

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

23

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

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Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month excepting December & January.

Location: First floor, Caulfield City Hall at 8.00 pm.

PATRON : The Mayor of Caulfield
COUNCILLOR : Dorothy J. FORD J.P.

PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER

Mrs. F. Campbell
Mr. R. Ballantyne
Mr. R. Sims

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"NO MAN LIVES IN VAIN,
THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IS BUT
THE BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL PEOPLE"

Thomas Carlisle. 1795-1881.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVES ASSOCIATION ESSAY COMPETITION

What will in future, be an Annual Essay Competition, conducted by the Australian Natives Association, for History Students under twenty one years of age, last year (1983) attracted over two hundred entries from all over Victoria.

Prizes of Bursaries were awarded to :-

SENIOR SECTION Judith BOWTELL, Kildara College, Hawthorn

JUNIOR SECTION Andrew SCHEP, Geelong High School

Judith's essay reads in part :-

"The need to preserve our Victorian Heritage is more important than cost or efficiency, and goes deeper than beauty and sentiment.

Heritage is :- "What is, or may be inherited". This is much more than buildings and sites, but Art, Music, Myths, Legends, and the very spirit of our forefathers.

AS THE GENES FROM OUR GRAND-PARENTS, AND GREAT-GRAND-PARENTS shape our individual appearances, so does Victoria's heritage mould the identity of all Victorians.

We need to be able to look back on the past. We need continuity in our lives, and a link with history gives us that.

As Lord Collingwood once said :- "People without history are people without memory". To have a tangible link with the past gives us a more concrete feeling of what once was. To be able to see and use what our ancestors achieved, let us share in their struggles, and hardships.

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To be able to see and walk through such buildings as "Ripponlea", "Como", "Labassa", "The Mitre Tavern", helps us to know and appreciate a little of what life was like in those early days, more clearly than reading about it in a history book.

However, Melbourne, Victoria, and the rest of Australia, is no longer entirely British, it is a multi-cultural cosmopolitan area, and our preservation of heritage must be fully aware of this.

The Joss House at Bendigo, and the Burning Towers at Beechworth, reflect the Chinese influence to our history, and must be preserved.

The Victorian Society has changed over the past one hundred and fifty years, and before, so preservation must be done cautiously, and must take into account the changing lifestyle of Victorians."

Extracts of Andrew's Prize winning entry in the Junior Section are :-

"We need to keep our Victorian Heritage for the next generation of Australians, so they can realize their identity.

Perhaps we, and our parents have received much from our Grandparents, and Great-Grandparents in the way of stories, photos, and exploits, and we have benefitted, because these were first-hand accounts. But as time passes memories fail, and the past becomes more vague, distorted and exaggerated.

By preserving our heritage we save something that is the common property, and the right of every Australian. They become aware of, or are reminded of the fact, that the history of civilization is made up of contributions from everyone; and is really "The Biographies of all the People".

Perhaps it is not always convenient to preserve historic properties, or maybe finance is not always available in such quantities as required for restoration, but it is now becoming a very rare thing for our relics of the past to be swept aside by ignorance or carelessness.

Councils, Historical Societies, and other authorities, are beginning to see history, PARTICULARLY LOCAL HISTORY, as very necessary as an aid to their economy. It is no longer treated with benevolent smiles, but is calculated as a definite asset to the community.

Many Councils have their own historian, and are also providing buildings or rooms, to their local Historical Societies, in which to display records of the history relating to their area.

There have always been the echoes, the shadows, and whispers from our past, and now in increasing numbers we have these tangible and priceless reminders of what life was like in those early days of this Country.

In a world which is increasingly torn by troubles, our history which has been preserved, provides something stable and lasting, helping to make us aware of the creative genius of mankind, which can lift a Nation above the frustration of day to day problems."

These extracts from the winning essays are published Courtesy of A.N.A. Press June, 1983.

MAYOR TO BE OUR PATRON

We are pleased to announce that our newly elected Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Dorothy J. Ford, has agreed to be Patron of this Society during her current term of office.

Mayor Ford has been a Caulfield Councillor since 1977, her parents, Howard and Ruby Simms, were Mayor and Mayoress of this City of Caulfield during 1944/1947, and again during 1953/1954.

To Mayor Ford, who recently said "I have served my apprenticeship", the members of the Caulfield Historical Society offer sincere congratulations on being elected to the highest position this City has to offer.

OUR OWN HOME - AFTER WAITING ELEVEN YEARS

Everything, so it is said, "comes to those who wait", and this Society has been waiting for eleven years to obtain a room in which to store and exhibit our historic materials.

