

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

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NEWSLETTER

December 1973  
20 cents

## MEETINGS

### DECEMBER

The Society's final meeting for the year will be held on 19 December at 8.00p.m. at the Caulfield Town Hall.

The MELBOURNE RENAISSANCE PLAYERS will present an entertaining programme of music selected from the 12th to 16th centuries, using such instruments as Krummhorns, Shawms, Hurdy Gurdy and Recorders. These instruments are not often seen in performances these days. The Melbourne Renaissance Players was formed in October, 1971, and since then have become widely known for their work in restoring Renaissance music to the local musical scene. The Group performs in Italian Renaissance costume and our Christmas meeting will undoubtedly be most colourful and entertaining, with a novel historical slant to close the year.

Tea, coffee and Christmas cake will be served at the conclusion of the programme, and members are welcome to bring guests. Admission will be 50¢ for adults. No charge for children.

### 1974 MEETINGS

No meeting will be held in February. Instead, arrangements are in hand for members of the Society to tour Parliament House during March.

The April meeting will be held at Caulfield Town Hall on 17 April. The speaker will be Professor J.R. Poynter, Ernest Scott Professor of History in the University of Melbourne. Professor Poynter's subject will be concerned with the Grimwade family of "Harleston".

## SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

The Society now holds a growing collection of copies of subdivisional plans of properties, and photographs of buildings and personalities. We have also received a representative collection of local church histories donated by a member.

We should like to add to these holdings however, and any members who have items of historical interest, such as early clothing, photographs, documents, diaries, etc., or who know of the whereabouts of such items, can be assured that the Society would provide a good home for such treasures.

## CITY MANAGER

Caulfield's Mayor, Cr. G.N. Doolan, recently announced that a City Manager would be appointed in Caulfield. The City Manager would be responsible for preparation and implementation of a master-plan for the development of Caulfield over the next thirty years.

The City Manager, whose salary is to be in the vicinity of \$20,000 per annum, would be assisted by two deputy managers responsible for finance, administration & welfare and works & services respectively. The traditional post of Town Clerk, together with those of Deputy Town Clerk and City Engineer, would be abolished.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. P.M. Kennedy	Caulfield
Mr. N.W. McIntosh	Hawthorn

## HISTORIC CAULFIELD

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND CAULFIELD

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

The first Church of England services in Caulfield began in 1858 in Mrs. Porter's cottage in Park Street, with the Reverends S. Taylor and D. Sedden officiating.(1)

In 1859, Sir George Stephen the first grantee (6) of the land of the present church site, gave a quarter of an acre where the hall now stands, for a church. (1) In the same year, an unpretentious wooden church on bluestone foundations was erected.(1) It was originally called "All Saints" after "All Saints" in Chapel Street, St. Kilda, but the name was changed to "St. Mary's" in 1864 a year after Caulfield was created a separate parish.(1)

The new church was soon found to be too small for the rapidly growing congregation and the transepts and chancel were added in 1864, and later the nave was lengthened. After the new church was built, the old building continued to serve as the Sunday School which had been started in it in 1861.(1)(2)

The Vicarage, which now forms part of Shelford C.E.G.G.S., was built in what is known as "Carpenter" gothic style, in 1867, for the sum of £1,200. A two acre site for the vicarage was purchased from Sir George Stephen for what is now the small sum of 100 (1) (5)

The third vicar of St. Mary's was the Rev. H.B. Macartney, a son of the Dean of Melbourne, who took up office in 1868 and who was to remain for nearly thirty years.

The present substantial bluestone church was begun after the Rev. Macartney's arrival, on a further three acre site purchased from Sir George Stephen (who lived in "Helenslea", now part of Shelford) is today. The architect for this project for £120. Sir George personally guaranteed the mortgage of £1,200 obtained from the Bank of Victoria, and a further mortgage was obtained from Messrs. Eckroyd and Langdon (of "Rose Craddock").(5) The well known firm of Reed & Barnes was the architect for the new building, for which their

fee was £206.13.6 (5) Bishop Perry laid the foundation stone in October 1870. The contractors were Little & Boyne, while James Bonham contracted for the erection of the superstructure, (5) which when the new church was opened on 26 May 1871 included the nave, tower and chancel. (1) Samuel Bennett received the contract for the "cedar and other fittings" in the church. Part of the itemized accounts of these three contractors still exist today. An intriguing item in the building accounts is "Jones - repairs roof and draining, £28.14.9". The total cost of the new church by 1874 amounted to the large sum of 3d. under £5,691, including the interest payments to that date.(5)

It was not until 1884 that the church was free of debt and Bishop Moorehouse was able to perform the consecration.(1) In the intervening years, the congregation, which included many well known people in Caulfield (A.C.Cummins, Charles Webb, J.C. Riddell, Henry Ricketson, F.T. Sargood, J. Fosberry, Dr. Howitt and Hugh Moore among them) gave generously.

