



Glen Eira Historical Society

GEHS celebrates 10 years at 965 Glen Huntly Rd Caulfield

From the President

Last November, we celebrated 10 years in our current premises at 965 Glen Huntly Rd, Caulfield. We held morning teas over 2 days and welcomed members, former volunteers and council staff who enjoyed a tour of our rooms and viewed some of our collection. We were delighted to see Felicitie Campbell a founding member of the society and President from 1975 - 2009 as well as John O'Callaghan President from 2009-2016 with his wife Vivienne.

Some of the highlights of the last 10 years include:

- Exhibitions in 2015 - *On the Home Front: World War I in Caulfield and Beyond* held at Prahran Mechanics Institute and in 2018 - *Eyes on Glen Eira Maps*, showcased our map collection for the Australian Heritage Festival.
- On the heritage front we were unable to protect 1880s Frogmore from demolition but had success in 2017 when the Red Cross Rest House at Caulfield Hospital was placed on the Victorian Heritage Register following our nomination.
- In 2016 a Significance Assessment report was prepared for us by Cultural Heritage Consultant, Elizabeth Triarico. The report noted

that GEHS holds the largest and most comprehensive collection of material relating to the history of Glen Eira. Our collection of well over 5000 items includes significant items such as the Avenue of Honour plaques, Carnegie Methodist Church roll of honour board, the 1920s leather embossed Red Cross Album from the Caulfield branch and a set of Weights from Caulfield Weights and Measures Department. Our collection has been an important resource for heritage consultants undertaking Council's heritage review.

- In May 2019 we launched our first book – *Along the line, Caulfield to Oakleigh Rail Stories*. It was awarded a Commendation in the 2019 Victorian Local History Awards and has been very well received both by rail fans and those interested in local history.



Above: One of our guests from City of Glen Eira, Anne Kilpatrick and Barbara Hoad at 10 year celebration of GEHS at 965 Glen Huntly Road.

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 City Council Community Grants and
Bendigo Bank Murrumbidgee**



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- We have published a regular newsletter since 2013.

To help us continue to build our important collection we encourage you to donate any items, photos, etc. you may have relating to the municipality or allow us to scan them. Our suburbs are changing fast - you could consider taking a photo of your house and street today and sending them to us.

We are looking forward to a new decade of history and in 2022 we will celebrate 50 years of the Glen Eira Historical Society.

Barbara Hoad
President, Glen Eira Historical Society



Left: Carol Stals, Margaret Dunbar and Barbara Hoad at GEHS 10 year celebration.



Left: GEHS volunteers Ailsa Hunt and Colin Kirkham at GEHS celebration.



Above: Felicitie Campbell, John O'Callaghan, Vivienne O'Callaghan and Chris Mingos at GEHS celebration.



Above: Margaret Dunbar and Joan Moore at GEHS celebration.



Right: Barbara Hoad and Jamie Hyams, Former Mayor, City of Glen Eira.

Thanks John O'Callaghan!

My association with GEHS began in the late 1990s when researching the history of St Anthony's Church Glenhuntly. The Society was then located in the former Swimming Club Rooms in East Boundary Rd., East Benteigh. The building had no signage and was about half a kilometre from the only public transport. It was pre mobile phones and the Society had no phone or internet.

I was warmly greeted by Felicitie Campbell (President) and introduced to Gladys Valatti (Vice President), Norma Ward (Treasurer) and Hazel Ford (Secretary). From discussions, I learnt that they were the working group and that they were concerned that with a small and diminishing membership, the effectiveness and longevity of the Society was in jeopardy.

I shared their concern, joined the Society and offered to do what I could to help improve the situation. Over the next few years we were able to attract a few extra workers and to increase our membership.

Our main tasks were:

- Learning how to use the computer, preparing for and learning to format and use the Inmagic cataloguing system. We were mentored by Vicki Court from the RHSV.

Gladys Valatti managed the establishment phase of this project. Her skills as a librarian and researcher were inestimable. Kevin Pearson's work in the heavy lifting and sorting of a sea of papers and files was invaluable to the preliminary work for cataloguing the collection.

- Responding to enquiries from the public for information on local and individual histories.

Hazel Ford and Margaret Dunbar handled the bulk of these enquiries, assisted as needed by Felicitie Campbell and Norma Ward.

