

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

19.

APRIL 1982

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

ISSN 0310-1703 20 cents

EDITOR — R. BALLANTYNE

Published Twice Yearly — April and October
Meetings - Third Wednesday of each month excepting December and January
Location - First Floor, Caulfield Town Hall at 8.00 pm

PRESIDENT:	MRS. F. CAMPBELL	Tel: 523 9228
SECRETARY:	MR. R. BALLANTYNE	Tel: 578 3145
TREASURER:	MR. R. SIMS	Tel: 528 1661

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“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is a success” — Arabian proverb

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What do we, as an Historical Society, hope to achieve during 1982? During the short period of our existence (our inaugural meeting was held on 13 September 1972), we have achieved a great deal, thanks to those dedicated members who, starting with nothing, but with tremendous enthusiasm, built up a collection of records which would be the envy of many Societies which have been in existence for a much longer period of time.

However, we must not rest on our laurels, there is still much to be achieved, a great deal of research to be done and recorded.

There are so many aspects relating to the history of Caulfield, which have not even been discussed, let alone explored.

We must preserve the evidence of the past — write about it, make the community aware of it, particularly in our schools, by providing material for the students' projects — make the public aware of the knowledge we have gained over the past ten years.

It has taken two hundred years for most of us to appreciate the history of this nation. Now, however, historical parks are commencing to attract large crowds of people, seeking to discover how this country developed, and many books about our past are being written and read.

Many people are tracing their family history, and take pride in the part their ancestors played in the development of this country.

The dictionary defines history as “the recording for posterity all those events, which happened before we were born, and those events which are happening now”.

All members of this Society have a definite obligation to present, and future generations, to continue to research, collect and preserve, events relating to the history of this City.

Let us all work together to achieve this aim.

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HISTORICAL BUILDINGS ACT 1974 “MYOORA” 405 ALMA RD., CAULFIELD

We have been advised by the Historic Buildings Preservation Council that the above building has been added to the Register of Historic Buildings as such, is subject to the provisions of the Historic Buildings Act 1974.

It is entered in the Historic Buildings Register No. 490 and was gazetted on 21 October 1981.

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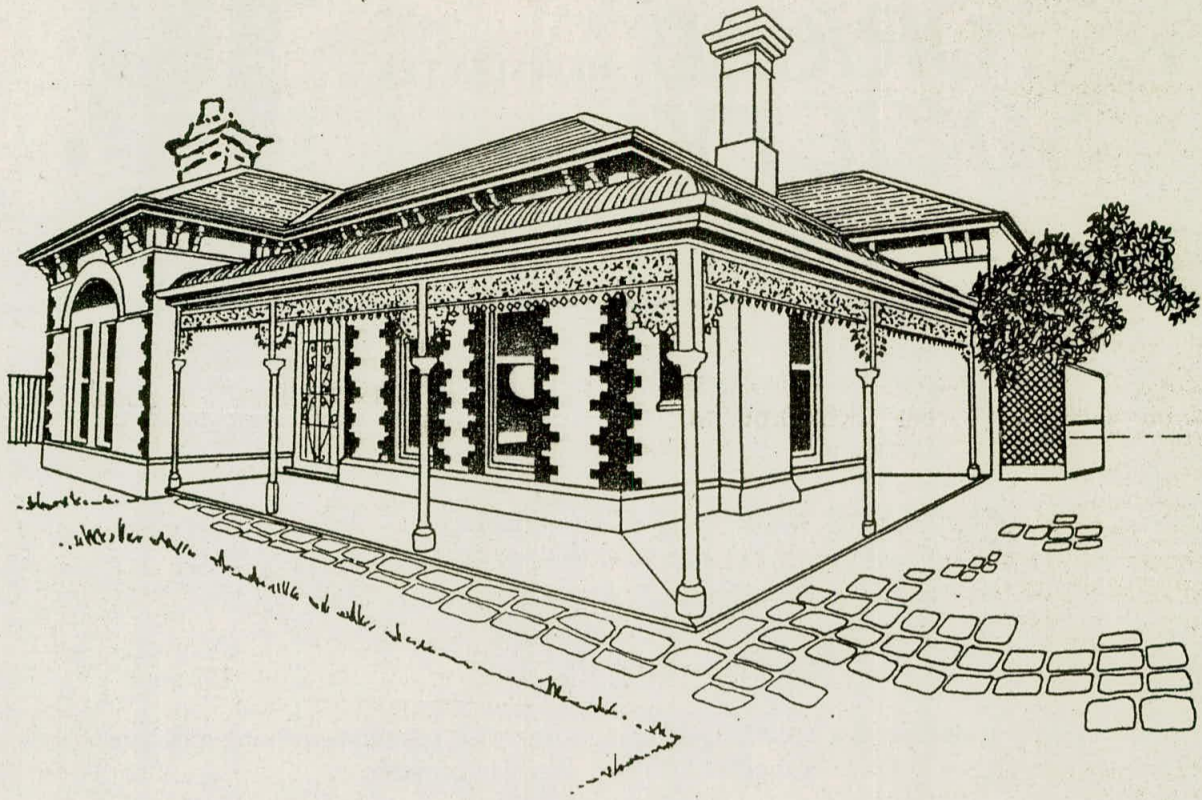
FIRST SETTLEMENT SITE SULLIVAN BAY — SORRENTO