The south transept and a gallery were added in 1885, for £700, by the firm of Thomas Cockram & Co., (5) who were also the builders for the Princess Theatre and the Federal Hotel.(3) At the same time, the pulpit floor was raised, but not the pulpit railing or door, so that now, six inches lower than before, they gave the preacher nothing to support himself on while he delivered the sermon.(1)

In the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, 1887, new brick class rooms were added to the front of the old church for the cost of about £800.(5) the Architects, Charles Webb & Sons were members of the congregation.(5)(8) The contractors for the building are no longer known, though details of their fees remain. The new "Jubilee School" as it was called was opened on 23 March 1888 by Bishop Goe (after whom three streets in Caulfield are named). A substantial brick hall was built behind the class rooms in 1904, thus creating the Sunday School building as it is today. The architect for this project for £120. Sir George personally guaranteed the mortgage of £1,200 obtained from the Bank of Victoria, and a further mortgage was obtained from Messrs. Eckroyd and Langdon (of "Rose Craddock").(5) The well known firm of Reed & Barnes was the architect for the new building, for which their

With the robing of the choir in 1912, considerable inconvenience was experienced in providing space for changing.

As a result, Arthur Peck drew up plans for a new vestry situated on the north side of the church. It was designed in such a way, in bluestone, as to harmonize with the existing building, and to allow for any future expansion. Thus, the external appearance of St. Mary's as we know it today was complete.(1)

The internal appearance of the church also changed over the years, apart from those alterations resulting from structural additions. The most notable change was that in the position of the organ which had first been in the north transept. In 1933 the organ building firm of George Fincham & Sons erected a new organ in the south transept where the gallery had been, at a cost of about £2,000 excluding the re-purchase price of the previous Fincham organ.(4)(7) The north transept later became the Jane Chapel, in memory of Jane Hall Lempriere and her daughter Jane McRobie Lempriere.(2).

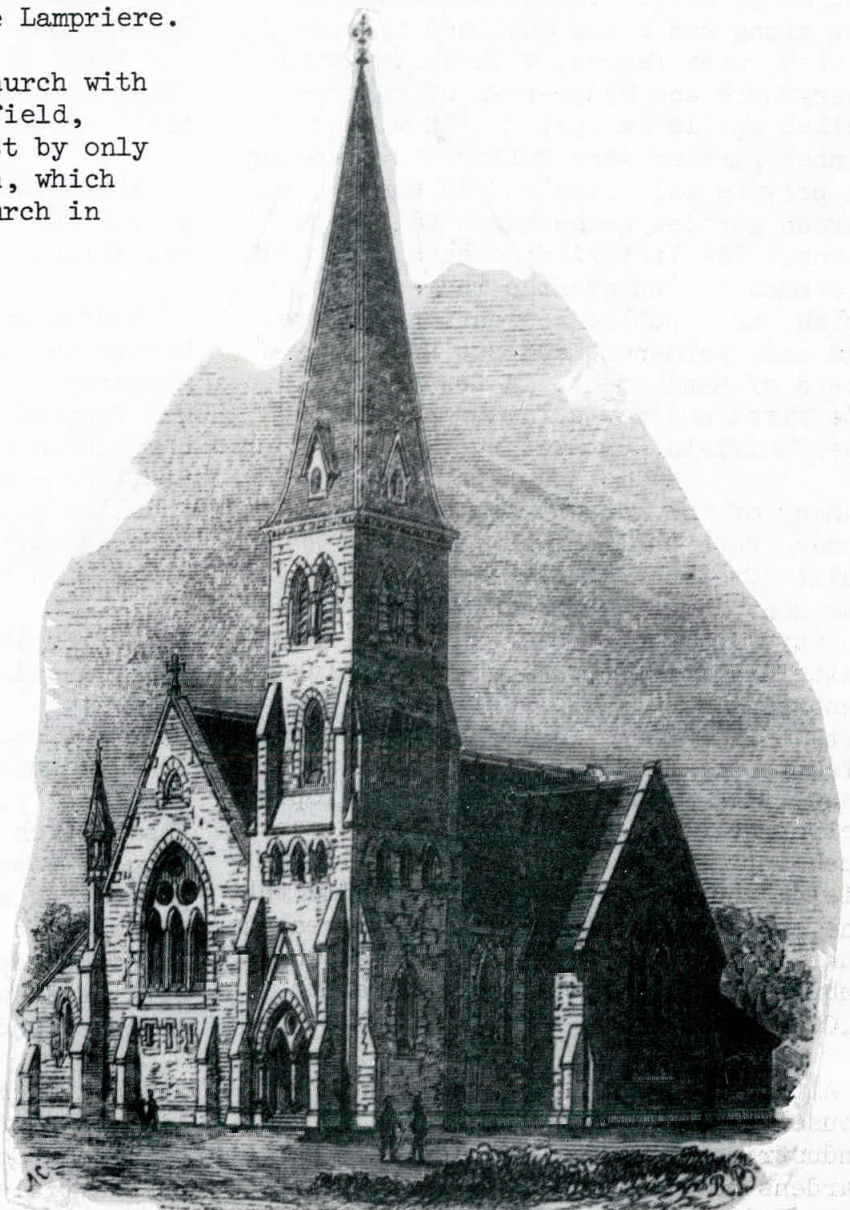
St. Mary's is the oldest church with a continuous history in Caulfield, beaten for the honour of first by only two years by the Union Church, which is now the Congregational Church in Orrong Road.

