

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

25

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

APRIL 1985

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AFFILIATED WITH
THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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



VICTORIA 150
GROWING TOGETHER 1845

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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"ANY ONE WHO DOES NOT LOOK BACK TO THEIR ANCESTORS,
WILL NEVER LOOK FORWARD TO POSTERITY"

- Edmund Burke 1729-1797

We cannot be certain if any of our present City Fathers ever look back to their Ancestors, but they can all claim that they look forward to posterity.

To celebrate the Centenary of the building of our City Hall on 18th December, 1884 (it was then the Shire Hall), the Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Brian Rudzki, unveiled an historic plaque at 6.00pm on Tuesday 18th December 1984, before a large number of interested spectators.

A Time Capsule has also been sealed within the walls of the City Hall, with instructions that it not be opened until December 2084, and it includes the following items :-

COPY OF THIS CITY'S LETTERS PATENT, PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MAYOR, AND COUNCILLORS, A DELUX EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CAULFIELD, SAMPLES OF THE DECIMAL COINAGE OF AUSTRALIA, VARIOUS PAMPHLETS RELATING TO CAULFIELD, A FIRST EDITION OF PCST CARDS OF CAULFIELD SCENES, A FILM ENTITLED "LIFE IN CAULFIELD", A FESTIVAL EDITION OF "CAULFIELD CONTACT", AND A BOTTLE OF "SEAVIEW CABERNET SAUVIGNON", MNTAGE 1982.

Our Society was honoured to have been asked to contribute articles for the capsule, and we have placed in it, one of our souvenir tea towels, which features the original drawing by architect Sydney Smith of the proposed Shire Hall of 1884, copies of the Society's News Letters, and an application form for membership of the Society.

Who knows, one of our great-grand children, may use it in 2084, to apply for membership of the Caulfield Historical Society.

Registered at the G.P.O. Melbourne for
Transmission by post as a Periodical,
Category "C".

Stranger things have happened, but unfortunately none of us will be here to witness the opening of the Capsule.

This Society congratulates Councillor Rudzki, and his fellow Councillors, for having the fore-sight to look forward to posterity, and it is to be hoped that THE CITY FATHERS OF CAULFIELD 2084, TAKE A LONG AND SERIOUS LOOK BACK TO THEIR ANCESTORS OF 1984.

POST CARDS OF CAULFIELD

This Society has been very fortunate in obtaining a number of coloured post cards, as have been placed in the Time Capsule, featuring scenes around Caulfield.

These cards have been produced locally, and are in sets of four, each one different. They are selling for the bargain price of \$1.00 per set.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, by purchasing one or more sets of these cards. They can be obtained from any member of the Committee, or from our display room, which as everyone should know by now, is located on the First Floor, Caulfield Central R.S.L., 169 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, and is open every Tuesday from 2.00pm - 4.30pm.

They may also be ordered by telephone 578 3145.

SOUVENIR TEA TOWELS

There are not many left.

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED, BUY NOW.

STILL AT THE SAME PRICE \$2.50 each Remember, they will not be repeated, so if you are interested place your order NOW

THE BIOGRAPHY CORNER

The Biographies of Caulfield Residents

My Maternal Grand Parents, John and Susanna Dickson

As related by

Mrs. G. Alexander - Glen Huntly.

"My Maternal Grand Parents, John Dickson and Susanna Chapman, were married at Christ Church, St.Kilda, on 28th December 1857.

John was twenty one years of age, a gardener from Portadown, Northern Ireland, and Susanna was nineteen when she arrived under the care of Judge and Mrs. Stevens, in the Ship "Lightning" from Bath, England, in 1856.

After their marriage, they purchased three blocks of land on the South West corner of Willow Street, and Glen Eira Road, Elsternwick. They built their home on the land facing Willow Street, and on the two blocks along Glen Eira Road, John cultivated the land, and grew vegetables, to help provide food for their family which in a comparatively short space of time, had enlarged to nine children, six girls and three boys. Seven of these Dickson children lived in the Caulfield District all their lives.

