

Since 1878 the church has greatly extended its activities and added several large buildings. When the Centenary celebrations were held in 1957, a ceiling and modern lighting were installed in the chapel, the central porch was removed, the present foyer and tower added and the bricks covered with white cement touched with blue to make the charming building that it is today.

(The information in this article came from Mr. George Daff of Heatherton, Mrs. F. Taylor and Mrs. C. Whitehead of Cheltenham, the records of the Old Cheltenham Cemetery, and the "Moorabbin News.")

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EXCURSION TO MALDON

On Sunday 30th April the Society in co-operation with members of the Mordialloc Historical Society enjoyed an excursion to Maldon, once a gold mining town eighty miles north west of Melbourne and now 120 years old. Our Secretary, Mrs. P. Brodie, was the chief organizer of the trip and her efforts resulted in 45 people - a bus full - making the expedition. In perfect weather the travellers enjoyed the autumn colours and many old buildings in the towns they passed through. At Maldon, Mr. G. Pearce who has long been a resident of the town met the party. After a picnic lunch they inspected the Museum which was full of interest for them and then the Methodist and Anglican churches, noting on the way two beautiful oak trees planted in the 1860's and the plaque on the Post Office commemorating the association with the town of the Australian author, Henry Handel Richardson. Then the party made a diversion up Mount Tarrangower to view the country round and the Cairn Curran Reservoir which supplies the town with water. Their next call was the cemetery where the chief point of interest was the tall Chinese oven, used to burn the papers of the deceased soon after his death. Here Mr. Pearce explained how a Chinese funeral was conducted and their means of keeping away the devil. From here the visitors went to Carman's Tunnel, one of many gold mines in Maldon. Opened in 1856, it runs horizontally for 1600 feet into the hill. With the aid of a lamp the visitors stumbled along, hoping that the rugged timber above their head was strong enough to hold up the hill.

Then it was time to bring out the thermoses again before setting off for home ~~and~~ a very good day.

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