

CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated with the Royal Historical Society

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Editor: Gladys Vallati

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The Society meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except December and January) in the Committee Room, first floor, City Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESIDENT	Mrs. F.E. Campbell	9523 9228
SECRETARY	Miss H. Ford	9528 4140
TREASURER	Miss N. Ward	9523 5308



CAULFIELD /GLEN EIRA MANAGEMENT 1974-1996

The title of the executive officer of the Council has changed over the years, beginning with the Chairman of the Roads Board, through Town Clerk, City Manager, Chief Executive Officer to the present Chief Executive.

Following previous newsletters which reported appointments to that position I have listed here the people who achieved that high office from 1974 to date:-

CAULFIELD

Kerry Dean WILSON 1974-1977 - City Manager

Graeme Kenneth CALDER 1977-1984 - City Manager

Douglas Richard AYLEN 1985 - 1st July 1994 - Chief Executive Officer

Noel John Leslie WOOTTEN 1st July 1994-15th December 1994 - Acting Chief
Executive Officer

GLEN EIRA

John PAECH 15th December 1994 - 19th May 1995 - Interim Chief Executive. Mr Paech served with three Commissioners appointed by the State Government:-

Cliff CALDWELL, Chairperson of Commissioners and member of the Council's Audit Committee. He is Consultant General Manager to two investment companies, Australian Foundation Investment Co. Ltd. and Djerriwarrh Investments Ltd., and is the Government nominee and Deputy President of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. At the City of Glen Eira he specialises in issues relating to Compulsory Competitive Tendering, Government & Media Relations, and Corporate Planning.

Commissioner Virginia ROGERS is Chairperson of the Equal Opportunity Commission of Victoria. She is a lawyer with over 20 years broad legal experience in private practice and with major corporations. She was a St Kilda Councillor from 1989 to 1994. At the City of Glen Eira, her responsibilities include community liaison, town planning and waste management.

Commissioner Charles Williams is a Director of companies in the Australian Financial Management Group, a member of the Australian Stock Exchange's National Listing Committee, Chairman of the ASATC Disciplinary Tribunal, and a Board Member of the Asia Pacific Capital Markets Foundation. He has been Deputy Chairman of the Australian Securities Commission and its predecessor, the NCSC. At the City of Glen Eira his special focus is on financial management, Council's published financial reports, and the electoral system of the new City.

Stan Bruce CAPP - 3rd April 1995 - 29th March 1996 - Chief Executive (the first Chief Executive of the City of Glen Eira),

and currently we find the first woman to be appointed to the position:-

Margaret Rae Douglas - 25th March 1996 - Chief Executive.

Margaret joined the City of Glen Eira on 8th May 1995 as Director of Corporate Services and it is apparent that her capable management of that important section of the Council has led to her historic appointment as Chief Executive of the City of Glen Eira.

OBITUARIES

It is with great regret we record the death of two of our much respected members.

Marie Allender, a descendent of a First Fleet settler who lived with her parents in Byron Street Elwood as a child. The family moved to Caulfield where Marie lived in the family home until about a year before her death. She had moved into a retirement home in Cheltenham. Her name lives on with the naming of a daisy *Olearia allenderae*, which she discovered some years ago when bushwalking on Wilsons Promontory. Marie was a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria for many years.

Molly Robarts, who grew up in St Kilda, where her father had a Farriers business near the corner of Inkerman Street and St Kilda Road (formerly High Street) died on 23rd October 1995. After her mother's death Molly and her sister Jessie moved to Ormond and later she became a member of the Caulfield Historical Society.

She joined the Historical Society of St Kilda in 1972 and in 1973 became Treasurer and then in 1975 Secretary, the year in which Don Taggart became President. In 1983 she resigned as Secretary and was appointed Vice President, a position she held until her untimely death.

Don, like all of us, remembers Molly for her bright personality and her wonderful ability to be able to say the right thing at the right time. Indeed she had a great gift with words and it was a joy to listen when she made the presentations to our guest speakers.

Molly also helped with the monthly mail out of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Newsletter.

