



# Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

Number 8, November 2015

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## Editorial *From the Collection*

Welcome to *From the Collection* issue which explores the Glen Eira Historical Society's Collection housed at 965 Glen Huntly Road.

Some readers have worked at the Society's rooms and are familiar with the variety of material housed there. Some have visited the rooms and noted the plaques, directories, trophies and photographs that adorn the front office. Others have little or no knowledge of the Collection.

This Newsletter aims to increase awareness of the Collection's breadth and depth in the hope that this greater awareness will increase usage of, and access to, the Collection.

We start on page 4 by introducing the Collection and outlining how you may access it.

We then asked the 2015 volunteers to describe one item or section of the collection that interests them. These reflections are on pages 5 to 9.

It is useful to visit the rooms to ascertain how the Collection is relevant to your research and interests. Indeed you may wish to volunteer. Opening hours details are provided on page 2.

This Newsletter also contains the usual features including Meetings and Events, Then and Now, Where and what is it? and the Book Review.

**Geoffrey Paterson**  
**Carol Stals**

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

## Vale Alma May Blair (Arden)



Alma Spence was born on 6 May 1918 and was raised in North Melbourne. She attended Melbourne

University and Melbourne Teachers College; teaching was a life-long passion. She ran a number of one-teacher schools, mainly in Gippsland.

She was very successful as a solo teacher where the communities appreciated her great dedication to teaching their children and opening up new opportunities for them.

During the war, Alma returned to Melbourne and continued teaching. She met her husband to be, Fred Arden and they married in 1948 in St.Kilda. Three children followed, Frederick (Rick), Peter and David. In 1960 the family moved to Caulfield; Alma loved Caulfield and basically stayed there for the rest of her life.

Alma and Fred threw themselves into community life, progressing from the Caulfield Park Trust through long term involvement with Red Cross Calling to Caulfield Council. Along the way Fred organised the Committee which led to Caulfield's first public swimming pool and Alma and her friends formed a committee which led to Caulfield's first public library.

The swimming pool committee's next project was to build the Southern Memorial Hospital and

Alma was a foundation member of course. After its construction she was President of the Hospital Auxiliary for 17 years.

Fred was elected to Caulfield Council in 1965. Alma and Fred loved helping Council maximise its potential, actively running a number of the committees and other voluntary organisations such as Meals on Wheels. In 1971–1972, Fred and Alma were Mayor and Mayoress. At this time, their community involvement also extended to State and Federal politics.

Alma also found time to organise a local chapter of the Red Cross, and for 10 years worked as a triage volunteer every fortnight at the Alfred Hospital.

In 1972, they decided that Caulfield needed an Historical Society, so a Committee was organised which kicked off what is now the Glen Eira Historical Society.

Fred passed away in 1985 and Alma married Max Blair – also a former Caulfield councillor and mayor – in 1991. After Max's passing in 2002, Alma immersed herself in family life with grandchildren and great grandchildren, and in her beloved St. Mary's Anglican Church where her 55 year involvement ended only with her passing away on 31 August 2015. Fittingly, her ashes rest in the memorial Garden at the church.

Her life time of service to the community was an inspiration to her family and to many others; her being awarded Caulfield Citizen of the Year in 1982 was an early recognition of her life of service in Caulfield.

***Prepared by Alma's three sons***

## President's Column



As we rapidly approach the end of 2015, our Newsletter amply illustrates the range of history-related

activities engaged in by our members, volunteers and friends. It's been another busy and productive year with some fun along the way, so thank you everyone!

Cataloguing and organising our Collection continues and it gives us much pleasure in sharing with you in this Newsletter some of the wonderful items we hold. We plan to add further information both to our webpage and via the internet so as to increase access to the Collection and help spread the word about Glen Eira's many stories and assets.

Vale Mrs Alma Blair, one of our Honorary Members. Her support of the Caulfield, now Glen Eira Historical Society, dates back to our inception in 1972 and reflects her very active lifelong commitment to community service in general. Thanks to the Arden family and the Blair family for sharing their eulogy with us.

Over 2015, the speakers at our bimonthly meetings have shared with us their fascinating, sometimes harrowing personal stories and research projects. We are looking forward to continuing this program in 2016 and invite you to come along to one, two . . . or hopefully all five of our meetings!

Season's Greetings and all the very best for 2016.

**Anne Kilpatrick  
President**

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc  
A0041700U published this Newsletter  
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965 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South,  
3162. Postal address is PO Box 202,  
Caulfield South 3162. Phone 9077 5395  
Email [gehs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gehs@optusnet.com.au)  
Website [www.gehs.org.au](http://www.gehs.org.au)  
The office is open Tuesday and Friday  
between 9 and 12 or by appointment.

The Newsletter will be published in March,  
July and November 2016. The next  
deadline is 1 February 2016.

We welcome your contribution.

## GEHS meetings and

### Walking in the footsteps of the Anzacs

Wednesday 22 July 2015

Talk by Jim Claven



Jim Claven, Chris Mingos, and  
GEHS President Anne Kilpatrick

Lemnos is an Aegean Sea island located 100 kilometres southwest of Anzac Cove. Mr Claven's talk focused on this island's key role in the Gallipoli campaign and its continuing legacy.

Lemnos was a key transit point for Australian troops who arrived from Egypt prior to shipment to the Dardanelles war front. The first arrived on 4 March 1915 and were housed in a large tent city at *Moudros West* near Portianou village. The AIF underwent a rigorous training program in preparation for the Gallipoli landing.

On 24 April, the AIF First and Second Brigades moved to the north coast of the island prior to the landing at Gallipoli the next morning. Mr Claven explained that among over 760 men and women connected to the Glen Eira area who enlisted in WW1, a number served at Gallipoli.

