

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

27

APRIL 1986

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

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AFFILIATED WITH
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 : Maxwell Blair J.P.

President:-	Mrs. F. Campbell	523 9228
Treasurer:-	Mr. R. Sims	528 1661
Secretary :-	Mr. R. Ballantyne	578 3145
Ass.Secretary:-	Mr. A. Reid	523 5136

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"THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST, THE RECORDING OF THE TRUTH,
IS THE POWER WHICH GOES TOWARD THE MAKING OF THE FUTURE"

- Lord John Eberch Action - 1834-1902

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THE HISTORY OF "GLEN EIRA"
AND THE SOUTHERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
260 Kooyong Road, Caulfield.

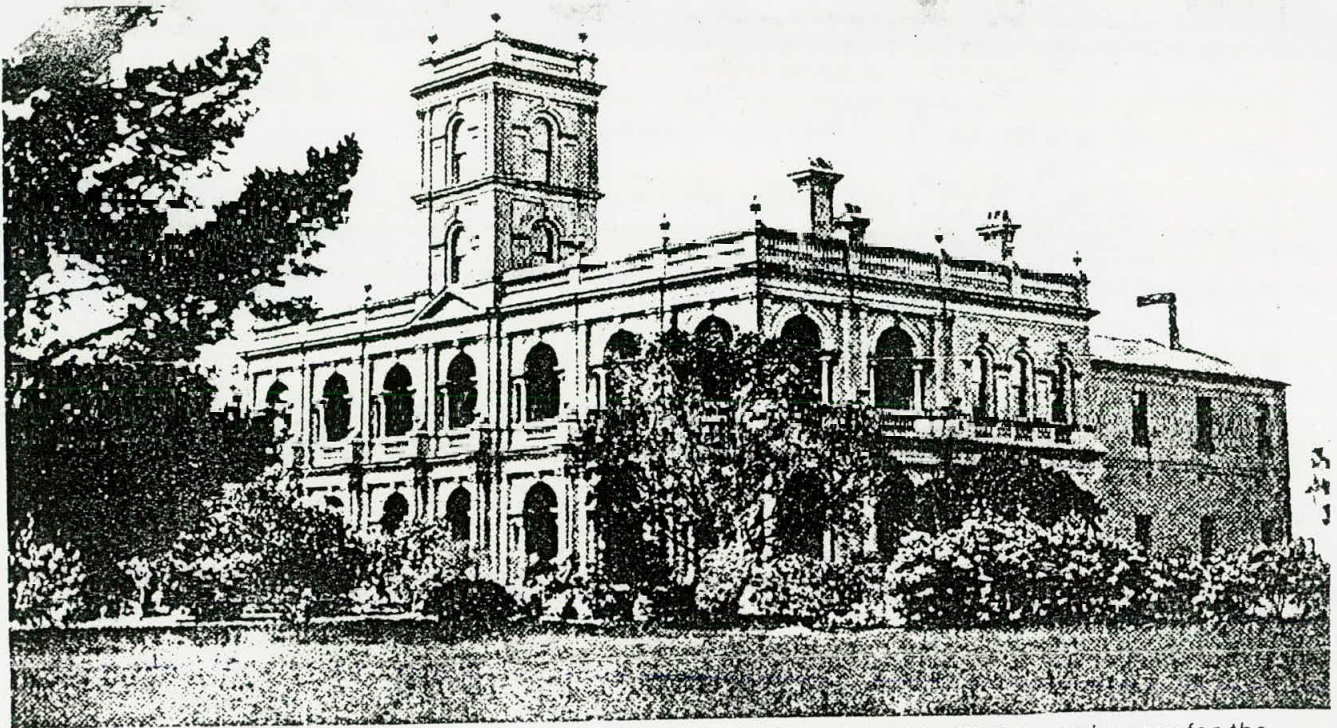
Rudolph Ashley Ricketson was born at "Glen Eira" on 26th February, 1887, the only son of Quaker pioneer pastoralist, Henry Ricketson and Henry's second wife Edith Alice Mary (nee Were).

Henry migrated from his home town Annapolis, Nova Scotia, during 1852, at the age of twenty seven. The following year he purchased "Barratta" Station, near Deniliquin N.S.W., later adding to his land holdings by acquiring six additional properties in N.S.W., one in Queensland, plus "Delatite" and "Buchan" Stations in Victoria.

During the early part of 1880, Henry built "Glen Eira", a town house of twenty rooms, standing on twenty five acres of land, and the Ricketson family lived there for many years.

