

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

OCTOBER 1982

EDITOR: R. BALLANTYNE

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Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month excepting December & January.
Location: First floor, Caulfield City Hall at 8.00 pm.

PATRON: His Worship The Mayor of Caulfield,
COUNCILLOR W.R. WALTERS, M.B.E., A.E., J.P.

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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*"EVERY DAY IS A NEW BEGINNING,
THERE IS NO ENDING TO THE PAST,
THE PRESENT HOLDS THE FUTURE, AND THE PAST!"*
J. McL. B

"AND THEN WE WERE TEN"

This year is the Tenth Anniversary of this Society's inaugural meeting, held at the Caulfield City Hall, on 13th September 1972 and it seems appropriate to refer to an address given on that occasion, by Mr Weston Bate Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Melbourne.

Mr Bate said in part:

"Preserve the evidence of the past, write about it, talk about it! Make the community aware of it and of the existence of your Historical Society, particularly in the Schools. Make the public aware of the historical material you have, by conducting displays.

One of the features of the past ten years in Australia, particularly in Victoria, is that Historical Museums and Societies are attracting a great deal of attention and the public are becoming more aware and interested in the past.

The work of an historical society, can help make history very much alive to the community, by indicating **how the bond between the past and the present is so closely linked.**

There is something for everyone to do and enjoy in being a member of an historical society, but do not only attend the meetings and discussions - **DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE, BECOME INVOLVED AND ACTIVELY BELONG. DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOUR SOCIETY.**

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY REUNION SUPPER

To celebrate our Tenth Anniversary, our Committee has organised a Special Anniversary Reunion Supper, which will be held in the Reception Room at the City Hall on 20th October, at 8 p.m.

This evening will include items of special interest, plus our Guest Speaker **Mrs Gwen McWilliam**, a well known Authoress and Historian, an expert on local history and a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Mrs McWilliam's subject will be:

What's In A Name?

All past and present members of the Caulfield Historical Society and their friends, are invited to attend this evening.

"TEN YEARS ON" . . .!

At our first meeting on 13th September, 1972, the then newly elected Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Ron Walters, kindly consented to become our first Patron.

Ten years later, Councillor Walters has again been elected Mayor of this City and he has again agreed to become our Patron.

We are deeply appreciative of his Patronage and congratulate him on his election to the highest position this City can bestow.

COUNCIL OFFERS ASSISTANCE IN HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Caulfield Council recently appointed Mr B. Carroll as Senior Records Officer at the City Hall.

Mr Carroll has intimated that he will co-operate with this Society and has offered all possible assistance in any research we wish to conduct.

We are sincerely grateful for his assistance, co-operation and enthusiasm.

10th ANNUAL MEETING

Our Tenth Annual Meeting was held at the Caulfield City Hall on Wednesday, 15th September, 1982, before a large number of members and their friends and also representatives from other Historical Societies.

Our President, Mrs F. Campbell, in her Annual Report, stated that our membership remains constant at seventy-five financial members, including two Life Members, Mr F. A. Arden and Mrs D. McKellar.

She outlined the activities of the Society during the past year, which included a number of Guest Speakers and several excursions of historical interest.

Mrs Campbell thanked her Committee for their support and on behalf of the Society, expressed her appreciation to the Caulfield City Council for granting us the facilities of a meeting room for our monthly meeting and also to the Caulfield Central R.S.L. for a room in their Club, in which to store our records.

Miss Molly Roberts a member of our Society and also Secretary of the St. Kilda Historical Society was our Guest Speaker for the evening.

Miss Roberts talk entitled "St. Kilda Yesterday and Today" was both entertaining and informative and thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

Miss Gwen Rowe thanked Miss Roberts for her talk on the history of St. Kilda and presented her with a Caulfield Historical Society Souvenir Tea Towel.

ABOUT PEOPLE IN CAULFIELD

HONOURS TO A MEMBER OF OUR COMMITTEE MISS GWEN ROWE COURT OF COMPANIONS

Miss Gwen Rowe was honoured recently, during the celebrations to commemorate the Centenary of Brighton Grammar School, for her dedication and long service to both the school and to education.

Gwen was a member of Staff at Brighton Grammar from 1959 to 1974 and during the Centenary celebrations, plaques were unveiled, on which the names of the recipients of the honour were engraved.

