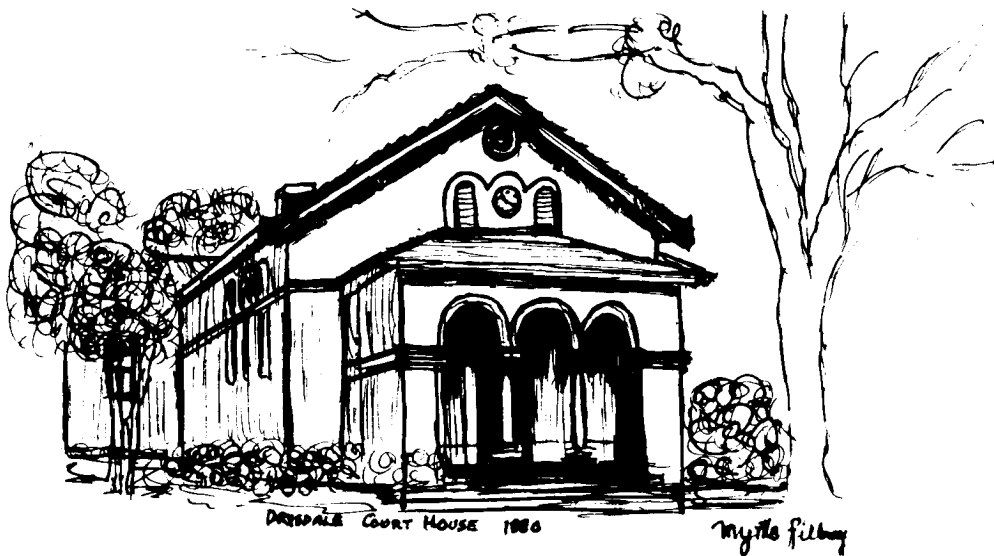


Bellarine Peninsula

The Ocean Grove

History Murals



Bellarine Historical Society Inc.

Bellarine Peninsula

The Ocean Grove
History Murals

by
Susie Zada

Bellarine Historical Society Inc.

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About the History Murals

The large Murals around the supermarket depicting the history of Ocean Grove were commissioned by Wally and Victoria Higgins of Jelena Cove Pty Ltd. They were officially “unveiled” by Cr. Rob Binnie in August 1999.

- ◆ There are 21 murals in seven groups of three.
- ◆ The first 5 groups commence at the north east corner and appear on the rear and side walls of the building. These groups are a timeline / story of the early formation and development of Ocean Grove through to the Proclamation of the Township in 1958. Each group is self contained however they make a total story in sequence :-

Group 1 – Early history, Ideas, Planning & Formation

Group 2 – Accommodation, Entertainment & Attractions

Group 3 – The Community

Group 4 – Changes / Progress

Group 5 – Growth

- ◆ There are two groups of murals on the front wall in The Terrace

These two groups are independent of the other five and are also self contained, however together they tell the story of The Terrace :-

Group 6 – Why The Terrace became the main shopping area

Group 7 – View IN and FROM The Terrace

The history of Ocean Grove has once again become “visible” for all to enjoy.

Thank you – Wally and Victoria.

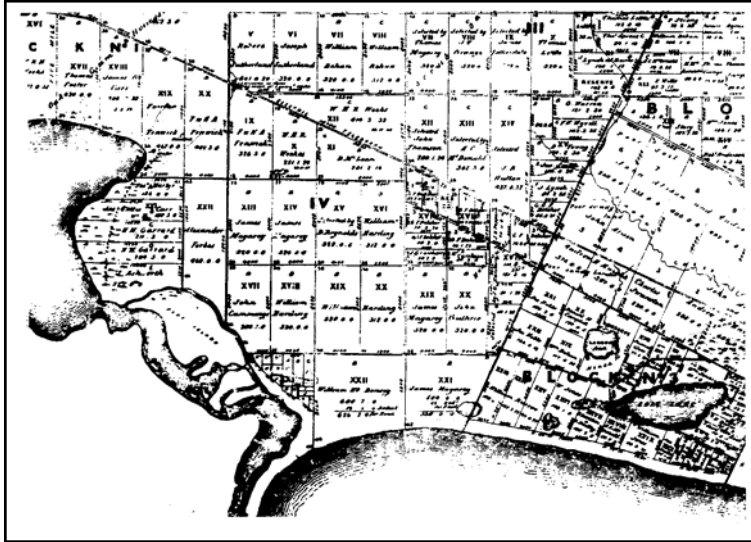
Susie Zada
Bellarine Historical Society Inc.
August 1999

For more Ocean Grove history, visit the Bellarine Historical Society web site at :-

<http://www.zades.com.au/bellhs/ogrove.html>

PANEL 1 a

The visible signs of Ocean Grove's history have largely disappeared. This doesn't mean that Ocean Grove doesn't have a history. It just means that you can't rely on impressive buildings to understand the uniqueness of Ocean Grove. You need to look more carefully. No other Australian town was formed in the same way as Ocean Grove.



Before European settlement, coastal and Manna gum woodland blanketed Ocean Grove. Tussock grassland grew along the river flats, with mangrove shrubland along the upper stretches of the river. Now, the only surviving large area of undisturbed woodland on the Peninsula, is the northern section of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve.

The Bellarine Peninsula was inhabited by the Bengalat balug (Clan) of the Wathaurong Tribe. Food was abundant and they lived on a varied diet of animals, plants, roots, birds and fish. For Europeans, food seemed harder to find. In 1803, William Buckley and two other convicts escaped from the settlement at Sullivan's Bay (Sorrento) and made their way around Port Phillip until they reached the Bellarine Peninsula and Swan Island. Buckley continued on his own along the south coast but struggled to survive in the unfamiliar environment. He was close to starvation when he was found by the Wathaurong people, with whom he spent the next 32 years.

John Batman and the Port Phillip Association arrived at Indented Head in 1835. Rapid colonisation followed across the Peninsula, with vigorous tree-clearing and the introduction of sheep and domestic animals. Squatters were the first to move in, followed later by Crown land sales and town subdivisions.

The land now occupied by Ocean Grove was first purchased in 1854 by Geelong's Police Magistrate William Bonsey. Bonsey also bought land to the north east near Newington which he subdivided into 40 acres farms.

The early occupiers of the farms and larger properties around Ocean Grove were fishermen, farmers and orchardists. Wattle-barking and grass cutting provided them with additional income. The nearest settlement and hotel was at Wallington.

As colonisation accelerated, the Wathaurong Tribe left the Peninsula. The last surviving member of the Barrabool tribe, Willem Baaniip (better known as King Billy) lived at Skepper's Well, Ocean Grove, throughout the 1870s, until his death at Geelong Hospital in 1885. A local fisherman, Tom Blackwell, was the aboriginal warden responsible for issuing rations during this time.

Most of the towns on the Bellarine Peninsula were established in the 1850s. Ocean Grove was the exception. The land now occupied by Ocean Grove, was known at different times as Fenwick, Wallington and Newington. William Bonsey planned a subdivision of his land, to be known as Kingston-on-the-Sea. However, his plan did not proceed and Bonsey returned to England, leaving the management of his properties in the hands of his bankers. It would be another 30 years before Ocean Grove was established using Bonsey's original subdivision plan.



Tom Blackwell

PANEL 1 b

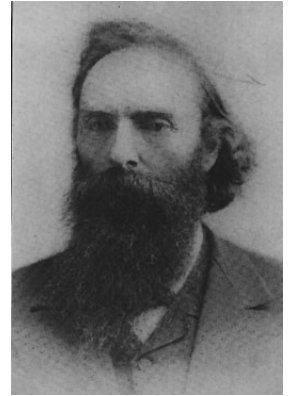
In 1869, Reverend William Bramwell Osborn, an American Wesleyan minister, established a permanent religious resort at Ocean Grove, New Jersey, U.S.A. as a result of earlier successful Camp Meetings.

In 1880 the Rev. John S. Inskip joined Osborn in India as part of a global evangelistic tour to hold Camp Meetings and establish other permanent sites. The Reverend J.F. Horsley was appointed as an agent for Osborn and Inskip in Melbourne. He promoted their Australian tour and arranged missions in Melbourne and Camp Meetings at Royal Park and Point Lonsdale.

Osborn had been keen to establish another "Ocean Grove". The Point Lonsdale Camp Meeting provided the opportunity to investigate a suitable seaside location.

The Point Lonsdale Camp Meeting ran from Christmas Eve 1881 until January 2nd 1882. A miniature township was established, with the "Great Tent" brought from America for services and prayer meetings, and more than 40 small tents providing accommodation for families. Attendees enjoyed a holiday by the sea combined with games, musical gatherings, prayers and religious services.

At the conclusion of the Camp Meeting, a group set out to look for a suitable permanent seaside site. This party included Dr. Fitchett, James Campbell and the Revs. T. Grove, B.

