



Glen Eira Historical Society

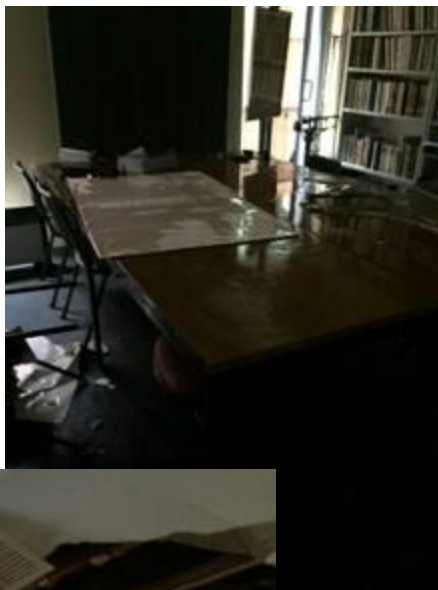
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From the President

Following the forced closure of our office in November 2018 due to extensive water damage and a collapsed ceiling, I am happy to report that repairs have been completed and we were able to open in February as planned. The damaged room has been repaired and painted, new carpet has been laid and new tables and chairs purchased.

I must emphasise that our collection is safe and was not damaged. Our volunteers worked hard in late January to clean and rearrange furniture to ensure that we could open on February 5th. Thank you to all.



During the summer break, several heritage issues have arisen that we are monitoring. These include:

- The 2 towers proposed for Selwyn Street Elsternwick.
- A tower proposed for Horne Street Elsternwick.
- A previously hidden Victorian house has been revealed at the rear of shops at 87-91 Hawthorn Road Caulfield North, following excavations for a multi-storey development next door.

The City of Glen Eira is continuing its Heritage review of the municipality and the public is still able to nominate properties for heritage protection.

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/Planning-and-business/Heritage/A-New-Heritage-Policy>

Our book, *Along the line – Caulfield to Oakleigh rail stories* is nearing publication. Launches are planned for the 4th and 18th May, 2019.

We hope to see you at our History Talks and meetings in 2019 to be held in the Caulfield Cup room at Glen Eira Town Hall.

President - Barbara Hoad

Above: Water flooded the room, water-logging the carpet and destroying the furniture, including the book shelves. Thankfully the Paice Collection (the books at the rear) was unharmed.

Left: The hole in the ceiling from the water damage.



We acknowledge that the Boon Wurrung People are the traditional custodians of the area covered by the City of Glen Eira.



Proudly supported by
Glen Eira Community Arts Grants and Bendigo Bank Murrumbidgee



Mourning Jewellery

Mourning jewellery became commercialised, rather than invented during the Victorian era. Mourning rings were the most popular form of mourning jewellery worn and were usually paid for by the family of the deceased.

There are a number of black materials used in antique jewellery and one of the most sought after is Whitby Jet.

Jet has been used as a jewel/talisman for 4,000 years. It is a type of brown coal or fossilised wood and is classed as a gemstone.

The seaside town of Whitby, Yorkshire has been a source of this material for hundreds of years. Whitby jet was carved by skilled craftsmen who used lathes and polishing wheels to meet the high standards demanded of a fourteen year apprenticeship. The work they produced, included statues, cameos and other prized floral forms of jewellery such as brooches, earrings, necklaces, bracelets and rings.

A visit to Whitby Museum is a step into an earlier era. Jewellery was meticulously crafted in workshops with little ventilation or light. 'Wood' dust was a serious health problem. Today, Whitby jet is highly sought after in antique markets and fairs because of the meticulous precision of workmanship and unique carved patterns eg. small brooches carved with the name of a long deceased relative.

After the death of Prince Albert in 1861, Queen Victoria entered a long period of deep mourning during which only jet jewellery was allowed at court.

Many women, due to the high infant mortality rate, wore mourning jewellery for most of their lives.

Other black materials used, included:

Vulcanite also known as "Ebonite" - an artificial substitute for ebony wood hence the name.

Bog Wood, well known to pipe smokers, is a material from trees that have been buried in peatbogs and preserved from decay by the acidic and anaerobic bog conditions, sometimes for hundreds or even thousands of years. During the nineteenth century, bog oak was also used to make carved decorative items such as jewellery.

Prized in the Tudor period for its dark hue, bog oak was used to construct the throne of Peter the Great as well as in the construction of Venetian palaces and the bedroom suite of Louis XIV.

Jan Armstrong



Above: Mourning brooches, photo courtesy of GEHS member.



Above: a parure (set) of jet jewellery. Circa 1850s -70s. Photo courtesy of Szilas, in the Canterbury Museum (UK).

Glen Eira Sportspeople



Left: Trevor Vincent OAM receiving the Gold Medal for winning the 3000m Steeplechase at the Perth Commonwealth Games in 1962. Photo courtesy of Phil Hutton.