These plaques were placed on a wall in a small garden alcove in the grounds of the school.

The citation reads: "To commemorate all those who have played a major role in the operation and development of the School, either as Members of Council or Staff".

Also honoured was:

Mr B. V. M. SCULLAR - COURT OF COMPANIONS

who was a member of the School Council from 1958 to 1968.

The scouting fraternity in Caulfield will remember Basil as a very active Chairman of the Caulfield District Scout Association during the years 1953 to 1963.

The Caulfield Historical Society offers sincere congratulations to both Gwen and Basil, for their well deserved recognition, of jobs well and faithfully done.

CAULFIELD FESTIVAL

Caulfield City Council is conducting a Festival of Arts and Fun during the period from 27th November to 5th December 1982.

Caulfield Historical Society is proud to be associated with the first of this ambitious project and will be organising a photographic display on the balcony of the City Hall.

We will also be working in conjunction with the Festival Committee in arranging tours of the city including the many Historic Homes of Caulfield.

HISTORIC TEA TOWELS

This Society has been fortunate in obtaining a very limited supply of pure linen tea towels, which we are selling in aid of our funds.

These attractive tea towels have been printed in Melbourne and feature a drawing of Sydney Smith's proposed Caulfield Shire Hall of 1884.

They are unique in that this hall, as designed by Sydney Smith, was not built owing to lack of finance by the then Shire.

The tea towels would make ideal Christmas gifts, not only to keep, but also for overseas, or interstate relations and friends.

OUR PRICE ONLY \$2.50 each

Orders may be lodged with:

MISS E. MEEHAN, MRS M. BALLANTYNE, Telephone: 578 3145, or any member of the Committee.

BUT HURRY!

THEY ARE SELLING VERY QUICKLY.

BIOGRAPHIES OF CAULFIELD RESIDENTS

One of the many aims of this Society is to collect and publish the Biographies and Autobiographies of Citizens of Caulfield.

In our last edition we commenced with a history of the life of Captain Oswald Snowball, Master Mariner, M.B.E.

This issue records the very busy life of:

Mrs GLADYS MACHIN, O.B.E., J.P.

Gladys Machin was born at Castlemaine, as Gladys Shaw during 1895 and she was the eldest of six children.

Her father was a miner at Castlemaine and later a farmer at Romsey Her mother, a Midwifery nurse.

Gladys Shaw was educated at St. Mary's Catholic School for girls, at Romsey and sang in the choir at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

At the age of eighteen, she moved to Western Australia, where she taught music, but during the war of 1914-1918 decided to become a nurse and commenced her training in that State.

At the conclusion of the war, she returned to Romsey, without completing her training.

As a young bride, married to Captain Gordon Wallace, M.C., she moved to Caulfield in 1920 where she became involved in voluntary organisations. In 1950 she stood for Council and was elected by large majority.

Her election to Council was a triumph for women, she said, because all sitting Councillors opposed her. She was the first woman to be elected to Caulfield Council.

Some time after the death of her husband, she married fellow Councillor L. R. Machin and together they have made a lasting contribution to the Local Government of this City.

The citizens of Caulfield, young and old, have a great deal for which to be grateful to this dynamic woman.

As a Councillor, she started the Elderly Citizens Centre, as a place for people to meet and find encouragement, in facing the problems of existing on limited means.

She organised the Meals on Wheels Service in Caulfield. This service commenced by providing twenty meals each day at two shillings each.

Today the Meals on Wheels Service is a complex operation, providing over six hundred meals daily.

In 1958 Councillor Machin started the Caulfield Voluntary Workers Shop.

Funds raised at this shop were used to develop the Elderly Citizens Club, now the Gladys Machin Senior Citizens Club.

The profits from the shop today, are all donated to the Southern Memorial Hospital, Caulfield Hospital and Caulfield Council to help finance their relief work.

She said just recently, that the greatest satisfaction she has received during her long and active life, was doing something to help people less fortunate than herself and she has been doing this for the past sixty-two years.

Gladys Machin has never asked anyone to do something she was not prepared to do herself. She has cooked and delivered meals for the Meals on Wheels Service, she has laid bricks at the Senior Citizens Club. She has scrubbed floors. She has done everything that she has asked her voluntary workers to do.

