

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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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 : His Worship The Mayor of Caulfield.

COUNCILLOR : Maxwell Blair J.P.



VICTORIA 150
GROWING TOGETHER 1841-1991

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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"THOSE WHO WILL NOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED
TO RELIVE IT, AND OFTEN MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN."

- Marcus Tillus Cicero - 106-43 B.C.

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THE HISTORY OF THE CAULFIELD CITY HALL

That very imposing white building, standing on the corner of Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads Caulfield, is known to all residents of this City as the Caulfield Town Hall, or more correctly, the Caulfield City Hall.

The City Hall has had a long saga of confrontation and argument. It is to the credit of many of the past Councillors and Officers that Caulfield went ahead with plans to providing this area with a stately City Hall which has stood up to frequent additions and modifications.

In 1874, the idea that Caulfield should have it's own Municipal Building began to gain public support. The area had progressed considerably since the time in 1857, when the Roads Board met in a tent. It was now an established Shire, with a group of small Committees, Market Gardens, and several Mansion Houses, mainly owned by wealthy business people, but the Shire Council still met and deliberated on the future progress of the area, in rented rooms.

It was quite a considerable time before a suitable site for the new Shire Hall was finally decided upon, but eventually two acres of land was purchased from the owners of the mansion house "Tarqua", now known as "Lirrewa", for 600 pounds.

In September, 1882, the hall plans were costed at 5,000 pounds, but within four months the estimated cost of construction, plus furnishings escalated to 7,000 pounds. The Government of Victoria then promised to contribute 2,400 pounds if a Court of Petty Sessions was included in the plans, and provision made for a Post Office.

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Transmission by post as a Periodical,
Category "C".

In June 1884, tenders were advertised, but because of rising costs the original plan of Architect Sydney Smith, had to be drastically reduced. Messrs. Upton and Smith obtained the contract with a bid of 8,026 pounds, five shillings, and construction began in the same year.

According to Council minutes the foundation stone was laid on 28th December, 1884, but the stone itself records the day as 18th December.

The first official public function held in the new hall was the President's Return Ball during November, 1885. The next five years were to be very controversial, as the hall was still not completed. The portico and tower were not finished, and the offices were already over crowded.

In 1913, electric light was installed, and sewerage connected, but it was not until 1919 that further changes were contemplated. Permission was granted in 1923 to conduct a competition for a design of an adjoining hall but this did not eventuate. In 1925, remodelling of the top floor began, but this was just finished when, in 1929, a consultant was engaged to consider remodelling the whole building.

Demolition of the Western section was about to commence, when the rate payers called a mass meeting, to protest at the spending of money in the depression years, when it should be put to better use, by helping the unemployed of Caulfield.

The protest was too late, and demolition commenced on 4th January 1930.

In a unique building scheme, local unemployed tradesmen were used in the re-construction, there was, however, considerable criticism of the Council for not letting the contract to a Master Builder. However the rate payers obtained their extended City Hall for considerably less cost, and the local unemployed gained from the project.

The new Hall was officially opened on 25th February, 1933, and dedicated on 1st March the same year.

With the growth of local government responsibilities, and the need for larger administrative office space, history almost repeated itself during 1975. This time, however, plans to demolish the existing City Hall and build a completely new Civic Centre, were halted by an over-whelming vote by the residents.

In 1980, the City Hall was refurbished, and new plans for building extended facilities were commenced. The exterior and alterations to our Hall seem to be an on-going project, but it's careful blending of a classic exterior, and modern internal additions are worthy of note.

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DEATH OF OUR LIFE MEMBER

All members of this Society were sad to learn of the sudden death of our first Honorary Life Member - Fred Arden, on 3rd August, 1985.

Fred was a former Mayor of Caulfield, and it was through his efforts that the Caulfield Historical Society was formed in 1972.

This Society will forever remain a fitting memorial to his memory.

To Mrs. Arden, and her family, we offer our sincere sympathy.

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MAYOR TO BE OUR PATRON

We are pleased to advise that His Worship, The Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Max Blair, has kindly accepted our invitation to be Patron of this Society, during his current term of office.

Councillor Blair was elected to Council in 1971, and has been Mayor four times, 1974-1975, 1976-1977, 1979-1980 and now 1985-1986.

We all offer congratulations to Mayor Blair, on again being elected to the highest position this City can bestow.