We can now advise that, owing to the generosity of the officials of the Caulfield Central R.S.L. in Hawthorn Road, we have been granted the exclusive use of a large room in the Club Building, in which to display our possessions.

This Society is indebted to Councillor Max Blair, Treasurer of Caulfield Central, and the Executive Officers of the Club, for making this room available to the members of the Caulfield Historical Society, and to them, we offer a very sincere "Thank You" for the sympathetic hearing, and immediate co-operation received.

THESE ROOMS WILL BE OPEN TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

EACH TUESDAY, COMMENCING TUESDAY 27th MARCH, 1984

FROM 2.00pm to 4.30pm

First Floor, Caulfield Central R.S.L. Hawthorn Road, Caulfield. Turn right, at the top of the stairs, or the lift.

SOCIAL OUTING TO WILLIAMSTOWN

On Sunday 8th April, 1984, a social outing to Williamstown has been arranged, to inspect the Maritime Museum on "H.M.A.S. Castlemaine".

Once again, we are indebted to the Caulfield City Council, for making available a Mini Bus, for transportation of those members, and friends who do not have private transport.

Our party will leave Caulfield City Hall at 10.30am. and will return at approximately 5.30pm.

A donation of \$1.00 per person will be charged for all members and friends, travelling by Mini Bus.

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC LUNCH

1983 CHRISTMAS STAMP

We have all admired the 1983*85c Christmas Stamp, which has not only been seen by thousands of Australians, but also by people in many overseas countries.

This stamp was designed by Justine Jacoby, a twelve year old student at Caulfield North Central Primary School. Justine's design was one of three National winners chosen from thousands of entries, submitted by Primary School children throughout Australia, in the Australia Post competition, for a stamp design depicting "What Australian Christmas Means to me".

Justine won \$1,300 for her school; \$50, and a plaque for herself. Her stamp features a sun-lit beach scene, crowded with holiday makers, enjoying the Australian sun. She said that scenes of snow were inappropriate for Christmas in Australia.

This Society offers sincere contratulations to Justine, a very talented young lady.

"SAGAMORE HILL"

CAULFIELD'S LINK WITH U.S.A. PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

"Sagamore Hill" is tucked away, not far from Orrong Road, in Sagamore Court, which was cut from, what once was a five acre property, known as "Sagamore Hill Estate".

It is reliably reported that a "Gentleman" by the name of Sage, built a house there in 1910. He was a personal friend of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States of America, and was often the guest at the President's home, "Sagamore Hill", at Oyster Bay, Long Island, so it was perhaps natural that Sage should name his new home in Caulfield, after that of the President's.

The house origionally stood behind large trees, which hid it from the street. It was a solid family home, with none of the showy decorations, and high ceilings, so evident in so many of the late 19th century Victorian houses.

The land on which the house origionally stood has been reduced to half an acre, but it is still possible to imagine it is in a country area, and there are views of the Bay from the upper windows.

HERITAGE WEEK IN CAULFIELD

8th to 15th April, 1984

The sixth Annual Heritage Week, instituted by the National Trust, will be celebrated this year from 8th to 15th April.

The Caulfield Council, and Caulfield Historical Society, are combining to produce a week of entertainment to suit all tastes, full details of the week's programme have been published in the "Caulfield Contact".

Our main involvement will be organising and arranging a display of Historical Artifacts, in conjunction with Mr. B. Carroll, Senior Records Officer at the City Hall. This display which will be open to the public on Friday April 13th to Sunday April 15th will contain many items of unusual Historic interest, and can be seen in the main City Hall.

An Autumn Showing from Caulfield's Parks and Gardens Department, and the Garden Clubs of the City will also be on display.

A special request is made to all residents, if you have anything at home that is of Historic interest and you would consider lending them to the City Hall, for the display, please contact Mr. B. Carroll, Senior Records Officer, Tel. 524.3333, or the Secretary Caulfield Historical Society, Tel. 578,3145.

EVERY CARE WILL BE TAKEN WITH BORROWED ARTICLES

All artifacts need to be at the City Hall, no later than 5th April, in order that they may be catalogued.

THE BIOGRAPHY CORNER

THE BIOGRAPHIES OF CAULFIELD RESIDENTS

My Recollections of the early days in Caulfield

as told by

Mrs. Margery Bromfield

"I was born Margery Reed, at Ballarat in 1904.

Before moving to Caulfield, I lived with my parents, one sister and one brother, at Jeetho, and Jumbunna, in South Gippsland.

In 1910 my family moved to Nathan Grove, Caulfield, near the corner of North and Hawthorn Road. Caulfield in 1910 was so different from what it is today, paddocks as far as one could see, market gardens and dairy farms. There were not many houses between Kooyong and Hawthorn Roads.

