



Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

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Editorial: Then and now . . . Why have our shops changed?

Welcome to Newsletter Issue 5

Trade and trading.

In this issue, we reflect on shops and businesses in Glen Eira that supply, and have supplied us, with goods and services.

The photographs below show part of the McKinnon Road shops looking east taken some 80 years apart. These shops have served the local community for 90 years.

Both photos show similar building facades, and trains still travel across the level crossing.

There are also changes to this scene. The entire road is paved, there are more vehicles, and lighting has improved.

The greatest difference is in the use of the shops. In the earlier photograph, these buildings provided residents with two bakers and two dairy produce shops, and one each of a butcher, library, grocer, confectioner, ironmonger, chemist, boot repairer, post office, newsagent, ladies draper, and estate agent.

Today, there are seven eateries, three clothing shops, and one

each of newsagent, beauty salon, pharmacy, beauty classes, bakery, milk bar, furniture and billiards. In the entire shopping centre, there are no butchers or greengrocers.

These changes reflect changing technology. Cars make us more mobile, and food and perishables can now be stored longer in the home. Packaging and refrigeration have enabled larger more centralised self-service facilities.

This Newsletter reflects on these changes. We read on pages 3 to 5 about six Glen Eira businesses. Pages 6 to 8 provide *your* memories of shops and businesses in Glen Eira. We then reflect on people who came to our houses on pages 8 and 9. We also have our usual features: reports, the book review, and *What is it?*

We would welcome any additional information on trade and trading. Perhaps you may contribute to a future Newsletter?

**Geoffrey Paterson
Carol Stals
Editors**

Table of contents

Editorial 1

President's column 2

Meeting reports 2 and 3

Trade and trading 3-9

Book review 10

What is it? 10

GEHS November Meeting

will be held on Wednesday
26 November at 7.30pm in the
Boyd Room at Carnegie Library.

The speaker is John Semmens who will speak on the Magic Lantern. John's talk will include a history of the magic lantern and a slide show.

All welcome.

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc is proudly sponsored by the City of Glen Eira Community Grants and Bendigo Bank Murrumbeena. Thanks also to David Southwick MP for kindly donating the printing of this issue of the Newsletter.

**McKinnon Road shops
north side in the 1930s and 2014 (inset)**



President's Column



I commend this issue of our newsletter on *Traders and Trading* in Glen Eira to you.

As we live in a time of rapidly escalating change it is important to be reminded of, and to reflect on, times past as well as preserve and pass on these memories to younger generations. For this reason I again thank and congratulate Geoffrey and Carol and all those who have assisted in this publication of another important aspect of our local history.

Given the rapid changes taking place in our community I again appeal to all readers to courage all readers to gather your memories and recollections of life in Glen Eira in times gone by. As part of our mission we are keen to capture local history. If you have memories, photos or other memorabilia or would like to join us in our work please do not hesitate to contact us.

John O'Callaghan
President

Carol Stals and Geoffrey Paterson edited *Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter*, Issue 5. We thank David Beer, Peta Darke, Richard Darke, Anne Don, Pat Gilhooley, Ian Hattam, Barb Hoad, Ailsa Hunt, Lindsay Hunt, Bill Karisson, Anne Kilpatrick, Laura Molino, Sam Molino, John O'Callaghan, Neil Paddle, Neville Rowland, Bill Richardson, Colin Smith, and all survey respondents.

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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, July and November 2015 with the next deadline being the 15 January 2015.

We welcome all contributions.

GEHS meetings and

History of tramways in Glen Eira

Wednesday 23 July 2014

Talk by Ian Jenkin

Australian Railways Historical Society Victorian Division Inc



Ian started by outlining transport options for Caulfield residents in the late nineteenth century.

The Sandringham, Frankston and Dandenong rail lines provided speedy transport around the edges while walking, and horsedrawn transport were available for passengers and goods in more distant places.

In this context, the Caulfield Tramway Company commenced in April 1888. Its horse trams started at Elsternwick Station and travelled along Glen Huntly Road turning left into Kooyong, right into Glen Eira, then to Kambrook Road, terminating at Caulfield Station. This route was later continued from Kooyong Road to Glenhuntly Station. The Horse Tram Depot was on the eastern side of Foster Street Elsternwick behind present day St John's – see the next page for more details. The Horse Tram closed in 1912.

There was, meanwhile, agitation in neighbouring municipalities of Prahran and Malvern to establish an electric tramway. To this end, the Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust Act 1907 (No. 2130) established the Trust as a body corporate to build and operate tramways in those municipalities. Construction of the first lines and the tram depot started in 1909, and the first



Foundation stone at Malvern Depot

double-track route was along High Street from Charles Street Prahran to High Street Malvern.