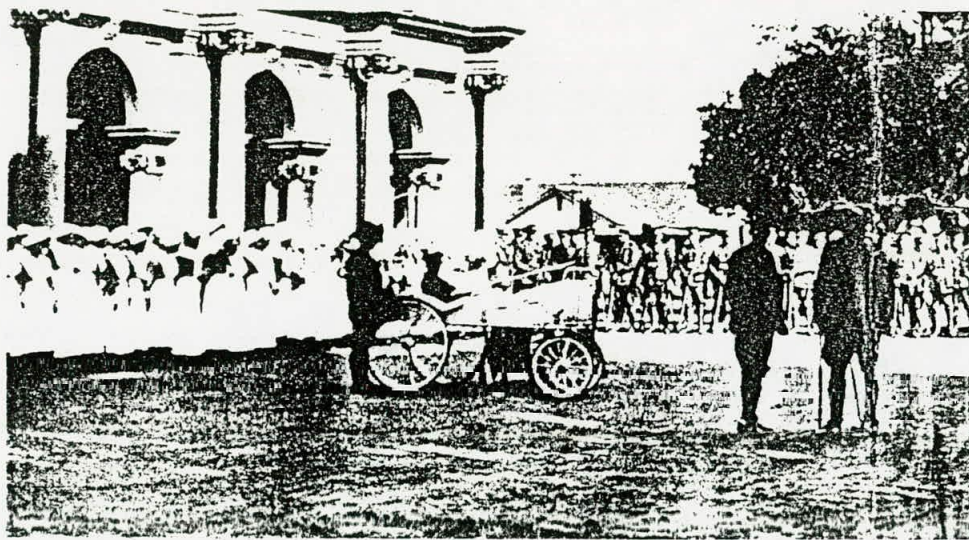
This magnificent blue-stone mansion dominated the whole area of Caulfield, it's two storey tower could be seen for miles.

The local residents of the day called it "The White House."



Glen Eira, birthplace of Ashley Ricketson, which was demolished in 1965 to make way for the Southern Memorial Hospital.

"Glen Eira" was sold during 1912 to Sir Frederick Sargood, and during World War 1, became a Military Hospital, the 11th.A.G.H.



Glen Eira during World War I when it was the 11th AGH, a military hospital.

After the War, and until approximately 1964, this old Mansion House was used as live-in quarters for Alfred Hospital nurses, who were completing their General training by learning Geriatric Care.

These nurses were forbidden to climb into the tower, as it was considered to be unsafe, but there was probably not one of those girls who did not enjoy the magnificent view of the whole of Caulfield from the tower of "Glen Eira".

"Glen Eira" was empty, crumbling, and condemned, when it was finally demolished in 1965, in spite of having a classification "C" from the National Trust, and the site was purchased by the State Government for the Southern Memorial Hospital.

Rudolph Ashley Ricketson, or as he preferred to be called, Ashley Ricketson, died in October 1968, at the age of 81, and in his will bequeathed an amount of \$500,000 to the further development of the Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, which stands today on the site of his birth. This Hospital is now recognized as one of the great hospitals in the Southern metropolitan area.

Ashley Ricketson is buried in the large family vault in the Deniliquin cemetery.

His Memorial to Caulfield is the Ashley Ricketson Medical Centre at the Royal Southern Memorial Hospital, and his portrait looks down, sternly, from the Board Room.

A FITTING REMINDER TO ALL THE RESIDENTS OF CAULFIELD, AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS, OF HIS GENEROSITY TO THE HOME OF HIS BIRTH.

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INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM
EARLY MINUTE BOOKS OF CAULFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

- 31st July 1889 Caulfield Volunteer Fire Brigade, asking for a grant from the Shire, in order to keep operating.
- 28th August 1889. Market Garden Owners requesting permission from the Shire to use Night Soil on their gardens.
- 7th May, 1890. Shire accepted tender of 3,625.0.0 (\$7,250) from Messrs. Upton & Smith, for the building of the Shire Hall.
- 7th May, 1890. Change of name of Cotton Street to Regent Street.
- 4th June, 1890. Change of name of George Street to St.Georges' Road.
- 16th July, 1890. Mr. A. Rankin appointed Architect for building the new Shire Hall.
- 27th August, 1890. Tenders invited for the erection of the Elsternwick Post Office, 296 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick.

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BOOK RELEASE

"THE LANGDON HOMES OF CAULFIELD"

By Irene V. Anderson.

Miss Rene Anderson, a retired School Teacher, is a very enthusiastic member of this Society, and she has spent a considerable amount of time researching and writing a book relating to the many homes of the Langdon family of Caulfield.

