

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

# 30

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

OCTOBER 1987

EDITOR R BALLANTYNE

AFFILIATED WITH  
THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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Published twice yearly - April and October  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month excepting December & January.  
Location: First floor, Caulfield City Hall at 8.00 pm.

PATRON : His Worship, The Mayor of Caulfield  
Councillor John Campbell, M.B.E., J.P.

President :	The Mayoress of Caulfield	
	Mrs. F. Campbell	523 9228
Treasurer :	Mr R. Sims	528 1661
Secretary :	Mr. R. Ballantyne	578 3145
Assist.Secretary :	Mr. A. Reid	523 5136

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"THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST, AND THE RECORDING OF THE TRUTH,  
IS A POWER THAT HELPS IN THE MAKING OF THE FUTURE."

Lord John Acton 1834 - 1902

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## "THE FIRST FLEET" SAILS AGAIN

as reported in the Portsmouth Gazette, Thursday 14th May 1987.

"After a day packed with Australiana, a traditional light fog settled over Portsmouth Harbour, as eleven "Tall Ships" began an historic voyage to Botany Bay, N.S.W., in a re-enactment of the voyage of the First Fleet which sailed from England on the 13th May 1787, during the reign of George the Third, bringing convicts to the Colony of New South Wales.

This is the largest fleet of Square-rigged ships to make such a long ocean voyage since the great days of sail. It was organized as part of Australia's Anniversary of white settlement."

The Caulfield Historical Society is fortunate in having had donated a number of newspapers, dated 1788-1791, which describe in detail the original voyage of the Fleet, of its arrival at Botany Bay, and its subsequent move to Sydney Cove.

Unfortunately space in this Newsletter does not permit for a full account of the historic voyage to be recorded, but it is reproduced in part, as reported in the "LONDON GAZETTE" dated October 1788.

FIRST DESPATCH FROM BOTANY BAY  
"SAFE ARRIVAL OF NEW SETTLERS AT NEW SOUTH WALES"

BOTANY BAY, in New South Wales, on 20th day of January in the year 1788.

"We convey to you our Greetings, and Warmest Felicitations, on this very day we sailed into Botany Bay, in that part of the Country of New Holland, known as New South Wales.

Our Voyage has been one of great length, and we thank our Maker for our safe and auspicious arrival at our Destination. When we let fall our Anchor from His Majesty's Ship "Sirius" this forenoon, we had completed a journey numbering 15063 miles.

It has been Eight Months and one Day since we farewelled, with tears our beloved ones on the Shores of England. Our Voyage has been one of much interest, and we will have the Honour to inform you of the nature of our Journey, and the Honourable way in which the Ships and Officers of His Majesty's Fleet have conducted themselves.

Our first Duty is to inform you of what we have found on our arrival in this strange Country, discovered, and claimed for His Most Gracious Majesty, by our Illustrious and Late Lamented navigator, Captain James Cook, less than twenty years since.

Botany Bay is as handsome a situation as your Correspondent has ever seen. The level of the Land is even and flat, and there are much sandy beaches with some Inlets. The Country behind the Bay, which is visible to us aboard the "Sirius", reminds your Correspondent of the Moors in the Northern part of the Country of England.

Your Correspondent has not been ashore, this privilege being granted first to the Officers of the Fleet, who no doubt, fear danger may await the unwary.

From our position at anchor, we are able to observe small huts upon the Shore, but have seen as yet, no Natives, although we have received information that Lieutenant King had come across a party of Indians, who were friendly, and showed an interest in the sex of himself and of his companions, who had not beards upon their faces, and whom the Natives thought were of the female sex. Lieutenant King ordered one of the Marines to un-deceive them, whereupon they gave great shouts of laughter and admiration.

Mr. Arthur Bowes, Surgeon aboard His Majesty's Transport "Lady Penrhyn", has been ashore, and on his return, called on the "Sirius" and informed us, that while at first sight he was induced to consider this a most fertile place, the grass was long and coarse, the trees hollow, and of little use for building.

