



Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

Number 12, March 2017

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Editorial Glen Eira Sport and Recreation

Welcome to the first issue for 2017. A big thank you is extended to everyone who contributed to this edition.

This Newsletter samples the variety of sport and recreation in Glen Eira. We consider the organisations and people who support these leisure activities and highlight some individuals who excelled in their sport. We also look at group leisure activities associated with scouts, guides, churches and informal pursuits.

But there is so much more.

Perhaps a more complete picture of Glen Eira sport and recreation can be included in a future book or Newsletter. Do **you** have a story to tell?

This Newsletter has been produced by the Newsletter Committee who are listed below.

Geoffrey Paterson
gehsnews@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Committee



The Committee is responsible for producing each Newsletter. Left to right Claire Barton, Barbara Hoad, Joy Mawbey, Geoffrey Paterson editor and Adriana Konidaris.

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

Then and Now Greenmeadows Gardens



Sources: **Top** PR Murray & JC Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath . . . a history of Caulfield*, City of Caulfield, 1980, page 34; **Bottom** G Paterson 2017.

Vale Lindsay Hunt 1929–2016



The Glen Eira Historical Society was saddened by the death in December of Lindsay Hunt, member of the Society and husband of our past Secretary Ailsa Hunt. He will be sadly missed by family and friends. He was a valued member of the Society, was friendly and approachable and was willing to share his knowledge of the local area and his experiences in the grocery trade. Lindsay was profiled in the September 2014 issue of the Newsletter.

GEHS Newsletter Issue 13

Theme: Religion in Glen Eira.

Your contributions on this theme are welcome.

Deadline is 1 June 2017. Send to gehsnews@optusnet.com.au

GEHS Calendar 2017

Details are sent to members, are available at www.gehs.org.au or on request from the Society.

Friday 14 April

Closed Good Friday

Sunday 23 April

Inaugural Sunday opening of GEHS Rooms 2pm–4pm

Wednesday 24 May at 7.30pm

General Meeting at Carnegie Library
Speaker: Peter King photo restorer

GEHS Past Events

Wednesday 30 November

General Meeting
Speaker John Maidment
See pages 2 and 3 for report

Tuesday 13 December

Volunteers Christmas Lunch

Thursday 19 January

Visit to the Islamic Museum
See page 3 for report

Monday 23 January to

Wednesday 8 March

Market garden display at Stanley's Menswear, Bentleigh East

Wednesday 22 February

GEHS fundraising cinema night

Sunday 19 March

GEHS stall at *Party in the Park*
Allnutt Park, McKinnon

Wednesday 22 March

General Meeting
Speaker Carol Stals
Glen Eira – warts and all

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

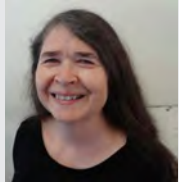
Volunteers Christmas Lunch Tuesday 13 December 2016



The Glen Eira Historical Society Inc is proudly sponsored by
Glen Eira City Council Community Grants
and
Bendigo Bank Murrumbidgee



President's Column



Easy to think of historians as highly qualified academics – our current issue shows how

broadly the term can be defined in reality. Our Newsletter is full of articles from people who research, write and talk about their historical perspectives on sport and recreation across the years in Glen Eira – there are many paths to becoming “an historian”.

You will also find reports on recent GEHS activities – meetings and speakers, visits to other cultural/historical organisations and local events. We invite you to come along too.

Great news just in: the Heritage Council Victoria decision is that Montgomery House (the Red Cross Rest Home at Caulfield Hospital) “. . . is of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria and warrants inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. . .”. Saving this property is a fabulous achievement by GEHS and National Trust Victoria and a win for the Victorian community.

Congratulations to our newly established Newsletter Committee and Editor in this very wide-ranging, entertaining Issue No.12 – we hope you enjoy it and respond to the requests for more information.

Anne Kilpatrick
GEHS President

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc A0041700U published this Newsletter.

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

The Newsletter is published in March, July
and November 2017. The next
deadline is 1 June 2017.

We welcome your contribution.

Newsletter email
gehsnews@optusnet.com.au

GEHS meetings and events

Pipe Organs in the Glen Eira Area over 130 years
by John Maidment OAM
Wednesday 30 November



John shared with his audience, a lifetime of research that gave a fascinating insight into the many pipe organs that are or have been part of Glen Eira's history. This report mentions three. A full list is on page 3.

In the 1840s, most of the organs were small and imported from England by settlers for domestic use. The wealth from the 1850s gold rush created a buoyant market for the newly rich. Other organs were imported from Belgium, Germany and France and, in the 1920s, Wurlitzer and the Aeolian Company* of the United States exported organs for use in private houses and theatres.

The first documented organ in Caulfield was commissioned in 1867 for **St Mary's Anglican Church**. It was supplied by Melbourne organ builders Lee and Kaye and can now be found in the Christ Church St Arnaud. In 1877, a second organ was built and installed at St Mary's by George Fincham of Bridge Road Richmond. In 1933, the Fincham firm built and installed a third organ for St Mary's, that has since been modified and classified by the National Trust.

Finchams were the most prolific organ builders in Australasia in the 19th century. It is estimated that they built over 200 pipe organs, exceeding the combined output of all other local firms.

Evidence of the peripatetic nature of pipe organs is further illustrated by the present pipe organ installed at **St Aloysius' Catholic Church, Caulfield** in 2010. It was originally built in 1880 by JW Wolff, a German born and trained South Australian organ builder, for

the Wesleyan Church, Port Adelaide. It was moved to the Congregational Church (now Seventh Day Adventist Church), College Park, Adelaide and then to Caulfield. St Aloysius' first organ was built by a local Caulfield resident, Keith M Lavers, one of three organ builders working in Caulfield at the time (see # page 3 column 1). The organ subsequently went to St Luke's in Mosman NSW and was eventually broken up.

Frederick Sargood commissioned an organ from Peter Conacher & Co Huddersfield, England for **Rippon Lea**. When the home was sold upon the death of the owner in 1903, Semaphore Methodist Church, South Australia purchased the organ for £275 plus another £254 for cartage and installation. It has recently been restored and is used regularly.

