



Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

Number 10, July 2016

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Editorial Glen Eira's Cultural Heritage

Welcome to the tenth Newsletter which looks at our cultural heritage.

The word *heritage* can be used in a number of ways.

We can talk about the many heritage buildings and features in Glen Eira and elsewhere.

The City of Glen Eira is experiencing rapid change. We are seeing our houses and streetscapes being transformed by residential developments of varying scales, and major level crossing works.

In this context at least, we need to know, identify, record and highlight the heritage of our natural and built environment.

We also need to consider the people, places, groups and ideas which have contributed to the rich cultural history of the area we call Glen Eira.

In this issue, we consider *some* aspects of our cultural heritage. If you feel we have missed some aspect, please contribute to our next Newsletter. Deadline is 1 October 2016.

**Geoffrey Paterson
and Carol Stals**

**We acknowledge that the
Boonwurrung People are the
traditional owners of the area
known as Glen Eira.**

Then and Now Camden Cinema South Caulfield

The *Camden* opened on 25 October 1935 and closed on 11 August 1962. It became the Brunswick tenpin bowling alley before the Southern Indoor Bowls Club was founded in 1969.



Photo courtesy of CATHS
Camden Cinema in 1936



Southern Indoor Bowls Club in 2016

Where and what is it?



This object is attached to a tree. What is it, what does it commemorate and where is it?

Issue 9 solution

The tower is at Caulfield State School 773 in South Caulfield.

GEHS Future Dates

Details are available on our website at www.gehs.org.au

Wednesday 28 September 2016
General Meeting 7.30pm
Boyd Room, Carnegie Library
A history of the Salvation Army in Australia by Yasmin van Gaalen-Prentice.

1 October 2016
Newsletter Issue 11 Deadline.

3–20 November 2016
Glen Eira Gallery Exhibition.

Wednesday 30 November 2016
General Meeting 7.30pm
History of organs in Glen Eira's mansions and churches by John Maidment.

GEHS Past Events

Friday 22 April 2016
Glen Eira College
Anzac Day Service.

Saturday 21 May 2016
Rippon Lea 60th Open Day.



GEHS members at Rippon Lea
L to R: Peta van Horick, Claire Barton,
Anne Kilpatrick rear, and Carol Stals

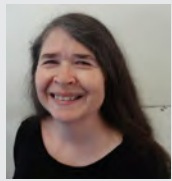
Wednesday 25 May 2016
Rosalind Mearns spoke on
Rippon Lea.

Saturday 2 July 2016
Glen Eira Storytelling Festival.

Wednesday 27 July 2016
Annual General Meeting
Dr Judith Buckrich
The Village of Ripponlea.

**We thank David Southwick MP
for kindly donating the printing
of this Newsletter.**

President's Column



Contributors for this Edition of our Newsletter have identified a plethora of buildings,

environs and human activities they personally value across Glen Eira. What a rich cultural and community heritage this shows, with opportunities ourselves to be involved in any number of organisations and interests on a volunteer or paying basis. As a local volunteer-run/not-for-profit community organisation, we recommend actively following whatever interest draws you in.

In news, one of our valued Committee members, Secretary Ailsa Hunt, has recently stepped down due to family reasons. Ailsa has been a mainstay as Secretary for some years now. We thank Ailsa for her massive contribution and wish her and Lindsay all the very best. Filling this important vacancy, member Alice McInnes has been appointed as Secretary by the Committee pending the July elections.

See inside for an update on progress of the submission about the Montgomery Rest Home to the Heritage Council of Victoria. And finally, our sincere appreciation goes to the Bendigo Bank Murrumbene for the grant of \$4500 to complete a "Significance Assessment" of our Collection.

Anne Kilpatrick



Sue Foley of Bendigo Bank Murrumbene presents the \$4,500 cheque to GEHS President Anne Kilpatrick at the 25 May General Meeting.

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc A0041700U published this Newsletter.

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Website www.gehs.org.au

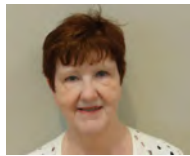
The office is open Tuesday and Friday between 9 and 12 or by appointment.

The deadline for the third Newsletter, published in November 2016, is 1 October 2016. **We welcome your contribution.**

GEHS meetings and events

Return to *Labassa* Project: the 20th century social history of *Labassa* mansion

Wednesday 23 March 2016
Talk by Vicki Shuttleworth



Vicki started by giving an overview of *Labassa's* 150 years from its conception as *Sylliot Hill* in 1862, to its present day as *Labassa*.

Alexander Robertson of Cobb and Co. fame was the second owner in 1890, and his refurbishment brought the home up to mansion standards. *Labassa* had gone from an initial eight roomed home on eight acres, to 35 rooms and 15 acres, with a tennis court (13 Manor Grove – now donated back to *Labassa*), a two-storeyed stable and two conservatories. One conservatory survives and has been restored. Robertson died in Caulfield in 1896 after a long illness. The property was tenanted until John Boyd Watson bought the house in 1904. The boom and bust of 1896 had also set in.

When John Watson moved from *St Aubins* in Orrong Road in 1904, he renamed the property *Labassa*, possibly after a village in Fiji the family had visited. He acquired his wealth through his mining magnate father. The Watson family didn't enjoy the property for long, and by 1911 Watson had died. His wife put the property up for sale in 1912, but had no luck. By

1913, 46 allotments were auctioned from the *Labassa* Estate. By the 1920s, flat mania was taking place, and many mansions were being demolished, or converted into flats. Lillian and Stanley Sergeant – Sergeant was one of the auctioneers of the property – bought *Labassa*, and with minimal

damage to the interior, he added toilets and partitions to the interior for flat conversion. Robert Hannon consequently purchased *Labassa* from Sergeant in 1923, and eventually managed in 1926, to convert the stables into *Ontario Flats*. The demography of the residents who moved into *Labassa Flats* included genteel widows of independent means, teachers, company directors, and one policeman – Senior Detective Percy Lambell who arrested Squizzy Taylor. Flats were advertised at three pounds and ten shillings per week.

