



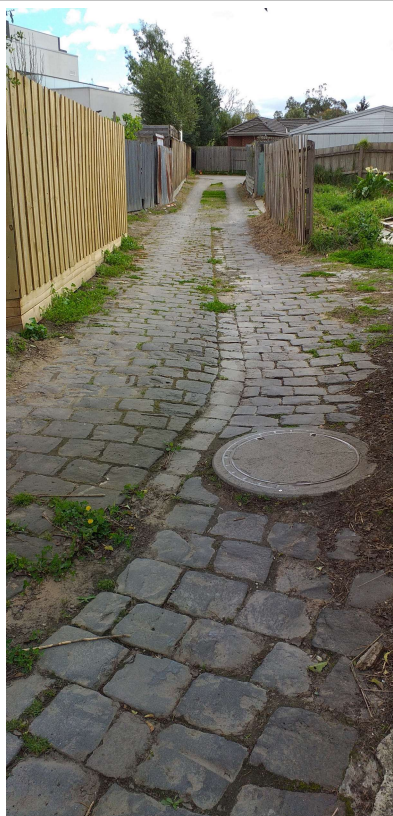
# Glen Eira Historical Society

## Going down memory lane in Carnegie

In times past laneways were integral to the planning and street layout for city and urban areas. In the city grid of Melbourne, for instance, Flinders Lane, Little Collins Street, Little Bourke Street and Little Lonsdale Street were originally incorporated into the street's layout. These were not for commercial or retail areas as we know them today, but as access thoroughfares for the delivery of goods or the disposal of rubbish and sewage. So too the laneways and alleys in suburban Carnegie.

When Carnegie (or Rosstown as it was originally known) was first established there was no sewage system connected, so when the new estates were planned, laneways were provided off many streets in the area. They ran along back fences as this was where the outdoor privies were first located when the houses were newly built. The lanes provided access for the nightcarts to empty the toilet pans of the privies which abutted onto these lanes.

By the time I was born and brought up in Carnegie in the 1950s the area had been connected to the sewage system for some decades, and many toilets had been relocated closer to the house by then, some even indoors... luxury of luxuries! Not where I lived though, for many more years until the red-letter day arrived when the bathroom was renovated and included an indoor toilet. However, for some years after, my grandmother, mother and sister were the



Left: This cobblestone lane near Carnegie Primary school led to the stables where children patted the horses. Image courtesy of Richard Darke.

only ones in our household allowed to use the indoor toilet, while my father, brothers and I still had to trudge to the outside loo even on a cold and frosty night! Our property had a laneway running along beside the back fence; it was just long grass and the width of a driveway, and this lane, like many others in the area, became an easement for the sewer pipes which connected into adjacent streets.

***We acknowledge that the Boon Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation are the traditional custodians of the area covered by the City of Glen Eira***



**Proudly supported by  
Glen Eira City Council Community Grants and  
Bendigo Bank Murrumbidgee**



## Going down memory lane in Carnegie

There were many lanes behind the houses and shops in Carnegie. Some were just grass and unkempt, others were paved with concrete, but the majority were cobbled (pitchers of bluestone laid to form a rudimentary road surface) often with a gutter formed along the centre. Some lanes were very narrow, for pedestrian use only. I think these had gas or water pipes laid under them and they were access lanes for meter readers.

The lane behind our house ran between two parallel streets with another interconnecting lane at a right angle connecting with yet another street. These lanes had very little traffic until cars became more popular and affordable. After this the lanes were used by residents for access to backyards for garaging their cars. The concreted laneways were very popular with the kids in the neighbourhood to ride their bikes and scooters, to roller skate or to race their toy cars, all in relative safety. The cobblestoned lanes were not suitable for these activities as they were too potholed and uneven. However, grassed lanes were a popular place to play a game of cricket, especially if the adjoining neighbours had mowed the grass in the lane. We kids also liked to build huts and hideouts in the long, grassed lanes especially if they had overhanging branches from neighbouring houses.

There was much excitement in the early 1960s when Ronald Ryan and Peter Walker escaped from Pentridge Prison in Coburg and were on the run. At some point while at large they ended up in Carnegie, hiding out in a house in the next street to ours, and the back gates of that house opened into our back lane. Soon after,

police cars arrived in all the nearby streets and mounted police rode up and down the laneways peering into backyards from their high vantage points on their horses, hoping to spot the absconders. They were too late though, as the fugitives had already made their getaway.