One of the girls married George Bartlett, who is reported to have built all the glass houses at Coombe Cottage, for Dame Nellie Melba.

John planted grape vines along both sides of the centre path leading to their home, and also on the house itself. From the grapes these vines produced, he crushed and made his own wine, which he sold to "The Gentry of Caulfield."

In those early days of Caulfield's settlement, it was still only a Road District until 1871. Aboriginal women from the Bunurong and Woiwurung tribes would bring their babies to Susanna when they were sick, and ask her for help and advice.

This assistance was freely given, and the Aboriginal mothers came to trust and rely on Susanna when they were in need of a sympathetic lady to talk to. She would tend to their sick babies, and send them back to their camps with parcels of flour, and other food in which they were lacking.

Susanna seemed to have a natural respect, and ability to communicate with these original residents of this Country, who have been here for over 40,000 years and they in turn returned her respect.

John, Susanna, and their family, like most of the early settlers, were a Church going family, and they all worshipped at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Glen Eira Road. One of their daughters played the pedal organ for the service each Sunday.

One of their main forms of relaxation, and entertainment, was to walk through the bush, with the children, on Saturday nights to the busy shopping centre at High Street St. Kilda, where they would mingle with the people gazing in the shop windows, and sometimes buy small gifts for their children.

The first shop that they could remember in Caulfield was a General Store, which sold everything from lace up boots to ploughs. This store was on the South side of Glen Eira Road, almost on the corner of Acacia Street, and prickly pear was growing in the paddocks where the Rippon Lea shopping centre is located today.

Two of the boys from the Brunning family, of Nursery fame, were close friends of the Dicksons, and they attended school with two of the younger boys. Both of the Brunning old homes in Brighton Road are still in existence, although they have been extensively renovated.

John Dickson died in 1907, aged 71 years, and his wife Susanna, who survived him by twenty eight years, died in 1935, aged 97."

Only two of the early pioneers of this district, but they each made a substantial contribution to the history and development of the City of Caulfield.

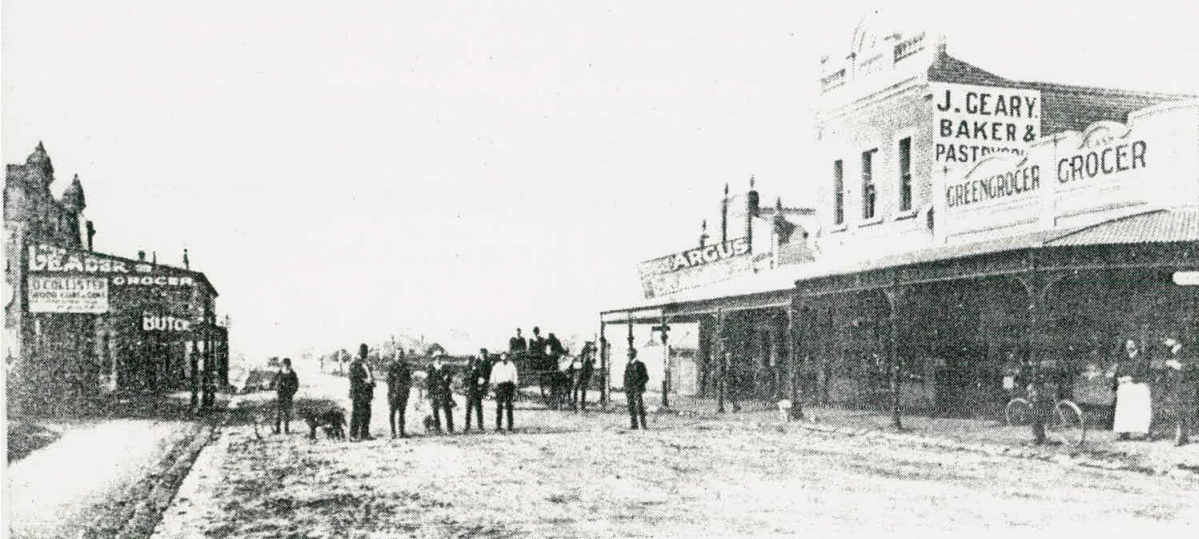
St. KILDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 15th ANNIVERSARY

On 23rd February 1985, St. Kilda Historical Society celebrated its 15th Anniversary, with a luncheon at "Mayfair", Dickens Street, St. Kilda, which was attended by 80 members and friends of the Society, including the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of St. Kilda, Councillor John Callanan and Mrs. Callanan.

