

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated with the Royal Historical Society

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Editor: Gladys Vallati

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR - APRIL & OCTOBER

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

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| PRESIDENT | Mrs. F.E. Campbell | 9523 9228 |
| SECRETARY | Miss H. Ford | 9528 4140 |
| TREASURER | Miss N. Ward | 9523 5308 |



Activities of the Society

The Society prepared a Display Board according to the specifications given by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria for Heritage Week 14-28 April 1996. The late Dr. Mary Chennells, Miss Hilary Bullock, Miss Hazel Ford and Mrs. Gladys Vallati collaborated to identify and reproduce photographs suitable for the display entitled **Main Streets** : Interpreting our Urban Culture.

The RHSV intends that the various exhibitions mounted by local societies throughout Victoria be brought together into a travelling exhibition which will travel throughout the state and possibly interstate. Caulfield's exhibit featured Glen Huntly Road and Moorabbin's featured the corner of the Nepean Highway and South Road.

On 2nd July, Miss Hazel Ford, Secretary of the Society, gave a talk on the history of Caulfield at a luncheon for the members of the Caulfield Day View Club. A Club that supports the Smith Family Charity.

Upgraded Technology in Glen Eira

On 1st July an upgraded computer system that permits residents to book Council facilities, lodge complaints, or make requests from a number of sites was launched. The system, developed by contractor Geoff Robinson and his company Vitesse, was trialed for some weeks before release, and is yet to be connected to some of the remote locations.

The new Customer Services Section of the Council will receive and enter residents' requests and messages into the system, where they will be directed to the appropriate staff or contractor for action. There will be a set time in which action should take place and if there has been no response within the given time an alert will be sent automatically to the head of the department.

Glen Eira's information technology Co-ordinator, Kieran Cromie said that the new system should streamline Council activity and improve productivity.

National Trust's Register

On 21st May Ian Wight, the Conservation Manager of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), advised that the Pipe Organ, St. Mary's Anglican Church, cnr. Glen Eira Road & Hood Street, Caulfield has been classified and included in the National Trust's Register. In part the citation says...*to draw community attention to the special importance of that object as a component of the nation's heritage.*

On 4th July, Mr. Wight advised that EK Motors, 258 Glen Eira Road, Elsternwick was added to the Register. EK Motors which has been known as Tudor Garage and Glover Garage is of state architectural and historical significance. Built in 1935 it is the only known example of a garage built in the Tudor Revival style. In design, it is similar to the garages built in the so-called "Domestic" style popularised in the USA during the inter-war period.

The "Domestic" style was not widely used for garages in Australia, E.K. Motors being the best example of the style in Victoria. The choice of architectural style has important historical associations. The Tudor Revival style, with its association with refined tastes, reflected the need to promote the service station as a civic asset in the 1930s, a period characterised by criticisms of the number of garages and their architectural merit.

E.K. Motors forms part of a Tudor Revival style shopping strip in Glen Eira Road, Elsternwick. E.K. Motors makes a significant contribution to the visual character and integrity of this shopping precinct.

**Orrong Road Methodist Church
Orrong Road, Elsternwick Uniting Church
14th November, 1887-14th November, 1987**

compiled and updated by Norma Ward

Vale Dr. Mary Chennells

Only ten days after attending a regular meeting of our Society Dr. Mary Chennells died suddenly on Sunday, 26th May. Although Mary had been ill for some time, treatment she had recently undergone seemed to have been successful and she appeared to be making good progress. Her sudden death was a great shock to us all.

English born, Dr. Chennells came out to Australia in 1960, and for some years she lectured in physiology at Melbourne University, sports-medicine being of particular interest to her. She used to make an annual trip back to England to see her English relatives. In recent years she has been in retirement which gave her more time to follow up interests and hobbies, of which local history was one. A member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV), she was on the Council there for some time arranging numerous excellent group visits to historical places on behalf of the RHSV. A member of the Regional Council Dr Chennells encouraged and assisted our members in the preparation of displays including our Main Street display for Heritage Week.

Her death is a serious loss to us all and the attendance of over one hundred people at her funeral conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Bob Davis, at her Parish Church, St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Gardenvale indicates that all who knew her mourn her loss.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to her first cousin and close friend Miss Hilary Bullock and her family.

