

# CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

# 28

P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162

OCTOBER 1986

EDITOR R BALLANTYNE

AFFILIATED WITH  
THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

ISSN 0310-1703 - 20 cents

Published twice yearly - April and October  
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 : John Campbell, M.B.E.

President :	The Mayoress of Caulfield	
	Mrs. F. Campbell	523 9228
Treasurer :	Mr R. Sims	528 1661
Secretary :	Mr. R. Ballantyne	578 3145
Assist.Secretary :	Mr. A. Reid	523 5136.

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"THE FIRST LAW OF HISTORY IS THAT IT SHALL NOT STATE THAT WHICH IS FALSE.  
CONSEQUENTLY IT SHALL NOT SHRINK FROM STATING ANYTHING WHICH IS TRUE."

Cicero - 106-43 B.C.

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GEORGE HENRY FREDERICK WEBB was born on the 12th July, 1828, the son of Samuel Webb, a Naval Officer who served at the Battle of Trafalgar, and Isabella (nee Sweet).

He was baptised at the Southwark Walward Locks Field Chapel, York Street Independent Church, Surrey, England, on 26th October, 1828.

George Henry was educated for the Navy, but did not continue this calling, deciding instead to become a shorthand writer on the staff of W.B.Gurney, in the House of Commons.

Due to his bad health, his doctor suggested that he should live in a warmer climate, and he decided that he would travel to Australia. He arrived in the Colony during 1852, at the age of twenty four, and settled in Victoria. His position in London was kept open for twelve months, in anticipation of his return to England, but having obtained a position as a journalist with the Melbourne Argus, he decided to remain in Victoria.

In 1854 he left "The Argus" and joined the Government Shorthand Writers' Department which had then recently been established, and in 1855 he was involved in reporting the Eureka Stockade trial.

George Webb subsequently decided to study law, and was one of the earliest law students at Melbourne University. He was admitted to the bar in 1860, and studied in Chambers under Mr. Justice Stephens. In 1862 his application for a Readership to the Law School was questioned, and although it was finally approved, he resigned this position two days later.

His application for the same post in 1864 was rejected. However his abilities soon became recognised, and in 1866 he resigned his position as Government shorthand writer, and decided to devote himself exclusively to the practice of law.

For a man who came to the Bar comparatively late in life, George Webb made a very rapid rise in his chosen profession. In 1874 he was offered a seat on the Supreme Court Bench, but declined to accept this position. During 1879, he became a Queen's Counsel.

George Webb married his second wife, Sophia Sarah Agg on 16th April, 1862 at the Elsternwick Congregational Church, his first wife Matilda Field, whom he married in 1849, died during 1860.

George and his elder brother James, who emigrated from England in 1856, attended the early meetings for considering the desirability of commencing a literary club and reading room, to be called "The Athenaeum".

His seaside home at Mornington, "Frontage" was believed to have been built for him in 1870, and is now known as "Southdean".

George Henry Frederick Webb died at his Caulfield residence "Crotonhurst" on 26th September, 1891 and was buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery.

(For this information regarding Mr. Justice Webb we are indebted to Mrs M.Ring, of Montrose, Tasmania).

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MAYOR TO BE OUR PATRON

We are pleased to advise that the newly elected Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor John Campbell, M.B.E. has kindly agreed to be Patron of this Society during his term of office.

We offer sincere congratulations to Mayor Campbell on his election to the highest office the City of Caulfield can bestow, and we are confident that the cordial working relationship we have always enjoyed with "City Hall" will continue under his Patronage.

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Congratulations also to our President, Mrs Felicitie Campbell, on becoming the Mayoress of the City of Caulfield.

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14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Mayor and Mayoress of Caulfield, Councillor John Campbell M.B.E. and Mrs. Felicitie Campbell (who is our President) were the special guests at our 14th Annual General Meeting, which was held in the Mayoress' Reception Room, Caulfield City Hall, on Wednesday 17th September, 1986.

They were both welcomed by our Senior Vice President, Miss. Betty Snowball, who presented the Mayoress with a posy of flowers.

Mayor Campbell agreed to install the Office Bearers for 1986-1987, and as nominations received did not exceed the vacancies, the following members were elected unopposed :-

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

Miss E. Meehan who has been Vice President since 1981, did not again nominate for this position, but was elected unopposed to the Committee.