The land is covered in every part with ants, black and red, of a size most enormous. While observing a most Gentlemanly and Discreet silence on the matter, his manner gives your correspondent cause to believe that the general view casts doubt that Botany Bay is as suitable a place for settlement as was first thought.

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25th January 1788

At 6 o'clock in the forenoon, His Majesty's Ship "Sirius" made signal for the Ships of the Squadron to weigh anchor to begin the short journey to Port Jackson, which our Valiant Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip had decided was a more suitable place for our requirements.

The country surrounding was also found to be superior to that of Botany Bay, with soil of exceeding richness and much fresh water.

We are informed that the Cove which has been selected for our future Settlement has been graciously named Sydney Cove, by Captain Phillip, in Honour of Lord Sydney."

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SECOND DESPATCH FROM BOTANY BAY

As reported in the LONDON GAZETTE of October 1788

Interesting fauna in the new colony.

CURIOUS LEAPING KANGAROOS

"Your Correspondent now has the Honour to inform you of the most Interesting creature we have observed since Landing in New South Wales, and craves your most kind Indulgence for the inaccuracies and brief descriptions attempted by a person not experienced in the knowledge of the manner of such animals.

There are Kangaroos in immense quantities, animals very strange to behold. Varying in proportions, some are of small size, others are larger. They have pointed faces and ears remarkably like those of a fox, only longer and tails of considerable enormity in length, like that of a rat, only magnified a thousand times.

They jump in most curious bounds, and leap from one place to the next, and your Correspondent understands they make fair eating. The Natives eat them when they can catch them with their spears, which is not often.

Mr. Bowes who has partaken of Kangaroo meat, informs us that he cannot say it equals venison nor even mutton.

Lizards there are in great abundance, which are little to big in size, and opossums too, the latter being in length about five and twenty inches from the nose to the extremity of the tail, black to brown in colour, with a face not unlike that of an English squirrel's face but that the snout is more pointed in shape.

There are birds in great numbers, the parrots being of colours of considerable beauty, with pelicans and hooded gulls similar to the English species, black swans, and a bird as large as an ostrich and swifter than a greyhound in speed when running on tall legs.

We have also seen snakes in plenty, and fear their maleficent expressions, but we are informed by the Surgeons that not all are venomous, as their countenances would suggest.

Without doubt we will find even more strange creatures when we have explored further, and your Correspondent will have the Honour to observe them and describe them for your Entertainment."

TO BE CONTINUED

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COUNCILLOR JACK CAMPBELL, M.B.E., J.P., RE-ELECTED AS  
MAYOR OF CAULFIELD

We are pleased to advise that Councillor Jack Campbell, newly elected Mayor of Caulfield for the second term, has agreed to again be Patron of this Society during his term of office.

Councillor Campbell was first elected to Council in 1978, and is only the third Councillor in the long history of this City to be elected Mayor twice in succession.

The members of the Caulfield Historical Society, offer sincere congratulations to Mayor Campbell, on his re-election to the highest position in Local Government that this City can bestow.

Councillor Campbell has always been a strong supporter of this Society, and we are again confident that the cordial working relationship and co-operation we have received from Councillors, and staff at City Hall will continue under his Patronage.

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To our President, Mrs. Felicitie Campbell, congratulations on again becoming Mayoress of Caulfield.

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15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Mayor and Mayoress of Caulfield, Councillor Jack Campbell, M.B.E., J.P., and Mrs. Felicitie Campbell, were the special guests at our 15th Annual General Meeting, which was held in the Caulfield City Hall on Wednesday 16th September 1987.

They were both welcomed by our Senior Vice President, Miss Betty Snowball, who presented the Mayoress with a posy of flowers.