Sadly, the work of today's organ builders largely consists of restorations, repairs and tunings. Locally, some pipe organs have been repaired or moved but few new organs have been constructed in the last two decades. With many churches being sold as congregations contract, some redundant pipe organs have been moved to Catholic churches whilst others have fallen into disrepair and are unlikely to be restored.

* Moved into the manufacture of pianolas

Report by Joy Mawbey



1933 organ at St Mary's Church, Caulfield built by George Fincham & Sons Pty Ltd. Reproduced courtesy of John Maidment.

Church Organs mentioned by John Maidment

- St Mary's Anglican, Caulfield 1867
- Christ Church, Ormond
- St George's Anglican, Bentleigh
- St James the Great, East St Kilda
- Elsternwick Baptist
- St Aloysius' Catholic, Caulfield
- St Peter's Anglican, Murrumbeena
- St Mary the Virgin, South Caulfield
- Bentleigh Methodist Church
- St Clement's, Elsternwick
- St Catharine's, South Caulfield
- St Stephen's Presbyterian, Caulfield North
- St Margaret's Anglican, Caulfield
- Chapel of St Andrew, Grimwade House
- Memorial Hall, Caulfield Grammar School

Other organs

- Melbourne Exhibition Organ 1880
- Rippon Lea
- Crotonhurst

Organ Builders and Restorers mentioned by John Maidment

signifies local organ builder

JW Wolff; C W Andrewartha #; Bishop and Son; Peter Conacher & Co; Alfred Crook; Christopher Gerock; JE Dodd; George Fincham; Hill, Norman and Beard; Samuel Joscelyne; George King; Steve Laurie; KM Lavers #; Daniel Lemke; Charles Lomas #; Merklin-Schutze; Josiah R Remfrey; Douglas Renton; Knud Smenge; Andreas Svensson; Wadsworth Bros.

Recommended reading

John's articles on the Organ Historical Trust of Australia website at www.ohtra.org.au include "The organ in Australia" and "A brief history of pipe organs and pipe organ building in Victoria".

Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA) Visit

On 19 January, 20 members, friends and volunteers, visited the Islamic Museum. This not-for-profit community museum was opened in 2014.

We were divided into two groups, and were given a very descriptive and informative tour by our vibrant female guides, who had a vast array of knowledge, and managed to answer some tricky questions.

We began our tour in the Faith Gallery, which has five Pillars, which are the tenets by which Muslims live. The tenets are:

- *Shahadah* – profession of Muslim faith;
- *Salat* – ritual praying five times a day;
- *Zakat* – paying a percentage of their wage to charity or needy;
- *Sawm* – fasting during Ramadan;
- *Hajj* – Pilgrimage to Mecca.

The IMA showcases a diverse range of Islamic arts, including various display areas, which shows the diversity of the many intellectual giants that Andalusian Spain gave rise to, and that are still current today. These include literature, architecture, surgery, pharmacology, mathematics and astronomy.

The museum layout leads into these various spaces, and we continued on to the History of Islam Timeline Wall, a Wall of Quotes – including one from Chapter 2 of the *Quran* about equality of men and women – and the five human rights objectives: life, wealth, faith, lineage and honour.

The Australian Muslim section shows the history of the Muslim Makassar fishermen who fished for Trepang (sea cucumbers) on the north west Kimberley coastline, the later cameleers from Egypt and Persia, and present day prominent Melbourne Muslims such as Waleed Aly.

Report by Claire Barton

Can you help?

The Society receives many requests for information on Glen Eira houses, schools and people.

1. We were contacted by someone who was pulling down a very old chimney in Kinglake and found a brick inscribed *Robert Victor Ellis 606 North Rd, Ormond SE*. We were unable to find any record of Mr Ellis or a brickyard owned by Ellis at this address.
2. We have had a number of requests for early photos of the Carnegie and Murrumbeena shopping centres. There has been much

interest in this area recently with level crossing removals and Skyrail. Whilst we have some photos we would love more so if you have any old photos of the area or indeed anywhere in Glen Eira please contact us.

3. We had a request for a photo of the land boom mansion *Clee House* which was in Clee Street near Hastings Street in McKinnon. It was occupied for some time by the Seccull family. If you know of this house or have a photo please contact us.

Acquisition

We received a copy of a memoir *Right places right times* written by Ed Biggs (1943–2016). Ed was a councillor of the City of Caulfield (1990–1994), and also served as Mayor (1992–1993), as well as being active in community organisations and institutions in the Glen Eira area.

Heritage Update by Barbara Hoad

Roseneath at 31 Nepean Highway, Elsternwick is recognised in Andrew Ward's 1996 Heritage Study as aesthetically and historically important to the City of Glen Eira and was given protection under a local heritage overlay.¹

Roseneath was built for William Millar in 1874. It is significant as a fine and early example of a bichromatic brick villa and its association with Shire Councillor William Millar.

Last year *Roseneath* was sold and a childcare centre is planned for the site. Whilst we are generally supportive of the plans recently submitted to Council we have written to them asking that any changes to the existing house, and to the size and general layout of the front garden, are appropriate and sympathetic, and do not jeopardise the heritage overlay. The proposed plans include the retention of the old house and new buildings mostly to the rear of the property.

Roseneath is one of the oldest

remaining houses in the City of Glen Eira where sadly most of our 19th century buildings have been lost. With its handsome cast-iron verandah and its distinguishing north and south facing bay windows, it is indeed unique to the area. We wish to ensure its heritage overlay status remains and is not adversely affected by the proposed development.

¹ *City of Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan 1996*, volume 3. Accessed from www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

Remembering Albert Jacka VC, MC and Bar by Barbara Hoad

On Sunday 15 January, GEHS members attended a ceremony at St Kilda Cemetery to mark the 85th Anniversary of Albert Jacka's death. On behalf of the Society, Carol Stals and Barbara Hoad laid a wreath on his grave.