In 1910, the Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust Act 1910 (No. 2294) facilitated the extension of tramways into Caulfield and St Kilda. In the next five years, lines opened to serve Caulfield residents included:

- Dandenong Road from Glenferrie-Wattletree Road corner to Windsor rail bridge 1 December 1911;
- Windsor rail bridge to Chapel Street 16 February 1912;
- Dandenong Road-Hawthorn Road via Hawthorn and Balaclava Roads and Carlisle Street to St Kilda Esplanade 12 April 1913;
- Balaclava Road-Hawthorn Road via Hawthorn Road to Glen Huntly Road 13 November 1913;
- Balaclava Road-Hawthorn Road via Balaclava and Waverley Roads to Darling Road 13 November 1913;
- Glen Huntly Road from Brighton Road to Grange Road 13 November 1913;
- Grand Union Junction at Balaclava and Hawthorn Roads 13 November 1913;
- Caulfield Station loop opened 20 June 1914;
- Hawthorn Road from Balaclava Road to Glen Huntly Road duplicated 18 January 1915;
- Glen Huntly Road duplicated from Brighton Road to Grange Road 28 February 1915;
- Brighton Road to Point Ormond 4 June 1915.

Ian continued his talk by tracing the evolution of trams from small single-truck trams to the longer bogie trams in which an open drop centre separated two enclosed saloons.

Barb Hoad thanked Ian for his interesting and informative talk.

Further reading

IA Brady. *Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust: Melbourne's foremost municipal tramway*. Transit Australia Publishing, Sydney, 2011.

members' events

Strolling the Horse Tram Route

Thursday 31 July 2014

Walk Conducted by

Peter Carwardine,

Australian Railways Historical

Society Victorian Division Inc



Horse tram walkers at Elsternwick

On a mild winter's day, ten members met Peter Carwardine for a glimpse into the world of the long gone horse tram.

Outside Elsternwick Station, Peter pointed out the location of the terminus and shunt of the horse tram route. We commenced our stroll down Glen Huntly Road, with him alerting us to a number of architectural gems along the way.

Old tram timetables hold lots of information about trams plus the local area such as names of mansions, but there were no labelled horse tram stops – perhaps it stopped on demand.

Likely there were no conductors or tickets, just a driver taking money. The horse trams would rattle along the way. The trams were so light that four men could lift the saloon cars.

Approaching Kooyong Road, we particularly admired the Melbourne side of Glen Huntly Road – more of the buildings are older (19th century) with more original features. On the other side, we peered in to see the pressed metal ceilings and plaster ceilings of a number of shops.

Other highlights included a leadlight window of Art Nouveau artistry possibly dating back to the late 1800s; and a block of flats in Art Deco style.

Echoing the journey of old, we

stopped at Beavis Street where a D-loop allowed the horse trams to pass one another on the single line. Perhaps this loop indicated hopes to expand to a double tram track at some later stage?

While the exact dates are not now known, the horse tram route ran from circa 1889 until around 1912 and these hopes were not realised.

Our next stop was the horse changeover point near St John's Uniting Church opposite Hopetoun Gardens where there used to be a triangle junction for the horse tram. Peter described how the horses were walked down for changeover from the Horse Tramway Depot. The site of the depot is now shared by a couple of circa 1920 houses in Foster Street.

Our two-hour walk with Peter finished where the horse tram route turned up into Kooyong Road then Glen Eira Road, taking a few more turns before reaching Caulfield Racecourse.

Many thanks to Peter for sharing his knowledge with us. He also demonstrated the joy in walking familiar streets with fresh eyes to appreciate what has gone before as well as what we may still treasure.

Anne Kilpatrick

GEHS Committee 2014–2015



Back: Barbara Hoad, Carol Stals, Anne Kilpatrick Vice President, John O'Callaghan President, Janine Mayhew Treasurer and Margaret Dunbar. **Front:** Ailsa Hunt Secretary, Felicitie Campbell and Geoffrey Paterson

Shopping in Glen Eira

This section on *Trade and Trading* looks at six Glen Eira businesses which are still operating or were landmarks to locals. We provided the owners with some questions which aimed to portray the nature of their business and what changes are occurring or have occurred. Photographs of these businesses follow the text on page 5.

Stromboli Fruit Palace Caulfield South

The name *Molino* to Caulfield residents is clearly linked to *fruit* and *fruit shops*.

The Molino brothers Sam, Bob, Joe, Vince and Angie arrived from the Seven Islands in Sicily in 1950, and set up their fruit shop on the southeast corner of Glen Huntly and Kooyong Roads.

After 13 years and on marrying Laura, Sam worked for, then took over, the **766 Glen Huntly Road South Caulfield** shop that the Bretherton family had operated for 32 years.

