordon Avenue,
Geelong West, VIC 3218
Phone: 03 5222 6962

Our 12 Steps to Success

FS360

BE A GREAT COLLEAGUE!
COMMUNITY

Loans & Finance

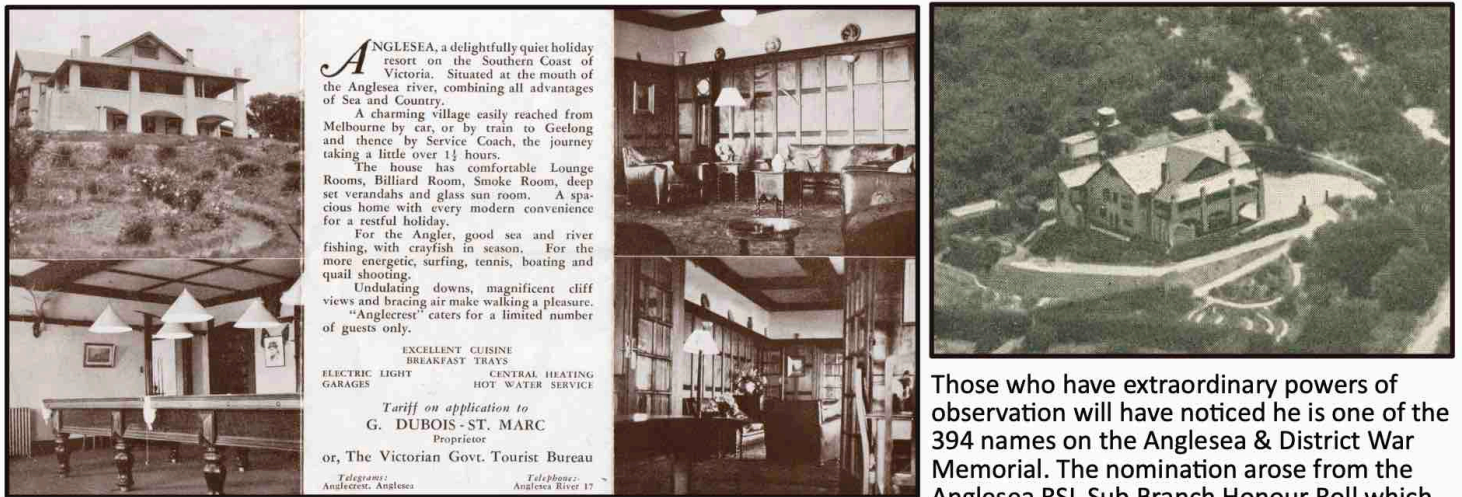
HELP SOMEONE

LEARN FROM OTHERS

MARKETING

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

Back in March 2021 Coastal Current featured a brochure from our collection highlighting the delights of a holiday at Anglecrest and naming Guy Dubois St Marc as the proprietor. And the article posed the question ‘So who was Guy Dubois St Marc?’



ANGLESEA, a delightfully quiet holiday resort on the Southern Coast of Victoria. Situated at the mouth of the Anglesea river, combining all advantages of Sea and Country.

A charming village easily reached from Melbourne by car, or by train to Geelong and thence by Service Coach, the journey taking a little over 1 1/2 hours.

The house has comfortable Lounge Rooms, Billiard Room, Smoke Room, deep set verandahs and glass sun room. A spacious home with every modern convenience for a restful holiday.

For the Angler, good sea and river fishing, with crayfish in season. For the more energetic, surfing, tennis, boating and quail shooting.

Undulating downs, magnificent cliff views and bracing air make walking a pleasure.

"Anglecrest" caters for a limited number of guests only.

EXCELLENT CUISINE
BREAKFAST TRAYS
ELECTRIC LIGHT GARAGES
CENTRAL HEATING
HOT WATER SERVICE

Tariff on application to
G. DUBOIS - ST. MARC
Proprietor
or, The Victorian Govt. Tourist Bureau

Telegrams: Anglecrest, Anglesea Telephone: Anglesea River 17

states he served with the RAAF during WW2 and was a foundation member of our RSL in 1946.