Albert Jacka, the first Australian awarded the Victoria Cross in World War I, won the medal three weeks after the landing at Anzac Cove. He served at Gallipoli and on the Western Front and returned to Australia in 1919. Jacka was a St Kilda councillor and mayor and has a boulevard named after him.

He died at Caulfield Military Hospital in 1932 from war related injuries, aged just 39 and 18 years after he had enlisted. A memorial service arranged by the City of Port Phillip is held at the cemetery every year to observe the anniversary of his death.

The Newsletter Committee thanks these contributors to Issue 12: Jan Armstrong, Kevin Armstrong, Claire Barton, Andrea Casey, Geoff Cowen, Peta Darke, Richard Darke, Margaret Dunbar, Barbara Hoad, Ailsa Hunt, Phil Hutton, Anne Kilpatrick, Colin Kirkham, Adriana Konidaris, Lois Lowsby, John Maidment, Joy Mawbey, Audrey Nelson, Tim Neve, Ken Peel, Bill Richardson, Marilla Rootsey, Lyn Skillern, State Library of Victoria, Doris Thurgood, Noel Thurgood and Ian Willing.

A soldier in my house and World War I Walking/Driving Tour audio launch
Sunday 23 April at 11.30am at Caulfield RSL 4 St Georges Road Elsternwick. Please RSVP to the office of David Southwick MP on 9527 3866

Glenhuntly Athletic Club by Phil Hutton



Clubrooms in the 1930s: note the small membership. Photos courtesy of author

The Glenhuntly Athletic Club has served the men and women of the community of Glen Eira (formerly Caulfield) outstandingly for almost 100 years.

Although not the earliest athletics club in the district (Caulfield Tally Ho existed for five years in 1911–1916) the Club was formed in 1921 in the aftermath of World War I mainly from footballers in the local football club.

As men and boys took advantage of a more settled life of the 1920s, the club enjoyed instant success; with five premierships, including three A Grade, and a tie in its first decade.

Its members took out State titles, set new records, and the Club's executive was active in many innovations to promote the sport of athletics to the local community – including carnivals and activities for junior boys.

The Club executive was also prominent in the push for women to be able to enjoy the sport of athletics too. This proved successful as in 1929 seven women's athletic clubs formed their own organisation, of which the Glenhuntly Women's Amateur Athletic Club was one.

The Club was fortunate in 1926 to obtain old jockey changing rooms as clubrooms in the grounds of Glen Huntly Park on Neerim Road, adjoining the racecourse, and remained there until 1975 when a new athletics facility was provided by Caulfield Council on North Road Murrumbeena.

Glenhuntly was represented in the first Empire Games in 1930 held in Vancouver, Canada when Australia had a team of just six athletes.

The 1930s Great Depression and the onset of World War II saw both clubs struggle for survival. However, the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956 led to new enthusiasm and a stunning revival during the mid to late 50s.

The men began to dominate the Winter cross-country season, winning premierships regularly, while the women's club had enormous success in the summer track and field, winning five A Grade pennants in succession.

Since 1956, the Club has been represented in every Olympic and Commonwealth Games team representing Australia, and can now proudly claim 27 Olympians, 33 Commonwealth Games Representatives, 16 World Championship Representatives and 16 World Cross-Country Representatives.

Since 1960, both clubs have developed in depth and influence in the athletic community, and members have assisted in the development of many facets of the sport. These include Little Athletics, Fun Runs, Women's Cross-Country, and Masters (40+) athletics. Membership has grown to over 300 athletes, coaches and officials (the largest in the Athletics Victoria Association), with members active on committees to provide these facets to the local community.

In 1995, the men's and women's clubs amalgamated into one club and success has been significant over the past 20 years. The Club is currently State Premiers in Men's Track and Field (four times in the last eight years) and the Women were 2017 runners-up in the State Premiership (won three of the last five years.) In the Winter Cross-Country season both men and women have performed at a high standard to achieve 34 State Division 1 Premierships in the Men's competition while the women have won five of the past six Division 1 titles. Juniors have also been active with 31 premierships for boys and 16 for junior girls.



With a new home base in Murrumbeena, at the Duncan Mackinnon Reserve (pictured), the Club is keen to continue to provide top class coaching and competition to athletes of all ages and abilities.

As the Club approaches 100 years of service to the Glen Eira Community, we are very keen to hear from anyone interested in athletics, and in particular any past members.

The Club's website is www.glenhuntly-athletics.com

Glenhuntly St Anthony's Football Club **by Ken Peel**



The 1982 Premiership team in front of the grandstand at Glen Huntly Reserve
Photo courtesy of the author

I was a member of the Glenhuntly St Anthony's Football Club 1982 Premiership team (they were also premiers in 1975).

A number of us moved from Old Mentonians to Glenhuntly in 1981, when a former coach of ours was offered the job at Glenhuntly, a team keen to rebuild and win another premiership.

Glenhuntly was part of the Eastern Suburban Churches Football League and was associated with St Anthony's Catholic Church in Grange Road, Glen Huntly.

The results of Saturday's games were read out at church on Sunday. Best on Ground usually won a pizza voucher for Gabriella's Pizza in Carnegie

or if you were lucky a dinner at Toffoletti's, a licensed restaurant at 632 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South.

Our Best and Fairest Award Nights were held at Camelot reception centre on the corner of Wattletree and Glenferrie Roads (now Rasputin Restaurant).

I left the club in 1983 to travel overseas but fondly remember my time there and the many friends made and lost.

Ormond Cricket Club **by Geoff Cowen**

At the completion of the current 2016–2017 season, Ormond Cricket Club has just celebrated its 900th game in the Victorian Sub-district Cricket Association (VSDCA) and over a century as a cricket club.

Formed in 1903, Ormond's first three matches were played against Caulfield Grammar, Melbourne Sports Depot and Prahran Bohemians. The first captain was FA Looker and the initial president was most likely E Burman. The first season was played in the Brighton Moorabbin Cricket Association which soon merged to become the Brighton and District Cricket Association (BDCA).