Mayor Campbell agreed to install the Office Bearers and members of the Committee for 1987/1988, and as nominations received did not exceed the vacancies, the following members were elected un-opposed:-

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <u>PRESIDENT</u>          | Mrs. F. Campbell, Mayoress of Caulfield.  |
| <u>Vice Presidents</u>    | Miss B. Snowball, Miss G. Rowe.   |
| <u>Treasurer</u>          | Mr. R. Sims   |
| <u>Secretary</u>          | Mr R. Ballantyne  |
| <u>Asst. Secretary</u>    | Mr. A. Reid   |
| <u>Committee</u>          | Miss H. Ford, Miss N. Ward, Miss E. Meehan,<br>Mr. H. Head, Mrs. M. Ballantyne,<br>Miss S. Baldwin-Wiseman. |
| <u>Regional Delegates</u> | Dr. M. Chennells, Miss H. Bullock.  |

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At the conclusion of our short business meeting, the Mayoress of Caulfield, President Mrs. Felicitie Campbell, introduced our Guest Speaker, Mr. Peter Isaacson, who is proprietor of the "Southern Cross" Newspaper and many other publications, both in Australia and overseas.

Mr Isaacson spoke of his early years with "The Age", and later with "The Argus" when his first salary was nineteen shillings and nine pence (\$1.99) per week delivering "The Age" to the Newspaper Kiosks on the street corners of Melbourne.

After the 1939-1945 War, in which he served as a fighter pilot with R.A.A.F. he joined the staff of "The Argus" as a journalist, when his salary was increased to one pound and three pence (\$2.03). He later commenced his own publishing business in Elsternwick.

Mr Isaacson's talk on his early days in journalism, was both entertaining and informative, and he brought back many nostalgic memories to a number of our older members.

His reminiscences were thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of members and visitors who were priveleged to hear him.

A vote ot thanks was extended to Mr. Isaacson by Vice President, Miss Gwen Rowe, and a souvenir of his visit to Caulfield was presented to him by Mrs. Campbell.

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IN SINCERE APPRECIATION

The members of the Caulfield Historical Society offer their sincere thanks to the following friends and supporters of the Society for their assistance and advice, so willingly given during the past year.

To Caulfield City Council, who have allowed us the free use of a room in City Hall in which to conduct our meetings. For this concession we are extremely grateful.

To Mrs. Carol Harry and Mrs. Gladys Vallati. Their expert advice and friendly co-operation at all times, has been invaluable to the Society, and is sincerely appreciated.

To the Committee and Staff at Caulfield Central R.S.L. for allowing us the use of a large room in their Club Building, in which we can display our photographs of early Caulfield, together with our research materials, which are used extensively by both students and the general public.

TO ALL THESE FRIENDS OF THE CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, we offer a very sincere "Thank You" for your complete co-operation and assistance received during the past year.

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THE BIOGRAPHY CORNER

FAMOUS PERSONALITIES IN CAULFIELD

Will Alma, M.I.M.C. (Lon.), Gold Star Member of the Inner Magic Circle, the highest honour to be awarded by the magic fraternity, is a second generation professional magician and illusionist, who is recognized world wide, as an expert performer, lecturer, and craftsman.

He was born in Malvern (Vic.) on 4th November 1904, as Oswald George Bishop, and for professional reasons changed his name to William George Alma in 1949. His father was a tin-smith by trade, and although a part time professional magician, did not encourage his son to follow in the "Art of Magic". However reading "Magic Made Easy" by David Devant finally decided Will Alma to take up the Art professionally.

He commenced his career as a magician by a performance at an amateur contest in 1918, at the Burke Road Congregational Church Hall in Malvern, where he attended Sunday School. In between extending his knowledge of magic and showmanship, he was employed as a watch repairer, and camera mechanic, working for some time at Wagner's Camera House in Melbourne, and engineering firms, developing skills which assisted him in learning to construct apparatus, not only for use in his own act, but which were subsequently sold to professional magicians all over the world. To own a piece of "ALMA" equipment today is to have a cherished possession.