The Willas flats were built in 1936 by William and Sarah (Sal) O'Callaghan, who bought the property in 1933. After Sal died, William moved out. The former laundry was the home of James and Emily Brearly, caretakers of the property for many years. After James passed away, Emily continued to live there until her death in 1964. She was instrumental in fundraising for the World War 2 war effort, and kept the spirits up of the many migrant families who moved in.

Labassa had a very multicultural clientele over the years, including bakers, butchers, designers, furriers, radio broadcasters, eventually ending with the arty bohemian tenants of the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s.

The National Trust eventually bought the property when it went up for public auction in 1980, with the help of Alcoa Australia.

Report by Claire Barton



Photo G. Paterson

Save *Ripponlea*: the 1960s fight to preserve *Rippon Lea* House and Gardens

Wednesday 25 May 2016

Talk by Rosalind Mearns



Rippon Lea is one of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)'s key properties. It was

built and developed between 1868 and 1903 by influential Victorian-era architect Joseph Reed for Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood. Today, it is one of Australia's last grand estates to remain largely intact, thanks to the 1960s campaign, led by owner Louisa Jones, to save it.

Rippon Lea has had four owners over the course of its history. The original occupant was Sir Frederick Sargood and his family who owned the property from 1863 until 1903. Upon his death it was purchased by Thomas Bent's syndicate in 1903. The Nathan Family then purchased *Rippon Lea* in 1910 with the property passing to Mr Nathan's daughter, Louisa, in 1935.

Louisa Jones lived at the property until 1972 when she donated the mansion and gardens to the National Trust as part of her campaign to save it.



Photo courtesy of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Over the course of its history *Rippon Lea* has undergone a number of changes. The interior of the house was significantly modified in the 1930s, including the additions of a new ballroom and swimming pool and the eastern section of the property was heavily subdivided between 1904 and 1963. This process began with Sir Thomas Bent's

sale of 35 *splendid building allotments* at the south-eastern edge of the estate. However, as Rosalind Mearns, Community Advocate, explained, it wasn't until 1963 that public attention sought to halt these encroachments.

In 1952, the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) had cleared land to the south of the *Rippon Lea* estate for construction of their headquarters. After additional land acquisitions in 1954, the Federal Government moved to compulsorily acquire a further four acres of the property's formal gardens in 1963. This was the final straw for many including Louisa Jones. She immediately made her intentions to give *Rippon Lea* to the National Trust public, and within five days the estate had been classified. When Cabinet approved recommendations for the ABC's four acre acquisition, there was an enormous public outcry.

On 21 April 1963, more than 10,000 people gathered in protest against the seizure of *Rippon Lea*. For the five years that followed, complex negotiations ensued allowing the gardens to remain untouched. Thankfully, the final agreement saw the seized land returned to Louisa Jones and today *Rippon Lea* survives to be enjoyed by all.

Report by Claire Barton

Heritage Watch by Barbara Hoad

The former Caulfield Repatriation Hospital has been recommended for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register following a nomination by the Glen Eira Historical Society. The buildings have been described as the most intact remnant of Victoria's primary World War 1 repatriation hospitals. In fact, the former Red Cross Rest Home (now known as *Montgomery*) has been found to be the only purpose-built Red Cross Rest Home remaining in Victoria. Also included in the recommendation are two brown brick interwar Georgian Revival

buildings, formerly homes for nurses, and the old Glen Eira mansion fence which stands as a tangible reminder of the mansion (demolished 1965). This became Australian Military Hospital No. 11, the largest repatriation hospital in Victoria at the time.

Heritage Victoria's recommendation still needs to be considered and decided on by the Heritage Council. We are hopeful of a positive outcome but our campaign is not over yet. We will be writing a letter of support to the Heritage Council and we encourage our members and other interested persons to do the same.



Caulfield House 2015
Photo Barbara Hoad

Montgomery

A couple of years ago the land on which *Montgomery* sits was leased by the State Government to HammondCare to build an aged cared facility.

On 24 May 2016, Glen Eira City Council approved a Planning Application from HammondCare to develop an aged-care facility on the site with the condition that *Montgomery Rest Home* is retained. *Watch this space!*

Glen Eira's Aboriginal Heritage Indigenous Life by Carol Stals

The Aboriginal people of this area are the Ngaruk-Willam people of the Bunurong (Boonwurrung) group. They are members of the Kulin Nation.

Aboriginal people were moving through this area when the white settlers began arriving. Some settlers befriended them and were helpful, giving advice on childhood illnesses and also food parcels, while others were fearful and kept their children inside.

The average English migrant wouldn't have had any previous

contact with native people. As settlement increased, and land taken up, the people moved on.

Recently Brighton Cemetery identified three Aboriginal graves: for one man still living a traditional existence, there is a statement by William Thomas the Aboriginal Protector in his death inquest; the second was a little girl from an orphanage; and another was a World War 1 soldier from a country area – a *black digger*.

Glen Eira has many streets with Aboriginal names. Many are a mishmash, as they are interpretations of names as heard by white people. Others may have come from other language groups but not the local language. However, an effort was clearly made to incorporate them. Port Melbourne, an earlier settled area has no Aboriginal street names.

A famous song maker and local man was named Murrum Murrumbean. William Thomas had many accounts of him and he was widely respected. Derrimut was another outstanding man from the local group.

Frederick Chapman (later Justice of the New Zealand Supreme Court) recollected a corroboree that took place in Hotham Street, where *Rippon Lea* mansion now stands. It involved hundreds of Gippsland Aborigines. They welcomed white folk attending. These were meetings for business, marriage etc. and just for pleasure. When seen in the dark with just firelight the white clay markings on their bodies looked striking.

