



Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

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Profiling Gladys Vallati



Gladys Yeo Vallati's first contact with the City of Caulfield, now Glen Eira, was on 1 April

1974 when she was appointed Deputy Regional Manager of the Caulfield-Malvern Regional Library Service, an administrative position without direct contact with the public.

Her background was in municipal library work with the Brisbane City Council, as Librarian-Secretary of libraries which were administered by a Committee of Management with the advice of the City Librarian. The first library was the Ithaca Municipal Library with a staff of just two, then the Stones Corner Library with a staff of six plus a bookbinder, then the new Toowong Municipal Library, again with a staff of six.

She then spent five years in Italy working in an administrative position with the Giovanni Agnelli Foundation organising national and international conferences with a staff of 35.

On her return to Australia, she accepted a position as Children's Librarian with the Moonee Valley Regional Library prior to joining Caulfield-Malvern.

When the Caulfield-Malvern Regional Library was dissolved it was decided to appoint a new City Librarian in each municipality and the staff was split between the municipalities. Gladys, being the senior member of staff, was allocated

to the larger municipality and so became the Reference and Information Librarian of the Caulfield Library Service. Her face will be familiar to many Glen Eira residents as she enjoyed being able to assist adults and children with their inquiries, large and small. *Gladys joined the Caulfield Historical Society in 1986.*

Annie Pennington Grandmother of Caulfield?

Harold Pennington is widely known as the *Grandfather of Caulfield* so that should make his wife and workmate Annie the *Grandmother of Caulfield*.

Born 1831 in Ceres, Fifeshire, Scotland, the 1851 Census finds Annie Timewell working as a servant in Fife for the Rev Mark J Bryden and his family

In 1853, she travelled on an assisted passage to Port Phillip on the *Sea*, arriving in May. She was 22 years old.

In 1854, she married Harold Pennington, and they travelled for a couple of days by foot with a handcart, through rough scrub to a block of land in Caulfield.

Here they pitched a tent and began their new life. They and one other family were supposedly the first settlers in the area. A lonely life. Harold became very involved in local politics and community events, and Annie was by his side. They had no children

Mood Kee was the home they built together. Now demolished, it stood at 7 Harcourt Avenue, Caulfield. It eventually had seven rooms, including three attic rooms, and wide and shady verandahs. Safety was provided

Continued on page 8

Editorial

March is **Women's History Month** and the 8 March is **International Women's Day**.

We decided to look at the history of women in Glen Eira.

In most history collections women tend to be relegated to *the footnotes of History*. They migrated and are too often referred to as *wife and x children*. In death they were often, *Wife of...*

Here we want to highlight a few of the wonderful women we know lived, loved and worked in our area. Women of privilege are more often recorded, in family trees, photos and articles. The working women who lived in their households are not recorded.

This is *Her* story.

Help us add to the files and records of women of the area, and how they lived their lives in each decade.

**Carol Stals and
Geoffrey Paterson, Editors**

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Glen Eira Historical Society Inc thanks the City of Glen Eira and Murrumbeena Bendigo Bank for their ongoing support, and specially thanks David Southwick MP for kindly donating the printing of this issue of the *Newsletter*.

President's Column



In this edition, we draw attention to the important contribution that a number of local

women have made to our community over the years.

In doing so we are mindful that there are many more accounts and stories about the lives and contributions of women in our community that could, indeed should, be included. Some are recorded in our archives but many are not.

With this in mind I appeal to anyone with information they are prepared to share on the lives of women in our community to contact us. Similarly anyone prepared to assist us in researching this area of our history is also encouraged to contact the Society.

Whilst volunteering is a rewarding and at times demanding activity, without volunteers our Society would not exist.

I congratulate the volunteers who continue to produce the newsletter and in particular Geoffrey Paterson and Carol Stals our hard working editors.

Carol Stals and Geoffrey Paterson edited *Glen Eira Historical Newsletter*, Issue 3. We thank, Richard and Peta Darke, Ailsa Hunt, City of Glen Eira, Barbara Hoad, Ian Jenkin, John O'Callaghan, National Library of Australia, Anne Sgro, David Southwick MP, and Alan Stebbing for their help.

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The office is open Tuesday and Friday between 9.00 and 12 or by appointment. The *Newsletter* will be published in March, June and September 2014 with the next deadline being the 1 May 2014. The March theme is a women's issue while the June and September issues respectively focus on World War 1 and trade and trading.

We welcome all contributions.

