



Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

Number 11, November 2016

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Editorial

In these rapidly changing times, it is important to remember that nothing stays the same forever. Unfortunately, many of us are experiencing change overload in some areas of Glen Eira. This can be difficult to process.

With this in mind, we appeal to you and your friends to help the heritage of our area and the Historical Society expand their files and information.

We can all be Citizen Historians by keeping our eyes open when we move around our suburbs. If you carry a smart phone you can capture change in all sorts of ways, and the things you would like to retain.

GEHS has been active in campaigning for a higher level of heritage awareness and appreciation by Council. We hope the dark days of the senseless loss of *Frogmore* will not be forgotten. It was the last mansion of its type in Murrumbeena. Like shooting the last Dodo, it too was powerless, although GEHS did fight hard for the house's retention. Heritage communities around Australia were shocked by this act. The land still lies vacant one year on.

At present, we are trying to save the former World War 1 Red Cross Rest Home at Caulfield Hospital and will be attending a Heritage Council hearing on 25 November 2016.

We suggest you move about with cultural awareness and look at anything of interest which will one day be of heritage concern. Check out gardens and trees. Glen Eira Council no longer has a tree register but we could establish

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

one. If you have doubts about the history of a tree, on private or public land, please contact us and we can investigate.

We must preserve and record our natural and built heritage. We need your help. With your eyes and camera, plus any stories you may have of an area which is changing, we can create a picture which might otherwise be lost.

**Carol Stals
Geoffrey Paterson**

Then and Now St John's Elsternwick



The brick church at St John's Presbyterian Church was dedicated on 20 February 1916. Between 1888 and 1916, the wooden hall in Foster Street had served as the church. These two buildings remain at the now St John's Uniting Church.
Top photo courtesy of St John's.

Issue 12: March 2017
Theme: sport and recreation
including scouts and guides
Deadline 1 February 2017.
Please send contributions to
gehsnews@optusnet.com.au

GEHS Future Dates

Details are sent to members and are available from the Society website or office.

Friday 16 December 2016
Last day rooms are open for 2016
Saturday 17 December 2016 to
Monday 30 January 2017
Society rooms closed
Thursday 19 January 2017
Visit to Islamic Museum
Tuesday 31 January 2017
First day rooms are open in 2017
Wednesday 1 February 2017
Deadline for Newsletter Issue 12
Wednesday 22 March 2017
at 7.30pm
Boyd Room, Carnegie Library
Speaker to be advised

GEHS Past Events

Tuesday 16 August
Glen Eira Councillors visit GEHS
Thursday 18 August
Glenfern visit
Thursday 25 August
Truman film night
Wednesday 28 September
Caulfield Grammar Archives visit
Thursday 29 September
Salvation Army Heritage visit
Sunday 16 October
History Week and GEHS Book Sale
3–20 November
Glen Eira Gallery Exhibition
Sunday 13 November
World War 1 Bus Drive
Wednesday 30 November
General Meeting
Speaker John Maidment
Pipe Organs in the Glen Eira Area

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

President's Column



Contributors in this edition clearly show one of the major conclusions of the book reviewed

on page 12: local historical societies play a significant role in connecting people to history through their community and locale, especially where they have grown up.

It is wonderful to see our Newsletter being a strong, positive example of this – a tree can resonate as strongly as a child's bonfire, a tiny newspaper kiosk or a grand old home.

The Significance Assessment Report we commissioned for our Collection has also reinforced the value of items we hold as custodians for the local community. Of particular note are historic photographs, research notes from key local historians and items from the old Caulfield City Council. The Report provides clear direction for conservation and future planning too. Thanks to Bendigo Bank Murrumbidgee for funding this.

By the time you read this, we will have attended the Heritage Council of Victoria's hearing on 25 November about the Red Cross Rest Home (Montgomery House) at Caulfield Hospital. Hopefully we will have good news to deliver!

Anne Kilpatrick
GEHS President

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc
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The office is open Tuesday and Friday
between 9 and 12 or by appointment.

*The Newsletter will be published in
March, July and November 2017. The
next deadline is 1 February 2017.*

We welcome your contribution.

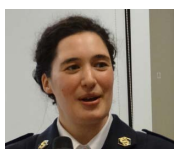
GEHS meetings and events

History of the Salvation

Army in Australia

Wednesday 28 September 2016

Talk by Yasmin Van Gaalen-Prentice



The story began in England in 1865 when William Booth took on the role of preaching

the Gospel to the poor, underprivileged and outcasts of society and the Church.

The various ministries that evolved were a result of the idea of *practical Christianity*.

There was little point in preaching about God's love to someone with an empty stomach, dirty house, or no job! That's why the Salvation Army often says their motto is *Heart to God, Hand to Man*.

By 1867, the Army had developed into a ministry, offering schooling, soup kitchens and relief aid to the destitute. Catherine, whom William married in 1855, was known as the *Army Mother*, as well as the co-founder. She was a fearless preacher, a gifted teacher, and was the person that held her family and the Army together. As early as 1855, Catherine promoted women's female ministry, equality with God equals equality with society. Catherine had eight children, and her daughters became leaders.

The first Salvationist meetings held in Australia were in 1880. In 1882, Major James Barker and his wife Alice were appointed by the General and sent to the Australian colonies to further the Salvation Army's work.

Alice came from a wealthy family, and left her family home because of her association with the Army. She married her husband the day before they sailed for Australia. The Salvationists had experienced persecution in England, marching was illegal, fines had to be paid, and coming to serve in Australia

seemed a good idea.

In those days, women did a six week course to become an officer. The Salvationists had a threefold idea, love of God, obedience and work. Lady cadets became involved in slum ministry, social services and were best known for their Christianity, with sleeves rolled up at the ready. They formed *slum brigades*, going into the opium dens, cooking and cleaning for the needy. The Army set up shelters for country girls who fell on hard times. Commandant Cornelius Booth set up midnight banquets for women from the brothels and opium dens of the city, a safe place where their needs could be identified and met.

