

Doc 0389

# Inspiring Great Ocean Road

PAGE 2 - THE COLAC HERALD, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1992

by David Chapman

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of the Great Ocean Road — and a new \$1 million promotional campaign has been launched to help build on the road's tourist potential.

In launching the campaign on the Great Ocean Road in Geelong, Victorian Premier Joan Kirner said the building of the road which hugs the coastline had created one of the most spectacular coastal drives anywhere in the world.

"Australians are constantly looking overseas for great natural attractions when in fact they don't need to look any further than their own backyard," Mrs Kirner said.

"Where else do you have a road that combines a drive on the edge of the ocean, a lush rainforest rich with wildlife, and such majestic views as those of the Twelve Apostles?"

Mrs Kirner said the promotional campaign, produced by the Victorian Tourism Commission, would provide a financial "shot in the arm" for businesses between Geelong and the South Australian border.

"For every dollar spent on tourism promotion, a further \$18 is injected into the local community. Put simply, that means more jobs," she said.

The campaign will feature a television commercial containing footage from a camera mounted in the cockpit of a miniature helicopter and a 52 page brochure which includes a 12 page product insert to encourage tourists to travel along the Great Ocean Road.

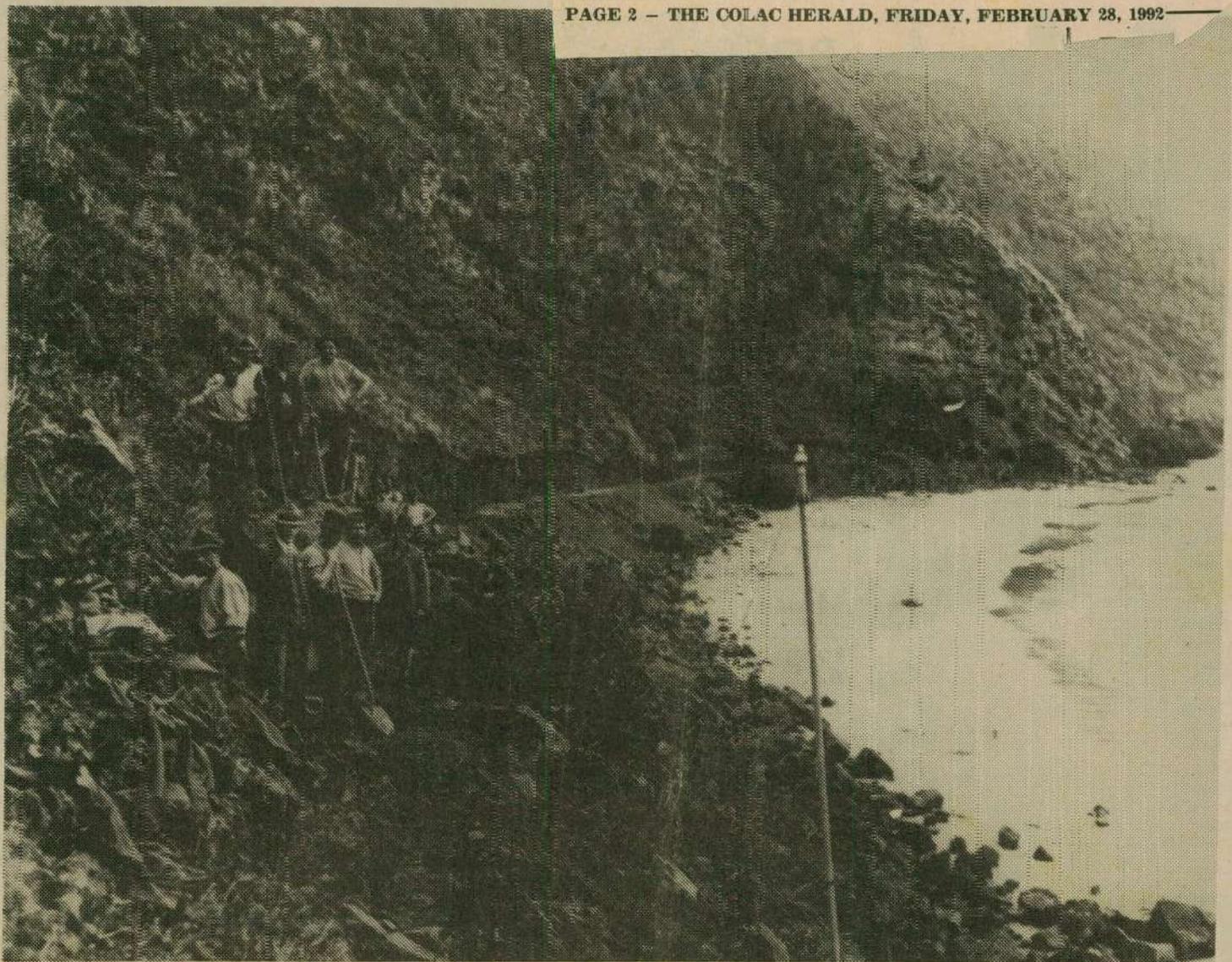
The Great Ocean Road was officially opened at Lorne on November 26, 1932, but the history of the road goes further back than that, even as far as early European settlement in the 1800s.

Although Australia's vast distances and deserts long provided an effective barrier to communication, short stretches of dense scrub and bushland could prove equally difficult.

The earliest road in the Western District, really just a track, in 1834 ran inland from Melbourne through Colac to the whaling station at Portland.

In 1846, Superintendent Charles LaTrobe, who was administrator of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales (as Victoria was known before 1851), led an expedition to Cape Otway to select a site for a lighthouse.

LaTrobe's party reached the coast from inland, following the Gellibrand River. He immediately sent a survey team, led by surveyor George



Much of the Cape Otway Road was cut out of the cliff face with sweat and pick and shovel.

Smythe, to properly map the region.

The survey was, however, soon interrupted by the murder of a seaman in the survey party which was followed by a massacre of nine Aborigines comprising of women, boys and infants. The incident was hushed up and the written evidence was filed away neatly and soon forgotten.

The survey was finished by the end of 1846 and the remote lighthouse — the second to be built on the Australian mainland — was built and operational by August 1848.

LaTrobe made another expedition to the Otway Ranges in 1849 before Alexander Skene (remembered at Skene's Creek) surveyed the area in 1853.

He noted the intensive timber industry that had sprung up at Apollo Bay. The Apollo Bay Company was in the process of erecting a sawmill, a dam and reservoir, and huts for 20 men. "Eight miles of road have been cut through dense forests, and six bridges erected," Skene added.

The survey report also mentioned the finding of coal in the region but rugged coastline and unpredictable seas of Bass Strait meant ship owners refused to service the timber ports except in fine weather.

In 1872-1873, efforts were made to analyse the mineral and transport prospects of the region.

Three prominent men of science visited the area, preceded by surveyors.

The scientists found that among the difficulties for settlement and timber extraction was "a general want of predictable tracks through the scrubby and densely wooded ranges..."

A track had been cleared inland from Deans Marsh to Loutit Bay, suitable for light wheeled vehicles but, in places, was dangerously steep.

It would be desirable, the panel advised the government, to improve access along the coast. So, for the remainder of the 19th century, minor tracks and paths continued to be hacked out of the bush.

During the Great War of 1914-1918, plans were already being considered for the employment of returned soldiers in road construction. In 1916, the Country Roads Board of Victoria (now VicRoads), in a list of possible ventures, included a "South Coast Road (Western District)".

A group of Geelong citizens in 1917 took up the idea. The Mayor of Geelong, Howard Hitchcock, founded the Great Ocean Road Trust and became its first president.

The road was intended to be a lasting memorial to fallen soldiers and provide work for those returned. It would also allow transport of farm produce and timber out of the district.

A discharged soldier, Warrant Officer John Hassett, was chosen to survey the route in 1918.

After some track had been cleared, the Premier of Victoria declared the work on the road officially begun on Friday, September 19, 1919. Sheltering in a little dugout, the Premier touched a button and fired the first explosive. To the cheers of politicians and Lorne residents, tons of rock were thrown into the air.

The first section of the

project was from Lorne to Cape Patton. By mid-1920 work was being provided for 25 men. Pay was ten shilling and sixpence for a day's work of eight hours, from which a small deduction for food was made weekly.

More than 4000 cubic yards of rock and earth had been removed but in lean economic times the project began to falter.

Work had been able to proceed on the basis of public donations, concerts and cinema shows but, by 1921, the Great Ocean Road Trust had to rely on a sizeable, and increasing, bank overdraft.

In an age before earth-moving equipment like bulldozers and graders were available, dynamite was used to blast a path through the solid rock.

Horse drawn scoops could shift earth and smaller rocks but eventually progress on the road came down to sheer hard work with pick and shovel. Debris was simply dumped into the sea.

