

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

# 18

NEWSLETTER

August 1981  
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## MEETINGS - THIRD WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT 8.00 P.M.

PRESIDENT:	MRS. F. CAMPBELL	TEL: 523 9228
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Publication of this Newsletter has been renewed after a lapse of some considerable time.

It has been numbered consecutively after the last issue and we hope that in future this Newsletter will be issued on a regular basis.

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To be ignorant of what occurred before we were born, is to remain always an ignorant child.

It is the duty of each one of us to investigate the history of our family, where they lived, what they did, and where they died.

For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the lives of our ancestors and their descendants, by the records of history.

MARCUS TILLIUS CICERO  
46 B.C.

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## THE YEAR PAST

1980/81 has been an excellent year for this Society, many new members have joined, and more important, most have continued to attend our meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month, December and January excepted, at the Caulfield Town Hall.

We are entering a new era for interest in local history, not only in Caulfield, but throughout the State of Victoria.

Until a few years ago, we, as Australians showed little or no interest in our past. This country, everyone said, was too new, in a history sense, we had no heritage, and insufficient time had elapsed since our first beginnings for any appreciation of our history to be formed.

This idea has now, fortunately, changed - there is a great awakening to our National Heritage and under the guidance of the

Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Historical Societies are being formed throughout the State.

The history of any Nation, State, City Shire or Town consists of the individual lives of its inhabitants, and records of these should be preserved and recorded for posterity.

The Caulfield Historical Society was formed some ten years ago for just this purpose, to record the lives, and deeds - good or bad - of our forebears.

Remember always what we as citizens of Caulfield do, and how we act today, will be of interest, and recorded by our descendants, fifty or one hundred years from now.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

19 AUGUST 1981 Guest speaker at this meeting will be Mrs. THOMPSON of the National Trust of Australia.

Mrs. Thompson will speak on the early days, and formation of the National Trust.

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16 SEPTEMBER 1981 Guest Speaker at this meeting Miss E. HAYNES, Secretary of Prahran Historical Society, and for many years Chief Librarian of Prahran Library.

Anyone who has had the privilege of hearing these ladies speak, will know we are in for a rare treat.

Please make these two dates known. Bring your friends - with luck, you may be served supper.

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## NEW MEMBERS

All members are requested to speak to their friends about our Society.

Bring them along to our meetings and suggest that they join.

## HONOURS TO CAULFIELD RESIDENTS

A man who has been deaf from birth has received an Anzac Award for his work for the deaf and handicapped.

Dr. Pierre Gorman of Caulfield learned to speak so fluently and to lip read, he was able to lecture at Cambridge University, where he obtained his Ph. D.

Dr. PIERRE GORMAN Ph. D. (Camb.) Sci. (Melb.) B.E.D. (Melb.) was born in 1924 The family home was in OTIRA ROAD, CAULFIELD, and in the first year of his life it was obvious that he was congenitally deaf, which at that time implied that he would also never speak.

His parents, Pat and Marthe Gorman had him taught sign language, the generally accepted method of those days in educating a deaf mute.

Pierre's parents finally took their son to see Dr. HENRIETTE HOFFER, a doctor in Paris who had achieved some success in teaching handicapped children speech and language.

Pierre's mother, after returning to Melbourne with as much information regarding Dr. HOFFER'S methods as she could obtain, contacted the Deaf and Dumb Institute in St. Kilda Road, and arranged for a teacher to be made available to teach her son to speak using Dr. HOFFER'S technique.

Pierre attended Grimwade House from the age of 5 years, then later Melbourne Grammar, Melbourne University where he graduated in Agricultural Science, a remarkable achievement for one who had never heard a spoken word.

After graduating, he returned to Paris and obtained a position as a student teacher in Dr. HOFFER'S clinic.

From there he went to London and studied at Cambridge for four years, obtaining his Ph. D. after a thesis called "Certain Social Physiological Difficulties Facing the Deaf Person in the English Community".