Catherine's daughter-in-law Florence encouraged women to join the fellowship, called the Home League, where they were educated in budgeting, opening social clubs and by these means they hoped to alleviate the depressive situations in which found themselves.

Nursing brigades (on bicycles) were set up, Bethesda Hospital was part of this, The Army sent female cadets to the goldfields, and they assisted by healing and tending the sick. They held meetings to empower women to take up the cause.

There have been numerous women leaders in the Army, one was Brigadier Frances Gillam, who was a pioneer of Salvation Army missionary work in North China from 1916 to 1936 and a pioneer in the beginnings of policewomen in Victoria.

Major Mary Anderson was involved with the court and prison services and Brigadier Doreen Griffiths, another leading woman of the Army, was involved with community work at the Children's Court.

Report by Claire Barton

The village of Ripponlea

Wednesday 27 July 2016

Talk by Dr Judith Buckrich



Judith Buckrich spoke at our AGM about the history of the suburb of Ripponlea,

reflecting on the stories she had discovered while researching her book *The Village of Ripponlea*¹.

Judith's book was commissioned by Bill Magliss, owner of the Glen Eira Road fruit shop Victoria Fruit Palace. Interested in telling the colourful history of his suburb, he asked Judith to research and write the book.

Judith's research brings us many wonderful stories of the suburb, ranging from the 1850s until today.

Early Ripponlea had large estates surrounded by small working men's cottages. As well as the well-known *Rippon Lea* Estate, others included *Erindale*, and *Quat Quatta*, the latter which still stands today. Both houses were built by Thomas Monaghan, who was born in Dublin and arrived in Australia in 1839. He established *Erindale* in 1869, where he lived, kept cows and sold milk. He later built *Quat Quatta*. Other architectural buildings of note in Ripponlea include Los Angeles Court, which is notable for its art deco houses.

George Brunning trained as a gardener in England and arrived in Australia in 1853. He later brought out his family to join him, and by 1860 he had established a nursery in the already-fashionable neighbourhood of St Kilda, between Argyle and Inkerman Streets. He later moved to Los Angeles Court, where he provided employment for many people, and produced one of Australia's first gardening magazines.

In 1912, Ripponlea's railway station was built to service its

growing population. At the same time, many shops were built that are still in evidence along Glen Eira Road today. One of these significant shops was Johnson's Chemist Shop, which pioneered needle exchanges for drug users in Victoria. Another was the fruit shop, now run by Bill Magliss, which opened one hundred years ago, and has functioned continually as a fruit shop ever since.

Ripponlea continued to develop and grow over the next decades, and by the 1920s Glen Eira Road sported four cinemas. The films they screened opened up new views of life for the residents of Ripponlea, especially its women. Women in Ripponlea were also provided with more opportunities when the Holy Redeemer School opened in 1916. The school became a state school and provided support and scholarships to encourage young girls to continue their education to secondary school level. Notable alumnae include Germaine Greer.

Modern day Ripponlea remains a vibrant suburb, home to land marks such as the Lyrebird Lounge and Attica Restaurant, as well as many exciting events.

Bill Magliss is delighted with Judith's work, and Judith herself had a lot of fun uncovering the history of Ripponlea.

Report by Alice McInnes

Editors Carol Stals and Geoffrey Paterson thank these contributors to Issue 11: Rick Arden, John Attwood, Claire Barton, Bentleigh Club, David Bird, Margaret Blight, Dr Judith Buckrich, Felicitie Campbell, Andrea Casey, Francis Danesi, Peta and Richard Darke, Margaret Dunbar, Neville Daynes, Judith Gibson, Barbara Hoad, Ken James, Anne Kilpatrick, Colin Kirkham, Alice McInnes, Joy Mawbey, Melbourne University Publishing, Trevor Pitkin, David Southwick MP, State Library of Victoria, Frank Tisher, Yasmin Van Gaalen-Prentice, Graeme Warren, and Heather Welsh.

Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors

Here is some feedback on the July Newsletter.

Page 2 Labassa . . . arty bohemian tenants of the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s

included the Pieper family. Liam was born at *Labassa* in 1984, and his older brother, Ardian, was born there in 1979. Liam refers to *Labassa* in chapter 1 of his first book. The book's cover features the author at the front door of the mansion.¹

Page 2 Box Cottage

Is August Rietman any relations to Rietman's cement/concrete shop (mainly large planter pots) on the site from the 1950s onwards? I went to school with Sue Rietman from the 1950s to the early 1960s. Rietman's business later relocated to Cheltenham.

Page 6 Glen Eira cinemas

I remember the Ormond Plaza Cinema on the south side of North Road, between Carlyon and Wheeler Streets. At least once, we pupils of Ormond East State School were walked from the school to the cinema as an end-of-school year treat. Few other shops in Ormond remain from the 1950s apart from (i) the fish and chip shop on the north side of North Road near Grange Road; and (ii) the milk bar on the corner of North Road and Dunlop Avenue. It was open only *briefly* on Sunday mornings.

Page 10 Ormond Church of Christ

This was nearly opposite my family home. Mother was furious when the old-style Salvation Army used to sing and play outside the church (remember the bonnets and the tambourines?) when a service was being conducted inside. Interesting – my parents never attended church.

Regards

Margaret Blight Ormond

¹ J Buckrich *The village of Ripponlea*, Lauranton Books, Gardenvale, 2015. This book received the 2016 Local History Small Publication Award.

¹ L Pieper, *The feel good hit of the year: a memoir*, Hamish Hamilton, Melbourne, 2014.

Glenfern visit 18 August by Barbara Hoad



Photo Barbara Hoad.

Glenfern is a National Trust property on Inkerman and Hotham Streets, East St Kilda.

We were warmly welcomed by National Trust staff and the live-in caretaker. The last owner of *Glenfern* was Amy Ostberg and she very nearly sold off the front garden to BP for a petrol station on the corner site. She did however sell off the side orchard where cream brick flats now stand quite close to the house.