And from that meagre start the trail warmed up. A search of the National Archives WW2 records revealed that Guy Dubois St Marc was a Squadron Leader heading up Australia’s Volunteer Air Observers Corps (VAOC). At the very top of his enlistment papers, in rather faint pencil, are magic words showing ‘Anglecrest’, Anglesea via Geelong’ was his address in April 1941. We also learn he was a rubber broker trading in Batavia Java, that he was 40 and married.

RECORD OF SERVICE—OFFICERS—R.A.A.F.	
NAME IN FULL <i>Dubois St Marc, Guy</i>	DATE OF BIRTH <i>10/5/1901</i>
Name, relation, and address of next of kin <i>Mrs. Pedronella Dubois St Marc, Anglecrest, Anglesea via Geelong, Vic.</i>	Marital State <i>Married</i>
Civil trade or profession <i>Rubber broker at Batavia Java.</i>	Religion <i>C of E.</i>
Previous professional or trade experience <i>16 years experience.</i>	

Further delving confirmed he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in 1941. He quickly rose in seniority, becoming a Flying Officer by the end of the year, Flight Lieutenant then Acting Squadron Leader on 1 July 1943 and confirmed in that role in 1944. Initially he was involved in RAAF Signals and Intelligence but switched to VAOC administration, then staff and finally VAOC head. When his appointment was terminated in 1945 his address was still ‘Anglecrest’

Appointment terminated ref. 9.11.45
L28 V3649
Anglecrest
Anglesea
VIC

What the records don’t tell us is that, apart from travelling the length and breadth of Australia establishing and reviewing the VAOC operations, Dubois St Marc was extremely proud of the Anglesea Post of the VAOC at Loveridge Lookout. Not only was the Lookout in plain sight of Anglecrest but Chief Observer Joyce Graham, who had served with the RAAF until ruled out by an acquired back injury in 1942, was also his close neighbour.

One of Dubois St Marc’s first initiatives on attaining his VAOC Acting Squadron Leader rank was to publicise the work of his unit. And of course the Observation Post (OP) he chose to feature was the one nearest to his home. A montage of photographs featuring Joyce and her fellow volunteers Eva Shovelton and Bill MacDougall appeared in the RAAF publication ‘RAAF at War’ 1943 edition. The Australian War Memorial holds additional photos including an aerial image later titled ‘Anglesea, Vic. 1943-02-07.’

The Historical Society also holds a small collection of photographs very likely taken on that day.





Among them is this image (left). Not all these people have been identified but two were VAOC volunteers – in the centre is Nan Hedley and at right closest to camera is Marion Francis. A RAAF officer stands to the right but who was he? This question was answered in 2024 when a young woman of the same surname responded to my inquiry ‘Do you know if this man could be Guy Dubois St Marc?’ She replied:

‘My mother-in-law said yes that is definitely Guy Dubois St Marc. The photo is a little sketchy to see the face of the lady standing next to him but she said his wife Piernella was a slight frame and the hair colouring is the same. My mother-in-law lived with Guy and his wife when first married.’

So what else do we know about Guy Dubois St Marc?

As Squadron Leader he oversaw the structure of the VAOC in addition to some 2656 Observation Posts (OPs) where 24,000 dedicated volunteers noted and reported aircraft movement.

Dubois St Marc travelled from Cairns in north Queensland to Port Lincoln in South Australia, from Tasmania to northern Western Australia. Late in 1941 he went by rail to Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville. Early in 1942 he went by road to Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance and Toora. He went by air to Perth and then weeks later by sea to Hobart, Wynyard and Launceston. He was up and down the east coast throughout 1943, going inland to Charleville and Dalby, and in 1944 embarked on a road and rail journey to Parafield (Adelaide), Ceduna, Perth and Geraldton. Road trips to other Victorian OPs included Geelong, Warrnambool, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton and Wangaratta.

That he was deeply committed to his role is evident in his RAAF officer’s assessment in July 1945. ‘He has a good knowledge of his duties and has performed them satisfactorily. However, he is inclined to regard his duties in connection with VAOC out of proportion to other equally important aspects of air defence.’

Guy was well travelled by the time he was 16 - a legacy of his father’s interests. Raymond Dubois was a French viticultural expert, born in Grenoble, possessor of an agricultural degree from the University of Paris and experience at the Ecole Nationale d’Agriculture at Montpellier in France, a world leader in viticultural research.

