

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

24

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OCTOBER 1984

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THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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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 : Brian Rudzki, A.A.S.A., F.T.I.A.

PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER

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

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"RESOLVE TO PERFORM WHAT YOU OUGHT
PERFORM WITHOUT FAIL WHAT YOU RESOLVE"

- Benjamin Franklin 1706 - 1790

Now that our Society is firmly established in it's own Headquarters, and has so much more to offer to our members, and the general public, it is time we shed our cloak of complacency, and got out and about, in a serious drive to attract new members.

No organization can hope to survive, unless it has a regular transfusion of new blood to produce a stimulus to the present members, who, during the years we have been in existence have achieved so much by their loyalty and dedication, in laying the foundation for a virile, active Society.

History, especially local history, is today creating more interest than ever before, and people are taking a pride in the part their ancestors played in the development of this country, and the way of life pertaining to those early days.

THE INTEREST IS THERE, so let us all tap the resources available, and each and every one of us endeavour to enlist one new member during the next twelve months. Let us ask our friends, and neighbours, to at least attend one of our meetings.

WE MUST PUBLICISE OUR SOCIETY

LET US ALL RESOLVE TO "PERFORM WHAT WE OUGHT", in the interest of our Historical Society. We have a lot to offer.

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VICTORIA'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

SOUVENIR TEA TOWELS

As most Victorian residents are aware, this State will be celebrating it's 150th Anniversary during the twelve months commencing on 17th November, 1984.

To help commemorate this historic event, your Society has had manufactured in Victoria, a number of pure linen tea towels which feature an original drawing by Sydney Smith, a leading Architect of that era, of the proposed Caulfield Shire Hall of 1884.

These tea towels are of a very limited edition, and as they will not be repeated, will very soon become a collectors' item. They are extremely suitable for Christmas gifts to friends and relatives, not only in Australia, but also to those overseas.

They are reasonably priced at only \$2.50 each, and are available at any of the Society's meetings, or at their room, First Floor, Caulfield Central R.S.L., Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, which is open every Tuesday from 2.p.m. to 4.30p.m., or they may be ordered by telephoning 578 3145.

PURCHASE OR ORDER NOW, AND AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

DIRECTORY OF FOUNDATION STONES AND COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES.

At a General Meeting of this Society, held on 19th August, it was unanimously resolved by all members present, that as a part of our contribution to the 150th Anniversary of Victoria, we would compile a Directory of all Foundation Stones, and Historic Plaques in Caulfield.

Everyone can assist in this project, and it is not too early to start getting around and about, and making a list of any Foundation Stones and Plaques in their immediate vicinity.

THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IS :-

Name and location of building

Wording on stone or plaque

Date, and by whom it was unveiled.

Co-opt your friends to assist you in this project.

After these lists are returned, they will be recorded and indexed.

LET US ALL PERFORM WITHOUT FAIL WHAT WE PREVIOUSLY RESOLVED

THE BIOGRAPHY CORNER

The Biographies of Caulfield Residents

My Great-Great Grandfather Arthur John Reed

As told By

Mrs. Margery Bromfield

CAN YOU CLAIM TO BE A DESCENDANT FROM CONVICT STOCK?

It is the "in thing" these days to be able to prove that one's ancestors were of convict stock. To have forebears who were banished by the Courts of England to the Colony of New South Wales, or the Penal settlement of Van Diemen's Land, is to belong to a select band of people who qualify for membership of either "Descendants of the First Fleet", or "Descendants of Convict Stock".

The original Fleet sailed from Portsmouth, England, on 13th May, 1787, under the Command of Captain Arthur Phillip, a Royal Navy Officer, in charge of a fleet of six transports, three store ships, a frigate, an armed tender, and six hundred male and two hundred and fifty female prisoners, proved guilty of misdemeanours ranging from petty theft to murder. The Fleet arrived safely at Botany Bay on 20th January, 1788.

Historians are today claiming that many crimes were committed by the under privileged classes of England, in order to gain a free passage to the new land of hope, as the conditions in the New Australian Colony were, in many cases, proved to be superior to those which existed in England at that time.