In March 1922 the first

section of the road, now winding from Anglesea to Lorne, was officially opened by the State Governor, Lord Stradbroke.

Extension of the road continued amid further economic problems. In addition to tolls and land sales, the Great Ocean Road Trust resorted to selling protective "gazers" for use during an eclipse of the sun in September 1922.

Costing one shilling each, it was said the sale of each gazer would keep a Digger in work for half an hour.

By 1923, a five foot wide track had been made from Lorne to Apollo Bay. Funding was now critical as complaints about the toll gates increased in intensity. It now cost eight shillings and sixpence for a car load of five persons.

Through that decade, work proceeded slowly. Lorne was linked with Cape Patton and the Country Roads Board managed the Cape Patton to Apollo Bay route. Finally, in 1932, the Great Ocean Road was

opened by Sir William Irvine, Lieutenant Governor of Victoria.

A carnival event was devised to mark the opening of the road which had seen about 2500 ex-soldiers involved in its construction.

The toll gate was closed at a ceremony on October 2, 1936. An arch was erected at Eastern View in 1939, to commemorate the achievement of the road's completion. In 1982, 50th anniversary celebrations took place at the site.

The wooden arch was burned down in the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983 but was quickly replaced.

Improvements to the alignment, width, seal and water crossings have been taking place constantly since 1936. Today, the Great Ocean Road runs from Torquay nearly to Warrnambool, an unrivalled 320 kilometres of beautiful scenery with things to do and see, making it truly deserving of its claim to the "world's most inspiring coastal highway".

## Support for Kana activities

a lot of scope for imagination."

"The theme has both musical and historical links. The procession will be quite big this year and there is still room for a couple more floats to be entered," he said.

This year the Kana Ball is being held on the Saturday and in the RSL Hall. "We already have 10 girls entered in the Kana Queen section and there is still room for a couple more to enter," Mr Jenkin said.

"The Recliner Rockers will be playing and a three course meal is included in the price. And for those people not able to stay for the whole ball, viewing tickets can be bought for

watch from," Mr Jenkin said.

Entertainment at the festival includes a mini-circus with a unicyclist, juggler, balloon sculpture, plate spinner, fire eater, stilt walker and clown.

"The mini-circus will be going on throughout Saturday and provide a colorful and fun sight. Three puppet shows have also been planned which are always popular with the families.

Other attractions include the Apex carnival with stumpy the train, the air castle and lots of stalls selling food and wares.

COBRA will also hold a trade fair with some of the district's best manufacturers displaying their

goods.

This provides a good opportunity for locals to see just how much their district has to offer in the way of manufacturing.

The second day of Kana is also packed with activities suited to the entire family.

The main attraction on Sunday will be a musical picnic in the Botanical Gardens. The Barwon Sinfonietta and Chorale will perform and buskers will wander around the gardens performing and adding atmosphere and color to the day.

"There will also be a horse and cart, food stalls and we are hoping to get the city band and school bands to play."

"People can either buy their food at the Botanical Gardens or bring along a picnic lunch and relax on the lawns," Mr Jenkin said.

A bike education display has also been planned including a display on proper safe riding techniques, a police bicycle check for safety and the engraving of identification numbers on the bikes.

"Colac's response to this year's festival has been wonderful and from all indications it looks like the whole weekend will be jam packed with fun," he said.

All general inquiries about the festival, scheduled for March 28 and 29, should be directed to Mr Nick Jenkin on 31 1032.

Kana Queen and ball inquiries can be made to Chris on 31 2244, COBRA trade fair inquiries to Ross on 32 1414 and float entries made to Rod after 6 pm on 35 1283.

As all prize winners will be presented with their trophies on Saturday the committee are now appealing to the public to return any trophies which they may be holding from last year's festival.

The whereabouts of two large display boards which are to be positioned at each end of town along the highway are also unknown. Anybody able to help locate these boards are also asked to contact Mr Jenkin.

### Kana set for March 28, 29

the balcony area. This is perfect for little sisters or other family members to

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Bruce Shepherd with his 1962 E-type Series One Jaguar Roadster. He'll fight "tooth and nail" to stop an old car tax from being introduced.

Losing more parks is only going to hurt more," he said.

Mr Castle said moving the two parks would not stop the problem of cars bottlenecking. "The cars will still be going from two lanes into one, the bottlenecking will just happen two parks further down the road," he said.

"The council and Vic

## tax would be days collector

Jaguar was doing 200 miles an hour. Not kilometres, miles. That's how far ahead of their time they were."

Mr Shepherd said the parts for the vintage cars were much cheaper than for the modern vehicle and economical.

"A petrol filter for the Jag costs \$3. Yet a petrol filter for a modern car is around \$100. The head gasket for the Jag is \$25 but for a modern car you

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Title *GREAT Ocean Rd* .....

*Anniversary 2007* .....

Source: *Royal Auto* .....

DOC. *0017* .....

## what a world

### WHAT A WHIRL

The latest entry in the Unusual Hotels of the World register is Caesars Pocono Resort in Lakeville, Pennsylvania, where romance-themed suites include a 2.4m tall champagne glass whirlpool bath for two. Visit [www.unusualhotelsoftheworld.com](http://www.unusualhotelsoftheworld.com).

### GREEN WITH ANGER

A woman is suing a five-star Chile resort after its swimming pool allegedly turned her waist-length blonde hair green. Carolina Carreno's partner Francisco Vargas says she is upset that "now everyone is calling her The Incredible Hulk".

### HIGH-ALCOHOL

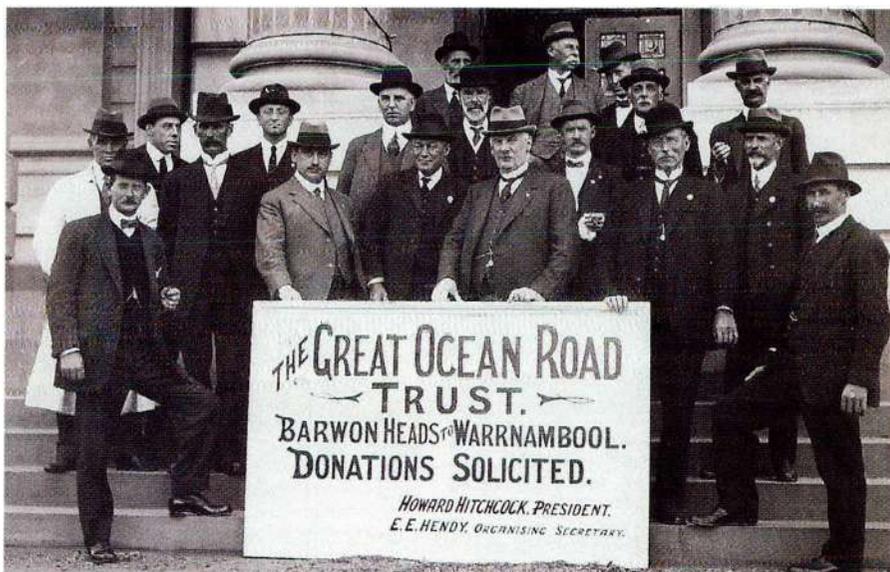
The tourism board in the Croatian beach resort of Zadar is sponsoring the serving of a cocktail which is mixed by a barman free-falling from a plane. The Wings of Zadar, based on the local maraschino liqueur, is poured upside down so the drink flies upwards into the mixer, and is chilled by the freezing air rushing over the shaker. It is served on landing.

### YOU LIE, NO FLY

Russian officials plan to make lie-detector tests part of airport security. Passengers checking in at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport who are deemed "suspicious" will pick up a handset while security officials ask questions, and a machine will determine if the subjects' answers are true or not.

### NOT JUST YET, BABY

The latest U.S. trend is babymoons – pregnant couples having a last hurrah in a hotel or resort before baby comes. A survey by online parenting resource BabyCenter found 59% of new parents have babymooned in the past decade.



### A GREAT ANNIVERSARY

The Great Ocean Road will have a year to remember in 2007 when it celebrates its 75th birthday, with a vast series of events, festivals and commemorative occasions. In the meantime, celebration organisers are trying to unearth memorabilia – photos, movie footage, artefacts, etc – about the road's construction and opening, as well as contact people with connections to the forefathers of the project, initiated in 1918 as a memorial to victims of World War 1 and which opened in November 1932. In particular, they are trying to identify the men in this photograph: members of the Great Ocean Road Trust on the steps of Geelong City Hall circa 1917. Several are known, including the Trust's driving force, Geelong mayor Howard Hitchcock (centre front, with hands on the placard), and RACV founding member George Broadbent (in bow-tie, behind Hitchcock's left shoulder). Many were local municipal dignitaries, and their descendants are being sought to help commemorate this project. If you can help with identification or have any GOR memorabilia, call Adam Ruggero of Great Southern Destinations Marketing in Geelong on 5223 2918.