Caulfield Historical Society offers sincere congratulations to the Historical Society of St. Kilda, on their fifteen years of dedication in preserving the history of their area.

Not always an easy task.

How things have changed in Glen Huntly since 1910



Glen Huntly (pictured above) looking east from the corner of Royal Avenue, looked a quiet, peaceful place to be in those days, life wasn't quite so hectic then. Although there are some things that haven't changed. There is still a newsagent there in Glen Huntly Road and some of the original buildings still stand. Have a look the next time you are passing.

In 1910 the Glen Huntly Railway Station (pictured right), still had a residence attached. Notice there are no overhead wires — there were only steam trains then.



Seventy five years later, the Glen Huntly Railway station is to be changed dramatically when work which has commenced on the third rail track from Caulfield to Moorabbin is finally completed.

This will entail the demolition of "Rowlands Drapery Stores", which commenced business at their present address in Glen Huntly Road in 1924.

The existing 'up' platform to Melbourne will be converted to an island platform, with access to it from Glen Huntly Road, and a new station building will be constructed.

The plans provide for Boom Barriers to be installed at both Glen Huntly and Neerim Road crossings, and a public toilet block to be built west of the rail crossing.

The old, very steep, foot bridge at Royal Avenue, will be demolished, and will not be replaced.

An additional car park will be constructed, where the old goods yard is presently located, adjacent to the Glen Huntly Bowling Club.

"THE END OF AN ERA"

"ROSE CRADDOCK", 10 Craddock Avenue, Caulfield, was sold by Public Auction on Wednesday 19th December, 1984 for \$1,405,000.

This old house, one of the very few surviving Mansions in Caulfield, was built during 1857, for G.W. Harris Esq. the Architect was believed to have been Lloyd Taylor. The house originally consisted of seven rooms, servants' quarters, stables, and out buildings, was named "Ringwood"; and stood on fourteen acres of ground.

Subsequent owners were :-

1861 Samuel Topp, Inspector of Common Schools
1868 John Arthur Jamieson
1869 John Connell
1870 Henry Joseph Langdon.

Prior to "Ringwood" being purchased by Henry Langdon in 1870, the house and grounds were enlarged to sixteen rooms, on twenty acres of land, facing Hawthorn Road.

"RINGWOOD" was renamed "ROSE CRADDOCK" by Henry Langdon after his earlier association with a family of that name who lived in Cornwall, England. This old property had been in the Langdon family from 1870 to the present time (114 years). It has been sub-divided several times, and now stands on over two acres of land.

The grounds have many magnificent trees, two old Morton Bay Figs, and an Eucalypt planted by Charles Langdon in 1915, in memory of his nephew, Leslie John Langdon, who was killed at Gallipoli, during the war of 1914-1918.

"ROSE CRADDOCK" has been placed on the Register of Historic Buildings, as being of "Historic and Architectural importance, but is in need of extensive renovation."

HISTORY OF THE LANGDON HOMES

Miss Irene Anderson, a life time resident of Caulfield, and a very respected member of our Society, is in the process of writing the history of the "Family of Langdon", the homes they owned or occupied in Caulfield, and their style of life in those early days.

These homes include "Crotonhurst", "Rose Craddock", "Tarqua", now "Lirrewa", "Neringa", now "Little Croton", Hengar", now known as "Happy Days Kindergarten", "Beemerry", now "Bellcourt", and "Lincluden."