Caulfield Historical Society was pleased to donate an amount of \$20.00 to the Nepean Historical Society in response to an appeal by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, for funds to help preserve the early settlers graves at Sullivan Bay.

We also accepted a supply of stickers to help this very worthy appeal.

There are still a few stickers available at 20c each (contact the Secretary).

"WOODBINE" circa 1880



CLASSIC VICTORIAN HAWTHORN BRICK 7 ROOMED VILLA

The name "WOODBINE" originated in Tonbridge, Wells, England during the last century and the name was carried on with this old home situated at 18 Adelaide Street, Murrumbena.

The original owners — the Rice family, were drapers in England, and migrated to Melbourne during 1870.

The family established a prosperous business in Flinders Lane and eventually built "WOODBINE", in Hawthorn bricks, following the style of the original home in England.

It is believed that this home is the last remaining example of its type in the Murrumbena area.

The Rice family retained ownership until a few years ago, and it remains untouched from the original design.

The house, hidden from the street, is set in and surrounded by an old world garden, and is enclosed on two sides by a very wide verandah.

In the living rooms, the original marble mantles, and open fireplaces remain intact. The master bedroom has a dressing room and ensuite bathroom.

There are several cellars, built under the house, and the servant's bell system is still fully operative.

This property was auctioned on 21 November 1981, but was passed in at \$85,000.

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ABOUT PEOPLE — IN CAULFIELD

A resident of Caulfield for more years than he cares to remember was honoured in the New Year Honours List.

Mr. AUGUSTUS ALBERT THEOBALD B.E.M. who is the proprietor of an electrical business in Glenhuntly received a very popular award of the British Empire Medal for his contribution to athletics.

Mr. Theobald, who is 84 years of age, can be seen at his business each day, and is still active in athletics.

He has been either a competitor, or an administrator on Victoria's athletic scene for the past 48 years, most of them with the Glenhuntly Amateur Athletic Club. He is still a very active member of that club, and regularly participates in their activities.

Mr. Theobald has won many medals in Olympic and Empire Games during his long and active life, the latest of which were two gold in the five and in the twenty kilometre walks, at the Christchurch Veterans Championships early last year.

He has set his sights on the National Veterans' title to be held in Perth this month.

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WANTED !!! ONE QUART POT

We are anxious to obtain possession of a quart pot. If anyone can assist please contact the Secretary.

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ROSSTOWN HOTEL 1910

As long as the "Rosstown Hotel" retains its position in Koornang Road, Carnegie, there is no danger of the district's original name being forgotten.

The hotel was one of the few local institutions which resisted the change of name from "Rosstown" to "Carnegie" in 1909, in the hope, which was not realised, of obtaining an Andrew Carnegie Library grant.

The hotel was known to exist as Soames Hotel before 1880, and was a stopping place for Stage Coaches on their way from Melbourne to Oakleigh.

When Murray Ross applied for the Rosstown Junction Railway to serve his beet mill in 1878 and gave his name to the area, the hotel followed suit, and its name was changed from Soames to Rosstown.

In those days, it was a small two storey building with verandahs, horse trough and hitching posts.

During 1927, the original building was demolished and the present structure completed.

Rosstown Road, Carnegie, also keeps alive the old name of Rosstown.

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CENTENARY OF CAULFIELD-MORDIALLOC RAILWAY

The Caulfield to Mordialloc Railway which opened up Melbourne's south eastern suburbs was 100 years old on 19 December 1981.