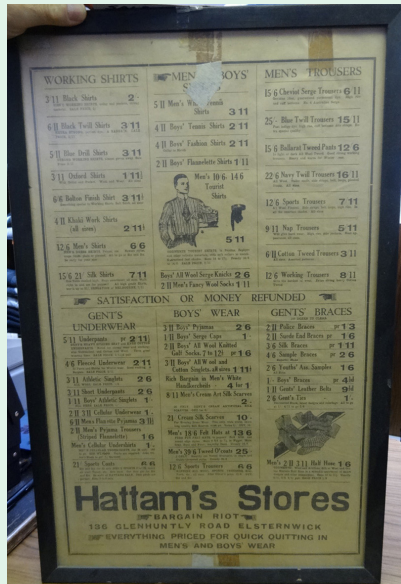
The shop's new name was *Stromboli Fruit Palace* which reflected the new owners' origin.

Over the next 42 years, Sam and Laura sold a range of fruit and vegetables, pasta, oil and eggs to locals. Their's was a family shop where Sam and Laura knew and welcomed everyone. There was no need for advertising as word of mouth spread news of the shop's friendly nature and quality produce. Sam drove his familiar Dodge truck to Victoria and later Footscray Market at 4.30am each morning – to pick up apples on Tuesdays, pumpkins on Wednesdays and so on.

Sam and Laura note changes in South Caulfield shopping centre, including the disappearance of greengrocers due to one-stop shopping at neighbouring supermarkets these days.

Information provided by Sam and Laura Molino

Hattam's Menswear Elsternwick



Hattam's poster from the 1930s

Ian Hattam is the latest of his family to run this Elsternwick icon, founded by his great grandfather in 1879. Immediately preceded by father Lyle and grandfather Alan, the store has been at **383 Glen Huntly Road** since 1936. The previous 136 Glen Huntly Road site was where we currently find Wong's Café and, before that, Hattam's was in Sale, Northcote, and 212, 222 and 224 Bourke Street, City. Today's shop shares features with its predecessors yet there are differences. The friendly and attentive service remains, as does the range of menswear

for all ages from head to toe. The store also retains its cash railway in working order. This once speedily conveyed monies to and from a central point where *Mr Hattam* sat, while allowing shop assistants to wrap the customer's purchases. Contrasts see carpet replacing sawdust on a timber floor, a move to customer self service rather than a counter separating customer from clothing, and carry bags replacing brown paper and string packages. The nature of clothing has changed as shown in the advertisement at left – is there a demand today for such a range of braces and hats? **Information provided by Ian Hattam**

Beer's milk bar Caulfield North

Mrs Joyce Beer's milk bar at **263 Hawthorn Road** was a very successful, well-stocked and well-lit shop, which maintained good custom between 1954 and 1977.

The residence was behind and above the shop which formed part of a strip shopping centre. In those 23 years, Mrs Beer served the local community, passing car traffic, passengers alighting at the adjacent tram stop, and the *interval crowd* from Caulfield Town Hall functions seeking drinks and sweets.

Her day started by 6.00am for bread and milk deliveries and usually closed before 10.00pm.

Mrs Beer was helped on weekdays by a full-time assistant while, on weekends and evenings, she was assisted by her two sons, and husband who also kept the accounts. The wide range of products sold included:

- fresh milk, cream, Peters Wafers or Two Between's, Dixie Ice Creams, and Eskimo Pies;
- Marchants, Cottees, Coca Cola, Pepsi, Schweppes, Tarax and Dixi Cola drinks – in bottles with metal tops before cans became popular;
- Home Pride, Gawiths, Granny Davis and Sunicrust bread,

and Susan Day cakes;

- Cadbury, Newmans, Allens, Red Tulip chocolates, Easter eggs, and a large range of loose chocolates and nuts;
- Clinkers, Snakes, Buddies, Cobbers, Choo Bars, Jaffas, Chocolate Bullets, Licorice Allsorts, and Minties;
- oodles of malted milk shake flavours including Blue Heaven and Spiders, and
- a large range of cigarettes.

By the start of the 1970s, the shop was feeling the effect of changing marketing and pricing associated with larger supermarkets and Chadstone Shopping Centre.

In addition, cars aided mobility and reduced the need to shop round the corner which milk bars represented.

Information provided by David Beer

Don Pharmacy Carnegie

Mr Lindsay Don opened his Residential Pharmacy in 1939 in a small shopping strip at **229 Koornang Road** at the Carnegie Tram Terminus. Customers entered through a small recessed porch beside the shopfront window and were served by a staff member usually from behind the long counter. Items for sale – medicinal, cosmetic, photographic, etc. – were

displayed at the counter and on wall shelves behind sliding glass doors.

Weighing scales, chairs, product advertisements and qualification certificates occupied some floor and wall space.