### TAKE IT SLOWLY

A Taste of Slow – Australia 2006, billed as the largest slow food event to be held outside Italy, is at various locations around Victoria on 28 August-10 September. The festival will culminate in a weekend (9-10 September) at the Abbotsford Convent, the heritage-listed nunnery in inner Melbourne, with a slow food marketplace, children's food sessions with Stephanie Alexander, cooking demonstrations by Fergus Henderson from London's famous St John restaurant and food by guest chefs. There will be a Slow Food Terra Madre Dinner on 9 September. Call 9823 6100 or visit [www.atasteofslow.com.au](http://www.atasteofslow.com.au).



### THIS IS BIG

The Yelpie, a personal, lightweight, electronic safe in which valuables can be stored by swimmers when they are in the water, was one of 21 finalists in the 2006 Next Big Thing Award. Weather and sand-proof, the Yelpie emits a piercing 90-decibel alarm if moved or tampered with. For details, visit [www.nextbigthingaward.com](http://www.nextbigthingaward.com).

### ALL THINGS OLD

Sydney is hosting Australia's most prestigious antiques event, the Australian Antique Dealers Association's Antiques and Fine Arts Fair, at Wharf 8, 53-59 Sussex St on 24-27 August. It will include more than 60 dealers with every piece for sale. For details, contact the AADA on (03) 9576 2275 or visit [www.aada.org.au](http://www.aada.org.au).

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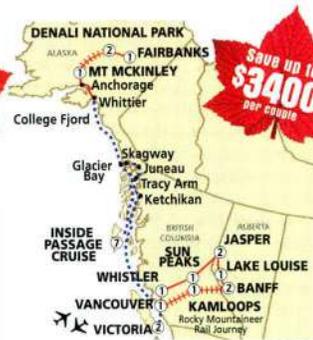
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## HARVEY

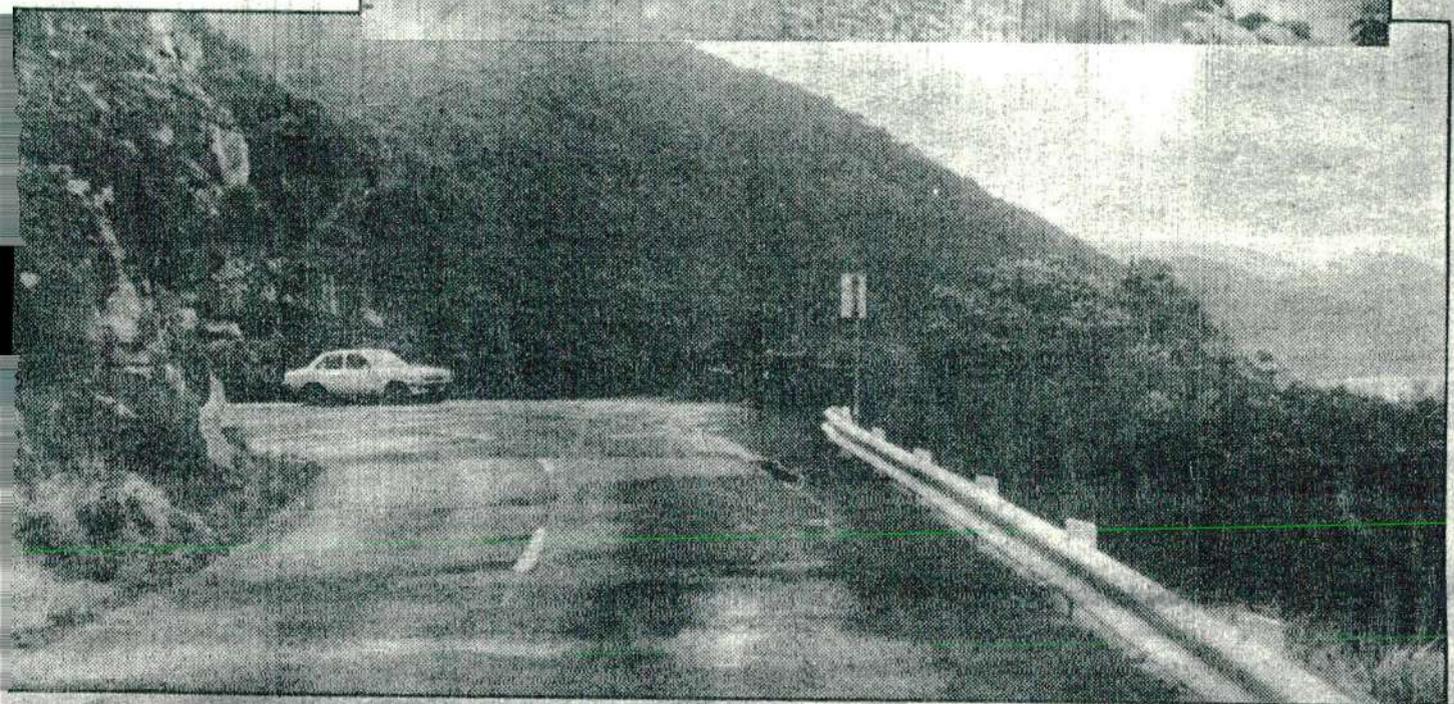
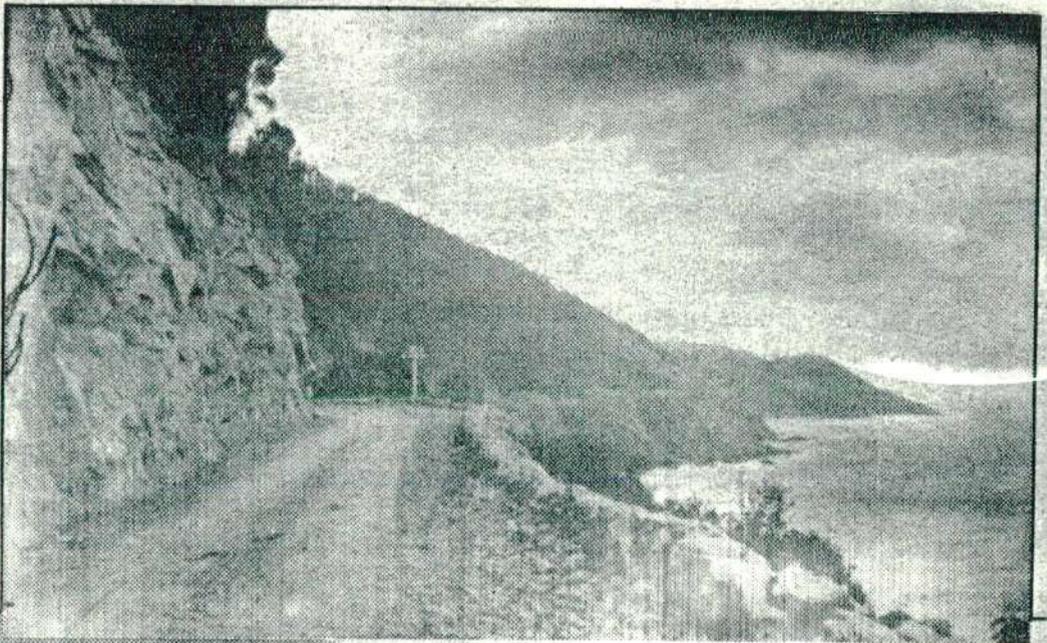
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One of the major obstacles in constructing the road was the negotiating of Mount Defiance between Lorne and Wye River.

Right - The road in its early days. Below - As it is today.