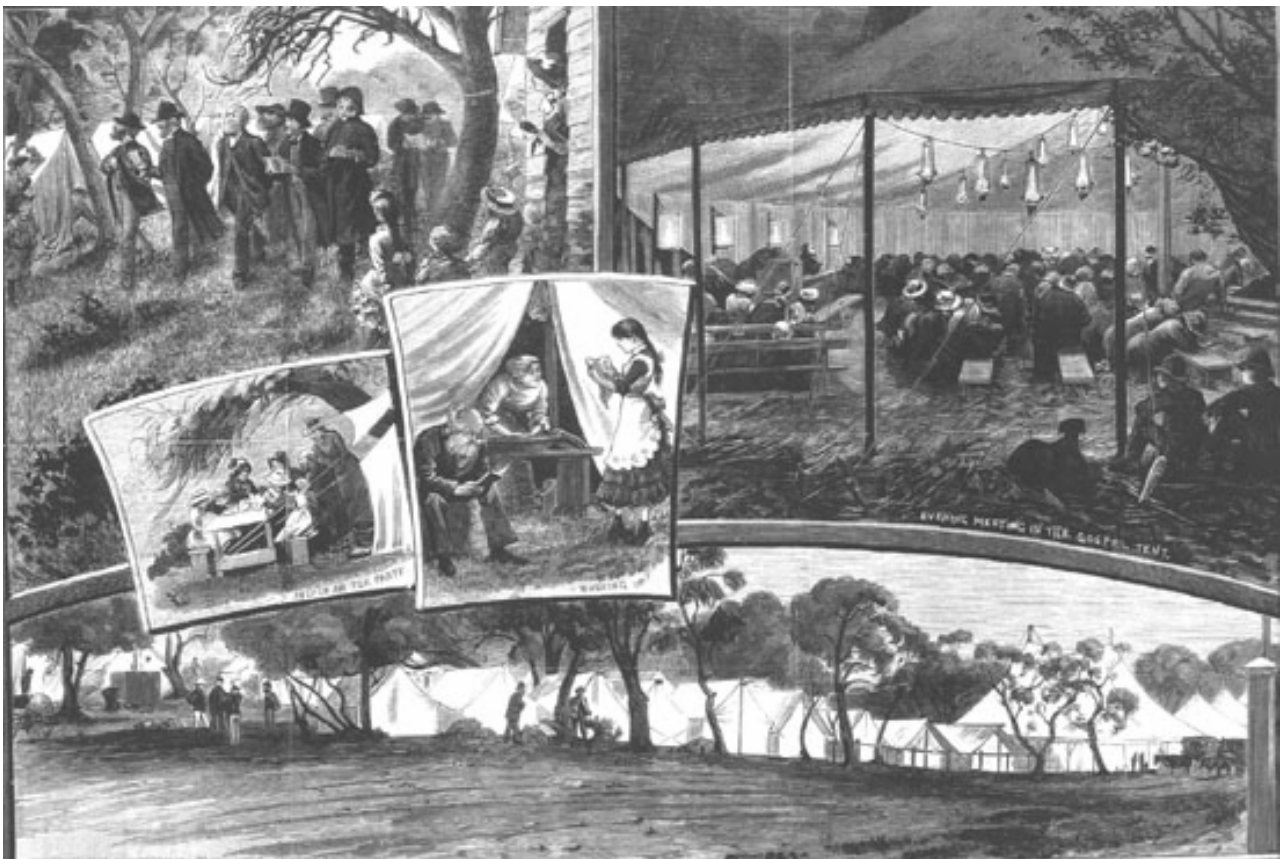


Revs. John S. Inskip (left) and William B. Osborn

Butcher, J.F. Horsley and W.B. Osborn. They walked along the coast until they reached the Barwon River and decided that the site near the river would be an ideal location for the new "Ocean Grove".

The Australian members of the group attempted to purchase the land then owned by the Bank of New South Wales. Unfortunately the Sydney Bank Manager vowed never to sell the land to the Methodists – perhaps because of his enjoyment of a drink and horse-racing!

Another five years passed and it was 1887 before our Ocean Grove became a reality.



Camp Meeting at Point Lonsdale : Dec 1881 – Jan 1882

PANEL 1 c

The 1887 Certificate of Title shows the owners of the land that is now Ocean Grove as Charles Henry James and James Grigg.

However, although Grigg and James were the official landowners, the creation of Ocean Grove was instigated and managed by a group of Wesleyan ministers and followers known as the Ocean Grove Estate Syndicate.

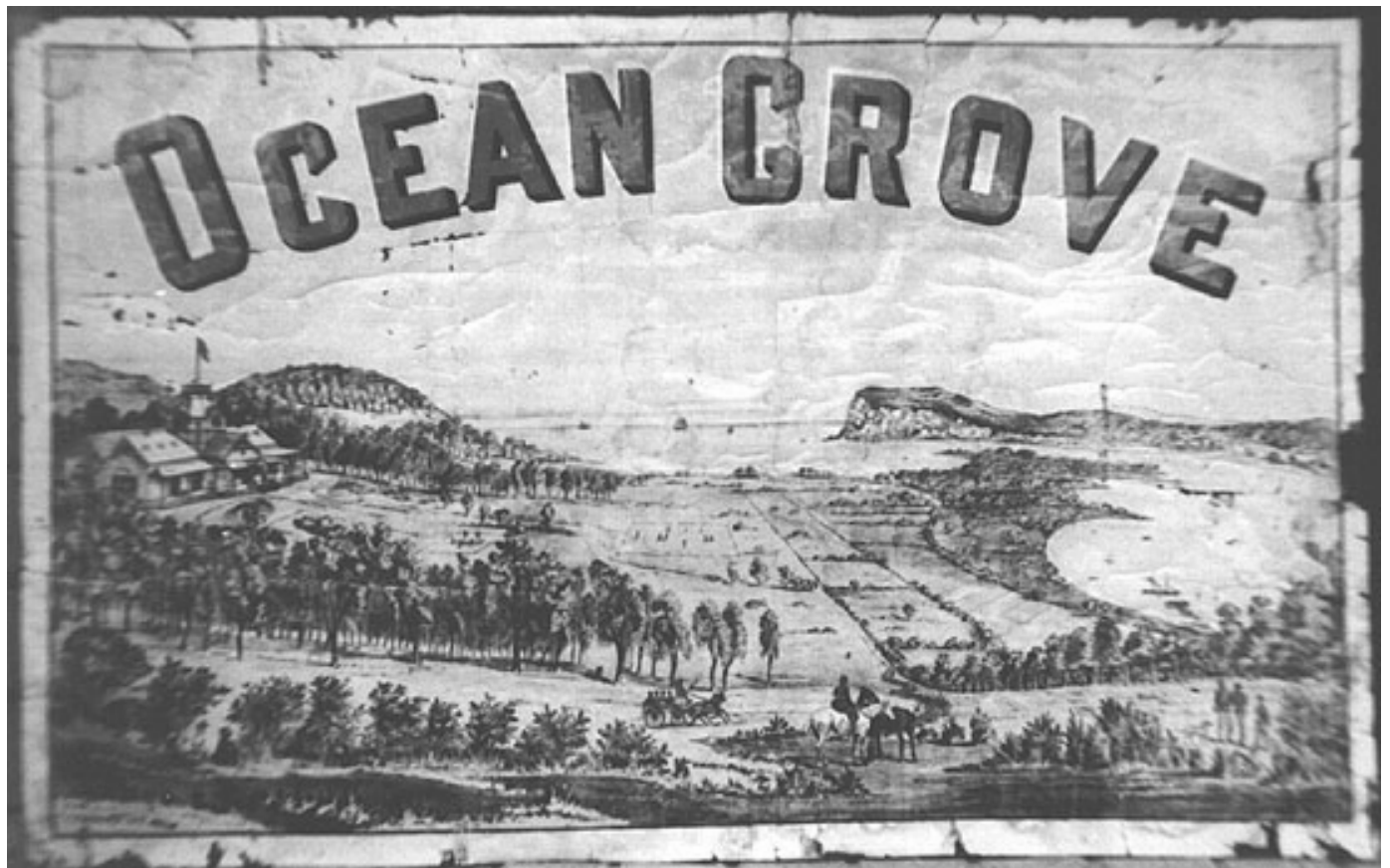
A covenant was placed on all land in the subdivision prohibiting the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors. Bonsey's original subdivision plan was used for the layout of Ocean Grove, but the streets were named after various Wesleyan ministers, including Osborn and Inskip.



The Coffee Palace was the first new building in Ocean Grove. Initially it was quite small, but its location provided magnificent views of the ocean, river and bluff. A picturesque sketch was produced on the reverse of the land sale plan to encourage investors and families to the new resort.