Derek Ladd, Council Senior Arboreal Tree Management Coordinator, confirmed for me that the area was once dense Red River Gum forest all the way to Mordialloc. Boyd Park has a tree that is 150 years old; the new Reservoir Park has one about 80–100 years old and Greenmeadows Gardens still has one of two very old trees.

Truganini, although from Tasmania, travelled through the

Boonwurrung country for quite a time. This could account for a local street being named for her.

A list of street names will be included in another Newsletter.

Glen Eira history remembered Box Cottage Museum by Fran Bader

The three publicly accessible historic buildings in the City of Glen Eira are *Rippon Lea*, *Labassa* and the third is an early settler's dwelling known as the *Box Cottage Museum*. Back in 1984, it was relocated from Lewis Timber Yard and reconstructed as a local heritage museum in nearby Joyce Park, Jasper Road, Ormond, then in the now former City of Moorabbin. The museum was named after two of the cottage's long-term owners, market gardeners William Box and his wife Elizabeth from Withyham, England.



Since 1994, the museum has been supported and maintained by Glen Eira City Council and volunteer members of City of Moorabbin Historical Society (CMHS), established in 1960, manage and operate the museum. Some of us will remember that in 1994, the former City of Moorabbin was devolved into the newly created Cities of Glen Eira, Bayside, Kingston with a bit going to Monash.

CMHS collects, preserves and displays items and objects relating to:

1. the history and heritage of the former Parish of Moorabbin initially stretching from Warrein now North Road as far south as Mordialloc, and east from Port Phillip Bay to the foothills of the Dandenongs. These days the

area is often referred to as *The Sandbelt*.

2. the day-to-day lives of the two different families who occupied and/or owned the cottage dwelling from the 1860s to 1970. These are market gardeners William and Elizabeth Box from 1868–1913, and artisan sculptor August Rietman and his wife Frieda, 1917–1970.



World War 1 Memorial, Foyer Stonnington Town Hall designed by Paul Raphael Montford, and carved by August Rietman ca 1930 in his Box Cottage studio workshop.

The museum team encourages visitors to come and explore our region's market gardening history and heritage through permanent and rotating displays that tell the stories of our local community through maps, images, clothing, objects and artefacts, farm equipment and tools. CMHS also maintains a small library of the area's history and generally acts as a resource for members of the local and wider Victorian community.

Box Cottage Museum is opened to the public between 2 and 4pm on the last Sunday of each month and by appointment during the week for groups and local organisations. During 2016, the museum also opens on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Entry is by donation of \$2+ which goes towards the upkeep of the museum. Children are free. At the moment, Annual Membership is only \$10 and new members are always welcome.

For more information visit our website: <http://home.vicnet.net.gov.au/~cmhsbcm>
Photos credits: BCM Collection. Box Cottage courtesy Mario Mirabile; Memorial Ray Rietman.

Exploring Glen Eira's heritage

Carnegie Walkers

by Tony Wissenden



Photo courtesy of the author
Christmas function 2014

The Carnegie Walkers was started about a decade ago by Keith Marshall, a retired metallurgist, and Beryl Brewer, the wife of a local businessman. Both are long-term Carnegie–Murrumbeena residents with a good general knowledge of the area and an interest in local history.

The philosophy of the group is moderate exercise in a friendly and encouraging environment. Everybody is welcome and the group has about 20 members, aged from about 50 to early 80s.

Walks on Wednesdays start at the Carnegie Library at 9am and last about one hour, by which time participants have returned to the Koornang Road shopping area for coffee and conversation.

One walk is to Boyd Park, Murrumbeena, which forms part of the Outer Circle Railway land. In 1988, the Outer Circle Linear Park was created and local residents proposed that a section of it should be named Boyd Park in honour of the Boyd family of painters, musicians and writers.

Springthorpe Gardens, also in Murrumbeena and near Boyd Park, is named after Dr J.W. Springthorpe, who had an important influence on medical development in Australia. The original lodge gates of the Royal Melbourne Hospital were presented to Dr Springthorpe,



Springthorpe Gardens, Murrumbeena
Photo: G Paterson

and were erected at his home site in Murrumbeena.

Another walk is to Mallanbool Reserve, the *pool with reeds*, officially opened by the Glen Eira Council in March 2002. The Council created an area similar to that which the Kulin Nation would have used before the arrival of Europeans. There are wallaby grasses, common heath, lomondras, rushes and flax lilies in the more central areas, while the perimeters have eucalypts, she-oaks, acacias and tea-trees. Listening posts around the reserve provide information on the Kulin Nation, and some boards have interesting graphic displays. Walkers have also noticed the upgrading and extension of facilities at nearby Packer Park.

Another walk is to Koornang Park, originally known as the Old Sugar Works Paddock, purchased by the then Council in about 1913. Group members walk west past the Carnegie outdoor swimming pool and on to Lord Reserve, originally known as the Sugar Works Swamp. They continue west towards the railway line and turn into Garden Avenue and visit the Garden Avenue Park, opened by the then Council in 1912. Walkers cross the Glen Huntly Primary School precinct and on to Koornang Road shops.

Glen Eira's transport heritage

Remembering our trams

by Keith Stodden

In my dining room, I have a photo of Melbourne tram X2 Class 677 at Elsternwick Station, when there was a level crossing. 677 is about to cross and shunt for the return trip to Point Ormond. This service was replaced by a bus in October 1960, though the tram

poles remain but seem to be no-one's responsibility. At one time, Glenhuntly Depot also provided a service from Darling Road terminus (now East Malvern) to Point Ormond.

The X Class tram was based at Footscray which was a separate system until a link to the Ammunition Factory was established during the war. X1 Class trams were numbered 459 to 468 and newer X2 Class from 675 to 680. Point Ormond occasionally had other single-truck trams as well as normal eight wheel trams.

Glenhuntly Depot was also home from many years to the L Class trams (101 to 106) which were originally built for the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust. Two of these trams are preserved.