During my childhood these lanes were still used by some tradespeople, such as the bottle-oh. He was a man on a horse and cart who collected empty bottles. He drove up and down the lanes and shouted in a very loud voice "Bottle-oh, bottle-oh!" and anyone who had empty bottles would call him over. He came into your property with an empty sack into which he put the bottles and then he gave what he thought was a good price for them. He often used to stand rather than sit on the cart as this way he could see over the fences into



Left: Grassed lane in Carnegie where local children played cricket (no cars used the lane as they do today to access garages). Image courtesy of Richard Darke.

## Going down memory lane in Carnegie

people's backyards and if he saw a pile of bottles he would go and ask if they were for sale. The woodman is another that I remember who used our back lane. He came from the fuel merchant's yard in Neerim Road on his horse and dray loaded with rounds of wood, sacks of coal or briquettes. He threw the logs of woods over our back fence from the lane ready for us to split and stack into the woodshed. The woodman also delivered clothesline props: these were long, thin poles, in fact they were very small, straight saplings which had been stripped of leaves and bark. These props were used to hold up the clothesline once the washing had been pegged out... no rotary clothesline at our house back then. Sometimes the line would be so heavy with clothes that if the prop was very old, it would snap in half. It was then time to contact the woodman for a new one.

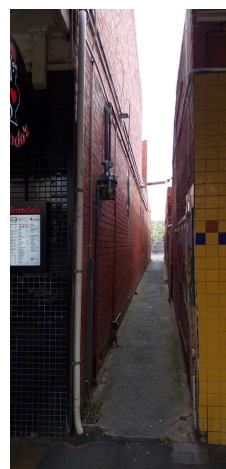
There were cobblestone lanes behind the shops on both sides of Koornang Road, and these were used for deliveries and waste disposal. There were also pedestrian access alleys connecting these laneways to the main shopping street of Koornang Road. There were two or three of these alleys on both sides of the shopping strip. When my mother was a young child, she lived above her father's shop in Koornang Road for a time, a few doors up from the Mc Kenzie undertakers. She remembered watching the coffins being delivered down the back lane.

Another lane in Carnegie that I remember ran between Railway Road (named after the Rosstown Railway which originally ran where that road was later built) and Truganini Road. We kids used this lane as

a shortcut to Carnegie Primary School, even though we were warned "Always go the long way to school along Neerim Road, don't cut through the lane as you don't know who could be lurking there!". The terms "Stranger Danger" and "Safety House" were unknown back then. There was also a lane that ran behind the houses in Truganini Road near the school, and I used to go there with a friend after school as one of the houses had stables behind it. We went down this lane to feed and pat the horses.

Many of the lanes I remember have now disappeared, sold off by the Council to residents for extra land. The lane that ran behind the house where I grew up has been incorporated into its block of land and is now driveway access to a carport. Although several of the lanes have now gone, they served their purpose for an earlier era and a different way of doing things. It is fun to remember all our secret haunts and the mischief we got up to as I go down memory lane.

Richard Darke  
Member Volunteer, Glen Eira Historical Society



Left: An alleyway runs from a laneway behind the Koornang Road shops to access the shopping strip. Also used by meter readers (note the gas and water meters against the wall). Image courtesy of Richard Darke.



## The Cinderella effect: community beautification of local lanes

In 1916 there appeared in the street directory a 'Right of Way' from Koornang Road to Graceburn Ave, Carnegie giving access to the school and tram.

Over the years this became a dismal place, not somewhere one would consider visiting.

A wonderfully warm-hearted group of neighbours instituted change.

Many people have contributed to what has been named (informally and maybe now formally) Laz's Lane. Laz was a pleasant fellow and great community member who died several years ago. His memory lingers on in this project.

In November 2017, a few changes happened. Several local, newly retired people had more time to look around and take stock of their neighbourhood. The 'Right of Way' or lane became their focus. Neighbours, Robynne and Kirsten were about to become "guerilla gardeners". The lane was dreary, a dump and unsafe at night, because it was dark and had a right-angled corner.

A plan evolved. The basic garden beds already existed. Robynne donated her gardener, Rita Santucci, to turn the soil, people contributed manure and the Council gave mulch. Hardy plants, including edibles were collected, and the Community Garden began. Robynne and Kirsten tidied the lane, removed the rubbish via their own bins and trips to the tip and the graffiti was painted over. This created more use of the lane, particularly by school children. Local safety increased.