Two of these would be killed or died during the campaign and are buried in Lemnos' Commonwealth Military Cemeteries. One was 19 year old Private Horace Harton of the 23rd Battalion, who had lived at 12 Allison Road, Elsternwick. The other was 23 year old Private Francis Carter of the 5th Battalion, who had lived at 212 North Road, Brighton prior to enlistment at the Ripponlea Recruitment Centre. Francis' parents subsequently re-named their home *Lemnos* in remembrance of the island where

their son was buried.

Soldiers also returned to Lemnos from the Dardanelles. Injured soldiers were housed in the 3rd Australian General Hospital (AGH) which was staffed by 96 Australian nurses led by Matron Grace Wilson. Three nurses with Glen Eira connections served at the 3rd Australian General Hospital on Lemnos in 1915. Sister Gertrude Davis had resided with her family at *Cleveland*, Orrong Road, Elsternwick prior to enlistment. Staff Nurse Stella Agnes Robin had resided with her father at *Newlyn*, Clarence Street, Elsternwick, prior to enlistment. Staff Nurse Eileen Hughes returned from the war to live with her family at *Lothar*, Orrong Road, Elsternwick.



3rd AGH nurses arriving on Lemnos on  
8 August 1915. Mitchell Library,  
State Library of New South Wales

The hospital began operation on 9 August 1915 and initially housed 3,000 casualties in basic conditions. Other soldiers returned for rest and recreation at the troop camps on Lemnos and visited nearby Greek villages to buy eggs, grapes and figs.

The memory and legacy of Lemnos survives to this day. Lemnos in the Goulburn Valley was named in 1927.

On Saturday 8 August 2015, the unveiling of the Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial Structure in Albert Park commemorated the centenary of the nurses' landing on Lemnos.

Peta Darke thanked Mr Claven for his enjoyable talk.

### Further information

The Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee Inc website at <http://lemnosgallipolicc.blogspot.com.au/>



## events

### Yalukit Willam: the river people of Port Phillip

Wednesday 23 September 2015

Talk by Meyer Eidelson



In a wide-ranging talk, Mr Eidelson painted an intriguing picture of the people and places of the Yalukit Willam clan, or River People, of the Boon Wurrung people. Yalukit Willam land included the present day City of Port Phillip; details are included in Mr Eidelson's recent book.<sup>1</sup>

Information on the traditional owners comes from witness accounts and archaeological evidence that has survived suburban growth. One very comprehensive source are the journals of William Thomas (1793–1867) who was Assistant Protector for the Aborigines of the Port Phillip District from 1837.<sup>2</sup>

Archaeological evidence includes shell middens at Brighton Beach behind the bathing boxes, and excavation of axes during roadworks at the corner of Barkly Street and Glen Huntly Road Elwood. Mr Eidelson displayed and spoke to a range of tools including an axe head made from Mount William diorite and flint chips used for purposes such as tips of spears (see photo).



Some artefacts including stone flints or microliths, tortoise shell, stone diorite axe, she-oak seeds and banksia cone. The 5 cent coin on the left provides an idea of scale.

The Yalukit Willam's existence differed from the sedentary life of John Batman and early settlers who came to Victoria to use the grasslands for their sheep. The traditional peoples' lifestyle was communalistic and based on mutual obligation. Women were married to distant tribes which permitted access to the resources of those tribes. The River People were largely on the move building a bark shelter against prevailing winds. Skins were waterproof and provided warmth at night. The Boon Wurrung travelled down the coast to wetlands at Balnarring and Coolart, spent the colder wetter months in the Dandenongs before returning to the *Nerm* (or Port Phillip Bay) foreshore for summer. Indeed the coastal wetlands and floodplains around the Yarra mouth were a vast *Kakadu*.

Vice President Barb Hoad thanked Meyer for his informative talk.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Meyer Eidelson, *Yalukit Willam: the river people of Port Phillip*. City of Port Phillip, 2014. Available on line at [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au) This book was reviewed in Issue 7 of this Newsletter.

<sup>2</sup> Marguerita Stephens compiler, *The journal of William Thomas: assistant protector of the Aborigines of Port Phillip & guardian of the Aborigines of Victoria 1839 to 1867*. Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, Melbourne 2014. Four volumes. Available from [www.vaclang.org.au](http://www.vaclang.org.au)

### GEHS Committee 2015–2016

Anne Kilpatrick President  
Barbara Hoad Vice President  
Felicite Campbell Honorary Vice President  
Ailsa Hunt Secretary  
Janine Mayhew Treasurer  
Margaret Dunbar, Carol Stals  
Geoffrey Paterson

### GEHS Future Dates

Details will be sent to members and are also available on [gehs.org.au](http://gehs.org.au) or phone 9077 5395

Friday 11 December 2015

Last day Society rooms are open for 2015

Saturday 12 December 2015 to Thursday 28 January 2016

Society rooms closed

Friday 29 January 2016

First day Society rooms open for 2016

Wednesday 23 March 2016 at 7.30pm

Boyd Room Carnegie Library  
Speaker to be advised

### GEHS Past Events

Wednesday 22 July 2015

Annual General Meeting  
*Walking in the footsteps of the Anzacs*

[See meeting notes on page 2](#)

Sunday 26 July 2015

Visit to *Mulberry Hill* and *Harewood* properties



Wednesday 23 September 2015

General Meeting  
*Yalukit Willam: the river people of Port Phillip*  
[See meeting notes on this page](#)

Thursday 24 September 2015

Visit to Swedish Church

Sunday 18 October 2015

GEHS display at Brighton Cemetery 160th anniversary

Sunday 8 November 2015

World War 1 History Bus Tour

Wednesday 25 November 2015

General Meeting  
*Private Schools in Colonial Melbourne*

#### GEHS Displays

The Society held displays at Stanley's Menswear Bentleigh, Carnegie Optical Clinic, and Murrumbidgee Newsagency. Displays on football, horse racing and fashion were mounted at the Society's Rooms.

# From the Collection . . .

## Introducing the GEHS Collection

In 1972, the Caulfield Historical Society, now the Glen Eira Historical Society, began the very important task of recording the history of our area.