Wesleyan Church, St. Kilda decided at a Circuit Meeting held on 21st December, 1886 that the Superintendent, with Circuit Stewards and Messrs. Whitehead and May be a Committee to select a site for a Church at Elsternwick and have authority to purchase.

At a Meeting held on 28th March, 1887 the Committee reported having seen several sites, some of which had been offered they had seen one in Orrong Road, 100x200 ft., the price of which was 4 pounds per foot which they recommended should be purchased.

RESOLVED that provided the moiety of the proceeds of the land in the Village of Elsternwick be paid over to the Stewards as directed by Conference they are to purchase the site referred to in Orrong Road at four pounds per foot in their names.

Quarterly Meeting 25th June, 1887- The Stewards reported that they had purchased the land referred to at the last Meeting situated at Elsternwick of four hundred pounds, and suggested that they should sign a declaration of Trust to be in force until such time as a regular Trust is formed. Suggestion approved.

Quarterly Meeting 27th September, 1887 - The Circuit Steward reported that a building Committee had been formed for the new Church at Elsternwick, the design and a contract signed for its erection at a cost of five hundred and seventy nine pounds eleven shillings and six pence. The Steward was directed to apply to the Loan Fund for an advance of three hundred pounds towards the cost.

The Architect was T.J. Crouch and the Builders Ireland & Newton. The Foundation Stone was laid on 14th November, 1887 and

the Church opened on 20th March, 1888. The building area was 30 squares with the porch and vestry and end wall for future extension. The materials were red and yellow bricks on a bluestone foundation. There were 200 seats.

The Church reopened 15th September 1889 after enlargement, to permit part of the church to be used as a Sunday School, at a cost of five hundred pounds - the Architect was W.H. Noy and the Builders Jones & Co.

The Church was built during the "land boom" in 1887, population increased greatly but a financial crash came and the population melted away. At one stage a wooden Church was transferred from Pt. Nepean Road area to act as a Sunday School building. This was later the Ladies' Guild Room and until it was recently demolished was known at the "old" Guild Room.

Apparently there was no Minister for some time, the Church being under the charge of Supernumeraries until the early 1990's

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 1891 | John Catterall |
| 1892 | George Daniel |
| | Spencer Williams |
| | John Catterall |
| 1893 | George Daniel |
| | John Catterall |
| 1894 | George Daniel |
| 1895 | George Daniel |
| 1896 | George Daniel |
| | R. Osborne Cook |
| 1897 | |
| 1898 | |
| 1904 | J. Eggleston |
| 1906 | F. Symons |

On 18th December, 1888 a request at the Circuit Quarterly Meeting was referred by resolution of the Trustees at Elsternwick that steps might be taken to secure the services of a Junior Minister for that locality. It was resolved after considerable discussion that the engagement of a third Minister in the Circuit (for Elsternwick) be left in the hands of the Superintendent and the Circuit Stewards.

Since 1910 the Ministers have been:-

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1910 | W.T. Johns |
| 1911 | H.M. Knuckey |
| 1912 | A.H. Mitchell |
| 1913 | N.D.L. Webster, resigned 1915 |
| | Conf. Joined the Presbyterians |
| 1914 | J.M. Catterall |
| 1918 | T.W. Butcher |
| 1922 | A.R. Cocks |
| 1925 | W.H. Guard (Superintendent 1926) |
| 1927 | Name of Circuit changed to Elsternwick-St. Kilda |
| 1928-31 | G.T. Arthur |
| 1932-35 | J.E. Warren-President of the Conference 1934 |
| 1936-40 | R. Williams |
| 1941-45 | R.E. Hooper |
| 1946-48 | H.F. Allen |
| 1948-49 | M.M. Bennett - supernumerary supplied during the illness and death of H.F. Allen |
| 1949-50 | C.J. Walklate |

St. Kilda and Elwood excised to form St. Kilda Circuit. The remainder known as Elsternwick Circuit.