He was engaged by the Victorian Government to manage the Rutherglen Viticultural College. A letter published in the Melbourne Advocate in 1898 stated he was shortly leaving Algiers for Melbourne. ‘M. Dubois has experience in wine-making in the cool northern districts of France and in the warm climate of Algiers, is highly recommended by the Minister of Agriculture of France, and is reported to speak English fluently.’

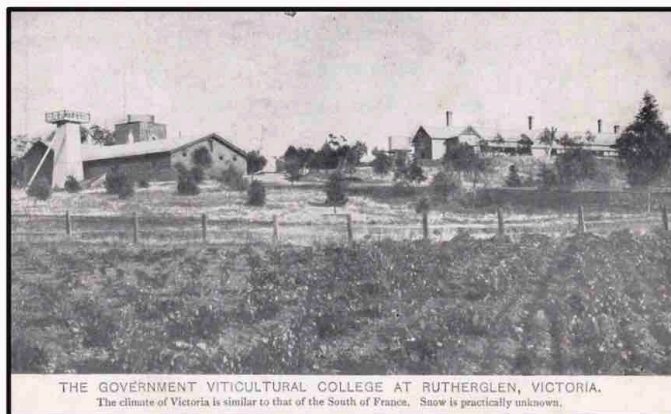
In 1900 while at Rutherglen Raymond married Dora Ethel Wyatt. Guy Dubois St Marc was born there in 1901 and soon afterwards became a naturalised Australian citizen. Aside from his administrative role, Raymond led the research against phylloxera virus infecting Victoria vineyards, wrote numerous papers and several books such as ‘Wine-making in Hot Climates’ and patented inventions relevant to winemaking.

In 1903 Dubois was appointed to a similar role in Cape Colony South Africa and the family lived at the historic Groot Constantia vineyard and in Capetown. Both Raymond and Dora became members of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science.

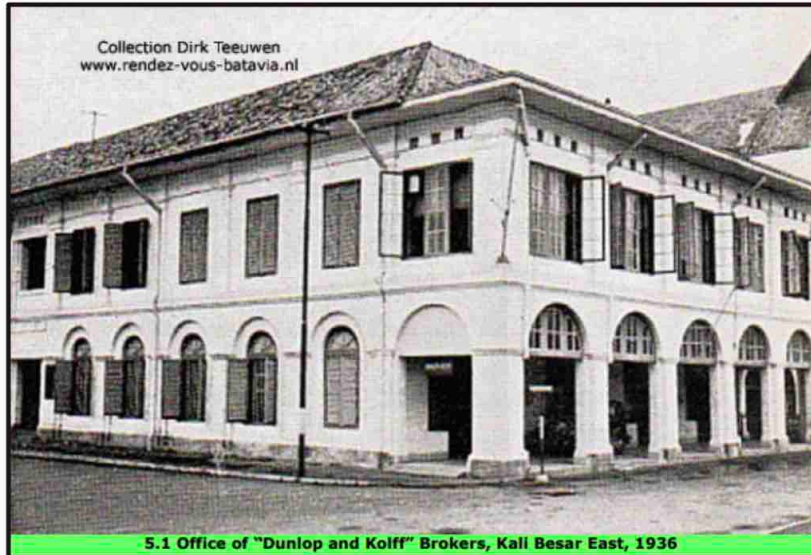
By 1908 the family had moved again, this time to Papua,

where Raymond switched his interests to growing alternative plants in hot climates. ‘A fibre expert now, he has made a very careful inspection of the country in the vicinity of Port Moresby and is much pleased with the suitability of the soil and climate for the cultivation of sisal hemp and other valuable species of the Agave family.’ 1910 saw him on his way to investigate some significant rubber estates in the Malay States. Back in Adelaide in 1911 Raymond and Guy, now aged 11 years, ‘were cycling a little after 5 o’clock on Thursday evening, when a horse attached to a carrier’s van dashed into the lad and knocked him off the machine. The boy sustained injuries to his legs and was sent home in a cab.’

The next move introduced Guy to Java, in the Netherlands East Indies, and he retained the connection for many decades. Raymond became manager of the Batavia branch of Francis Peek and Co, tea brokers and merchants, as well as American vice-consul at Samarang.