Times have changed and so have our methods, but the strong work of those who collected before us gave us a wonderful foundation on which to build.

We collect files on people, places, streets, houses, businesses, etc. in the Glen Eira area. These are prepared according to guidelines from our umbrella association the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and are now being shared with *Trove* and other sites available online.

It is painstaking but rewarding work for those of us interested in the preservation of memories that are all too soon not available through other sources

New files are constantly added to our drawers and newer information is added to boost established files. We are also looking at a variety

of ways to record these files. Some contain photos and other images, including wills, letters, handwritten memories (a wonderfully valuable and often amusing source of history) and assorted details of houses, businesses etc.

Our collection does contain some artefacts but this is an area, which requires professional assistance to catalogue, store and then to display. We have many Civic relics, particularly from the amalgamation of the City Councils.

The collection also contains records of the old Caulfield Historical Society Newsletters, local newspapers, Heritage Reports, and Sands and McDougall Directories, both in hard book and digital form.

We have a great collection of wonderful old maps, signs and posters, particularly of real estate auctions. We also possess *The Paice Collection*, a fine Victorian History library donated by Mr.

Paice. Old street directories, honour rolls, club photos and many more items all contribute to the treasure trove of material we use weekly in our work of making this valuable collection accessible to people.

Our visitors and inquiries are often on family history and we can generally give good results here. Others want the history of streets, businesses, some for radio and TV shows, some for research for a book or thesis. Architects often have requests too. We love all of these requests. We are invited to share our information with schools and clubs, have been represented on a committee at the RSL for the anniversary of World War 1 and have contributed to the book of the local event, which will be published this year.

The National Trust, with three properties in Glen Eira, also often contacts us, and they have worked with us on Heritage matters.

The future of local history looks bright in Glen Eira.

## Accessing the GEHS Collection to discover local history

**GLEN EIRA Historical Society**  
 ABN: 11 235 468 474 Registration No. A9417000  
 PO Box 362 Caulfield South VIC 3162

Home • About Us • What's New • Gallery • Publications • FAQ • Events • Links • Support Us • Contact Us • Members Only

1. Welcome to the Glen Eira Historical Society. We are committed to the collection, preservation and promotion of the history of the municipality of Glen Eira.
2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are now due and payable. This can be done by sending a cheque to us at the address at the bottom of the screen or can be deposited directly into our bank account using the following details:  
 Bendigo Bank BSB 633108 A/C No 141076497 Amount \$25 for individual (refer web page Support Us - Membership for other categories) - please ensure you put your name in the reference section so that we can reconcile who you are.
3. CONTACT US if you need further information or assistance and particularly if you are able to help us with information or would like to become involved in the work of preserving or promoting understanding of the history of Glen Eira and its residents.
4. RESEARCH can be undertaken, please contact us for information. Click on the link below for our fees and charges.  
 List of Fees and Charges

Flickr Photographs - A number of photographs have been stored in Flickr, they can be found here

SUPPORT US If you would like to support the Society by way of a donation, please click on the donation button on the right. For your security, all payments are processed by PayPal. Thank you.

Donate

### Online access

1. Go to the GEHS homepage at [www.gehs.org.au](http://www.gehs.org.au)
2. Click **Gallery** to see photographs of local houses, buildings, churches, school and sports clubs.
3. Click **Links** to access the **Victoria Local History Database** and **Victorian Collections**. Both provide details of GEHS holdings.
4. Click **Contacts** to get in touch with the GEHS.

### On site access

Visit GEHS to access the database, discuss your questions and research with our helpful volunteers, and sight photographs, artefacts, honour boards, books, newspapers, maps, pamphlets, posters . . . and many more. Opening hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings or by appointment.





From the Collection . . .

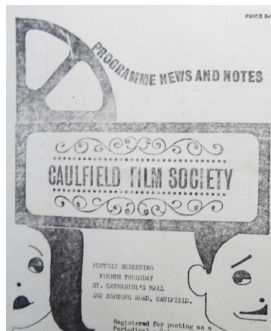
# Clubs and Associations

The Collection features many Glen Eira organisations. We outline three of these in this section.

## Caulfield Film Society by Sheila Rowell

While helping to sort through the Society's archive boxes, I was interested to find the 1959 to 1991 Minutes of the Caulfield Film Society.

The Society regularly screened Australian and international movies and documentaries with the occasional slide night. They were shown at various venues, principally the Caulfield Town Hall and St Catherine's Church Hall. Supper was served and money raised went to Caulfield Hospital amongst other causes.



There were special Christmas screenings and parties, Film Weekends at Warburton Chalet or Hepburn Springs. A successful Dinner Show Night was held between 1972 and 1974. A film entitled *Caulfield a Living City* was completed in 1963 and given to the State Film Centre in 1965 for publicity and distribution.

In 1959, the membership was 110, fluctuated over the years but decreased with time and the Society no longer exists.

Membership sounds like fun though, and with the advent of home viewing and the decline of the big screen, its social aspect has been lost. In Glen Eira, however, we are well served by the vintage and contemporary films shown at both the Elsternwick Classic and the new Lido Cinema in Hawthorn.

## Kooyong Archery Club by Isabella Jackson-Martin

The Kooyong Archery Club was officially formed in 1904 and continued to operate until approximately 1930.

The Club was formed from members of the group who previously practised at Sir Frederick Sargood's estate *Rippon Lea* and the Richard Allen's group of archers. The new Club practised at Allen's property, *Kooyong*.

Unfortunately the names of the members pictured in the photograph below are not known. We do however know that the members of the committee at this time were Richard Allen President, Mr C. W. Elder Honorary Secretary, Mr G. C. Lemann Honorary Treasurer, Mr James Smibert and Dr A. V. M. Anderson. In addition, some of the founding members were Dr G. Howitt, Reverend Edward Rork, Captain Ponter, Reverend Edward Taylor and Dr A. V. M. Anderson. There were also female members although we do not know of their names.