Invisible behind the back wall but with a view through to the shop was the Dispensary. Here were kept the telephone, books with medical information and records of prescriptions dispensed, containers of liquids and powders, the delicate weighing scales and their tiny weights, measuring equipment, pestle and mortar, and work bench and sink with hot and cold water. Once the scripts from the doctor were deciphered and verified, many in the early days had to be made up on the premises into mixtures, powders and creams, complete with the instructions for use. Customers could wait, return, or use the free delivery service of a trusted boy on a bicycle after school.

Small telephone cards (as shown on page 5) and wall calendars with Australian scenes were two regularly-used free advertising methods.

Being a Residential Chemist, Mr Don was often called on *after hours* by phone for advice and at times opened up the shop for emergencies. As customers learnt to trust his advice regarding

minor ailments, he gained the nickname *Dr Don*.

By the time he died in 1971, changes were occurring in pharmacies. Since fewer scripts were made up on the premises, the Dispensary disappeared as a separate room and became a small part of a larger open shop stocked with an increasing range of medications, cosmetics, etc. on open shelves and island stands. More chemists were part of a chain of shops rather than operating independently as the local family chemist. Training changed from an apprenticeship/study model to a degree course of study first. Drugs and security were becoming bigger issues.

What has, in my opinion, never changed is the need for – and appreciation of – the professionally trained, competent and understanding pharmacist who knows his or her customers and is prepared to spend time responding to their concerns.

Written by Miss Anne Don

Rowland's Drapery Glen Huntly

Between 1922 and 1986, Rowland's was a familiar sight at **1728 Glen Huntly Road** next to Glenhuntly Station.

Arthur Leonard Rowland opened a *real general store* selling groceries (later deleted), menswear, ladies clothing, haberdashery, hosiery, woollen goods, Holland blinds and curtains. Seven employees served customers who included the public, racing fraternity and jockeys. Arthur and siblings Ivy, Edna and Walter had earlier got their grounding in drapery at Dimmey's in Richmond.

The shop was *old world* in its layout and Arthur had his office in the centre of the store so he could survey what was going on. As a customer entered the shop, Arthur could be heard to say *Bruce forward*, or whoever was free at the time, to serve the customer. Bruce, Arthur's son, was proficient in ticket writing which was posted in both shop

windows. Other advertising was exhibited at the Camden and Glenhuntly Theatres.

Rowland's delivered and came to the customer's address to measure up and deliver Holland blinds and curtains.

The biggest difference between past and present stores was the level of interest and personalised service people were given.

Customers in the early years were treated more like friends than the usual customer today. Many a time, customers would come into Rowland's Drapery for a chat and leave buying nothing – something that would not go down well these days. However, there was less choice of goods.

During the 1920s, the Billiard Parlour at the back was frequented by *Squizzy* Taylor. According to Arthur as told to Neville (Rowland), Taylor fired a shot, the bullet hole still visible in the ceiling many years later. Through the Depression, Arthur ensured that the shelves in the Glen Huntly Shop were well stocked with boxes to give the impression that there was plenty of stock on hand. What the customer didn't know was many of the boxes were in fact empty and only Arthur and his staff knew where the stock was. Upon a customer inquiry, staff would then go to the appropriate box.

The store moved to 1180 Glen Huntly Road when the third rail line to Moorabbin was installed.

Information provided by Neville Rowland

Billy 1 Motors Murrumbeena

Billy 1 Motors at **473a Neerim Road** is the 1950s style of service station which was established on many street corners in Glen Eira. Its buildings are set back from the street and a large forecourt allowed drivers to pull up to individual pumps. The buildings house an office and the workshop. The present owner Bill Karisson took over in 1988 and originally sold fuel and serviced cars. Fuel



Joyce Beer's milk bar



Site of Rowland's Drapery next to Glenhuntly Station



L Don Pharmacy business card



Stromboli Fruit Palace with Sam and Laura Molino



Billy 1 Motors in 1988

is no longer sold and customers come from near and far for mechanical repairs to their cars.

Technology and electronics in cars have also changed. Custom is quieter now with some businesses leaving the Murrumbeena shopping centre. The future is uncertain as changes associated with the Murrumbeena rail grade separation will most likely impact on this garage.

Information provided by Bill Karisson

Remembering Glen Eira shops

Part of the preparation for this issue was the distribution of a small two-part survey on trade and trading in Glen Eira. The first section asked respondents to remember a shop or business *when they were younger*. We thank the 33 respondents who returned the survey and we have summarised your comments on pages 7 and 8. We start this section of the Newsletter, however, with Lindsay Hunt's extended description of his experience in the grocery trade starting in 1942 in McKinnon. Lindsay both takes us back to the days of the service grocer and outlines changes that occurred in more recent times.

Profiling Lindsay Hunt



In 1942, I worked after school for grocer Mr Horrie White at 156 McKinnon Road, McKinnon from the age of 13.

Then when I finished school, he took me on as an apprentice. It was for three years. I learnt on the job and there was no schooling in those years.