Guy returned to Melbourne in 1916 to board at Melbourne Grammar School. When he left three years later with his Matriculation complete, Guy joined his father's firm in Java, starting out as a 'tea, rubber and sugar apprentice'. He then switched allegiance to a company named Ross & Taylor, a London firm which imported and exported produce and agricultural supplies to Soerabaya (Surabaya), from 1923-1924. His next move was to the staff of Dunlop & Kolff of Batavia, major rice traders and rubber brokers. He became a sworn broker in rubber, sugar and coffee and a partner in the company in 1939.



Guy married Pieterella Hendrike Eilers in Singapore in 1927. Her family were from Rotterdam but had business interests in the Dutch-controlled country. Guy and Pieterella bought a home in the Perth suburb of Claremont where their son, Raymond Michael, was born about 1930 but 'Mr & Mrs Guy Dubois St Marc from Batavia' made regular appearances in the social notes of Perth newspapers as they travelled back and forth pursuing business interests.

At the end of WW2 Netherlands East Indies became embroiled in the Indonesian War of Independence with the Netherlands finally ceding sovereignty in 1949. Guy was forced to turn his business focus elsewhere. He and Pieterella travelled to Europe in the early 1950s before settling in a country town in south-west WA called Donnybrook. Various electoral rolls of the time show him as a farmer or a business director before he sold up and moved to the coast in Bunbury WA. Pieterella died in Bunbury in 1972 and Guy in 1974.

CREATING COGOORAH – DELVING INTO THE ARCHIVES

Several events will mark the upcoming 40th anniversary of the official opening of Anglesea's Coogoorah Park, making this an appropriate time for a delve in the archives to discover how it came to be. To help tell the story of Coogoorah Park's evolution, the Surf Coast Shire provided long forgotten correspondence, official paperwork and landscape designs. News clippings and pamphlets from the Historical Society added details. Former CFA members and their families have come forward with an array of revelatory photographs.

During the Ash Wednesday bushfire, on 16 February 1983, a large tract of peat on the west side of the Anglesea River caught alight. Burning below ground, the fire defied everything the CFA threw at it. Even big pumps installed on the river to draw water through a network of pipes to industrial-sized sprinklers operating night and day failed to douse it. Eventually channels dug from the river through the peat let in sufficient water to drown the fire burning beneath.



Aerial image of the Anglesea peat fire 1983 (Photo: Keith Cecil)

The unseen enemy not only threw a persistent smoky pall over the town but also created an ongoing threat for another two months. A letter dated 24 March 1983 from CFA Secretary John Harrison stated 'It has required a massive effort on the part of our volunteer firemen... to bring the fire under control.' Under control but not necessarily out.



Exhausted Anglesea CFA firemen sit on pipes laid across the peat fire 1983 (Photo: Barry Davidson)



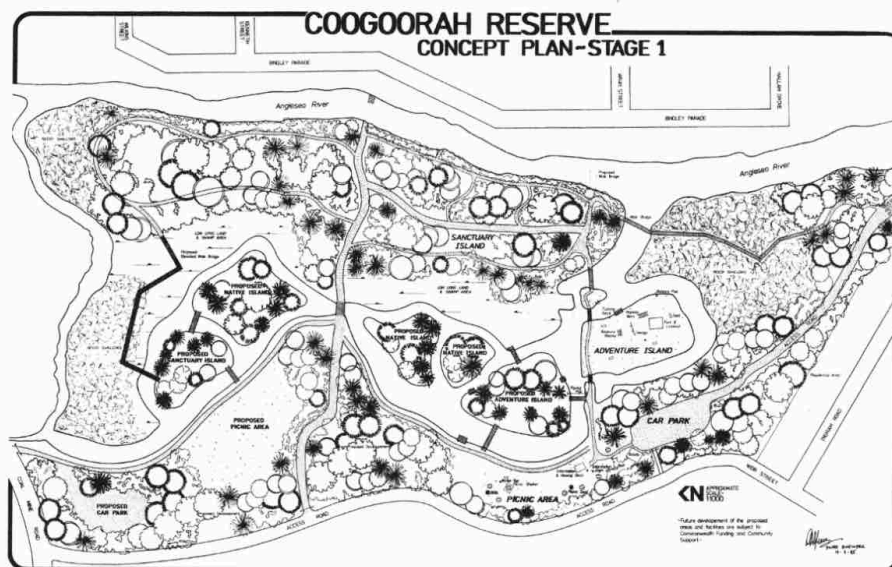
Lance Avent standing on pipe, with fellow Anglesea CFA firemen Ralph Harrison & Shaun O'Malley in Coogoorah Park 1983 (Photo: Keith Cecil)