Archery was not very popular in Australia in the early 1900s. Sir Frederick Sargood, however, succeeded in popularising archery to some extent in the late 1800s and early 1900s and Richard Allen continued this with the establishment of the Kooyong Archery Club.



A photograph of a number of members of Kooyong Archery Club at their final match in 1904 at *Kooyong* in Gladstone Parade, Elsternwick. Photograph held at Glen Eira Historical Society.

## Pack Log Book by Colin Kirkham



Forty years of scouting activities, from 1932 until 1972, are recorded in a leather-bound *Pack Log Book*, preserved in our files.

The 5th Caulfield (1st Glen Huntly) Scouts recorded all their events, meetings, jamborees and outings in handwritten notes, together with photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, programs and brochures in this amazing tome. Also included are the names of many scouts.

Scouting in Caulfield commenced in April 1910 with the formation of the 1st Glen Huntly Troop, one of the first in Victoria. This was only three years after Lieutenant-General (later Lord) Baden-Powell initiated the movement in England.

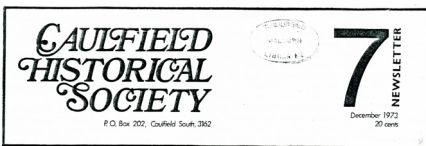
In 1930, following a reorganisation of boundaries, the name of the Troop was changed to 5th Caulfield (1st Glen Huntly) Scout Group. A new scout hall was built and opened in 1932. The Log Book commences with this event.

From the Collection . . .

# Newsletters, newspapers and books

The following three pages feature two periodicals and a special book collection held by the Society. The **Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter** started in December 1972 and ended with Issue 46 in November 2000. A complete set and index are held by the GEHS. The Newsletter contains a range of articles and is a great source for the Glen Eira historian. Five extracts are provided here. The **Paice Collection** of local history books is outlined on page 7. The first edition of the Caulfield City Council's **Caulfield Contact** was published in 1976. Its history and selected highlights are provided on page 8.

## Caulfield Historical Society Newsletter by Carol Stals



### Rosstown Hotel 1910

As long as the Rosstown Hotel retains its position in Koornang Road, Carnegie, there is no danger of the district's original name being forgotten.

The hotel was one of the few local institutions which resisted the change of name from Rosstown to Carnegie in 1909, in the hope, which was not realised, of obtaining an Andrew Carnegie Library grant.

The hotel was known to exist as Soames Hotel before 1880, and was a stopping place for Stage Coaches on their way from Melbourne to Oakleigh.

When Murray Ross applied for the Rosstown Junction Railway to serve his beet mill in 1878 and gave his name to the area, the hotel followed suit, and its name was changed from *Soames* to *Rosstown*.

In those days, it was a small two storey building with verandahs, horse trough and hitching posts.

During 1927, the original building was demolished and the present structure completed. Rosstown Road also keeps alive the old name of *Rosstown*.

**Source: Issue 19**  
**April 1982, page 167.**

## Interesting milestones of history

The City of Caulfield this year celebrates 125 years of history.

Covering nine square miles of territory, bounded by South, Dandenong, North Roads and Nepean Highway, it was declared a Road District on 15 October 1857.

The first Board members were: Chairman, Gilbert Handasyde Esq. and other elected members, Messrs John Single, William Lyall and Thomas Wilson.

The first minute book of their deliberations is preserved in the archives of the City Hall.

Caulfield was declared a Shire in 1871, Borough in 1901, Town in 1901 and a City in 1913.

At the Centenary Celebrations on 9 October 1957, the then Mayor, Councillor A.D.G. Sinclair paid a tribute to the early residents of the City, who laid the solid foundations on which following generations have built.

**Source: Issue 20**  
**October 1982, page 72.**

## Fire stations

### Elsternwick Fire Station

4 Selwyn Street, now Esquire Motors, a blue-stone building constructed in 1895, in service as a fire station until 1926; it was originally Station No 31 of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and was apparently a large station as it possessed a horse drawn carriage.

*Elsternwick Volunteer Fire Station* mentioned in 1890, but where was it?

*Caulfield No 1 Station* a reel station was built in 1891; in 1895 a new station, apparently quite large was built which was in service until 1911. The station was on the south side of Glen Eira Road, behind the Town Hall, roughly where the car park now is.

*Caulfield No 2 Station* a reel station in existence from 1892 to 1897, on the west side of Orrong Road near Glen Huntly Road, where a baby health centre now stands. The stone crossovers still remain.

Information supplied by Mr. F. G. Penney, Secretary Historical Fire Engine Association.

**Source: Issue 5**  
**August 1973, page 19.**

## Information obtained from early Caulfield Shire Council minute books

### 31 July 1889

Caulfield Volunteer Fire Brigade, asking for a grant from the Shire, in order to keep operating.

### 28 August 1889

Market Garden Owners request permission from the Shire to use Night Soil on their gardens.

### 7 May 1890

Shire accepted tender of £3,625.0.0 (\$7,250) from Messrs Upton & Smith for the building of the Shire Hall. Change of name of Cotton Street to Regent Street.

### 4 June 1890

Change of name of George Street to St Georges' Road.

### 16 July 1890

Mr A Rankin appointed Architect for building the new Shire Hall.

### 27 August 1890

Tenders invited for the erection of the Elsternwick Post Office, 296 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick.

**Source: Issue 27**  
**April 1986, page 3.**



## Melbourne's First Aerodrome

The Larkin-Sopwith Aviation Company of Australasia Limited of Aberdeen House, Fulton Lane off 94 King Street, Melbourne was flying aeroplanes from the Melbourne Aerodrome, Grange Road, Glen Huntly in 1919. Today this area is Koornang and Lord Parks. The Sunday afternoon flights, as remembered by Athol Reid, whose father's farm was just north of the aerodrome, upset many church goers including those of the Church of England, the Congregational, Methodist Church of Carnegie and the Salvation Army, who combined to send a letter to the Mayor of Caulfield, Cr. W. Wharrington on 3 January 1920 requesting that the Council receive a delegation at the next Council meeting.