The line was opened on that day by Thomas Bent, M.L.A., Minister for Railways, who was later to become the Premier of Victoria.

The Caulfield line was originally at ground level with level crossings at stations along the route.

In 1881, the Caulfield-Mordialloc line was a single track, although the then Melbourne-Caulfield section had a second track.

The 16 kilometres between Caulfield and Mordialloc consisted then of market gardens and small farms, on which much of Melbourne's night soil was dumped.

The stations in those days were surrounded by paddocks.

This line was duplicated in 1888, and in 1912, the South Yarra to Caulfield line was rebuilt, with cuttings replacing the level crossings. The whole of the Caulfield-Frankston line was electrified in 1922.

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NEW REGIONAL HISTORIAL ASSOCIATION

On 25th October, 1981, delegates from six Historical Societies attended a meeting in Caulfield to launch a new Regional Historical Association.

Representatives from Historical Societies of Caulfield, St. Kilda, Prahran, Sandringham, Malvern and Brighton attended.

The new Association will be known as the Southern Metropolitan Regional Historical Association., and membership is open to all Societies in the Southern and South Eastern metropolitan area.

All delegates attending the meeting pledged their support for the new Association, with one exception, whose Society elected not to join.

Caulfield wishes the new Association the best of luck in this venture. We all can only benefit by getting together and exchanging ideas and problems.

Let us all work together for the good of historical research, pool our knowledge, and discuss our problems.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

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A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF CAPT. OSWALD KINGSLEY SNOWBALL MBE MASTER MARINER BY HIS DAUGHTER MISS BETTY SNOWBALL

Oswald Kingsley Snowball was born at Brighton, Vic. during the year 1889.

He was the eldest son of D. R. SNOWBALL, the member for Brighton after Tommy Bent, and was later speaker for the Legislative Assembly.

Oswald Snowball began his sea-faring career at the age of 18 when he was apprenticed to Messrs. Birt, Potter and Hughes of London in 1907. This apprenticeship lasted until 1911.

At the conclusion of his apprenticeship he was promoted to Junior Officer, and served with several ships "DEVON", "ESSEX", "SOMERSET", "ASHBRIDGE".

During February 1913, he joined McIlwraith, McEachern Ltd., as Third Officer, serving in turn in "KOMURA", "KOONDA", "COOLGARDIE", and "KOORYONG".

In the outbreak of World War I he was transferred to the hospital ship "KAROOOLA" and later to the Troop Ship "KATOOMBA", where he served for the duration of the war, during which he obtained his Second Mate's Certificate.

During this time he proposed to and was accepted by Miss Ella Kirkham of Elsternwick.

Ella Kirkham was the youngest daughter of Mr. C. F. Kirkham who was president of the Shire of Caulfield during 1892 and Mayor of the Borough/Town of Caulfield in 1905, and was a great believer in the establishment of the Rosstown Railway.

Kirkham Road in Murrumbeena commemorates his name for posterity.

Oswald Snowball and Ella Kirkham were married at Saint Cuthbert's Presbyterian Church Wilson Street, Brighton on 16 December, 1915, the ceremony being performed by Rev. John Sinclair.

1919 saw Second Officer Snowball transferred back to "KAROOOLA". He sat for and passed the examination for Chief Officer (First Mate) in that year, and was then transferred to "KATOOMBA" in which ship he remained until 1928.

During this year he was ordered by the ship's agents to proceed to Dundee, Scotland and take command of the new ship "KOOMILYA", which was then under construction.

When she was completed, he was given authority to sign on a crew, provision her and sail back to Australia.

First Officer Oswald Snowball now Captain Snowball arrived home with his first command during 1929, and was then transferred back to his former ship "KAROOOLA" as Chief Officer and Relieving Master.

Late in 1935 he was commissioned to take command of the "KAROOOLA" where he remained until the end of her coastal run in 1936.

His next appointment was as Chief Officer of "KAMIMBLA" and in November 1936 was appointed Captain of "KATOOMBA" with short periods as Relieving Master of "KAMIMBLA".

It was during 1942 that Ella Snowball passed away, and it was during this period of World War II that Oswald Snowball was transferred to the Troop Ship "KATOOMBA" as Captain where he remained for the duration of the war.

For his service and devotion to duty during this period he was awarded the MBE.