Mrs. Margery Bromfield, a very keen member of this Society, can claim the distinction of having convict ancestors, and she has the official papers to prove it. She told our roving reporter that her Great grandfather, Arthur John Reed, after being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted of horse stealing, and sentenced to deportation for life, to Port Arthur, Tasmania.

He sailed in the prison ship "Lady Harwood" during 1829, and arrived at Port Arthur later in the same year. After serving ten years of his life sentence, he was granted a Ticket of Leave in January 1839, and a Full Pardon in 1842.

While Arthur Reed was serving his sentence, he met a female prisoner, Helen Livingston, who was deported from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Tasmania, for stealing five flat irons from her employer. She sailed from Southampton in 1829, in the prison ship "Nellish". She would have been in the same fleet as Arthur, but they did not meet until some time later, after arriving at Port Arthur.

During 1845, Arthur Reed, now a Free Settler, applied for permission to marry Helen Livingston, and after some delay this was eventually granted.

After their marriage in Tasmania, they eventually sailed across Bass Strait to the mainland of Australia, and settled in the mining town of Steiglitz, (Vic.).

Arthur and Helen had one son, who married Alice Kelnac, and they had fifteen children, one of whom was to become Margery Bromfield's father, and the descendants of this union have lived in Caulfield since 1910.

Refer Newsletter No.23. for continuation of this family history.

MAYOR TO BE OUR PATRON

We are pleased to announce that His Worship, The Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Brian Rudzki, had kindly accepted our invitation to be Patron of this Society during his term of office.

This Society has always enjoyed a cordial working relationship with "City Hall", and we are certain that this will continue under the Patronage of Councillor Rudzki.

IN APPRECIATION

The members of the Caulfield Historical Society wish to place on record their thanks to the following members of Caulfield City Hall, for their advice and assistance during the past year :-

To Caulfield City Council, who have allowed us the free use of a room each month, in which to conduct our meetings. For this concession, we are extremely grateful.

To Mrs. Carol Harry, Mrs. Sonja King, Mrs. Kathie Catlow, and Mr. Bernie Carroll, their co-operation at all times has been sincerely appreciated.

To Hallkeepers, Bill and Ken, for being so patient with us, when we sometimes overstayed our time during the meetings.

To all these friends of the Caulfield Historical Society, we offer a very sincere "THANK YOU", for the friendly co-operation we have received during 1984.

THE ELSTERNWICK CLUB

Sandham Street, Elsternwick

During the year 1898, a Joseph Tatchell conceived the idea of forming a club, to enable the "more prosperous members of Caulfield's community to meet on socially acceptable terms".

Jospeh Tatchell was a prominent local business man, who was very active in both the local A.N.A. and the then newly formed Progress Association. At his suggestion, a group of professional, and local business people, met at a two story shop in Glen Huntly Road, adjoining the "Phoebe Theatre", later renamed the "Renown Theatre".

At this meeting, a Committee was formed and authority given to purchase a building at a location suitable to the majority of members. It was also resolved that the name should be "The Elsternwick Club".

The first office bearers of the club were :-

<u>President</u> :	Mr. T.C. Sharp, J.P.
<u>Vice Presidents</u> :	Messrs. A.G. Akhurst, C.F., C.F. Kirkham. J.P.
<u>Hon Treasurer</u> :	Mr. A.E. Little
<u>Hon. Secretary</u> :	Mr. J.T. Tatchell
<u>Committee</u> :	Messrs. F. Brace, G. Clements, A. Dunbar, F.W. Johnston, G. Masters, J. Spiers.

During the following ten years the Club prospered, and in 1908, it was resolved that larger premises be obtained, with the object of setting up a three rink bowling green.

Subsequently a property was located in St. Georges Road, Elsternwick, and a three rink green established at the rear of this building.