I swept the footpath every morning, cleaned the windows, scrubbed the counters down with sandsoap, put stock away, and delivered orders on my bike. Weekly specials were painted on the window with whiting.

Most items came in bulk and I learnt to weigh up correctly – potatoes came in 140 lb bags and sugar 70 lbs. Bags containing plain flour weighed 150 lbs and baking powder needed to be added to make it self-raising. Salt came in 112 lb bags and was sold at tuppence (2d) a bag. We also sold wheat in 180 lb bags, bran 80 lb and pollard 140 lb.

Cheese came in bulk rounds of 10, 20 or 40 lbs. You had to take the skin off and then cut it with a piece of piano wire. Butter came in a 54 lb box and was cut into three slabs with a large butter knife. It was then cut into amounts the customer wanted and wrapped in parchment paper.

Cheese and butter were kept on a marble slab behind a curtain. Bacon and ham were cut as needed.

Jam was only available in tins, and laundry soap came in wrapped bars (no soap powders). Honey came in bulk and we kept it in a metal container with a tap. Customers brought their own jars to be filled and it was sold by the pound. Anything that was weighed up was put into brown paper bags – no plastic then.

Spices were kept in large drawers in a cabinet and these were weighed up into one or two ounce lots and put in a *twist* made out of white paper.

Biscuits came in tins and were weighed up as the customer ordered. Broken ones were for the children. The scales were large brass scales kept polished.

Mr White had a horse, *Roma*, that was kept along the railway siding near McKinnon Station. Every fortnight I had to take the horse and cart over to Carnegie to a bulk grocery store where local grocers could buy their stock.

I had to wear a white coat and apron and make sure my shoes were cleaned.

There was a chair for the ladies to sit on while their order was made up and I had to write everything they bought in a docket book with the price beside it and add it up in my head. No calculators in those days. The money was then rung up on the cash register and the change counted out into the customer's hand.

The shop was open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 12.45pm on Saturday. It was closed for one hour at lunch time. My salary was 21/- per week.

I finished my apprenticeship and was offered a job with grocery chain Crooks National Stores. They had 85 suburban and country stores. I started as an *improver* and worked my way up.

During the war years, coupons were needed for tea, butter, sugar, meat and clothing. I think each person was allowed six

ounces of butter a week. Coupons had to be stuck on sheets and accounted for. To buy Vegemite, you had to have a doctor's order or a health centre certificate.

I was at the Elsternwick store on the corner of Glen Huntly and St George's Road for three years. I was often called away to act as relieving manager at other branches. Eventually when I was 20 years old, I was offered the North Brighton store to manage. It was still a service store, but several years later was turned into one of the first self-service stores. We had a refrigerator for the first time for smallgoods. It was at the back of the shop and had a two-way mirror at the back. Being manager meant more responsibility, having to account for the money, bank it and make sure there was enough change, and manage staff. I also had to order stock and make sure the *specials* were put on show.

I stayed at North Brighton for 13 years and was then given the chance to manage Acton's Supermarket, a new store that the company had bought at Beaumaris. I stayed at Actons for six and a half years. Large supermarkets were now the thing, and I felt it was time for a change.

Top: Butter knife and butter pats.

Below: Crooks Store Branch No. 6 in Elsternwick in 1949



Photo courtesy of Lindsay Hunt

Remembering Glen Eira shops – continued

Your survey results

Food

Milk Bars

1938–late 1950s

Three milk bars near Caulfield Town Hall: they were handy to our home, we got to know them, and they were more personal.

1940s–1960s

White's Koornang Road: normal lines and tables and chairs. They became like good old friends and were super helpful.

1958–1980

Small shop on the corner of Hopetoun and King Street, pictured below in 2014. Sold sweets etc. The only shop on its own and handy for bread, milk, sweets and daily needs of locals.



1960s–1970s

Milk bar on the Balaclava and Hawthorn Road corner sold Dairy Queen and usual milk bar items.

Fruit shops

1950s–1960s

Tom Johnson was approximately opposite Riddell Parade. The shop was often packed with customers and he delivered weekly orders with son Geoff usually carrying the wooden box round and collecting the previous week's box. Our orders were written in a little black book in which he marked up the price of items which were tallied regularly and paid in bulk.

Grocery

1950s–1960s

Marshal's in Elsternwick phoned my mother for our groceries which were then delivered; they also sold liquor and later ceased groceries.

1950s–1960s

Jack Merrifield in Centre Road opposite present Bentleigh RSL sold groceries, lollies and more. He was personable and merry.

1956–1970

Moran and Cato Murrumbeena. If customers had a special request, Mr McLean the manager would order it in if necessary. A bag of broken biscuits could be purchased cheaply.

Butchers

1936–1946

We bought all our meat from William Angliss in Glenhuntly Road opposite Jasmine Street in South Caulfield. The men in the shop were very friendly and particularly kind to me when I visited the shop.