Then followed honorary work at the Royal National Institute for the Deaf in London.

Back to Melbourne where he joined the staff of Monash University as a research co-ordinator, attached to the Faculty of Education. Later he became Senior Lecturer in Special Education at Monash.

This Caulfield boy, born with a shattering disability, is a most worthy winner of the Anzac Award. He has shown great spirit in overcoming his difficulties, and in helping other afflicted people.

June Epstein has written a book on the life of Pierre Gorman - he was the son of another great Australian, Sir Eugene (Pat) Gorman - entitled "No Music By Request".

Dr. Pierre Gorman was presented with his Anzac Award by the Governor Sir Henry Winneke at Government House.

"No Music By Request" is a fascinating book, and should be essential reading for anyone interested in the Sons of Caulfield, social work and its problems of the disabled or in fact anyone who enjoys an inspiring story.

*Article, Courtesy of "CIVY" Official Magazine of Caulfield Central Returned Service Club.*

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## GLENHUNTLY ARCHITECT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Mr. Victor ZERNOWSKI, a Glenhuntly Architect has won a major housing design contest.

Mr. ZERNOWSKI was one of three architects whose work was selected as

equal first in a contest which was conducted to promote innovation and the use of composite construction.

The competition was an exercise in design and planning, to encourage new ways of thinking about economy of construction and climate control.

Mr. ZERNOWSKI was presented with his award by the Federal Minister for Housing, at a function at the Sydney Hilton Hotel.

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Mrs. G.E. WEBSTER of 2 LISCARD STREET, Elsternwick, was honoured recently at a luncheon at the Caulfield Town Hall.

Mrs. Webster was retiring as President of the Mission of St. James and St. John after a record 52 years in office.

This Auxiliary was formed in 1925 and Mrs. Webster was elected President in 1929, a position she has held with distinction since that time. She has been only the third President of the Auxiliary during its long history.

Although the Auxiliary is small, having only seven members, they managed to raise \$1400.00 for the Mission during the past year.

Mrs. Webster was born at Geelong as Gertrude McCann in 1887.

She later moved to Melbourne where she eventually married Mr. Harold Webster, who became Mayor of this City in 1944.

In addition to having been Mayoress of Caulfield, Mrs. Webster has been actively connected with many charitable organisations - Mission of St. James and St. John, Queen Victoria Hospital, Southern Memorial Hospital.

She holds the 52 year medal from the Queen Victoria Hospital for her charitable work for that Organisation.

The new President of the Glenhuntly Auxiliary of the Mission of St. James and St. John is Mrs. Harry Thompson, a life long friend of Mrs. Webster.

The Secretary of this Organisation, Mrs. J. Smith of Wattle Avenue, Glenhuntly has held that position since 1934.

The Caulfield Historical Society offers congratulations to these ladies for their many years of charitable work.

PROPOSED NEW REGIONAL AREA

Brighton Historical Society were hosts to a meeting at HIGINBOTHAM HALL on 14 June, to discuss the formation of a new Southern Regional Association of Historical Societies.

Delegates from Malvern, Caulfield, Prahran, St. Kilda, Brighton, Moorabbin, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne were in attendance.

No definite plans were made, but a further meeting will be held during September.

Venue and date to be arranged.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

The Society's Annual Subscriptions which are due on 1 July of each year are:-

ORDINARY SINGLE M/SHIP	\$3.00
FAMILY MEMBER	\$5.00
CORPORATE MEMBER	\$5.00
LIFE MEMBER	\$100.00

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FAIRFIELD HALL  
225 NORTH ROAD, STH. CAULFIELD

Once more a historic house has fallen under the Auctioneer's hammer.

Fortunately this old "house on the hill" will be preserved. It was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Tony White at public auction for \$431,000.00 and will be restored.

Brighton Historical Society beat us by organising a visit to this historic house on 30 May 1981.

Only four of our members were present at the special viewing.

Congratulations to Brighton Historical Society for a well organised afternoon.