John went on to say that 'Time only will determine whether the peat has been completely extinguished as we have no safe system of determining if pockets are still burning underground. This area will remain a constant threat to the community...' He added many suggestions had been put forward 'but the most sensible plan heard so far is to turn the area into a relaxation area to be enjoyed by both locals and visitors.'

Among the alternative ideas he outlined were digging out canals and small lake to ensure constant water flows, constructing islands (some as sanctuaries for birds and animals) and covering the peat and planting native grasses and trees. It was also a chance to incorporate barbecue and picnic areas and perhaps allot some space for a native botanical garden.

A committee comprising local ratepayers and town organisations and styling itself the Anglesea West Riverbank Development asked Barrabool Council to 'investigate removal of the fire hazard and make improvement to the area'. Minutes from 1983 show Council acted with alacrity, bringing on board recreational landscape expert Brian Carter of BAC Landscapes to create a concept plan.

By July Brian's initial design, which united the Council's twin objectives of preserving the natural environment while removing the fire hazard, was ready for discussion. A public meeting was held in Anglesea on 11 July 1983 with the plan meeting with community approval. At its meeting on 20 July Council unanimously adopted Brian's plan.

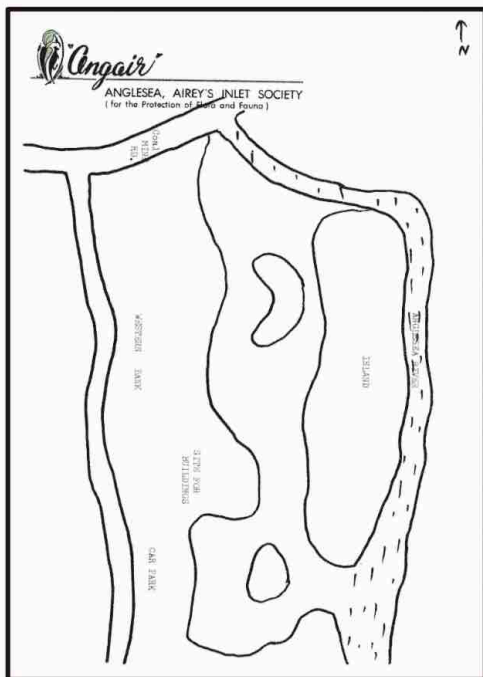


The concept plan prepared by Brian Carter BAC Landscapes for the Barrabool Shire 1983. (Image: Brian Carter)

Finetuning continued throughout 1983 with Shire Engineer Ron Spence and his deputy Des Nicol, and Shire Secretary Mervyn Hair, liaising closely with the community and environment groups. The Anglesea Marine & River Frontages & Recreation Reserves Group supported the concept in June 1983. The Council for the Disabled requested consideration for the needs of people with restricted mobility. Geelong Field Naturalists asked that special attention be given to the streamside landscape ‘which is unique among the rivers of the eastern Otways’, expressed concern that the islands were too small to meet the needs of sanctuaries and called for the ‘artificial enhancements’ such as the adventure activities, kiosk and associated works to be removed from the plan or relocated.

The Department of Crown Lands objected to the concept because it didn’t retain any undisturbed areas and ‘will not greatly reduce the susceptibility of the area to fire’. The Anglesea Apex and Lions Clubs and the Anglesea Promotion Committee were also consulted but their replies are unknown. Alcoa had no objection but ruled out Council’s request for provision of additional topsoil stating ‘we must conserve every metre to achieve our own rehabilitation objectives’.