Her motto is, "that if we expect to receive some satisfaction from our comparatively short life, we must be prepared to put something worthwhile into it."

Mrs Machin also stated that she has noticed that too many people these days join organisations, pay their small subscriptions and do nothing to assist the organisation to which they belong. Be **ACTIVELY** involved, she said.

During her fifteen years as a Councillor, Gladys Machin has organised: **Meals on Wheels Service, Home Help, Senior Citizens Club, Caulfield Voluntary Workers Shop, The Caulfield Youth Centre.**

She has been President for forty years of the Soldier, Sailors and Airmens' Mothers' Association and this organisation has named two homes after her.

She has been Mayor of Caulfield twice in her own right, 1955, 1966 and again in 1959/1960 and Mayoress, assisting her husband as Mayor 1962/1963 and again 1970/1971.

Mrs Machin received the M.B.E. and later the O.B.E. for outstanding Community Service.

She retired from the Caulfield Council at the age of 70 after 15 years service but Gladys Machin will never retire from Voluntary Community Service.

At the age of 87 years young, she is still totally involved.

This City of Caulfield has a great deal for which to thank her.

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THE ELSTERNWICK CLUB
RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN BY
C. PULLMAN, SECRETARY

The Elsternwick Club was founded during 1899 by a number of enthusiastic gentlemen residing in the vicinity of Elsternwick which forms part of the City of Caulfield.

The object of these gentlemen was to have an exclusive club "where they could meet for pleasant social chatter and partake of games such as Billiards, Snooker, Cards, Dominoes and Chess and later to play Lawn Bowls."

The members of the Elsternwick Club first met in the Picture Theatre Building in Glenhuntly Road, now demolished and later they occupied premises at No. 3 St. Georges Road, Elsternwick.

Anxious to own their own bowling green, the members disposed of their property to the Returned Soldiers League and purchased the old home "STANMERE" at the corner of St. Georges Road and Sandham Street, Elsternwick.

After laying down a 9-rink bowling green, an area of land facing St. Georges Road was subdivided and sold for residential purposes.

The building itself required many alterations to comply with the requirements of the Club, but it soon became popular as a meeting place for its members.

In 1971 sixty lady members were enrolled and this number was later increased to 100.

The Elsternwick Club is recognised as a most exclusive club and the Club Rooms are classified by the National Trust.

MRS DORIS MCKELLAR

Mrs Doris McKellar, B.A., LLB., as reported in our Newsletter Supplement No. 2/82, has found it necessary to resign from our Committee, as she is no longer residing in Caulfield.

Mrs McKellar is a foundation and Life Member of this Society & all members wish her health and happiness at her new residence and thank her for her contributions to the Caulfield Historical Society.

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INTERESTING MILESTONES OF HISTORY

The City of Caulfield this year celebrates 125 years of history.

Covering nine square miles of territory, bounded by South, Dandenong, North Roads and Nepean Highway, it was declared a Road District on 15th October, 1857.

The first members of the Board were: Chairman, Gilbert HANDASYDE Esq. and other elected members, Messrs John Single, William Lyall and Thomas Wilson.

The first minute book of their deliberations is preserved in the archives of the City Hall.

Caulfield was declared:

A Shire in 1871

A Borough in 1901

A Town in 1901

A City in 1913.

At the Centenary Celebrations on 9th October 1957, the then Mayor, Councillor A. J. G. SINCLAIR paid a tribute to the early residents of the City, who laid the solid foundations on which following generations have built.

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PACKER RESERVE

Packer Reserve, which is now known as Packer Park immortalises the name of John Thomas Packer who was born at Prahran on 14th January, 1884.

He was elected to Caulfield Council during 1918 and became Mayor in 1920 and again in 1931 and 1945.

Packer Park, in Leila Road Carnegie, covering nine acres, was originally purchased for 3000 pounds and transformation of the then area of swampy ground was commenced during 1949.

It was officially opened on 7th November, 1952, before a large audience of 2000 people.

The history of Packer Park is closely linked with the many sporting clubs now using the park:

THE WASHINGTON CRICKET CLUB.

This Club had its beginnings in 1924, when a group of young people played cricket in Washington Avenue, East Malvern. During the year 1927, these young cricketers

officially commenced competition matches in the Caulfield Citizens' Association.