In total the club has won 29 senior premierships and 23 junior flags. The first premiership was in 1908–1909 when a new Christ Church minister CH Raymond, who was completing his training, arrived and went on to make three centuries in that season including 144 in the Grand Final. Just as importantly, it was said his cricketing prowess improved church attendances.

Hard times fell on the club in 1912 when shortage of players and a ground meant the club disbanded early in the season. With World War I imminent, the club was, like many others, not in a position to re-form.

Immediately after the war in 1919, Ormond was back playing in the BDCA. Three important events occurred in the next

decade. Following a community petition for a recreational ground in 1921, plans were drawn up in 1923 for Ormond Park and OCC was playing there by the mid twenties. Within a year or two the cricket club made representation to Caulfield Council for a pavilion and this was accepted as the club took responsibility for its construction. Ormond joined the Frankston Glenhuntly Cricket Association during this period and a new club soon to become fierce rivals, Ormond Park CC, emanating from the Ormond Presbyterian Church, emerged to play on the adjoining ground.

At the beginning of the 1930s, Ormond again moved competitions as it joined the Caulfield and Districts Cricket Association where its senior teams played for the next 17 years. The club enjoyed premiership success during the World War II period. A famous name appeared among the playing list in the early thirties, Ernest Gunn, who by the end of the decade was already a leading club figure. For the following twenty-five years, he led the club as president until his retirement in 1970. Gunn also played a leading role with the Ormond Football Club, was a two term Caulfield Council mayor, and in 1964 Ormond Park was renamed EE Gunn Reserve in recognition of his contribution.



EE Gunn Pavilion in 2017
Photo courtesy of the author

It was Gunn who, along with other key figures, recognised that Ormond and Ormond Park should not be diluting the local cricketing talent and, with the introduction of turf cricket a possibility, merging the clubs would benefit all parties. The name would remain Ormond Cricket Club, Gunn would be the new president and the new entity would take the

blue and gold colours of Ormond Park.

Ormond enjoyed immediate success in the Victorian Junior Cricket Association (now the Victorian Turf Cricket Association) winning two first eleven premierships in 1947/1948 and 1948/1949. In 1949, the club joined the VSDCA where it has played for the last 67 years. Gradually, as more turf wickets were laid at Gunn Reserve, all senior sides moved from the CDCA to play in turf competitions. After initial struggles, two VSDCA premierships were secured in the late fifties before the club's golden decade when it won six Championships from 1965/1966 until 1974/1975 with club legends Colin Hyland, John Craig and Ted Plant a part of all six victories. Not unsurprisingly, the club had a very strong junior platform and secured many junior successes during this time.

There have been lean periods and it was 40 years before the club's latest 1st XI premiership was won in 2014/2015. For a period in the 1980s, junior teams diminished to an alarmingly low level and little club success followed. Currently, Ormond Cricket Club is enjoying a strong period of growth with the first team appearing in the past four finals and the junior program including ten teams.

Elsternwick District Bowling Club **by Colin Kirkham**



The Elsternwick District Bowling Club (EDBC) was formed on 5 May 1909 mainly through the efforts of the local Progress Association. The Caulfield Council had acquired land in Victoria Street, Elsternwick for Hopetoun Gardens, and a portion at the south-west corner was leased to the Club for one shilling per annum.



Elsternwick District Bowling Club in its early days. Source: Glen Eira Historical Society

The Green opened on 11 November 1909 and contained six rinks. Over the next few years the Green was extended to 11 rinks and electric light installed on four of the rinks. Some nearby residents complained in 1923 of the noise made by the Electric Light players.

At the time when wounded soldiers were returning from World War I, the Club took the initiative in raising funds to lay down and equip a four-rink bowling green at the Caulfield Military Hospital in Kooyong Road. This became known as the Caulfield Returned Soldiers Bowling Club.

EDBC membership in the late 1940s increased to 122 full members and 15 social members. The Ladies Club formed in 1954 added 25 members. In its heyday the Club even had its own Male Choir.

However, by the 1990s, total combined membership had dropped below 60 and the Club was finding it extremely difficult to obtain new members. A Special General Meeting in February 1996 decided the Club could not continue. Subsequently the tenancy with Glen Eira Council was terminated and the Club premises vacated on 31 May 1996.

The land was sold, despite the local community petitioning the Glen Eira Council and holding public meetings to try and have the land returned to Hopetoun Gardens. The area is now

occupied by Victoria By The Park, a residential aged care facility.

Reference

Glen Eira Historical Society Area 5 Library and Archives, Boxes 25, 26 and 27.

Games played in Glen Eira when we were young

British bulldog, hoppo bumpo, kick the tin, cops and robbers, cowboys and indians, marbles, hide and seek, chasing, hopscotch, skipping, I spy, what's the time Mr Wolf, ring a ring of roses, quoits, tippy cricket, Simon says, statues, knuckles, skittles, zippy ball, hula hoop, tennis, hockey, table tennis, table bobs, Monopoly, snakes and ladders, cherry bobs, tiddley winks, fiddlesticks, blind man's buff, pass the parcel, musical chairs, pin the tail on the donkey, charades, lotto, Chinese whispers, tell the truth (truth or dare), salmagundi (treasure hunt), egg and spoon race, sack race, wheelbarrow race, tug of war, leap frog, tunnel ball, cross ball, basketball, rounders, stamp and swap card collecting, kick to kick, skippy, tag toggy, French cricket.

Contributions by

Ailsa, Andrea and Audrey

Croquet tournament in 1907

"A croquet tournament will be held in aid of the building fund of the Church of England at Murrumbeena. Finals and semi-finals will be played at Oakdene, Murrumbeena, on April 6. All other rounds can be played on neutral grounds at dates to be arranged. Entries close on March 16. Any information will be gladly given by the hon. secretary. Miss A. Clarke, Neerim-road."

The Argus 23 February 1907

Camden Town Sports Club Sports Day by Geoffrey Paterson



1908 Camden Town Cup held by the Glen Eira Historical Society. Photo G Paterson

Camden Town is the long established locality where Glen Huntly and Hawthorn Roads cross. At the start of the last century, the Camden Town Sports Club (CTSC) held their annual sports day on a public holiday.