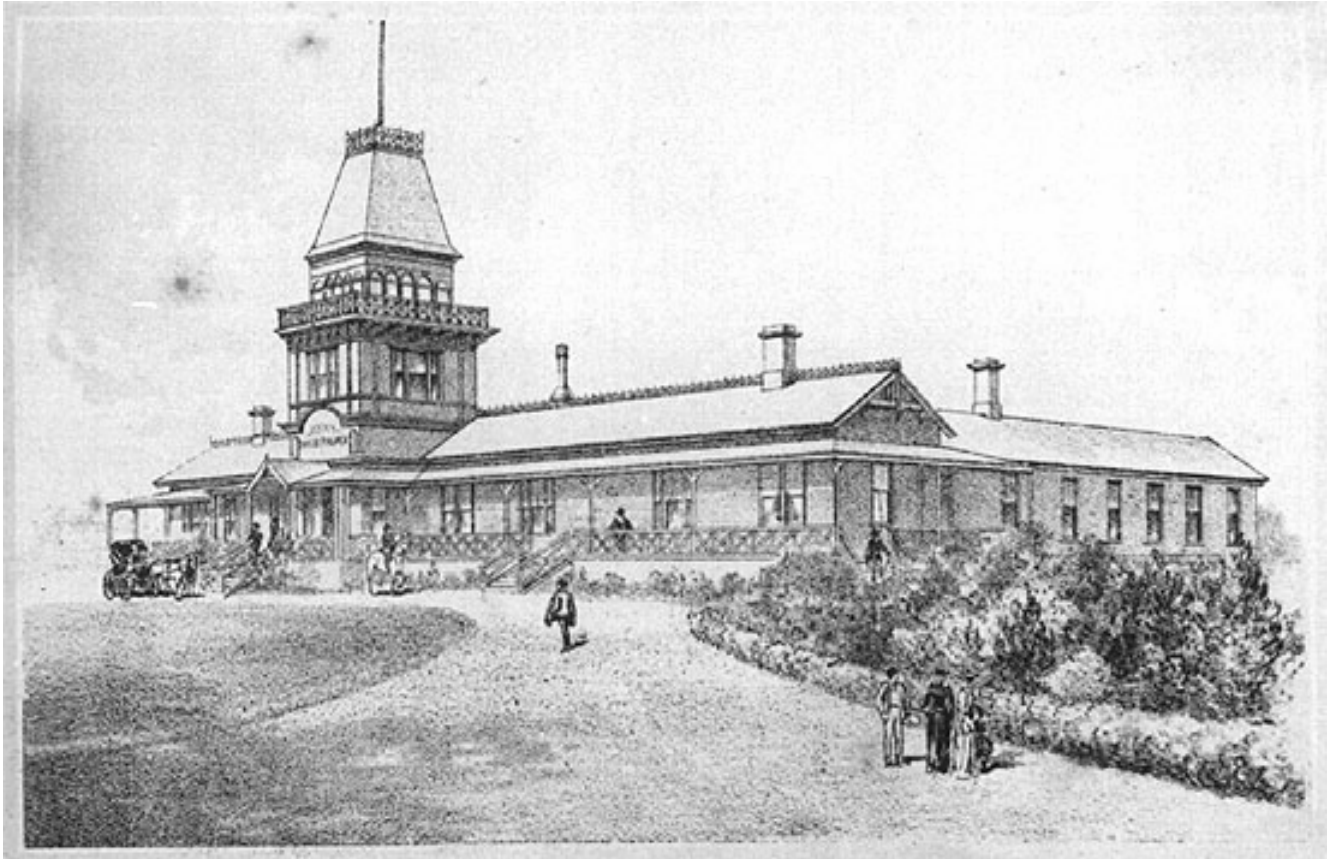
Advertisements were placed in the "Spectator" (a Wesleyan publication) attracting buyers from Victoria and New South Wales for lots priced between £5 and £20.

A Camp Meeting was set up in tents surrounding the Coffee Palace and the first church service was held on 1st January 1888.



PANEL 2 a

The Ocean Grove Coffee Palace



The Ocean Grove Coffee Palace was built in 1887 and significantly expanded in 1888. The expansion, and additional features such as swimming baths in the river, cost more than £7,000.

An advertisement in 1890 said it all :-

The Question "Where shall we spend our Holidays:" ought now to be easy of solution.

A specially interesting feature connected with these additions is the erection of a lofty tower or look-out, from which a most extensive view is obtained of the beautiful and picturesque surroundings. Those who have already resided at the Palace, whether for long or short periods, are loud in their testimony as to the fact that every attention is paid to the wants and conveniences of visitors, the table being at all times exceptionally well provided; order, cleanliness, and comfort reigning supreme.

Terms :- Adults, from 35s. [shillings] per week; Children, 15s. to 20s., according to

age; and by special arrangement according to number.

Lists of guests from the previous week were also included in the advertisement – presumably to show the quality of clientele attracted to the Coffee Palace.

The building contained "60 first-class well lighted, ventilated, and furnished rooms" accommodating 120 people. The dining room also catered for 120 people, although it is known to have held up to 180 at some functions. There were six bath rooms with fresh water, sitting rooms and parlors, rooms for bagatelle, billiards, smoking and reading, as well as a large kitchen and separate servants' quarters.

The Coffee Palace was located on the west side of Presidents Avenue between The Parade and The Terrace with the building and grounds covering ten allotments. Over the years, the Coffee Palace was variously known as Ocean Grove House, Ocean House, Green Gables, The Chalet and Arkana Lodge. It was demolished in 1969.

PANEL 2 b



In keeping with the concept of the Camp Meetings, a trip to Ocean Grove was promoted as providing families with a wholesome and healthy holiday combining sporting, social and community activities with prayer meetings and church services.

When the Coffee Palace was extended, swimming baths were built in the river near the Fisherman's Jetty at the bottom of Guthridge Street. Transport to the baths was provided for guests by horse and buggy. Of course, the more adventurous guests could also enjoy the beach and surf.

Other outdoor activities were provided, with lawn tennis courts, bowling greens, and areas for cricket, quoits and croquet, all available to holiday-makers.

Advertisements spoke of :-

The pure ozone of the ocean. Health without medicine.
Safe bathing grounds and a splendid sea beach. Fishing, shooting, etc., Boats always available on Lake Connewarre. Ocean breezes without sea sickness.

Musical evenings and fancy dress nights were also a popular pastime. Guests, staff and local people were all, at times, participants in the programs.

The guest houses provided not only accommodation and entertainment for visitors, but also employment for local families throughout the summer months.

— MAFEKING HOUSE —
— OCEAN GROVE —
GRAND XMAS REVEL
— 1917 —
"PROGRAM"

SELECTION — PIANO	MRS MENSIES
SONG — THE VILLAGE PUMP	MR PETERS
RECITATION — SELECTED	MISS WEYMOUTH
COMIC SONG — PLICE'LL HAVE ME BEFORE LONG	MR PILL
SONG — KENTUCKY BAGE	MRS EVANS
RECITATION — THE MANAGERIE	MR BAKER
SONG — THE MAELSTROM	MR LESTER
DUET — "ALICE"	MESSRS BAKER & PILL
RECITATION — SCOTISH SERMON	MR LESTER
SONG —	MR EVANS
COMIC SONG — "PUDDEN"	MR PILL

INTERVAL FOR GAMES

SONG — "THE WINDMILL"	MR LESTER
RECITATION — SELECTED	MR BAKER
SONG —	MR MENSIES
SONG — "THE YEARS FANCY BALL"	MR PILL
SONG —	MRS EVANS
RECITATION — SELECTED	MR LESTER
DUET — "ALL ALONE"	MR & MRS PILL
SONG —	MR PETERS
SONG —	MR EVANS

STRETCHER BEARERS AT 11-30 PM
GOD SAVE THE KING
THEN BACK TO THE SPRINGS THANK YOU.

PANEL 2 c

Connewarre / Mafeking House

Mafeking House was known as Connewarre House when it was built in 1888. It was located on the corner of Field Street and The Parade, but was moved to the east side of Hodgson Street between Dare and Orton Streets when the siege of Mafeking ended – hence its name change. It was subsequently known as Embla Hotel, Embla Flats and Cath-Kin. It was demolished in 1982.

The house was used as a rest-home for Methodist ministers before later becoming a guest house. It could accommodate 56 people and in the early days was so popular that a house beside the guest house was rented to take a further 18 people.