To discourage graffiti and continue beautification, a gallery was started that



Above: Laz's Lane. Image courtesy of Carnegie Community Laneway Garden & Gallery - Laz's Lane & Rita's Way Facebook page.



Above: Community art on display at Laz's Lane. Image courtesy of Carnegie Community Laneway Garden & Gallery - Laz's Lane & Rita's Way Facebook page.

gave the community an opportunity to "buy into" the space with art additions of their own. The Gallery had several community collaborations, for example, the ANZAC Day poppy field, painted by 100 visitors on ANZAC day 2020. This was a community at work with a common aim.

The lane first came to my attention when I moved to Carnegie about 16 years ago. I had been told that there was a way through, but it looked like a dull private driveway. Sometime later I saw the *Leader* newspaper scheme to vote for local projects. The improvements to the lane

## The Cinderella effect

caught my attention and I voted for it. The organising group did not want a formal committee, but they received money from the votes and purchased a 'Little Library', now a very popular item.

Kirsten bought and cut cement boards for the community to paint. Initially she sealed them and again later when they were returned. It was a huge labour of love. Known local artists mounted these along with donated murals and works.

The electricity company was approached to improve the lighting and solar bud lighting was installed along the area, creating a wonderful charm. It is a deterrent to lurking.

Pots, sculptures, mirrors (some low enough for toddlers to see themselves and animals to admire themselves) and a Fairy Mailbox with a reply box appeared. It became a busy place. So much to see and do!



Left: Creative art on display. Image courtesy of Carnegie Community Laneway Garden & Gallery - Laz's Lane & Rita's Way Facebook page.

My granddaughter (not a local) left a letter in the mailbox and was so excited when the fairies answered. The Fairy Mailbox deteriorated and is in the process of being replaced.



Above: art transformation in Carnegie community lane. Image courtesy of Carnegie Community Laneway Garden & Gallery - Laz's Lane & Rita's Way Facebook page.

Seasons changed and the Community space is still evolving.

Photo opportunities are available, with angel wings to stand between and now two heights of beautifully coloured butterfly wings have been added.

At Christmas there was a tree, lit by solar power at the elbow of the lanes. Things to charm and gladden a heart and last year, during Garden Week the Council brought a busload of people to visit the lane. Its popularity grows.

In 2020, with coronavirus, lockdown and social distancing, interest continues and the lane lifts people's spirits. A COVID-19

## The Cinderella effect

grant was received from the Glen Eira Council in association with the Carnegie Lions. This was used for more 'blue boards' to be cut and sealed. Kirsten developed a contactless collection and drop off point in her garden.

I collected a pair and my granddaughter, and I had a very happy time painting them. There are now over 200 works mounted.

The rather dull but wider lane on the eastern side of Koornang Road, at the opposite end of the School Safety Crossing was next to receive a facelift. Called "Rita's Way" after Rita Santucci, popular local personality and artist, whose lovely ceramic works are all over the Carnegie shopping centre. She did the Laz's Lane sign and reluctantly agreed to do one for her own named lane. She also arranged to have a chair installed. The Carnegie Community Laneway has a great Facebook page, is on Google, and has had two articles in *The Age*, *Leader* newspaper and *The Epoch Times*.

The City of Glen Eira has acknowledged the lane as a safety and beautification effort. The group is very mindful of safety hazards in a public space. This is an art space with raised timber planter boxes for gardens. The Council's sustainability group has donated seeds from their seed exchange. Neighbours supported this project adjacent to their fences.

People see the colourful children's works and ask if it is a school project?

No, it is purely a community one.

COVID-19 has put a few projects on hold but they will happen. There will be a

'produce cart', some sculptures, and more community murals.

The Group is now embarking on a further project, a lane beside Glen Huntly Primary School. Long may they continue.

Last weekend my dog and I visited Laz's Lane. We took some books to the little library. It was a sunny winter's day during lockdown and the place was full of people and dogs making the most of their hour of outdoor activity. Cameras were flashing, strangers were talking to each other, all appropriately distanced.

Robynne and Kirsten, your dreams of a beautiful community space have made so many people very happy, particularly during a dull lockdown. Thank you for sharing your lovely idea.