The Caulfield Council expressed concern but explained that the Council's powers to control flights was very limited; but that, in conjunction with other municipalities, it was now endeavouring to get the Premier to introduce a Bill to control aviation generally. The areas of concerns were:

- the regulation of the altitude of flying over thickly populated areas.
- the prohibition of trick flying over thickly populated areas.
- the provision of some security by the way of compulsory insurance policy to cover liability to third parties in the case of accidents.
- the control and regulation of aerodromes.
- the periodical overhaul of machines.

On Friday 14 May 1920, a conference of municipalities was held in the Municipal Association Rooms. Representatives from Brighton, Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Essendon, Hawthorn, Moorabbin, Northcote, Oakleigh, Port Melbourne, Richmond, Sandringham and South Melbourne were present. The resolution of the conference reads: *That, in the opinion of this*

*conference of Municipal Representatives, the State Government should be immediately urged to bring in legislation for the regulation of flying and the use of aeroplanes in Victoria, and that a deputation wait upon the Premier to place the matter before him. That the regulation follow on the lines of those set out in the London Gazette of April 30th last year. Further, that provision be made for a system of insurance to protect the public against accident.*

On 21st May Mr O. R. Snowball wrote to the Town Clerk of Brighton *I have seen the Premier on yours of the 18th and he has arranged to bring the matter before the Premiers' Conference and as he recognises its importance he does not consider a deputation necessary. I have handed him copy of your Minutes and the London Regulations which he was pleased to have. I presume this will meet the case at this stage?*

When licences for aerodromes were granted Licence No. 1 went to Port Melbourne where Graham Carey founded his Melbourne Air Service in a paddock alongside Kitchen's Soap factory, and Licence No. 2 went to Melbourne Aerodrome at Glen Huntly. (There is a letter dated 16th October 1919 requesting Council permission to erect two direction notices reading Melbourne Aerodrome and measuring 18 x 6 inches – one at the corner of Glen Huntly and Grange Roads and the other at the corner of Royal and Garden Avenues.) On 28th June 1921 the first commercial pilot licences under the new Air Navigation Act were issued. Apparently this was done by a “draw from the hat” method to eliminate arguments as to priority of persons involved. Larkin received Licence No. 10, whilst Carey whose A.A.C. Point Cook certificate was No. 34 (first civilian to get an Australian licence) drew No. 45 under the legal requirement for commercial flying – i.e. a “B” Licence. “A” Licences were for private pilots.

**Source: Issue 35  
April 1992, page 3.**

## The Jack Paice Collection by Barbara Hoad



In 1987, the Caulfield Historical Society received an interesting collection of over 200 books donated by Jack Royston Paice MBE (1912–2004).

During his working life, Jack held various positions in the Postmaster-General's Department and travelled widely around Victoria.

Along the way, he picked up histories of many Victorian towns he travelled through, including *Outpost: A doctor on the Divide* by Gweneth Wisewould (1971), a memoir of a country doctor in the gold mining country of the Great Dividing Range.

Also in the collection are a number of biographies such as the story of amateur botanist Georgiana Molloy who, with her husband Captain Molloy, founded the tiny settlement of Augusta in Western Australia, and RH Croll's book *Tom Roberts, Father of Australian landscape painting* (1935).

There are political works such as *The Federal Story* by Alfred Deakin (1944) and *Reflections of an Australian Liberal* by FW Eggleston (1953).

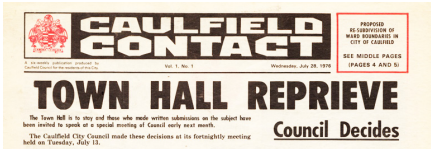
Eggleston was a Caulfield councillor between 1911 and 1920 and later went into State politics.

This library is a real treasure.

## Did you know . . . ?

In March 1906, the Elmo Ladies Cricket Club played Caulfield's first interstate cricket match at Caulfield Park against a Tasmanian team. The result is unknown.

## Caulfield Contact by Anne Kilpatrick



In the days of the Caulfield City Council, on July 28, 1976, Council introduced the first of a monthly newsletter called *Caulfield Contact*, expanded to *Caulfield Contact Monthly* in September 1989. It continued as one of the Council's main ways of communicating with residents until its last issue in December 1994. Glen Eira Historical Society is fortunate to hold many editions (not all) of this local newsletter. These are now one of our valued resources of detailed local history about our City – they are *not* available online via the National Library's *Trove* website.

Produced in the days before desktop publishing, such a regular publication required a more manual process than today. That is the likely explanation for the occasional error in publication date and mistakes in the number volume in the masthead.

To illustrate the range of historical content held within *Caulfield Contact*, here is a brief view of some articles published in selected November issues.

The **November 1979** edition celebrated an event where 46 Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees from the Springvale Hostel were hosted by Caulfield families at a *Fiesta* organised by Latin American members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Sadly noted was the last meeting of the Cromarty old girls in "Old Girls' Disband".

In **November 1982**, there were warnings of "Cyclists causing hazards in Centres". Separately, the newly formed Traders' Association in Glenhuntly announced "Traders plan to bring life back to Glenhuntly". Readers also learned about Charles Aisen (previously Ribaisen) in "A World Expressed in Tin". His life story

included arriving in Australia in 1926 to escape persecution of Jewish people in Europe. He eventually settled in Caulfield, establishing tin workshops in his backyard.

The play *Caulfield Days* was highlighted in the **November 1984** edition as a local script directed by Neil Greenaway for the imminent Caulfield Festival. The play was presented by fifty Caulfield residents (aged between 12 and 45 years of age).