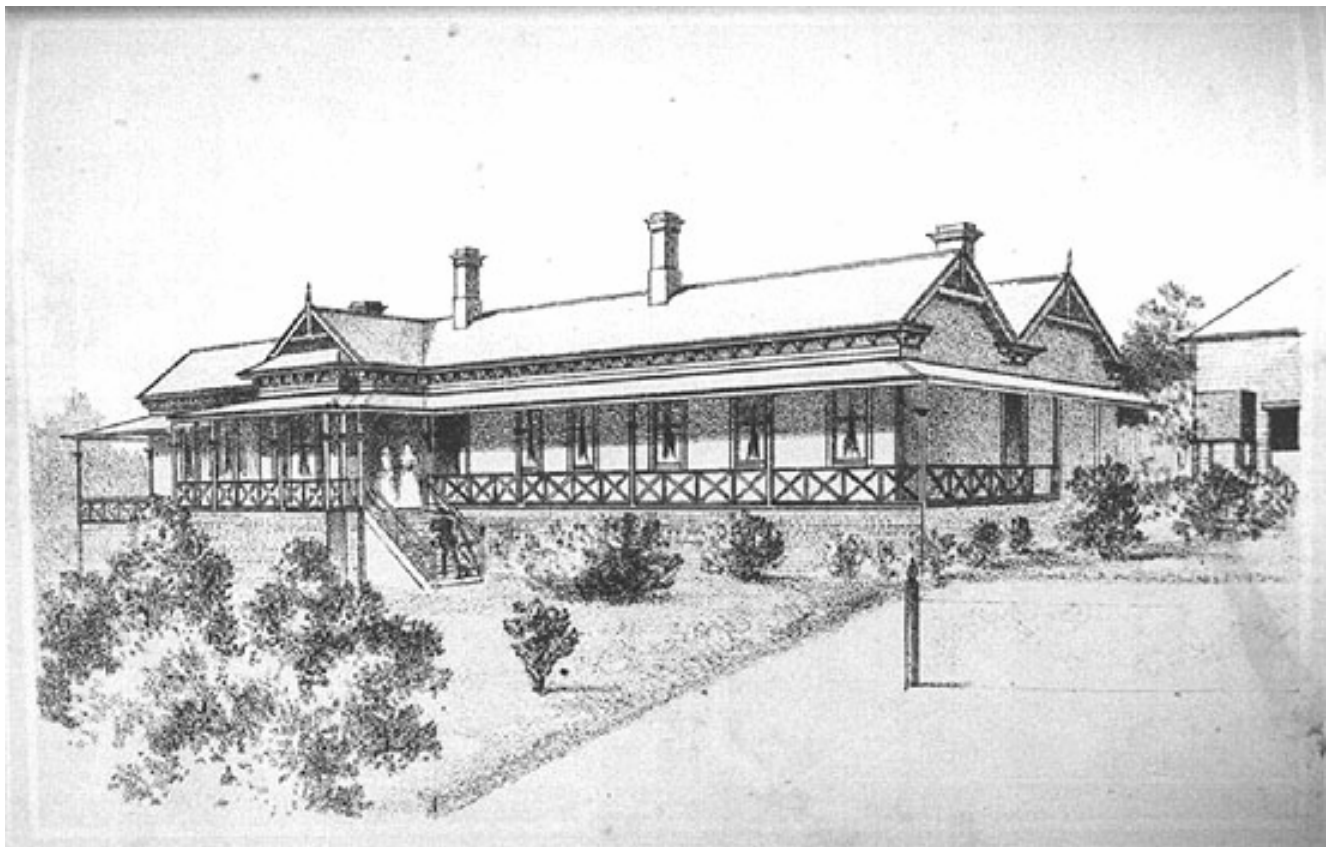
The house was relocated in two sections, using a team of horses and all available manpower in Ocean Grove to assist.

Mafeking had wonderful views of the ocean and was

closer to the sea than the Coffee Palace. Directly below Mafeking was what is sometimes referred to as the “Old Surf Beach” where some residents had their own bathing boxes.

Guests would make their way to the beach along a track known as Lover’s Walk. A wooden gate marked the entrance to the path.

Both Mafeking House and the Coffee Palace provided a healthy and home-like environment for their guests. Outdoor activities were encouraged during the day, although quieter indoor games were also popular for the less active. Evenings were well catered for, with many musical and social events. At the same time, prayer meetings and guest preachers met the spiritual needs of visitors to Ocean Grove.



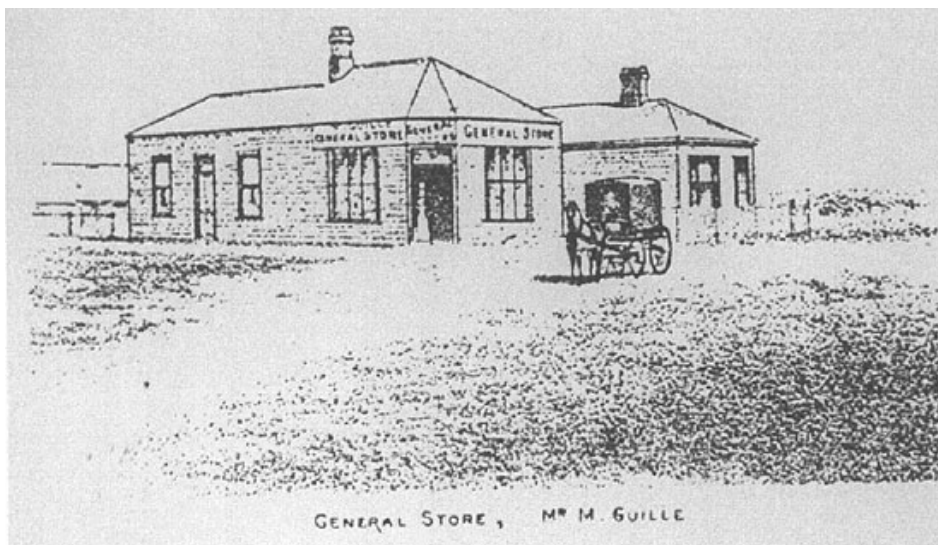
PANEL 3 a

Various facilities quickly developed in Ocean Grove to cater for the small but growing permanent community as well as the visitors.

Marcus Guille built and operated the Ocean Grove General Store on the south west corner of The Terrace and Hodgson Street. His first premises were tents, in use while he was building the store and his house in 1891. The store was subsequently owned and operated by families such as the Foysters, Menzies, Vertigans and Skinners.

It is no longer a 'corner store', but the shop still exists in 1999. Although it has new exterior walls and a second storey, the original structure and window and door frames can still be identified.

State School No. 3100 was opened in 1890 in leased premises in The Parade. Low enrolments meant that it operated only part-time for the first two years, sharing time with the Newington School. In 1892 it moved into the the former Steiglitz School, on the



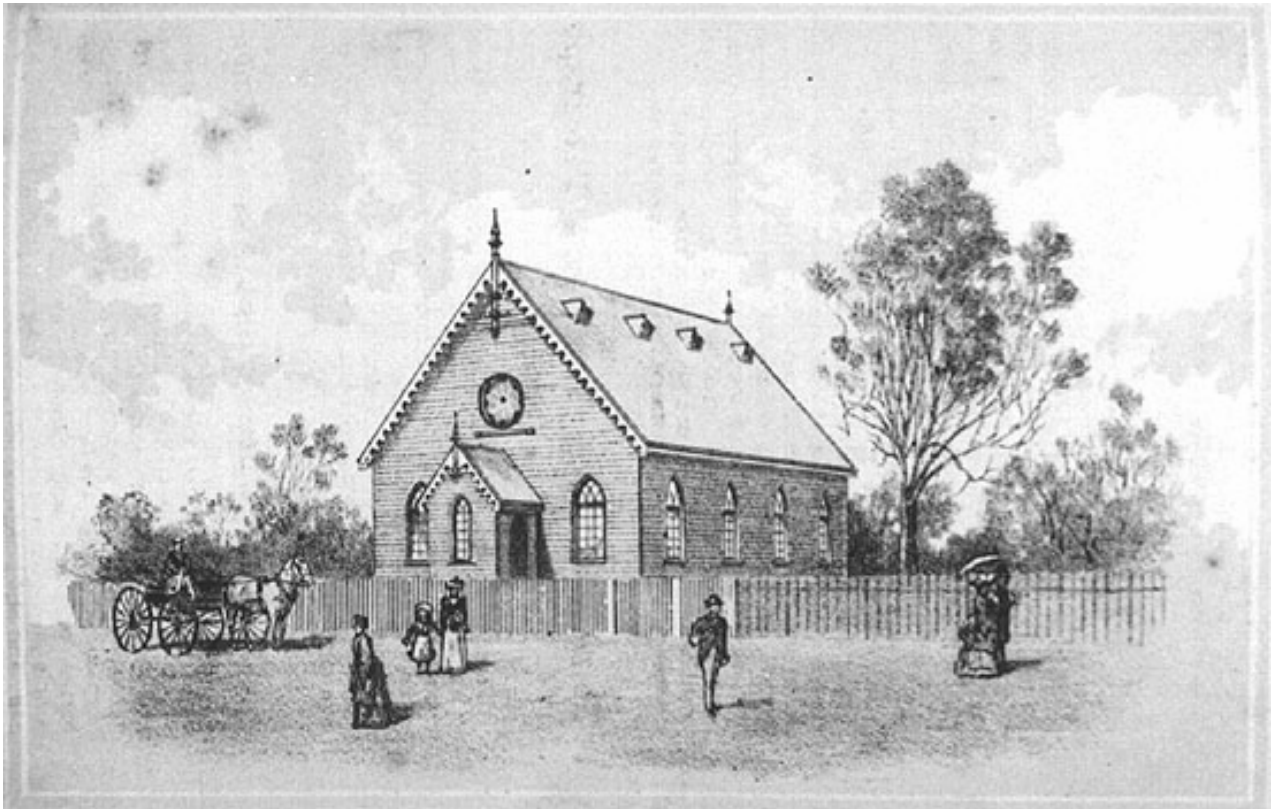
present site in Draper Street. Declining attendance saw it return to part-time operation, this time with the Marcus Hill school in 1928. It closed in 1930. However, it reopened again in 1932 on the strength of new enrolments from the families of Davis, Menzies, Murphy, Perret, Clement, Bliss, Kiddle & Johnston

The original school building is still in use in 1999.