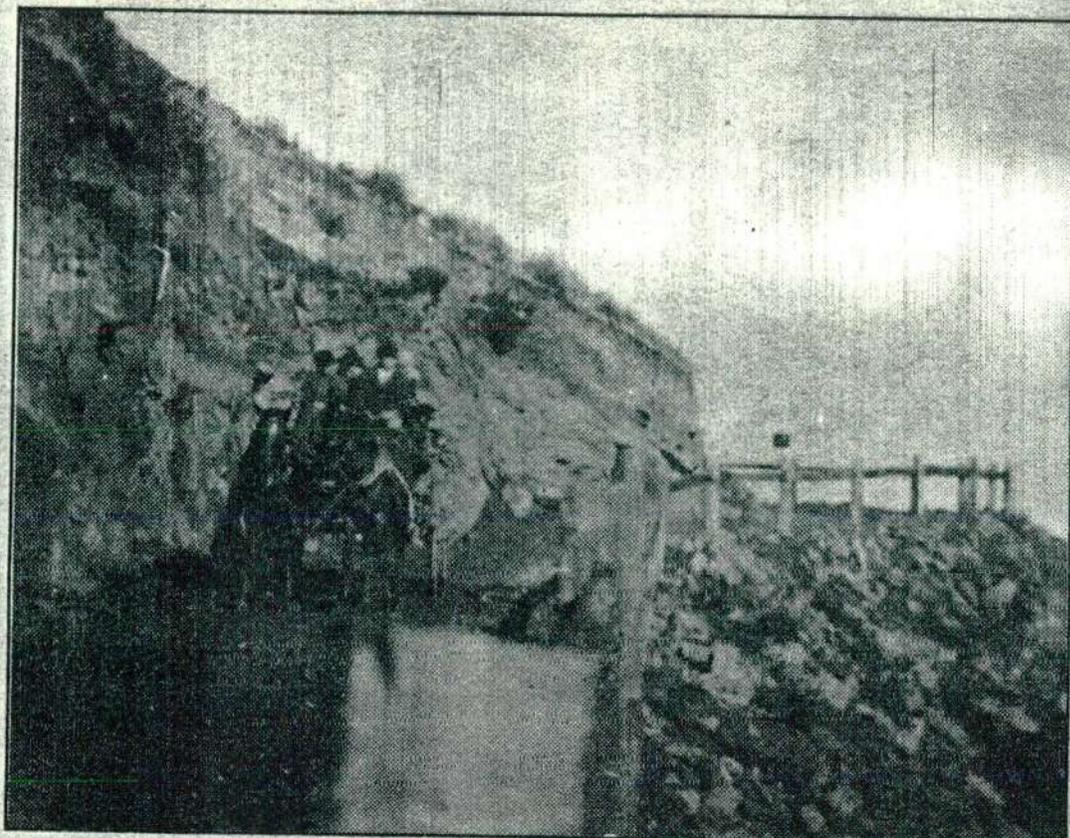
Left - Wye River turns it on for the first opening.



Some people enjoy the beauty of the river, the peace and tranquillity of the fishing villages. Other people enjoy the local fishermen and their large fresh crays caught in the river.

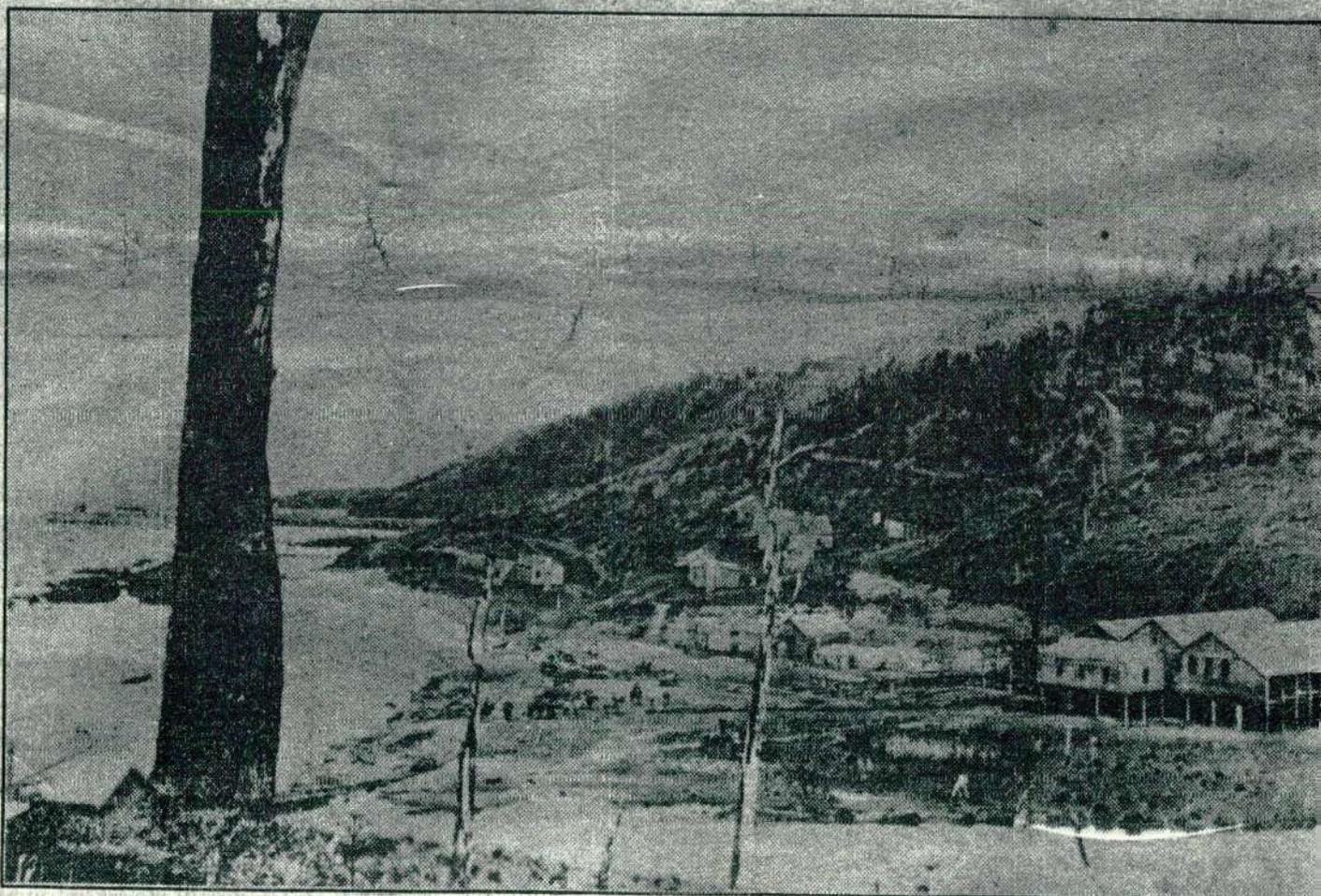
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Left - The trip from Anglesea to Lorne today is only about 30 minutes. In earlier times it was a long day, or more by horse and cart.

Below - Wye River, with its pier in the background at a time when it was an important sawmilling township.



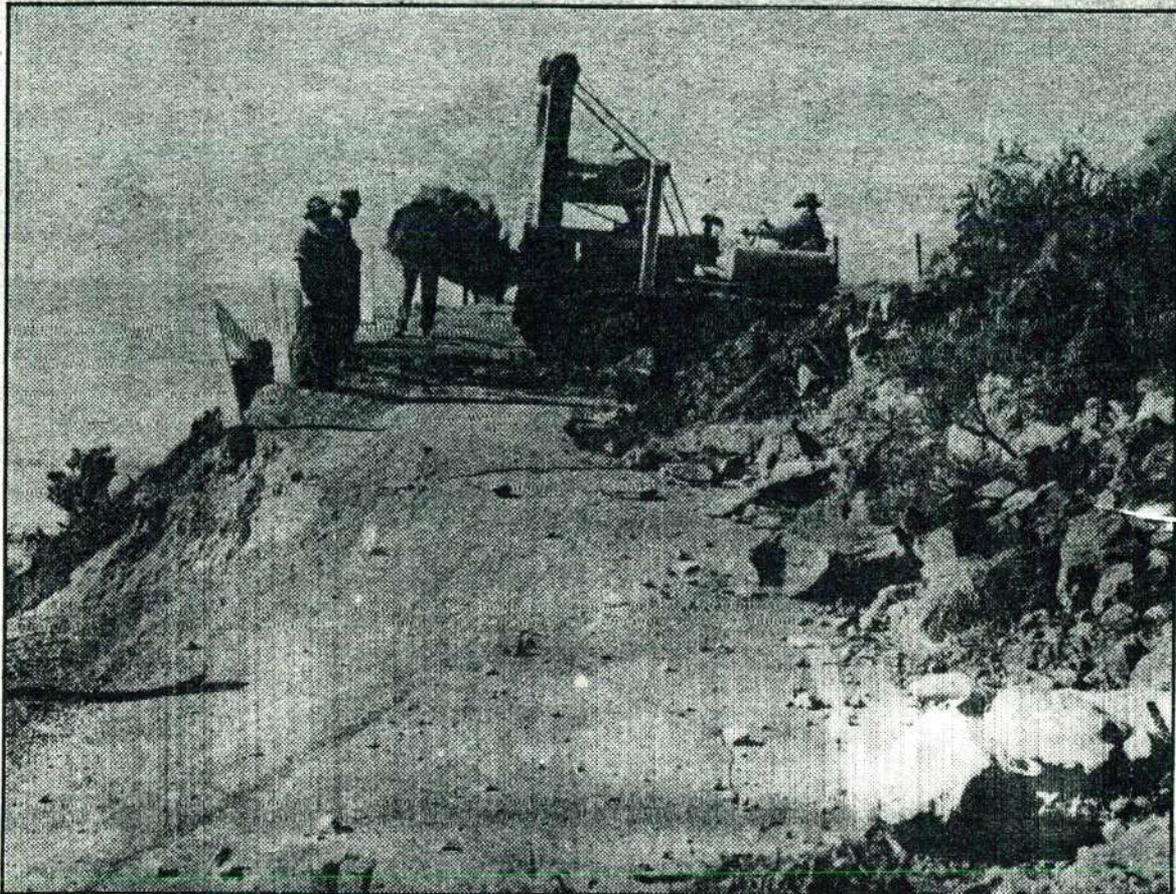
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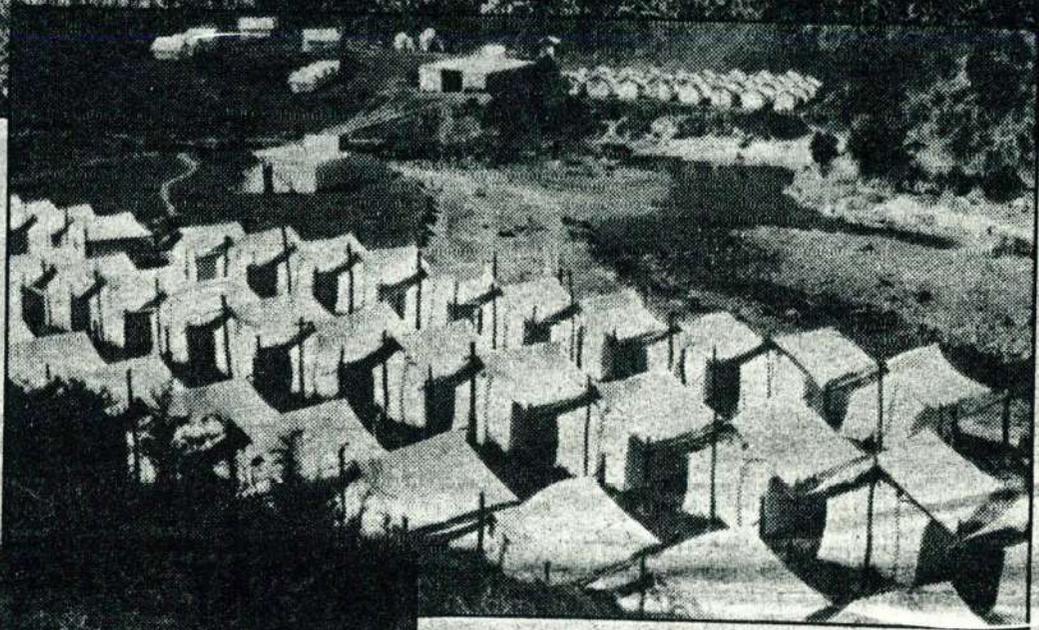
Left - Landslides were a common hazard for motorists until only a few years ago. In recent years the CRB has eliminated most of the problem areas.