Reports on GEHS meetings

Show and tell

24 July 2013

Members were invited to bring along items for a *show and tell*. The following members delivered a short presentation on a topic or item of interest.

Geoff Paterson used a 1960s photo of South Caulfield Junction to highlight changes in our shopping centres.

Richard Darke recalled the brick Californian Bungalow his grandparents occupied in Carnegie from 1918 and spoke about a tea set that dates back to his great great grandmother.

Barbara Hoad described her now demolished family home *Matlock* which was located in the Dandenong, Alma and Kooyong Roads triangle.

Margaret Dunbar displayed (below) a large sign from Murrumbeena Station and an aerial view of Murrumbeena Primary School.



Felicite Campbell

demonstrated a wool winder made by her father.

Claire Barton spoke to a miscellany of coins collected by her mother, and fragments of broken china doll and pottery bits and pieces salvaged from local demolished houses.

Carol Stals displayed two huge timber cotton reels that were used in hat manufacturing; Carol noted that her great great grandfather and Peta Darke's great grandfather's great grandfather came on the HMS *Dromedary* in 1820, a

ship which had earlier brought Governor Macquarie to New South Wales and took away Captain Bligh.

Bill Richardson spoke about his Caulfield experiences and an old photo of Moorabbin.

Ailsa Hunt displayed her 1942 certificate from Elsternwick Primary School recording that she raised one pound for the Patriotic Fund.

The speakers informed members on a range of topics and underscored the range of knowledge and skills that our members possess.

Commuting to the City

25 September 2013

Talk by Ian Jenkin, Vice President Australian Railway Historical Society Victorian Division Inc

Ian started his talk by stating that the 1900 built up area in southeast Melbourne ended at Burke Road in the east, Glen Eira Road in the south, with denser settlement paralleling the railway to Brighton Beach.

Ian then proceeded to use a range of maps and photographs to chart the development of private railways starting with the 12 September 1854 opening of The Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company's line to Sandridge. In 1857, the same company opened its line from Flinders Street to St Kilda.

Other private railway companies that opened lines in the south east were The St Kilda and Brighton Railway Company, The Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company, and the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay United Railway Company.

The map shows the extent of, and dates for, these private railway lines in and around present day Glen Eira.

Although Parliament

and members' events

established the Victorian Railways Department in 1856, it did not construct railways in Melbourne's south east until the opening of the Dandenong, Frankston, and Outer Circle lines. Ian skilfully used photos and maps to reveal the intrigue and dealings associated with the development of these lines. He also underscored the roles these lines played in transforming the semirural south eastern suburbs areas into the forerunners of today's Glen Eira.

Evidence of the railway past comes from various sources. While the Windsor to St Kilda line, the Rosstown railway, and the southern part of the Outer Circle no longer exist, Ian noted that evidence of the Rosstown railway may be gleaned from street patterns in South Caulfield, Carnegie and

Murrumbeena. Photographs, maps and documents also provide an insight into the nature and development of our railways. Finally, existing railways buildings are also an invaluable historical source.

Ian was thanked for his fascinating and informative talk on railways in and around Glen Eira.

Further reading

Harrigan, LJ *Victorian railways to '62*. The Victorian Railways, Melbourne, 1962.

Jowett, DF and Weickhardt, IG *Return to Rosstown: railways, land sales and sugar beet ventures in Caulfield*. Rosstown Historical Research Group, Mordialloc, 1978.

City of Glen Eira. *Rosstown rail trail*. Accessed from www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

Shrine of Remembrance 27 November 2013

Talk by Alan Stebbing, Shrine Guide

Alan Stebbing outlined the past, present and future of this 89 year old Melbourne icon.

The First World War saw 89 000 Victorians serving overseas of whom 19 000 did not return.