Carol Stals  
Committee Member and Volunteer, Glen Eira  
Historical Society



Above: Thriving Carnegie community, local children's art on display. Image courtesy of Carnegie Community Laneway Garden & Gallery - Laz's Lane & Rita's Way Facebook page.



## Memories of growing up in Caulfield

In July 1942, after our family shifted to Caulfield, I attended Caulfield State School No. 773, George Johnston's alma mater. I was eight years old at this stage and in the fourth class. My first day was quite traumatic as I soon found out that I was 'behind'. I did not know how to parse correctly! I had failed to distinguish between the object and the complement of the sentence! I was punished for this misdemeanour by being ordered to stand, for what seemed to an eight-year old, an inordinate amount of time. Despite this inauspicious start, I remember my remaining years at this school with considerable affection.

Particularly, I recall my sense of delight with our study of the stories and poems in the Victorian Readers, especially the Fifth and Sixth Readers. One of the criticisms, which is often levelled at our earlier education system, is that it neglected Australian Literature in favour of English Literature. This is not how I remember my literary studies; and my perusal of these texts today suggests I was not mistaken. Stories and poems by Henry Lawson, Frank Hudson, Dorothy Mackellar, Mary Grant Bruce, Frederic Spurr, Andrew Barton Patterson, Charles Bean, Marie Pitt and Rolf Boldrewood offered the Victorian student a comprehensive range of works by Australian authors.

Undeniably, for those of us with limited access to good libraries, our love of good literature was also enhanced by the inclusion of the writings of non-Australians such as Lord Tennyson, Charles Dickens, Shakespeare, Browning, Lord Byron and Mark Twain. Despite the current 'political



Above: Caulfield State School 773, image courtesy of GEHS member.

incorrectness' of his subject matter, the dramatic subtlety of both the characterisation and the story line of Mark Twain's *Whitewashing the Fence* (included in the Sixth Reader) is indelibly etched into my memory.

It was in the Fifth Grade, with a recitation of Henry Lawson's, *The Fire at Ross's Farm*, that I made my debut as a dramatic actress. The poem evoked the uncompromising nature of the Australian bush as the selectors sought to subdue the natural elements and to hold onto the farms which the squatters had been forced to accede.

*Then came a cruel gust of wind,  
And, with a fiendish rush,  
The flames leapt o'er the narrow path,  
And lit the fence and brush.  
"The crop must burn"! the farmer cried,  
"We cannot save it now";  
And, down upon the blackened ground,  
He dashed the ragged bough.*

## Memories of growing up in Caulfield

Lawson's belief in 'mateship' as an equalising factor in Australian bush life, was conveyed by the arrival of the squatter and his men, who assisted the selectors to save their farm.

*And when, before the gallant band,  
the beaten flames gave way,  
Two grimy hands in friendship joined -  
And it was Christmas Day.*

My recitation was probably unconvincing, particularly as I was dressed most inappropriately in a black fairy costume; nevertheless, my sense of pride in my Australian heritage, was firmly expressed.

Mr Hodge, our fifth-grade teacher, was a man who instilled a sense of worth in his students. Shortly after my memorable performance, he penned the following verse in my Autograph book on the 29 September 1943.

*Worlds I may conquer, battles I may win,  
On the bravery of men my faith I pin;  
But when back at my work myself I fan,  
I have a fine right-hand man in little Ann.*

We lived in Glenhuntly Road, Caulfield South in close vicinity to the Glenhuntly Tram Depot, which meant we had cheap transport outside our front door, as well as a school within easy walking distance. The tram depot was a gift. Its acres of land and gardens which adjoined the tram sheds became our playground. Because of the war situation, extensive lines of trenches had been dug in the grounds of the depot adjacent to the tram shed in which the trams were stored when not in use. These were a bonus for the local children who made good use of extended hours of play

which wartime daylight saving permitted; the well-tended tennis court, built as a recreational venue for Tramway employees, was valued as our prized possession. A penny tram fare allowed us to disembark at the Elsternwick station, then board a trolley tram for the journey to Point Ormond and the nearby Elwood beach. During holiday time and the weekends in the summer months, our parents granted us uninhibited access to these swimming venues.