This article uses *Brighton Southern Cross* to portray this event for the years 1904 to 1912.¹

Location

The location of the sports day varied. To 1906, it was held west of Hawthorn Road variously on the properties of Thomas Watts JP architect, and JJ Thompson dairyman.²

From 1907, the sports were held courtesy of Harry Benbow in the oats paddock on the eleven acre *Chloris Park* estate on the Glen Huntly and Bambra Road corner.³

Attendance

The attendance varied with "roughly 1500" reported in 1905 while the following year saw greater local participation especially by the "young sports of the district".⁴ The 1909 attendance "... was unfortunately not up to that of last year and this was perhaps owing in some measure to the want of support from the residents of Elsternwick, which this local club rightly deserves and certainly expects". The largest attendance was in 1911.⁵

Activities

The program provided for all groups as shown by the 1908 program which featured: the Camden Town Cup, Lewis handicap, members' handicap,

maiden bicycle race, Lloyd bicycle race, Committee race, tug of war, slow bicycle race, old buffers' race, married ladies' race, single ladies' race, girls' race, and youth's race.⁶

The 1908 and 1909 Cup winner was Johnston Mann who "started from scratch, and getting smartly off the mark won by a foot".⁷ Is the 1908 and 1909 winner also the carpenter then resident in Cedar Street?⁸

The success of the day, however, sometimes had its drawbacks. In 1907 for example, two teams of medium class professional runners attempted to "scoop the pool, one of which was fairly successful to the exclusion of the local amateurs, for whom the sports were originally instituted".⁹

Future questions

The *Trove* articles present a narrow window on CTSC activities. Questions on Club activities before 1905 and after

1912 abound.¹⁰ Additional research avenues include the Committee members and sports day participants including their background and their place of residence. A third direction is to identify and access additional written and photographic resources.

References

- ¹ These *Brighton Southern Cross* (BSC) articles are sourced on *Trove*. There are no articles on the 1904 or 1910 Sports Days
- ² BSC, 10 June 1905; 18 November 1905
- ³ BSC, 2 November 1907
- ⁴ BSC, 10 June 1905; 18 November 1906
- ⁵ BSC, 20 November 1909; 11 February 1911
- ⁶ BSC, 14 November 1908
- ⁷ BSC, 20 November 1909
- ⁸ Commonwealth of Australia, *Electoral Roll Division of Henty, Subdivision of Caulfield, 1913*, page 7
- ⁹ BSC, 16 November 1907
- ¹⁰ PR Murray and JC Wells *From sand, swamp and heath . . . a history of Caulfield* City of Caulfield, 1980 (page 114) shows a photograph of club members dated circa 1888 and state that the club "... survived in various forms until after World War I"

What and where is it?

The Society holds the image below. The photographer's location, direction facing, and date are unknown. We seek your help in filling in these gaps and/or adding to our knowledge of Camden Town and its Sports Club. Please email suggestions to gehsnews@optusnet.com.au



Glen Eira Historical Society file 1432A

Did you know?

Penny Cula-Reid, who played for Collingwood in the AFL Women's competition, played with Murrumbena Junior Football Club. At the age of 12 she was told she could no longer play with the boys. She and her family,

along with two other girls, took their case to court and won the right for girls to play in mixed teams until the age of 14. More importantly, it saw AFL Victoria set up a system which now enables girls to play football from junior to senior levels.

Caulfield City Rifle Club by Kevin Armstrong



Volunteer defence groups originated during the Crimean War scare and their numbers increased with members of rifle associations joining up during the 1860s.

Militia groups were encouraged by the Government from 1880 to World War I and contributed to the emergence of rifle clubs. Rifle clubs were popular in Caulfield and often set up their ranges on stretches of unused railway reserves.

From 1911, the Glenhuntly Rifle Club used a paddock in Leila Road for many years. In 1913, a miniature rifle range and drill hall were established at East Caulfield on two and a half acres that the Caulfield Council provided to the Defence Department.

In the early years of World War I, the club with Council support opened branches in many parts of the Municipality and in 1915 provided financial support for the Elsternwick range near the railway station on Glen Huntly Road.

The Council's support for the Caulfield City Club stemmed from patriotism but its declaration that "every able bodied citizen should learn to handle a rifle" might well be disputed today.

Caulfield City Rifle Club 119 was formed in 1915 and HR Horsey was elected the first Captain. Members carried out shooting practices with .303 rifles at the Port Melbourne range and .22 rifles at Elsternwick. In 1926, the Club transferred to the Williamstown range. Well known rifleman PA Pavey joined Elsternwick in 1924 and won many competitions. He competed at Bisley in the United Kingdom in 1928, and won the Queen's Prize in 1948.

World War II caused suspension of club activities and in 1941 all members were ordered to attend the Elsternwick range and surrender all rifles for requisition by the Defence Department. Members 40 years and over were eligible to volunteer for guard duty at prisoner of war camps while those aged 18 to 65 could join the Volunteer Defence Corps.

In 1955, the Club opposed a bid by the Postmaster-General's Department to take over land at the side of the Elsternwick range.

In 1994, the Club amalgamated with Fitzroy-Brunswick to form the Fitzroy-Caulfield Club.

Postscript

In 2017, a new restaurant *Bang Bang* opened in the former Caulfield City Rifle Club range.

Some memories of scouting in Glen Eira by Bill Richardson

I went through scouts at 15th Caulfield between 1964 and 1973. We met in the hall in Inkerman Road (now used by a different group), I remember the Grand Howl and earning my Leaping Wolf badge as a cub. Games included British bulldog and, as a scout, many outdoor adventures were held in Caulfield Park opposite the hall.

Our leaders included Ray Beebe and David Solomons. Weekend camps included stays at Dallas Brooks Park in Upper Beaconsfield, where I also did some training as a patrol leader and became a member of 1st Dallas Brooks Park (I still have the scarf).

Easter for Senior Scouts (15 years and over) meant Hoadley Hide competitions in the forests between Powelltown and Labertouche. Our leader, Ralph K. Ark Sims took us through our badge work, training many of us to achieve our Queen's Scout badge.