In 1950 he was ordered to Sydney to "stand by" for the completion of the refitting of M.V. "KAMIMBLA" by the Navy at Cockatoo Docks, and on completion of this work took over command where he remained as Captain until his retirement in 1957.

Captain Oswald Kinglsey Snowball had 51 years of service, rising in the Marine Service from apprentice seaman to Captain and during the years 1939 - 1956, was Senior Captain for McIlwraith, McEachern & Co., Ltd.,

He died at Elsternwick in 1964 at the age of 75.

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VISIT TO WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On 28 February 1982, thirteen of our members and friends were the guests of the Williamstown Historical Society for an inspection of their museum, and a personally conducted tour of their very historical city.

After viewing the museum which is a must for anyone interested in the early history of Victoria, we retired to the gardens where we all had a picnic lunch.

We were then met by the Society's Secretary, Mr. W.C. Murton, who conducted us on a two and a half hour walk around this very old City, explaining the many places of interest and their historical significance.

We thank the Williamstown Historical Society for opening their museum especially for us. To Mr. and Mrs McKey, Curators of the museum and to Mr. Murton who gave up his time to give us a delightful guided tour along the Historical Walk, very special thanks.

A very enjoyable day was had by all those participating.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED

MASONIC BUILDING ?
No. 345 BALACLAVA RD., CAULFIELD

Some time ago, we had an enquiry from one of our members regarding the origin of a building on the South East Corner of Balaclava and Kambrook Roads.

The top of the building bears the square and compass of the Masonic emblem and is dated 1889.

Enquiries have been made to the Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Victoria for information regarding this building, but they have no record of it ever being a Masonic Temple.

They have enquired through their official journal "The Victorian Mason", but to date no information had been forthcoming.

It has been suggested by Mr. H. Head, a member of our committee, that the person who had this building constructed was himself a member of the Freemason's Lodge, and had the emblem placed on the building for his own pleasure and satisfaction.

If anyone can supply information regarding this old building, please contact the Secretary.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1982/82

Since our formation in September 1972, our membership fees have not altered.

Everyone will agree that all prices, including printing and postage (our two main expenses) have escalated tremendously during the past ten years, and your committee, reluctantly, has no alternative but to recommend to the Annual Meeting that our membership subscription be increased.

Subject to the majority of members attending the General Meeting, which will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, September 15, 1982, agreeing to this recommendation, our membership fees for 1982/8 will be slightly increased from that date.

All members of this Society are urged to attend this meeting, if at all possible.

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FURTHER DONATIONS REQUIRED

While this Society appreciates, and is very grateful for the many donations it has received, it is believed that many residents of Caulfield, including members of this Society, have in their possession relics and documents, relating to a post-era.

The Caulfield Historical Society urgently requires gifts of Post Office Directories, Sands & McDougall Directories, Electoral Rolls, old Telephone Books, Photographs, Wages Books, Ledgers, Minute Books, of organisations and clubs, Histories of Organizations in the Caulfield area.

Volunteers are also required who would be prepared to place their recollections of the early days of this City on tape to be preserved for posterity.

Would every one please check their cupboards, attic, garage etc., and see what can be found.

Now that we have a permanent house in which to store and display our records, anyone making a gift, or even an article on loan can be assured that these will be well preserved.

All gifts will be acknowledged and a permanent record kept in our files recording the names of the donors, and date of the donations.

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DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

History and By-Laws of Huntingdale Golf Club
Donated By:- Mr. & Mrs. D.I. Christie,
East Bentleigh.

Records of Caulfield Progress Association
Plus letters & newspaper reports of the City
of Caulfield.

Donated By:- Miss McNamara - Caulfield.

Jubilee Medal - Issued by Caulfield City Council
to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee 21 June
1887.

Donated By:- Mr. B. McAllister - Glenhuntly.

Photos of "Fairfield Hall" - North Road,
Caulfield.

Master Mariners' Certificate - 9 July 1881

Donated By:- Mr. & Mrs. Ballantyne,
Glenhuntly.

Sands & McDougall Directory - 1911.

Victorian Municipal Directory - 1931.

Plus Several Early Edition Novels.

Donated By:- Mrs. Gayle Gilbert - Bairnsdale.

These donations are a welcome addition to our records, and this Society accepts them with sincere appreciation.

All donations have been personally acknowledged.

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