Below - A traffic 'jam' at Big Hill between Eastern View and Lorne. The location is marked by the Iluka letterbox - which still stands today.





Above - Anglesea overlooking Point Roadknight.



Right - The work camp at Grassy Creek.



Left - Workers prepare holes in preparation for Blasting.

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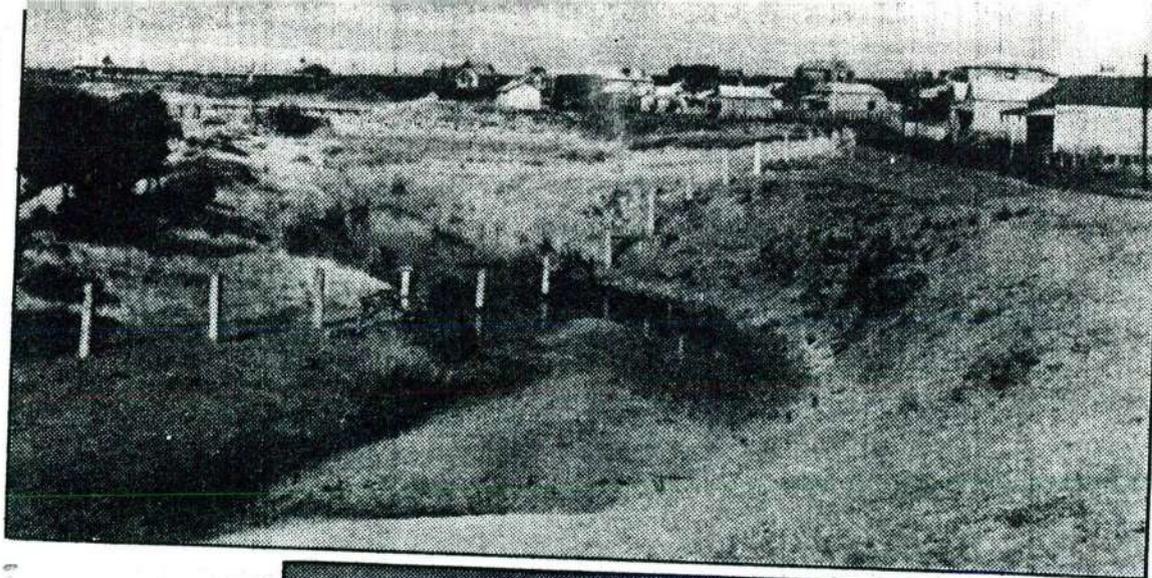
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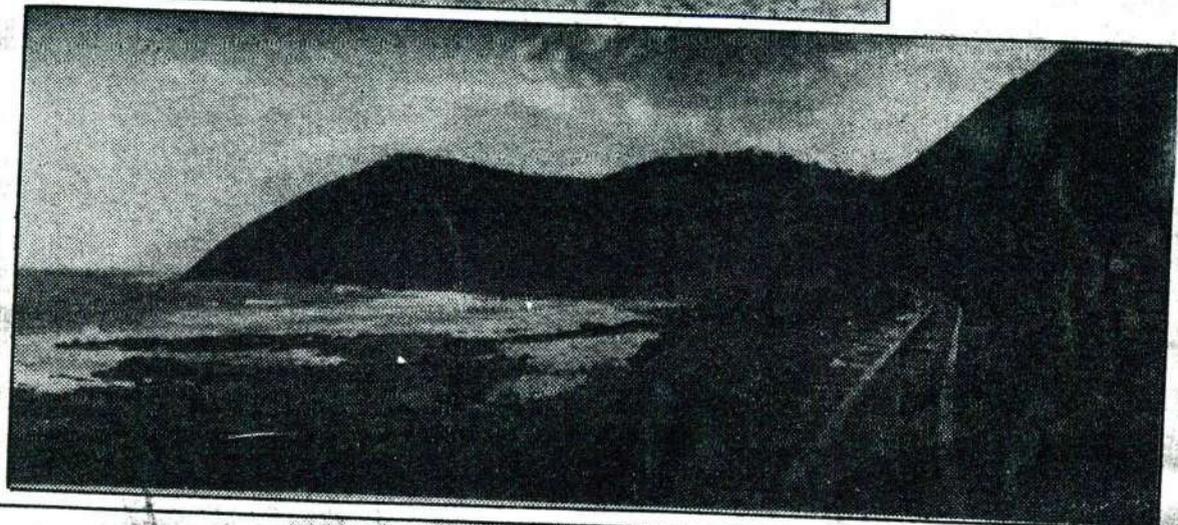
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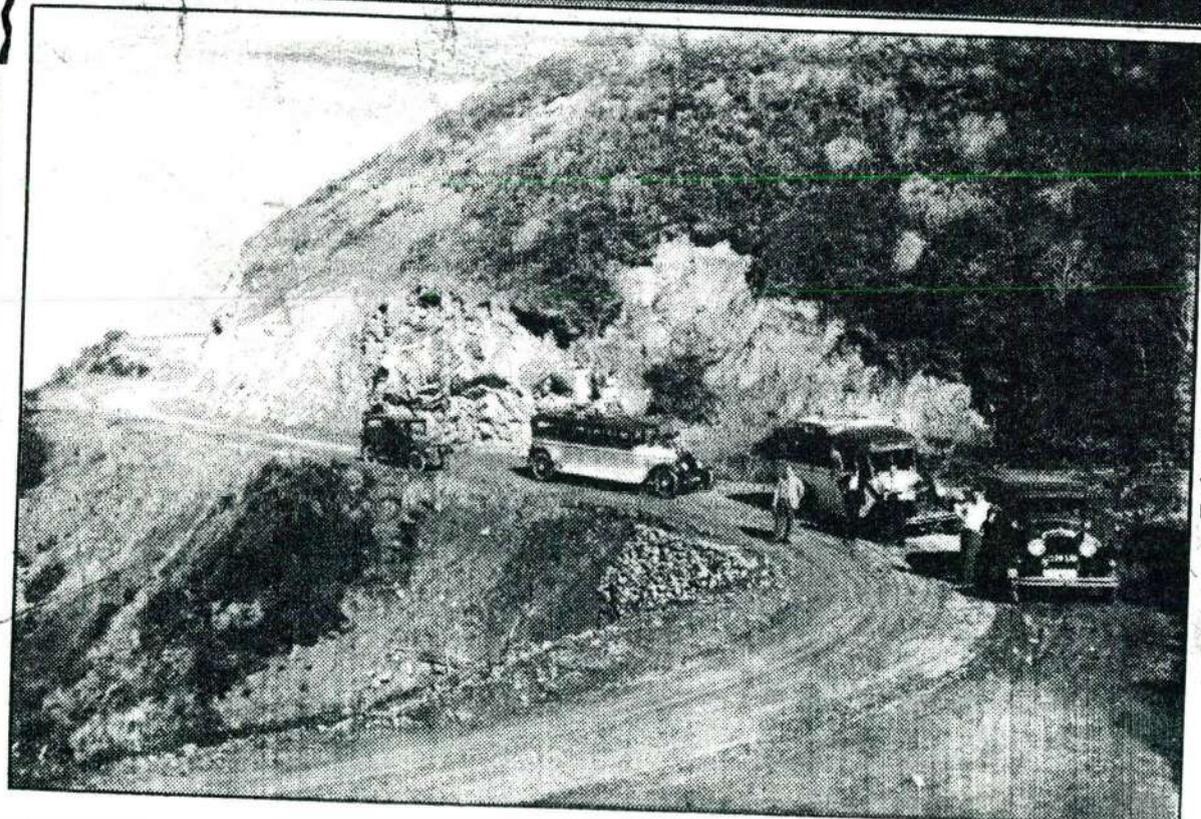