Elsternwick Post Office's contested heritage value and future use comes up in a number of editions including that of **November 1985**. Former Caulfield Mayor Gladys Machin celebrated her 90th birthday. More ominously, a feature on AIDS was included; and some photos from the 1985 Caulfield Cup race meeting.

The perennial issue of rates featured in **November 1987** with "Government Charges Force Rate Rise" and also traffic issues in "Fairway Refusal" which explained Council not complying with a request to paint yellow lines along tram routes. Finally, a very Glen Eira story: "College Art Show Launched by Boyd" when Charlotte Boyd opened this event at Caulfield Secondary College.

So when you are doing some research on Glen Eira's local history or your own family history, you may like to check out our copies of *Caulfield Contact* for photos and information!

## From The Archives



**IanWilling**writes: Cataloguing of the Society's archives is progressing. This is being done by Colin, Neville, Sheila and

Ian. Colin and Ian have been sifting through the newspaper holdings: collating, cataloguing and removing duplicates, and thereby creating more storage space. A list of our newspaper holdings will soon be available. The photograph shows the duplicates found so far.

From the Collection . . .

## Artefacts

### Coronation Cup by Barbara Hoad

This cup commemorated the coronation of King Edward VIII on 12 May 1937. However, Edward was never crowned King and abdicated in December 1936 after a reign of 325 days. He went on to marry Mrs Simpson, a commoner and divorcee.

The porcelain china cup was made by the Empire Porcelain



Company in England. The motto on the cup is *Honi soit qui mal y pense* which translates as *shame on the one who thinks evil of it*. The cup was donated in 1988 to the Caulfield Historical Society.

### World War 2 Memorabilia by Ian Willing

The Society has a number of World War Two booklets and pamphlets for the instruction and duties of the voluntary Air Raid Precaution (ARP) Wardens who nightly patrolled the streets.

Topics are *Instructions for UXBs (1943)*, *Lighting restrictions (1941)*, *Air raid precautions – protection against gas*, and *Advice to householders*.

However, we lack stories from Wardens and what they encountered when on their nightly patrols with helmet, bucket and stirrup pump.

My aunt and uncle lived in Wilks Street near Dandenong Road. They were ARP Wardens and related the story when American soldiers were camped along the median nature strip of Dandenong Road, Caulfield.

During the war, all incoming aircraft to Essendon Airport would receive a radio challenge. One night there was no response from the aeroplane and a single ack-ack gun shot was fired. This was heard all over Melbourne.



Next morning, headquarters were besieged with applicant volunteers who previously had been hard to enlist.

## Royal Tours memorabilia by Barbara Hoad



The HMS *Renown* brought Prince Edward (who later became King Edward VIII) to Melbourne in 1920 as part of a Royal Visit of Australia

and New Zealand. The Prince represented his father King George V and came to thank Australia for its part in the war effort.

In our collection we hold a letter opener, napkin ring and commemorative silver-plate teaspoon, pictured, from HMS *Renown*, donated to the Caulfield Historical Society in 1988. These items feature the naval crown, the torch of fame and the laurel wreath of victory.

The HMS *Renown* became a floating zoo during the Prince's visit, taking back to Britain various *ships mascots* for its zoological parks including a cockatoo, two rare lizards, emu chicks, opossums, parrots and a wallaby.

In 1915 at the corner of Glen Huntly Road and Carre Street Elsternwick, stood a theatre named the *Phoebe*, after the wife of the owner Ignatius La Page. Later, presumably some time after Prince Edward's 1920s visit or maybe after his brother's visit in 1927 on the same HMS *Renown*, the *Phoebe* was renamed the *Renown*. Hoyts took over in 1938 and rebuilt in 1940. But a fire in 1970 led to the theatre's demolition and The *Renown* Apartments are now on this site.

## Next Newsletter Issue

The theme will be *Glen Eira Education*. Articles, photographs or memorabilia on Glen Eira kindergarten, preschool, primary, secondary, technical and tertiary education are welcome.

**Deadline is 1 February 2016.**

## From the Collection . . .

# Landmarks

## The Garrell

## by Peta van Horick

While researching mansion photographs, I came across a house known as *Garrell*, or *The Garrell*. Realising the photograph to be all we knew about the house, I was inspired to dig further.

*Garrell* was built around 1854 for Samuel Renwick and was one of Caulfield's earliest residences. Located on Glen Eira Road, on the northside between Hawthorn and Kooyong Roads. The only acknowledgement of its existence now is *Garrell Street* marking where the property was once located.

The property was one of the earliest in the locality to be improved, and was renovated by architect Thomas Watts in the late 1860s.

By 1876, the Renwick family had been living in the house full time since at least early 1862, and had developed well-known ornamental gardens described and reviewed in the *Australasian*.

Renwick died in 1888. Ultimately, the property was subdivided in 1917 and the house unfortunately demolished in the 1920s, Renwick's widow having long since left the *Garrell* subsequently building *Lincluden* in Kooyong Road.



*The Garrell* Reproduced in PR Murray and JC Wells, *From sand, swamp and heath . . .* City of Caulfield, 1980, page 230.

## Woodland's Grocery Store Murrumbeena by Jan Armstrong

As a young girl growing up in Murrumbeena, my mum used to do some of her shopping at the local grocery store situated at the corner of Murrumbeena and Neerim Roads north of the railway

station. Mr Alec Woodland owned the *Woodlands* store and had taken over this business from his father who started in the 1930s. My recollections were of a friendly man who knew everyone by name and who would often partake in a smoke or two.

I am told by several locals who have a better recall of the shop layout than myself, that many people came into the store to purchase liquor from a large assortment of local and imported wines and beers. Customers travelled as far away as Dandenong by train and closer locations such as East Bentleigh to select particular Australian brands of biscuits and other packaged food items.

The Moran and Cato grocery store on the other side of the railway line was his greatest rival for a number of years. In the seventies the Woodland's store was listed under the SSW chain of supermarkets.

