

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

36

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The Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except December and January) in the Committee Room, first floor, City Hall at 7.30p.m.

PATRON - His Worship the Mayor of Caulfield Cr. Ed. Biggs

PRESIDENT: Mrs. F.E. Campbell	523 9228
SECRETARY: Miss H. Ford	528 4140
TREASURER: Miss N. Ward	523 5308

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 20th Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, 16th September. Our special guests were His Worship the Mayor of Caulfield, Cr. Ed. Biggs who had accepted our invitation to be the Patron of our Society for his term of office, and guest speaker Mr. A. Wilson Barr from the Royal Flying Doctor Service who gave a most lively talk to the small audience present about this very wonderful service and life saving organisation which serves the people of the out-back.

Three Honorary Life Memberships were presented to Athol Reid, Ralph Sims and Jim McLoghlin in appreciation of their many years of service to the Society. Unfortunately neither Ralph Sims nor Jim McLoghlin were able to be present on this occasion.

The Mayor installed the following members of the Committee:-

President	Mrs. F. Campbell
Vice-Presidents	Miss B. Snowball Miss G. Rowe
Treasurer	Miss N. Ward
Secretary	Miss H. Ford

General Committee

Mrs. G. Vallati  
Mr. A. Reid  
Mr. A. Anderson

Regional Delegates

Dr. M. Chennells  
Miss H. Bullock

## MEMBERS' NEWS

The Society welcomes the following new members :- Maureen Jordan, Andrew Bunn and the Caulfield Grammar School .

*Hearty congratulations* to Marie Allender, a member who has had her name immortalised after spotting an unfamiliar daisy bush whilst bushwalking at Wilsons Promontory. Miss Allender has been a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria for many years. The newly discovered plant was named *Olearia allenderae*.

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## GOLDEN DRAGON MUSEUM, BENDIGO

The Salvation Army in China. (Until Jan. 1993)

The Golden Dragon Museum in conjunction with the Bendigo Branch of the Salvation Army is presenting a spectacular exhibition of the history of the Salvation Army in Australia from its very beginning up to the present day. This exhibition, to be held in the Loong Gallery, will highlight the Salvation Army in China 1917-1926. It will be supported by authentic documentation from many areas and with the co-operation of the Salvation Army who have loaned artefacts, photographs, and various other relevant material..

## GOLD MUSEUM, BALLARAT

The Ballarat Courier (until December)

Celebrates 125 years of the production of the newspaper the *Ballarat Courier* . Examines the change in printing technology over the years

*The Ballarat news items were taken from the R.H.S.V. History News September 1992.*

## LOST - NOW FOUND

An interesting document that was given to the City of Caulfield in the 1930s has been missing for many years and now a copy of it has found its way back, thanks to the co-operation of a relative of the author with the Special Librarian.

William Ludwig Samuel Sebastian Lechte, who was born in 1859 wrote of his life in Caulfield, starting on December 31st, 1869. This brief work will be published by the City of Caulfield in a simple booklet similar in format to *The Langdon Homes of Caulfield*, by Irene Anderson, which was published by the Society.

To give some idea of the author's style I will reproduce here the beginning of his story.

*Passing along Hawthorn Road in the tram and seeing the Town Hall in its altered form, with its new clock tower and bold-columned front, a land mark for miles, then on along Dandenong Road to Windsor, it took my mind back many years.*

*Just over seventy-six years ago I was born in Grange Road, not far from where Glen Huntley Station stands, so have seen the district grow from a small beginning.*

*On December 31st, 1869, we went to live in Alma Road and took over a dairy business. My job was to take out the cows and mind them on the vacant land which extended for miles all around, and our neighbouring dairyman's cows. I had a mob of 40 head so it kept me busy. I used to get 6/- a week for minding the neighbour's cows, which seemed to me, at that time, quite a big sum. I was then ten years old..*

*One of my favorite spots in 1870, was the Caulfield Park which, at that time, was only fenced on two sides, the rest being open and about a quarter of it a big swamp with a bed of reeds in the centre and teeming with wild duck and swans...*

## HUGHESDALE ART GROUP

The Hughesdale Art Group was formed in 1956, almost by accident. The Hughesdale Community Centre had been running a series of documentary film nights, hoping to form a Film Group, Drama Group, Debating Society, Book Appreciation Group or whatever, but was not meeting with much success. A programme of films on art, various types of painting, etc., received, perhaps, greater promotion than the other activities and it packed the hall with painters from all over Melbourne.

The opportunity was used to put forward the idea of an art group which was taken up with enthusiasm. The first President was Colonel G. Matthews (who studied with Dudley-Woods) and Cyril Henshaw (who provided this information) was Secretary from the formation of the group until 1962.

When Col. Matthews was transferred to South Australia, Mr. Robert Miller of Carnegie became President and held the position for ten years before handing over to Mr. P. Meager. Membership of the group, stimulated by press releases in sympathetic local papers, and by well-attended exhibitions at Chadstone, grew to close on 60 at one time but has fluctuated up and down since then. Consisting mainly of housewives and male "week-end" painters, the group cannot claim to have produced any world-shattering figures or to have evolved a new school of painting. A proud moment was when Bob Miller had a water-colour accepted in the National Art Collection, Canberra, following the purchase of one of his works by the Bendigo Gallery. The group meets on Wednesday evenings at the Hughesdale Community Centre Hall at the corner of Kangaroo and Poath Roads, Hughesdale, the latter being the name of the narrow strip either side of the Oakleigh-Caulfield municipal boundary. Club activities take place fortnightly while the alternate weeks feature beginner's classes under competent instruction - a charge is made for this tuition.