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THE BIOGRAPHY CORNER

THE BIOGRAPHIES OF CAULFIELD RESIDENTS

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF EARLY CAULFIELD

- by Miss M. Simmons.

"My parents moved from Clifton Hill to Bealiba Road, Caulfield during 1918. In those days our home was lit by gas lamps, and we had a toilet at the bottom of the back yard. Very primitive by today's standards, all houses in those days were the same.

My father was employed as a grip-man on the old cable trams. Horses were used to pull the trams from the depot to the tracks, and one old horse refused to pull out the trams until he was given his daily apple. One apple for each tram. He surely must have been the fore-runner of the trade union movement.

My mother came to Australia from Wolverhampton, Stafford, England, on the S.S. "Orizaba", in 1899. The "Orizaba" sank some years later off the coast of Western Australia. The well known store of Moore and Read, in Chapel Street, Prahran, named their dining room after this ship, and they had a display of the ship's wheel, and other relics around the walls.

I can remember taking part in a concert for the Returned Soldiers at the Australian Military Hospital in Kooyong Road Caulfield (now the Caulfield Hospital) in 1922. I can still recall the iron tracks set into the roads which the Market Gardeners used when they travelled to and from the market. The drivers were always fast asleep, but the horses knew the way home, and always arrived safely.

I commenced my education at State School No.773, in Glen Huntly Road, South Caulfield, and I used to walk across the swamp in Bambra Road. We usually picked some roses from Pearce's Rose Garden each day to give to our teacher. I wonder if she ever found out where they came from?

We used to play "Hide and Seek" in Laura Street, which was then just a sandy ti-tree lined track, and "Drop the Hanky" and football with wads of paper tied into balls with string.

We used to attend Church regularly at St. Agnes, Church of England which was then in Glen Huntly Road, on the block between Augusta and Anne Streets, and it had a Church Hall and tennis courts. These tennis courts were for many years owned by the 1st, Glen Huntly Scout Group.

I can remember one year, the whole of the tennis court was covered by a marquee, for what was called "The Bush Fair", and I sold tickets for a raffle of a pair of sheets. It was a very successful Fair, and the money raised was used to help build the new Church in Booran Road. The Minister at that time was Rev. James Rowell.

I have lived in Caulfield all my life, and recall with pleasure and a great deal of happiness, my early days in this City, which has progressed so much in a comparatively short space of time."

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VISIT TO KILMORE

On Sunday 21st April, 1985, twenty two of our members and their friends, were the guests of the Kilmore Historical Society, travelling by Caulfield Council Community Bus, and private cars.

What a wonderful day we all had. The local Historical Society treated us to superb hospitality, as only country folk know how to provide, nothing was too much trouble.

We offer our sincere thanks to the members at Kilmore, for making our all too short visit so very enjoyable.

Also a special "Thank You" to Mr. Alf Jones, our Mini Bus driver, for his complete co-operation.

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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 active members of the Caulfield Historical Society.

Mrs. Ruth Caple	South Caulfield
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Coles	North Caulfield
Mr. Robert Dusting	South Caulfield
Mr. J. Holt	Glen Huntly
Miss M. Hickey	Caulfield
Mrs. M. Ritchie	Caulfield

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THE GRIMWADES OF HARLESTON, NORFOLK, ENGLAND

This Society recently received the following newspaper article from the Secretary of Harleston Historical Society, Norfolk, England, which was published in the "Harleston Gazette" :-

HARLESTON'S CONNECTION 'DOWN UNDER'

"Harleston Historical Society has uncovered information which proves Harleston is well known on the other side of the world - in Australia.

It all came about due to a man called Frederick Grimwade, who was born in Harleston, Norfolk, on 10th November, 1840. He was the second son of seventeen children.

His father, Edward Grimwade, was the owner of a wholesale druggist in Ipswich, and he became very rich. Helped by his wealth, and young Frederick Grimwade's desire to travel, Frederick left England in 1863, aged twenty three, to manage a wholesale drug house which had been established in Melbourne, Australia.

During 1865, he married Jessie Taylor-Sprunt, and they had four sons and three daughters. During the year of 1867, Frederick Grimwade borrowed eight thousand pounds (a tremendous amount of money in those days) from his father, who was still in Ipswich, to go into partnership in Australian business. Within three years this loan had been repaid in full, and the business was thriving.

Frederick soon became Chairman of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, a prominent layman in the Church of England, and he served on the Council for boys' and girls' Grammar Schools.