- The cutting out and filing of real estate advertisements from local newspapers - Norma and Felicitie diligently continued this work.

When I first joined the Society it was obvious that the longer serving workers were grateful that, with the occupancy of the building, they at least had a permanent home, but that they were also very aware that the building and its location were not really suited for the Society's needs.

We compiled and submitted to Council a list of our needs if the Society was to successfully preserve and promote understanding of local history.

We also arranged to change the name from the Caulfield H.S. to the Glen Eira H.S. and for the Society to be incorporated - a move that Gladys and Hazel had been promoting for some time.

Aware that the change in Council boundaries meant that Box Cottage was also in Glen Eira we consulted with their members and confirmed that they were primarily focused on establishing Box Cottage as a museum for artefacts of a general historical nature, that their records were of Moorabbin history and that they had no objection to our change of name to GEHS.

Thanks John O'Callaghan!

Our request for more suitable premises from Council did not immediately receive a positive response. Soon after, we were delighted to receive advice from Council that their plan to construct a new aquatic centre would require relocation of the Society. Council would assist us to obtain new premises.

Sometime in 2009 we made the move to 965 Glenhuntly Rd., assisted by Council.

The premises were in excellent condition and had been newly painted by Chris Mingos, our new landlord.

Our excitement turned to consternation when a few days after the move we found that a washing machine in the flat above our rooms had overflowed and flooded the main room where the bulk of our files were stored in boxes ready for movement to their new home. Whilst we managed to salvage most waterlogged documents, some were permanently distorted by the water.

Rapid response by Chris Mingos had the premises exposed to a bank of driers for the next week. Volunteers worked tirelessly to separate the dry file boxes and to lay out to dry those affected by the water.

The subsequent clean up, ordering and placement of files and artefacts in their new home occupied us into the New Year and the official opening was postponed until 2010.

Established in the new premises with a growing membership and an increase in the number of volunteers, the Society's future was more secure and certainly more productive.



Above: John O'Callaghan, Vivienne O'Callaghan and Joan Moore at GEHS

Once settled into the new premises, I canvassed sponsorships from the Bendigo Bank branches in the municipality and from our Government Representatives. Sue Foley, Manager Bendigo Bank Murrumbeena was the most helpful and has been a strong supporter of the Society ever since. Through her we received grants for the purchase of a computer and a data projector as well as ongoing financial support.

David Southwick, member for Caulfield has also been a strong supporter, printing the newsletter and providing display space in his office for Society events and activities.

The Monthly General Meetings with Guest Speakers were re-established and provided increased exposure for Local History. They were also a source of new members and volunteers. (These are now held every 2 months and renamed as our Speaker Series).

A drawback of the new premises that was evident even before we moved in was the lack of space for meetings and open display space.

We were fortunate to obtain a Council Grant to hire a meeting room at the Town Hall to accommodate the increasing numbers attending meetings. Later, and again with the assistance of Council, we moved to the meeting room above the Carnegie Library. (Since 2019, we have returned to the Town Hall for meetings).

John O'Callaghan
Past President Glen Eira Historical Society

Caulfield 1919: A Transition to Peace

The repatriation of the AIF to Australia was a long slow process due to the shortage of shipping. In the meantime, in the early months of 1919, all municipalities were fighting a different war: the onset of the Spanish 'Flu. Strategies included setting up temporary hospitals, in Caulfield's case the taking over of the Balaclava Road State School from 9 February – 6 May, 1919 and closing schools until 10 March, 1919. The Balaclava Road students had to be content with temporary classrooms in the Town Hall.

Official 'Welcome Homes' were planned by all municipalities. The City of Caulfield's 'Official Welcome Home' for its soldiers at the Caulfield Race Course did not occur until Saturday 27 September. What an impressive sight it would have been! The men in uniform with an Honour Guard provided by the recently established Caulfield RSL Sub-Branch. Presiding over the ceremony was the legendary Brigadier-General 'Pompey' Elliott assisted by the Mayor Cr. Wharlington and local federal member, Mr. James Boyd, MHR Member

for Henty (Caulfield News Vol. 1 No. 20 Thursday 2 October 1919). All servicemen and women from Caulfield were presented with certificates of service by the Council.

