

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

34

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

OCTOBER 1990

Editor-R. Sims.

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PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY - APRIL AND OCTOBER.

The SOCIETY MEETS THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH (except December and January) in the Committee Room, first floor, City Hall at 8 pm.

PATRON - His Worship the Mayor of Caulfield
Cr. Geoffrey Patience, B.E.M., J.P.

PRESIDENT :	Mrs. F.E. Campbell	523 9228
SECRETARY .	M/s H. Ford.	528 4140
Asst.SECRETARY	Mr. A. Reid.	523 5136
TREASURER .	Mr. R. Sims	528 1661

▪ "THERE IS A HISTORY IN ALL MEN'S LIVES." - William Shakespeare.

'LABASSA' CENTENARY.

The Centenary of the enlarged and rebuilt 'Labassa' is being celebrated. Alexander Robertson, the Cobb & Co. coaching millionaire, bought the house and 15 acres of land in 1890.

He engaged John Augustus Bernard Koch as Architect to enlarge the house, which resulted in a two storey mansion of 35 rooms including a music room, billiard room, drawing room, conservatory and stables. No expense was spared in providing fine embossed wallpapers, imported Italian marble, mahogany fireplaces, corinthian columns and a magnificent staircase. Altogether a most opulent and imposing edifice, similar to a number of mansions built in Caulfield during the period 1860 - 1890.

However, from about 1914, due to greatly changed economic circumstances, the surrounding gardens were reduced and Manor Grove was created to access the subdivisions. During the 1920's, 'Labassa' was divided into flats, maintenance suffered, and the building gradually declined until it was acquired by the National Trust in 1980.

Since then, restoration has commenced by the National Trust and Friends of Labassa, to authentically return it to its former grandeur. Much has still to be done as the work is costly.

A special programme has been arranged to mark the Centenary, and it is worth noting that a photo of 'Labassa' appears on the cover of the 1990 Telecom White Pages - L-Z.

'Labassa' is open on the last Sunday of every second month, (Sunday December 16th, admission \$5.50 adult, \$3 for children, pensioners and concession. Extra charge to admit to the tower and a booklet is for sale for \$4.00

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE - SEE OVERLEAF - SOME HAVE PAID, SOME HAVE NOT.

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the Caulfield Historical Society was held in the Committee Room of the City Hall on Wednesday, 19th September, at 8 pm.

The Mayor of Caulfield, Cr Geoffrey Patience, B.E.M., J.P. chaired the Meeting. This is the third term of office for Cr. Patience, (he was Mayor in 1977 and 1978,) and we thank him for accepting the office of Patron to the Society and wish him a happy & memorable term this time.

Following are the Office Bearers for 1990-91.

President.	Felicite Campbell.
Vice-Presidents.	Betty Snowball Gwen Rowe.
Secretary.	Hazel Ford.
Asst. Secretary.	Athol Reid.
Treasurer.	Ralph Sims.
Committee	Jim. McLoughlin, Elaine Meehan, Norma Ward, Gladys Vallati.
Regional Delegates.	Hilary Bullock, Dr. M. Chennells.

Guest Speaker for the evening was Mr. Ken Gillin, from the Polly Woodside, who gave a most interesting account, with slides, of his own life experience on sailing ships, the origin and history of the Polly Woodside, and the progress in restoring it to its original condition as a sailing ship. We thanked Mr. Gillin for a most enjoyable address.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS.

Three Honorary Life Membership Certificates were presented at the Annual Meeting.

The Certificate for the Late Cr. Fred Arden, Mayor of Caulfield in 1971, who was the virtual founder of the Society, was accepted by his son, Mr. Peter Arden, on behalf of his widow, Mrs A.M. Arden,

The Certificate for Mr. Jack R. Paice, who donated the magnificent set of Victorian Municipal Histories, and the bookcase containing them, was accepted by Myrtle Ballantyne on his behalf.

The Certificate for Society Member Irene Anderson, Authoress of 'The Langdon Homes of Caulfield' was accepted by Ralph Sims, and subsequently presented to a delighted Rene at the Alexander Home. Rene is in very good health for her near 90 years and sends her Best Wishes to her old friends in the Society.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions for the current year 1990-91 are now due. Subscriptions are - Single \$7.00 Family \$ 12.00. A yellow mark at the top of the first page is reminder that your current subscription has not been received. Subscriptions may be paid at the monthly meeting or posted to the Society at Box 202 P.O. South Caulfield 3162. Thank You !

WANTED - MAYORAL PORTRAITS.

A year or two ago, an appeal was made to the citizens of Caulfield to discover photographs of former mayors of the City. There are still a number missing. Can you help ?.

ROADS BOARD CHAIRMAN.

1860/1 WILLIAM MURRAY ROSS.

SHIRE PRESIDENT.

1872 CHARLES NELSON
 1874 / 77 FRANCIS JAMES SYDNEY STEPHEN.
 1875 JOHN WILLIAM CROSBIE.
 1879 JOHN CHARLES HOLLAND.
 1886 RICHARD DAWSON.
 1887 THOMAS ROBERT NEWING.
 1888 JAMES BALLANTYNE.
 1889 / 90 ARTHUR DAVIDSON COTTON.

CITY MAYOR.

1921 THOMAS FALLS.
 1924 ALBERT EDGAR MORRIS
 1928 REUBEN TOM PATTON.
 1929 ROBERT McCULLOCH.
 1933 GEORGE ANDREW McKINNON.
 1935 FREDERICK ERNEST SHILLABEER.
 1937 LOCKHART MCRAE STEWART.

Any lead will be followed. Surely, some photographs, especially of the City Mayors, MUST be about. We would appreciate any suggestions.

NEW FIRE STATION.

In our last Newsletter (No.33) we reported the closing of the Glenhuntly Fire Station.
 Now we can report the building of the new Ormond Fire Station No. 32 at the corner of Bambra and North Rds, South Caulfield. Of very modern design, and finished in modern colors, it is rapidly approaching completion.

HERITAGE BOOKS.

The Heritage Books set is available from the City Hall. The set consists of --

- Book 1. Caulfield Building Heritage.
- Book 2. Caulfield Cultural Heritage.
- Book 3. Caulfield Recreation Heritage.
- Book 4. Caulfield Recent Municipal Heritage.

Individual copies \$7 each. Set of 4 with outer cover - \$30 Bound set \$35.

Material for this edition of the Caulfield Historical Society's Newsletter was supplied by Gladys Vallati, Elaine Meehan, and Hazel Ford. We are grateful to them for their effort and enthusiasm.