

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

37

April, 1993

Editor: Gladys Vallati

P.O. BOX 202, CAULFIELD SOUTH, 3162

Affiliated with the Royal Historical Society

ISSN 0310-1703 20 CENTS

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY - APRIL AND OCTOBER

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

CONGRATULATIONS

At the Australia Day Breakfast, a charity fund raiser organised by the City of Caulfield, Miss Betty Snowball, a Vice-President of our Society was named Caulfield's Citizen of the Year for 1993. Betty has a family background of community service and she has continued this tradition; being deeply involved with many community organizations over a number of years - she is a most worthy recipient of this Award.

Caulfield's Junior Citizen of the Year is Miss Holly Smart (a ballerina) who was honoured for her achievements in the ballet world. See C.H.S. Newsletter No. 35 for details. Congratulations to Holly!

CAULFIELD RACE COURSE

The new Rupert Clarke Stand had its official opening on Thursday, 1st October 1992 in time for the Spring Racing Carnival, including the Guineas and Caulfield Cup. The new stand offers both public and members state of the art facilities - comfortable seating, bookmakers, totalisator windows, television monitors with race, tote and bookmaker information, a snack/buffet and bar service, a restaurant and an unrestricted view of the whole racecourse.

For those who like to continue gambling after the races the Caulfield Tabaret constructed on the site of the old Glasshouse building near the main gate offers bar and bistro dining as well as accommodating many electronic gaming machines.

CARNEGIE PRIMARY SCHOOL NO.2987

In 1887 there were strong moves by local parents for a school in the Rosstown area. There was a significant number of children of school age and, as the area was cut off from the Caulfield State School by the Rosstown Swamp, only the more hardy scholars made the long, wet journey to school.

On 5th January, 1887, the parents of about 60 children asked the Education Department to provide a school at Rosstown, and Francis Findlay offered a small site, 50 feet by 100 feet which was, according to him, "the pick of the district". This site was in Truganini Road, and although it was drier than most of the surrounding land, it was too small for a school.

Thomas Evans suggested hiring the Wesleyan Church, while land was being obtained for a permanent school. The Church was in Toolambool Road, near Neerim Road, and District Inspector Robert Craig agreed with Thomas Evans, as the Church was close to the homes of nearly 65 children.

This Church was rented for Ten shillings per week, and the school was opened on 31st January, 1888, with an initial enrolment of 95 children in charge of Headmaster A. Liddelow. The Education Department agreed to supply tanks, toilets and hat-pegs, but the Headmaster found it difficult to obtain a stove "because the school is in the middle of the Rosstown Swamp, and it is often impossible to reach the school".

There was a period of disagreement over the permanent site, but eventually the original location in Truganini Road was chosen, and a tender was accepted in 1889 for a brick building 50 feet by 20 feet, at a cost of Eight hundred and fifty pounds.

Desks 6 feet 7 inches long were installed in tiers rising to the back of the room, and a heavy curtain was hung to separate the infants classes from the older pupils. Water tanks were not installed until 1892 and up to that time the children carried

water bottles to school each day.

Extensions to the school were completed in 1909 at a cost of One thousand, seven hundred and forty pounds (\$3480), but the Wesleyan and Church of Christ halls in Rosstown Road were also being rented to provide extra accommodation.

The name of the school was eventually changed from Rosstown State School to Carnegie State School in 1909.

In 1913 enrolments had grown to five hundred pupils and two new shelter sheds were built, and these were soon to be used as class rooms. During 1927 additional class rooms were added.

Today, Carnegie Primary School is probably one of the largest Government Schools in the Caulfield area, and has an excellent record of post-high school education.

TRIVIA NEWS

THE WRONG BRIDGE - An iron bridge which was built in England for use in Russia, ended up spanning the Maribyrnong River at Keilor (Vic.). A mistake in the contract resulted in the bridge being brought to Australia during 1800. Among its unusual features were the solid wrought iron walls which were designed to keep out the bitter winds of the Russian steppes.

CHINESE SAILORS FIRST AROUND AUSTRALIA - The first sailors to discover and circumnavigate Australia are reported to be the Chinese who discovered this continent by accident.

Some historians believe their junks were blown to the coast of Western Australia in 1420, over three hundred years before Captain Cook's historic voyage, and after travelling completely around the coast line, they presented to Emperor Yung Lo a porcelain map of "The Land of the South".

MURRUMBEENA PARK BOWLING CLUB

From a talk given by H.A. Gamble

In September 1954 the Caulfield City Council formed a Reserve Trust to control the pavilion and parklands of Murrumbeena Park. The first executives of this Trust were - Chairman - P.L. Prior; Secretary - A.J. Watson; Treasurer - T.E. Kirk. At a meeting of this Reserve Trust which was held on 26th September, 1955, T.E. Kirk moved that a master plan for the whole of the parkland be prepared, and a section be set aside for a bowling green

A public meeting to discuss the formation of a bowling club was held in the Murrumbeena Public Hall on 12th December, 1957, when it was resolved that a club be formed. At a subsequent meeting, on 30th January 1958, the Murrumbeena Park Bowling Club was officially launched and the Club has recently celebrated its 34th anniversary. The elected Foundation Office Bearers were:- President - Cr. H.A. Gamble; Vice Presidents - Messrs. Joyce and Ferres; Secretary - H.S. Beatty; Treasurer - T.E. Kirk

The joining fees for those early years were ten pounds, plus an annual subscription of eight pounds eight shillings for male members. For the ladies, a joining fee of five pounds plus four pounds four shilling per year.

