

Nibbles: In this issue of Nibbles we are featuring Keith Cecil, a life member of the Anglesea & District Historic Society, and one of its history makers. There's also some advertisements for upcoming activities, and a reminder that historical society membership subscriptions for 2025/2026 are now due.

HISTORY MAKERS

KEITH LESLIE CECIL - LIFE MEMBER A&DHS



Keith was born at Castlemaine on the 27th September 1926. He attended Essendon Primary School and Wesley College. After leaving school, Keith joined the RAAF and trained as a radio operator in Adelaide. Following WWII, he trained as a teacher and joined the Education Department. He met Margery at the Lord Mayor's Camp at Portsea and they married on 24th December 1949.

Keith taught at several schools before he and Margery moved to Arthur's Creek where their first child David was born. Moving back to Melbourne, Keith transferred to the Visual Education section of the Education Department. They lived at 44 Sterling Street, Footscray. The Visual Education Department introduced him to photography, an area in which he became a true professional. He won the Footscray Centenary photographic competition in 1959, as well as winning photographic competitions at the Royal Melbourne Show. He regularly showed movie films at the Mission to Seamen in Port Melbourne.

A holiday in Anglesea convinced Keith to buy a block of land here. In 1963 he moved his family to Anglesea permanently and called their house The Cecils. Keith continued to teach in Geelong and at Anglesea. With many holiday visitors, the overflow would use Keith's mother's house Nanna Manor.

Keith belonged to the CFA and was Communications Officer of the Anglesea Fire Brigade. He fought many bushfires including Ash Wednesday. Cecil Track, in the Great Otway National Park was named after Keith's sterling job as a volunteer fireman on Ash Wednesday 1983.

Keith joined Volunteers For Isolated Student Education, becoming a visiting teacher to outback children from 1991-94. In retirement Keith became passionate about the history of the Great Ocean Road region. Together with Roger Carr, he researched the local history extensively. The first book he wrote, with Roger Carr, was the *White Queen*, published in 1986. This book was followed by 26 others - all centred on the history of the Great Ocean Road region. Keith continued researching the history of the Surf Coast for the rest of his life. His photography and research has provided Anglesea & District Historical Society with valuable resources for researchers and browsers.

Books by Keith Cecil & Roger Carr

THE WHITE QUEEN - Aireys Inlet Lighthouse
 THE ANGLESEA FIRE BRIGADE
 AIREY'S INLET SCHOOL CENTENARY
 ALONG THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD SERIES
 AIREY'S INLET - A History
 ANGLESEA - A History - Volumes 1 & 2
 ANGLESEA PLANTATION - The
 ANGLESEA REGATTA - The
 ANGLESEA STREET NAMES
 CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EVENTS
 COASTAL CHRISTIANITY
 GREAT OCEAN ROAD - The

LOCAL PUBS - The
 LORNE, Vol 1&2 - THE FOUNDING YEARS
 ROADS TO LORNE - The
 SCOUTING AT ANGLESEA
 SHIPWRECKS NEAR LORNE
 STRANDING OF THE BANCOORA - The
 STRANDING OF THE HEREFORD - The
 THE RED STEER - Vol 1 & 2
 WRECK OF THE INVERLOCHY - The
 WRECK OF THE JOSEPH H SCAMMELL - The
 WRECKS AND SOME NEAR MISSES

What's coming up:

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



SPEAKER: Marianne Messer
TOPIC: Descendants of the Eureka Stockade
ENTRANCE: free
MORNING TEA: included



Members & Visitors welcome

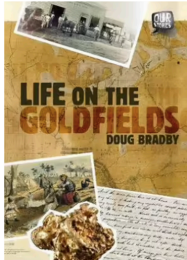
SURF COAST FAMILY HISTORY GROUP
10.00am THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER
At History House, Entrance 4 McMillan St.



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
- Car pooling
- Lunch at own cost
- Return by 4.00pm

Members & Friends Welcome

ANGLESEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COOGOORAH PARK
40th Anniversary Community Picnic
Sunday 28 September 12noon-2.00pm
*BYO BBQ or picnic *Or enjoy Lions Club Sausage Sizzle



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES
*Guided flora and fauna walks *Citizen science water monitoring
*Navigate the waters by canoe *What's under the surface
PLAY & DISPLAY
*Step aboard a CFA firetruck *Explore the "Inverloch" ship
*Learn Coogoorah's story *See historic photographs
Contact: Jane 0429 675 717

COOGOORAH PARK TURNS 40

Coogoorah Park, Anglesea's island park and wetland, celebrates its 40th anniversary at the end of September, and the Anglesea & District Historical Society has planned a trio of activities to mark the occasion.

When the Ash Wednesday bushfire, which devastated coastal towns and swathes of the Otway Ranges on 16 February 1983, was finally fought to a standstill, a large patch of peat in Anglesea continued to burn. The fire cast a pall of toxic, smelly smoke over the town for weeks and defied all conventional attempts to douse it.

Flooding was the final option and opening up channels from the Anglesea River to let in sufficient water ultimately drowned the fire. It also drastically reduced the chances of the peat catching alight in the event of a similar future inferno.

The problem of what to do with the islands and channels which criss-crossed the area was resolved by creating a permanent wetland park with walking trails, bike tracks, quirky wooden bridges and state of the art playground. The park was officially opened on 29 September 1985.

Despite the current and sad acid event afflicting the river, Coogoorah Park has become a haven for flora and fauna of many descriptions and a drawcard for bird photographers and nature lovers alike.

- Visit our interpretive storyboards at the Angair Wildflower Weekend 20-21 September 10am-4pm both days.
- Join us for the 40th Anniversary Community Picnic in the Park on Sunday 28 September. Environmental activities including guided flora and fauna walks, citizen science water monitoring, navigate the waters by canoe, explore the CFA's modern firefighting equipment. Cook your own BBQ, or bring a picnic or grab a sizzled sausage from the Lions Club.
- On the Anglesea Hotel on Sunday 5 October, Bill Bubb will tell you how the CFA finally stopped the fire, Angair experts will discuss the plants and animals living in the park today and GORCAPA will outline future plans.



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 11: SCFHG meeting @ History House. 10.00am – 12.00. Topic: DNA Basics

Wednesday 17: ADHS Tour of Buninyong & history of gold mining. Bookings essential.

Sunday 14: Museum open, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Saturday 20: Museum open, 10.00am – 4.00pm [Angair Wildflower Weekend]

Sunday 21: Museum open, 10.00am – 4.00pm [Angair Wildflower Weekend]

Sunday 28: Coogoorah Park Community BBQ, 12.00 – 2.00pm

OCTOBER

Sunday 5: ADHS meeting @ Anglesea Hotel. 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Topic: Coogoorah Park 40th Anniversary

Thursday 9: SCFHG AGM @ History House. 10.00am – 12.00. Members' stories

Sunday 12: ADHS AGM @ History House, 2.00pm

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2: ADHS outing on Swan Bay Express [tbc]

Sunday 9: Museum open, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Thursday 13: SCFHG meeting @ History House. 10.00am – 12.00. Topic: Who was Armstrong?

DECEMBER

Sunday 7: ADHS/SCFHG combined Xmas break-up garden party