The main street of Apollo Bay looking towards the top of the town.



Right - The old timber tram line past Lorne.

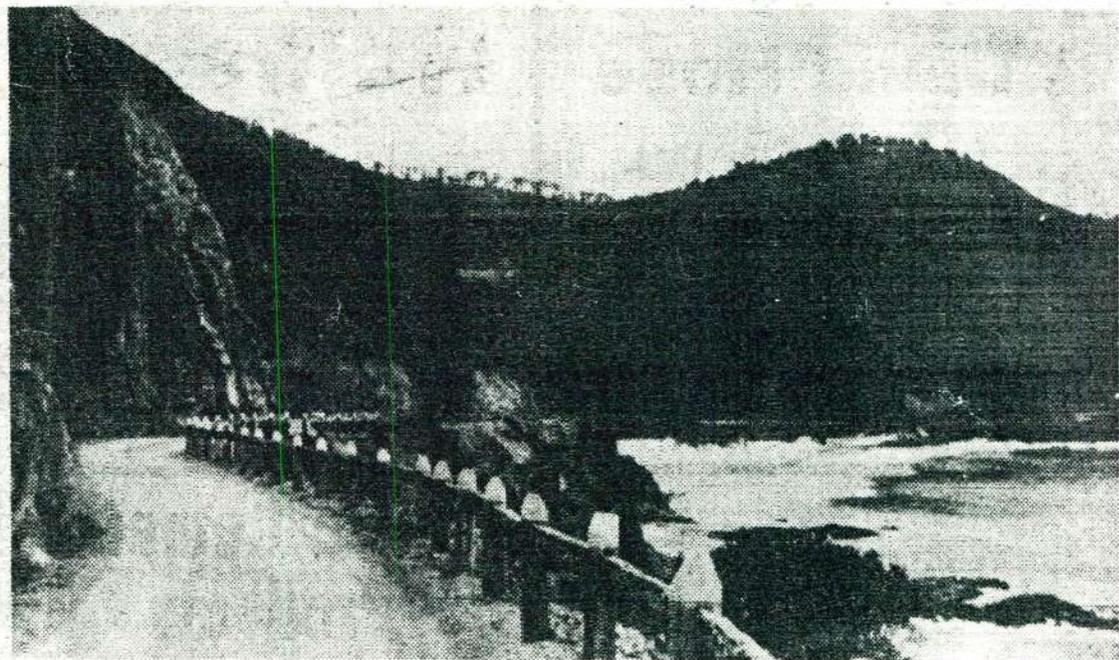


Left - Some of the early buses and coaches which piled the narrow winding road.

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# GREAT OCEAN ROAD



Anglesea Historical Society.



Anglesea Historical Society.

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Title: *Great Ocean Rd*.....  
*Memorial & pinnacle for Sculptor*.....

Source: *Julie Squires*.....

DOC: *0022*.....

April 13, 2007



## Great Ocean Road Memorial a pinnacle for sculptor



(Julie Squires pictures with a fibreglass model of "The Diggers")

Sculptor Julie Squires has declared that creating "The Diggers", the new memorial to the 3000 sailors and soldiers who built the Great Ocean Road, is one of the peaks of her artistic career.

"It is truly a great honour to be asked to do this," she said.

"I am very grateful to Great Ocean Road Marketing for commissioning the sculpture and also to the Geelong Community Foundation for its role in helping finance it. The Great Ocean Road is such an icon and where the sculpture will stand is such a beautiful place.

“I have also been aware that what I have been creating is a memorial to men who served in World War One and who built the road as a monument to their colleagues who didn’t return from Gallipoli or the Somme.”

To ensure the integrity of the sculpture, Julie sourced original picks and shovels from the era.

“I also found a company in Sydney that makes authentic WWI uniforms for movies and military re-enactments so I could get just the right texture of the uniforms into the finished bronze work,” she said. “I was also lucky enough, through my own family, to get genuine WWI service medals.

“Right the way through, it has been a captivating and at times emotional journey. I visited the War Memorial in Canberra to try to get a better understanding of what the men had been through while they were serving overseas.

“Many times those stories brought me to tears. They were extremely brave men, both during the time of the war, and also while working on the road. They were tough conditions and obviously comradeship would have been pretty important to help get them through.”

The memorial will be officially unveiled during a remembrance ceremony at Eastern View, near Lorne, at 11am today.

Interestingly, after word of her work on “The Diggers” reached her home town, there is speculation that Julie, originally from Newcastle in New South Wales, will be asked to create a bronze statue for Andrew Johns.

**TO SPEAK WITH JULIE, RING: 0438 359 317**

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Title *Great Ocean Rd: 75yrs Apl2007*

Source: *ECHO*

DOC *0038*

# Celebrating 75 years of the Great Ocean Road

## Iconic symbol at risk

**Aleks Devic**

THE Great Ocean Road's status as a war memorial is at risk of being lost, a tourism chief says.

The State Government is also worried the iconic road which celebrates 75 years tomorrow and injects \$1 billion into the local economy annually, is in danger of being over developed.

More than 3000 soldiers who returned from World War I used their hands, picks and shovels to create the world's biggest war memorial.

Geelong Otway Tourism chief executive Roger Grant said although the Great Ocean Road was recognised as one of the world's best drives it was important the road's original purpose was not lost.

"It has become apparent in recent years the connection with the road is being lost and it's not getting its full recognition - it seems to be fading a bit," Mr Grant said.

Motorists driving under the famous arches at Eastern View will now be

greeted by life size figures of two soldiers to be reminded of the road's original link.

The sculpture reflects the mateship experienced between members of the 8th Battalion who built the road between 1918 and 1932.

The Federal Government's Veterans Affairs Minister, Bruce Bilson, will unveil the memorial on Friday.

The State Government's Great Ocean Road Region Strategy was developed in 2004 to help the road withstand development pressures.

"The greatest threat to the Great Ocean Road is simply being loved to death, a fate that can only be avoided by careful, considered planning to prevent Gold-Coast style overdevelopment ruining the natural attractions that have appealed to so many people over the last 75 years," Planning Minister Justin Madden said.

The Great Ocean Road will be closed at Eastern View on Friday from 11.15 to 11.30am while the statue is unveiled.



Julie Squires (left) watches as her sculpture is put in place.

Photo: REG RYAN

## History lesson inspires artist

JULIE Squires didn't leave one stone unturned when she was given the job of constructing a sculpture to mark the Great Ocean Road's 75th anniversary.

Ms Squires visited historical societies to view photos of soldiers who built the road and analysed everything from hairstyles, body physique, facial expressions, their clothes and how they held their tools.

She even located the same tools that were used during the road's construction and recreated them to size.

"(The research) was incredibly moving," she said.

"I wanted to capture the facial connection between two men but it had to be subtle and a natural expression to each other."

The Melbourne sculptor said while she was saturating herself in research material she read letters written to loved ones who were never reunited.

Ms Squires said she used the accounts on the battle field and the images of dead bodies in war zones as inspiration while she was sculpt-

ing the figures, which weigh one tonne.

"It all helped put me in a zone and I was able to translate those feelings into my work," she said.

Ms Squires, who has worked on the sculpture since last September, said she wanted ordinary people to relate to her design.

"It's so Australian and that's the essence of it all," she said.

"They both look like ordinary people and that was important to me."

The sculpture was delivered by truck from Melbourne yesterday.