Ocean Grove State School in 1910 with Mr. Hugh Clark who taught at the school for almost 30 years

PANEL 3 b



Although Ocean Grove was founded by the Wesleyans, it was never intended to be an exclusively Wesleyan town. Other religious groups were encouraged, and land was donated for both a Church of England and a Wesleyan Church.

The Wesleyan Church was built in 1888 by Nielson and Guille. This picturesque church is located on the corner of Eggleston Street and The Parade. Wesleyan Church services had been held in the Coffee Palace until the church was opened in December 1888. In 1999 it is the Ocean Grove Uniting Church.

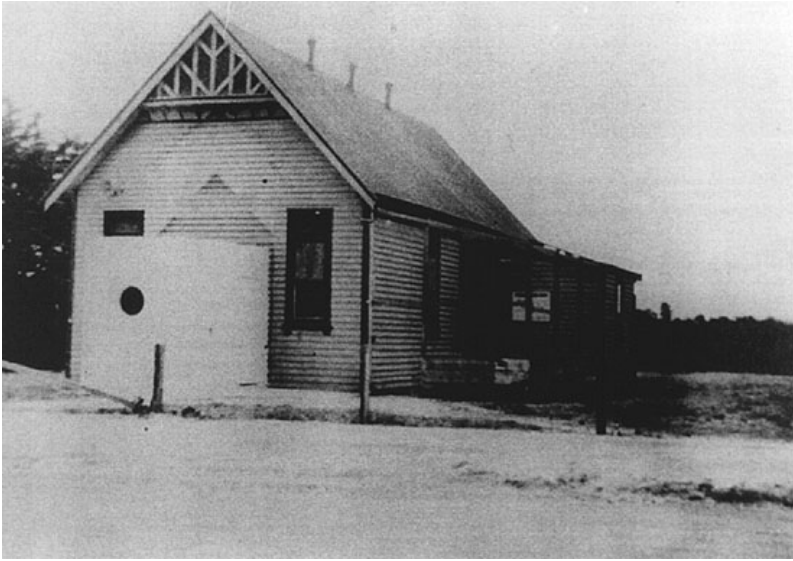


The 'Little Church of St. Peter' was built in 1895 and used for the first time in January 1896. In the early years, the Rev. Thomas Quinton was a familiar sight in his buggy making the trip from St. Marks at Leopold to hold services for the people of Ocean Grove. If Rev. Quinton was unable to make the trip due to bad weather, Mr James B. Menzies would give the sermon.

The Sunday School was held at St. Peters for children of all denominations with the Misses Weber and Misses Cuthbertson heavily involved with playing the organ and teaching. A new church was built nearby in 1960, however, the Little Church in Draper Street is still used for various displays and functions and fondly remembered by some of the longer term residents of Ocean Grove.

In 1948 Sunday Mass was held in the Public Hall, and in 1955 the first Roman Catholic Church was built in The Terrace.

PANEL 3 c



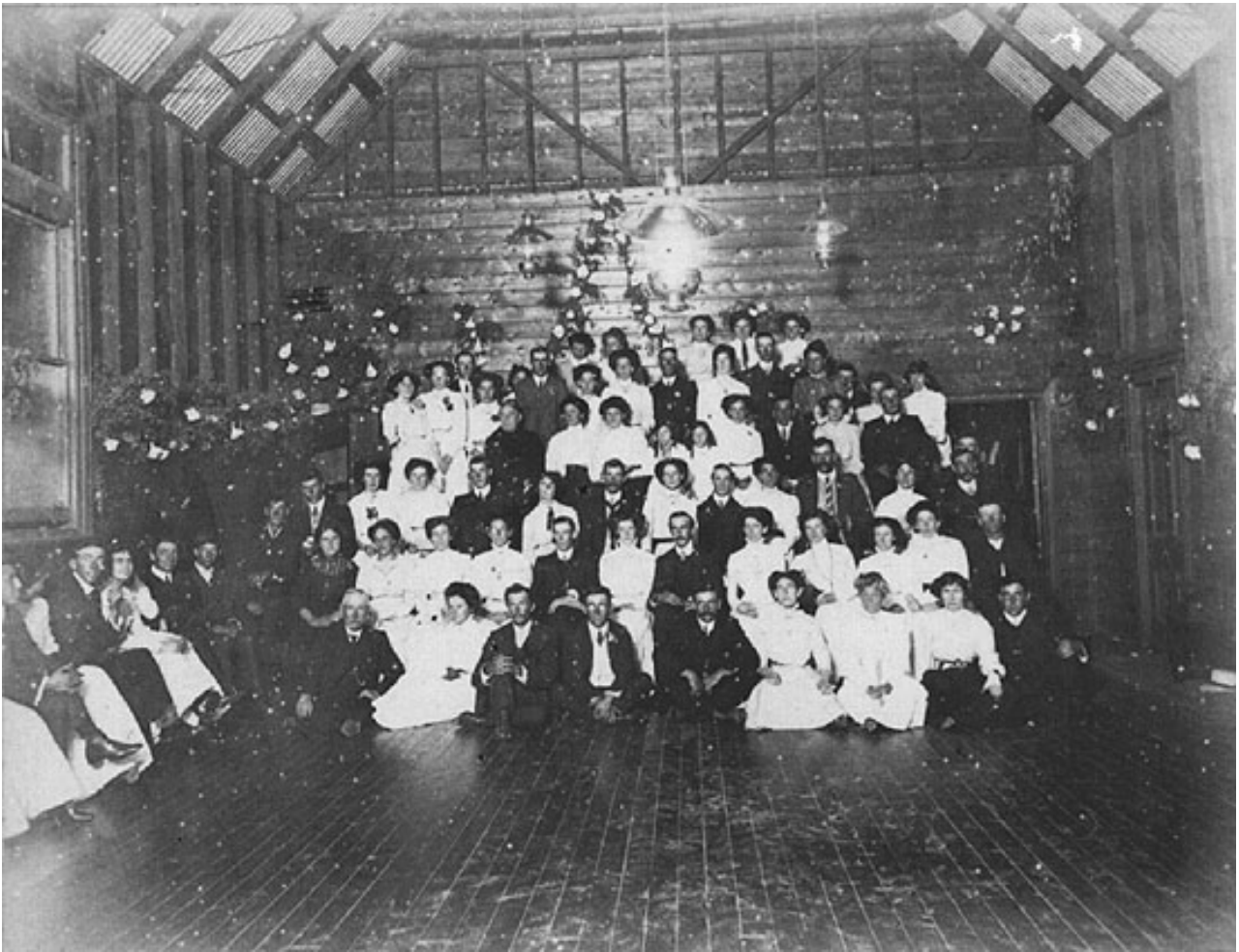
The Ocean Grove Public Hall was located on the south west corner of President's Avenue and The Parade.

The old Hall was relocated from Windermere near Ballarat to Ocean Grove in 1910. Euchre parties were held here in the early years. Players filled the hall until 10.00 p.m. when the tables were cleared away and dancing would begin.

Several extensions were later made to the hall. A large rear skillion section was added, as well as a cinematographic projection box at the front for the "Grove Theatre".

It was demolished in 1991-92 to make way for the Ocean Grove Library and Community Centre.

A Ball was held to celebrate the Grand Gala Opening of the Public Hall in 1910. Some of the people present at the ball were Mr. & Mrs. W.B. WILTON, Misses F. & B. CUTHBERTSON, Mr. W. WILTON & Miss I. WILTON, Mr. & Mrs. J.B. MENZIES, Misses Elsie & Win MENZIES, Mr. W.F. FOYSTER & Miss May FOYSTER, Mr. & Mrs. Robert BOUND, Mr. & Mrs. J. CUTHBERTSON, Mr. & Mrs. W. PETRASS, Miss B. STEPHENS, Mrs. BRUCHE, Mr. & Mrs. R. BLACKWELL, Mr. & Mrs. ENGLAND, Miss C. HANN, Messrs Arthur, Fred & Claude MENZIES.