The Ostberg family lived at *Glenfern* from 1915 until Amy bequeathed the property to the National Trust in 1984. The Ostbergs had bought the much-diminished property from Captain John T Boyd and Lucy (Martin) Boyd, founders of the Boyd dynasty of artists, musicians, writers and architects. They with their twelve children lived at *Glenfern* for over 30 years.

Heritage Victoria describes *Glenfern* as a "rare example of picturesque domestic Gothic" and its brooding demeanour makes it desirable for film shoots. It was built in 1857 for Francis McDonnell, an investor in railway syndicates, who was forced to sell the property because of financial difficulties. Thomas Watson was the next owner in 1866 and he lived there until the Boyd family took up residence in 1876.

There are now nine Writers Studios which are used during the day under a Writers Victoria and National Trust partnership. Here writers can find a quiet space away from day-to-day distractions.

The gardens here are informal. Unfortunately, there are no diagrams or plans showing the layout of the early garden. The remaining plantings are tended by the caretaker and outside contractors who mow the lawns and try to keep up with pruning and caring for the tall trees, some of them, original pines. Maintenance work was completed on the roof and chimney a few years back.

Glenfern is one of three National Trust owned properties in the City of Glen Eira and is often overlooked for the better known *Rippon Lea* and *Labassa*.

Salvation Army Heritage Centre visit 13 October



Photo Margaret Dunbar.

During their visit, GEHS members and friends were taken high up into the roof of this heritage building, to the Limelight Studio where the Salvation Army produced over 300 films. This restored area appears much as it was in the late 1800s.

One of these films is the religious epic film *Soldiers of the Cross*. The Heritage Centre at 69 Bourke Street Melbourne also has a fascinating display of items including uniforms, musical instruments, letters, photographs and much more.

GEHS Committee 2016–2017

Left to right: Carol Stals, Geoffrey Paterson, Claire Barton seated, Joy Mawbey, Barbara Hoad Vice President, Janine Mayhew Treasurer seated, Anne Kilpatrick President, Alice McInnes Secretary seated.



The following article from the *Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter* provides more details of this important film. The National Film Library is now the National Film and Sound Archive.

September 13th 1900

**From *Australia's Yesterdays*
an article from the *Argus* and
Age.**

**Town Hall, this evening 7.45
Wonderful Limelight Lecture
entitled *Soldiers of the Cross*
by Commandant Booth.**

Behind these modest words lay the fact that Australia had produced the first religious epic and probably the world's first full length film. *Soldiers of the Cross* was a 3000 ft. film, with a cast of 600 professional and amateur actors.

It was made three years before America made *The Great Train Robbery* of 800 ft. length, which is claimed by historians as the first real movie. It was made by Major Joseph Perry then in charge of the Salvation Army's Magic Lantern Photographic Department of Melbourne.

Most of it was filmed on a tennis court in the Melbourne suburb of Murrumbeena.

The Film cost about 600 pounds, and Perry was a master of trick photography and of crowd scenes.

The film was taken to America the next year and shown throughout that country.

Now, an honoured place awaits it in the National Film Library at Canberra, but recent searches by the Salvation Army and other interested organisations have failed to find the film.

Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter 38, October 1993, page 4.

Caulfield Grammar School Archive Centre visit 29 September by Barbara Hoad

Judith Gibson, archivist at Caulfield Grammar, is in charge of a fascinating array of books, letters and diaries from the early days of the school. It started in a *lolly shop* in Glen Huntly Road, near Selwyn Street, in 1881.

One of the challenges she faces as an archivist today is managing the *current* history which comes mainly in digital form.

The present site of the school is its fourth since 1881. During our visit we heard that the first Chinese student Charles Ying attended the school in 1916 and these days the school has a campus in Nanjing, China.

The Caulfield campus wasn't only a secondary school. In 1923, Headmaster William Murray Buntine set up a kindergarten initially for the children of staff members – he was considered an entrepreneurial head.

Standing at the entrance of the impressive John Cripps Centre, we had an unexpected view of *Rippon Lea* Mansion to the south. On this site in 2000, a fire destroyed the 1950s Memorial Hall but the beautiful stained glass memorial window was saved. It has been incorporated into the new centre which also includes a 650-seat Memorial Hall, Music School, Visual Arts School and the Archive Centre.



Artefacts of W. H. C. Buntine who died in World War 1. Photo courtesy of Caulfield Grammar School Archives.

Our next General Meeting is on Wednesday 22 March at 7.30pm at Carnegie Library.

GEHS Research inquiry: *Linlithgow School* by Barbara Hoad



4 Linlithgow Avenue today
Photo Barbara Hoad.

We received a request for the school records of a pupil who attended this small private school at 4 Linlithgow Avenue, Caulfield North. Known as *Linlithgow Co-Educational College*, the school was run by Bessie Favelle and her husband Jack from the early 1960s until 1991. They had bought the property from champion jockey Billy Duncan in 1952.

Bessie Favelle also taught at Shelford and Caulfield Grammar Schools and in 1986 was interviewed by Barbara Blackman about her educational philosophy and methods and her life in education. A recording of the interview is held at the National Library of Australia.

The house stills stands and is described as “a highly representative and luxurious example of the Streamlined Moderne style” and is included in Glen Eira’s Local Heritage Overlay HO41¹.

GEHS does not hold school records for *Linlithgow* and referred the request to the Public Record Office Victoria which has a file on the school.

¹ planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/schemes/gleneira/ordinance/43_01s_glen.pdf

Did you know?

The name *Dudley* was chosen instead of *Rosstown* for the now Carnegie area. Rosstown was a name that reeked of failure. However, it was anticipated that the name *Carnegie* may bring money from the Carnegie Foundation. Failure again.

Lost or missing sculptures of Glen Eira by Carol Stals

Glen Eira seems to have mystery surrounding some of their sculptures.

One sculpture was the work *Kore* by Karl Duldig which was unfortunately stolen from its base in the Elsternwick Shopping Centre in 2013. It was quite a few days before the disappearance was noticed. The police have not been able to trace it.

