

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

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NEWSLETTER

October 1973  
20 cents

## MEETINGS

### October Meeting

Mr. Paul Kathner, a scenic artist with J.C.W. Theatres Ltd., will address members at the General Meeting at the Town Hall on Wednesday 17 October. Mr. Kathner's subject will be:

#### HISTORY OF THE THEATRE

The meeting commences at 8.00p.m. and supper will be served.

### December Meeting

This meeting will be held on 19 December and will be an unusual and entertaining musical programme

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## NATIONAL TRUST CLASSIFICATIONS

The Elsternwick Club at 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick, has been classified by the National Trust. Described as a single storey building with an unusual pediment over the gable to the front bay window, it was built in 1885.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. J.R. Barber	Armadale
Mrs. Brooke	Malvern
Miss M. Brooke	Glen Iris
Mr. D. Horn	Caulfield
Mr. & Mrs. D.J. Groat	Caulfield
Mrs. K. Meehan	Caulfield
Miss E. Meehan	Caulfield
Mrs. F.S. Stevensen	Caulfield
Mrs. A. Taylor	Caulfield

## COMMITTEE 1973 -1974

At the Annual General Meeting, the under-mentioned persons were re-elected to the Committee for the ensuing year:

### President

K.A.R. Horn, B.A., Mus.B., A.N.Z.L.A.

### Vice-Presidents

A.J.G. Sinclair, O.B.E., J.P.

Dr. A.C. Foley, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.O.G.

### Secretary

T. J. Hart

### Treasurer

R.K. Sims, A.A.S.A.

### Committee

Mrs. F.E. Campbell

R. W. Green, B.Arch., A.R.A.I.A.

Mrs. R.W. McKellar, B.A., LL.B.

Mrs. J.O'Donnell, B.A., B.Ed.

Mrs. W. Sackville

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## COUNCIL ELECTIONS

At the recent Council elections, Cr. Nancy Needham, East Ward (society member) and Cr. Sam Taylor, South Ward, were re-elected to the Council with substantial majorities. Mr. Doug Riley, standing for West ward, and Cr. Keith Aitken, North ward, were elected unopposed.

Cr. Geoff Doolan, West ward, has been elected as mayor for a second term; the first being in 1969.

## CAULFIELD'S EARLY SCHOOLS

Caulfield Combined School No. 162  
Caulfield State School No. 773  
by J.O'Donnell, B.A., B.Ed.