Jim Ferguson

## First trip a life memory

IT was Easter in 1936 and Torquay's Jim Ferguson and three friends jumped on their push bikes for a ride along the Great Ocean Road.

The 13-year-olds started the journey in Geelong and made their way down to Lorne on a day-long road trip.

"We would cover about 20km an hour," Mr Ferguson said.

"It was the Depression years and there was not much to do."

"We wanted to check it out and we also saved on transport fares because we rode our bikes."

Mr Ferguson said one of his greatest memories was when the group arrived in Lorne, they were driven in a car to Apollo Bay along the road.

"It was a single lane dirt road," he said.

"I can't remember eating but I must have had something because we had to stop to get rid of my lunch. It was a windy road and made me sick."

Mr Ferguson said it was an outstanding effort of World War I soldiers to carve out the road, which has become recognised around the world.

"It was an enormous challenge to survey the road and make it happen," he said.

"They used to ride horses with their survey equipment and would camp out and survey the road between Lorne and Apollo Bay."

Mr Ferguson said the road's windy corners did not have the same effect on him today, but he did have a favourite part of the road.

"The wild part of the road is between Anglesea and Lorne and to me that is the most spectacular section," he said.

### NUMBERS GAME

**3000** soldiers helped build the road

**\$1 billion** is injected into the local economy from the road

**160,000** international visitors visited the road last year

**2.5** million domestic visitors travelled to the road last year

**7.2** million visitor nights along the Great Ocean Road last year

**400km** of coastline is skirted by the road

**1** tonne is the weight of the new sculpture

**8** months is how long the sculpture took to complete

**1918** was when construction of the road started

**1932** was when the major work finished.



The Great Ocean Road Trust had planned to start the road at Barwon Heads but Geelong Otway Tourism boss Roger Grant says it is now too difficult to extend the road along the original land reservation.



The road in 1922



Soldiers set up their tents



First construction stages

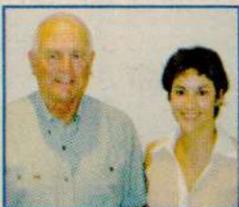


Cars share a dual highway

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**WHAT A WEEK**



Di Schoe helped in the Good Friday Appeal.

**CLOSE TO HOME**

**THE** Geelong region pledged more than \$221,849 for the Royal Children's Hospital in the annual Good Friday Appeal. This year's appeal raised a total \$11,788,970.

**QUICK** thinking butchers saved a man from a burning car after it caught alight in a Belmont shopping centre car park. The Belmont man suffered burns to his left arm after the fuel line of his 1994 Commodore caught fire.

**THOUSANDS** of litres of water went begging on Tuesday morning when work on a \$1.2 million roundabout outside Lara ruptured a water pipe. Pools of water stretched for at least 50 metres beside the Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Rd near the corner of

Heales Rd after machinery vibration caused the leak.

**VICTORIA**

**ELEVEN** people died on Victoria's roads in a horror Easter long weekend. The toll included three soldiers who died at Queenscliff, a Yarra Glen man whose car clipped an oncoming trailer and a 51-year-old cyclist who collided with a truck in suburban Clayton.

**THE** widow of murdered Melbourne criminal Lewis Moran has welcomed a \$1 million reward for information on the whereabouts of fugitive Tony Mokbel. Mokbel is charged with murdering Moran in 2004 and is believed to have fled overseas while on bail near the end of his trial for cocaine importation just over a year ago.

**A STUDY** has found resistance training helps people with chronic heart failure. Thirty-nine patients were involved in the Melbourne-based study. Those who did resistance training recorded stronger muscles, increased blood flow and improved endurance, while the others became weaker.

**THE NATION**

**A VIDEO** of the gang rape of a 17-year-old girl shows her alleged attackers high-fiving

each other during the attack, a NSW court has been told. Five males arrested last Wednesday have been charged with the aggravated sexual assault of the teenage girl at a home in Sydney's southwest on January 9 this year.

**BEACONSFIELD'S** Anzac Day rock fall will be commemorated two weeks late to avoid clashes with services for Australia's war dead. The rock fall will be remembered on May 9, the date that surviving miners Brant Webb and Todd Russell were rescued from the mine.

**SYDNEY** radio personality Alan Jones has blasted the radio regulator over a ruling that comments made on his program incited violence and vilified people of Middle Eastern descent. Jones went on the offensive during his program on 2GB Radio, saying findings by the Australian Communication and Media Authority (ACMA) were biased and based on complaints of people who do not listen to his show.

**THE WORLD**

**A FLORIDA** court has ruled that Larry Birkhead, the former boyfriend of late Playboy model Anna Nicole Smith, was the father of her

baby daughter, Dannielynn, ending months of feverish speculation.

**SEVEN** French doctors have been ordered to stand trial over the deaths of 110 youths who developed Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) after taking growth hormones in the 1980s, court officials said. The victims, most of them children suffering from stunted growth, are thought to have developed the brain-wasting disease after being given contaminated hormones from corpses.

**OUT OF THIS WORLD**

**HUNDREDS** of girls at a Mexican boarding school run by Catholic nuns have been struck by a mystery illness that authorities say is psychological, raising questions about conditions inside the academy.



Alan Jones

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# letters



A reader defends Queenscliff Borough's 2002 purchase of this Mercer St house, and says it should not be sold.

## Parking meters a tax on Surf Coast

AS a devoted surfer and beachgoer, I would like to express my disappointment at the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee decision to install parking meters at Surf Coast beach car parks.

It seems to be a tax on the very heart and soul of the people on the Surf Coast.

The Australian culture of surf, sun and sand has always been, and should remain to be free to everyone.

Where does this end? Do we next get charged to walk on coastal tracks or local parks? If you need to upgrade facilities to cater for tourism, maybe it is the tourism operators that you should target, not the family that comes to enjoy a day at the beach.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee has always done a great job maintaining and improving our foreshore, but this decision has to be looked at further. We all pay tax on everything we earn and buy and the government of the day should be able to make up any shortfall in funding.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee could be a bit more innovative in raising these funds through other means.

Maybe the Surf Coast Shire will refuse to let their bylaws officers patrol these metered car parks and show some support for free beaches for everyone.

Otherwise they will also become wealthy benefactors of this un-Australian decision.

Ron Lowe  
Torquay

## Borough property purchase defended

I AM an ordinary resident of Queenscliff writing in response to your front page article (Bellarine echo, April 5) to defend the council's purchase of 27 Mercer St, in 2002.

The idea to provide an opportunity for expansion of the council precinct still seems to me a good one, especially when you consider how the space would open up a pedestrian link between Mercer and Learmonth streets.

Once the Town Hall is refurbished, the whole area could be greatly enhanced by this extra space and access.

We may not be reaping immediate benefits from the purchase of this property, but in my view the council should retain it, because in the future it will prove to have been a decision of foresight.

Rosemary Mokhtar  
Queenscliff

## Government delays leave families short

I WOULD like to make all aware of a recent Federal Government blunder which has left average Aussie families and small business short. So short in fact that we struggled to make payments to employees at Easter.

The injustice has come from funds which have been promised not being delivered. These funds relate to a Government-funded program known as Broadband Connect. Under this scheme, the Government will supply funding to select ISPs to deliver a broadband internet service into areas which are currently unable to get these

types of service. Sounds good and it was for a period of time.

The program benefited regional Australia in many ways, providing better level of facility in the rural and regional areas where it is much needed as well as providing jobs for contractors like us and cultivating an active business environment in which many new enterprises were undertaken.

You may ask how it is then that this wonderful scheme could have left such a bad taste in people's mouths. Well, it is due to the fact that although the funding was expected to stretch near to the end of 2007, it has now ceased. The ISP's involved were given one week's notice prior to the funding being removed, and to date, millions of dollars worth of valid claims have been unpaid or paid so late that it has caused tremendous financial pressure to the companies involved and in turn, as usual, the workers and families who have been working to deliver the services to the country.

To shed some light on the situation I would liken it to a tender where a 20-storey building needs to be completed. The tender is released for example by a city council. The tenderer submits an application and it is approved. The builder who has won the tender goes ahead and erects the building with the council owning the tender providing a percentage of the funding to aid completion. Upon completion of the 20 storey building the council turns to the builder and says thank you, good job you have done all we asked now we will pay you for 15 storeys and leave it at that for now. Doesn't sound fair and it isn't.

The effect this blunder has had on ISPs, small business and Australian families is now taking effect, with employees seeking work elsewhere, creditors crying out for their money, businesses struggling to remain open and families and employers going without over the Easter period and into the near future.

If the Federal Government pays the money it owes in a timely fashion, then some damage may be minimised but moving forward the situation is bleak for many skilled workers in this industry.

If anyone out there has work for IT and telecommunications workers, please contact us. Anything from a phone or TV point to a wireless network or internet phone service we would appreciate any work at this our time of need.

