

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

# 31

APRIL 1988

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

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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"ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS OF AN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE PROPHETS  
WITH THEIR FACES TURNED BACKWARD."

F. Von Schlegel.  
1772-1829.

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IN THIS YEAR OF 1988, IN WHICH WE ARE COMMEMORATING THE 200th  
ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH SETTLEMENT OF THIS ISLAND CONTINENT,  
THEN KNOWN AS NEW HOLLAND, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO CONTINUE  
RECORDING FURTHER DESPATCHES TO ENGLAND DURING THE YEAR 1788.

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Continuing the Second Despatch from Botany Bay, dated 26th.  
January 1788, and reported in "The London Gazette" October 1788.

"The weather continues remarkable Warm. There has been much employment on Shore for the men sorting stores, mending nets, cutting wood and grass, and collecting water. No convicts have as yet been unloaded.

To our exceeding surprise, we yesterday espied two large ships beyond the Bay, but the wind was blowing most strong, and did not allow them to enter the Bay. After much discussion, and dissertation, we concluded they must be French Ships upon Discoveries in the South Seas.

DESPATCH FROM PORT JACKSON, SYDNEY COVE, ON THE  
26th DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR 1788.

"Early in fore-noon of this day, while the ships still rode at anchor, the French Ships again appeared beyond the Bay, and let drop their anchors, a mile from the North Shore.

A Lieutenant and Midshipman from the "Sirius" were sent aboard one of French Ships, to convey to them Captain Hunter's compliments, and to offer his Services, but the French Ships were preparing to depart, and his offer was reduced to Good Wishes for the future success of their voyage.

Our first sight of Port Jackson came at 7 o'clock P.M. It surely must be the most splendid Harbour in all the World, safe from all winds, and wide enough for a thousand ships to ride in.

We learned with much interest, that in the early morning a Flag Staff was erected by a party from "Supply", who reached here a day earlier, and built it by the landing place, where they first went ashore.

To our regret we had missed taking part in an uncommonly emotional Ceremony at Sunset, when all who had sailed on the "Supply", did assemble at the point at which the first party had come ashore, and did watch His Majesty's most Royal Union Flag unfurled, and displayed upon the Flagstaff.

The Marines then fired several vollies from their musquetry, and our Esteemed Govenor and his Officers who accompanied him, drank a toast to the health of His Majesty, the Royal Family, and the success of the Colony."

THE OFFICIAL OCCUPATION BY BRITISH SETTLERS OF THIS ISLAND CONTINENT, AND THE DAY WE NOW CELEBRATE AS AUSTRALIA DAY, ON 26th, JANUARY EACH YEAR, WAS BORN.....



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HERITAGE WEEK '88

Heritage Week, which is organized by the National Trust Australia (Vic) will be celebrated this Bi-Centennial year from 17th. to 24th. April 1988.

The Caulfield Historical Society will again be participating, by bringing to public notice, this City's colourful History and Heritage.

Our records, and display room, and library, which is on the first floor, of Caulfield Central R.S.L. 169 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield, will be open for inspection and research, from 2P.M. to 4 P.M. on Tuesday 19th. April.

We are again co-operating with the Caulfield City Hall, and providing a display of very early photographs, many of which have not previously been shown publicly, which depict life as it was during the early 1800's in Caulfield, Glen Huntly, Carnegie, Elsternwick, Murrumbeena, and Ormond.

In addition to this photograph display, which will be held in the new Arts Complex, at the Caulfield City Hall, on Saturday 23rd. April from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday 24th. April from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Miss Gwen Rowe will be showing the Society's slides of early Mansion Type Homes and gardens, in Caulfield.

ADMISSION TO BOTH THESE ACTIVITIES ARE FREE, BUT A DONATION TO SOCIETY FUNDS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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MINI BUS TOURS OF CAULFIELD.

In response to public demand, tours of Caulfield's beautiful old Mansion Houses, Gardens, and Buildings, have been arranged for both Saturday and Sunday, 23rd and 24th. April, 1988.

These tours of Caulfield, which have been organized by Miss Betty Snowball, will commence at the City Hall at 2 P.M. Betty is a third generation resident of Caulfield, and she will provide an expert commentary, as your Hostess during the tour.

PRINTED TOUR GUIDES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED.

There will be a charge of \$2. per person for each of these tours, which will just cover expenses.

AS SEATING IN THE MINI-BUS IS LIMITED, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO BOOK YOUR SEAT. THIS CAN BE ARRANGED BY RINGING BETTY ON Tel. 523,9412.

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HISTORICAL CONFERENCE.

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Historical Association, of which this Society is a member, will be conducting an all day conference at the St Kilda Town Hall on Sunday 5th June 1988, the theme of which is "Pioneers, South of the Yarra," and Guest Speakers have been engaged for this occasion.