Her efforts have now been rewarded, in the publication of a limited edition of her book, suitably entitled "The Langdon Homes of Caulfield", which is fully illustrated with photos of the Langdon homes, including the former mansions "Crotonhurst" and "Rosecraddock".

Recommended price \$10.00 per copy, and they may be obtained from either the Author, tel 523 6285, or the Caulfield Historical Society.

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OUR SOCIAL VISIT TO MORNINGTON

Our social outing on Sunday 2nd March, when we visited "The Briars", described as the oldest pastoral station on the Mornington Peninsula, and later to the Old Post Office Museum, home of the Mornington Peninsula Historical Society, was thoroughly enjoyed by all of our members who attended this outing.

"The Briars", formerly known as "Checkinkurk", it's name was changed in 1843, has a strong connection with Napoleon and Josephine, and the Island of St. Helena. In the house there are on display, several items of furniture from the late Dame Mabel Brookes' Napoleonic collection.

After lunching in the grounds of "The Briars", we then visited The Old Post Office Museum, where we were made very welcome by Miss Grice, Secretary of the Mornington Peninsula Historical Society.

This Society, which has a permanent home in the old Post Office building, at a nominal rental of \$1.00 per year, has among their very valuable exhibits a number of old telephones, which date back to the very early days of tele-communication, all of which have been donated.

A very enjoyable social outing, thanks to the friendly welcome and hospitality extended to us by the staff on duty at "The Briars", and to Miss Grice, Mr. Taylor, President of the Mornington Society, Mrs. Mills, who explained to us the history of the Peninsula, and to the ladies who provided us with a "cuppa" before we left for home.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very sincere welcome to the following members who have recently joined this Society, and trust that they will all enter into our activities, and join in our discussions.

- Mr. Basil McAllister - Glen Huntly
- Mr. & Mrs. E.R. McPherson - Murrumbeena

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THE BIOGRAPHY CORNER

THE BIOGRAPHIES OF CAULFIELD RESIDENTS

CHILD-HOOD MEMORIES OF LIFE ON A COUNTRY FARM

AS TOLD BY Mrs. Ellen Howcroft.

Ellen Howcroft was born during 1894, and she now lives with her daughter in the Caulfield suburb of Ormond.

She was born not far from Boort, Victoria, and spent most of her life on her father's farm.

She told the Caulfield Historical Society :- When I was growing up, we had fourteen ponies on the farm, they were all black, and the girls always rode side-ways, never astride. We all learned to ride almost as soon as we could walk. The men rode astride, but no lady ever did. The girls had their skirts weighed down with lead, so the boys couldn't see our ankles. How times have changed!

Times in those days were very hard, my father would go down to the dam, on our property, and shoot a pigeon, and we would have pigeon pie for tea, or perhaps a kangaroo, and mother would make soup from the tail. Most of the meat was used to feed the farm dogs, nothing was wasted.

I can remember it was very hard work on the farm, the men would start work at 6am, and did not stop until it was dark.

My father would come in from working on the farm, very tired, but not too tired to give all the children a piggy-back. He was a Scotsman, and we were a very close and loving family.

My mother had to milk all the cows by hand, there were no milking machines in those early days, some of the cows were put into bails, some were milked in the yard with mother sitting on a stool, with a bucket between her knees. We always had plenty of scalded cream, mother used to put a big basin of milk on the wood-stove and when it boiled wait until it cooled, then skim off the cream.

As children, I had two brothers and one sister, we had to make our own fun, there was no wireless or television, and we used to rob the hives of wild bees, and collect the honey. Mother had to watch out for her lace curtains, as we would use them to cover our heads when we were robbing the hives. We were very seldom stung by the bees.

Every Saturday night, father would bring in the big galvanised tin tub. It was filled with hot water from the iron kettle on the wood stove, and everyone had to have a bath. We all shared the same water, one by one, we never wasted water, it was too scarce. We had to rely on tank water for drinking, cooking and bathing, and during a dry summer we had to be very careful not to use all the water in the tanks.

I enjoyed my life on the farm, although it was very hard for those pioneers. It was a wonderful time for children. Young people today, who have not experienced, at least a holiday on a farm, miss out on a great experience.

I would live the same life, if I could have my time over again."

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CAIRN COMMEMORATES VICTORIA'S FIRST QUARANTINE STATION

St.Kilda Historical Society is to be congratulated on initiating the erection of a Cairn at Point Ormond, to commemorate the first Quarantine Station in Victoria.

The quarantine Station was established on 24th April, 1840, when the Ship "Glen Huntly", one of a number of Glen Line Ships arrived at Williamstown flying the "Yellow Jack" fever flag.