Over the years, Glenhuntly Depot has never had modern trams – the C, D or E Class trams.

Among memorable trams we have seen at Glenhuntly was the first W Class tram 219 plus 500, 606 and 777. The last SW6 door tram at Glenhuntly was 958. The larger B Class trams at Glenhuntly are not used on the North Richmond route along Chapel Street whose return destination was recently corrected to *Balaclava via Prahran*.

I recommend a visit to the Friends of Hawthorn Depot Museum in the old Depot at 8 Wallen Road Hawthorn which is open on selected Saturdays.



Courtesy of Tramway Museum Society of Victoria from the collection of David Doyle. Photo shows the tram and shops on the corner of Glen Huntly Road and Rippon Grove, Elsternwick.

Glen Eira cinemas – 1

The Argosy/Capri Theatre, Murrumbeena by Jan Armstrong

The *Argosy* opened in the Murrumbeena Public hall in 1932. It was founded by subscription and administered by the Caulfield City Council. The *Argosy* was firstly controlled by Ron Dudgeon and Tom McMurtie who operated an engineering business called Austral Argo. Ken Newell, who worked at the *Argosy* in the early years, said that this picture theatre did not use the normal newspaper advertising. The Selleck Group placed the programs in the Independent Theatre column of *The Herald*. Films records indicate that in the years 1947 to 1953 some 338 seats accommodated movie goers. In 1971, this had decreased to 182 seats. This hall changed its name to the *Capri* in 1965. Some notable screenings in the early seventies were *Midnight Cowboy*, *One Born Every Minute*, *Paint Your Wagon* and *Darling Lili*. The *Argosy/Capri* picture theatre ran from 1935 to 1989. This venue survived for a number of years after other nearby hardtop cinemas closed¹. The Carnegie theatre, for example, closed in 1958, Glenhuntly in 1959 and soon after Caulfield in 1962. The introduction of television meant that signals were switched on around Melbourne which began the demise of suburban cinema theatres.

The *Capri* in the seventies showed third and fourth run popular features along with more routine flicks to extend a night's entertainment. Sci-fi or similar films became a feature to help the cinema's survival.

Fond memories of the *Capri* cinema include Greg Bristowe's recall of the Saturday matinee with cartoon first, intermission, then a visit to the snack bar and the purchase of jaffas. "Some yahoo was always rolling jaffas down the wooden aisle". The

¹ **Hardtop** refers to indoor not outdoor.

seats were very old leather and the ticket fee was 35 cents Dean Brandum recalled a great community experience!

The *Argosy/Capri* venue, part of Murrumbeena's history, was sadly demolished in 1989 to make way for the Spurway Nursing Home at 91 Murrumbeena Road.

Glen Eira cinemas – 2

To the movies . . . in Carnegie and Glen Huntly by Maggie Armstrong

In Melbourne in the late 1950s, as television became more popular with more people purchasing sets, some people were saying TV was *just a fad*. However, many suburban cinemas were closing as a result of dwindling attendances.

The picture theatres were very popular in Glen Eira judging by the number of theatres operating. If you were living in Carnegie, there were a few cinemas to choose from.

The *Carnegie* theatre was located

in Woorayl Street. It was built in 1920, operated as a theatre, then was used as an ice/roller skating rink for a few years in the 30s and then reopened again as a cinema operated by Hoyts. It closed permanently in 1959. The actual building is still there but is to be developed and apartments to be built.

An older theatre in Carnegie located in Rosstown Road operated in the Memorial Hall but only as a silent picture theatre between 1915 until 1934. This is now the home of the Abel Tasman Dutch Club.

On the Glen Huntly Road and Manchester Grove corner, where Woolworths is now located, there was *Hoyts Glenhuntly* theatre which was built in 1926. It closed for a short time in the 1940s after a fire but reopened a few months later. It eventually closed permanently in 1958.

All of these theatres operated with one screen – very different to the multiplexes of today.

Glen Eira Cinemas



Hoyts Glenhuntly 1926



Murrumbeena Argosy 1952

Bentleigh
Hoyts Bentleigh 1926–1984

Carnegie
Memorial 1915–1934
Rosstown 1915–1934
Carnegie 1920–1959

Caulfield
Crystal Palace 1921–1959

Caulfield South
Outdoor
Camden 1935–1962

Elsternwick
Phoebe
Renown 1916–1970
Classic, Esquire 1946–

Glenhuntly
Apollo Glenhuntly, Hoyts 1st
1915–1926
Hoyts Glenhuntly 1926–1958

Murrumbeena
Argosy Murrumbeena Talkies,
Argosy, Capri Rex 1932–1974

Ormond
Plaza Ormond Theatre
1927–1958

Sources: Cinema and Theatre
Historical Society (CATHS) Database
at www.caths.org.au
Photos courtesy of CATHS.

Glen Eira arts – 1

Caulfield Arts Centre, Inkerman Road. by Carol Stals

The Caulfield Arts Centre opened in 1975 and was possibly the first metropolitan Arts Centre to be established by a local council. It was set back from the street by a deep garden providing a lovely space around the building. Jaqueline Hodges was appointed Community Arts Officer.

Their first purchase was a Fred Williams painting forming the basis of the Caulfield Permanent Art Collection.

Between 1975 and 1987, it became a prominent focal and resource facility. Unfortunately, it was not central within Caulfield or close to public transport.

However, those of us who were able to access it did so with glee. What a wonderful range of classes they held.

I attended yoga, several different areas of Antique Furniture studies, decoupage, and many more. It was such a stimulating and active centre.

Sadly, it closed and was sold in 1988 when the Caulfield Arts Complex opened at the Town Hall. The gallery there holds regular well-attended art exhibitions. These are going from strength to strength, but the wonderful buzz of classes has not been replaced.