Continued from last issue

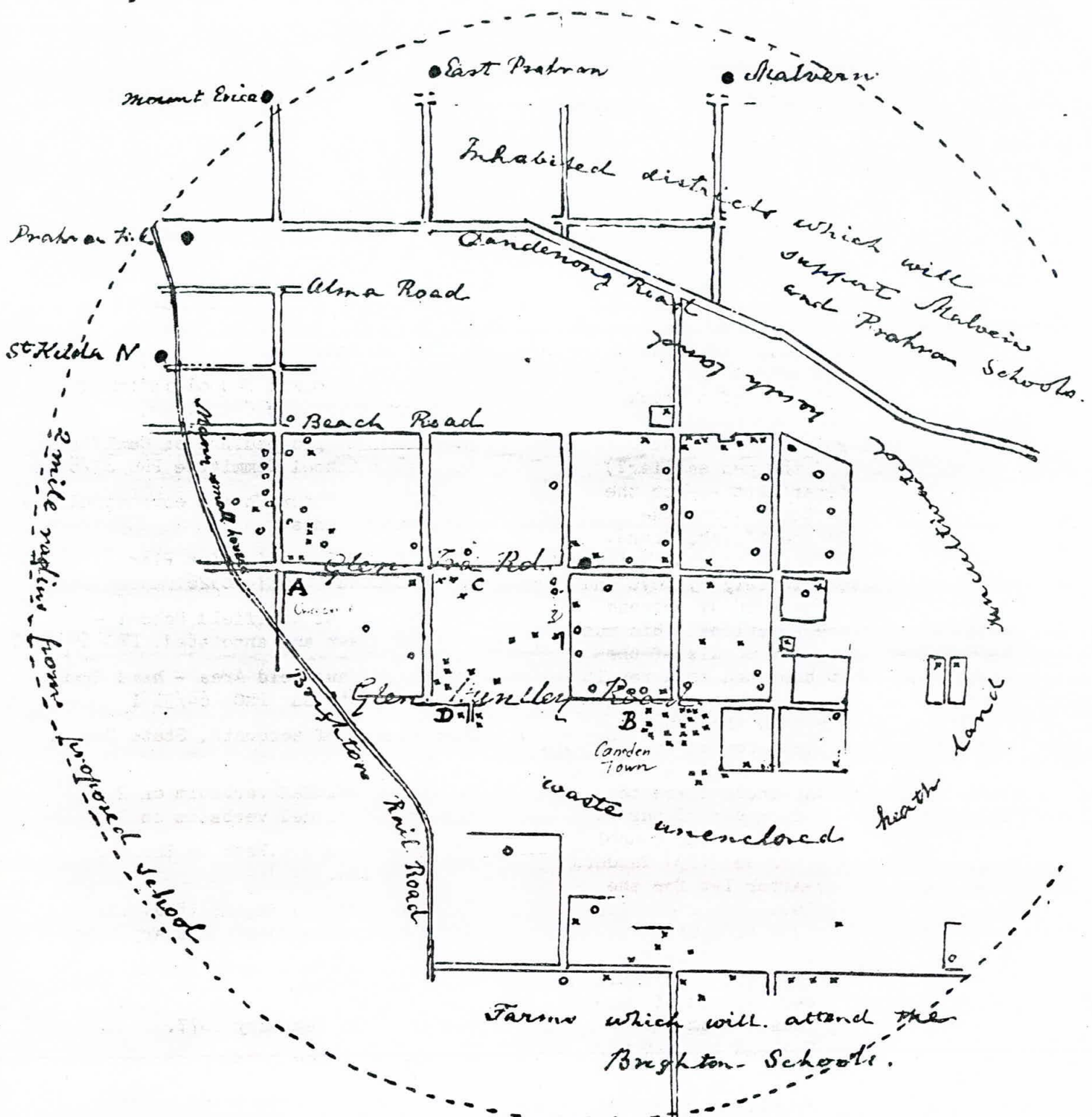
Before looking at the various buildings erected in the growth of Caulfield Common School, it is necessary to see what happened to cause the establishment of the rival Church of England School which was apparently set up on the N.E. corner of Glen Eira and Kooyong Roads.(7)-see map. The site occupied by the Caulfield Combined School almost certainly was that in Glen Eira Road opposite the Church of England, which is designated as "suppressed denominational school"(6) and Baptist Church (which would be a commensurate name for Union Church)(5). The disagreement which led to the withdrawal of the Church of England representative from the Common School committee appears to be fundamentally sectarian in origin. The Church of England committee, with Richard Francis as its secretary, insisted that "the school and ground be vested in and belong to the Church of England and to be leased to the (Common School) Committee for school purposes on week days during school hours".(9). George Webb replying for the Common School Committee expressed "the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the building for the Common School in this district should not be vested in members of any one religious denomination"(10). Here the correspondence between the two committees ceased (3) and each went about the formation of its own school. Thus, while the Combined School became absorbed into the Caulfield Common School, the Church of England established a rival school. Unfortunately, it is not possible to learn more about this rival school as the Church records for this period are missing.

In August 1863 a sub-committee for the Caulfield Common School "was appointed to make arrangements for rendering available the premises standing on the purchased land until a proper school house could be built"(2). The existing structure which served as a temporary school room became vacant

in September and opened for pupils shortly after. Tenders for a new school-house were called for in October and the building must have progressed at speed for it was reported completed in early December. "The purchase of the site and erection of the building has involved an expenditure of above £150, of which a large sum still remains unpaid", (2) residents of the area "who desire to support a common school, on non-sectarian principles" were invited to give their contributions to help remove the debt.

In November 1864, "the amalgamation of the Glen Huntly and the Glen Eira Road Schools, Caulfield" was affected and the "Committee of the Glen Eira Road School ---merged in the Caulfield Common School Committee."(11) It is possible that the "Glen Eira Road School" here referred to is the school set up by the Church of England. The Caulfield Combined School had ceased to exist in October 1863 and all mention of it had vanished from the correspondence. There is, further, an item in much later correspondence, January 1878 that the sale of the "school property in the Glen Eira Road"(13) be deferred in view of the "present unsettled state of business"(12). Caulfield Combined School had never owned the school site in Glen Eira Road, but leased the building, which was the Union Church, so this is not the building referred to in 1878. It is difficult to ascertain from official records whether Caulfield Common School occupied a site in Glen Eira Road, but the Church of England school established in the same year was built there. There is no trace of a transfer of the land, if such a transfer occurred, only the tantalizing letter of November 1864.