Angair held strong views on the section referred to as ‘The Island’. This area had been appreciated by locals as far back as 1887 when the Geelong Advertiser reported the small community had asked Barrabool Shire to permanently reserve ‘The Island’ for ‘public purposes’. Secretary Mary White on 10 August 1983 said ‘The Island’ was Angair’s main concern. ‘Channelling of the river through an old course to the west, and the removal of peat from the area west of the section we call ‘The Island’ seems to be a suitable answer to the problem of peat fires.’ But, she went on to say, ‘The Island’ is composed of different soil, has different vegetation and we feel very strongly this should be left in its natural state. This is a beautiful area...’



Mary White’s drawing showing ‘The Island’ 1983

Two years later the islands created by the channels were connected together with a network of pedestrian bridges and walking trails, bike paths and boardwalks plus an innovative playspace reimagining the 1902 wrecking of the ‘Inverloch’ ship. On Sunday 29 September 1985, Shire President Cr Pat Denham officiated at the opening.

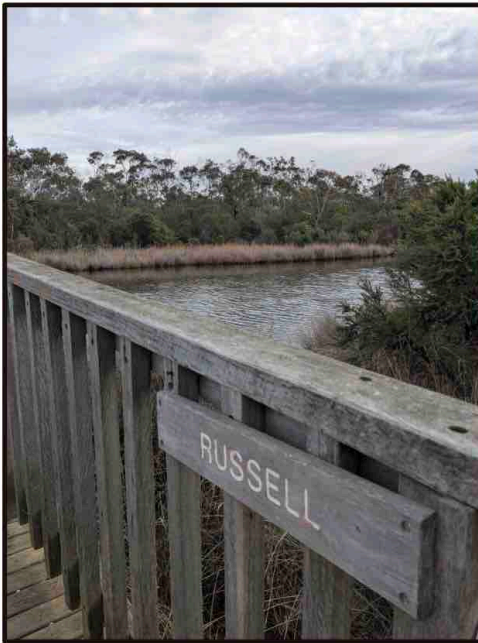
Providentially, just a month before the fire burnt them to a crisp, Mary White had completed a survey of plants along the western side of the river and found 86 species extant and another six species of orchid.

The estimated cost of the works was \$283,000 and the Shire successfully applied for \$198,000 from the Commonwealth Employment Programme enabling 16 staff to work on the project for six months, and chipped in another \$85,000 from the council’s coffers.

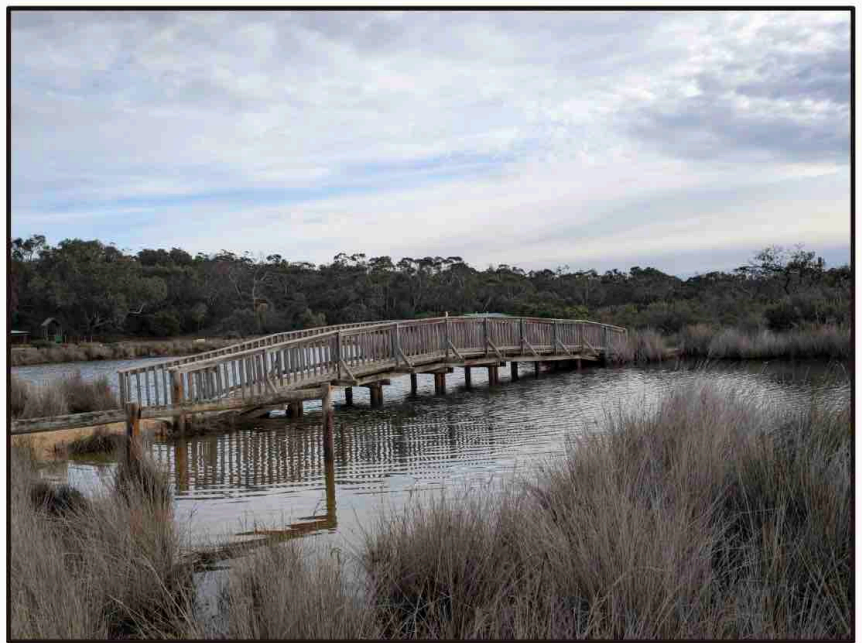
Another treasure was an August 1984 letter from the Anglesea Historical Society, replying to a Council request for names for the new park. Secretary Arthur Bubb responded with two options. The first name suggested was adopted, Coogoorah Park, explaining that it meant a swampy or reedy creek. The alternative was Evans Park in honour of the Evans family who had settled land to the north of the park in 1890.