Trevor Vincent OAM (b1938) was born and raised in South Caulfield and joined the Glen Huntly Athletic Club in 1955 as a promising middle distance runner from De La Salle (Malvern). In a very distinguished competitive career he went on to win five consecutive Victorian Titles at the one mile distance and represented Australia at the Tokyo 1964 Olympics and the Perth 1962 Commonwealth Games where he won a gold medal in the 3000m steeplechase.

In all, Trevor won 24 titles in track and cross-country as well as several masters (40+) titles.

Trevor has contributed an immeasurable amount to his Club over his 62 years: as a President, Secretary, Team Manager and competitor. He is still the driving force behind the Club, one of the largest in Victoria with 300 members. Its incredible successes, both on the track and in winter cross country, have been engineered with Trevor at the helm.

Highly respected in Athletics, there is little that he has not achieved. From a sports commentator on TV (Channel Seven's World of Sport), to an Australian Team Manager, Executive Director of Little Athletics, and the development of the Duncan Mackinnon Reserve facility, Trevor has always taken a lead role.

Entering his 80th year, Trevor still runs daily, coaches at the club and Monash University, as well as managing teams and mentoring young

and old athletes. His current initiatives include conducting athletics meets for students with a disability from specialist schools in Melbourne's South East and assisting athletes from the Solomon Islands with coaching, two of whom represented their country at the 2016 Rio Olympics; their total athletics team.

Needless to say, Trevor has Life Memberships with Athletics Australia, Athletics Victoria, and the Glen Huntly Athletic Club. Trevor has given himself totally to athletics and unselfishly promoted the sport in his Club and in the Glen Eira Community.

Phil Hutton

Recent additions to our collection

- *Cogito* 1974, Magazine of Murrumbeena High School
- Murrumbeena Methodist Cookery Book (inscribed Mrs Pay 1950)
- Post cards c1911 and Carnegie Men's Social Club programs c1940s
- Bound Southern Cross Newspapers 1971-1993
- Framed photo/print of Barry Humphries standing in front of Carnegie Hall c1970s
- Glen Huntly State School Exercise Book used by Gladys Ezard 1925, a set of School Papers 1924, 3x Stotts Business College Exercise Books 1926
- 2 x tickets to an orchestral and vocal concert by Summerlea Orchestra, Murrumbeena Public Hall Oct 19th 1939
- Sun News Pictorial 1927 re King George VI visit to Australia
- Minute books and ephemera from East Caulfield Football Club which played at East Caulfield Reserve until the club folded in 1976
- U.B.D. Melbourne street directory 1966
- Photograph of people watching an aeroplane, 1920 Glen Huntly
- The Weekly Times Pioneer Cookbook with recipes from various Glen Eira residents

Congratulations Margaret

Margaret Dunbar was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours in recognition for her service to athletics, spanning nearly 50 years. However, her prodigious contribution to other sections of the wider community is equally impressive. The list of her roles and awards is legion.



Margaret Dunbar OAM, with her congratulatory bouquet from GEHS

Margaret has been an active member of GEHS since 1988, is a meticulous researcher and fulfilled the role of Committee secretary for 6 years - a much loved and valued member of the Society.

She has been recognised by the City of Glen Eira, Athletics Victoria and Athletics Australia.

An awe-inspiring woman and a well-deserved award.

She has worked assiduously for, and filled many roles in, the Glenhuntly Athletics Club and the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, including 60 years with the Mothers Union, Ormond Anglican Church and St Peter's Murrumbeena.

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc.
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The Society is open on Tuesdays and Fridays
between 9 and 12 or by appointment.

Invitation Rail Book Launch

You are cordially invited to the launch of Glen Eira Historical Society's local history book:

Along the line – Caulfield to Oakleigh rail stories

2pm on Saturday 4 May, 2019 at Murrumbeena Train Station in the open space near the entry/exit.

Contributors to the book will have reserved seating to facilitate book presentations. Books will be on sale at the special launch price of \$25. Tender of the correct amount would be appreciated. The site is undercover but check the weather. It could be cold and draughty. Parking will be difficult. Come by Skyrail if only from Hughesdale station where parking is available. There are lots of coffee shops in the immediate vicinity.

Upcoming Events

Sat 4 May: *Along the Line – Caulfield to Oakleigh rail stories* Community Book Launch, Murrumbeena Station, 2pm.

Wed 22 May: General Meeting, Caulfield Cup Room, Glen Eira Town Hall, 7.30pm. Speaker: Dr Deborah Towns. Topic: Schools in Glen Eira.

Wed 24 July: Annual General Meeting, Caulfield Cup Room, Glen Eira Town Hall, 7.30pm. Speaker: Deborah Tout-Smith. Topic: Museum Victoria's collection of clothing and textiles, and items relating to Glen Eira.

May newsletter theme: Historic/heritage gardens and gardening in Glen Eira.

If you have anything you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, either on the theme or something different, please let us know!

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