The Caulfield District was very active. Leaders in other groups included Neil Wakka Westerway who became Chairman of the

World Scout Committee and Chief Commissioner of Victoria and Australia. When I was a scout, the District staged *Caulfield Showtime*, although I was too young to participate.

During the 1990s, I volunteered as a leader in cub scouts at 1st Bentleigh. It was in the City of Moorabbin District, that (I think) was a consolidation of districts with some groups still bearing names including 6th North Moorabbin or 5th Central Moorabbin. Our area became part of Glen Eira district.

Highlights of the cub scout year were pack holidays to Gilwell Park, Anglesea and other scout camp pack holiday centres, as well as an annual district pack holiday in Portsea. There was always a theme for the holidays and I remember being exhausted at the end of the weekend. There was a *steam off* game at the start of the meeting but always time for badge work. I was known as *Chil* the kite, the bird which could see all that was going on. John Kerr, the Akela, and the other leaders (Bagheera and Baloo amongst others) saw many achieve their gold cord but the real reward was to see the cubs having fun.

Caulfield Showtime brochure above
courtesy of Richard Darke



1950s Caulfield Guides and Brownies by Audrey Nelson



1st Caulfield Guides:

St Mary's hall on
Wednesday nights

2nd Caulfield Guides:

St Stephen's Presbyterian

hall on Monday nights

3rd Caulfield Guides: St Giles' hall

1st Caulfield Brownies: Shelford hall

2nd Caulfield Brownies: St Stephen's
Presbyterian hall on Saturday morning

3rd Caulfield Brownies: St Giles' hall

Rangers: St Stephen's Presbyterian
followed by St John's Presbyterian.

- Changes were made to these arrangements around 1957.

Caulfield Racecourse 1922

The following extract from *The Australasian* 24 June 1922 page 15 paints a picture of the racecourse 95 years ago. Some comparisons with the present day may be made. The article is "A Caulfield Ramble" by *Touchstone* was chosen by Claire Barton and downloaded from *Trove*.

"We enter by the gate opposite the Caulfield railway station, and straight-way find ourselves in the flat bookmakers' ring, where, in fine weather, the youngsters of the district play games among the forest of name posts on the asphalted area, and in showery weather race up and down the commodious grand-stand. "Reserved for racing purposes only," eh! As we cross the racing track, on which the lush grass is being cut by a horse-drawn mower, we watch with interest a few young fellows, in running kit, hopping over the white hurdles placed across the track – evidently harriers getting into "nick" for the big sports meeting held on this track every year, at which ambitious pedestrians from all over the State compete . . .

Inside the steeplechase course are two large ornamental ponds,

with sides nicely graded, on which the kiddies sail their model yachts. There are not many youngsters about just yet, but there will be plenty after school hours. Asphalted paths, made and maintained by the V.A.T.C., for the benefit of the public radiate in all directions; there are seven or eight gates at different points around the course. We take the one leading straight across to Queen's avenue, on the Glenhuntly side of the course, and note, with admiration, the many pretty flower-pots which have been tastefully laid out on either side, and comfortable seats, on which the rambled may rest and commune in peace with Nature. Looking from the grandstand, the racegoer can form no idea of the extent and beauty of the area at the back of the course, over the crest of the "hill". It is quite a large space. A portion is occupied by scraping-sheds and exercise rings for the horses which are stripped on this side; the remainder, several acres at least, is laid out as a pleasure-ground, for the children, particularly. An ornamental band kiosk, swings, and seesaws form part of the scheme. . . "

Tour of Greenmeadows Gardens by Andrea Casey

On 12 October 2016, a group of about 15 met on the corner of Milburn Grove and Green Street for a council guided tour of Greenmeadows Gardens, a well-kept secret of East St Kilda.

Since I grew up two doors from the Gardens I was interested to see them again after about 40 years. The tour brought back lovely memories.

The tour brochure reads:

In the second half of the 19th century, Caulfield was a largely underdeveloped district of south-east of Melbourne, sprinkled with mansion estates and grand villas. One such estate was Greenmeadows Estate, occupied by the prominent Lempriere family from as early as 1863.

Greenmeadows boasted a grand villa fronting onto Meadow Street, sweeping lawns and a rear cow paddock. In 1913, Caulfield City Council purchased the paddock to develop a recreation reserve. The watering hole was filled and the ploughed fields levelled. Hundreds of flowers were planted and winding paths led to a beautiful floral display in the centre.¹



Gates at Greenmeadows Gardens

The tour started at the gates near the corner of Green Street and Milburn Grove. The gates date to the early days of the park with local residents contributing £25 towards their cost. A large river red gum nearby is estimated to be about 200 years old and is a remnant of what was once a dense forest. This tree was used by local Aboriginal people for a variety of purposes: bark to make shelters and canoes (the scar of one canoe cut can still be seen), sap to seal burns and leaves to



Caulfield Racecourse including Caulfield Station ca 1925–ca 1940.

This photo looking east shows Station Road curving to meet Normanby Road outside the station. The first building of Caulfield Technical School is shown in the top left. East Caulfield Reserve to the south of the school has been a long standing sportsground in the municipality. Photographer Charles Daniel Pratt. Airspy collection of aerial photographs. From the State Library of Victoria collection.

make aromatic steam baths.

The central display now contains waterwise planting but once boasted an elaborate fountain and fish pond bequeathed by a local resident. These were removed in 1973 but the pond base and fountain pedestal still exist under the present plantings.

Continuing to walk to the northern end of the gardens one passes through the ornamental gates installed by Caulfield City Council to connect the park with a prized new garden estate of which the street beyond, Lempriere Avenue, was part. The houses, mostly Spanish Mission with several Californian bungalows, were built mainly in 1927 and 1928 and the houses in the southern end of the street have a heritage overlay. The street lamps were installed to replicate the originals; this street was one of the first in Melbourne to have underground cabling for electricity. There are no overhead wires.