PANEL 4 a

The first 30 years of the 20th century brought many changes to Ocean Grove. Most were a step forward for the town, although others were not so positive for the local community.



Menzies' Store, bus and petrol bowser : c. 1928

The Western Stage Co. was the first to provide public transport to Ocean Grove. It offered large coaches, often carrying up to 20 passengers as well as the mail and supplies.

With the town relying heavily on tourists, transport was an essential part of its growth. In the early years, visitors from Melbourne could travel by road, train or steamer to Geelong, Drysdale or Queenscliff, but coach was the only option for Ocean Grove. For some years,

advertisements promoted the ease of travelling by train to the Ocean Grove Railway Station – failing to warn weary travellers of the large distance separating Ocean Grove from its Railway Station. The station was situated on Banks road, north of the Geelong – Queenscliff road!

The first Ocean Grove Bus service was provided by Wally Foyster in 1918. It was later replaced by the Menzies' Bus Service.

The Ocean Grove Improvement Association was formed in 1889. One of its first tasks was to appeal to the Bellarine Council to upgrade access roads into Ocean Grove – particularly Grubb Road.

The Association was also responsible for the fencing of the sand dunes and planting of marrum grass and tree lupins to help stabilise the sand in the 1890s.

The Improvement Association was active in many areas. One of its members, Thomas Alexander Grant, built the lookout and seat on Bald Hill in 1924 for the people of Ocean Grove.



Grant's Lookout : c. 1930

PANEL 4 b

Some early landowners in Ocean Grove were in an unusual situation – they never saw their land before or after they bought it and many lost their land without ever having had the opportunity to sell it.

When Ocean Grove was subdivided in 1887, approximately 2,500 lots were up for sale. The majority of these were sold in the first 18 months and many of the purchasers were from Melbourne, country Victoria and New South Wales.

The land sales were advertised in the “Spectator” and various newspapers, with many of the sales being completed without the purchaser ever visiting Ocean Grove.

The agents were Messrs. Grigg & Kimberley who advertised :-

TITLE CERTIFICATE

Conditions of Sale will absolutely prohibit Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on

this Estate.

Terms :- One-fourth Cash, Balance in 6, 12, 18, and 24 Months, bearing Interest at six percent per annum.

Price of Lots :- £5, £10, £15, £20 each. Corners, twenty-five percent extra, according to position.

During the recession of the 1890s, paying rates on a block of land was not considered an essential cost. As a result, many blocks of land accrued some years of unpaid rates.

In 1923 the Council decided to recover some of the unpaid amounts by auctioning the relevant lots. A few owners paid the back rates before the auction took place, but the auction brought welcome new landowners to Ocean Grove.



PANEL 4 c

One of the industries that flourished in Ocean Grove for many years was fishing. The Ocean Grove fishing fleet – the couta boats – sailed from Fishermen’s Jetty at the bottom of Guthridge Street out of the Barwon River to Bass Strait.

Some of the early fishing families included names such as Plumridge, Stephens, Thomas and Blackwell.

The opening of the Ocean Grove Bridge in 1927 brought about the end of the Ocean Grove fishing fleet. The couta boats could not reach Bass Strait from the town jetty and the fleet had to relocate to Barwon Heads.



The Ocean Grove couta boats heading for the river mouth in 1912

However, the bridge was at the same time a forward step. In the 1900s, people never “traveled through” Ocean Grove as there was nowhere to go – you would come in to ocean Grove from the Geelong – Queenscliff Road and you would return to the same road. It was hoped that the bridge would attract more visitors and hence benefit the economy and growth of the town.



Barwon Heads in 1928 – the bridge was built the previous year.

PANEL 5 a



The Boathouses of Barwon Heads had a major effect on the growth and development of Ocean Grove.

Some of these boathouses were erected before 1900, and by the 1930s there were 61 along the river shoreline. The Geelong Harbour Trust issued licences for the boathouses which, during summer, would house up to 10 people in each.

The boathouses were popular with the businesses in Barwon Heads but not so with the owners of permanent riverside houses. The permanent residents resented the little houses on the sand and after some years of legal argument, the boathouses were removed.

Ocean Grove was the major winner from the demise of the boathouses. The Bellarine Council welcomed the boathouses on the east side of the Barwon River.

By June 1936, more than 25 boathouses had been transported across the bridge and onto blocks of land in Ocean Grove, almost doubling the number of holiday houses and homes in the Grove.

More than 60 years after the move, many of these boathouses can still be spotted around Ocean Grove. Very few are still the original size, with most being the core of a much larger house.



PANEL 5 b

No single event in the history of Ocean Grove had greater impact on the town's growth than the arrival from Europe of the post-war immigrants.

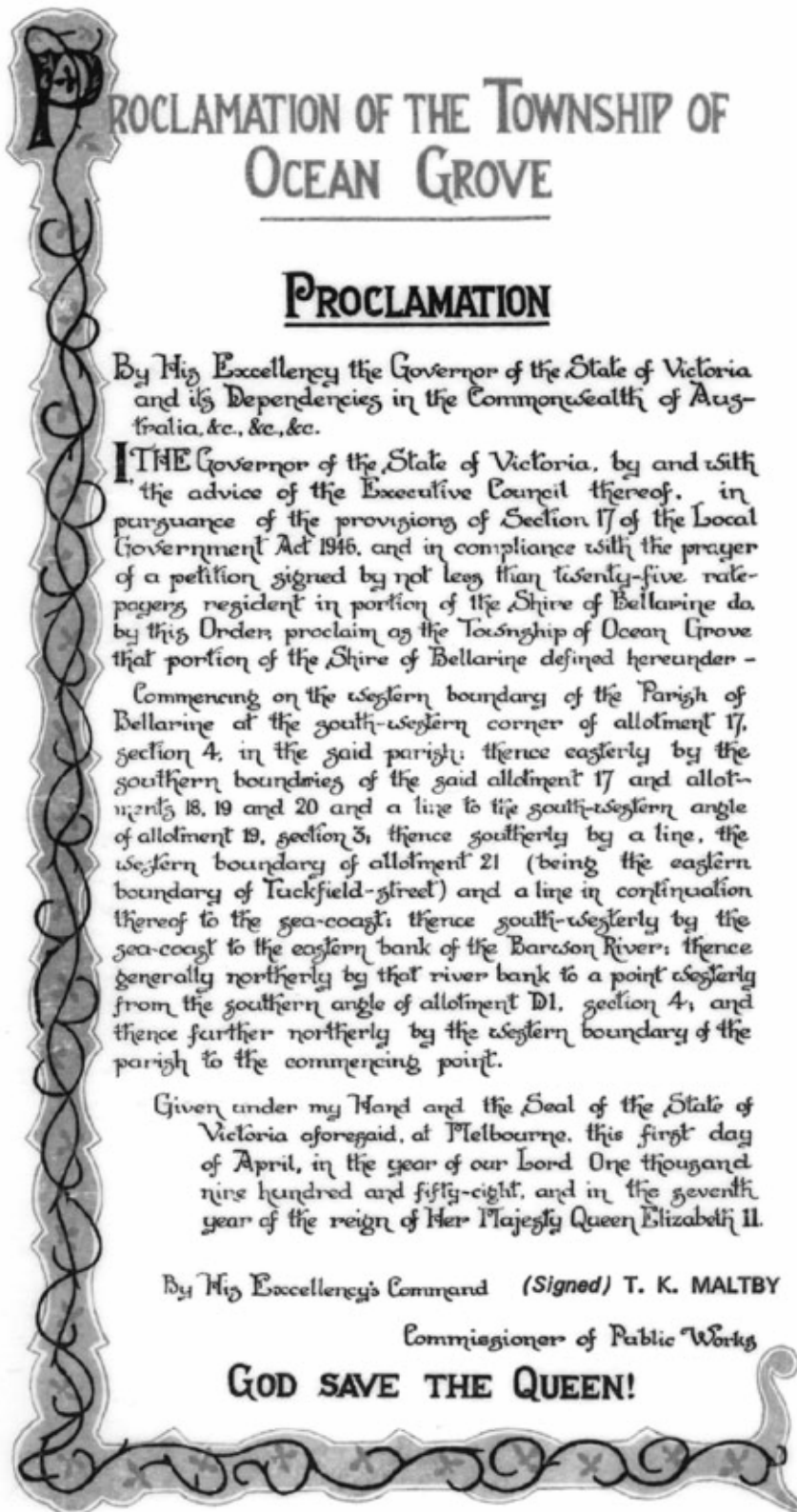
Ocean Grove no longer relied on a small number of resident families and workers and the seasonal influx of visitors to survive.

Immigrants from different European countries began arriving in 1948 and the demand for local businesses and services began to increase along with their numbers. School intakes multiplied many times over and these families settled into the seaside community to establish themselves as long-term residents.

Many had jobs in Geelong, and other towns and on farms around the Peninsula, but they settled in Ocean Grove and in doing so, helped to turn it from the slowest developing town on the Peninsula to the largest one.