Exhibitions from Member Historical Societies, will be on display, and a bus tour has been organized during the afternoon.

An invitation is extended to all members of this Society, and their friends, to attend this conference.

Further information, if required, may be obtained from:- Mrs. N.Newell, Tel.531,6702.

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"THE GLEN HUNTLY COMMUNITY SINGERS"

Who, among our older generation, and perhaps some who are not so old, fail to remember with a sense of nostalgia, the days of Community Singing, which was held in halls through-out Victoria?.

This form of entertainment was made so very popular, during the 1930's by Radio entertainer Mr. Charlie Vaude, and it was soon being organized by local groups, both in Melbourne and Country Districts.

We are indebted to Mrs. Carmel Finn, of Coolangatta, Queensland, for the following history of Community Singing in Glen Huntly, whose mother, Mrs. Nina Finn, was President of Committee, and Conductor of the Glen Huntly Community Singers.

"The Glen Huntly Community Singers held their weekly Community Singing programme in the Public Hall, on the corner of Royal and Rosedale Avenues Glen Huntly, (which has now been demolished), originally to raise money to purchase parcels for the Australian Troops.

The Community Singing Group commenced during late 1938, and was first conducted by Mr. Doug Elliott, until 1940, when he left to join a Melbourne Radio Station.

After the resignation of Mr. Elliott, a committee of local ladies continued to organize and conduct the Community Singing, which proved to be extremely popular, both with local residents and visitors.

During the War Years, (1939-1945) the Committee of local ladies and Patrons, worked tirelessly for the war effort, raising money to send food parcels and goods to Australian Troops, both here and overseas.

Post-War, the Glen Huntly Community Singers, continued to raise money for many local charities, and they were supported by most of the local traders, who donated weekly prizes, which enabled all proceeds to be given to those in the community who were in need of assistance.

The words of the songs were projected on to a screen, which was erected on the stage, and the music was played by a regular pianist, who usually knew all the old songs, without referring to the sheet music.

The words and music, and the singing of the audience, were co-ordinated by Mrs. Nina Finn, who conducted the singers during the time the Group was operating, from 1938-1970, . Well known Guest Artists were engaged, including Stage and Radio personalities, who gave their services without charge.

Some of the original Committee Members of the Glen Huntly Community Singers were:-

Nina Finn, Beatrice Cohen, Lorna Tattersal, Ruby Farmer, Lottie Eagle, Ruby Lang-McGowan, "Tiny" Mann, Olive Mathewson, Thelma Pearce.

This Community Singing Group entered into several competitions, winning Silver Cups on 25th. October 1938, and again at the Assembly Hall, contest on 23rd. February 1948.

We are indebted to the family of Mrs Nina Finn, for their generous donation of these cups, to the Caulfield Historical Society. They are sincerely appreciated.

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LOCAL CHURCH CLASSIFIED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST AUST. (VIC).

We have been advised by the National Trust Australia, (Vic), that the Congregational Church, on the corner of Orrong Road and King Street, Elsternwick, was recently Classified as an Historic Building, and in the opinion of the Trust, is an essential part of Australia's Heritage and must there-fore be preserved.

The citation in support of the Classification reads:-

"A brick Church, with stone detailing, built in 1889-1890, designed by George de-Lacy Evans in a french idiom, possibly inspoired by the work of Viollet-le-Duc.

The building, which has not been completed, includes a massive circular turret to the North-West, capped by a conical slate roof, twin porches, and elongated windows.

The interior includes a total immersion font, and west-end gallery".

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DEATH OF A POPULAR MEMBER.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE SAD TO LEARN THAT, AFTER A LONG AND COURAGEOUS FIGHT WITH FAILING HEALTH, MISS NANCY CATOMORE DIED ON 21st. DECEMBER 1987.

NANCY HAD BEEN A VERY LOYAL AND RESPECTED MEMBER OF THIS SOCIETY FOR MANY YEARS, ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST IN ANY ACTIVITY WHICH WAS ASKED OF HER.

SHE WILL BE MISSED BY ALL HER FRIENDS IN THIS SOCIETY, WHO WERE PRIVILEGED TO KNOW HER.

VALE, NANCY CATOMORE.

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THE ORIGINS OF POSTAL SERVICES.

In these days of high postal costs, it is interesting to learn of the beginnings of this service, which is now largely taken for granted.

Although postage stamps are comparatively new, dating back to the first issue in England during 1839, postal services existed in China as early as 1100 B .C., when there were both a State and Private Postal Service. The Chinese appointed a Postal Commissioner, and a Highway Officer, whose duty it was to maintain the numerous Posthouses.