Interestingly, I recall that a large collection of boxes at the front of the store to encourage people to reuse these for carrying shopping items out of the store. I only wish all supermarkets did this today to help stop the environmental issue of plastic bags.

**Source File 1707A**

**People: Attwood**

## The Merton Estate Subdivision by Neville Daynes

Land redevelopment in the City of Glen Eira is very much in the news these days. The prospect of subdivision beckoned in Caulfield when the Merton Estate was subdivided between 1909 and 1913. Fortunately the Glen Eira Historical Society has extensive files on the event.

The opportunity for the subdivision began when the London Bank of Australia foreclosed on the then owner, George Wittingham but allowed the tenant to continue renting the mansion.

We find the bank's surveyor negotiating with the Melbourne

and Metropolitan Board of Works over access to easements to lay sewerage pipes and assurances that the subdivision would be extensive enough for a return to the MMBW to cover the cost of pipe laying and other services. The extension of gas pipes into the subdivision was courtesy of the Melbourne Gas Company. Interestingly enough there was no mention of electricity supply.

More detailed negotiations were to take place with the Caulfield Council about the standard of roadworks that were to see the forming of Merton and Morrice Streets to ensure road access for all properties. Here the surface was to be crushed stone.

Council approval was to be via the Town Surveyor E Muntz who also appeared to have continued the private business affairs of Muntz and Muntz, Civil Engineers and Surveyors.

In all, there were 41 blocks that sold for prices ranging from 75 to 187 pounds in value. What prime real estate these would become in later years.

## Then and Now Caulfield Town Hall

The Town Hall on the Hawthorn and Glen Eira Road corner has seen a number of changes since the pre-1931 photo was taken.



Glen Eira Historical Society Collection



**Next GEHS General meeting**  
Wednesday 23 March 2016  
Carnegie Library at 7.30pm

# More events and activities

## Harewood visit Sunday 26 July 2015 by Claire Barton

Thirteen GEHS members and friends took the chance to view two properties on Westernport.

The first was **Mulberry Hill**, the former home of author Lady Joan Lindsay (*Picnic at Hanging Rock*) and artist Sir Daryl Lindsay. The home was designed by Harold Desbrowe Annear, who was a friend of the couple. We were guided through the various rooms, with detail being given to the Georgian glassware, Staffordshire china figurines, and other various objects on display. The walls were fairly well covered with art, including Rick Amour, Boyd, Percival and Constance Stokes to name a few. A varied amount of still life floral paintings was displayed in various rooms, painted by Sir Daryl and arranged by Lady Joan. The home was fairly spartan; till we came to the best room, the *Studio* which had a great deal of interesting objects to view including saddles, family photographs, and books, plus a turned on heater from which we all enjoyed some warmth. Sticky beak Claire turned over a Red Cross medal, which had an inscription with the name *Weigall* engraved on it. In discussion with the guide, we discovered that Lady Joan's maiden name was Weigall and that her father was a former Elsternwick resident.

After lunch we continued on to **Harewood House** which is a privately owned and heritage listed property. It was completed in 1868 on the northern shore of Western Port Bay for pastoralist William Lyall. Traditional owners Jimmy (Yamerboke) and Eliza (Toolumn) Dunbar had connections with the property and home owner, Pat MacWhirter, has a photograph of the couple on display. Pat shared a great deal of history about the home with us, including the entrance hallway, the furniture therein and details

of some of the painted china in the hall cabinets painted by Mrs Lyall. The made-to-measure oak furniture that graced the rooms, including the large silver cup, possibly belonged to the Clarke family of Sunbury. Interesting artefacts still keep their place in the drawers of the round dining table. The magnificent books in the library shelves, up to 100 years old, showed us a great deal more about the interests of the Lyall family.

It was a very detailed tour and everyone really enjoyed hearing more about our William Lyall and family from *Frogmore*.

## Lemnos Memorial Sculpture Unveiling by Carol Stals



On Saturday 8 August, a moving ceremony took place to unveil the Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Memorial at

Foote Street Reserve, Albert Park. It was held 100 years to the day that the Australian Nurses landed on Lemnos, to experience their own version of hell.

The first port of call for Gallipoli victims, these women each had a huge responsibility for a large number of seriously wounded patients. They lived and worked in tents, no shade or protection from the elements and initially no water. *Basic* doesn't seem to describe it, but they brought with them their Aussie resilience and made the best of their chosen job.

The Royal Australian Navy Band played superbly. Early in the ceremony a group of nurses and some soldiers were piped through the crowd, re-enacting the photo of the nurses being piped to their tents on their arrival.

Aunty Caroline Briggs performed a Welcome to Country, followed by Amanda Stevens, Mayor of the City of Port Phillip. She said the essential words, of this being



Women's History and how seldom women are acknowledged for their efforts. Only fairly recently has the community been aware of the role played by our nurses in World War 1.

A long, phone book-like line of VIPs followed, all with interesting messages, some in Greek. The Lemnos community are very proud that they have brought this about and Gavin Jennings recognised this by saying they had achieved the unachievable in working for a positive outcome with all three levels of Government, Local, State and Federal (all of whom had given funds) as well as several unions. This statement amused the politicians.

Peter Corlett, OAM designed and built the sculpture and was generous in his praise of the assistance he received from others. He has created many other well loved sculptures in public places.

The sculpture of a nurse, based on Matron Grace Wilson, stands looking wistfully over her shoulder – towards Gallipoli, with her long veil fluttering. Below her sits a weary and wounded young Digger. It was said that he is in her *lee* and her protection still falls over him. Simple and moving. The sculpture is not a direct likeness of her but fused with the classical images of the God Hephaestus and Queen Hypsipyle. She stands with her back toward Port Phillip Bay, from where the nurses sailed to their duties.