During our early days in Caulfield, my family lived in a tent, and one room which father built. Father eventually built a five roomed house, with the help of the Rev. Kelly, who was the Church of England minister at St. Catherines. Rev. Kelly helped build the house on Saturday afternoons, so dad would be able to attend church on Sundays.

St. Catherines, was then at the corner of Sycamore and Poplar Streets, it was moved to Kooyong Road about 1913 and we could easily walk to Church through the paddocks, and quite often see foxes, rabbits and snakes. There were a lot of snakes. We would often find a snake curled up in the outside toilet of our home, for warmth.

On Bonfire Nights, we would all have lots of fun, collecting branches from dead trees, and then have our own fire. Children from all around would come to our Bonfire, and we would have crackers, bung bungs, catherine wheels, tom thumbs, but most of all, laughter.

As school children, to earn extra money for Christmas and Birthday presents, we would go to the local Market Gardens, and dig and bag potatoes for two shillings and six pence (25c) a bag, or top and tail onions for the same payment.

Each year the pupils at our school, Caulfield State, No. 773, would have penny concerts in the Caulfield Town Hall, and we all had to walk to the Town Hall, as the tram did not come that far.

Who can remember any of the teachers at Caulfield State No. 773, who were there during 1910 - 1914?

Who can recall - The Head Master Mr. Whitburn, Miss Whitburn, Miss Frost, or Mr. Roberts?

When St. Catherines Church was in Sycamore Street, we used to go into the Church and say our prayers each day before going to school. Miss Pretty and Miss Taylor were our Sunday School teachers, and Miss Taylor gave me a Bible in 1910 which I still have, because I didn't have one of my own.

The Tram Line was eventually extended from Elsternwick Station to Hawthorn Road, and all the local children collected used tram tickets with advertisements on them. When we collected a certain number, showing the same advertisement, we could get a free ticket to the Renown Theatre in Elsternwick.

We always used to walk from home in Nathan Grove to Elsternwick, to do our weekly shopping, BUT THEN our dad bought a horse and cart, and I used to ride the pony to do the messages.

After World War 1. Mr. Alex Younger, who owned the Mansion House "Fairfield Hall" which was built in 1888, and is still a private home, sub-divided his land into building blocks and made Fairfield Grove, and Younger Avenue, so our childrens' playgrounds were going.

At the Bambra Road side of the Brighton Cemetery, where the bush was very thick, the gypsies and swagmen used to camp, they would stay for a while and then move on, but they came back each year at the same time. The Council Sanitary Depot was located here during 1910 - 1916.

1919 - THE FLUE EPIDEMIC

I was a victim, and was taken to the Exhibition Buildings, which had been opened as an Emergency Hospital. I was there for four weeks, and saw many people die, it made a deep impression on me, I was only fifteen years old. Schools were closed, and no one was allowed on the streets unless they wore a gauze mask over their mouth and nose. Some people even wore masks in their homes.

Along with hundreds of other patients, I lay on a mattress on the floor, and when someone died, the first to the vacant mattress claimed it as their own. I was one of the lucky ones. I recovered.

I eventually joined the O.S.T. Lodge, which used to hold their meetings in the Congregational Church Hall in Garden Vale Road. In 1921, we visited the Malvern O.S.T. Lodge, and I met the lad who was to become my husband for forty five happy years.

He was an original ANZAC from the 1914 - 1918 war, and we were married at St. Catherines Church in 1924, and came to live in Carnegie where we bought a house, in which I still live, for 999.0.0 pounds and paid it off at one pound each week, over twenty years.

1926 THE GREAT DEPRESSION

When the depression started, many people lost their jobs. During 1927, the Federal Government brought in what was called Sustenance. Everyone out of work could apply for Sustenance, but they were required to work, mostly on making roads, laying tram tracks, and other community projects, for which they were paid one or two pounds each week. That helped to pay off this home we were buying.

When we came to live in Carnegie, in 1924, there were paddocks all the way to North Road, and just a few houses. My husband eventually was employed by the Caulfield City Council until his failing health caused him to retire in 1940.

I have lived in Caulfield since 1910 (seventy four years) and have many happy memories of this City. Memories of School, Church, O.S.T. Lodge, working for the Military Hospital, friends made, and lost".

ED. NOTE. The epidemic of pneumonic, or Spanish Flu in Australia, killed 11,552 people, New South Wales had 6,224 casualties, and in Victoria 3,561 people died. In all States, Schools, Theatres, Race Courses, and Hotels were closed.

WHY CAULFIELD?

There have been many theories regarding the origion of the name of Caulfield, as applied to this Municipality.

