



GLEN EIRA

Historical Society Inc

Registration No: A0041700U

PO Box 202 Caulfield South 3162

Glen Eira's Heritage
Wednesday 28 May 2014
Talk by Andrew Ward
Architectural Historian

Andrew Ward started by outlining his work in heritage conservation in Glen Eira and proceeded to speak on three themes related to our heritage.

Theme One

The Grand Estates

Mr Ward focused on a small area that contained eight estates. This area is bounded by Glen Huntly, Balaclava, Hawthorn and Kooyong Roads.

One of these estates was pastoralist Henry Ricketson's *Glen Eira* whose mansion was located in the present day Caulfield Hospital and demolished in 1964. A large tree and portion of its decorative fence, including the lamp standard, still fronts Kooyong Road and hints at the scale of this estate.

Next door, Montague William Langdon occupied *Tarqu* later *Lirrewa* which faced Hawthorn Road. Langdon, his father and Samuel Renwick purchased land to the west of Kooyong Road and built *Hengar* at 356 Glen Eira Road, *Neringa*, and *Beemery* at 85 Seymour Road. Langdon also bought in 1870 *Ringwood*, later *Rosecraddock*. Near neighbours included now- demolished *Croton Hurst*, built by HJ Langdon's cousin George Webb, while *Garrell* to the west was owned by Samuel Renwick.

Other Caulfield mansions included Sir Frederick Sargood's *Rippon Lea*, *Ontario* renamed *Labassa*, and those along Dandenong Road including demolished *Cantala*, and *Myoora* at Dandenong and Hawthorn Roads.

Theme Two

The rural hinterland

The area now called Glen Eira was a landscape of heathland, swamp and watercourses that, in addition to the Grand Estates, successively hosted cattle drovers, market gardeners, orchardists, farmers and dairymen. By 1890, Chinese gardeners were prominent in Caulfield and Glen Huntly while European enterprises, such as those of the the Marriott family, operated to the south in Moorabbin.

Evidence of this bygone age includes remnants of plate ways laid for use by night carts and market gardeners. Some houses of market gardeners also remain including *St Elmo*,

the late Victorian villa at 133 Tucker Road, and William Marriott's Californian Bungalow *Glen Eira* at 118 Jasper Road.

Theme Three

The electric trams

Mr Ward noted that

trams paved the way for close subdivision and loss of the Grand Estates. Indeed Caulfield, Glen Huntly and Carnegie are tramway suburbs. Noteworthy features of the tramways are the lines and overhead wires that are “. . . the perfect complement to the landscape of these suburbs”.

Other features are the Grand Union Junction at Caulfield Park, the Dandenong Road reservation that separates trams and cars, and the cast iron lace verandah near the southeast corner of Orrong and Balaclava Roads.

Mr Ward was thanked for his enthralling talk on our heritage.

Further reading

These resources are available at the Society and from the Glen Eira Library.

Andrew C Ward and Associates. *Caulfield conservation study: background history to the built environment*. Caulfield 1991.

Andrew Ward. *City of Glen Eira heritage management plan 1996*. 4 volumes. Burwood 1996.