Another work, *Isabella*, was created in memory of Isabella Webb, the 19 year old daughter of Judge George Webb of *Crotonhurst*. She died in India in 1876 while on a trip with her father.

Historian Dr Geulah Solomon notes: “The marble sculpture of Isabella, which Webb subsequently had cast by Charles Summers, the sculptor of the famous statue of Burke and Wills, now stands in the Caulfield City Hall”¹.

In 1981, the Caulfield Historical Society had a brass plaque made and placed on the statue in Caulfield Town Hall².

A third piece of sculpture was the bronze statue of a small child kneeling. It was a drinking fountain made for the Railway Reserve beside Elsternwick Station then shifted to Greenmeadows Gardens. This was designed and executed by Paul Montford, creator of the Adam Lindsay Gordon piece, plus major works on the Shrine of Remembrance. It seems to have disappeared many years ago.

What a strange history of three valuable sculptures disappearing. Does anybody remember *Isabella* or the *Kneeling Child*? Do you know the answer?

¹ G Solomon, *Caulfield's heritage, volume 1 Caulfield's building heritage*, City of Caulfield 1989, page 36.

² *Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter 18*, August 1981, page 64.

Joseph Sayce – a brief profile by Trevor Pitkin

Joseph Sayce arrives in Melbourne from England in 1852, having worked as a woollen draper and master tailor up to that time. Like many immigrants in the immediate post-1851 era, his interest in moving to the golden state of Victoria is probably unrelated to his previous occupation. Nevertheless, it is quite a shift from managing a business of 45 staff in London, to presenting as a *gentleman* on the other side of the world and not apparently engaging in the clothing industry.

His movements in Victoria are intriguing. Rate books show him in Caulfield for two years after arrival, then St Kilda for another two years, settling in at the address for which he became known locally – *Edenthorpe*.

Not long after his arrival, Sayce lodges a patent application in late 1854, jointly with Edward Potts, which seems not to have been granted; conversely it was not *not granted*, meaning its status is uncertain. In these first patents lodged in Victoria (his was #9), there were many that related to crushing and amalgamating auriferous and argentiferous ores. The invention is apparently manufactured by the company Daw & Co, but how widely successful it is or how many examples are constructed is unknown. In the patent applications he is identified as 'Joseph Sayce of the Bank of New South Wales'.

In the mid to late 1860s, however, he becomes very closely associated with the burgeoning township of Walhalla. He seems to disappear from the rate books for a period that broadly matches his profile emerging in Walhalla. He is appointed manager of the Walhalla branch of the Bank of Victoria, and while resident there is appointed Justice of the Peace. He chairs town meetings that are agitated about the

control of a site for establishing a school, confronting the Education Department. There are records showing Sayce's involvement in shareholding of several gold mining operations.



Edenthorpe in 1870 by William Tibbits
State Library of Victoria.

In the early 1870s, he seems to be resident at *Edenthorpe* once more. Throughout his time in Victoria, Sayce is active in horticultural circles and horticultural shows, with awards for rhododendrons, roses and some citrus. Local residents note the extensive orange tree plantings at his residence on the northeastern corner of Kooyong and Glen Huntly Roads. He becomes the founding chair of the Apiarist Society, which seems to have faded away within a few years of formation. There are links to the Acclimatisation Society through the activities of the Apiarist group.

In 1873, he enters his most public adventure with the design of the gardens for one of the most prestigious public projects of the time: Government House and the Domain. Sayce presents his design in the wake of a competitive process for professional landscape designers that fails to produce anything satisfactory. After clear endorsement by the committee in control of the project, Sayce's design is fine tuned and formalised by the government lithographer, and published. Sayce is engaged to oversee initial works, and he is at the stage of seeking to be paid an appropriate fee when the relationship with Clement Hodgkinson, the

bureaucrat in charge of public parks and gardens at the time, degrades. This does not end well, with a very public dispute laid out all over the Melbourne press as he goes head-to-head with

Hodgkinson. Hodgkinson himself resigns not long after, in the face of assertions of poor administration and overseeing a major financial scandal.

Sayce dies at age 61 years while in Hobart in 1876, and is survived by his wife Emma, daughters Josephine and Gertrude, and son Charles. A few

years before her father's death Josephine moved to Queensland after marrying David Stuart in Bendigo; Charles moved around the state and does not appear to have stayed attached to *Edenthorpe*. Gertrude remains unmarried until her death. Emma stays at *Edenthorpe* until the sale of the 10 acres and residence in 1880. She also disposes of a 406 acre farm property in the Balnarring–Schnapper Point area. She stayed in the local area, living at several places in Elsternwick until her death in 1901.

Edenthorpe was a very ornately decorated yet modestly scaled brick building, as seen in the above painting that William Tibbits produced around 1876. Sayce would have commissioned this work, as Tibbits was making his living in Melbourne selling his services to all and sundry for such house portraits. On the basis of grounds of this scale and the extent of the house, *Edenthorpe* certainly makes a mark as a gentleman's residence, but was not a mansion in the sense of many others in the Caulfield area. MMBW plans show the house extending well beyond the Kooyong Road frontage that is the focus of Tibbits's painting. The estate is subdivided in 1889 by Charles May, a developer, leading to the disposition of properties seen today.

Sagamore by Frank Tisher OAM

Number 2 Sagamore Court North Caulfield was my family's home from November 1979 until May 2016. We were privileged to live in this beautiful home with historical significance. We were the third owner of this property, having purchased it from a medical practitioner Peter Freeman (now deceased). A title search indicates that he became the registered proprietor on 4 June 1963.