1961–1962

Mr Parsons in Poath Road Hughesdale – he was very happy.

Bread and cake shops

1950s

I remember being sent up the street to the Austral Bakery on the Olive Street-Hawthorn Road corner before breakfast to pick up a loaf of bread for home and school lunches.

1940–1970s

Bon Ton in Koornang Road sold cakes and pastries. In 1945, my grandmother purchased a nutloaf every Friday.

Take away food shops

1930s

The Comport family shop at 205 Balaclava Road sold preserved sausage meats, potted meat and meat pies. The pie pastry was very good and used lard and meat from O'Briens butcher next door. Children from Caulfield North Central opposite happily paid 1d for tasty pies.

1960s

Fish and chip shop, McKinnon Road was the only fast food place within a mile.

Newsagent

Mid 1950s

John Attwood in Murrumbeena and *Mayor of Murrumbeena*. All the local boys delivered newspapers for John.

Household needs

Pharmacy

1940s–1960s

Porz Chemist in Koornang Road provided prescriptions and infant welfare, became like old friends, and were super helpful.

Haberdashery

1940s–1960s

Hattams in Koornang Road sold all sewing and knitting needs and were friendly and helpful.

1965–1975

Rowland's Glenhuntly

My wife and I equipped our flat with sheets and pillow slips etc when we got married in 1967.

Menswear

1950s–1970s

Mr Olb in Neerim Road Carnegie sold men's and boy's clothing – friendly rotund man who was very polite to my mother.

1980s

Stanley's Menswear Centre Road: menswear was always courteous with good old fashioned service and quality.

1960–1974

Ian Manson's menswear and tailor on the corner of Glen Huntly and Hawthorn Roads corner (photographed below). Mr Manson was a trained tailor and a gentleman – a family tradition going back to the gold rushes in the 1850s.



Photo courtesy of Bill Richardson

Footwear

1930s–1980s

Jack Witchell at Balaclava Junction did boot and shoe repairs. Jack worked with his father in the repair shop and his mother stitched the shoes when necessary.

1950s

Colliers Shoe Shop in Koornang Road were very courteous.

Hardware and fuel

1950s–1960s

Jim Webster's in Elsternwick sold hardware, electrical and had

a timber yard until ABC bought the land.

1950s–1980s

Pidgeon's Hardware in Murrumbidgeena gave information about products we asked about.

1950s

Reece's in Glen Huntly Road – accompanying my father when he went *over to Reece's* to get paint, nails, screws and plumbing needs.

Fuel

1940s

Reily's wood yard on Neerim and Tranmere Road corner Carnegie had wood and ice carts.

Electrical

1940s–1980s

Theobald's Electrical Shop in Glen Huntly sold radio, TVs and lighting.

1950s

LJ Wright in South Caulfield and Glen Huntly sold radios and TVs and stated *When wireless won't work, Wright works wonder.*

Auction rooms

SM Allen in Elsternwick auctioned second-hand furniture and antiques.

Entertainment

The Renown Theatre matinees before television were magic.

Department stores

Three survey respondents reminisced about Coles stores in Elsternwick and Caulfield South.

1930s

Remembering Coles in its earlier location, **Lois** writes:

On the corner of Glen Huntly and Orrong Roads, where the Commonwealth Bank now stands, was one of the early Coles Variety Stores where the slogan was *Nothing over 2/6*. I was probably 9 or 10 when I bought a brooch there. As girls, we loved browsing around the make-up and jewellery.

1950s

Terry writes of some years later when Coles had moved next to Hattams:

Coles Elsternwick in the 1950s was, to my younger eyes, a deep store with two main aisles running down with long counters, the staff inhabiting

the space between these very long, somewhat elliptical counters. They sold just about everything at very cheap prices. I went in to buy lollies, low cost Christmas presents, school items, and small toys. Coles being cheap my small pocket money was *extendable*.



Coles Stores in Elsternwick
Reproduced with the permission of
Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd

1970s

Barb writes in the early 1970s about Coles in Caulfield South:

I worked on Saturday mornings at the Coles Variety Store in Glen Huntly Road, South Caulfield. It seemed easy to get a part-time job then. I called into the shop one day after school and I was given a short arithmetic test. I must have passed it as before long I was working behind the counter selling spencers and singlets and socks. I really wanted to work in lollies or makeup or even stationery, they were the sought after departments. I earned \$2.96 for 3 hours on a Saturday morning – all the shops closed at 12pm in those days. After a few weeks I was able to buy a Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young record. It was fun working there and the other girls (I can't remember any boys other than the boss) were very friendly.