PANEL 5 c



In 1958, Ocean Grove was proclaimed a township, and parades and festivities were held in August to celebrate the occasion. It had taken the town 70 years to reach this stage, but few people at those celebrations could have foreseen the incredible growth that would occur over the next 40 years.

PANEL 6 a

When Ocean Grove was subdivided in 1887, a small number of families already lived in the area – mainly fishermen and farmers. This group of families expanded with businesses and trades needed to support the new settlement.

The 1899 – 1900 Wise Directory showed 19 heads of families with occupations of fishermen (5), livery stables, grocer (2), carpenter & builder, Cobb & Co. manager, blacksmith, J.P., teacher and horse trainer.

Surnames shown in this directory were Blackwell, Corr, Cuthbertson, Guille, Hann, Larter, Menzies, Pescott, Petrass, Plumridge, Purnell, Simpson, Stephens, Thomas, Townsend and Wilson.

By 1939, some of the names and occupations had changed but there were still only 21 “households” listed and three of those were Ocean Grove House, Embla House and the State School. This number had grown to only 26 by 1947.

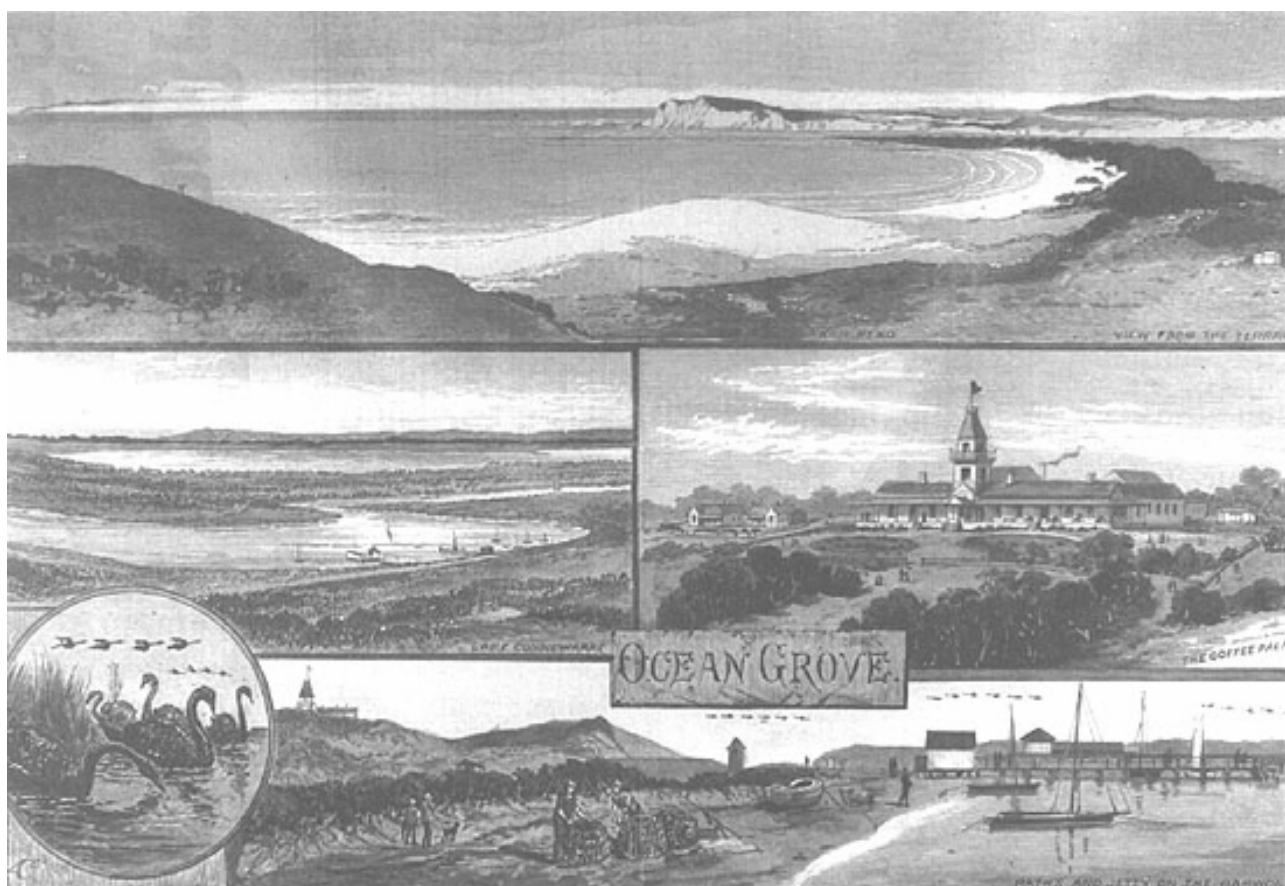
Although there were more houses for the summer tourists, the core population had remained very small and few shops and tradespeople were needed to support the town.

The location of the main shopping centre along The Terrace was determined back in the 1890s. However, for its first sixty years, The Terrace was much like the rest of Ocean Grove: a dirt road with a handful of houses on either side.

This changed with the arrival of the European immigrants. Their arrival was a turning point for Ocean Grove.

The 1949 directory had 89 entries and by 1958 had grown to 146. Ocean Grove had come of age.

It was no longer a town that came alive only with its summer visitors. The sleepy seaside town had become home to a growing population, in turn fuelling demand for more people and more shops.



Ocean Grove in 1892 – dominated by the Coffee Palace catering for the summer tourists. The river became a haven for the tourists who used the swimming baths or hired local fishermen to take them on sailing or fishing trips up the river to Lake Connemarre.

PANEL 6 b



The Coffee Palace (also known as The Chalet) and Mafeking House (or Embla) were the two dominant accommodation houses in Ocean Grove.

As the permanent population grew, they also became centres for social functions such as weddings, musical evenings and fancy dress dinners.

There was a great deal of foot traffic between these two large establishments, as well as from homes in the area.

The Terrace between Hodgson Street and Presidents Avenue was a location with regular traffic and so an obvious choice for new business being established.



PANEL 6 c



The Ocean Grove Corner Store is one of the oldest buildings in Ocean Grove. The store initially operated from a tent while the shop was being built in 1891-1892.

The verandah was added while the Foyster family ran the store. The store became known as “Menzies” after May Foyster married Fred Menzies, and it was extended to the west and a petrol bowser installed at the front during this time.

The Corner Store was the focal point for the community – bus stop, petrol, household supplies, post office, telephone exchange, newspapers and, of course, the essential town gossip.

Although other families operated the store at different times, the name most commonly used for the store was “Skinners”, as Jack and Evelyn Skinner ran the store for 30 years from 1950.



PANEL 7 a



The Do Duck Inn was popular with both locals and visitors to Ocean Grove. It was situated on the south side of The Terrace and would often stay open very late on Friday nights to cater for the weekend visitors from Melbourne.

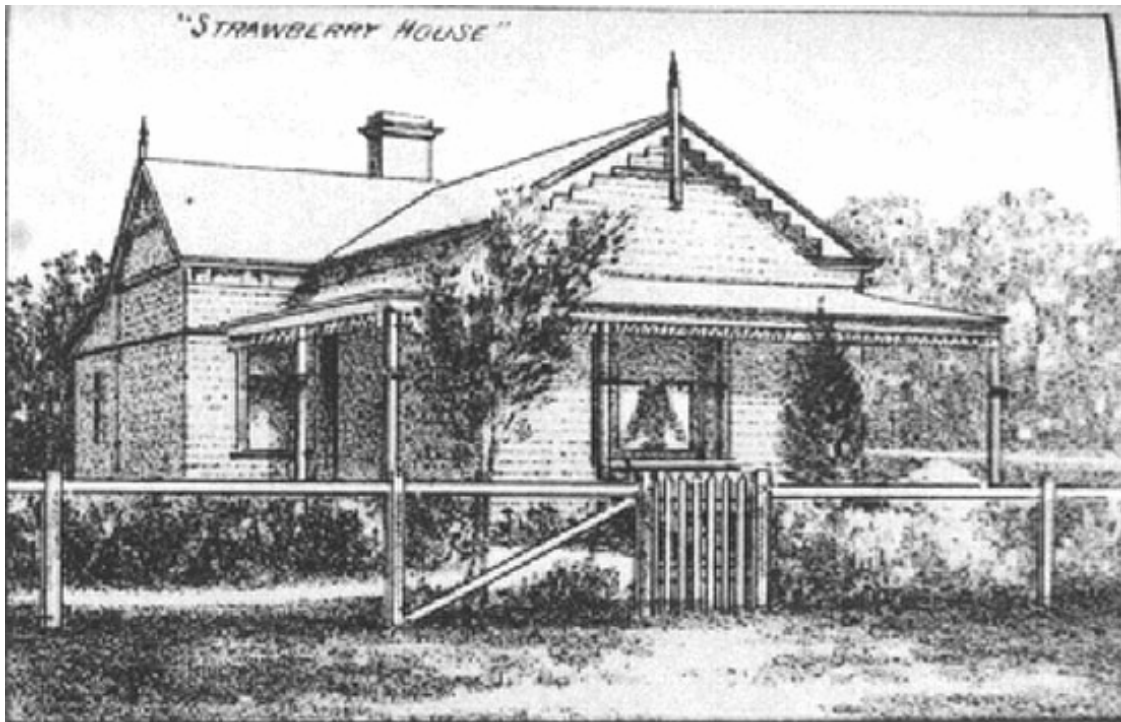
Provided that May Mitchell, the owner, could be contacted before midnight, a hot 'grill' (meal) would be ready for customers on arrival.