The house at no 17 Lempriere Avenue was designed by JH Wardrop our neighbour and one of the Shrine of Remembrance architects, who lived at 24 Alston Grove, next to the park. The house still stands, unaltered.

Reference

¹ *Greenmeadows Gardens St Kilda East: short walks and landmarks*. City of Glen Eira n.d.

Glen Eira sportspeople – 1 Bentleigh High School champions of the 60s By Lyn Skillern (née Main)



I attended Bentleigh High School (BHS) from 1961 to 1966 and it is interesting to look back on those days and the sporting champions that I remember.

Olympians must rank at the top of the list and high jumper **Lawrie Peckham** was the first Bentleigh High alumnus to become an Olympian. He attended Bentleigh High from 1958 to 1963 and it seemed he was always good at high jump, breaking records at the



Lawrie Peckham in action
Quaere: the magazine of Bentleigh High School 1961, page 8.
Photo from *The Herald*.

interschool athletics and winning many junior titles.

Lawrie Peckham was born in 1944 and he was a ten-time national champion in High Jump. He won two gold medals and a silver at the Commonwealth Games from 1966 to 1974 and competed at the 1964, 1968 and 1972 Olympics placing 10th, 8th and 18th, respectively. In 1977, Peckham married fellow Olympian, Judy Canty, the 1978 Commonwealth Games champion in the 800 metres. Lawrie Peckham must have been an inspiration to other Bentleigh boys to pursue high jump as **Ian Patterson** and **Billy Burgess** both became Australian Junior High Jump Champions.

Two students introduced to fencing at Bentleigh High went on to represent Australia at the highest level. **Greg Benko** was born in 1952 and started at Bentleigh High in 1965. He competed in four Olympics from 1972 to 1984. Greg came 6th in the Olympics in the foil and no other Australian has ever equalled this rank. After the 1972 Olympics Greg was recruited as a member of the Wayne State University fencing team. He had great success in the USA winning three national championships. In 1978, he won a gold medal in both the foil and épée at the Commonwealth Games.

Marion Exelby attended Bentleigh High in the 60s and was a very good swimmer who went on to excel at fencing.

Marion was a junior Australian Champion when at school and went on to represent her country at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

She also competed in the Commonwealth Games winning a silver medal in the foil in 1970.

AFL/VFL Football

In the 60s, Bentleigh High had a very good football team and four of the boys went on to play for Melbourne Football Club.

In those days the area was zoned to Melbourne and the best junior players from Bentleigh Football Club went on to Melbourne.

Neville Stone Bentleigh High 1959 to 1964 represented Victoria at the junior level and played 35 games for Melbourne (1966–1969). His last game for Melbourne was the reserves grand final of 1969 where he played in front of a crowd of 119,000. Melbourne defeated Carlton to take out the premiership. In the early 70s, Neville went to South Gippsland where he coached Leongatha to two premierships. He also coached Meeniyan-Dumbalk, Inverloch-Kongwak and Foster.

Robert Langford (BHS 1961–1964) and **Ken Osbourne** (1961–1965) played junior football for Victoria and later played for Melbourne. Robert captained the Victorian Under 16 team at the 1964 National Carnival. Robert played three senior games and Ken 13.

Greg Wells (BHS 1962–1965) was a successful junior player and went on to play 224 games for Melbourne between 1969 and 1980 and 43 games for Carlton (1980–1982). He was runner-up in the Brownlow Medal in 1972 and 4th in 1976. In 1983 Greg captained the re-formed Moorabbin Football Club when it was readmitted to the VFA.

The best swimmer was **Trevor Skinner** (BHS 1961–1966), who was a finalist in State Championships and won almost every event he entered at the Interschool Sports and All High Sports. In 1964, Trevor was a member of Dolphin Swimming Club's champion relay team. They won the State 4x220 yard freestyle relay championship and the 4x110 yard freestyle

relay championship. Trevor has never stopped swimming and is a champion open water competitor. Now in the 60–70 years category, he and three of his fellow swimmers from that relay still compete.

These recollections are from a very short period of time and there must of course be many more champions to remember.

Glen Eira sportspeople – 2 **Robert Robbie Flower Football Champion** by Jan Armstrong



Robbie Flower and the author

Melbourne Football Club has always been my footy team since late 60s.

Robbie Flower appeared in

The Sun in 1973 and lived in Murrumbeena. I was simply besotted. He was slightly built with thick glasses . . . who would have predicted his amazing 15 year football career with the Mighty Dees.

Robbie became a boundary umpire at Murrumbeena Park for a year, just to improve his chances to play in the red and blue. I recall when the Dees played a practice match at the "G" in March, Robbie watched the game and returned to Murrumbeena to train and play tennis at the now Uniting Church.

Robbie was a skillful and dashing player who predominantly played on the wing. He had silky skills and wowed the fans with his dash and prowess, achieving often magical feats and spectacular marks. Some of his statistics included 272 games and kicking 315 goals. Unfortunately he only played in three VFL finals.

He was selected in Melbourne's Team of the Century on the wing and picked for the All Australian teams between 1980 and 1983. Oddly, he only won one Best and Fairest having acquired unfortunate injuries during his career. The Melbourne Cricket

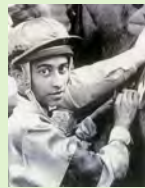
Club Members section now has a Robert Flower Terrace.

Robbie was a wonderful human being who kindly visited a sick Dees fan with leukemia in the Royal Children's Hospital. This was an awakening as he had to gown up. He was very successful in his business life running a number of Sportsco stores. He also started a sporting academy for students who aspired to sporting feats rather than academic profiles.

Sadly Robbie passed away in 2014. Many Melbourne supporters often reflect on his love for the Melbourne Football Club and his magical highlights. He was simply poetry in motion and will always remain my hero.

Glen Eira sportspeople – 3 **Selected portraits**

Elvis Rick Thurgood (b 1958)



came from Sri Lanka to Caulfield in 1968. He took up a jockey apprenticeship with trainer Angus Armanasco. Ricky started riding in 1976 with his first win on 3 April on *World Wonder* at Caulfield. In the next four years Ricky rode over 50 winners. He suffered a terrible fall while riding in the 1980 Easter Cup at Caulfield. His injuries left Ricky a quadraplegic. He lives with his parents Doris and Noel.