Caulfield City Council commenced the laying of the greens during February 1958, and they were officially handed over to the Club on 21st April of the same year. The first Green Keeper appointed was Mr. Arthur McLean..

On 27th June 1958 a contract to build the Club house was signed for four thousand one hundred and forty pounds, the builder being Mr. A.J. Schrape.

The membership in 1958 consisted of 118 males and 73 ladies.

The Murrumbeena Park Bowling Club situated in Gerald Street, Murrumbeena, was officially opened on 24th March, 1959 by the then Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Bunny.

OBITUARY

The Society was saddened to learn of the deaths of three of its Members - Mr. Jim McLoghlin, Mr. Cyril Henshaw and Mr Richard Ballantyne.

Jim joined the Society in 1983 and served on the Committee since 1988. He died on 10th October 1992 after a long illness and will be sadly missed by us all for his friendship and wide knowledge of our local area. Jim was awarded an Honorary Life Membership at our last Annual General Meeting in appreciation of his work on Committee and at the Society's room.

Cyril joined the Society in 1983 and was keenly interested in local history, steam trains, walking groups and was a foundation member of the Hughesdale Art Group. Cyril died suddenly on 30th November, 1992

Dick Ballantyne who passed away at Spurway Nursing Home on Sunday, February 28 was awarded an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his services to the Society. His extensive personal knowledge of Caulfield's history combined with his dedication to making local history come alive for the many people who sought information from the Society was invaluable. The members of the Society will sadly miss the friendship of these three men.

..... A STEP BACK IN TIME

In *The Sun* of 14th March, 1963 we find that the 20 million spectacular 2nd Melbourne International Trade Fair was held at the Exhibition Buildings and that admission was 4 shillings, or one could attend the cinema to see *The Longest Day*, *How the West was won*, or *Okla-homa!* or go to the Tivoli to see the Black and White Minstrel Show.

The advertisements for food are also interesting:- Bakeo Pastry Mix - 1'2d; 2lb Sunwhite rice - 2'1d; 1lb. Swallows Sweet Biscuits - 2'6d; 4lbs. self-raising flour - 2/6d.

CAULFIELD NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The Caulfield Library Service is organising an heritage project which aims to photograph and record details of some streets of buildings within the city. Some streets will be those identified as being of significant heritage importance whilst others will be those that may be so considered in the future. There are streets which, in their entirety, depict the architecture of an era, whilst others depict the changing nature of residential development. The shopping centres will also form a part of the project and in addition the trees which have been listed as significant will also be photographically recorded. The result will be a picture of Caulfield as it is today.

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TODAY'S THOUGHT

Are you the Active Member, the kind that would be missed?

or

Are you just contented that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the functions and mingle with the flock?

or

Do you stay at home, and criticise and knock? Do you take an active part to help the show along?

or

Are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?

Do you push the cause along and help things really tick?

or

Leave support to just a few and talk about the "Clique"

Think about it Member, you know the right from wrong.

Are you an Active Member, OR do you just "BELONG"?

The Editor hopes that the above 'Thought' does not apply to the readers of this Newsletter, BUT have you checked that you ARE a financial and active member!

PROGRAMME FOR 1993

Wed April 21 - Speaker: Mr. Richard Heathcote, Manager, "Ripponlea" Historic Mansion.

Thurs April 29 - Visit to the Racing Museum. Meet at 2.00 p.m for tour of this venue. Caulfield Race Course.

Wed May 19 - Speaker: Mr. Bruce Turner - "The History of Mechanics' Institutes".

Wed June 16 - Speaker: to be advised

Wed July 21 - Speaker: to be advised

Wed August 18 - General meeting. Members' night - SHOW & TELL. Also nominations for Committee etc. for the A.G.M.

Wed September 15 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Speaker: Capt. Michael Carolin. "History of Port Phillip Sea Pilot Service".

Wed October 20 - Speaker: Miss Norma Ward. Slides & commentary of "China Trip"

Wed November 17 - CHRISTMAS MEETING. Speaker: to be advised. Final meeting of the year.

WOLSKEL LECTURE AND DINNER, FRIDAY 21 MAY 1993

This year the biennial Augustus Wolskel lecture, unlike recent years, will not be given as part of a conference. Instead, it will be held in conjunction with a dinner to which all RHSV members and friends are invited. The lecture will be given by Associate Professor Patricia Grimshaw, the Head of the Department of History at the University of Melbourne. She will speak on "Women and the rewriting of Australian history."

The dinner will cost \$35 per head, all-inclusive of pre-dinner nibbles, a three course meal and drinks. Bookings taken by the RHSV office.

Taken from the RHSV History News