From 1926 to 1931 Will Alma toured Victorian Country Towns, with his own illusion show, which was very successful until the impact of travelling movie films forced most vaudeville shows off the road.

He has performed his magic illusions in most Countries of the Civilized World, including entertaining the troops in Korea. In a tour sponsored by the Australian Government in 1956 he took his magic show to North Borneo, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Manila, and Australia.

Will Alma, Professor of Magic says the Art of Magic is not only for the professionals. Scattered throughout Australia, and the World, are hobbyists who follow the honest art of deception, just for the fun. They include Doctors, Farmers, Businessmen, Judges, and Ordinary Citizens of our community.

This Master Magician, whose name will go into the history books of Magic, together with those of Dante, Maurice Rooklyn, Levante, and many others, has now retired from performing professionally, and he has recently donated his extensive collection of magic memorabilia, which consists of 800 photographs, programmes, 1700 books on magic, 7000 magazines, posters, and a collection of conjuring apparatus, to the State Library of Victoria, which has been accepted as a special collection to be known as the "W.G.Alma Conjuring Collection", and which is estimated as being valued at \$38,000.

Will Alma and his wife, the former Betty Glen, of the Vaudeville act "The Glen Twins", live in a pleasant quiet street in Caulfield, and he is currently publishing a complete history of Australian Magic. All the State Libraries in Australia have requested copies of this work, because of the accuracy of his knowledge and research.

As a professional performer, and now as a hobbyist, he says it still holds the same fascination for him as it did when he first became interested as a young boy seventy years ago, and he is always willing to discuss "The Art of Magic" to any one who expresses an interest in this intriguing subject.

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ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY VISITS CAULFIELD

On Sunday 30th August, the Caulfield Historical Society were hosts to fifty members of the Royal Historical Society, who were conducted on a comprehensive coach tour of this City.

The tour commenced at Cato Parish Uniting Church, Elsternwick, where our visitors inspected the beautiful stained-glass windows, and the ancient organ. They were then shown some of the remaining mansion type houses in Caulfield which were built during the late 1880's, the many beautiful Parks and Gardens, and a small portion, which is still visible, of the now defunct Rosstown Railway, which linked Elsternwick with Oakleigh.

At the conclusion of the three hour tour, our visitors were provided with afternoon tea, which was supplied by members of our Committee.

We were pleased to welcome the members of "The Royal", and we trust that they all enjoyed their visit to Caulfield.

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Sincere congratulations to Vice Presidents Betty Snowball and Gwen Rowe, who organized the tour, and who spent many hours travelling over the route.

Many thanks also to Norma Ward who arranged to have Cato Uniting Church Hall available, in which our visitors enjoyed a "Cuppa", and to all other members of our Society who assisted.

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AN HISTORICAL SOUVENIR OF CAULFIELD

Are you looking for a suitable souvenir of Caulfield to give as Christmas presents to friends, both here and overseas?

This Society has a limited number of especially designed tea towels which feature the original drawing by Architect Sydney Smith of Caulfield's proposed Shire Hall of 1884.

These tea towels are of pure linen, designed and manufactured in Melbourne, and are excellent value at only \$2.50 each.

They may be obtained either at our monthly meetings, or from the Society's room, First Floor, Caulfield Central R.S.L. 169 Hawthorn Road Caulfield, which is open each Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., or from the Secretary, Tel. 578 3145.

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WRITING CAULFIELD'S HISTORY

Dr Geulah Solomon, a resident of Caulfield since 1955, has been appointed Researcher-Writer of the History of Caulfield, a bicentennial project, which has received approval and funding from a bicentennial grant.

The history will be published in a boxed set of five volumes consisting of the Building Heritage of Caulfield, Famous Citizens, our Cultural Heritage, Municipal History, and the history of Recreation and Leisure in Caulfield.

The Caulfield Historical Society has already made available to Dr. Solomon, their photographs and records relating to the history of this City, and will continue to grant her whatever assistance she considers necessary.