In the early days every opportunity was taken to stage local exhibitions in conjunction with banks,

churches, town halls, charitable organizations, shopping centres and the like with varying success. However, one night exhibitions in the local hall, by invitation only, have produced the best results.

When the group was started, art societies in the suburbs were comparatively rare - there were groups in Malvern, Fern Tree Gully, Mentone and Beaumaris. An attempt was made to form a Federation of such groups but the move failed. However interclub correspondence and visits took place. The possibility of establishing relations with art groups in England and America was explored, and an exchange of paintings with the Milwaukee Sketch Club about 1961-2 probably brought the club's largest and most expansive newspaper publicity.

### Calendar of events during the formative year

21 November 1956 - a meeting was held with Mr. A.M. Doble of the Community Centre in the Chair, and this being an historic occasion, the names of those present are here recorded for posterity. They were Lt. Col. G.R. Matthews, Mr and Mrs. G. Bowd, Miss B. Brahmah, Miss V. Murell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Balmain, Mr. E. Studley, Mr. H. Fallu and Mr. C.H. Henshaw.

Mr. Bowd thought that, though the numbers were small, there were sufficient to make a start and all present were formed into a provisional committee with Lt. Col. Matthews as Chairman and C.H. Henshaw as Secretary. It was decided to hold a lightning exhibition of painting on Wednesday, 12th December 1956 and Mr. Doble said that the Centre would probably waive rental for that night.

28th November 1956 - a committee meeting was held to arrange details for the forthcoming exhibition, the pattern of which has become familiar to those on the committee - booking the hall, newspaper publicity, letters to councils inviting them to be present, exhibition rules etc. It is interesting to note that 1/- (10 cents) entry fee per painting was charged with 15% commission to the group. Col. Matthews undertook to arrange for a catalogue to be printed, also SOLD stickers and "Committee" ribbons.

If the catalogue was ever printed, the Secretary failed to keep one (quite out of character), and presumably it would be a collector's item now ; however, it is likely that the Colonel yielded to the wishes of the rest of the committee to avoid unnecessary expense during this first exhibition.

12th December 1956 - the exhibition of ninety paintings needed only three of the SOLD stickers which were used for paintings by L.M. Allinson, P. Cambridge and C.H. Henshaw. The event has not been recorded in the minutes but the Secretary recalls additional lighting arranged by John Balmain, Mrs. Bowd with the assistance of other ladies served an enjoyable cup of tea, and that Col. Matthews arranged insurance for the works which had to be arranged on the previous night.

6th February 1957 - thirty five people attended the first meeting of the new year to see and to hear an illustrated lecture by Mr. Ian Bow. In those days the local newspapers were very generous with space, and the press cutting book shows many articles three columns wide, with bold headlines. In one issue, Mr. Bowd is quoted as follows: *I believe that in the Community Art Group we have one of the most important civic activities of our time, and there cannot be enough praise for people who are doing such things as painting, making music or acting in a play. In this age when the majority are looking at films or T.V. or watching sport, the practice of art is vital to the well-being of the community.*

At this meeting the Hughesdale Art Group formally came into being, the provisional officers confirmed and the following added - Miss V. Murrell, Treasurer, Misses D. Howard and P. Cambridge and Messrs, R. Millar and H. Fallu comprising the Committee, one position remaining vacant. It was proposed to have a monthly meeting alternating with an outing, and the annual fee of 30/- to include all members of the family. Miss Brahmah suggested having an exhibition of children's paintings some time during the year .

*The Editor thanks Cyril Henshaw for the information above*

## SHORTHAND

Take a memo, Miss Jones : Pitman's shorthand is 125 years old this year.

Isaac Pitman was a 25-year-old school teacher in Gloucestershire when he published a little book "Stenographic Sound Hand" in 1837.

He devoted much of the rest of his life to improving this system, which has become the bane (when they can't read it back) and benefit (when they can) of secretaries and reporters all over the world.

Isaac's brother Jacob, who migrated to Australia about the time the book was published, began teaching shorthand in Adelaide in 1848 - probably the first teaching of it in a British colony.

Jacob died in 1890, aged 79, and his tombstone in Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, carries this inscription in his brother's reformed spelling:- *In luving memori of Jacob Pitman, arkitekt, intodiust fonetik short hand and woz the ferst minister in theez koloniz ov the doktrinz ov the Sekond or Niu Kristian Church which aknolejez the Lord Jesus Christ in Hiz Divein hiumaniti aaz the Kreator ov the Yunivers, the Redeemer and Rejenerater ov men. God over aul, blesed for ever*

*This interesting snippet was supplied by Florence Redman of Heathlands from a cutting dated 1962*

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## THANK YOU

The Society would like to thank Nan Gooch very sincerely for her efforts in bringing the Index to the Scrap Books of newspapers articles up to date. Also thanks are due to Betty Snowball and Norma Ward for their work in compiling the scrap books. These ongoing jobs entail many hours of labour by these members and we do appreciate their efforts. We would be interested to hear of other members willing to undertake activities on behalf of the Society. We will need volunteers to assist in our Oral History Project.