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 1951-55 | C.J. Walklate |
| 1955-59 | N. Elliott-President of Conf. |
| 1960-66 | J.E. Hull |
| 1967-72 | R.J. Chadwick |
| 1973-76 | V. Roberts |
| 1977-85 | L. Johnson |
| 1987- | M. Coombe |

The Pipe Organ which was constructed in 1870 by Merklin-Schultze, Brussels, Belgium for St. John's Anglican Church, Toorak was moved to the original Orrong Road Church in 1913, and subsequently moved to the new Church when it was built in 1923. Although the organ has undergone some alteration (particularly to its action) it represents the largest unspoilt example of a French Romantic Organ in Australia and it was noted by the Organ Trust of Australia as *Part of Australia's Musical Heritage*.

Another feature of our Church is the beautiful stained glass windows. Those on the North and South walls have been erected in memory of past, loved members of the Congregation. The series on the West are a memorial to Major R. McK. Oakley and these I understand were erected as a result of Public Subscription and gifts by the Church and members of his family. The inscription reads:-

Erected by an appreciative Public to the Glory of God and the Memory of Major R. McK. Oakley, C.B.E., V.D. Late Comptroller General of Customs, Commonwealth of Australia.

He was loved as a friend, admired as a man among men, a man of God, and for his works sake.

He lived for others, His memory is precious.

The windows depict the Story of *The Rich Young Ruler* and one of the unique features is the Palm Trees framing the scene.

Following the Centenary Celebrations in 1987 the Church remained open until 1992, when due to lack of members the then congregation joined the Elsternwick Uniting Church (St. John's) in Glen Huntly Road.

After being idle for some time it became the home of the Fijian Assembly of God who vacated the building at the end of July, 1996.

From the beginning of August, 1996 the Victorian Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia have taken over the Church Hall and grounds as a permanent home for the Archives of the Uniting Church in Victoria. This will incorporate the entire Archival Materials of the former Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches and so will be a huge project.

It is also the intention of the Committee to restore the property to its former pristine state and so will add to the historical value of an old Elsternwick building/landmark.

It is believed that there will be public access to the buildings. The beautiful stained glass

windows and memorial plaques in the Church will again be able to be viewed and admired.

Memoirs of a parishioner who came to live in Elsternwick as a toddler in 1923

I have a vague vision of standing near the steps of the Church (then going straight in, not from the side as now) with my Mother among a crowd of people - could this perhaps have been the opening of the new Church?

The next memory is of starting Kindergarten - the Kindergarten Room being a wooden building where the Guild rooms and old Kitchen now stand. Memories of sitting on the grass mats to hear Bible Stories; also a cradle with a baby doll which was a great favourite with the girls; another memory is handwork and I still find book-marks and needle cases which we made for parents - all saved by my Mother. A highlight was the "Anniversary" and I can still remember the new frilly dresses for the occasion (and the breaking-in of new shoes) and then singing "our" hymns - mainly *Twinkle, Twinkle* and *Jesus bids us shine*. There was always an upsurge of volume when *You in your small corner, and I in mine* came and little fingers pointed in all directions.

We were given small "texts" each Sunday and exchanged 12 of these for a "Big" text and then 6 big texts earned a New Testament.

Then off to the Primary and with this came the excitement of Sunday School Picnics. Towan's Furniture Removal Vans were always on hand, loaded with long seats, and it was a case of the more the merrier. In the early days an enamel cup was part of the equipment one took, and I have many memories of the races, the endless supply of sandwiches made by parents and friends, the cakes from Symon's Bakery and the big jugs of raspberry vinegar.

The picnics continued right through Sunday School days - the pleasures changing with the passing years

These were always held on Cup Day - the day I am writing this - and I can remember many very burnt faces, and also coming home soaked to the skin on many occasions.

From Primary to the "Big" Sunday School in the Hall, where after the opening session partitions were drawn across and we broke off into classes under competent and dedicated Teachers. Some of the early ones who come to mind are Miss Bouchier, Miss Trevena, Miss Matthews, Miss Whitburn, Miss Penhallurick (I can recall many Sunday Teas at her place), Miss Beat Searls and many others. The Superintendents were Mr. Albert Charlesworth, Mr. Parry Adams, Mr. Tom Leather and others. A favourite hymn of this period was *Trust and Obey* and it was always sung with much gusto.

The Sunday School Anniversaries still continued under the leadership of Mr. Ted Crowe, and these are still remembered by many. The stage reached from the front pews to the top of the organ pipes and the Church was absolutely packed for every Service.