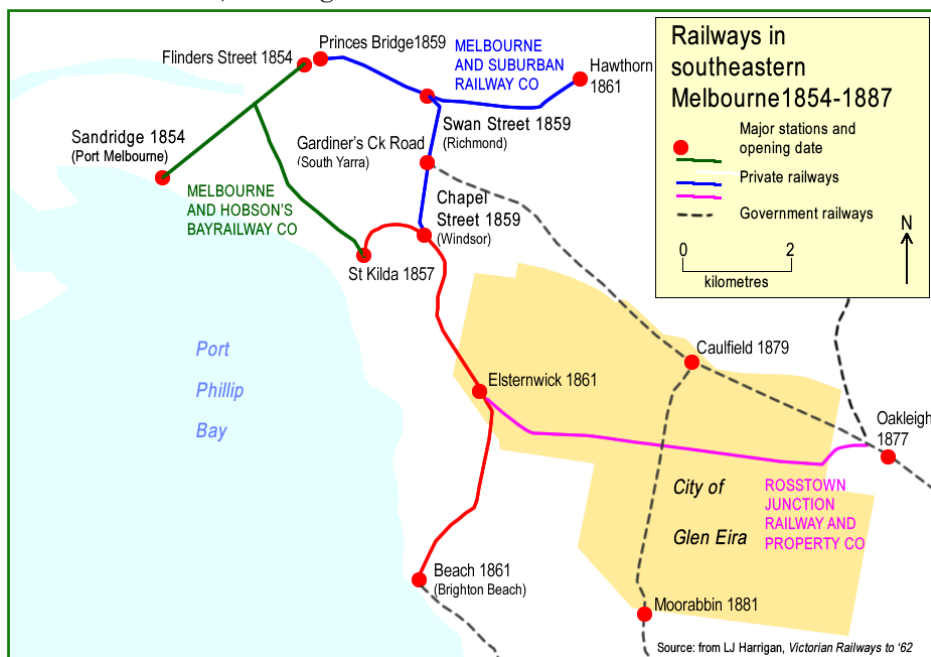
The Shrine was built when most Victorians could not travel to foreign burial places. It therefore provided a place for individuals, family and community to grieve, honour and preserve the memories of those they lost. It also honoured the courage of men, women and children who remained at home.

A Victorian War Memorials Committee was established at the end of the First World War, a design competition launched in 1922, and the Shrine design announced in 1923. Controversy over the design and site followed with the commanding site on the Domain chosen for a structure of "monumental and arresting" design.

The successful architects were returned soldiers Philip Hudson and James Wardrop, and Vaughan and Lodge built the Shrine using Tynong granite. The Shrine was dedicated by the Duke of Gloucester on Remembrance Day in 1934 at a ceremony attended by 300 000 people.

The Shrine also commemorates those who served in later wars. The Second World War Memorial, comprising Forecourt, Eternal Flame, Flagpoles and Cenotaph, was dedicated by Queen Elizabeth II in 1954, while the Remembrance Garden-Post 1945 memorial was opened in 1985.

Mr Stebbing outlined different features of the Shrine including the Tympana sculpture work, Buttresses, Crypt, Sanctuary, the Visitor Centre, and Exhibitions, as well as the extensive public program.



Australian Railway Historical Society Victorian Division Archives. Source unknown
1890s Stony Point and Mornington train approaching Glenhuntingly Station

Mr Stebbing concluded by outlining the Galleries of Remembrance project which will be the centrepiece of Victoria's preparations for the coming Anzac centenary.

This illuminating talk concluded with audience questions.

Further reading

Shrine of Remembrance website
www.shrine.org.au
Scates B A place to remember: a history of the Shrine of Remembrance. Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne, 2009.

Shrine of Remembrance, 4 December 2013 visit



On a very wet, cool December day a dozen brave GEHS members jumped puddles and headed up the hill to the Shrine of Remembrance.

A week earlier at our November general meeting, Shrine Guide Alan Stebbing had given an interesting presentation. We met Alan again, this time in the Shrine's Visitor Centre.

After a short video on the Shrine's history, Alan talked about some photos hanging on the walls of the centre. One was of the 1934 opening which showed 300 000 people gathered on the south side to watch the Duke of Gloucester officiate. We were amazed to hear that the Shrine had been built from money donated by the people of Victoria who desperately wanted a permanent monument to honour those who died in World War 1.

Another photo showed zigzag trenches dug into the hillside opposite Victoria Barracks. Here the army performed their drills during World War 2. These

trenches inspired the zigzag walls at the Visitor Centre entrance.

Later we were invited to join the monthly memorial service and wreath laying in the sanctuary. The service was to commemorate Australian troop involvement in events (battles) that had occurred in the month of December including the 1942 sinking of HMAS *Armidale*, a North Korean air battle in 1951, and the 1941 Pearl Harbour bombing.

The Shrine Governor read some moving verses including *The Naval Ode* from the poem by Laurence Binyon.

*They have no grave but the
cruel sea/no flowers lay at
their head/Their only grave
is a rusted hulk/afast on the
ocean bed.*

After the service, our guide pointed out a crab embedded in the sanctuary's dark marble pillars. These had been cut from the stone of an ancient seabed in Buchan, Victoria. Sandstone from Footscray and marble from Tynong had also been used.