Elaine has been a very loyal supporter of the Society since its inception, and we are all pleased that we will still have the benefit of her expert advice at meetings of the Committee.

Miss G. Rowe, our newly elected Vice President, has been a member of our Committee since 1981, and we offer our congratulations to her on her election to the position of Vice President.

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At the conclusion of the business meeting, we were entertained by our Guest Speaker, Father John Brosnan, O.B.E. who, for thirty years, was Chaplain at Pentridge Prison.

Father Brosnan's topic was entitled "Crime and Punishment" and although this was a serious subject, it was interspersed with a great deal of humour, and included some of his experiences during his thirty years, as he put it, "In the Nick".

His talk was thoroughly enjoyed by the very large number of members and visitors, who were privileged to hear him.

A vote of thanks was extended to our Guest Speaker by Mayor Campbell, who congratulated him on his very thought provoking and interesting address.

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THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF CAULFIELD

RIFLE CLUB No.119

Researched By Mr. Athol Reid

The City of Caulfield Rifle Club is situated on land owned by the Victorian Railways, which is on the corner of Riddell Parade and Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick.

The surrounding triangle of gardens are maintained by the Caulfield City Council. The Club was formed in June, 1915, following a submission to the Victorian Railways, by Captain R.Horsley for permission to erect a building on the site which would be used as a miniature rifle range.

After permission was granted by the Railways Department, the building was constructed, and the early members carried out shooting practice with .22 rifles at the new Elsternwick Range. The larger bore practice with .303 rifles was conducted at Port Melbourne.

The Elsternwick Rifle Club operated until 1936, when it was taken over by the Commonwealth Department of Defence. During 1936-1946 the club members practiced at the Williamstown range, where they still use the larger bore rifles. The Internationally known marksman, P.A. Pavey, was a member at Elsternwick in 1924, and he won many important competitions, both here and overseas.

In 1941, the Defence Department issued an instruction that all members were to attend the Elsternwick range, and produce their rifles which would be requisitioned by the Department of the Army. All members 40 years of age and over, would be eligible to volunteer for guard duty at prisoner of war camps.

After the end of the war, the Australian team won the Queen's prize at Bisley in 1948. The club building was subsequently handed back to the Rifle Club, and small .22 bore practice was again conducted at Elsternwick.

The Club is still very active and new members are welcome.

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THE ELSTERNWICK FIRE BRIGADE AND

"FINGER" - THE FIRE HORSE

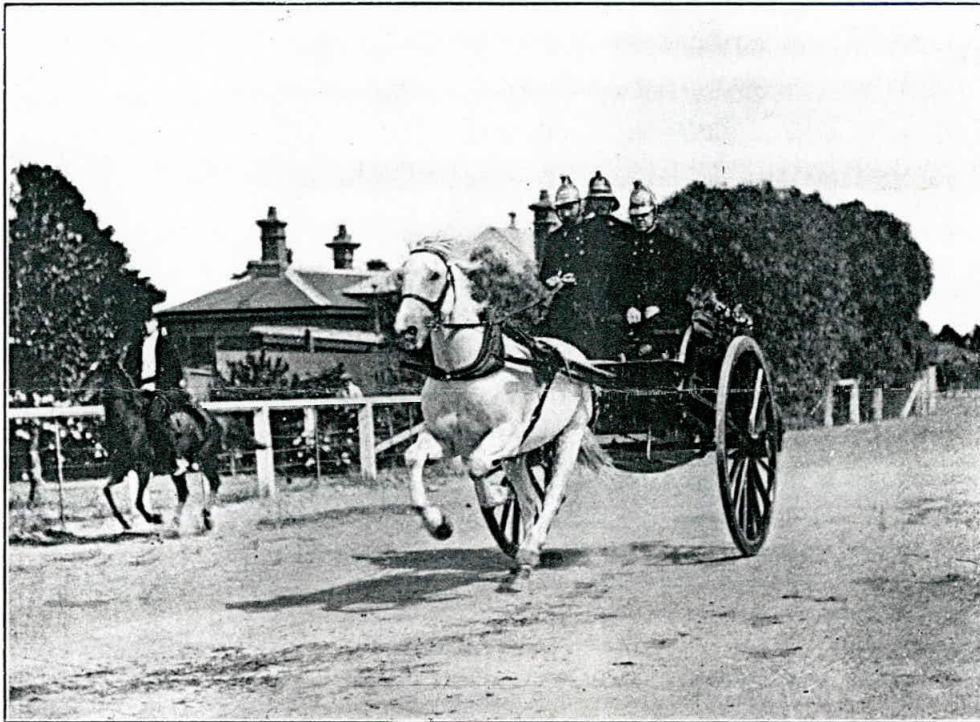
The Elsternwick Fire Brigade was formed early in 1890, with the financial assistance of the Caulfield Council, which provided equipment, including hoses and fire alarms. They also agreed to pay for all water used by the Brigade.