Soon after our move to Caulfield, my older sister joined the Guides and I, the Brownies. Our groups met in a church hall opposite the Hopetoun Gardens, the site to which George Johnston's David Meredith fled, when he was confronted by the naked Helen in My Brother Jack. Our family remained associated with the Guiding movement for many years. We also were sent to the local Presbyterian Church, which like our guiding activities, kept us all busy and entertained.

Annette Lewis (née Bryan)  
Member. Glen Eira History Society



Above: Glen Huntly Tram Depot and house. Bryan family lived LHS unit, Mrs Thomas lived next to the depot c2003. Image courtesy of Annette Lewis.



## From the President

We were pleased to launch our new website and revamped logo at our first online AGM held on 7 October 2020. It seems we are continually making history with 'firsts' in these COVID-19 times. It was lovely to see so many faces and our speaker Daryl Moran was very well received. Please make sure you browse our new website <https://www.gehs.org.au/> there are some great photos (including one of the Duldig sculpture that was stolen from an Elsternwick street in c2013) and we will be adding short news items and updates on a regular basis.

With people confined to their homes there has been a renewed interest in local and family history. Enquiries to our office are constant and we continue to receive a variety of donations, including photos and personal stories such as Annette Lewis' early memories included in this edition. Recently I picked up a large bag from the Post Office containing personal papers, newspaper cuttings and a wooden plaque. These had been the property of Nancy Needham, Mayor and Caulfield Councillor during the 1970s. Our next newsletter will feature more about Nancy and some of the other interesting items we have received this year.

This will be our last newsletter for 2020. At the time of writing we still don't know when we will re-open our rooms but will keep in touch.

We at GEHS wish you all the best for the remainder of this challenging year and hope to see you in person in early 2021.

Barbara Hoad  
President, Glen Eira Historical Society

## GEHS 2021 Committee

### President and Treasurer

Barbara Hoad

### Vice President and Secretary

Anne Kilpatrick

### Committee Members

Carol Stals

Claire Barton

Janine Mayhew

Joel Silver

## City of Glen Eira 2020 Community Volunteer Awards

Congratulations to the GEHS' recipients of the City of Glen Eira 2020 Community Volunteer Awards:

Peta Darke  
Richard Darke  
Margaret Dunbar  
David Hardham  
Barbara Hoad  
Ailsa Hunt



Left: The Kore sculpture, by sculptor Karl Duldig, stolen from Elsternwick in 2013. Image courtesy GEHS.

## Heritage Matters

This is the latest news on 5 heritage issues which Glen Eira Historical Society is currently following to a greater or lesser degree:

**1. 10-16 Selwyn Street Elsternwick (re Woolworths' entity Fabcot Pty Ltd)** – the VCAT decision of 7/9/2020 refused the planning application. That means that unless Woolworths decides to take this to Court, this is the end of those plans. The decision does indicate that another set of plans including a supermarket could be proposed for a successful new application in the future. Nevertheless, a great decision made for Glen Eira Council, resident groups and us.

**2. 7 Selwyn St Elsternwick (Kadimah)** – at the 1/9/2020 Council meeting and broadly in line with the Council officer report, a majority of Councillors (6:3) approved the Planning Application for replacement of the existing building. The Stop the Elsternwick Towers (STET) resident group is lodging an objection to VCAT about Council's approval of the plans. While the National Trust (Victoria) wrote to Council objecting to the proposal, noting that they have listed the Duldig works there of State significance, we don't yet know if they will take any further action.

GEHS will keep advocating for the Duldig works to be retained as public art, or at least for them to be illuminated and clearly visible from the street.

**3. 15 Rockbrook Street East St Kilda and 380 Dandenong Road Caulfield North** – we participated at both these Planning Conferences and supported their mooted inclusion in local Heritage Overlays. Subsequently at the Council meeting of

22/9/2020, in contrast to the recommendation from Council officers, a majority (5:2) of Councillors decided to disallow the Planning Scheme Amendment C207glen i.e. they ended the Heritage assessment process for these 2 addresses as sought by the respective owners. Sadly, 380 Dandenong Road is now likely to be demolished for a new development.

**4. 430-434 Murrumbeena Road Murrumbeena** – this proposal is going to a VCAT Hearing on 23/11/2020 for 5 days online after an unsuccessful Compulsory Conference. GEHS is a party to that along with others including a Murrumbeena residents' group. Council as the Responsible Authority (they rejected the proposal) is very much involved in this VCAT case.