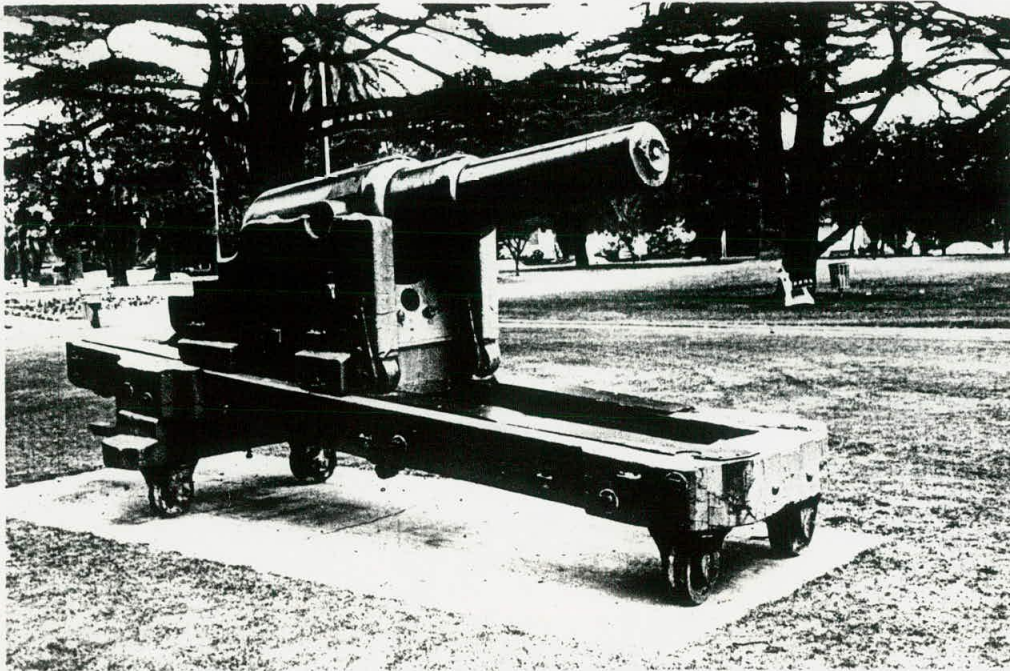
We congratulate Rene on commencing this project, and this Society offers her its complete support and assistance.

We look forward to the finished product.

THE CANNON OF HOPETOUN GARDENS

WHO of all the residents of Caulfield, has not seen the two Cannon in the Hopetoun Gardens at Elsternwick?

WHO, as a small boy or girl, has not slid down their shiny barrels?



BUT WHO, has stopped to wonder at the history of these ancient relics of a bygone era, from whence they came, whether a shot from their barrels was ever fired in anger, and if so, at what, or at whom?

It has become commonplace to see Cannon such as these, all over Australia, in Municipal Gardens, and Parks, but it is doubtful if anyone has given a thought as to their history.

However one Caulfield resident did wonder, and following his enquiry, this Society commenced investigations, which led us to obtaining a very large portion of their early history :-

During July 1858, Major General MacArthur reported that :-

"Hobsons Bay should be fortified, in case a foreign power tried to invade these shores".

The General recommended that all of the Eastern, and part of the Western shores of the bay be proclaimed a Military Reserve. Following his report, heavy gun batteries were installed between Sandridge (Port Melbourne), St.Kilda, Shortland's Bluff, (Queenscliff), and at Fort Gellibrand, Williamstown.

The Cannon in the Hopetoun Gardens were made at the Royal Gun Factory, in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, England, during 1866, especially for the Government of Victoria and were originally located at Fort Gellibrand, during 1901.

After most of the Forts were dismantled, these Cannon were moved to their last resting place at Elsternwick in 1910, only two years after the Gardens were officially opened.

For the technically minded, these Canon are 80 pounders, Rifled Muzzle Loading Guns, mounted on Wooden Dwarf "C" pivot mounts. The barrels are 6.3 inch calibre, and each weigh 80 cwt.