This arrangement worked quite satisfactorily for over twelve months, until, during 1891, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was established, and the Voluntary Brigade was disbanded. The new Board was responsible for all equipment, and fire protection in the Shire.

What had begun as a donation by the Council to a most worthy cause, became a levy on the Council which had to support the activities of the newly formed Fire Brigade Board, and was open to criticism in the event of them failing to supply adequate services.

This criticism was subsequently levelled at the Council in 1905, because the Elsternwick Fire Brigade Wagon was held up at the railway gates for ten minutes, on its way to a fire. Shortly afterwards, there were complaints regarding "Finger", the Brigade's horse, who apparently did not realise what an important position he held in the Community, and was inclined to jib at the least provocation.

After years of loyal service "Finger" was retired in February 1905.



"Finger" The Fire Horse, on his errand of Mercy

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CAULFIELD R.S.S.A.I.L.A.  
ST. GEORGES ROAD, ELSTERNWICK

The Caulfield Returned Servicemen's Club was formed toward the end of 1918. Its Charter was granted on 11th February 1919, and was one of the first Sub-branches in the Metropolitan area. The club was fortunate in obtaining premises, which had been recently vacated by the Elsternwick Bowling Club, in St. Georges Road.

The Caulfield City Council, and the Victorian Amateur Turf Club, both contributed one thousand pounds to assist the club to commence operations.

Shortly after 1929, saw the beginning of what was later called "The Great Depression", but the income of the Club was such, that they were able to assist many of their members, and their families who were in need of help.

From 1919 to 1939, membership increased from 230 to 1885, at the commencement of the Second World War, and extensive alterations were made to the one storied building, adding an extra story, as it is today.

The new Club rooms were opened by the late Hon.W.M. (Billie) Hughes, P.C., M.H.R. on 25th February 1938, and it was then decided to limit membership to three thousand, and applicants would only be accepted if they lived within a certain area of the Caulfield District.

During 1945, it was realised that the club rooms would not be large enough to accomodate the men and women who had enlisted from Caulfield, for service in the 1939-1945 war, and it was therefore decided to form the Caulfield Central Sub-Branch.

A donation of one thousand pounds was made to commence the new Branch, which now occupies a very spacious building in Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, and continues to be very closely associated with its Mother Branch.

The Caulfield R.S.L., like Caulfield Central, has continued to be a strong prosperous Club, caring for the needs of ex-servicemen and women, and their dependants.

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#### CAULFIELD FESTIVAL 1986.

As in previous years, during the Festival, we are opening our Display Room at Caulfield Central R.S.L., 169 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield, from 2pm to 4pm on Monday 1st December to Friday 5th December, 1986, for research, and inspection of our records, maps, post cards, and artefacts.

These will be available to students and the public, and arrangements can be made for photocopying at a small cost.

During Sunday 7th December, peoples' day at Caulfield Park, we will be conducting a display of some of our very old maps of Caulfield which were made before the land around many of the old homes was sub-divided, together with photographs of a number of the former Mansions of this City.

This display will be housed in a large tent in the gardens, so look for the Caulfield Historical Society sign.

In addition, one of our members will be patrolling the gardens conducting interviews, which will be recorded on tape, obtaining impressions of the Festival, and in the case of older residents, their recollections of their early life in Caulfield.

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#### THE ORIGIN OF NAUTICAL TERMS

Who has ever wondered how some of the words used by Mariners to describe a ship, and their working parts, in common use today by seamen and land-lubbers, came into being? Most people would not even think how they originated, let alone care. Stanley Baldwin, who was born at Bewdley, England, during 1867, and became Prime Minister of Great Britain during 1923, had this to say during a speech he made at the annual dinner of the Master Mariners Association in London, on 21st March, 1924 :-

"The word 'Anchor' came to England from the Romans, via the Angles and Saxons. The Vikings came along to waken them up, and they left behind such words as 'Keel', 'Reef' 'Stern', and the 'Wake of a ship', which was the phrase used for the track made through the ice when the Vikings' ships sailed from Norway to Greenland.