Prior to this, smaller, low key, but equally heartfelt welcome home celebrations, were organised by the various local churches in the community. For example the Murrumbeena Methodist Church had organised 5 'welcome home' banquets for men from their congregation. Each of the returning soldiers were welcomed by 150 cheering parishioners in the parish hall. The banquet commenced with the Doxology and during the course of proceedings there were loyal toasts and the guests of honour were presented with gold medallions. (Caulfield News Vol. 1 No. 2 Thursday May 29, 1919).

Modern generations may find it surprising that there were extensive Peace Celebrations to recognise the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. For Caulfield these were held at the Caulfield Race Course on Monday 21 July, 1919. On the Monday night Glenhuntly organised a torchlight procession that proceeded up Glenhuntly Road and ended at Koornang Road. Carnegie residents chose a street carnival for the Saturday that included a fancy dress football match. Murrumbeena settled for issuing peace medals to 300 children. The local community was celebrating the prospect of long term peace. Of course, these had been preceded by such commemorations as Anzac Day and Empire day.

There was much discussion how the community should memorialise our servicemen. The Council supported the

Caulfield 1919: A Transition to Peace

extension of the Avenue of Honour from North Road to Nepean Road. It was, however, St. Mary's Church, in Glen Eira Road, Caulfield that was the first in the municipality to have an Honour Board unveiled on 7 December, 1919. In addition, an Honour Board in recognition of the members of the local branch of the ANA who were residents of Caulfield had been unveiled in the United Friendly Society Hall, Valetta Street, Malvern on 22 June (Caulfield News Vol 1 No.6 June 26th 1919).

The recently established Caulfield Sub-Branch of the RSSAILA hoped that the Caulfield monument might be incorporated in club rooms for the Branch. Councillors thought this needed more consideration. In the meantime the Caulfield Branch had to be content with offices on the first floor of the Phoebe Theatre and plans to build club rooms on land opposite the Town Hall.

The Caulfield Sub-Branch worked assiduously to assist local servicemen and war widows to receive special consideration in business and employment opportunities. It sponsored the advertising of businesses run by ex-servicemen and war widows and their patronage by local residents in the Caulfield News (See advertisement in Caulfield News Vol 1 No.10 dated Thursday 24 July 2019). One such business was a dairy run by Mrs A. Cleland in Hawthorn Road. Presumably she was a war widow. Another with a sense of promotion was Syd Simpson's "Somme Laundry" in Glenhuntly Road, Elsternwick. The Sub-Branch was ever alert, to see ex-servicemen given preference in the filling

of jobs with the Council setting an example. The Council responded by appointing a returned serviceman as the Works Supervisor. Much later on 11 November, there was a meeting in the Caulfield Town Hall to establish a Business Association of Ex-Servicemen. A return to normality was evidenced by the renewal of the various football, cricket and tennis competitions. These were to play a key role in the gradual rehabilitation of ex-servicemen. A Caulfield Returned Soldiers team registered to play in the Southern Metropolitan Tennis Competition. Their home courts were to be those at the Caulfield Repatriation Hospital, resulting in the matches attracting a number of the patients as spectators. In addition, for the first time since 1914, the Malvern Harriers held their 5 mile championship at Ballarat. This attracted 100 starters from 16 athletic clubs including athletes from the Glenhuntly Club.

The Phoebe Theatre (later known as The Renown) was the main cinema for Caulfield at this time. Patients from the Caulfield Hospital were admitted free of charge. However, the screening on Saturday 4 December brought some additional excitement. The very flammable film caught fire in the winding room at the back of the projection box but this did not stop the continued projection. Smoke billowing from an upstairs office window caused someone to raise the alarm. The audience only became aware of the fire when burly firemen charged into the theatre. Little harm was done as the evening screening took place at the scheduled time.

Caulfield 1919: A transition to peace

For the younger generation there were the regular dances at the St. Kilda Town Hall. Closer to home one could attend the dances in the Murrumbeena Hall for 1/6. Tuition was also available for those who were not sure of the dance steps associated with the popular styles then in vogue: Jazz. Mexican, Maxina, Hesitation Waltz and the Three Step.