Remembering Elsternwick shops

Norma in her younger years remembers joining the prewar crowds in the Elsternwick Shopping Centre for Friday night shopping. Shops Norma remembers include Lady Betty Sweets, Miss Coles millinery, Elsternwick Market, Garth's shoes, Symons cakes, Adams pies and pastry, Meadow Dairy, Cane and Walker newsagent, Tallents drapers, Coles nothing over 2/6, Five Crown glassware, Hattams, Ezywalkin, Sasella butchers, Miss Melba homemade cakes, ES&A Bank, State Savings Bank, Allen's rooms, Red Cherry cafe, Moran & Cato grocer, Webster's hardware, and Buxton's estate agency,

Trade deliveries to the home – 1

We now turn our attention to the people who visited the home. We start with Carol Stals' recollections of the variety of people who supplied goods, or provided services, to households.

Life for a housewife in the 1940s and 1950s was quite busy in this period. She usually had sole care of the domestic arrangements, child care and daily shopping, as domestic job sharing was not appropriate then. Men had important jobs to do and their weekends were defined with their chores like mowing and car washing.

The streets were busy with a constant round of people making deliveries. This was a period of transition from horse and cart to motorisation on a large scale.

The list of delivery types is long, some daily, some weekly and many several times a week.

Daily and usually early in the morning was the familiar rattle of the milk bottles, carefully washed and left out at the front doorstep or the gatepost. Often with a twist of paper instructing the amount or the inclusion of a small bottle of cream, and money tucked in with it. The bottles were frequently held in a metal bottle carrier. Beware the magpies that picked in the cardboard covers of the bottles and drank off the cream – or was it early rising children?

The familiar clip clop of the horse was a pleasant sound. It would walk on a bit then stand and wait for the driver/deliverer to catch up, often munching on its nosebag as it went along. At the end of the round, with a light load, it would break into a canter and rush back to the stables and yard.

Not long after was the daily bread delivery. Frequently still warm, and carried to your door in a large flat basket. Most people had their regular orders, High Tin, Sandwich Loaf, Pipe Loaf, or Cob.

Sometimes small cakes and other delicacies were available too. Another patient horse and a fit deliveryman.

Suburban life moved to a regular timetable and the quiet streets became busier and quite social. Neighbours would exchange greeting if they walked out to look inside the delivery van through the open back door and were greeted by a wonderful aroma.

The Ice Man came several times a week. Running down the side way with a hessian sack on his neck and shoulder, and a block of ice sitting on it. The ice was manoeuvred with a small hook, without making skin contact. He seemed to have free access to the kitchen and would swing the hook into the ice and slide it into the top section of the ice cabinet.

Fruit and vegetables were often sold from a horse drawn wagon. In my street, a covered black wagon was driven by an ancient Chinaman. His produce was always perfect. He weighed everything on his hanging scales, while squatting in the back of the wagon. Cash paid on the spot and satisfaction guaranteed. Eggs were also delivered regularly.

The special treats for me were the noisy ones, the *Bottle O* who yelled out his purpose as he came along on his horse drawn dray, rattling with long necked brown beer bottles and other glassware.

The *Rabbit O* was a special favourite. Rabbits were pathetically tied in pairs at the back ankles and handed over, their fur soft and lovely. They never seemed to be sold individually. Was this due to so little meat on them or the bigger size of families?

Fuel deliveries included logs to be split and chopped on the chopping block in the back yard, and Mallee Roots, for a wonderfully warm, slow burning fire. This usually involved the kids in endless trips with wheelbarrows up and down the driveway to stack it away. Woe betides a sloppy wood stacker.

The horses left their calling cards and keeping a bucket and shovel handy for this wonderful gift of fertiliser for the garden was often my job.

Kids were busy little helpers in those times.

Accounts were delivered, often the shop manager calling with a leather shoulder bag, to collect his weekly payments. Milk money was left out and never went missing. Bread money was sometimes left just inside an open window and the bread left in a tin on the porch. Every kid in the street knew where the money was left in each house; it was just a fact of life. Trust was important.

Other services were the dustman, a manual task, with the metal bins left at the gate, after being dragged up there. The advent of the lidded bin was a miracle, then plastic made the dragging and lifting so much easier, but they blew about in a wonderful confusion of lids and rolling bins, all along the street, making retrieval a task.

For those less fortunate, there was the Night Soil Man. Remember to put away any obstacles on his route to the dunny or you might have a newly fertilised yard the next morning.

All this activity in quiet suburban streets every day. What a social whirl. No wonder terms like *He looks like the Milkman* came into the local jargon.

Trade deliveries to the home – 2

The second part of the Shopping Survey invited your recollections of tradespeople who visited the home.

Many respondents named the milkman who delivered milk and cream in bottles, although one remembers milk being ladled from a large drum into a billy on the back verandah. A follow up was the man from the dairy periodically calling to collect the milk money. The gas man also called to read the meter.