From the Byzantine Greeks, the sailors brought back the word 'Pilot', which took the place of the Old English word 'Lodesman'.

From Italy came 'Brig' and 'Brigantine', the Dutch gave us 'Skipper', 'Lugger', and 'Smack'. From the Spaniards, we obtained 'Cargo' and 'Binnacle'.

Even in this country (England), during our lifetime, our American Cousins sent us now familiar words :- 'Schooner', and 'Clipper'. They wanted to be sure that the Seaman's terms which were connected with sailing ships were kept in use, even though the sailing ship might soon be passing away.

The sailors of yesteryear have exported the seamen's terms into nearly every language on earth. Even within the last generation new terms have been invented by them "- 'Battle ship', 'Ironclad', 'Dreadnought', words that hit you like a hammer."

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following members have recently joined the Society, and we extend to them a very sincere welcome, and sincerely trust that they will all enter into our activities and deliberations, and spend many enjoyable years as active members of the Caulfield Historical Society.

Mr. J. Sullivan	North Caulfield
Councillor D. Spencer	Murrumbeena
Mrs. R. Spencer	Murrumbeena
Mr. K. Stodden	Elsternwick
Mrs. A. Tyrrell	Glen Huntly
Mrs. G. Vallati	Kew
Mr. J. Davies	Caulfield
Mrs. M. Cooke	Caulfield
Mr. T. Vitale	Caulfield

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DONATIONS RECEIVED

We are very grateful to the many friends of this Society, who have recently donated valuable articles of great historical interest. To each, and everyone, we offer sincere thanks for these gifts, which are sincerely appreciated.

Our thanks to :- Mrs. M.C. Cooke, Miss N. Ward, Miss B. Snowball, Miss E. Meehan, Mr. B. McAllister, Mr. J. McLoughlin, Miss G. Rowe. Mrs. M. Honeybone, Dr. S. Coles, Rev. E. Thomas, Mrs. F. Campbell, Mrs. T. Cleverley.

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OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just a reminder to several of our members that subscriptions for membership of this Society are now considerably overdue.

As we depend on membership fees for our existence, it would be sincerely appreciated if those members who have not paid their dues for 1986/87, could rectify this omission as early as possible.

The Subscription Rates are :-

Individual Membership	\$5.00 per year
Family Membership	\$9.00 per year
Institutions	\$9.00 per year
Life Membership	\$100.00

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WHO CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE SCHOOL BELL?

For several generations, students attending Glen Huntly Primary School in Grange Road, have been taught that the bell which was used to summon them to classes was obtained from the so called Fever Ship, the Barque "Glen Huntly", after she was quarantined at Point Ormond on 7th April, 1840.

Although this has never been proved, or disproved, there seems to be some doubt as to the truth of this historical legend.

This Society, and Glen Huntly Primary School, are now appealing to any one who may be able to assist in tracing the history of the bell, which is engraved with a number 36824.

The bell, which is obviously very old, has become part of the school's heritage, and if anyone can help in obtaining its history please contact the Secretary of this Society, Tel. 578 3145.

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IN APPRECIATION

The members of the Caulfield Historical Society wish to place on record their thanks and sincere appreciation, to the following members of Caulfield City Hall, and other friends of the Society, for their advice and assistance, so willingly given during the past year :-

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

To Carol Harry, Ruth Mansell, Jim Badger, Gladys Vallati, their complete co-operation at all times has been sincerely appreciated.

To the Committee and Staff at Caulfield Central R.S.L., for allowing us the use of a room in their Club, in which we can display our records and research materials, which are used by students and also by the public.

To all these friends of the Caulfield Historical Society, we offer a very sincere "Thank You" for your complete co-operation and assistance received during the past year.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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 all our members at our first meeting  
in the New Year  
Which will be on  
Wednesday 18th February, 1987.

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A REMINDER THAT

Our final meeting for 1986 will be held on  
Wednesday 19th November, 1986  
when our Guest Speaker will be :-

Mrs. Sally Graham

Who Will Speak On :-

"The letters of James Graham 1839-1854. A Pioneer Merchant".

Mrs. Graham has had several books published, and her talk will be based on her latest publication, researched from the diaries of her Great-Grandfather, James Graham.

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