If present or past residents of Caulfield have records or information on any of the above subjects, Dr. Solomon would like to hear from you. She can be contacted on Tel. 500 0457, or 524 3295.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1987-1988 ARE NOW DUE

Just a friendly reminder that membership fees for this Society are now due.

It is so easy to forget when small subscriptions, such as ours, are due, but as we have no other source of income, we rely on membership fees being paid on time.

To those members who have not yet paid their current dues, we would sincerely appreciate it, if you could rectify this oversight as early as possible.

THE SUBSCRIPTION RATES ARE:

Individual Membership	\$5.00 per year
Family Membership	\$9.00 per year
Institutions	\$9.00 per year
Life Membership	\$100.00

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following members have recently joined this Society, and we extend to them a very sincere welcome, and trust that they will all contribute to our discussions, and spend many enjoyable years as active members of the Caulfield Historical Society.

Miss S. Barber	Carnegie
Miss B. Halls	Elsternwick
Mrs. N. Needham	Carnegie
Mrs. S. Robotham	Brisbane, Qld.
Mrs. J. Thomas	Glenhuntly
Miss N. Gooch	Elsternwick

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DONATIONS RECEIVED

We are very grateful to the many friends of this Society who have recently donated valuable articles of great historical interest. To each and everyone, we offer our sincere thanks for these gifts, which are all a welcome addition to our records.

Copies of Newspapers:-

<u>"The Age" Vol. I</u>	<u>17.10.1854</u>	
<u>"London Gazette"</u>	<u>4.10.1788</u>	
<u>"New Holland Morning Post"</u>		<u>8.10.1791</u>
<u>"The Miners' Standard"</u>		<u>4.12.1854</u>

Donated by Mr. J. Paice, Wantirna.

Early Newspapers, consisting of:

"The Argus", "The Star", "The Herald", and "The Sun", 1934-1953.  
Donated by Miss M. Allender, Caulfield

Set of antique Kitchen Scales, and Weights

Photographs and documents, relating to the family of Miss I. Anderson  
Donated by Miss I. Anderson.Caulfield.

Dress-Makers' Model and Patterns.

Leather Handbag.

Donated by Mrs. J. Patience, Caulfield.

Photographs - A series of eight photos showing events during the 1984 Carnegie Festival.

Donated by Mr. B. McAllister, Glenhuntly.

Newspaper Photographs and articles of Economy Laundry, Elsternwick 1938.

Alexander Drew's Grocery Store, St. Georges Road, Elsternwick, Built 1900, and still operating.

Donated by Miss H. Ford, Elsternwick.

Collins Street Directory, of Melbourne and Suburbs. 10th Edition.

Booklet, "Planning Meat Ration Meals", with forward by the then Prime Minister of Australia, John Curtin.

Donated by Mr. J. McLoghlin, Elsternwick.

Legal Documents regarding Contract of Sale of premises owned by

Mr. Hulbert Gorrie, Chemist of Elsternwick.

Donated by Mrs. Gorrie, Heidelberg.

Photographs of some of the 1900 vintage homes in Caulfield, which are still occupied by private owners.

Donated by Dr. G. Solomon, Caulfield.

List of Official Tram Numbers of trams operated by the M.M.T.B., and depots from which they operated, relating particularly to Malvern and Caulfield.

Donated by Mr. K. Stodden, Elsternwick.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF  
CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, EXTEND SINCERE AND GRATEFUL THANKS  
TO THOSE MANY LOYAL MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE SOCIETY  
IN SO MANY WAYS DURING THE PAST YEAR  
AND WISHES THEM, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS  
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND A PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY NEW YEAR

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We look forward to seeing all of our members at our first meeting

in the New Year

which will be on

Wednesday 17th February 1988

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AND A REMINDER THAT

Our final meeting for 1987 will be held at Caulfield City Hall on

Wednesday 18th November 1987

when our Guest Speaker will be :-

Mr Graham Breydon

who will speak on :

"The Early Tramway System of Caulfield"