**5. Glen Huntly Structure Plan / Glen Huntly Heritage Review** – we lodged a question at the Council meeting of 1/9/20 about when the Glen Huntly Heritage Review will be available to consider alongside this Structure Plan, the answer being that it will be public prior to finalisation of the Structure Plan. This was made more obvious when Councillors were tied (4:4) for the Structure Plan recommendation, with one (unusually) abstaining – resulting in the motion to accept it being lost. This leaves Glen Huntly without any height restrictions for the foreseeable future.

Anne Kilpatrick  
Vice President, Glen Eira Historical Society

## Rewilding the environment: a return to our pre-colonial past

The closure of the privately owned Elsternwick Golf Course in 2018 gave the Friends of the Elster Creek and the Bayside Council the opportunity to return the site to a wildlife sanctuary featuring open water, marshland scrub and woodland. In the last few weeks, work has begun to return it, as far as possible, to its pre-colonial coastal wetland ecosystem.

Whilst the site is located in Bayside LGA, the majority of the Elster Creek catchment covers Glen Eira LGA (refer to map).

The runoff, litter, and pollutants from Glen Eira streets affect the water discharging into the wetlands.

Follow the link to read Jeff Sparrow's article and visit the site to watch the wetland evolve.

‘Undraining the swamp: how rewilders have reclaimed golf courses and waterways’, *The Guardian*, 11 September 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/11/undraining-the-swamp-how-rewilders-have-reclaimed-golf-courses-and-waterways>

Joy Mawbey  
Editor and Member Volunteer, Glen Eira Historical  
Society

## Infant Welfare Centres

The first newsletter in March 2021, will be celebrating 100 years of Infant and Maternal Health centres in Caulfield/Glen Eira. We are seeking photos, anecdotes, written memories or any other memorabilia that will enrich the edition. If you are able to help, we would be delighted to hear from you.



Above: Elsternwick Golf Course, November 2020. Work has commenced to return it to a wildlife sanctuary. Image courtesy of GEHS member.



Left: Map of Elster Creek Catchment. Image courtesy of City of Port Phillip.

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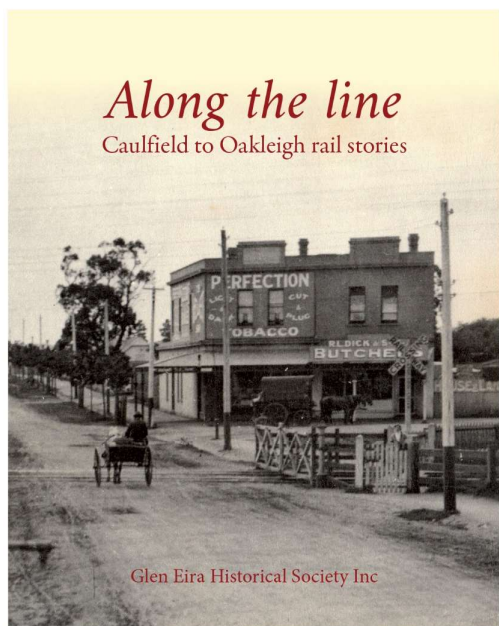
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**We thank David Southwick MP  
for kindly donating the printing of  
this Newsletter**

**November 2020 Newsletter Editorial committee:**  
**Joy Mawbey and Adriana Konidaris**



## NEW RELEASE



### *Along the line* Caulfield to Oakleigh rail stories

Glen Eira Historical Society Inc

During 2017 the stations of Carnegie, Murrumbeena and Hughesdale and their familiar landscapes were demolished to make way for a new elevated railway. This book by Glen Eira Historical Society covers the history of these stations and the bookend stations of Caulfield and Oakleigh along with the communities they served. It tells the story of the Springvale cemetery train and includes some train trivia.

Over 40 personal stories and memories are captured here and bring this local history to life:

'Most of the goods trains operated at night and on cold foggy mornings the driver and fireman would be peering into the distance trying to locate signals illuminated with kerosene burners. There were smoking and non-smoking carriages; at night when the driver looked back he could see the smoke plumes wafting out of every second carriage'.



Along the Line by Glen Eira Historical Society Inc

ISBN: 978-0-6485406-0-1

RRP: \$30.00

Trim: 195mm x 250mm

Weight of book: 653 grams

Category: Local History

Quantity ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

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