The Harleston connection came about in 1875, when Grimwade had a substantial mansion build at a place called Caulfield, near Melbourne. The mansion was named "Harleston", in honour of Grimwade's home town and birthplace, in Norfolk.

"Harleston" became a well-known place to all who lived locally. "Harleston" was the place to be for big occasions, and events of importance. Frederick Grimwade was now rich and famous and loved to tell tales about his early life in the little market town of Harleston, in Norfolk, England.

On his death in 1910, his sons presented the home "Harleston" and grounds to Melbourne Grammar School. Harleston Park is named after the old home, and these beautiful grounds are today used by families for picnics, or just recreations, and very few people in Australia are un-aware of the reason "Harleston Park" was so named."

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The Secretary of Harleston Historical Society also advised that several branches of the Grimwade Family still reside in Ipswich, and that they are all engaged in the clothing business.

We thank the Secretary of the Harleston Historical Society for this information. It is an interesting addition to our record of the Grimwades of Caulfield.

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HOPETOUN GARDENS CANNON

This Society was instrumental in researching the history of the Cannon which has stood in the Hopetoun Gardens, Elsternwick, since 1910.

Following submissions to the Caulfield City Council, the Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor Brian Rudzki, as part of this City's 150th Anniversary celebrations, unveiled a plaque in the gardens on 16th July 1985, outlining the long history of these ancient weapons of war, which date back to 1866.

Members of the Society were later entertained by the Mayor and Councillors in the Mayoral Chambers.

This gesture was sincerely appreciated by all of our members who accepted the Mayor's hospitality, and attended the function.

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A.N.Z. BANK CELEBRATES 150 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Australian and New Zealand Banking Company recently celebrated their 150th Anniversary, and to mark this milestone in banking history, Mr. Marc Bruneau, Manager of the Glen Huntly Branch, requested that this Society prepare a display of photographs, old newspapers, and other memorabilia relating to the early history of Glen Huntly.

Most of the staff at the Bank entered into the spirit of the occasion, and dressed in costumes of the early 1900's. The display created considerable interest, and was excellent publicity, not only for the local Bank, but also for the Caulfield Historical Society.

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13th ANNUAL MEETING

The Mayor and Mayoress of Caulfield, Councillor Max Blair and Mrs. Blair, were our special guests at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Society, which was held at the Caulfield City Hall on Wednesday 18th September, 1985, and they were made welcome by our President Mrs. F. Campbell.

This was the first meeting that the Mayor and Mayoress have attended since being recently elected, and we all sincerely trust that they both will have the time to again visit us in the very near future.

They can be assured of a very hearty welcome.

Councillor Blair agreed to install the Office Bearers, and as the nominations received did not exceed the vacancies, the following members were elected unopposed:-

PRESIDENT	Mrs. F. Campbell.
VICE PRESIDENTS	Miss B. Snowball, Miss E. Meehan.
TREASURER	Mr. R. Sims.
SECRETARY	Mr. R. Ballantyne.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Mr. A. Reid.
COMMITTEE	Miss H. Ford, Miss G. Rowe, Miss N. Ward, Mr. H. Head, Mrs. M. Ballantyne. Miss S. Baldwin-Wiseman.
REGIONAL DELEGATES	Dr. M. Chennells, Miss H. Bullock.

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At the conclusion of the business meeting, we were entertained by our Guest Speaker, Mr. Owen Whelan, Director of Whelan the Wrecker Pty Ltd., who spoke on the long history of his firm, and of the many historic buildings they have demolished.

Mr. Whelan's nostalgic, and often humorous anecdotes, were thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of members and visitors who were privileged to hear his talk.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Whelan by Mayor Blair, who congratulated him on his excellent address. He was also warned by our Mayor to keep his eyes off the Caulfield City Hall.

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THE PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
OF CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, EXTENDS SINCERE
THANKS TO THOSE MANY LOYAL MEMBERS, WHO HAVE
SUPPORTED THE SOCIETY IN SO MANY WAYS DURING THE
PAST YEAR.

AND WISHES THEM, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AND A PROSPEROUS HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

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We look forward to seeing you all at our first meeting in the
New Year which will be on
Wednesday 19th February, 1986.

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A REMINDER THAT

our last meeting for 1985 will be on
Wednesday 20th November
when we will be privileged to have as our Guest speaker
Mr. Don Taggart, President, St. Kilda Historical Society
who will show slides of early St. Kilda

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