## References:

1. St. Mary's Jubilee Books 1858-1908  
1858-1918
2. First One Hundred Years of the Church Building 1871-1971
3. Victorian Historical Magazine, Feb. 1972.
4. Prospectus and other information on the Grand Organ for St. Mary's.
5. St. Mary's Church Records - financial statements 1870-1896.
6. Foot survey maps 1853
7. Maidment, J. Gazetteer of Victorian pipe organs.
8. Australasian Builders and Contractors News 1887.

St. Mary's Church,  
Caulfield

"Illustrated Australian News"  
1870-1874, p.148



## EARLY CAULFIELD

By Mrs. A.P. Bell

Continued from Issue No.5.

### SHIRE OF CAULFIELD

The Road Act was repealed and replaced by the Road Districts and Shire Act of 1863. This Act reduced the square miles qualification for a Shire, and stressed the size of its population.

With incredible rapidity, the Shire of Caulfield's nine square miles from Rippon Lea to Murrumbeena, from Dandenong Road to North Road, became studded with mansion homes. The changing scene is described as a shire of estates of gentry, members of the Melbourne Hunt Club riding to hounds together, gay, laughing, bright-coated huntsmen galloping along red roads outlined by two-railed, white fences, with white gates everywhere and hedge-rows of golden-balled wattle in spring. In winter, dinner parties were followed by dancing in private ballrooms and in summer, gay garden parties gathered on well-kept lawns. The Victorian Amateur Turf Club did much to improve the race-course, which, as a public recreation reserve, was made permanent and put under a Board of Management. A few years later the first and now a famous annual event, the Caulfield Cup, was run.

Many of the men who owned the mansion homes were public figures; Judge Webb built "Crotonhurst", (now demolished); the Hon. James Service, Premier of the Colony, and whose home was "Kilwinning", Balaclava Road, sponsored the world-renowned Torrens Transfer of Real Property Bill through Parliament; and Henry Ricketson, who built "Glen Eira", became associated with J.B. Were in developing Melbourne's Stock Exchange. Many more such interesting people settled in Caulfield, and an official report tells that the shire's importance is "so increased, that it has become one of the leading suburbs," with a population of about 3,000.

Although at this time the mansion-house phase dominated Caulfield, local industries were also developing. Market gardens covered many clearings, Garden Vale being named at this time. Caulfield

sand became well known for moulding purposes, and several moulding mills were established.

Brick kilns and saw mills served the building industry; and coach-building and blacksmithing became important. There was an attempt at large-scale industry in Rosstown (Carnegie), where a private railway and large sugar mill designed by Thomas Watts of Road Board days, were built to cope with the sugar beet cultivation in Gippsland. Unfortunately for the instigator, William Murray Ross, the sugar was refined elsewhere, and the very large factory became known to the locals as "Ross's folly," but he gave the district its early name.

Caulfield became an important railway junction, with two main lines passing through Caulfield railway station, the South Yarra to Oakleigh and Gippsland line, and the Caulfield to Frankston line passing through what was then Glen Huntly Road (now Glen Huntly) Station and North Road (now Ormond) Station. The Outer Circle railway passed through Rosstown and Murrumbeena.

About this time, the land at the north-east corner of Hawthorn and North Roads was already reserved for a general cemetery.

Education, both State school and private, became an essential feature of the Shire. As early as 1881, Caulfield Grammar School was founded by J. Henry Davies, M.A., for day scholars and boarders. The school provided - and still does - for a classical and liberal education. Its progress has been steady and continuous, and the school remains an honoured centre of learning.

During these years the Shire Councillors planned and built the present Town Hall (1884), with a Court House and a post office as part of the building. Such progress was regularly reported in the local paper, "The Caulfield and Elsternwick Leader". Councillor William Langdon represented the Caulfield born generation and Councillor the Hon. F.S. Grimwade is also frequently reported. Both the reporting of international affairs as well as local news were of a high standard.

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