Reference

G. Solomon, *Caulfield's Heritage*
City of Caulfield, 1989.

Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter Issue 10 July 2016

Editors Carol Stals and Geoffrey Paterson thank these people who contributed to, or assisted with, this Newsletter: Sam Abdulhak, Jan Armstrong, Maggie Armstrong, Fran Bader, Valerie Barnett, Cinema and Theatre Historical Society, Claire Barton, Lois Comeadow, Judith Buckrich, Andrea Casey, David Hardham, Barbara Hoad, Ailsa Hunt, Anne Kilpatrick, Colin Kirkham, Rosalind Mearns, Tim Neve, Elena Rieck, Vicki Shuttleworth, David Southwick, Keith Stodden, Peta van Horick, Heather Welsh, Tony Wissenden, and Stephen Wong.

Glen Eira arts – 2

Glen Eira Artists Society by Heather Welsh

Like so many other Rotary Clubs, the Rotary Club of Caulfield over various decades has held Art Exhibitions as fundraisers. But beyond assisting artists through the sale of their works, Club members could not see how their involvement would really help the development of individual artists.

Amongst its members, the Club had an exhibiting artist and other members who were interested in art. It also had an artists' model who had worked for a considerable number of art groups and individual artists. She had listened to what artists said was lacking in support for them and also in professional development opportunities.

So, in 2008 the Club decided it would ask local artists what they wanted and help them to establish a group as a Rotary Club cultural and vocational project, including providing on-going support where needed. This did not happen easily.

In May 2009, the Club publicised that it would hold a *Cafe Conversation* with artists. No artists turned up! The Club was asking through the wrong networks. Not giving up, the artist in the Club invited two local artists whom she knew to her home together with the artists' model who had worked for one of these artists. One artist was interested, the other one wasn't at that time, but subsequently did join the Society. It was this small group of three which became the founding group of the Glen Eira Artists Society.

Following that meeting, other artists were drawn in by personal contact and it was decided the direction of the Society would be guided by the artists, but with Rotary Club of Caulfield support. Right from the outset, the Club members realised that its role would be to provide administrative support, handle grant applications, negotiate venue hire, and undertake other tasks needed to be done which would enable the artists to do what they were in the Society for – to create art!

Thus began an extraordinary relationship of sponsorship which extended well beyond the mere provision of funds. From the Society's incorporation in 2009 until 2015, the Club provided an Administrator and sponsored the Society's Exhibitions – helping out in very practical ways from assisting with Exhibition preparations to deinstalling Exhibitions.

It also led to a warm and fruitful relationship with the 4th Caulfield Scout Group whose Hall in South Caulfield has been the Society's *home* since 2009.

The Society's first major event was Paint in the Park in 2010 held at Caulfield Park on the first Sunday after Melbourne Cup Day, when everyone expected it to be warm. It wasn't! It bucketed rain but the intrepid artists painted on – despite a small dog walking over a painting which had been blown off an easel, another dog wagging its tail against a wet work changing the landscape with each wag of its tail, and a bold goose removing the lunch from an artist's



Photo courtesy of the author. Rotary members assisting at the Annual Paint in the Park Day.

backpack, who was completely unaware that this was happening behind him. Undaunted, the artists then held their first Exhibition of works from the event at the Glen Eira Gallery Community Gallery.

As more artists joined, the Society's development came at a rapid pace. Sessions and activities were run as artists perceived a need. This included evening Life Drawing sessions, all day Studio Art, Portraiture held in each other's homes, monthly en plein air in parks at historic homes or other places of interest. There were also an annual major Exhibition at Glen Eira Gallery, the annual Paint in the Open at either a park or an urban area, with a subsequent exhibition at Glen Eira Gallery Community Gallery, and Art Development Master Classes presented by established artists. Mentoring sessions assisted artists in preparing works for the Society's annual major exhibition, and an Art & About Program was conducted where artists visit galleries and art events as a group.

Members were encouraged to enter competitions and did so successfully, winning quite a few awards. Artists were helped to gain exhibition confidence to start holding their own exhibitions at private galleries as individuals or in small groups, provided with opportunities to gain experience as educators, encouraged to obtain commissions, and to look at different ways of selling their work or utilising their creative skills to obtain funding while developing their professionalism.

An online presence was established through a quarterly seasonal e-news sent to a database of supporters as well as members, a Facebook page and website. It also began liaising with other art groups for mutual benefit and forged a strong bond with Carnegie's Breslin Gallery. As the number of members grew, they began taking on more of the organisational responsibilities,

so that there is now a specific Grants Officer who handles all Grant Applications to maintain consistency and continuity and the Administrator is now an Artist. To maintain liaison with the Rotary Club of Caulfield, the position of Vice-President is now held by a Rotarian.

The Society is unique in that it has a Community Engagement program which enables members to participate in community public art projects. These have included assisting with artwork at several Festivals, primary schools, an aged care facility and over a period of eight months at Anthony Breslin's Community Garden Art project at Koornang Uniting Church at 115 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena, which is an ongoing project. This project involved a temporary communal art studio on the stage of the Church Hall which resulted in very happy interactions between the artists, Church guests from Yooralla, members of the Church and other community groups involved in the project.

City of Glen Eira Council has been tremendously supportive through its staff and Community Grants Program.

Bendigo Bank (Caulfield Park) is a sponsor, assisting with funding activities while Bendigo Bank (Murrumbeena) assists by allowing Committee meetings to be held at its Meeting Hub in Murrumbeena. The Rotary Club of Caulfield is the major Exhibition sponsor also funding People's Choice Award prizes for both the Annual Major Exhibition and the smaller Annual Paint in the Open Exhibition.

The Society is a friendly group of artists who pride themselves on their inclusiveness, welcoming fellow artists who wish to develop their work in any medium, whether it be 2D or 3D work.

Glen Eira Artists Society contacts are 9568 7190, email glenart2@gmail.com and website www.gleneiraartistsociety.org

Glen Eira performing arts – 1

The Glen Huntly Community Singers by Carol Stals

Many of us will remember with a sense of nostalgia the days of Community Singing, which were held in halls throughout Victoria.