The first really developed service was created by the ancient Persians, in 700 B.C., which was completewith Posthouses, foot runners, horses and grooms, The King of all the Persians, Darius, was appointed their first Post-Master General, in charge of an elaborate system which covered every part of the huge empire of Persia.

The Bible records, in the Book of Esther, "And he wrote in King Ahaseusus' name, and sealed it with the Kings ring, and sent letters by post on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries".

The excellent postal organization of ancient Rome which served the whole of the then known civilized world, was made possible by the military roads which werẽconstructed throughout the Empire.

In England, the first record of a Postal Service was a relay system to carry despatches for King Richard 111. during the war with Scotland in 1482. These were carried by a succession of horsemen, each travelling twenty miles.

For many years this service remained the prerogative of Royal households. The London merchants made their own postal arrangements, but Queen Elizabeth 1, prohibited this practice in 1591.

King Charles 1. granted a monopoly to Thomas Witherings, the Master of Postal Services, who was paid three pence a mile, for the privilege of carrying the mails.

During 1653, the carrying of mails was determined by tender. John Manley was successful in obtaining the tender for 10,000 pounds a year, and this method continued until 1667.

Many reforms followed, until a London merchant, William Dockwra, brought into existence, in 1683, a rate of one penny for each letter, but the first pre-paid stamps were not issued by the British Government until 1839-1840, being of one penny and two penny value. And so began the Postal system as we know it today.

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St. Paul's Cathedral Society of Bellringers

A BELFRY OPEN DAY

To support the Cathedral organ restoration appeal an Open Day will be held on

Sunday, July 3rd 1988 from 1pm - 4pm

**Donations: \$5.00** each which includes a tour of the Belfry, demonstrations of handbell and church bell ringing, and refreshments.

(All donations are tax deductible).

Bookings are essential, please telephone:  
**439 7073**

Time slot:

SCOUTING MEMORIBILIA.

The training manuals and reference books for Scouting and Guiding have dramatically changed since 1908 when Lieutenant-General Baden-Powell C.B, F.R.C.S, first wrote a weekly magazine titled "Scouting for Boys", and sub-titled a "Handbook for Instruction in Good Citizenship".

"Scouting for Boys" was originally intended as an addition to the training already provided by The Boys' Brigade, the Y.M.C.A., and several other organizations.

Scouting was then, and still is, an adventurous outdoor activity, and when the boys and girls of England started to read these weekly magazines, then priced at four pence a copy, they formed their own patrols, talked their dads into being leaders, and much to the surprise of the author, Scouting was born from the bottom up.

B.P.'s ideas captured the imagination, not only of those boys and girls of England, but it soon spread to most Countries of the world. The first Scout Group in Caulfield was commenced during 1909.

Over the past eighty years, the methods have changed, the activities have been modernized, but the ideals of Scouting and Guiding are as relevent today as they were in 1908.

As the methods and text books previously used by the leaders in the Scouting and Guiding Movement, have been modernized, most of the original training manuals and text books which were used by Leaders of Scout and Guide Groups for eighty years have become outdated.

To preserve those original ideas of Lord Baden-Powell for posterity, in Caulfield, this Society has been donated a number of the original text books on Scouting, including a set of "Scouting in Caulfield" covering a period from 1952-1966, together with Group and Patrol Leaders' minute books.

These donations will form the basis of a Scouting and Guiding display in our archives, and will be available for reference and research.

IF ANY SCOUTER OR GUIDER IN CAULFIELD HAS EARLY REFERENCE BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPHS, SCARVES, JAMBOREE BADGES, GROUP RECORDS THEY NO LONGER REQUIRE, PLEASE DONATE THEM TO THE CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

As far as we know, we will be the first Historical Society to organize a Scouting and Guiding section among their reference library.

Your Support for this Guiding and Scouting section of our records would be sincerely appreciated.



GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

The following essay was written in 1932, by a young girl who had entered for a competition which was conducted by the local Guide Company in a small Victorian country town. It is unknown if the lass won the competition, but the sentiments expressed are as relevant today as they were fifty-five years ago. The essay was entitled:-

My Idea of Good Citizenship.

"Citizen is the name given to an inhabitant of a town or city, who enjoys social and political rights, and privileges. We there-fore all have the opportunity of proving ourselves good citizens.

We are first taught the virtues of Good Citizenship in our own homes, among our brothers and sisters. We learn to be kind and loving, obedient, truthful and courteous, to be respectful to our parents, to elderly people, and to those in authority over us, and to try to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Later, when we go to school, we find it is just the same. We are taught to do our allotted tasks to the very best of our ability, to be loyal to the country in which we live, and to honour and respect our National Flag.

We also have those wonderful organizations, the Girl Guides and Boy scouts, started by one of the world's greatest citizens, Lord Baden-Powell. All of us who strive to live up to his ideals by doing our best to carry out the Guide and Scout Promise and Laws, cannot help but become good citizens.