Nearby in the ambulatory and under lock and key are the Books of Remembrance which contain the names of all Victorians who enlisted in World War 1. These are beautifully inscribed by calligraphers and the Shrine staff are happy to look up a name and let you photograph the page. Claire Barton found her grandfather William Henry Benzley who enlisted on 11 September 1915, and another relative Harold Roy Benzley. At the moment this area is undergoing a major renovation and not all books are available for viewing.

It was still raining as our tour came to an end so we decided not to venture up the stairs to the viewing promenade.

We now look forward to various exhibitions and ceremonies at the Shrine and elsewhere in our community to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War (1914–1918).

Barbara Hoad

Mary Delahunty Glen Eira Councillor



Councillor Mary Delahunty is the youngest of seven children, five sisters and one brother. They grew up in country Victoria in the Western District.

Her family was involved in local affairs, her brother is a Councillor for Colac Otway Shire. Family discussions formed the value of giving back to your community and her family has certainly done that on many levels, with both local and state government representation. Premier Denis Napthine is her cousin.

Mary attended boarding school in Melbourne at 14 and has never lived anywhere other than Melbourne, her chosen home. She has a Masters degree in Applied Finance, and works full time in Industry Superannuation.

As part of a young family in the area, she became aware of the needs for Family Services and the important impact that local government has on people at the grass roots. With the loss of a child care centre, she felt motivated to stand for Council as she felt there was no representation on the case. She was successfully elected in 2012. During the campaign she was pregnant with her third child. She has received great support from people like herself, young families in the area.

As a family they have managed to make choices and retain their

core values of togetherness, and outsource jobs that can be done by others and deal with the important issues in their lives. Like many families they share the distribution of responsibility of role and jobs.

Council planning issues were a steep learning curve for her. Community work and visits to groups have been a great eye opener. Some of these groups and people she would never have come across but is now very impressed by the voluntary and group work being done on a regular basis in the community by people who do not want recognition for their deeds. She takes her role as Council representative very seriously.

When she can she takes her children with her. It was at the Reconciliation Day event at the Moorabool Park, held by Glen Eira Council that I first met her with her eldest daughter.

Mary enjoys her Council work and she has a clear vision of her role and responsibility and the people she represents. She has had ideological differences in discussions, not gender or age differences.

She would like to see Council be brave and take on BIG ideas and issues and also to see more energy within the council.

With changing social needs and conditions, Council needs to give strong support to different approaches to Maternal Health, Family Care and Aged Care.

Karina Okotel Glen Eira Councillor

Karina's parents migrated from Sri Lanka and she was born in Sandringham Hospital.

She was always encouraged in everything by her parents and she is aware of the sacrifices they made for her. They are local traders in Caulfield and love the community access through their customers, many becoming friends.



She was always interested in social justice, advantage and disadvantage so consequently studied law at Melbourne University and completed her articles.

Later she travelled to Uganda to undertake voluntary work and met her husband. He is one of eight children and a very capable man. Uganda was life changing in many ways.

She now works in Civil Law, for Victoria Legal Aid.

Karina has always been interested in voluntary work and wanted to make a local contribution. She has been surprised at the breadth of Council work, and committee work has also been a learning curve. She feels she may have had different expectations of how Council operated.

Learning the tasks has been a rewarding experience. It has opened her eyes to how engaged people are in the community and how active they are. She has had, however, to adjust her expectations of what she could do. There are no quick fixes.

She has always felt respectfully treated by the other Councillors and her ideas and opinions haven't been minimised. She has been pleasantly surprised.

Life balance is extremely important. She has had to give up some things, which was disappointing for her, but she is finding the balance.

She has several goals that she would like to see happen for Council.

1. Would like people to see the benefit of local council and how council can serve them
2. To be part of a community_ which is flourishing.

We are fortunate to have talented and educated young women on our Council to give a broader representation of the community.

Gladys Machin First woman Councillor in Caulfield



In 1950, only three women contested Victorian municipal elections. One who was successful was

Gladys Wallace. She became the first woman Councillor in Caulfield. She regarded this as a *triumph for women*.

Gladys Shaw was born in Castlemaine and began her working life as a nurse in Kalgoorlie, during the First World War. In 1920 she married Captain George Wallace and moved to Caulfield where she worked at Caulfield Repatriation Hospital. She was actively involved in forming women's groups within the RSL. In 1961, some years after the death of George Wallace, she married fellow Councillor, Leslie Machin.

Gladys Wallace served as Mayor of Caulfield in 1955 and 1956 and 1959 and 1960. As Gladys Machin, she served as a councillor for 15 years until she retired in 1965 at 70. She was also Mayoress to her husband Leslie Machin in 1962–1963 and 1970–1971.