The previous owner was Arthur James Sage. He and his wife Elizabeth had three children, Betty, Arthur and Helen. I was privileged to meet Helen Sage. Shortly after we moved into *Sagamore*, there was a knock on the front door and Helen Sage introduced herself. She added that she had lived at the house and grown up there. Her father Arthur had built the house in about 1908. It was built by Sage in an American Edwardian style as her father had been a friend of the American President Theodore Roosevelt. She said that Roosevelt had a home at Sagamore Hill at Oyster Bay on Long Island, near New York. She said that her father and Roosevelt had corresponded, and Sage had built our *Sagamore* in the same style of house on Long Island. *Sagamore* was an Indian name, named after one of the tribes of American Indians.

Helen Sage gave me a cutting that explained the connection between Sage and Roosevelt. Sage, when travelling in America, had visited Colonel Roosevelt in his home at Oyster Bay and Roosevelt had asked many questions about Australian life. He mentioned that one of his best regiment men was an Australian. Mr Sage had a typical Australian bush saddle made which he presented to Colonel Roosevelt. The saddle was made of specially selected materials of Victorian manufacture, and had his initials worked in monogram on the skirt, while the Southern Cross was



Left *Sagamore* circa 1920s and right 2015. Photos courtesy of the author.

embossed on the sweat flaps.

Helen Sage walked me through the house, explaining where the servant quarters were, where the Indian room had been and drew attention to the beautiful western red cedar doors and ceilings. Helen Sage pointed to a large liquidambar tree in the front, which she said had been planted the day Edmund Hillary climbed Everest. A nearby large silver birch had been bought for sixpence and planted to celebrate the Queen's coronation.

Helen Sage gave me photographs of *Sagamore*, with horses grazing on grassland outside the house. The neighbouring houses of today were then just open grassland. *Sagamore* Court had a gravel driveway for horses to arrive at the house. In one picture, to the south was the croquet lawn.

I was saddened to read of Helen Sage's death on 29 August 1999. She had been born on 2 October 1899 so she was just short of 100 years. *The Age* obituary said that "her father, an importer and founder of the family business A. J. Sage & Co built a large house on five acres of land in Orrong Grove Caulfield and the family moved there in 1909". Helen Sage was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in September 1994 for her work as a communal carer and philanthropist.

When we sold *Sagamore* it was approximately 24,500 square feet. It was the most wonderful home to our family, with its magnificent garden, pool and tennis court. My children had many parties and their friends came for a farewell party when we left *Sagamore*.



All had wonderful memories of the house and the property. I am saddened that it has gone, but the photos and memories remain, as does the large liquidambar.

***Sagamore*, demolished in mid-2016, was not under a heritage overlay.**

Murrumbeena Station kiosk by John Attwood

The kiosk was installed on the Melbourne side platform about 1925 and was placed in the present position at the entrance to the station in 1965, with increased business.

When the kiosk was located on the platform people were delaying the train as they purchased their newspapers.

In the Glory Days of the kiosk, sales of the *Sun News Pictorial* were 300, *The Argus* 200, *The Age* 100 plus extras such as chewing gum, PK, Juicy Fruit, Spearmint, Life Savers, chocolate, cigarettes, tobacco, and combs. More papers were sold from the kiosk than the Murrumbeena Newsagency.

As I write this, the kiosk is about to be demolished to make way for Sky Rail. I remember the days when I did a paper round on a pushbike and would dash over to work on the kiosk to keep passengers happy.



Photo courtesy of the author.

People of Glen Eira by Anne Kilpatrick

One of the most enjoyable aspects of our recent work for the Significance Assessment of our Collection has been viewing our records of individuals and families in Glen Eira's history to the present day. Our records for specific people range from diaries, recollections and oral histories to photographs and newspaper obituaries.

We do not aim to create a definitive database for everyone but even a quick glance points to an enriching, varied and talented population represented in our Collection. It is a great reflection of the many contributions to our community made by people of the Glen Eira area. Some are well known and others less so – but all the records clamour to be shared and celebrated.

Here are a few examples of the people recorded in our files. Further examples will be included in the next Newsletter.

We invite you to suggest one or other of your favourite people connected to the Glen Eira area, past or present. And all the better if you have some records to donate as well. Email us via gehs.org.au

Will Alma 1904–1993 Caulfield resident

was a Gold Star Member of the Inner Magic Circle, the highest honour for the magic fraternity world-wide. He performed as a magician nationally and internationally from 1918 for the next 70 years. The State Library of Victoria holds the W. G. Alma Conjuring Collection that he bequeathed to them.

Alma Blair 1918–2015



also Alma Arden. Years apart, she was married to two former Mayors of Caulfield: Fred Arden and Max Blair. She was very active as the Mayoress and in the community.

Hugh Percival Hall 1899–1967



resident of *Glenmoore* in St Georges Road, Elsternwick. He was a solicitor, artist and photographer particularly known for his photograph exhibitions and book of ballet photographs which included Pavlova, the Ballet Russe, the Borovanski Ballet and the Rambert Ballet. Father of Felicitie Campbell, Caulfield Historical Society (CHS) founding member and longtime President/Vice President of CHS and GEHS.

Trevor Hart 1942–2014



noted historian and archivist who helped establish the Caulfield Historical Society in 1972. Also played key roles in the

Wedgwood Society of Australia, Fitzroy History Society, Southern Metropolitan Regional Historical Association, Genealogical Society of Victoria as well as many others.

Ross Hannaford 1950–2016

world renowned guitarist including with *Daddy Cool* who grew up in Bentleigh East and Moorabbin.

Sir Albert Victor Jennings 1897–1993

Founder of A. V. Jennings company, which started in Caulfield, and sometime resident of Carnegie. He built Beauville Estate (Murrumbeena) and Hillcrest Estate (Caulfield South), known for their Art Deco features and subject of Heritage Overlays.

Marion Lau, OAM 1943–

Caulfield-based Chinese women's advocate, first woman chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria and first female president of the Chinese Community Society of Victoria; also an inductee to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

Henry Ernest Melbourne 1912–2007

creator of the Freddo Frog for

MacRobertson's Chocolates and sometime resident in the Caulfield area. Great supporter of the Caulfield Football Club and the Caulfield South Cricket Club. From the age of 57, he was *keeper* of the Caulfield Town Hall.

Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov

Russian spies who defected to Australia in 1954 and who lived in East Bentleigh as Sven Gustav Allyson and Maria Anna Allyson from the late 1950s.

Mark Trevorrow 1959–

aka comedian Bob Downe grew up in Murrumbeena.

David Warren OAM 1925–2010



Carnegie, Glen Huntly, McKinnon, and Caulfield South resident who invented the black box flight recorder.

Photos courtesy of left to right, Rick Arden, Felicitie Campbell, Camberwell Grammar School Archives, and Graeme Warren.

Shelford Girls' Grammar Archive by Francis Danesi



Shelford prefects and probationers, 1928. Photo courtesy of Shelford.

From its small beginnings in a cottage on Glen Eira Road in 1898, the school has grown considerably, and has overseen the learning and personal development of thousands of students.

The memories and individual collections of Shelford memorabilia held by each past and present Shelfordian help tell the story of Shelford's rich heritage and the part it has played in their lives.

The school was recently reminded

of this when Donna Hellier, a former student and teacher, generously donated material to Shelford's archive, and the family of Mrs Bettina Woodburn (Bromley, 1940) donated five trophies. The trophies were awarded for her academic and sporting achievements at school, which included being Dux of her year in 1939. These wonderful donations complement a diverse collection of records and memorabilia.

Recently re-established, the Archives Office aims to collect, document and preserve items of continuing value which record and illustrate the history, functions and development of Shelford since 1898; promote an appreciation of Shelford heritage by documenting historically significant records; and communicating their existence to the School community and provide access to the records for reference purposes.

In 2018, Shelford will celebrate a significant anniversary, marking 120 years as a leading provider of education for girls in Victoria. The school archivist would be pleased to hear from anyone who holds items that they may be willing to donate for the permanent collection, or lend to Shelford for a temporary exhibition.

These may include photographs, personal recollections, badges and uniforms, trophies, samples of handcrafts and other school work, school publications and reports.

Please contact Francis Danesi archives@shelford.vic.edu.au or phone 9524 7437 on Wednesdays and Thursdays during school terms for more information.

From the Archives Municipal bands

The Caulfield and Elsternwick Town Band had a close connection with the original Elsternwick Band founded in 1889 that played regularly in the Railway Reserve.

“The Hopetoun Gardens first came into being through the combined efforts of Dr. Weigall, a member

of the Elsternwick Progress Association and Mr. J. Haig, who was a prominent member of the Elsternwick Branch of the Australian Natives Association.

Both of these Gentlemen had been aware for some time that the Elsternwick Railway Reserve was not large enough to accommodate the hundreds of people who always came, every week-end, to listen and be entertained by the music of the Caulfield and Elsternwick Town Band.

Dr. Weigall and Mr. Haig negotiated with the owner of the land, now occupied by Hopetoun Gardens, and subsequently obtaining a Government grant, they obtained the assistance of Mr. Pockett, Head Gardener of the Malvern City Council, who was “borrowed” to advise on the planning of the new gardens.

Mr. Pockett began work in December 1907, and the Hopetoun Gardens were officially declared open, by the then Mayor of Caulfield, Councillor R. L. Phillips, on 31st July 1908.

Councillor Dunbar obtained the ornamental trees and shrubs from the Botanical Gardens, and the Bandstand was moved from the Elsternwick Reserve in 1909.”
Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter 24, October 1984, page 8.

Caulfield becomes a City

As reported by *The Prahran Telegraph*, 2 August 1913.

“On Saturday 26 July, 1913, the formal ceremony of declaring the Town of Caulfield to become a City took place in delightful surroundings, for the afternoon proved warm and sunny. . .

In the large hall the Mayor, Councillor Thompson and Mrs. Thompson held an informal reception as the guests arrived, while in an enclosure outside the hall, the Elsternwick Brass Band played lively airs, and a Guard of Honour formed by a Company of the Caulfield Cadets, paraded on the roadway.

The Governor of Victoria declared the Town of Caulfield for it was a Town, to be a City, for it is now a City.”
Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter 22, October 1983, pages 1–2.

A number of bands have existed in various forms since that time and made themselves available for Council official functions.

Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc. by Heather Welsh

The Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc. was established in 1962, named for the then City of Caulfield.

Former Mayors of the City, who were members of the Club, were Eric Parton, Donald Bunny, and current Secretary Jack Campbell.

John Lord, the current Club President has been a member for over 40 years and followed his father Lindsay into the Club. John's grandfather R. H. Lord, for whom Lord Reserve in Carnegie was named, was Mayor in 1923. In February, 2017, current Club Archivist, Dr Graham Sicklemore, will celebrate 100 years of four generations of his family providing dental services in Elsternwick.

In 1997, Heather Welsh, a former City of Caulfield Councillor, became the Club's first (of many) women Presidents.

Before kerbside recycling, the Club fundraised by collecting newspapers, aluminium cans and bottles. It also ran Art Shows, Book Fairs, Markets and the ever popular sausage sizzles, which it still does fortnightly, outside Woolworths store in Glen Huntly.

Early projects included coordinating the chopping and delivery of truckloads of firewood to local pensioners and supporting adult education. The Club later organised cultural projects in music, dance and visual art. It has regularly provided medical and disaster aid in South East Asia and the Pacific regions and promoted international goodwill through the Rotary Student Exchange program.

The Club has always had a strong environmental focus, hosting a Honey Festival, a Bee Aware Project and owning two beehives. One is managed by members Faye and Ian Kirkwood, who won first prize for Suburban Honey from around 100 entries in 2015.

Further information is at <http://caulfieldrotary.org.au/>

Bonfire or Cracker Night by Richard Darke

When I was a child growing up in the 1950s and early 1960s, we celebrated two bonfire or cracker nights. Empire Day on the 24 May celebrated Queen Victoria's birthday, which later became Commonwealth Day; Guy Fawkes' Night on the 5 November commemorated the Gunpowder Plot in which Guy Fawkes (1570–1606) and others conspired to blow up the English Parliament and King James 1 during the opening of parliament on the 5 November 1605.