It would break my heart to see valuable workers go without due to the Federal Governments' failure to deliver what was promised on time.

**Gareth Hagebols**  
general manager  
Excitel Professional Technology Pty Ltd - Geelong & Western Victoria

## HAVE YOUR SAY

The echo welcomes letters. Write to The Editor, echo, PO Box 857 Torquay, 3228; or fax 5220 5799; or email: [news@theecho.com.au](mailto:news@theecho.com.au)

Letters must include a daytime contact number and may be edited for space or legal reasons. Letters with pen names generally will not be published.



Kelly Slater is on track to break Tom Curren's record of 33 event wins.

Photos: STEVE ROBERTSON



Stephanie Gilmore won the Rip Curl Women's Pro, defeating the defending event champion Sofia Mulanovich (Peru).

# Fanning the one to beat at Bells

**Lisa Griffen**

MICK Fanning looks the man to beat at the Rip Curl Pro after he posted the top-scoring wave of the competition - 9.83 out of 10.

The second and third rounds of the event were moved two-and-a-half hours south west to Johanna due to lack of swell at Bells Beach.

Fanning, the ASP world tour number one, claimed the highest heat score of 18.16 in his third round demolition of young Brazilian Bernardo Miranda on Tuesday.

Reigning and eight-time world champion Kelly Slater took a solid round three win over Jan Juc's Nic Muscroft and is on track to break his hero Tom Curren's record of 33 event wins.

Hawaii's Andy Irons, whose start to the year was plagued by illness and a poor result on the Gold Coast, showed he is back and overcame Brazilian Rodrigo Dornelles.

While Irons' score was not high, it is expected the two-time Bells cham-

pion is likely to peak towards the end of the tournament.

Sentimental favourite, Mark Occhilupo's Bells dreams were shattered when he went down to American Damien Hobgood in the third round.

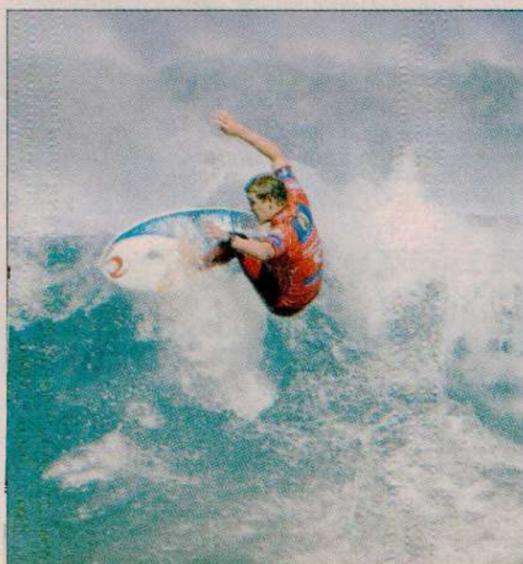
Yesterday was deemed a lay-day as the forecast indicates an increase in swell.

Organisers hope the swell will be big enough for round four to take place in the Rip Curl Pro's spiritual home of the Bells Bowl.

Round four match ups include Royden Bryson (ZAF) vs Bede Durbidge (AUS), Danny Wills (AUS) vs Taj Burrow (AUS), Tom Whitaker (AUS) vs Leonardo Neves (BRA), Travis Logie (ZAF) vs Kelly Slater (USA), Andy Irons (HAW) vs Ben Dunn (AUS), Damien Hobgood (USA) vs Fred Patacchia (HAW), Mick Fanning (AUS) vs Mick Campbell (AUS) and Joel Parkinson (AUS) vs Bruce Irons (HAW).



Nic Muscroft defeated world number nine rated surfer Taylor Knox in round two.



Ben Dunn will meet Andy Irons in round four.

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Subject Category GREAT OCEAN Rd......

Key Words who Built it.....

Submitted by Ian GRANT PORTLAND.....

DOC 0288.....Date 2007.....:Dig.Copy?

## The Great Ocean Road: Who Built It?

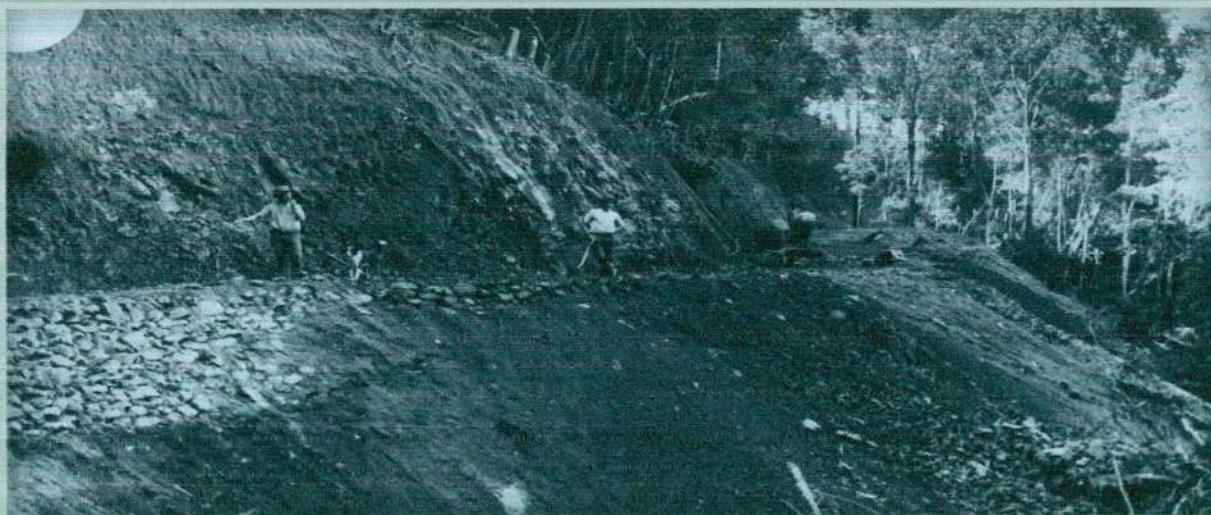
Submitted by Ian Grant—Portland History Group

The year 2007 saw the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the Great Ocean Road and was marked with many celebrations as befitted this iconic road. Many speeches were given, as were thanks to the ex-servicemen and others whose toil and hardship resulted in such an astonishing memorial to those who fought for Australia during World War One.

Begun in August 1919, the 400 kilometre stretch of road from Lorne in the east of Victoria to Alansford in the west, it was not until 29th August 1932 that the road was officially opened by Victoria's Lieutenant Governor, Sir William Irvine.

This had the advantage of opening up this vast coastal area so that farmers were more able to get their produce to market. Timber mills were more able to get sawn timber to the markets in Melbourne where it was desperately needed as the population grew. Previously they had to rely on coastal steamers plying the coast. Inland tracks were only passable during the summer months and with great difficulty; indeed most travel was confirmed to horseback.

During the intervening years some 2,400 ex-servicemen and 600 civilians laboured on this massive project, initially earning ten shillings and sixpence a day in sustenance payments. This was shortened to 'susso' and was the forerunner of the 'dole' as we know it today. Many other projects in



Victoria were also undertaken with this scheme.

The men lived a life of hardship in tent cities situated along the length of the road; often in wet and boggy areas of the only flat land near the mouths of the various creeks.

Most records of the Great Ocean Road Trust were destroyed deliberately during World War Two, leaving historians with absolutely no idea who formed the workforce that built the road. Who bent their backs to earn their 'susso'? Who built the bridges? Who engineered the roads that hug the hills? Who surveyed the trackless wastes to forge ahead and open up the land to farmers and graziers? Who supplied this army of men with their daily provisions?

The Salvation Army was, of course, there to support the men as they had in wartime, but who else supplied pastoral and other care? Who supplied the nursing that injured men might need? Who provided the entertainment in the camps at night, as men parted from their loved ones yet again, sought relaxation and succour?

continued



## Portland Family History Group

Was your grand-dad, father, uncle or brother a worker on the road? Did an aunt, great grand-mother, mother or sister assist with the feeding, cooking and other care for these men?

The Portland Family History Group is currently attempting to compile as complete a list as is possible of those who had a connection with the road. We would appreciate any and all information about your relatives or friends that you may be able to supply, like names, age, where from, service in the armed forces, how long employed on the road, what job they had, which camp they were allocated to, copies of photos or other memorabilia, written anecdotes or other stories, how they coped with work; in fact even the smallest piece of information would be of assistance in collating a list so that we can keep a small biography on all names before this important knowledge is lost to us all forever.

The Portland Family History Group can be contacted on telephone 03-5544 4466 or [history-house@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto:history-house@glenelg.vic.gov.au), or 03 5523 4550. Please be assured that every care will be taken to ensure the list is as complete as possible. Please pass this on to any other persons or organisations who may be able to assist.

Iain J Grant

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