Grocers took the orders and

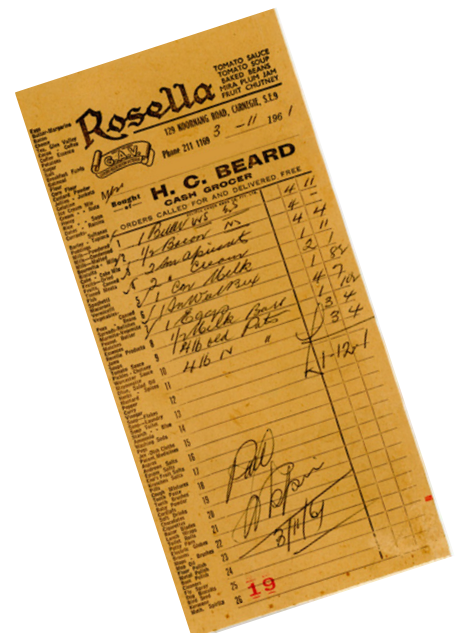
delivered them the same day or later in the week with items individually wrapped. The baker, ice man, and greengrocer were also commonly mentioned.

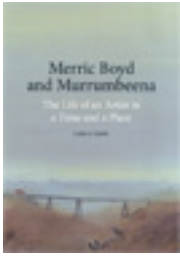
Some observed changes brought about by the arrival of the home refrigerator.

Here is what Terry wrote about traders in 1950s Gardenvale:

The Milkie delivered bottles of milk and cream, the Watkins man sold smaller grocery products (maybe this was what my mother chose to purchase), the Ice Man kept our Ice Box supplied, and the Bread Cart supplied our loaves and rolls. I can remember them not being around when with great excitement we graduated to a refrigerator and later the bread cart went and we would buy bread at the local corner milk bar. At some stage the local Dairy was closed and then the milk just appeared at the door, but the Watkins man hung in there for years. I recall the Milk Cart (surly but not nasty) the Ice Man (in and out in a flash with little conversation) and the Baker's Cart (if we were lucky he let us ride for a block on the step at the rear of the horse drawn cart and sometimes gave us a fresh bread roll).

Two quite common visitors to the home were representatives of Watkin's and Rawleigh's products. They would periodically visit with their suitcase of products and sell housewives such grocery items as spices, home medicines, menthol camphor, and Rawleigh's *Ready Relief*.





Book review

Colin G Smith

Merric Boyd and Murrumbreena: The life of an artist in time and place

Colin Smith, Murrumbreena 2014.

ISBN 978064659580 460 pages

<http://merricboydmurrumbreena.wordpress.com>

A walking tour with Colin Smith leaves even a history buff in awe of his knowledge and research. And this volume, in large part an oral history compiled over 18 years and 52 interviews of Boyd family members and Murrumbreena associates, is nothing if not comprehensive.

In fact, Merric, the gifted, sensitive potter, almost melts into his milieu much like a figure in a Heidelberg school landscape. The wars, Depression and sweeping social changes of the twentieth century are reflected in the *village* of Murrumbreena, and the lives of the prodigiously talented Boyd family. Yet they remain in many ways apart – because of their interests and eccentricities and the cultural self-sufficiency of their own dynamic creative community at *Open Country*.

The book's format lends itself to *dipping* and readers will discover their own favorite interviews. For social history, I particularly enjoyed the testimony of Allan Doble, Ian Ricketts and John Attwood;

for outsider insights into the personalities and interplay of the Boyd clan their Wahroonga Crescent neighbours, the Wood sisters – Joan Osler, Philippa Vaux and Fay Davis – may be the most telling.

Of course, David and Phyllis Boyd and Lucy Boyd Beck provide the most engaging testimony about Merric; and the artwork of other family members – including his wife, the painter Doris Gough – touch us at a very personal level. Clearly the color plates of Boyd painting and pottery are as significant as the maps and historical photos.

Smith has no interviews with Sidney Nolan or John Perceval – Boyds by marriage – nor of Neil Douglas or others of that remarkable aesthetic putsch, but it seems unlikely anyone will ever match this tome as the definitive go-to source on Merric and the Murrumbreena Boyds.

The volume includes a useful family tree and local maps. At times I wished for a timeline or sociogram so I could crosslink

when people arrived in the *Open Country*/Boyd circle, but I realise how complex a task this would be. Nevertheless, this beautiful book offers much to delight and to inform those for whom the artist and his times might only be names remembered in municipal geography or art galleries, or romanticised as dreamy, visionary isolates.

As his brother Martin said “he worked harder than any of our family, in fact harder than anyone I have known”. Or as Alison Tait offers, “People say ‘Oh well . . . they’re different’ . . . just look what he left behind. Every one of his children was brilliant”.

Colin Smith's book is a wonderful contribution to our cultural history.

Pat Gilhooley
retired teacher

What is it?

Where would you find it?



Solution to Issue 4

Plume worn by a guard at the Shrine of Remembrance.

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