The Club went into recess during 1939/1945 but later reformed using the wicket at Lords' Reserve, Munroe Avenue, Carnegie.

During 1952 the Cricket Club moved to Packer Park and now has a second eleven.

CAULFIELD HORSE AND PONY CLUB

The first general meeting of the Pony Club was held in a private home on 26th November, 1956.

Caulfield Council granted the Club a portion of Packer Park and the annual fees were sixteen shillings for each member.

During 1957 the Club was affiliated with the Pony Club Association of Victoria and the British Horse Society.

In 1977 the four teams sent to the 10th Annual one-day event, all gained a place in the finals.

During 1978 the games team represented the zone at the State Finals and in 1979, a Club member was zone team Captain at the State Dressage Championships.

Today the occupants of Packer Park include:

Carnegie Bowling Club, Caulfield Horse and Pony Club, Washington Cricket Club, South Eastern Football Umpires Association, Murrumbeena Football Club, Caulfield Junior Football Club, Carnegie Amateur and Brighton and South Caulfield Professional Road Cycling Association.

Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies also use the hall in the park.

Packer Park, a truly international sporting arena used by a vast cross-section of Caulfields' sporting community.

KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee for the period 1982/1983, at the Annual General Meeting, held at the Caulfield City Hall, on Wednesday, 15th September, 1982.

PRESIDENT

Mrs. F.E. CAMPBELL

VICE PRESIDENTS

MISS B. SNOWBALL

MISS, E. MEEHAN, B.A., DIP.ED., DIP.OT., DIP A, RMIT.

TREASURER

MR. R. K. SIMS, A.A.S.A.

SECRETARY

MR R. C. BALLANTYNE, F.I.C.M.

COMMITTEE

MRS. K. MEEHAN

MISS G. ROWE F.L.C.M., T.P.T.C., T.I.T.C.

MR. H. HEAD

MRS M. BALLANTYNE

MISS H. FORD

MISS N. WARD

REPRESENTATIVES:- SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

DR. MARY CHENNELS, B.SC., PHD. LOND.

MR. T. HART

We acknowledge the following donations, which are a welcome addition to our records and this Society accepts them with sincere

addition to our records, and this Society accepts them with sincere appreciation.

ILLUSTRATED CHILDRENS BIBLE 1875

DONATED BY MISS M CATOMORE - CAULFIELD.

"THE UNFOLDING HILLS"

HISTORY OF MIRBOO NORTH, 1874-1914

COLLINS AUSTRALIAN CLEAR SCHOOL ATLAS - 1914

ANTIQUE BLOUSE, SMALL CANE BASKET C.1890

SEVERAL BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

HISTORY OF CAULFIELD

DONATED BY MISS J. SEARLE - CAULFIELD

PROGRAMME - Caulfield City Council Australia Day Breakfast 1982

DONATED BY MR AND MRS R SIMS, CAULFIELD

PROGRAMME - Handels Messiah, Caulfield City Choir

EARLY NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF THE CITY OF CAULFIELD

DONATED BY MISS E. MEEHAN, CAULFIELD

CASH DONATIONS OF:

\$25.00 - Councillor W.R. Walters, Carnegie

\$50.00 - Mrs. J. Matthews, Parkville.

PROGRAMME OF MUNICIPAL CONCERT

RE-OPENING OF MELBOURNE CITY HALL, 15 DEC. 1927

DONATED BY MR AND MRS F. OSBORNE, CARNEGIE

1895 PAGE OF "THE ARGUS"

PHOTO OF "HALSTEAD" 1900, BAMBRA ROAD CAULFIELD

DONATED BY MISS M ALLENDER, CAULFIELD

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**"THE GOOD OLD DAYS"
OR**

"BACK PAGES OF HISTORY"

TENDERS ARE INVITED for the purchase of the Lease of Stables, Rolling Stock etc. of the Caulfield Tramway.

LOT "A" - Freehold property in Forster and Murray Streets.

160ft x 145ft on which are erected large and convenient tram sheds and stables.

LOT "B" Rolling stock, including four cars, seven horses, harnesses etc. ALL IN GOOD ORDER.

"THE ARGUS" December 1895