By 1918, it was obvious that the building in St. Georges Road was not large enough to accommodate the influx of members, and a property then known as "Stanmere" was purchased for twenty thousand pounds (forty thousand dollars). This finance was raised partly by the sale of the premises in St. Georges Road, to the newly formed Returned Servicemens' League.

"Stanmere", home of the Elsternwick Club, still presents an almost unaltered old world charm and dignity. The National Trust of Victoria has recorded the building as being of considerable interest.

The land area is part of original crown allotment No. 260 to Thomas Monahan, in 1860, part of which included "Ripponlea".

Subsequent sub-divisions trace the property to W.H. Short in 1885, J.C. Melvin 1910, A.E. Lillie and E.W. Wilson 1920.

Members who have served both the Club and the Municipality with distinction include :-

T.C. Sharpe	President, Shire of Caulfield	1898
A.C.Akhurst	President, Shire of Caulfield	1896
	Mayor, Borough/Town of Caulfield	1907
C.F. Kirkham	President, Shire of Caulfield	1892
	Mayor, Borough/Town of Caulfield	1905
A. Dunbar	Mayor, Borough/Town of Caulfield	1909
	Mayor, City of Caulfield	1916
A.E. Lillie	Shire Valuer	1898
P. St.John Hall	Mayor, Borough/Town, Caulfield	1910
C. Pullman	Mayor, City of Caulfield	1936
T. Morris	Mayor, City of Caulfield	1939, 1940

The Elsternwick Club has been in existence for eighty-six years, and with the example of the past, and the continuing enthusiasm of the present members, there is no fear for the future.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

ELSTERNWICK LIBRARY

This Society has been invited to conduct a photographic exhibition at the Elsternwick Library, Staniland Grove, Elsternwick, during the month of October, which we have been pleased to accept.

The display will feature photos of many old mansions relating to an era of Caulfield's past, and will include a number which have now been demolished.

This exhibition will be on display from Monday 1st October to Wednesday 31st October, 1984, and is recommended to all members, their friends, and the general public.

12th ANNUAL MEETING

At the twelfth Annual Meeting of this Society, which was held at the Caulfield City Hall on Wednesday 19th September, 1984, the following members of the Executive Committee were elected :-

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	Mrs. F. Campbell
<u>Vice Presidents</u>	Miss B. Snowball, Miss E. Meehan
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mr. R. Sims
<u>Secretary</u>	Mr. R. Ballantyne
<u>Committee</u>	Miss H. Ford, Miss G. Rowe, Miss N. Ward, Mrs. M. Ballantyne, Mr. H. Head, Mr. A. Reid, Miss S. Baldwin-Wiseman.

Regional Delegates Dr. M. Chennells, Miss H. Bullock.

Mrs. Kath. Meehan, who has been a very active member of our Committee for many years, decided not to stand for re-election.

Mr. Athol Reid was nominated, and elected in her place.

Miss Sara Baldwin-Wiseman was nominated, and elected as an additional member of the Committee.

To both these new Committee Members, we extend a very sincere welcome, and are certain that they will continue to work for the success of the Society.

Our retiring Committee Member, Kathleen Meehan, was elected to the Committee during 1976/1977, and since then has always worked for the benefit of this Society.

We are all sincerely grateful to Kath. for her interest, complete co-operation, and friendly advice so freely given.

She will be missed at the deliberations of the Committee, but she has assured us that she will continue to be a very active member of the Society.

We were honoured to have among our guests, our Patron His Worship, the Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Brian Rudzki, and Mayoress Mrs. Judy Rudzki. This was the first meeting of the Society that Mayor Rudzki has attended as our Patron, since his election to Mayor, and we sincerely hope that both he and the Mayoress will have the time and opportunity to visit us again in the very near future.

They can both be assured of a very sincere welcome.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, we had the privilege of hearing our Guest Speaker, Mr. Hal. Warren, Director of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, whose subject was "The Origins of the "Royal", and their future plans".

This talk by Mr. Warren, was both humorous and entertaining. As Mayor Rudzki remarked, when thanking Mr. Warren, he didn't realize historians could be so funny.