The chief public duty of a good citizen, is to obey the laws of the country in which we live, and to help those whose duty it is to enforce them.

One of the most important privileges of citizenship, is our right to vote, and it is our duty to decide which candidate we consider will do his best for the State and the Nation.

Then there are the duties which arise from being a member of a community. The man and woman who takes a keen interest in public affairs, and has the progress of their town or city as a major priority, without thought of any benefit to themselves is a good citizen.

Thomas Carlyle taught that the well being of a Nation depends on each person living their life to strive to make their country one in which justice, freedom, and comradeship prevails, and is willing to give their maximum effort to improve the welfare of the country in which they live.

These are the people who make the very best of citizens.

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NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY.Programme of meetings, Guest Speakers, and Activities for 1988.

The following Guest Speakers have been invited to speak at our meetings, and activities arranged during this year.

Please continue to show your interest and support, by attending as many meetings as possible for the remainder of the year.

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16th. March. Speaker:- Mrs Gladys Vallati. (Member)

Librarian, Caulfield Municipal Library.

19th April. Heritage Week Display.

1st Floor, Caulfield Central R.S.L. 169 Hawthorn Road.  
Caulfield South. Open Tuesday 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

23rd and 24th. April. Photographic, and Coloured Slide tour of the Mansions, Gardens, and Historic Buildings of Caulfield.  
Venue, New Arts Complex, Caulfield City Hall.

Open each day from 10 A.M. to 4-30 P.M.

Admission by donation.

MINI BUS TOURS. of Caulfield, leaving Caulfield City Hall, on each of the above days, at 2 P.M. Booking is suggested.  
Cost of tour two dollars per person.

18th. May. Speaker:- Mr Will Alma, (member)

Magician and Illusionist of World renown. A Member of the Inner Magic Circle of London.

15th. June. Speaker:- Mr Ian Armstrong, (Victorian of the Year)  
Collector Extraordinary.

20th. July. Show and Tell. Members participation night.

Bring an article of either sentimental, or historical interest and speak for one minute (or more) on it's history.

17th. August. Open Meeting, Nomination of Office Bearers, and committee.

21st. September. ANNUAL MEETING, Installation of Office Bearers, and Committee, by the Mayor of Caulfield.

Speaker:- Mrs Mary Turner Shaw, Historian and Author.

19th. October. Open discussion meeting. All members are invited to submit constructive criticism, regarding the conduct and programmes of the society.

16th. November. Speaker:- Mrs. Patricia Mc.Nair.

Final Meeting For 1988. Subject:- The Development and History of European Porcelain.

Members are invited to bring their items of Porcelain to this meeting, and have them identified by Mrs Mc.Nair.

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DONATIONS RECEIVED.

The following articles were recently donated to this Society. We acknowledge them with sincere thanks, they will be welcome additions to our records.

Photograph of Asian Scouts, who attended the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree at Wonga Park, 1955-1956.

Letter from H.R.H. Edward, Prince of Wales, to Victorian School Children, dated 16th. August 1920.

Donated by Mrs, J. Thomas- Glen Huntly.

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History of Murrumbeena C.W.A.

Prospectus of Amalgamation of Cato College, Elsternwick, with Wesley College, Prahran.

Photographs of Caulfield Football Team, 1924, 1925, 1926.

Detailed Floor Plan of Elsternwick Club, St Georges Rd, Elsternwick.

Wright Kruger and Co. Estate Agents, Large plan of Glen Huntly properties for sale (undated, but possibly early 1920).

Received from Mrs.F.Campbell--Elsternwick.

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Souvenir Drinking Cup depicting the Coronation of King Edward Eighth. Dated 12th. May 1937.

Souvenir Ring, and Butter Knife, with inscription "H.M.S. Renown"

R.A.A.F. issue tape measure

Boot Button Hook, inscribed "Conways of Prahran"

Donated by Mr. J.Mc. Loughlin - Elsternwick.

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Book. "Rivers of Tears" by Richard West. The History of Rio-Tinto-Zinc.

Donated by Mrs. G. Vallati - Kew.

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History of 100th. Anniversary of Orrong Road Uniting Church, Elsternwick, 1887-1987.

Donated by Miss N. Ward, (Author) Elsternwick.

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History of 100th. Anniversary of St.Johns Uniting Church, Elsternwick, 1887-1987.

Donated by Miss B. Snowball - Elsternwick.

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Scout Training Books, Manuals, Group Minute Books, Group Histories, "Scouting in Caulfield" 1952 - 1966. Scout SCARVES, and Badges.

Donated by Mr. R.Ballantyne - Glen Huntly.

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