As children, we recited the rhyme
Remember, remember the
5th of November
The gunpowder, treason and plot.
I know of no reason why the
gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!

For a week or two before bonfire night all the kids in our local streets around Mimosa Road in Carnegie gathered together after school or on the weekend prior with our homemade billycarts or old prams and jeeps to collect any old combustible materials from the surrounding households. This was used to build a huge bonfire on an overgrown, triangular bit of ground where Mimosa and Mile End Roads diverged. It formed a large traffic island which we all called *The Patch*.



Mimosa and Mile End Roads today.
Photo Carol Stals.

We would collect tree branches and shrub offcuts, old cartons, wooden fruit boxes, newspapers, scrap timber, old paint cans (no-one worried about toxic chemicals in the atmosphere in those days) and empty petrol or kerosene tins (they made a wonderful explosion!) There was one householder who saved all his old car tyres for us. They burned fiercely for quite a long time.

Meanwhile, for a couple of weeks we had been saving our pocket money to buy crackers, sparklers,

rockets, and Catherine wheels to set off on cracker night. There were strings of tom thumbs, halfpenny, penny and threepenny bangers and threepenny crackers. These were lethal and could blow the door off a wooden letterbox! They were really quite dangerous in the wrong hands and often the fathers would set these off for us. They were even known to blow off small fingers if not let go of in time. A ban was later put on the sale of threepenny crackers.



The Argus, 5 November 1954, page 7.
Photo State Library of Victoria.

We would buy our crackers from Coles variety stores or the local newsagent which seemed to be the only businesses licensed to sell fireworks. Young children had to have a parent to buy fireworks for them, but I can remember being able to buy them myself when I was only 9 or 10 years old.

We used to make a guy or effigy of a man which was placed at the apex of our huge bonfire which could be as high as 12 feet (3.65 metres) by about 8 feet (2.44 metres) wide at the base. The guy would often be made from an old straw broom with a crosspiece nailed on for arms. It would be dressed in an old coat and trousers stuffed with straw or paper, with a papier-mâché head with a painted face attached. Rope or hemp hair and an old hat added the final touches.

After much excited anticipation, the special night would arrive.

Rain, hail or shine, all the neighbourhood would gather on the roads around the unlit bonfire at about 7 pm. A couple of the older residents lit the fire which usually took off very quickly with the flames reaching up licking our guy, smoke and sparks flying, children whooping and shrieking happily.

It was now time for everybody to start lighting their crackers and rockets. Whoosh! Whizzing rockets flew into the sky. Crackers and other fireworks exploded everywhere, the smell of gunpowder filled the air, it was exhilarating for this young boy! Many people just threw their fireworks straight into the bonfire, throwing up beautiful colours and patterns into the night sky.

There was always one neighbour who called the fire brigade, fearing the sparks would settle on their weatherboard house and burn it to the ground. This never happened of course as conscientious neighbours kept a vigilant eye on the fire with buckets of water and garden hoses on standby. However, the fire truck arrived with bells ringing, much to the delight of the children. The firemen usually stayed and watched and joined in the fun, talking to residents and accepting mugs of tea from ladies with thermoses.

The very small children ran about with sparklers glittering in their hands as they waved them round and round in circles. Older kids attached Catherine wheels to fences and watched them spin around throwing out rainbow colours in all directions.

By about 9 pm, our bonfire had almost burnt down to the ground and our guy had long since been consumed by flames. Nearly all the fireworks were used up, just the odd explosion here and there, then all was silent. People started drifting home with tired children. Some men stayed to douse the hot, smouldering embers with water, and it was all over for about six months until

next cracker night.

I couldn't wait!

More fireworks memories

Margery Reed was born in Ballarat in 1904 and moved with her family to Caulfield in 1910. She later became Mrs Bromfield and a member of the Caulfield Historical Society. These are her recollections of bonfire night.

"On Bonfire Nights, we would all have lots of fun, collecting branches from dead trees, and then have our own fire. Children from all around would come to our Bonfire, and we would have crackers, bung bungs, Catherine wheels, tom thumbs, but most of all, laughter."

Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter 23, April 1984, page 5.

Fireworks reflections by Carol Stals

How exciting bonfire night was for children. Initially, I remember being allowed to select some fireworks from a bag to be shared with my sisters; then came the thrill of being old enough to have money and able to select my own. Not for me the loud Double Bangers but I did love the little bunch of Jumping Jacks and the skyrockets. Best of all, I loved the Catherine wheels, which had to be attached to a fence or a post by some responsible adult. Sometimes they would be rogue and spin off the nail and whizz away.

About six years ago, I visited St. Catherine's Monastery, an important, isolated and ancient group of buildings in Egypt's Sinai Desert. I was very keen to see their chained library. However, a huge surprise awaited me. No calm and quiet scene for I knew it was a silent order. Instead, this tiny walled monastery was full of very devout people, mostly moving along the narrow paths on their knees, praying loudly. We were taken to see the *Burning Bush* which was being besieged by frantic people climbing on top of each other to get a twig. The heat, crowds,

noise, narrow paths between ancient buildings and the obsession of the followers were all very disturbing. Disappointingly, I did not get to see the chained library but did learn the story of St. Catherine.

She was a highborn, educated young woman from Alexandria who converted to Christianity. She then converted many people and was eventually martyred at the age of 18, being tied to a Break Wheel and ignited. Her memory lives on in the fireworks that gave me so much pleasure as a child.

Story of Whitmuir Hall by Claire Barton

Whitmuir Hall, the first and only *grand mansion* in the East Brighton area, now Bentleigh, was located in that part of Dendy's Special Survey known as *Dendy's Farm*.

The mansion was surrounded by 158 acres. The gardens had lovely marble statues and a fountain which still remain (see photo below).

Inside the home was a beautiful staircase and stained glass windows, imported from Italy in the 1850s. Over many years, *Whitmuir Hall* has undergone name changes and owners.