The plaque laid when Coogoorah Park was officially opened by Cr Pat Denham on 29 September 1985



Russell Bridge spans the Anglesea River from Bingley Parade to Coogoorah Park. The 2013 cypress plaque replaced the 1996 pottery plaque destroyed by vandals



Picturesque Mousley Bridge crosses one of the channels near the Coogoorah Park playground


In 1996 with the completion of the final and largest bridge in the chain of quirky wooden bridges joining Bingley Parade on the east bank to Coogoorah Park, a bridge naming ceremony was held. The bridges honour the 5 pioneer families whose children attended the Anglesea Primary School when it opened in 1927 – Russell, Evans, Davidson, Smythe and Mousley and their teacher Miss Joan D’Helin. Sadly, the beautiful pottery plaques were destroyed by vandals and so a second ceremony was held a decade later to instal new cypress plaques.

Today the area is a haven for birds and native plants, and a drawcard for photographers and nature lovers. It is managed by GORCAPA (Great Ocean Roads and Parks Authority) following a transfer of governance from the Surf Coast Shire in June 2024.

The Anglesea & District Historical Society has planned a trio of activities to mark Coogoorah’s 40th birthday. These are:


- Storyboards at the Angair Wildflower Weekend 20-21 September 10am-4pm both days.
- 40th Anniversary Community Picnic in the Park on Sunday 28 September.
- Guest speaker Bill Bubb at the Anglesea Hotel on Sunday 5 October.

**The Anglesea & District Historical Society thanks Nicky Angus, Community Project Development Officer, for her assistance with the Coogoorah Park archives held by the Surf Coast Shire.*




Anglesea Fruitz

Anglesea Fruitz prides itself on stocking the best quality, market fresh produce on the Surf Coast. It home delivers, and provides wholesale produce to various restaurants, cafes and hotels along the Great Ocean Road.

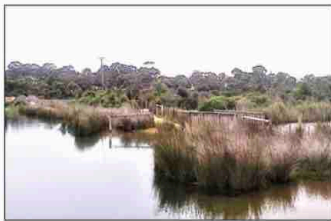


**63 GREAT OCEAN ROAD
ANGLESEA
5263 1242**



What's coming up:

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOGOORAH PARK 40th ANNIVERSARY Meeting Sunday 5 October 2.00pm



Function Room
Anglesea Hotel

Members & visitors welcome
Entry – Gold coin donation

Speakers:



Bill Bubb: Fire Brigade
Flora & Fauna Experts: Angair
Planning Officer: GORCAPA

SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

10.00am Thursday 9th October 2025
@ History House – 5 McMillan St.

TOPIC - MEMBERS STORIES



- Free entry
- Morning Tea provided
- Raffle
- Bring your stories
- Members & visitors welcome

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY November Outing - Bellarine Railway Sunday 2 November 2025



- Leaves History House 9.00am
- Cost \$35, members \$30, includes
 - transport - car pooling
 - train ride
 - morning tea

- Return 4.00pm
- Lunch at own cost
- Booking essential
Susan 0438 070 560

Members & Visitors welcome

SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Meeting 10.00am Thursday 13 November

- At History House
- Entrance 4, 5 McMillan St.
- Speaker: Ann Hodgkinson
- Topic: **Armstrong Creek: Who was Armstrong?**
- Morning tea included
- Entry free

- Members and visitors welcome



ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY & SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Combined Christmas Garden Party Sunday 7 December 2025



come
and
celebrate

- At History House
- Entrance 4 McMillan St.
- Starts 2.00pm
- Afternoon tea
- Christmas Raffle
- End of year celebration

Members & visitors
welcome

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.

MEMBERSHIP

YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS

Membership Subscription Reminder

Annual subscriptions for the 2025–2026 financial year are now due. The fee is \$30 per individual and payment is required by 31 August 2025.

The fee includes membership of the Surf Coast Family History Group.

Membership for those aged 90+ is free.

Thank you for your support.

Susan Clarke
Secretary A&DHS