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"LITTLE CROTON"

During the past year our members and their friends have enjoyed outings to historical buildings. Probably the most enjoyable being an invitation issued by Mrs. Marie Langdon to visit her very lovely home, "Little Croton" at Beaumaris.

"Little Croton" is closely connected with a former Caulfield Mansion, "Crotonhurst", now demolished which was the residence of Mr. Justice Webb.

Much of the original furnishings of "Crotonhurst" is incorporated in "Little Croton" - the beautiful front door, stained glass windows, Judge Webb's seal let into the marble front entrance. Truly a beautiful home, not a show piece, but a lived in, warm home.

Mrs. Langdon is a charming and gracious hostess and she entertained twenty members of the Society, allowing them to explore her home and take photographs, after which she provided a most lavish afternoon tea to all her guests.

A very enjoyable and instructive visit.

Thank you Marie Langdon. We owe a debt of gratitude to Miss Rene Anderson who organised this outing.

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#### "ISABELLA"

Following the Society's visit to "Little Croton", it was recommended that a brass plaque be placed on the statue "Isabella", which is on display at the Caulfield Town Hall.

This statue which was originally at "Crotonhurst" and later at "Little Croton" was donated to the City of Caulfield by Mrs. Langdon.

"Isabella" was the daughter of Mr. Justice Webb. She died in India of smallpox at the age of 19 years, during 1876, and the statue was commissioned by her father to commemorate her memory for posterity.

After receiving permission from Caulfield Council, the plaque has now been attached.

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#### PRESENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN FLAG AND CASSETTES

Early this year, Mrs. Joan Child, Federal Member for Henty, presented to the Society an Australian Flag, together with cassettes of the Australian song and National Anthem.

Mrs. Child stated that this presentation was probably the first made to a Historical Society, by a member of Parliament and certainly the first time she had done so.

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#### ROSSTOWN RAILWAY

As well as being the Bi-Centenary of the foundation of Australia, the year 1988 will have a special significance for Glenhuntly and Caulfield.

November 14th 1988 will mark the centenary of the only passenger train to use the Rosstown Railway, between Elsternwick and Oakleigh.

Caulfield Historical Society has offered to co-operate with Caulfield Council in celebrating this event.

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#### NEW HOME FOR OUR RECORDS

After trying for some time to obtain a home for our records, we have now been offered a room at Caulfield Central R.S.L.

Thanks to Councillor Max Blair, Treasurer of the R.S.L. who made an offer of a large room at the Club rooms in Hawthorn Road, we have moved most of our records from the Town Hall and collected those previously in safe custody with members of the Society, and they are now located at one central place.

To Max Blair and the Committee of the R.S.L. a sincere "Thank You" for their interest and co-operation.

Much work is yet to be done - filing, sorting, cataloging etc.

In a very short time we hope to be in a position to display all our records for research by our members, and the general public.

Our normal monthly meetings are still being held at the Town Hall.

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#### DONATIONS

##### PHOTOGRAPHS:-

Koornang Road Carnegie (1919)  
Donated by Mr. F. Bell

Caulfield Racecourse (1922)  
Donated by Mr. B.D. McGregor

Railway Crossing Murrumbeena (1913)  
Donated by Hermes Photo Studios

Opening of Gardenvale Railway Station (1906)  
Donated by Miss. Wood

Caulfield Military Hospital (1918)  
Donated by Mrs. Bowman

Framed Numbered Copy of City of  
Caulfield's Coat of Arms  
Donated by Caulfield City Council

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History of Caulfield - from "Land, Swamp  
and Heath"  
Donated by Mr & Mrs R. Sims

Minute Books and History of St. Peters  
School - Murrumbeena 1919 - 1942  
Donated by Mr D. Lethbridge

Special Marriage Licence  
Donated by Mrs M. Bromfield

Sketch of "Labassa"  
Donated by the National Trust of Australia

All these donations are invaluable additions to our records, and they are sincerely appreciated.