Finally, those wanting a little more excitement could view flying demonstrations and, at a price, joy flights from the Glenhuntly Aerodrome on the reserve (just to the east of the present Glenhuntly State School) on Sunday afternoons. Those with strong nerves and sufficiently deep pockets could enjoy a 10 minute flight in the two seater Sopworth bi-plane for 4 guineas (this must have been close to workman's weekly wage) (Caulfield News Vol. 1 No. 24 Thursday 18 October, 1919).

By the end of 1919 it was hoped that life might get back to some form of normality but the shadow of war would remain with local families and the community in general. Maybe the green shoots of peace would come from the generation that was too young to participate in "the war to end all wars".

Neville Daynes
Member volunteer, Glen Eira Historical Society

REFERENCES

Caulfield News, Vol. 1 No.1 Thursday 29 May 1919 - Vol. 1 No.24 Thursday 18 December 1919

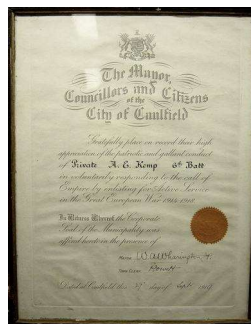
Elsternwick Times, Vol. 1 No.1 Tuesday 23 December 1919



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A03084

Above: Major General Harold Edward Elliott, CB, CMG, DSO, DCM, VD (1878–1931), known as "Pompey Elliot".



Left: The certificate issued by Caulfield Council and the Commemorative Scroll were presented to the family of Private Albert Edward Kemp.

He was a Caulfield butcher, 32 years old, married to Annie, father of Ethel and George. He enlisted at Royal Park on 4th October 1916. Assigned to the 22nd Reinforcements, 6th Battalion – regimental number 6800.

He was shipped to France on 27th March 1917. Albert died in the trenches in Glencorse Wood, Belgium on 21st September 1917. He is commemorated at 29 The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

Calendar

Our events for March and April are now cancelled and the office is closed until at least April 14, 2020 in light of the COVID-19 Emergency. These following events are still scheduled but are all subject to change.

19 May, 2020 - Volunteer Expo at Caulfield Park Pavilion, Balaclava Road, Caulfield.

Wed 27 May, 2020 at 7.30pm – Speaker Series Caulfield Cup Room, Glen Eira Town Hall.

Rebecca Le Get - The fate of former tuberculosis sanatorium properties in Melbourne, and their role in nature conservation today.

Wed 22 July, 2020 at 7.30 - Speaker Series Caulfield Cup Room, Glen Eira Town Hall.

Dr Andrew Lemon - History of Caulfield Racecourse.

Heritage Update

Progress at VCAT re: 10-16 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick proposal (Woolworths' 2 towers):

Many of you know that we are one of the parties objecting to Woolworths' plans for the old ABC site in Selwyn Street, Elsternwick. Our particular interest is the impact on the State Heritage-listed Former Elsternwick Fire Station as well as the appropriateness (or not) of such a development in the midst of the Elsternwick Heritage Overlay area and

Having attended all 10 days in November, including a site visit with the 2 person

next door to the Council Heritage-listed mansion and grounds of Glenmoore.

VCAT Panel, this case has many complex issues. As well as the heritage issues previously mentioned, the developer must also apply separately to Heritage Victoria for a permit before there are any changes to the Fire Station.

Other pressing issues include (but are not limited to) the impact on the neighbouring residential properties; increased traffic including delivery trucks; the proposed loading bay on Sinclair Street; parking; competing visions for the long-planned Cultural Precinct in Selwyn Street; Community Benefit assessment related to the 1000 sq metres set aside for ownership and use by the Kadimah and Sholem Aleichem College; and the visual impact on the historic Glen Huntly Road shopping strip.

Other parties include the residents' group Stop The Elsternwick Towers (legal rep obtained), the Jewish Cultural and Arts Precinct group (legal rep), the Campbell family (owners of Glenmoore and self-represented), Glen Eira Council (legal team reps), Woolworths (legal team reps) and GEHS (self represented).

A further 10 days have been scheduled from 25 May 2020. The decision will come some time after that. Please wish us luck!

Anne Kilpatrick
Vice President, Glen Eira Historical Society

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

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc. A00741700U published this newsletter.

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The Society is open on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 9AM and 12PM or by appointment.