One of Ocean Grove's celebrity residents was the artist Sidney Nolan. Sidney and his new bride Betty spent a year rent-free in a house in The Terrace in 1938-39. Sidney found part time work on a local asparagus farm and regularly attended the Ocean Grove Toc H meetings during his stay.

It seems that he borrowed money from some of the local families, who still regret that they preferred to wait for cash than accept a painting as payment!



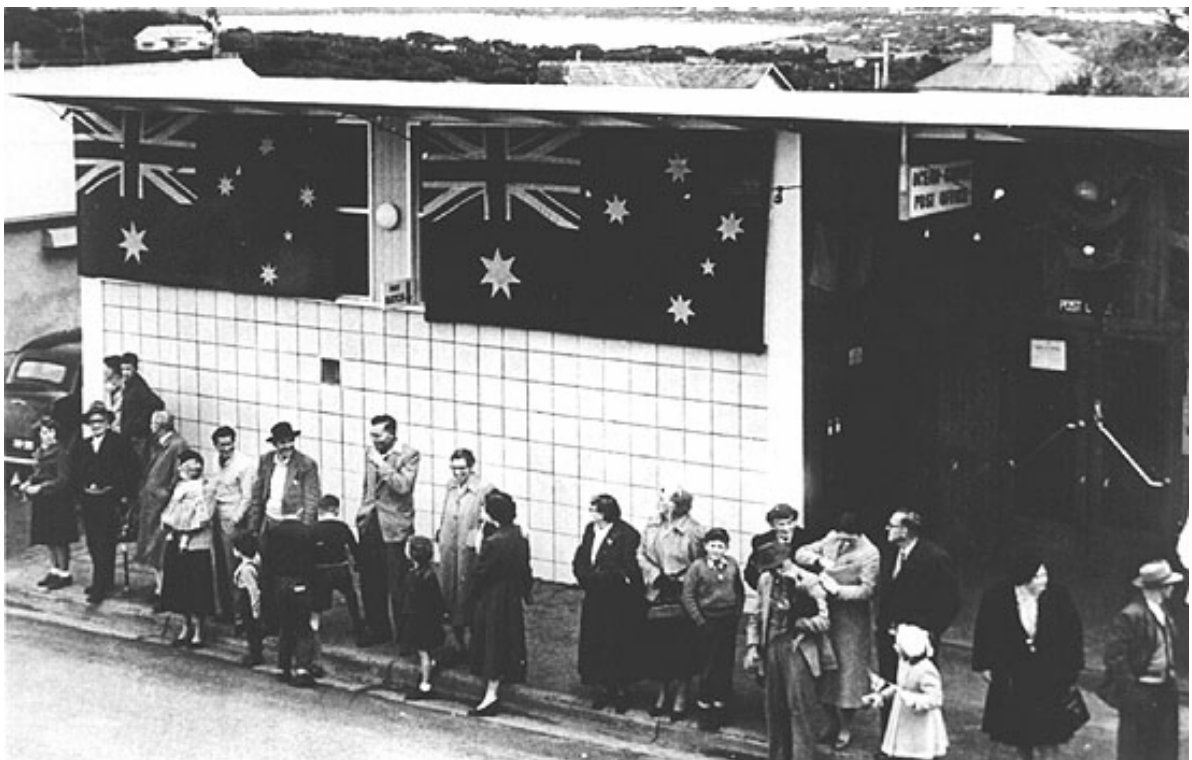
PANEL 7 b



The Post Office had several locations before it opened in 1979 at its present site on the north west corner of The Terrace and Hodgson Street.

The first Post Office was in the Coffee Palace and was managed by Joseph Ingamells. Its next location was in Strawberry House (above) on the south west corner of Powell Street and Presidents Avenue.

Fred Menzies took over as postmaster in 1935 in an extension on the west side of the Corner Store in the Terrace, with successive managers being Vertigan, Biggins, Bronmeyer, Skinner and Wilson. A new extension to the Corner Store saw the Post Office moved to Hodgson Street. It was raised to official status in 1957 – the year before the Proclamation of the Township of Ocean Grove.



PANEL 7 c



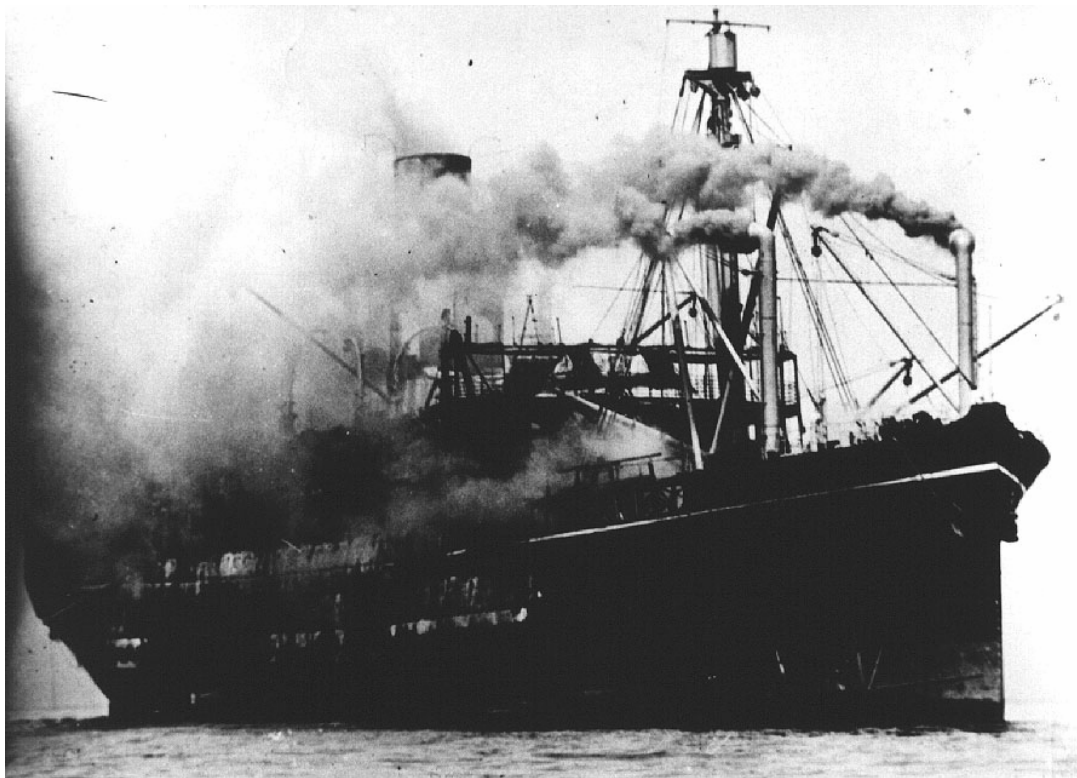
On Thursday 21st November 1940 the S.S. Orungal hit the reef off Barwon Heads. The ship had been travelling in heavy seas from Sydney to Melbourne. Realising they had missed the entrance to Port Philip Bay, the crew tried to turn the ship without realising how close they were to the shore.

As there were so few buildings in The Terrace, the

Orungal was clearly visible from this vantage point.

All passengers and crew were saved. The ship was to be salvaged, however, on Friday 13th December an explosion on board resulted in a fire which totally engulfed the ship.

At low tide, the boilers of the Orungal can still be seen off Barwon Heads.



Contributors of Photographs, Maps, Sketches and Information

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Thank You

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◆ Bellarine Shire Council Records

Minute Books
Correspondence Files
Valuation & Rate Books

Source : Geelong Historical Records Centre

◆ Land Records

Various Certificates of Title, Land Transfers and Memorials

Source : Registrar of Titles Victoria

◆ Maps and Plans

Various Maps, Building Applications, Plans etc.

Source : Bellarine Historical Society, Geelong Historical Records Centre, City of Greater Geelong (Building Services Dept.)

◆ Newspapers

Geelong Advertiser
Echo
Ocean Grove Observer

Source : Geelong Historical Records Centre, Bellarine Historical Society

◆ Public Records

Company Records
Supreme Court Records
Land Correspondence Files
Probate Files

Source : Public Record Office Victoria

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