The "Prahra Telegraph" dated 26th July 1913, published the following account of the origin of the name of this City, and it is reproduced in this News Letter, without comment :-

"Why was the name Caulfield bestowed on the Municipality? In the early days names were chosen almost haphazardly by the local surveyors appointed to carry out a survey of the land around the settlement of Melbourne.

St. Kilda was named after a visiting yacht, Prahra from the Native name, meaning "Partly surrounded by Water", Gardiner, now Malvern, from the settler who first pastured his cattle on the banks of the creek which adjoins one of its boundaries.

"WHAT SHALL WE CALL IT" cried the Surveyor engaged in this District, to his Staff. Turning to one of his clerical assistants, he asked, "What is your name?"

"Caulfield", was the reply. "Very well, said the Surveyor, "We shall call this District CAULFIELD."

And so the name was bestowed, a name which has achieved renown, not only as a steadily progressing Municipality, but also as that of the home of one of the leading race courses in Australia".

"The Seal of the Corporation which has been adopted for Civic purposes, is taken from the Arms of James Alfred Caulfield, Viscount of Charlmont, and Baron Caulfield of Charlmont, Usher of the Black Rod to the Order of St. Patrick, and Controller of the Household of Successive Lord Lieutenants of Ireland".

ED NOTE. The Coat of Arms of The City of Caulfield has changed, but the motto remains the same :- "LABORE VINCES" - By LABOUR YOU WILL CONQUER, or more literally, "Through Effort You Will Succeed".

REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

This Society has been advised by the Department of the Ministry for Planning and Environment, Historic Buildings Council, that an application has been received by them, to add "Rippon Lea", 192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick, to the Register of Historic Buildings.

We were invited to submit any information we might have, regarding the Historic and Architecural importance of either the buildings or the gardens.

This information we were pleased to supply.

THROUGH THE PAGES OF HISTORY

As reported in The "Melbourne Evening Standard" 21st September, 1889.

AUCTIONS "Messrs. Hammil and Forrester, have received instructions from the owner, Mr. Renwick, to sell by Public Auction, on Thursday, 26th September, 1889, the Property known as :-

"ROYSTON"

Kooyong Road, Caulfield

This house was built by the present owner, in a most substantial manner, and contains large and lofty rooms, and is fitted with the most modern conveniences. The house is surrounded by five acres of land, consisting of flower and vegetable gardens, an ornamental paddock, and the house adjoins the Mansions of H. Ricketson Esq. and many other fine properties.

ACCOMMODATION

THE PALACE HOTEL

BOURKE STREET EAST.

Offers private bed rooms, single or double, for two shillings and sixpence per night, or two Guineas per week, full board.

Our bedrooms are fitted up in the most luxurious modern style, not to be equalled in any Hotel in the Colonies.

Each room has hot and cold running water, and they are all fitted with the "ELECTRIC LIGHT!"

Enjoy a luxurious holiday at the Palace Hotel,

Right in the very centre of Melbourne".

DONATIONS RECEIVED

The following donations have been received since publication of our last News Letter, and they all are accepted and acknowledged with sincere thanks.

Chafing Dish C.1900
Collar Box and Wing Collars
Mushroom Stocking Darner
Draftman's Ink Container

Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Haig, Heathmont.

Book of Poems - "Doreen" by C.J. Dennis 1917

Donated by Miss J.L. Smith, Romsey.

Sheet Plate Glass (48" - 22")
Three Plate Glass Shelves, For Glass Cabinet.

Donated by Miss J. Searle and Family.

"Australux" Photo-Slide Screen
"Waterworth" 300 Watt Projector

Donated by Mr. & Mrs. E. Charles.

History of Glen Huntly Bowling Club. 1914 - 1964

Donated by Mr. A. Jones

Book. "Born in the Boom" by Hazel Shankley.
History of St. John's Anglican Church, East Malvern.

Donated by Mrs. M. Woodward, Miss G. Rowe.

Poster. Leggets Ballroom New Years Eve Carnival
31st December, 1935.

Donated by Miss B. Snowball.

Auction Notice. "LIRREWA" Lirrewa Grove, Caulfield
1st December 1983.
Sold for \$352,200

Donated by Mrs. K. Meehan.

Photo. Old house, cnr. Allison and Meaney Streets, Caulfield, 1937

Donated by Mr. B. Carroll.

Book. Voyage of the Fishing Lugger, "MYSTERY" by P.C. Humphrys.
An account of the voyage of the "MYSTERY", from Newlyn Cornwall,
to Melbourne, 18th November 1854 to 14th March 1855.

Donated by Mrs. M. Bromfield.

(Mrs. Bromfield's G.G. Grandfather, William Badcock, was a member of "THE MYSTERY'S" Crew)