She was subsequently ordered by the authorities at Williamstown, to proceed across the Bay to The Bluff, now known as Point Ormond, where the sick passengers and crew were immediately placed in quarantine.

The suburb of Glen Huntly and Glen Huntly Road, also commemorates the name of the ship.

A full account of the voyage of the "Glen Huntly" from Oban, Scotland, to The Bluff, is described in our News Letter No.22 of October 1983.

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NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

GUEST SPEAKERS

A further reminder that the following Guest Speakers have accepted our invitation to speak at our meetings.

Please show your support, by attending as many of these meetings as possible during the remainder of this year.

19th March An illustrated talk, entitled "The Age of Steam"
Speaker Mr. Cyril Henshaw, a member of this Society.

21st May Mrs. Maxine Wood, from Melbourne Tourism.
Subject "Melbourne Out and About"

18th June Mr Donald Taggart, President St.Kilda Historical Society
Subject "Early St.Kilda"

16th July Mr. R. Reid, Administration Officer, Gould League Victoria
Subject "Not Just For The Birds"

17th Sept. Annual Meeting, Election of Officer Bearers for 1986/87.
Speaker Father John Brosnan. O.B.E. who was Chaplain of Pentridge Prison for over thirty years.

19th Nov. Final Meeting for 1986
Speaker To be Finalized.

Meetings for 16th April, 20th August, and 15th October, are general discussion meetings, at which all members are invited to express their views regarding the conduct and future programmes of the Society.

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CORRECTION

In a recent issue of "Caulfield Contact", it was stated that Dr. Bernard Barrett, State Historian, would be the Speaker at our Annual Meeting on 17th September.

Dr. Barrett has advised that he is unable to attend this meeting, but we are pleased to announce that Father John Brosnan, who has recently retired as Prison Chaplain at Coburg, has kindly accepted our invitation to be Guest Speaker at this meeting. (My fault entirely - Ed.)

Members of our kindred Societies are especially welcome to attend and hear Father Brosnan's experiences during his term as Chaplain at the Prison.

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THE FIRST RACE MEETING AT CAULFIELD

The following article is an extract from "Bells Life", dated 30th April, 1859, and re-printed in "The Pastoral Review" of 15th August 1913 headed:-

CAULFIELD RACES

THE FIRST MEETING AT THE CLASSIC HEATH

SATURDAY 23rd APRIL, 1859.

Stewards :- Messrs. George Watson, Thomas Miller, Holles Knox.

Starter :- Mr. J. Payne. Judge Mr. J. Henderson.

"This maiden tryst took place on Saturday last, under a most genial atmosphere, and in the presence of an attendance more select than numerous.

The course is situated in the neighbourhood of "The Kennels", on an open heath, commanding a magnificent view, and although a "slow" course the running being over sand, with but little vegetation, except for low scrub, it is admirably suited to horses of questionable heritage.

We have been informed that a grant of land has been obtained for racing purposes in this area, and it is the intention of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood to fence it as speedily as possible.

The arrangements for the conduct of the races was carried out as originally agreed upon, and gave universal satisfaction to all those attending the meeting.

At about a quarter to two, Limerick Lass and her brace of companions of less aristocratic blood, sported silk for the Caulfield Plate, and as anticipated, the chestnut mare had no difficulty in earning the stake for her owner.

Mosquito was an easy conqueror of Saucy Boy for the Farmer's Cup, and Scurry Stakes. The only event worthy of the name of a race was the Steeplechase, for which three starters appeared at the post. The result was a comparatively easy victory for Black Boy, who broke the spell of ill-luck that has of late attended this once favourite nag, though had not Bobby come to grief at the first fence, the second time round he would have proved rather an unwelcome companion at the finish.

The Hack Race was won by a filly named Sunbeam, whose subsequent performance at Brighton, showed her to be good only by comparison."

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OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just a friendly reminder to those members who have omitted to forward their subscriptions for 1985/86.

It is so easy to forget, but this Society relies on Members' subscriptions to keep operating, so if you have not already done so, DO IT NOW.

Last night our Treasurer had a dream :-

"He fell asleep, and while he had a snooze,
He dreamt each member stepped right up and promptly paid their dues.
But when he found t'was but a dream, he almost threw a fit.
It's up to you to make it true",
Solution - PLEASE REMIT."

(of course, this doesn't apply to YOU, or does it?)

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CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES HERITAGE WEEK 1986.

During April of each year, Heritage Week, organized by the National Trust of Australia, has been celebrated throughout Australia. This year is no exception, and Caulfield Historical Society is proud to be associated with these celebrations.