Gladys was highly respected and a woman of action. She never asked anybody to do

anything she was not prepared to do herself and was a tireless worker. She was deeply involved in Returned Soldiers and War Widows committees.

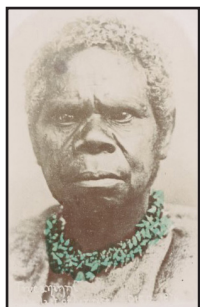
Among her legacy was expansion of Baby Health Centres, preschool centres, home help services, and care for the aged. She began Meals-on-Wheels – initially cooking the meals herself – and also Senior Citizen's Clubs.

She did not want this *caring* role to be seen as a gender issue.

Her wide community contributions earned her a Member of the British Empire in 1954 and an Order of the British Empire in 1959.

This was a life of giving, well lived and remembered.

Truganini 1812?–1876



CA Woolley
Portrait of
Truganini 1866
National Library
of Australia
nla.pic-an
233778504-v

Truganini was
a traditional

Tasmanian Aboriginal woman
who experienced a tragic life.

An official campaign in
Tasmania against the
Aboriginal People was termed
the *Black War* which resulted
in a huge slaughter of the local
people.

Truganini was born on
Bruny Island. Her father was
Mangana, chief of the Bruny
Island people. Before she
was 18, her mother was killed
by whalers, her first fiancé
died trying to save her from
abduction, and in 1828 her
two sisters were abducted to
Kangaroo Island. Her husband
Woorraday died when she was in
her twenties.

Lieutenant-Governor George
Arthur tried several things to
deal with the conflict between
settler and Aborigines. First

were bounties for their capture
then he tried to lure them into
camps.

In 1830, George Augustus
Robinson was the Protector
of Aborigines. He was a man
following a Christian mission,
and arranged to have the people
moved to Flinders Island for
protection. He gained the
support of Truganini to save
them by this shift, but most of
the group tragically died.

Truganini then went with
Robinson to Port Phillip
with the intention of helping
him with his work with the
Aboriginal people there.

She soon joined forces with
several other Aboriginal men
and a woman and they became
outlaws, moving around the
Dandenong area before heading
to Cape Paterson, where two
whalers were murdered. On the
run they shot and killed several
settlers in the area. Apparently
they never attacked women or
children or attacked at night
They were eventually captured.
Truganini had a bullet wound
to her head. Two of the men
were the first people hanged in
Melbourne.

Various stories place Truganini
in many places around Victoria
for a while, but she reemerged
in Tasmania and spent the rest
of her life around Hobart.

Her concern was that her
body would be displayed after
death, but she was given
assurances that it would not
happen. However, after she
was buried at the Female
Factory in Cascades, her body
was exhumed and eventually
displayed in many museums
around Australia.

The Palawa people of Tasmania
at last retrieved it in April 1976
and the ashes were scattered
near the place of her birth.

A small, compact, brave woman
who endured much hardship,
she did move across the
Boonwurrung land around the

Glen Eira area.

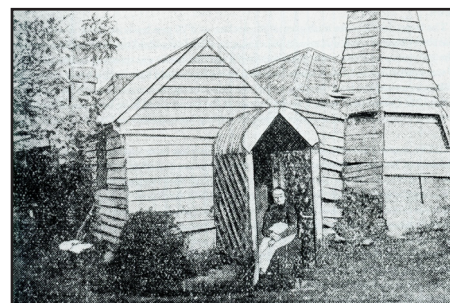
The Palawa people are still
living and promoting their
culture in Tasmania.

Aboriginal people never called
themselves *Queen* or *King* as
they were White terms.

There are many versions of the
spelling of her name.

Her iconic necklace was
eventually returned from the
Royal Albert Memorial Museum
in Exeter, United Kingdom in
the spirit of greater cultural
understanding.

Mrs Falconbridge in Camden Town



Mrs Falconbridge may have
been one of our earliest
residents, along with the
Penningtons. She is reported to
have lived in a wooden house in
Almond Street.

There is a photo of an old
woman, sitting in the doorway
of a very old looking timber
house, with timber chimney.
She is in a trellised porch that
appears to have plants growing
on the inside, maybe in an effort
to add some charm.

We have no details at all of Mrs.
Falconbridge except that she is
recorded in the 1870 rate book
as the owner of the house.

An Elizabeth Falconbridge was
buried on 9 November 1908 at
Brighton Cemetery. Is this her?