The property changed hands from Walter Adamson to Mrs Wallace Dunlop. In 1861 she held a public sale of household furniture, oil paintings, horses, cows, poultry, carriage, harness and carts, prior to her departure for Europe.

The property continued to be advertised for sale in 1863 and 1864, and was later available for short-term leasing.

In 1868, Hastings Cunningham and family were in residence. By 1871, *Whitmuir Hall* is *To Let* again. In 1880, Geelong businessman Robert Grey Ford's name appeared as the new owner of the property. One of his sons, Frederick, married Mabel Sheppard, of the Ricketson family, at *Glen Eira* in Kooyong Road. Ford didn't enjoy his

property for long, as he died in November 1891. His wife was bequeathed their home for life, with power to dispose for her own use and any of his livestock.

Advertising in 1898 shows us that Mrs Betsey Armstrong of now *Killearnan* is involved in the raising of funds for the Church Mission to the Chinese in Victoria.

Killearnan was being used for horse agistment, with horses often coming from the stables at Caulfield. Betsey and husband Alexander went upmarket in 1911, taking the name *Killearnan* with them to their new residence in Torresdale Road, Toorak.

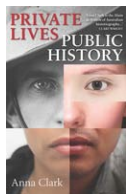
By 1929, the subdivision of *Killearnan* had begun, 11 acres, 3 roods, 1.7 perches up for sale, the property boundaries being, Whitmuir, Huntly and Thomas Streets. However, land sales were becoming difficult to achieve in 1930. The Killearnan Estate was considered one of Bentleigh's better areas and the fine old home that was central to it was later to become the site of the Bentleigh Club.

In 1931, Miss Crozier lived in Thomas Street and there is now a Crozier Court, running off Whitmuir Road. She used the grounds of *Killearnan* for spelling horses, some coming from Ron Crozier's stable at Caulfield.

Sources: City of Moorabbin Historical Society, *Trove*.



Fountain and statue at the Bentleigh Club in 2016. Photo Geoffrey Paterson.



Book review

Anna Clark

Private lives, public history

Melbourne University Publishing, Carlton, 2016.

ISBN 9780522868951

Anna Clark – granddaughter of Australian historian Manning Clark – has written a most interesting account of her research using focus groups to identify how Australians process their history.

Many of course will argue that history, meaning academic history, does not interest them and, it is true, that politicised historical debate impacts only at the edge on the average Australian. However, as Clark teases out in her discussions with the various focus groups, the average Australian is engaged with history.

Clark's research project reveals that collectively those participating "maintain deep historical connections day by day" while expressing "a distinct lack of engagement with more formal national narratives". For them, the past was important as it related to their own lives and communities. Only then could links be made to events and issues in the more formal historical narrative.

In her study, Clark focuses on five links: Inheritance that includes family history, Commemoration, Contest, Place, and Presence of the Past. She observes the great importance Inheritance and Place are to indigenous Australians and to a lesser extent to *displaced* migrants from Europe and Asia. In the area of Commemoration, she traces increasing ownership of Gallipoli and Anzac Day by younger Australians since the 1980s.

This book explores new ground in historical methodology and maps out an area for further historical research. It also offers insights for teachers of history in our secondary schools who are teaching the subject to junior secondary classes. Finally, it

draws attention to the important links forged by local historical societies with the members of their local communities who seek answers to their own past and the significance of the place in which they were brought up.

A book to be commended.

Reviewed by Neville Daynes

Elsternwick Mechanics' Institute and Free Library by Ken James

The Glen Eira Historical Society has a file containing four items relating to the Elsternwick Mechanics' Institute and Free Library. It includes two stock certificates issued on 18 June 1908 by the Melbourne branch of the English Scottish and Australian Bank Limited and typed letters from the Mechanics' Institute and Free Library regarding shares dated 25 August 1930 and 10 February 1962.

However, no mechanics' institute and free library ever existed! It would appear that the stock shares were monies raised between 1897 and 1906 in a movement to establish an Elsternwick Mechanics' Institute and Free Library.

In early August 1897, a public meeting held in the Elsternwick Hall to consider the formation of a public library was attended by about 20 persons, mostly members of the local branch of the Australian Natives Association (ANA). The meeting was informed by speaker, Hugh R. Reid, that half the money from just over £100 raised some years earlier from the sale of the old fire brigade station in Glen Huntly Road had been set aside for a library. A library building and books would cost an estimated £150 they would need to raise an additional £100 by means of

advertising and subscriptions. While a motion to establish a library was passed, and an executive committee formed, nothing came of the matter¹. Cr Kirkham who was Mayor of Caulfield at the time advised the ANA to expend the money on improving the library at the Town Hall. However, the branch was not in favour of this suggestion².

It was to be nine years before the question of establishing a mechanics' institute and library was again raised when in August 1906 the Elsternwick Progress Association met with Premier Thomas Bent to request that the Government give pound-for-pound with the object of establishing a local mechanics' institute and free library. The Association was led by its chairman, MLA Mr R. F. Toucher, and introduced by Mr R. G. McCutcheson, MLA. However, the Premier 'flatly' refused to consider the proposition and stated that 'he would not give a penny towards the object.' Was the money raised in support of the project in 1897 and 1906 the money used to purchase the two stock certificates mentioned at the start of these notes? While the Progress Association met with the Caulfield Council in order to try and secure a suitable site for a building nothing came of the matter, probably because of the failure to secure government monetary support³.

¹ Brighton Southern Cross, 7 August 1897.

² Brighton Southern Cross, 19 February 1910.

³ Brighton Southern Cross, 11 August 1906.

Coincidence! by Andrea Casey

My mother grew up in 353 Glen Eira Road, a 1920s house with leadlight windows and traditional ceiling decorations. She had her 21st birthday there in 1938. When she married and moved out the house was sold. Imagine my surprise when I visited my primary schoolfriend's home and found it was my mother's former home! It is still standing and in its original condition.