This form of entertainment was made so very popular during the 1930s by radio entertainer Mr Charlie Vaude, and it was soon being organised by local groups both in Melbourne and Country Districts.

We are indebted to Mrs Carmel Finn of Coolangatta, Queensland, for the following history of Community singing in Glen Huntly. Her mother, Mrs Nina Finn, was President of Committee, and Conductor of the Glen Huntly Community Singers.

"The Glen Huntly Community Singers held their weekly Community Singing programme in the Public Hall, on the corner of Royal and Rosedale Avenues Glen Huntly, (which has now been demolished), originally to raise money to purchase parcels for the Australian Troops.



The Community Singing Group commenced during late 1938 and was first conducted by

Mr. Doug Elliott, until 1940, when he left to join a Melbourne Radio Station

After the resignation of Mr. Elliott, a committee of local ladies continued to organize and conduct the Community Singing, which proved to be extremely popular, both with local residents and visitors.

During the War Years (1939–1945), the Committee of local ladies and Patrons worked tirelessly for the war effort, raising money to send food parcels and goods to Australian Troops, both here and overseas.

Post-War, the Glen Huntly Community Singers continued to raise money for many local charities, and they were supported by most of the local traders, who donated weekly prizes, which enabled all proceeds to be given to those in the community who were in need of assistance.

The words of the songs were projected on to a screen which was erected on the stage, and the music was played by a regular pianist, who usually knew all the songs, without referring to the sheet music.

The words and music, and the singing of the audience, were co-ordinated by Mrs. Nina Finn who conducted the singers during the time the Group was operating from 1938–1970. Well known Guest Artists were engaged, including Stage and Radio personalities, who gave their services without charge.

Original Committee Members of the Glen Huntly Community Singers include Nina Finn, Beatrice Cohen, Lorna Tattersall, Ruby Farmer, Lottie Eagle, Ruby Lang-Cowan, *Tiny* Mann, Olive Mathewson, Thelma Pearce.

This Community Singing Group entered into several competitions, winning Silver Cups on 25th. October 1938, and again at the Assembly Hall, contest on 23rd. February 1948.¹

We are indebted to the family of Mrs Nina Finn for their generous donation of these cups to the Caulfield Historical Society. They are sincerely appreciated.

¹ *Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter*, Number 31, April 1988, pages 4–5.



The Argus 13 August 1952, page 6.

Glen Eira performing arts – 2 St Stephen's Players by Andrea Casey

This was the name given to the drama group associated with St Stephen's Uniting Church in Balaclava Road before it was taken over by an Indonesian congregation.



Photo courtesy of the author
The St Stephen's Players take a bow in 1993.

The group was patiently coached for a twice yearly performance by Mrs Gladys Hilton, long-time secretary of the Victorian Drama League and dramatist-in-residence at St Stephen's (she died at 102).

Glad's efforts at recruiting players were instrumental in keeping several people involved in church life, the writer included.

We were usually nearly word perfect by the final dress rehearsal and with Glad in the wings to prompt us, we were able to carry our lines without the audience realising our ad-libbing.

Each *season* consisted of three performances: Friday night, Saturday matinee and Saturday evening after which the cast repaired to Mergellina's for supper. It was a fun time.

Glen Eira recreation Toxophilite Society by Claire Barton

Like cricket and other games of skill, archery demands a large amount of self-control, patience, perseverance and judgement, and gives a healthy exercise to the body, all of which are strong recommendations.

The original archery club in Victoria was formed by the late Sir Frederick Sargood, and both women and men members met in the lovely grounds of his home, *Rippon Lea*, Elsternwick to hold

weekly shoots.

After Sir Frederick's death in 1901, and the disbandment of the club, Mr Allen purchased all the material and established the Kooyong Archery Club which met at *Kooyong*, the home of Mr Richard Allen, in Gladstone Parade, where Wesley College Elsternwick is now situated. The club kept up its activities there until Mr Allen's death in 1929.

Many well-known women were members of this archery club, and Mrs C. R. Smibert, a daughter of Mr Allen, has many amusing and interesting stories to tell of the women who shot their arrows with a no less steady aim because their skirts were sweeping the ground, and their hats decorated with flowing masses of flowers and plumes.

Those women who were members of the club at *Rippon Lea*, wore costumes of Lincoln green, cut for the ease of movement, and very smart, according to the fashions of the day, with plain tailored green felt hats, many decorated with a jaunty feather.

Some men also wore Lincoln green jackets with golden buttons, but uniforms were the exception rather than the rule among the members, particularly when the club moved to Mr Allen's home, and then became known as the Kooyong Club.

Members were of all ages and at the age of over eighty years, Mr Allen could shoot as straight as an arrow, while his daughter was also a very active member. Mr Allen was a member of the Royal Toxophilite Society of Great Britain, which was founded in 1781, and taking the idea of contests staged in England, Mr Allen and his club members frequently issued challenges to their friends who were ardent golf enthusiasts, for a match between a team of archers and a team of golfers.

Sources: *The Australasian*, *The Argus*, and *The Age*, 1895–1928.

Glen Eira's gastronomic heritage – 1 **Frank's Bakery** 291 Glen Huntly Road Elsternwick



Photo courtesy of Frank's Bakery

Frank and Elena Rieck arrived in Australia from Bavaria in 1959. He was the son of a baker in his homeland. His first job in Melbourne was baking sliced bread for Tip Top Bakers, when white bread reigned supreme.

He wondered whether other migrants longed, as he did, for the nutritious filling bread that they had left behind in Europe.

He opened his own Bavarian style of bakery, nearly 48 years ago. His second-hand equipment included a brick hearth oven, his pride and joy being a 1932 one arm dough mixer, which was made in Germany. His employees numbered just two initially, with about 70 kilos of flour needed per week.