Camden Town

Camden Town was a vital mini
town in the area which grew
around the intersection of Glen
Huntly and Hawthorn Roads,
and was heavily populated.

The majority of people who
lived there also worked there,

as it was a centre for small shopkeepers and artisans.

The reputation of the area was not good, and people refused to visit there after dark. The reality was probably different, although it may have been rowdy, with hard working people letting off steam, particularly in the London Tavern in Hawthorn Road.

Most references to the area are affectionate ones. It was the major service centre of the area and contained Caulfield State School No 773, replacing the Common School, as there were so many children in the area.

It was a thriving, family based, working class area, but not a slum. Many of the trades shown in the area are horse related including carriage builders and saddlers.

Camden Town, according to the Sands and McDougall Directories, included a large number of self-employed women. Many were in dressmaking, millinery and related trades. These women may also have employed other women, either in the shop or in their homes. Rents were probably low and they were close to rich estates that may have used their skills. In this way, Camden Town appears to have been very progressive.

Very little remains today to suggest such a hive of activity.

Dr Geulah Solomon OAM



Dr Geulah Solomon was a prominent Caulfield resident for much of her life.

A consummate professional, Geulah's voluntary work and employment history

has spanned a myriad of organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

Commitment was the hallmark of Geulah's life. Geulah centred hers around her family, women's rights and the specific rights of Jewish women, social justice issues, her religion and her love of Israel.

Geulah completed her primary schooling in both Melbourne and rural areas. She completed her secondary schooling at Shepparton High School. She went on to study teaching, completing a Masters of Education and PhD.

Geulah was involved in a wide range of professional and community memberships including numerous Jewish organisations and a myriad of social justice committees. She was the founding secretary for the Australian Academics for Peace in the Middle East, and an active member of the Australian Women's Coalition, National Council of Jewish Women and International Council of Women.

Geulah presented at many conferences locally, nationally and internationally and was involved in many steering committee and consultancy roles. Professionally Geulah lectured at Monash University and Rusden College in such areas as Sociology of Education, Philosophy of Education, and Women's Studies.

She and her husband spent two years in Western Samoa where she established a Women's Study Department. She also travelled widely doing research and fieldwork. Her body of work includes 60 titles, articles and papers.

She wrote the four volume *Caulfield's Heritage* published in 1989 and 1990 which is still widely used.

In 1995 Geulah was awarded an OAM for services to women and

the Jewish community.

She was devoted to her husband, children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

She was a remarkable woman whose legacy will live on for many years.

Vida Goldstein 1869–1949

Vida was born in Portland then moved with her family to Melbourne.

Her parents were enlightened people, devout Christians and provided equal education for their children and encouraged them to give back to their community. She had three sisters and a brother.

She attended Presbyterian Ladies' College East Melbourne for the latter part of her education and matriculated in 1886. In 1890, she became involved, through her mother, in collecting votes for the Women's Petition for Votes.

Vida and her sisters then ran a coeducational preparatory school in St Kilda.

She was a good speaker and devoted to the cause of Women's Suffrage. She gained a strong following of other women.

In 1899, she made her first public speech to advocate the vote for women. She also addressed a wide range of social issues and had many successful outcomes.

Vida edited and owned a paper called *Women's Sphere*, which ran from 1900 to 1905.

From 1902, she travelled overseas as a delegate to address the United States Congress (Washington) at the international Woman Suffrage Conference. She travelled to the United Kingdom where she was met and embraced by the Women's Movement there and became friends of Mrs Pankhurst and her daughter.

On her return, she campaigned

for Votes for women and the ability of women to stand for Parliament. In 1903 she became the first woman in the British Empire to stand for Parliament. Although she polled well, she was unfortunately unsuccessful. She stood again several times, including for the Senate, but was never elected.

In 1984, the electorate of **Goldstein**, which is part of Glen Eira, was named for her. Vida died at her South Yarra home in 1949.

Erica McGilchrist OAM 1926–



Erica McGilchrist was born on 10 February 1926 in Mt Gambier. She was devoted to

her parents and had a sister.

Her father was a teacher and Erica developed her love of nature and beauty at his heels. They lived in the schoolhouse. Her mother was a poet and became very frustrated at her lack of freedom to write until she was elderly.

Erica was a shy and private woman with a great love of words.

She attended Teachers' College in Adelaide, where she befriended Keith Michell. They remained in touch and saw each other overseas. Erica left College just prior to completing her course, as she had discovered contemporary dance and joined a company.