To mark this occasion, our rooms on the First Floor, Caulfield Central R.S.L. 169 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, will be open to members and the public on Monday 13th April to Friday 18th April inclusive, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

On display will be :- Photographs depicting Caulfield's Heritage, Early Maps of this City, showing sub-divisions, and where the old Mansions of Caulfield were located.

Artifacts, Old Greeting Cards (c.1900),. very early Newspapers, Books, etc. OUR members in attendance will be pleased to assist in answering your queries.

ADMISSION IS BY DONATION - and everyone is welcome to attend.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO :-

Dr. Mary Chennells and Miss Hilary Bullock on their appointments as Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively, of the Southern Regional Association of Historical Societies.

Both Mary and Hilary are very loyal and respected members of our Society, and we offer sincere congratulations to them on their appointments.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO :-

The Editor and Staff of "Caulfield Contact", who edit and produce the City of Caulfield's own Newspaper. They have faithfully kept the residents of this City informed of the local news, for one hundred issues, and ten years of service to the community.

The first edition of "Contact" was published in 1976, and was produced every six weeks. It is now delivered to every home in Caulfield each month.

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CAN YOU - WILL YOU "HELP"?

As we all know, most of the historic material which is in the possession of this Society, and in fact all Historical Societies, has been donated by Society members, and members of the public, who are interested in the safe keeping and preservation of records.

During the comparatively short time this Society has been in existence, we have been fortunate in having a number of benefactors who have donated many valuable items of great historic interest, and to them we are sincerely grateful.

However, we are now appealing to ALL members, and other friends of the Society, to please check your cupboards, attics, and garages, for copies of Sands and McDougall Directories, Municipal Directories, Photos, Old Books, and Maps, in fact anything which you would not care to see destroyed, and for which you would like to find a good home, and place them in the Tender Loving Care of the Caulfield Historical Society.

If you can assist in any way, please contact either the Secretary, tel. 578 3145 or the Assistant Secretary tel. 532 5136, and arrangements will be made to pick up your gifts.

DO IT NOW. Tomorrow may be too late.

All donations will be acknowledged, and a record made of the name of the donor.

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THE EDITOR'S LAMENT

WAS THERE TIME ENOUGH TO DO IT IN?

He had SIX MONTHS TO DO IT IN
Well why should that alarm a bloke
With vigour like his own?
The job when once embarked upon
Would soon be rattled through.
However, he would think of it
In say, a week or two.

He had THREE MONTHS TO DO IT IN,
Oh bother was his cry,
This News Letter hangs on to me like a weight
Each day that passes by.
Let's see, three months; Ah, that's enough,
But just to clear the doubt,
I'll make arrangements for a start
Before this month is out.

He had A WEEK TO DO IT IN,
And care was in his glance,
I'm tired, he cried, "That flight of time
Won't give a chap a chance"
"Please help me," was his shout, and some one heard his plea.
But he still delayed, and the week soon passed,
As weeks so often do,
And because some help was given him,
the task WAS rattled through.

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DONATIONS RECEIVED.

The following donations to this Society have recently been received, and they have all been acknowledged and accepted with sincere thanks :-

Photos of old Elsternwick Post Office 296 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick
Donated by Mr. J. McLoughlin.

Badge awarded to Voluntary Workers for War Savings Certificates
Donated by Miss M. Allender.

1926 Collins Street Directory.
Donated by Dr. S. Coles

1937 VicRail Passenger Time Table.
Donated by Miss R. Yorston.

History of Elsternwick Club, 1898 - 1984.
Donated by Miss B. Snowball.

Photo Historic Quilt, designed by Mrs. Ruth Caple, for Caulfield Council.
Donated by Miss G. Rowe.

Minute Books and Correspondence, Carnegie Chamber of Commerce.
Donated by Mrs. Baxter.

Several Auctioneers Notices of Property Sales in Caulfield.
Donated by Miss E. Meehan.

History of Caulfield Rifle Club.
Donated by Mr. A. Reid

Programmes and Bank of N.S.W. Calendars.
Donated by Mrs. B. Sims

Souvenir Programme, Opening of New Elsternwick Post Office.
Donated by Dr. M. Chennells.

Jubilee Medal, Primary School, Grange Road, Glen Huntly.
Donated by Mrs. E. Walters.

Mother of Pearl covered Address Book.
A number of old Post Cards, (c 1914).
Donated by Miss. J. Searle.

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STOP PRESS.

Since this News Letter was compiled, we have received a donation from Mr. G.L.Buegg, Caulfield North, of a scale model, complete with drawings, of the Cannon in Hopetoun Gardens.

To Mr. Buegg, we offer our sincere thanks for presenting us with this valuable addition to our collection .