He continues to make bread the old way, without commercial cultures, artificial yeasts or chemical improvers. His signature bread is a dense sourdough rye made to traditional Bavarian recipe, it keeps for days. The range includes seven varieties of rye, multigrain, wholemeal, white and special breads for various days of the week. Every Wednesday, Frank sells Kibble ryebread and on Fridays, it's challah – egg loaf – for his Jewish customers. He still makes traditional Bavarian style pretzels, sprinkled with rock salt. Frank is once again back to two bakers, as demand is not as high, as people tend to do one stop shopping. His prices are much the same, and his son-in-law works in the shop with him.

Glen Eira's gastronomic heritage – 2 **Wong's Café,** 404 Glen Huntly Road Elsternwick.

This café, an icon in local eating for years, had a recent facelift to the frontage and counter. The large round tables have also gone but apart from that it appears as it used to in the 70s.

Wong's opened in 1959. Several generations have managed it. The menu seems unchanged and traditional. All the old favourites are served in a quiet atmosphere with well-spaced tables and the lighting is subdued.

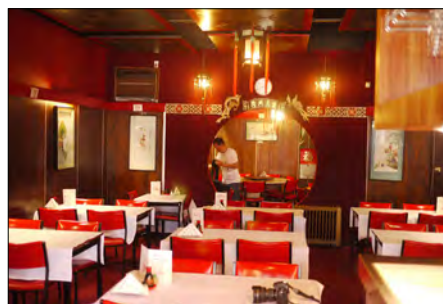


Photo courtesy of Steven Wong
Interior of Wong's Cafe

It was very busy the day several of the GEHS workers went for lunch.

Remember the days when you took your saucepans and lids to get your take away? What a pity for the environment that this doesn't still happen. Chinese restaurants sprang up in the Ballarat and Bendigo gold diggings and their popularity spread to every country town.

Glen Eira had a large Chinese population after the gold rush and they ran a variety of shops, services and market gardens.

Glen Eira religious heritage – 1 **Ormond Church of Christ** by Ailsa Hunt

The Ormond Church of Christ began in 1923 when several families were meeting for worship in a private home. The Home Mission Department and Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ bought land on the North Road and Arnott Street corner and a

Glen Eira's gastronomic heritage – 3 **Gabriella Pizza** 146 Koornang Road Carnegie

Opened in 1966 in the same premises, Gabriella has been a local favourite for years. There were three previous owners; Sam Abdulhak is the current one. He worked there prior to taking it over in 1989.

Basically the place is original in appearance, the same retro/rustic tables, which he wants to keep and the original ice-cream cabinet with the full range of Italian traditional frozen delights.

A copy of the original menu is in the window, and it seems that only the prices have changed.

Sam has installed a new slide oven, better and faster than the stacker, and a new coffee machine. He is a charming host and the business is very busy. There is a Trattoria in the back section but not for this weather. Take a bottle of red wine and step back into the past.

PIZZA		Small (\$1.00)	Medium (\$1.40)	Large (\$1.90)
NAPOLETANA	Tomato, cheese, anchovies, garlic	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$1.90
VEGETARIAN	Tomato, cheese, onion, mushrooms, peppers	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$1.90
MARGHERITA	Tomato, cheese, basil, mushrooms	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$1.90
AMERICANA	Tomato, cheese, hot sauce	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$1.90
HAWAIIAN	Tomato, cheese, ham, pineapple	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$1.90
CAPRICCIOSA	Tomato, cheese, ham, mushrooms, onion	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$1.90
GABRIELLA SPECIAL	Tomato, Cheese, sliced Ham and Onions	\$1.30	\$1.60	\$2.10
ADDITIONAL	Tomato, Cheese, Ham, with or without Egg	\$1.30	\$1.70	\$2.10
MARINARA	Tomato, cheese, anchovy	\$1.10	\$1.40	\$1.90

Extract from an earlier Gabriella Pizza menu showing prices charged. Image courtesy of Gabriella Pizza.

Carol Stals visited Wong's Cafe and Gabriella Pizza while Claire Barton visited Frank's Bakery.

weatherboard church and hall were erected facing Arnott Street.

Following a tent mission in 1925, a foundation membership of 54 attended the first service in the new Church on Sunday 14 June 1925. The Church debt was £1,728.

A choir was formed in 1926, together with a Sunday School, quickly followed by junior and senior boys and girls clubs, a

cricket and tennis club, and later on a basketball club.

With the Church buildings facing Arnott Street, a tennis court was erected on the front corner.

With growing numbers, the kindergarten hall was extended by 10 feet in 1937. The Sunday School closed for three months in 1938 due to the paralysis epidemic.

In 1951, the Bethany Nursery School commenced with ladies of the church volunteering their time for morning and afternoon sessions.

Plans were put in place to erect a new Church building, and on the 8 October 1955 the present brick Church facing North Road was opened at a cost of £12,000. Church ladies worked to provide the furnishings and stained glass windows were donated by church families.

In 1958, the Sunday School attendance was 256 with 32 teachers and it was agreed to replace the old weatherboard hall with a new building.

The new Christian Education Centre was opened on 19 May 1969 at a total cost of £38,852.

In 1976, a combi bus was purchased to pick up Sunday School children and also elderly Church members.

A drop in centre was commenced in 1978 catering for aged and lonely folk, again church ladies volunteering their time.

In 1983, the small front porch was replaced with a larger more serviceable one with the entrance on to Arnott Street.

During the 70s and 80s, the Church had purchased, and eventually demolished, several old houses in Arnott Street. In partnership with the Community Care department, 12 self-care units to be named *Bethany Close* were built and opened on 1 December 1990.

In 1997, a vote was taken to use the name *Ormond Community Church of Christ*.

Sunday school anniversaries and picnics were always the highlight of the year, and the church adopted many projects to help *others* locally, within Australia and overseas.

Glen Eira religious heritage – 2 **Girls' Friendly Society** by Andrea Casey



This organisation was one of the groups associated with St Mary's Church of

England, Caulfield in the 1950s. The equivalent for boys was Church of England Boys' Society.