Text from www.njt.org.au Photo courtesy of Doris and Noel Thurgood.

Katie Mactier (b 1975) is a professional racing cyclist and Caulfield Carnegie Cycling Club member. An Australian Institute of Sport scholarship holder, Katie won the 2001 national road championship, and the Australia pursuit champion in 2002/2003. In 2002 and 2005, Katie was the Australian female Track Cyclist of the year. She won the pursuit at the 2005 World Championship, 2005 World Cup and 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Katie competed in both the 2004 (Silver medal) and 2008 Olympics.

Frank Reys (1931–1984) is the first and to date only, Aboriginal Australian to win the Melbourne Cup which he did in 1973, riding *Gala Supreme*. He also won the Oaks, the Oakleigh Plate twice, the Lightning Stakes twice, the William Reid Stakes twice, and came second in the Derby and Caulfield Cup. Frank once rode five winners in one afternoon, after which the trainer said "if I knew you were going to do that I would have given you six rides!" He retired from racing with a win in 1976. He lived in Glen Eira in the late 70s and early 80s and ran Frank Reys Cellars on Booran Road (next to the current Post Office). Frank Reys was loved by locals and racing enthusiasts alike and was regarded as a truly gentle and affable character.

Mrs E Gray played at the Murrumbeena Bowling Club.¹ She won the Victorian Ladies' Bowling Association (VLBA) State Title as Champion of Champions in 1928, 1931 and 1933. Mrs Gray and her husband also won the Victorian Bowling Association mixed tournament when both were considered excellent individual and team players. Mrs Gray was considered "one of the greatest and most consistent lady bowlers in the Commonwealth".² Mrs Gray is pictured on the mat playing in the VLBA Proportional Bowls Tournament at St Kilda in 1927.³



¹ The notes on Mrs Gray have used research by Mrs AF Johnson who consulted copies of the *Murrumbeena Buzz*.

² *Murrumbeena Buzz*, 21 January 1933.

³ Photograph source: *The Argus*, 12 April 1927. Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

Glen Eira sportspeople continues on the next page

Have we missed a Glen Eira sporting personality? Please write a brief biography for the Newsletter.

Book review



Graeme Davison *Lost relations: fortunes of my family in Australia's Golden Age*
Allen & Unwin Sydney 2015
ISBN 9781743319468 Paperback 274 pages

This book covers many aspects of migration of English families to Australia in the early days of settlement in Victoria with a very personal story. The historian, Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison, traces the lives of five generations of his family – their lives in England, their journeys to and experiences in the colonies.

The book starts with the author's great great grandparents John Hewett and Jane Parsons. Their small 250 acre farm near Hook in Hampshire provided a living for about 50 years for the tenant farmer and his growing family.

The landlord in Essex died and the farm was sold. The farmer (John) also died and the family of eight, having lost their main breadwinner, decided to emigrate.

My son lived in Surrey, not far from Hook and holidays spent in the area made me aware of the geography, the farmland, the canal and the railway.

Women in London found it hard to earn enough to live as seamstresses and were persuaded to emigrate. Female emigration schemes helped distressed needlewomen to travel to Australia. The widowed Jane Hewett and her eight children travelled on the *Culloden* arriving at Port Phillip in 1850.

The book continues to trace the varying fortunes of the author's family in Victoria, including family life on the Castlemaine goldfields. There they looked for gold, grew vegetables for home and to share, milled flour, ran dairy farms, traded, and became engineers and printers. The family's involvement with Methodism ensured their participation in all community affairs.

I could relate to the background information and learnt much about my own families in different gold seeking and farming areas in Victoria.

Later members of Professor Davison's family included Hereford flour millers who followed the wheat to Kilmore, Broadford and Longwood. Parts of this family moved to Gippsland to try dairying.

Another generation of the family moved from mining tin and copper in Cornwall to Burra in South Australia, then later to the Castlemaine area, opening up chances for engineering occupations.

The book's twenty pages of detailed notes confirm the expertise of a dedicated historian.

Review by Margaret Dunbar



Glen Huntly Oval around 1962 looking south west. The Caulfield High School building is taking shape and the white house to the left of the grandstand is the 1887 villa *Lilbourne*. The en-tout-cas tennis courts and clubhouse are to the right of the grandstand. The now-demolished white building in front of the tennis pavilion is the athletics club building shown on page 4. Photograph by Geoffrey Paterson

Glen Eira sportspeople – continued

Max Gawn (b 1991) attended McKinnon Secondary College, and played with the Ormond Junior Football Club. He was recruited by Melbourne Football Club in the 2009 National Draft and made his debut in 2011. Max played his first senior match in 2015, and was labelled the most improved ruckman. After strong 2016 pre-season form, Max was added to the Melbourne leadership group. He came third in the 2016 best and fairest, and was recognised as one of the best players in the league by his peers.

Darren Gauci (b 1965) is a recently retired successful jockey. He came second three times in the Melbourne Cup riding *Chagemar* (1984), *Super Impose* (1989) and *On A Jeune* (2005). *Super Impose* was trained by the famous Lee Freedman. In 2001 he won the Caulfield Guineas with *Lonhro*. Gauci is married to Young Talent Time star, formerly Karen Dunkerton.

George Mraz

A champion at volleyball was Murrumbidgee High's George Mraz, student from 1960 to 1965. George is the son of Czech refugees Gerry and Stella Mraz and he lived in Carnegie. He learned to play volleyball from his father and his friends who were all Czech refugees. George went on to represent Victoria and Australia and eventually be named in the Australian Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2004. He continued in volleyball in coaching and administrative roles.

Orrong Road Methodist Football Team Song

We are the Wick boys
 Down by the sea
 We can't be beaten
 That's easy to see
 And at the end of the season
 You'll know the reason
 We are the premier team.

Provided by Lois Lowsby

**Do you know
 other team songs?**