At this stage the Church was the focal point of one's life. Sunday began with Christian Endeavour (C.E.) at 10 am, Church at 11am, Sunday School at 3pm, and quite often Church again at 7pm, sometimes followed by a Sing Song at somebody's home.

...Some of the old names I can recall are Beck, Rogers, Phillips, Kent, Kemp, Oakley, Catterall, Bowden Bower,, Davies, Whiteside, Bond, Beddoe, Furlong, Williams, Wilson, Kenny, Charlesworth, Grimwood, Hill, Lambert, Bremer, Trevena, Crowe, Brown, Peverill, Bouchier, Penhallurick, Orames, Bartrop, Searls, McLaughlin, Prisk, Prior, Aston, Eddy, Marshman, Leather, Blackie, Kerr, Crellin, Adams, Towan, Curtis, Clarke, Vivian, Lansell, Carmichael, Bright, Borchers, Albury, Cole, Semmens, Symons and of course there may be many more that I should have remembered - my apologies.

Elsternwick Methodist Male Choir formed 1925

Compiled by Herb Hill

The Conductor who also was conductor of the Church Choir, was E.S. Crowe; the Secretary Herbert F. Lowe and the Members were:- Bert Hill, Les Ward, Albert Charlesworth, Joe Kenny, Fred Orames, Jack Whiteside, Jack Marriott,, Malcolm McDonald, Charles Frost, George Vivian, Doug Gamley Sen. , Aubrey Old, Fred Gregory, Roach Family, ? Grimwood, Frank Hill, Alan Hill, Norm Sprott, Rev.W.H. Guard, Ralph Wellard,, Wally Bower,, Bert Dunstan , Jack Macalese (ventriloquist) and the Harmony Duo - Frank Dunnachie and Jack Fletcher.

The accompanists were:- Herb Hill, Keith Proctor and Doug Gamley.

The Choir gave concerts all over the Metropolitan Area, also P.S.A.'s. In addition, for some time had an engagement with 3UZ (which at the time was run by Oliver J. Nilson) for a series of weekly programmes.

Solo Artists were Fred Orames, Norm Sprott and *Ralph Wellard; Vocal Duets were by Frank Dunnachie and Jack Fletcher; and various members formed vocal quartets.

At its peak the Choir was giving about 30 performances a year, and these included week-ends in country areas such as Ballarat and Kyneton. These week-end performances consisted of a Concert on Saturday night, Choir taking anthem at Sunday morning Service followed by a pleasant Sunday afternoon.

The Accompanist Doug Gamley became a Composer, Concert Pianist and Conductor working out of England; Keith Proctor (now deceased) became Organist at Kooyong Road Church; Herb Hill became Organist and Choirmaster at Cecil Street, South Melbourne.

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Taken from *THE PRAHRAN TELEGRAPH*,
November, 15, 1913

The Beddoes

Messrs. R.H. Beddoe, J.P. and F.J. Beddoe have been in the hay and corn business in Glenhuntly Road for twenty-one years, and have been lessees of the railway wood siding for twenty years, their wood and coal depot being in Horne Street. It was in the bad times when they started, and everyone assured them that their start was a bad omen, but prophecy failed in this case, as they have succeeded in building up the largest business of the kind in Elsternwick. Mr. R.H. Beddoe was for a time a member of the Caulfield Council, but found that its duties occupied too much of his time. His business premises being so conveniently situated was the centre of call for so many people that it seriously interfered with trade. His brother had the curiosity to keep count, and found that there were as many as 52 calls in one day upon municipal matters, and Mr. Beddoe therefore retired in August last. He has been a trustee of the local branch of the "Australian Natives" Association, which numbers 400 members, and of the Independent Order of Rechabites (numbering nearly 200 members) for 21 years, and also steward and trustee of the Methodist Church. The I.O.R., by the way, is making great progress in the district, three or four members being initiated each meeting, and by comparison it is the leading friendly society there. Mr. Beddoe has also been a member of the East Elsternwick and Gardenvale Progress Association for the last two years.

Tradesmen's Club

The Elsternwick Tradesmen's Club was instituted sixteen years ago, and now possesses assets valued at 1000 pounds. Its income for the first year was 10 pounds, which has increased to 250 pounds per annum. It owns

the freehold of its premises, which are nearly clear from debt, and it has just erected a new brick billiard-room with three tables.