GEHS members at the sculpture unveiling

## Brighton General Cemetery 160th Anniversary Open Day by Richard and Peta Darke<sup>1</sup>

On Sunday 18 October 2015 Brighton General Cemetery and the Brighton Cemeterians hosted an Open Day to celebrate the Cemetery's first interment in 1855. Celebrations which ran from 10 am till 4 pm included a horse-drawn hearse, a walking tour around the Cemetery, plus five other self-guided walks complete with maps and notes.

A feature was artwork by students of Gardenvale Primary School and their interpretations of works of Frederick McCubbin, Arthur Boyd and Francis (Tom) Carrington, all of whom are buried in the Cemetery. Displays and exhibitions were staged in *The Lodge*, formerly the Sexton's residence, located in the centre of the Cemetery. Brighton Cemeterians displayed a timeline in the hallway with information from Cemetery Trust Minutes, plans and photographs related to Brighton Cemetery over the 160 years it has been operating.

Brighton Historical Society had displays of mourning clothing and costumes, jewellery and accessories from the 19th to the mid- 20th centuries. The Glen Eira Historical Society had exhibitions about funeral directors and monumental masons of the area, the meaning of monuments, obituaries, symbolism of trees and plants in the Cemetery through to the role Caulfield Hospital played in its connection with the Cemetery as well as information about the World War 1 Avenues

of Honour which were located along parts of North Road and the Nepean Highway. Box Cottage Museum had information, artifacts and displays about the Box family, many of whom are buried in the Cemetery, about Sir Thomas Bent and his connection to market gardening in the area, as well as his contribution to local council and his time as Premier of Victoria. He is also buried in the Cemetery. In the Office, Board Room, and former Clergy room were displays by the Cemeterians of early burial records and documents and information about former Trust members and Sextons. Books, brochures and cards were also available for sale.

At 1 pm, there was the official opening ceremony where plaques were unveiled for Colonel Duncan McLeish CBE CMG VD and for John Lamont Dow. The Gardenvale Primary School Singers sang three songs and one student read the names of war dead buried there without official war graves. There were several dignitaries in attendance including two mayors of Bayside and Glen Eira, David Southwick, State Member for Caulfield, and representatives from Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and the War Graves Commission in Canberra. There were people on hand all day to assist with the location of graves.

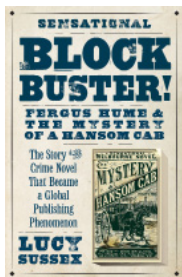
Many people came in period costume of the 19th to early 20th centuries. A most entertaining and informative day with perfect weather was enjoyed by all who attended.

<sup>1</sup> Richard and Peta Darke are respectively Vice-President and Committee Member of the Brighton Cemeterians.



Photos: Lois Comeadow

# Book review



**Lucy Sussex**

*Blockbuster! Fergus Hume and the mystery of a hansom cab*

**The Text Publishing Company, Melbourne 2015**

**ISBN 9781922147943 298 pages**

**<https://www.textpublishing.com.au>**

Lucy Sussex has been described as a literary archaeologist and her new book *Blockbuster* confirms this description. *Blockbuster* uncovers amazing and interesting details surrounding the publishing of Fergus Hume's *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*. Many will be aware of and some will have read Hume's crime novel which purportedly sold 25,000 copies in Australia and New Zealand on its release in 1886. It was a railway novel, like the airport novels of today and was sold at railway station bookstalls. And it is still in print!

My book group read *Hansom Cab* many years ago and I recall that we really enjoyed the descriptions of boom town Marvellous Melbourne, the whodunit being of less interest.

And this is what Sussex does so well in *Blockbuster*; she describes 1880s Melbourne in astounding detail. This is a Melbourne story but also a story of Dunedin, New Zealand's biggest and richest city in the 1800s, where the Hume family migrated to from Scotland. Fergus Hume was born in a lunatic asylum in Scotland which his father ran and when the family migrated to New Zealand in 1861 his father took the job of superintendent of the asylum in Dunedin. The patients of the

time included drunks suffering the DTs, syphilitics and women with puerperal fever or post natal depression.

The young Fergus Hume's great love was the theatre and although he qualified as a lawyer, his dream was to be a playwright. He wrote plays for the many performances held at the asylum and his musical sisters performed and sang. There is much in this book about theatre life in New Zealand and later in Melbourne where JC Williamson is flourishing when Hume moves there in 1885.

But in Melbourne Hume fails to find his niche in the theatre and so writes *Hansom Cab* which goes on to be a worldwide success story. Though Hume ends up selling the copyright for 50 pounds and misses out on becoming a very wealthy man.

The first edition of *Hansom Cab* sold 5,000 copies but today there are only four known early editions. I particularly enjoyed Sussex's fascinating chapter on the world of second-hand books and collectors. Young Maudie Manton was the owner of one of the four remaining early editions – her name is penned in the book. Sussex tracks Maudie's eventful life and reveals in an epitaph that she died in Caulfield in 1936.

A 'biography of a book' is how Sussex describes *Blockbuster*. For those interested in the minutiae of Marvellous Melbourne, the intricacies of the theatre and publishing world and the rogues and characters who played there, this is a great read.

**Barbara Hoad**

**GEHS Vice President**

## Where and what is it?



This building is at a major Caulfield North intersection.

### Issue 7 solution

Fence in Kooyong Road that belonged to the now demolished *Glen Eira* mansion which formed part of the 3rd Australian General Hospital.

Carol Stals and Geoffrey Paterson edited *Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter*, Number 8. We thank Rick Arden, Peter Arden, David Arden, Jan Armstrong, Margaret Armstrong, Cameron Auty, Claire Barton, Andrew Blair, Jim Claven, Lois Comeadow, Peta Darke, Richard Darke, Neville Daynes, Margaret Dunbar, Meyer Eidelson, Barbara Hoad, Ailsa Hunt, Isabella Jackson-Martin, Anne Kilpatrick, Colin Kirkham, Tim Neve, Sheila Rowell, David Southwick, Peta van Horick, and Ian Willing.

### Issue 8 2015

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