(For this information, we are indebted to Lieutenant Colonel M.P.J. O'Brien, O/C Command, Staff Pay Office, Fort Queenscliff Museum, Fort Queenscliff.)

Following the information received from Lieutenant-Colonel O'Brien, a submission was made late in December 1984, to the Caulfield City Council, to consider placing a plaque on the Cannon, detailing their history, which is also a part of the early history of Victoria.

We have not as yet received a reply from Council, but if they agree to our suggestion, it is to be hoped that the unveiling of the plaque will be made a feature of Victoria's 150th Anniversary.

All members will be advised when advice has been received from the Council.

A FURTHER REMINDER THAT :-

Some subscriptions for membership of this Society are STILL CONSIDERABLY OVERDUE

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR'S FOR 1984/1985?

This Society is a non-profit organization, and our activities are conducted by a small number of dedicated voluntary workers.

We therefore depend entirely on the financial support of all our members and their friends, to continue to operate and to regularly publish, and post our News Letter.

It is so easy to forget small subscriptions such as ours, but PLEASE if you have not paid your dues to this Society for 1984/1985, keep our Treasurer happy and post it NOW.

In case anyone has forgotten, they are :-

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Single Membership :-</u> | \$4.00 yearly |
| <u>Family Membership :-</u> | \$7.00 yearly |
| <u>Corporate Membership :-</u> | \$7.00 yearly |

And a Life Membership is only \$100.00.

PICTURE THEATRES OF CAULFIELD

A brief outline of Cinemas in and around the City of Caulfield

by B.J. Miller - Morrabbin

WHERE HAVE ALL THE PICTURE THEATRES GONE?

"CLASSIC" Theatre. 9 Gordon Street, Elsternwick.

This theatre was built as far back as 1890, and was showing "Magic Lantern" programmes during that year. It is believed to be the oldest Cinema in Victoria which is still operating.

It has operated under various names :- "Elsternwick", "Sharon", "Esquire", "Dorchester", "Classic."

It was owned or leased successively by Hoyts, Paramount, M.G.M., Village, and Independent Theatres. A fire destroyed the building during 1969, and it was re-opened in August 1970.

The "Classic Theatre" is still alive and well, and has recently been completely renovated. It is very popular with various Clubs in Caulfield, for theatre afternoons, to raise finance for their organizations.

"CAMDEN" Theatre. 360 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield.

This theatre was opened in 1935 by Camden Theatres Pty Ltd., It was a very successful in its early years, showing top rating attractions to capacity houses, until the advent of television in 1956.

It was sold to Brunswick Bowling Corporation (U.S.A.) in August 1962, and was closed later the same year. Subsequently sold for \$120,000 and re-opened on 26th December, 1962 as a two level ten pin bowling alley, it was again closed in 1965.

The building was later purchased by Southern Indoor Bowls, and re-named "Camden Bowls", after the early name of that district.

It is still operating as an indoor ten pin bowls centre.

"GLEN HUNTLY" Theatre, No.1. Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly.

Built during 1911, and operated as a picture theatre until 1926, when it was replaced by the "New Glen Huntly Theatre".

The old building was converted into a dance hall, known as Miller's Ballroom, dances being held there during the war of 1939 - 1945 by Mr. William Moore, a life time resident of Caulfield. It remained a popular, well conducted dance hall until 1948, when it was used as a factory by Cooper & Cooke Pty Ltd., The building is still standing.

HOYT'S "NEW GLEN HUNTLY THEATRE"

Corner Glen Huntly Road and Manchester Grove, Glen Huntly.

Built in 1926, seating 1,242 patrons. It was damaged by fire in 1942 and reopened during 1943. This theatre is reported to have been Melbourne's first "stadium type" building, it had ducted heating and concealed lighting over the dress circle. The building was sold during 1954 for 24,000 pounds and converted into Squash Courts.

It has now been demolished and completely re-built as a Safeway Store.