Nicholson the Grocer

Mr. W.H. Nicholson, who is a member of the Committee of the Grocers' Association of Victoria, founded his business as a family grocer fifteen years since. Times were dull then, but have been improving slowly ever since, and his own business has been so successful that he has established branch shops at Balaclava, Ripponlea and Brighton, in each of which he carries a full stock of groceries, crockery and glassware, ironmongery and all trade requirements.

A Successful Tradesman

Mr. F. C. Smyth, family grocer, Glenhuntly Road, was with John Connell and Co., of Melbourne, for five years, and necessarily in a wholesale warehouse of that reputation obtained a thorough grounding in his trade. It is only three years since he started business on the other side of the road, but his success was so assured that he built the ornate premises which he now occupies on the south side, and he finds trade developing rapidly. He makes a speciality of catering in high class goods, English and foreign delicacies for the table, and produce, and has an aptitude for window dressing which is exhibited in his artistically displayed plate glass windows.

Butcher & Robson

Messrs. Butcher and Robson, estate agents, Horne Street, on the bay side of the railway station, which was for many years not regarded as a good business location. However, since the firm established itself three years since, it has been going ahead splendidly, and they found that the results which they obtained did not justify the opinion held regarding the street. The business has done wonderfully well, and recently Mr.

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Butcher purchased his partner's interest in it. He is looking forward to the extension of the tramway to Point Ormond, which will open up a locality not yet exploited, and which will bring Elwood within easy distance of Elsternwick.

Waller & Co

G.W. Waller and Co., estate agents, are also in Horne Street, and have prospered during the eighteen months in which they have been associated with the district. Properties, they report, are increasing in value and the tramway is developing the estate business, while its extension to Elwood will make property in that direction more saleable. They have been doing a lot of business in Glenhuntly, especially in the Bokhara estate, where they have sold a lot of properties, suitable for working men, on easy terms, at from 385 to 400 pounds in value. They give special attention to the rent-purchase system, and are building extensively on that principle, by which a home may be acquired on a deposit of from 15 pounds upwards and payment of 17s. 6d. per week. At Gardenvale they have built several of the better class villas, six or seven rooms each, on terms, viz., 50 to 100 pounds deposit and weekly payments of 20s. and 22s. 6d. Sales at Gardenvale have brought 35s, 40s, 45s and 60s per foot, while in Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick, value have reached as high as 17 pounds 10 shillings per foot. On the same road at Caulfield there is cheap land to be obtained from 2 pounds to 2 pounds 10 shillings per foot, but they anticipate that the opening of the tramways will markedly develop the vicinity of the intersection of the Hawthorn and Glenhuntly roads.

An Expanding Business

Allen Bros., mercers and drapers, Glenhuntly Road, started in June last year in the former line only, but finding business rapidly expanding, extended their premises, put in

metal ceilings, and opened a ladies' department. The secret of their success is that they have tried to localise trade by introducing Chapel Street prices to Elsternwick. Having lower rents and by cutting profits fine, they can give sterling value, and with large stocks customers can get exactly what they want in ninety nine cases out of a hundred, and in the hundredth it is only a matter of a telephone call to Melbourne and the goods required are out on the same day. "Trouble", said the senior partner, "oh no, trouble is at a discount here." The firm make special lines. For instance, one purchase of 200 dozen collars, which they sell at 5d all year round, and in the ladies' department there is an excellent assortment of dress goods, hosiery, laces, and the hundred and one accessories of the feminine toilette.

Cafe Burlington

The Cafe Burlington, in Glenhuntly Road, is a nicely appointed place of refreshment, under the management of Mr. Leason, with tea and luncheon rooms, where grills, tea and coffee, hot pies, cool drinks, ice-creams and confectionery are obtainable at all business hours. Cool and clean, the viands are of an appètising description, and service is quick.

Economic

"The Economic" reports business to be very satisfactory, and rapidly growing in ladies' underclothing, hosiery, children's outfits, laces, ribbons, etc. The establishment is thoroughly well stocked, and all underclothing is manufactured on the premises, with the exception of imported lines.

Homes Decorated

James Charles and Son, Glenhuntly Road, are paperhangers, signwriters, house decorators and general contractors. With a capable staff of men they are prepared to undertake the most artistic adornment of any house.