We were honoured to have Mr. Warren as our Guest Speaker, and we thank him for making the time to attend our meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS FOR 1984.

17th October

This will be an open discussion meeting.

Suggestions and ideas from members will be encouraged, on what is expected from membership of the Society, during 1985.

21st November

This will be the final meeting for 1984.

Guest Speaker will be Mr. John McKernan, Past President of the Ship Lovers Society of Victoria, whose subject will be :- "The Wreck of the General Grant".

The Sailing Ship "General Grant" was wrecked on Auckland Island during a voyage from Melbourne to London in 1886.

Fifteen people survived the wreck on this desolate, uninhabited Island, 400 miles south of New Zealand, but eighteen months later, only nine men and one woman remained to be finally rescued.

Mr. McKernan's talk will be illustrated with slides. As this will be our final meeting for 1984, it is recommended that as many members and their friends attend what is traditionally our "Christmas Break Up."

HAVE YOU MET TIKI?

By our roving reporter.

Tiki is a horse, a loveable old Lady horse, who lives with Bernie and Francis Dingle in Balaclava Road, Caulfield.

When Francis goes shopping, Tiki is harnessed between the shafts of the Brake, and off they go. Tiki is very happy to be parked outside the large stores in Melbourne, or the smaller shops in Caulfield.

Customers feed her with apples, biscuits, bread, and all the other goodies a horse loves so much. Amid the clamour of the car, the thunder of the truck (which only eat petrol and oil), and all the other ills, which motorised transport has made us heir to, the Dingles and Tiki stand alone.

Behind the single fronted shop in Balaclava Road, Bernie and Francis carry on a trade of building horse-drawn carriages which today, is almost a lost art. Bernie is a coach builder, wheel-wright, blacksmith, fitter and turner, painter.

Just a few years ago, there would have been a team of tradesmen, each a specialist in his own trade, to do these highly technical jobs, now Bernie does it all himself. He makes the wheels, spokes, forges the iron for the wheels, makes the harness, upholsters the seats, shoes the horses.

("I can remember, as a very young boy, going to the blacksmith's in the country, and what a thrill to sometimes be allowed to pump the huge bellows that kept the coke fire burning, seeing the almost white hot iron shaped into horse shoes on the smithy's anvil. The aroma of burning hoofs, as the new red hot iron is tried on for size, is something unforgettable").

A few years ago Bernie was regularly making seventy sets of shoes for milk-cart horses, travelling to dairies all around Melbourne. No longer do we hear the clip-clop of those perfectly trained horses, which knew exactly at which house to stop, usually around five or six o'clock each morning.

The milk horses, together with the ice cart horses, have gone, but Bernie still has a few horse customers call into his shop for a personal fitting of a new set of shoes.

Visit the Dingle's stable, and it is impossible not to think one is in the country, on a farm, watching the afternoon sun brighten the many bundles of hay, seeing Tiki and his friends in their stalls, munching contentedly on their meal of hay, chaff, and occasionally oats, before settling down for the night, and looking forward to another day ahead.

Bernie and Francis Dingle are to be congratulated for keeping alive an historical tradition of this Country, which is unfortunately dying out, even in the country areas, where the friendly work horse has been replaced by the tractor.

SOME SAY IT IS PROGRESS

HOPETOUN GARDENS

GLEN HUNTLY ROAD, ELSTERNWICK.

The Hopetoun Gardens first came into being through the combined efforts of Dr. Weigall, a member of the Elsternwick Progress Association, and Mr. J. Haig, who was a prominent member of the Elsternwick Branch of the Australian Natives Association.

Both these Gentlemen had been aware for some time, that the Elsternwick Railway Reserve was not large enough to accommodate the hundreds of people who always came, every week-end, to listen and be entertained by the music of the Caulfield and Elsternwick Town Band.

Dr. Weigall and Mr. Haig negotiated with the owner of the land, now occupied by Hopetoun Gardens, and subsequently obtaining a Government grant, they obtained the assistance of Mr. Pockett, Head Gardner of the Malvern City Council, who was "borrowed" to advise on the planning of the new gardens.