Of the building erected in 1863 for Caulfield Common School nothing is known. In 1877 tenders were called for the erecting of a 40' x 20' brick school and despite the fact that they were all considered to be too high, the lowest bidder at £665, Mr. R. Wood, was accepted(14). In July the "final certificate of the completion of new school" was received. In May 1878(15) tenders were called again for an additional structure 30' x 20'. One of the tenders was from Charles Cochrane and Co. who built the Princess Theatre and the south transept of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Caulfield. It appears that Cochrane would have received the contract the tender being "not unreasonable"(15) but funds for the project were not avail-



ENVIRONS OF CAULFIELD SCHOOL 1865

- Proposed School
- Nearest schools
- Houses of better class not likely to supply children to the school
- x Houses of inferior class likely to supply children
- A Village of twenty-nine houses
- B Another village, as marked
- C Site of suppressed Denominational School
- D Site of relinquished school

● State Brighton P?

## CAULFIELD'S EARLY SCHOOLS

continued from page 22

able, probably due to the "unsettled state of business" at the time(12) Instead, a building was leased (16) to accommodate the increasing school population; the attendance register showed 143 pupils. (17) "The size of the rented school building (was) 19' x 18', of this a space of 7' x 4' is occupied by a reading desk, and platform, besides being much incumbered with church furniture"(17). In October of the same year, the Shire Secretary, J.W. Hart, wrote to complain officially about the conditions at the school (18) "the buildings consist of a brick building 40' x 20' and a small wooden chapel 20' x 13' (a head teacher's slip of the pen earlier?) rented by the department --- on the day of the Inspector's visit the numbers were 104 and 57 (children). The land is not fenced and the privies are used indiscriminately by boys and girls - they are defaced by obscene writing and representations, this must be detrimental to the morals of the children." What happened as a result of the Shire Council's intervention is not known, but by 1888 the school grounds were at least fenced-in. In April 1888 "the small church adjoining the --- school" was under lease to house the increased number of pupils until "the enlargement of the school building can be effected."(19) Tenders were shortly thereafter let for the building of additional accommodation in brick of 40' x 20'.(20) The additions were apparently insufficient because by November 1889, "the small church formerly used for school purposes" was being leased from St. Mary's Church of England for £26 per annum. (21)(22) The problem was overcome at least temporarily, in 1891, with the addition of 1560 square feet of accommodation and "master's office about 19' x 10'".(23) These additions brought the old building of Caulfield State School to approximately its present appearance.

The most outstanding feature of the school building is the terra cotta slated tower above the entrance hallway and the turret, the room in which was originally the master's office. (24) The tower and turret are balanced by classrooms on either side, the eastern wing protruding from the main frontage to the same distance

as the turret and linked by a central classroom block. This eastern wing is older than the rest, as the general floor plan suggests, and is indicated by the re-designing of the main window arch, the alterations still being partly visible.

The drawings for the 1891 additions clearly show the original design of the arch and windows and the doorway (oh)

## REFERENCES:

- 1.A History of State Education in Victoria, published by Education Department.
- 2.Caulfield Common School information circular by the Committee.
- 3.Summary of proceedings of Caulfield Common School Committee PRO 63/6311
- 4.Caulfield Union Church correspondence supports this.
- 5.Caulfield Road District Plan annotated PRO 74/8526
- 6.Environs of Caulfield School - hand drawn and annotated. PRO 65/3278
- 7.Map of Caulfield Area - hand drawn and annotated PRO 64/3181
- 8.Statement of accounts, State School No 773.
- 9.Letter included verbatim on 2.
- 10.Letter included verbatim on 2.
- 11.Letter from J.H.Webb to Board of Education.
- 12.Estate Agent's Report (E.J. Dixon) to Education Board, January 1878
- 13.Education Department file note, January 1878.
- 14.File note, February 1877.
- 15.File note, May 1878.
- 16.File note, August 1878
- 17.Letter from Henry Bayston, Head Teacher to Education Dep.
- 18.Letter from Shire Secretary to Education Department.
- 19.Letter to Board of Advice from No. 773 correspondence.
- 20.File note, May 1888.
- 21.File note, November 1889
- 22.Letter from Thomas Smith, Head Teacher to Education Department.
- 23.File note, January 1891.
- 24.Architect's drawings.