The GFS motto was:

Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2.

The objects of the society were:

To unite girls and women in a Fellowship of Prayer, Service, and Purity of Life, for the Glory of God. The Society offers friendly comradeship and opportunities of service for others, through introductions from Branch to Branch, and one country to another. It also encourages loyalty, faithfulness in work and home life, and self-control in all things.

The meetings were weekly in one of the rooms in the church hall. About six of us gathered around the leader (Miss Linard) and we started by praying the GFS prayer. I don't remember much about gatherings; I think we knitted squares at some stage.

I received a small blue member's card when I was seven, in 1952, and in 1956 I received a Junior GFS card with the prayer and motto on it.

I have a card saying that in 1958 I entered an Exhibition in the Melbourne Diocese and gained 2nd prize for sausage rolls. I suspect the sausage roll prize was about the end of my association with this group as I was of an age when there were much more interesting things in life than making sausage rolls and knitting squares.

Glen Eira education heritage **Heritage in photos**

GEHS member Valerie Barnett has kindly provided these photos and captions of people and places associated with Murrumbidgee State School.



The tuck shop run by Mr Hano was over the road from the school. It was always very busy with lunch orders. Pies were 1/6. I used to pick bags of lollies for 6d, 3d and a penny. I remember the juggles for 6d – I think they are called sunny boys now.



The Easter Parade in the 30s was held at the back of the school. There was a prize for the best dressed. This was in my aunt's photographs.



My grandfather was Father Christmas in the 40s at the school. He was on the Committee in the 20s when the school got the swimming pool. It was the only one at that time with a pool. My grandfather also judged the decorated bikes competition.

Photos supplied by the author.

Geoffrey Paterson

Next General Meeting
Wednesday 28 September 2016
at 7.30pm
Boyd Room, Carnegie Library.
See page 1 for details.

Book review



Judith Buckrich.

The village of Ripponlea.

Lauranton Books, Gardenvale, 2015.

ISBN 9780994250711

Do you know the history of Ripponlea Village? Judith Buckrich has written this history from the earliest days of Melbourne settlement to the 1960s, with a little about contemporary village life at the end.

This easy-to-read narrative is thematically arranged, while also providing the reader with a chronological account of Ripponlea, originally Owensville. We learn about the early pioneers such as Sargood, Monahan and Brunning, the 1890s, World War 1 and the shops in the area, the changes wrought by the 1920s, the large and thriving Jewish community, Los Angeles Court and finally, the changes brought about in the 1950s and 60s that make Ripponlea the diverse, flourishing little hub it is today.

While I think the print should have been bigger with all the little nuggets of information spread out more (and expanded upon where possible), *The Village of Ripponlea* is a wonderful introduction to the social and cultural history of the Ripponlea surrounds, taking us away from the well-known mansion to the suburban fabric of the nearby village.

Almost every page is filled with lush photographs, in both colour and black and white, which provide us an image of Ripponlea surrounds, its houses, residents and marketplaces. For me, these photographs, a peek into a past otherwise out of our reach, provided the most tantalising details and questions into the rich history of Ripponlea.

Selected Glen Eira authors and artists

Authors who live or lived in Glen Eira

Robin Boyd; Frank Dalby Davison, Eliot Perlman, Martin Flanagan, George Johnston, Danny Katz and Katharine Susannah Prichard.

Authors who are buried in Brighton Cemetery

Thomas Alexander Browne aka Rolf Boldrewood, Margaret Browne – author Mrs Boldrewood, Adam Lindsay Gordon and Caroline Dexter/Lynch.

Artists who live or lived in Glen Eira

Ida Outhwaite, Martin Boyd, Sir William Dargie, Erica McGilchrist and Max Meldrum.

Artists who are buried in Brighton Cemetery

Doris Boyd, Guy Boyd, William Merric Boyd, Theodore Penleigh Boyd, Ambrose Dyson, Jessie Evans, Emanuel Phillips Fox, Harold Freedman, Frederick McCubbin and John Perceval.



Public art in Glen Eira



Upper photo: Adam Lindsay Gordon's grave. Lower: *Xanthe* sculpture at Glen Eira Town Hall.

Artist	Sculpture title	Year	Location
Phillip Cannizzo	Park figures	1975–1990	Corner of Balaclava and Hawthorn Roads
Ailsa O'Connor	Ourselves when young	1979	Glen Eira Town Hall
Donna Leslie	Mosaic pavement	1981	Boyd Park
Guy Boyd	Swimmer entering the water	1984	GESAC entrance
Dan Wollmering	Xanthe	1988	Glen Eira Town Hall
Jacki Staude	Japanese bench seat	1993	Glen Eira Town Hall
Pamela Irving	Goldie	1994	Garden Avenue Reserve

This book is the story of Ripponlea, the many decades, people, schools and landmarks condensed into but 70-odd pages, and cannot cover everything we may have wanted to know. As such, it may inspire you to research something specific more deeply. Even if all it does is make you interested in, or love, the Ripponlea area more, then I think Buckrich has done her job well.

Reviewed by Peta van Horick

Protecting our Heritage by Geoffrey Paterson

At the May General Meeting, a brief survey was distributed.

The survey asked respondents to identify a feature in Glen Eira they felt had heritage value.

The replies identified trees at Murrumbeena Station (see below), Balaclava Road tram shelter, Glenhuntly Station building, bluestone laneways, shopping centres and interwar residences.

If you would like to name your feature of heritage value, please send details to the Editors and include the feature's name, location and why you value this feature.

Murrumbeena Station trees



These trees are located in the station carpark on the south side of the railway line. They were preserved when the carpark was established and are at least 50 years old. It would be a significant loss if these trees were to go as a result of the imminent Caulfield–Oakleigh rail works.

Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter Issue 11 is a General issue. We welcome your contribution. Deadline is 1 October 2016.