Mr. Pockett began work in December 1907, and the Hopetoun Gardens were officially declared open, by the then Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor R.L. Phillips, on 31st July, 1908.

Councillor Dunbar obtained the ornamental trees and shrubs from the Botanical Gardens, and the Bandstand was moved from the Elsternwick Railway Reserve in 1909.

Investigations are at present in progress to obtain the history of the two cannons, dated (V.R.) 20/1/1881.

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FRIEND GLADDIE?

By R. Coleman

What ever happened to Gladdie, my old Gladstone Bag?

There was a time, it does not seem that long ago, when every boy and man owned one. It was the working man's friend and constant companion. The symbol of a boy's attainment to man-hood was to buy, or be presented with his first Gladstone Bag.

They have now, unfortunately, been replaced by all types of over-night travel bags, many of which carry advertisements for Air Lines, Tennis Shoes, or what-ever.

But you couldn't beat the old Gladstone Bag, or Kit Bag as it was sometimes called, until the war came along, and then "Kit Bag" meant something entirely different.

They were tough, durable, and democratic - not only were they carried by the "Blue Collar" worker, but by Clerks, Salesmen, Solicitors, and sometimes by Doctors.

Many a very good Gladstone Bag had a ridge worn in the middle of it, from being carried on the handle-bars of a push bike. At peak hours on the trains, and trams, there would be a dozen or more of them on the luggage racks, and a few more at the feet of their owners (What ever happened to the luggage racks?)

"Gladdie" was very versatile, they were used to carry lunches, tools, pyjamas for a week-end trip, or all the gear needed for footy or cricket practice.

Why did they go out of fashion? Perhaps one day they will come back, like waist-coats, double-breasted suits and baggy pants.

After all, there is no reason why they shouldn't, so can hats, which went out when hair came in. Perhaps someday too, the people who still smoke cigarettes will go back to "roll your own", remember when they were called "the makings" as distinct from "tailor made"?

If all that happens, we will have come the full circle and every thing will be much as it was twenty or thirty years ago.

That's backward progress, if you like, but who's to say we would be any worse off. At least we would have those friendly Gladstone Bags back again.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

We have received so many gifts since our last publication that we regret that it is impossible to allocate space in this News Letter to acknowledge them all in detail. However, we do thank all those friends of this Society who made donations. They are all accepted and acknowledged with our sincere thanks.

Donations were received from :-

Mr. R. Hart - Camberwell, Mr. W. Mann - East Bentleigh. Rev. E. Thomas - Elsternwick.
Mr. C. Henshaw - Murrumbena. Miss R. Yorston - Caulfield, Miss J. Searle - Caulfield.
Mrs. C. Harry - Caulfield City Hall. Mrs. M. Russell - Caulfield, Mrs. M. Franklin -
Caulfield, Miss T.L. Smith - Romsey. Mr. B. Carroll - Glen Huntly. Mr. D. Christie
- East Bentleigh. Mrs. K. Meehan - East Brighton. Miss E. Meehan - Caulfield. Mrs.
G. Alexander - Glen Huntly. Mr. J. McLoughlin - Caulfield. Miss B. Snowball -
Elsternwick. Miss M. Allender - Caulfield Mrs. M. Bromfield - Carneige. Councillor
G.N. Doolan, - North Caulfield. Sister Margaret Bullock, O'Neill College, Elsternwick.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following members have recently joined this Society.

We extend to them a very hearty welcome, and sincerely trust that they will all enter into our activities, and spend many enjoyable years as members of the Caulfield Historical Society.

Mrs. Gwen Beddison, Caulfield.
Mrs. Phyllis Evans, Glen Huntly.
Mrs. Meida Russell, Elsternwick.

THE PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

OF CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

WISH ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS,

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS,

AND A PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

To our Members who are sick in Hospital, or at home, we sincerely trust that they will all soon be returned to full health, and hope to see them at our first meeting in the New Year, which will be on Wednesday 20th February, 1985.