HOYT'S "CARNEGIE THEATRE". Woorayl Street, Carnegie.

Built during 1920, and operated as a theatre until 1930, when it was used as a roller skating rink, which continued until 1935 when the building was purchased by Hoyt's Theatres, showing "C" standard films.

It was re-decorated in 1954, and remained a picture theatre until 1958, when the building was sold and it became a paper factory.

It is currently used as the headquarters of the Dutch Club.

"CAPRI CINEMA" Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena.

Believed to have been built during 1895, and was known originally as the "Argosy Public Hall". For many years it was referred to by local residents, as "The Flea Factory".

This historic building is now used by the Caulfield Council as a Community Youth Centre.

"CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE" Dandenong Road, East Caulfield.

Built in 1920. A large theatre, seating 1,250 people, showing top rate films, including a number of first releases. A very popular theatre, catering for not only Caulfield residents, but also for those in the surrounding districts.

Property sold to Downards Furniture Storage Firm, at auction in 1960 for 28,000 pounds, and was used by that firm as their Head Office until recently, when the building was demolished to make way for the widening of Dandenong Road.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

PROGRAMME FOR 1985.

The following programme of speakers and social outings has been arranged for 1985. Make a note in your diary now and endeavour to support these activities, by attending as many meetings as possible during the remainder of the year.

We need the support of ALL our members.

14th - 21st April Heritage Week. Room open for inspection and research, 16th and 19th April.

17th April General Discussion Meeting.

21st April (Sunday) Visit to Kilmore Historical Society.
Mini Bus leaves Caulfield City Hall at 10.30am. Cost \$2.00 per person (Bring a Picnic Lunch).

PLEASE ADVISE SECRETARY IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THIS OUTING.

15th May Guest Speaker, Mr. John Rogan, Director Kozminsky Galleries, Bourke Street, Melbourne.

19th June Miss Norma Ward will present slides of her trip to China.
Visit the ancient and mysterious Country of China, with Norma.

17th July Guest Speaker, Miss Hazel Shankly, author of "Born in the Boom".

21st August General Discussion Meeting

18th September Annual Meeting. Election of Office Bearers, and members of the Committee.
Guest Speaker, Mr. O.J. Whelan, Director, Whelan the Wrecker.

16th October General Discussion Meeting

20th November Final Meeting for 1985
Guest Speaker to be arranged..

DONATIONS RECEIVED

The following donations to this Society have been received since publication of our last News Letter, and they are all acknowledged and accepted with sincere thanks :-

Original drawings of the Islands of Western Port

Original drawing of maps of early Melbourne. 1835 - 1858.

Both maps drawn and illustrated by Hunter Rogers.

Donated by Miss N. Catmore - Caulfield

Minute Books, Correspondence, News Paper Articles, relating to Camden Bowling Club (now disbanded)

Donated by Mr. L. Naughton - Caulfield

1984 Annual Edition of Caulfield Grammarian

Donated by Caulfield Grammar School.

History of Postal Services in Victoria.

Donated by Mr. B. McAllister - Glen Huntly

Heritage Australia.

Donated by Mrs. E. Ballantyne - Sandringham

History of Caulfield City Hall

Donated by Miss E. Meehan - Caulfield

History of Steam

Donated by Mr. C. Henshaw - Murrumbena

Programme of Official Opening of Caulfield City Hall. February 1931

Donated by Miss E. Ritchie - Caulfield

Souvenir Edition, Gregory's Street Directory

Donated by Miss J. Searle - Caulfield

Royal Australian Navy White Ensign.

Donated by Mrs. J. Lalor - Rhyll, Phillip Island.

Two memorial Plaques, from Avenue of Honour, 1914 - 1918 war.

Donated by ANON.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following members have recently joined this Society. A very hearty welcome is extended to them, and we sincerely trust that they will spend many enjoyable years as members of the Caulfield Historical Society.

Mrs. Barbara Ramsay, Caulfield

Mr. Neil Cerutti, Elwood.