Later she studied art at Melbourne Technical College (RMIT) and exhibited regularly, including a show with Sidney Nolan in London. She taught art at Kew Mental Hospital under the direction of the progressive Dr. Cunningham Dax. This period greatly

influenced her work.

She received a scholarship to study art in Germany 1960 and 1961, where she undertook postgraduate studies.

Among other projects this small woman painted a Melbourne tram and designed Australian stamps.

The 1970 feminist and art movements had such an impact that she cofounded the Women's Art Register and was coordinator from 1978 to 1987.

In 1992 she was awarded the OAM for her contribution to art.

Erica had always fought prejudice against women artists and their underrepresentation in collections and art books.

She was an industrious artist, struggling to maintain financial independence.

She is widely recognised in many circles, including overseas collections.

Patrick White was a collector and left his pictures to the NSW Gallery.

Erica is now in hospital.

Her work is currently being recognised with a powerful exhibition at Heide 1 Gallery, Heidelberg. It covers selected works from 1951 to 1995.

Erica taught art from her home in Caulfield for many years.

She was a long term Glen Eira U3A member and loved scrabble. The art classes were unaware of her presence.

The house and garden she loved are now on the market.

Glen Eira Council owns many of her paintings which are frequently displayed in their gallery.

She was an environmental warrior and waged a battle with the then Caulfield Council against their ant spraying campaign. This inspired several of the paintings that they now own.

Annie Pennington

Continued from page 1

within the walls from some unnamed external threat.

Both Annie and Harold were deeply involved in St Mary's Church of England in Glen Eira Road. Both worked actively for the Parish, raising money etc.

Annie had several nieces and nephews and some of their weddings were at St Mary's. They appear to have been a warm and welcoming family. Annie reportedly commented on the large number of swagmen who called at their door. Probably their reputation for generosity drew them there.

For 25 years *Mood Kee* (pictured below) was used as an official Town Hall and office, and all meetings were held there. Suppers were prepared and served. Parties and formal functions were also held in a tent there.

Eventually an annual fee of 10 guineas was approved, providing reimbursement to the Penningtons for candles and refreshments.

A lot is known about Harold's energy, ethical ways and drive to get Caulfield up and going, undertaking many roles in the process. However, very little is documented about Annie.

Harold died at *Mood Kee* at the age of 85. His estate was very small, comprising some tools, a small cart and a pony. The remains of a modest life.

Annie died on 3 September 1913 in Beavis Street, Elsternwick. They are buried in Brighton Cemetery, in a sadly unmarked grave, after the lifetime of work this couple gave their community.



Sister Mary Ann Major



Mrs Major arrived from Essendon with her husband and three young daughters, Myrtle, Bessie

and Alma, to live in the scattered community of Carnegie in 1911.

She was generally known as *Nurse Major*. She worked as a visiting midwife before opening the first maternity hospital in the district. Her name appears as midwife on most birth certificates in the area over years between the wars.

There were many aspects to her work but her main role was a compassionate caring one. She also worked untiringly for church and hospital auxiliaries and also babies' homes.

Nurse Major took an active interest in Carnegie State School, where she became the first woman member of the School Committee. To attend evening meetings she would walk from her home at 500 Dandenong Road, across the railway line and open paddocks with their scattered houses, carrying a hurricane lamp to light her way to the school.

Nurse Major died aged 85 after a lifetime spent in service to others. Always active, she was often heard to say, "Only the idle grow old." Three generations of the Major family attended Carnegie State School.

In 1938 when Nora Hysen won the Archibald Prize for her painting of Mme Elink Schumann, Max Mel-drum, Caulfield resident is quoted as saying,

"Women could not be expected to paint as well as men".

What an extraordinary lack of generosity to another artist.



Glen Eira street names with connections to women

Many Glen Eira street names relate to women's names, and of these, botanical names are popular. However, most of the regular, popular names are likely to have been for family members.

A'Beckett: Thomas Turner a'Beckett lived in Alma Road but the street name possibly came from Emma Minnie a'Beckett who married Arthur Boyd. Boyd's father owned *Glenfern* on the corner of Hotham and Inkerman Roads.

Ardyne: This was the farm near Innellan, Scotland, owned by the Shearers who were Archibald McLaurin's wife's family. Also the name of Premier JB Patterson's house nearby.

Ariadne: The Christian name of the Shearer's daughter who died when only 17 years old. Her name was taken from the ship which brought the family to Port Phillip in 1840.

Brentani: Mrs Brentani owned a number of houses and blocks of land in Inkerman Street in 1858.

Buxton: Mrs Buxton became the owner of *Burreel* in 1882.

Catherine: Named after Catherine Lechte who lived in the former Caulfield Hotel.

Elizabeth: Named after Mrs Elizabeth Short, a wealthy landowner in this area, or after Tommy Bent's wife.

Innellan: The Shearer family came from near Innellan, Scotland. Elizabeth Shearer married Archibald McLaurin.

Leila: The name of the first wife of William Murray Ross.

Queen: Named after Queen Victoria's Jubilee, formerly Racecourse Road and *The Grange Road*.

Rippon: The maiden name of Frederick Sargood's second wife.

Short: Possibly named after wealthy landowner Mrs Elizabeth Short but probably named after William Short, whose house was *Beena*, now the Elsternwick Club.

Truganini: Named after the last Tasmanian Aborigine.

Victoria: Named in celebration of Queen Victoria's 60th anniversary.

Source: Murray PR and Wells JC. *From Sand, Swamp and Heath . . .* City of Caulfield, 1980.

Then and Now . . .

Women cycling in Glen Eira a century apart

Nettie Palmer on a bicycle in Elsternwick in 1902 contrasts with today's women cyclists in South Caulfield.



Nettie Palmer on a bicycle at Elsternwick, Victoria, 1902. National Library of Australia nla.pic-vn 239300-v



Book review

An article by Anne Sgro

Clare Wright

The forgotten rebels of Eureka.

Text Publishing, Melbourne 2013.

ISBN 9781922147370. 512 pages

The story of the Eureka Stockade is one of Australia's foundation stories, but the women who were involved are rarely mentioned in the history books. We may recall the women who sewed the flag, Lola Montez and her troupe of dancers, and possibly a few shopkeepers. But women have largely been written out.

Eureka has typically been presented as a story of male protagonists. Historian, writer and broadcaster Clare Wright aims to change that with *The Forgotten Rebels of Eureka*, because women were **not** written out at the time, and half of students are girls, and they have the right to know where they sit in the story.

So she went back to the archives with a different set of questions, and tried to recreate the community and restore veracity to the event. What she found presents a very different picture of Ballarat at the time.

Ballarat was very different from the Californian Goldfields, which was largely the domain of men. It was a community of 30 000 people living in tents. One third of the population was women and children. It was a young, vital, domestic community. The roads were unmade, food prices skyrocketed, there was poverty. There was a baby boom in 1854 and 1855 when hundreds of babies were born. The miners were husbands and fathers. It explains why the miners tax, essentially a poll tax, was so onerous and the method of collection so humiliating – men were supporting families. There was no access to land to provide

a future. And many of those who migrated in the early 50s had expectations of independence and a future.

Clare Wright wanted to establish who the people in the Stockade were. And there were women – one died. There is a primary account of her funeral. Women and children were fired on in the Stockade – information that was suppressed. In Ballarat, women worked as shopkeepers, boarding house proprietors, and entertainers. They were activists. They included mothers and wives. She asks how they could have been overlooked.

Sarah Hanmer ran the Adelphi Theatre, a thriving place of socialisation which became the headquarters of the American section of the population. She was the chief financial backer of the Defence List.

Clara Seacamp, defacto wife of the *Ballarat Times* editor, became the first female editor of a major newspaper when he was imprisoned. Women were actively contributing to the press.

Ellen Young, a Chartist, wrote letters and poems to the press. There were the women who sewed the flag, but Clare believes there were many more than three. These were just some that she mentioned.

Dr Wright gives a different picture of Ballarat and Eureka. She has made it a people's history, which happens, as she says, when you put women back in. In this history, she aims to give a wider picture of humanity.

Monuments are important, she says, because they are in stone, in places where people walk past or gather. There aren't very many monuments to women. So she is particularly pleased that the wording on a new plaque at the Museum of Australian Democracy in Ballarat states: "*to the men and women whose names we don't know . . .*" So here is a book to borrow from the library or to buy for a gift.

What is it?

What are these objects?
What are they used for?



Issue 2: What is it? solution

This is a revolving signal on the east side of the former level crossing at Elsternwick Station. It showed a red light for the trams when the gates were shut and a green light when trams could proceed. An updated version can be seen at Glenhuntly Station on either side of the level crossing.

GEHS May Meeting

Wednesday 28 May at 7.30pm
in the Boyd Room at Carnegie Library.

The speaker is **Andrew Ward** who is an Architectural Historian and author of the 1991 *Caulfield Conservation Study*.

Andrew will speak on the Study and local history which he knows so well.

All welcome.