Murrumbeena State School No. 3449

The school opened on 19th January 1903 when Thomas Boardman was appointed Head Teacher, it then being an adjunct to Rosstown (later Carnegie) State School. The adjunct opened in portion of the Murrumbeena Presbyterian Church (16 ft x 30 ft) leased for ten pounds per annum. The lack of amenities in this building was endured until May 1910 when a petition requested the erection of a State School. As a result, in October 1910, a 2 acre site was purchased in Hobart Road from Mary Grant Wilson for five hundred pounds. In February 1911 extensions were made to the Murrumbeena (Presbyterian Church) school adjunct. The average attendance was 33, but that doubled in the next two years. As early as January 1911 plans were discussed for the erection of a school building to accommodate about 100. However by the end of 1912 nothing had been finalised, except that from the beginning of 1913 the rental for the Presbyterian Church adjunct would be increased to forty five pounds ten shillings per annum. The Department, not willing to pay the increased rental, asked the Head Teacher to make enquiries about a suitable building to accommodate 60-70 children in attendance. In 1914 it was decided to erect a State building to accommodate 400 pupils, and to be worked as a separate independent school. By 27th April the new building consisting of classrooms, a sewing room, staff room and office was completed and occupied, under Head Teacher S.H. McDonald. Office bearers of the Provisional School Committee were A.E. Swindells (Chairman), W.F. King (Correspondent) and P. Pitt (Treasurer). On 4th February 1918 John Bechervaise was admitted to the school where he stayed until reaching the eighth grade. He became an authority on Antarctica, an outstanding naturalist, a well known author and was Director of Studies of Geelong College.

Additional land adjoining the school was purchased in 1920 and 1923. The school having become crowded in 1924, the rural school building from East Kew State School was removed and re-erected in the grounds at Murrumbeena. Additional land was purchased in 1924-25 and the Minister, Sir A.J. Peacock, MLA officially opened a new wing on 10th June 1926. Dances held in the 1920s and 1930s helped finance the building of a swimming pool during 1929, A new pavilion was built by the Committee in 1965 and the filtration plant brought up to date. In 1933 R.P. McLellan was appointed to the staff. After sixteen years service at the school, broken by the war years, he became an Inspector in 1950 and then Director of Primary Education. Maurice Callard a past pupil and at the time on the staff of 3DB and his wife were energetic workers for the school and Mothers' Club. Additional accommodation became necessary again in 1949, the net enrolment having risen to 830, so it was decided to transfer the needlework centre to Carnegie State School and to transfer or disband the post primary class for girls, thus making available two extra rooms. In 1959 Murrumbeena became a training school. A central library was set up in 1960 and in 1969 plans were being drawn up for the establishment of an arts and crafts centre. In 1957 the enrolment at the school reached a peak of 875 pupils; by 1969 it had fallen to approximately 600.

In 1971 the Art/Craft Room was completed but the original plan to add a multi-purpose room has never been realised - hence the eastern wall of the Art/Craft Room remains unbricked in 1996. A Staff Administration Upgrade was funded by the Department of

School Education in 1989, and proceeds from a very successful fete in 1990 were directed towards improved solar heating for the swimming pool. Over the years the school has been well supported by active parent groups. Playground equipment, classroom carpets, overhead fans, computers and books are just some of the assets this school boasts as a result of the efforts of parents.

During 1995, as well as general maintenance and painting there was a total replacement of the roof (red terracotta tiles) and an extension of the library. May 1996 will see the commencement of construction of a multi-purpose hall to include out of school hours facilities and toilets. The present enrolment is 482 pupils with a staff complement of 24 with Mary Scanlan as Principal and Ray Lee as Vice Principal. Mary was appointed Acting Principal in 1986 and Principal in 1991.



AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

The Australia Day Breakfast, this year organised by the Rotary Club of Caulfield Inc., was held on 25th January, 1996 and the nominated charity to benefit was the Citizens Advice Bureau Food Relief Fund. The introduction and closing remarks were made by Jack Campbell, President of the Rotary Club of Caulfield and the guest speaker was the Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowan whose topic was *At Mid Point in the Nineties - some thoughts on Australia Day*.

Cliff Caldwell, Chairperson of Commissioners of the City of Glen Eira, presented the Citizen of the Year Awards:-

Glen Eira Citizen of the Year to Don Dunstan, a former councillor of the City of Caulfield, for his community activities with University of the Third Age Learning, Caulfield Inc., City of Caulfield Lions Club, Glen Eira Residents Association Inc., and his many other community interests.

Glen Eira Young Citizen of the Year to Sarah Dollard for the contribution she has made to her school and the local community. Sarah has demonstrated artistic talents in the fields of painting and writing with one of her paintings being published in The Age Entertainment Guide in April 1995, a book review was also published in The Age and Sarah won a prize for her story in the City of Glen Eira "Australia Remembers" Competition. All this is complemented by her voluntary work with community and charity organisations.

Special Appreciation Award to Heather Welsh, a former councillor of Caulfield, for her role in organising the "Australia Remembers" activities throughout the City of Glen Eira. A tremendous task accomplished with hard work, charm and many skills - congratulations!

A page of news taken from the RHSV Newsletter No,165

Royal Botanic Gardens - Sesquicentenary

The Royal Botanic Gardens this year celebrates its Sesquicentenary. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria (in its Newsletter No. 165 of March 1996) notes that it is happy to be able to participate in the celebrations by producing a special issue of the Victorian Historical Journal dedicated to the Gardens and discussing many fascinating aspects of their history. With the financial support of the Gardens this will be a larger than normal issue and will feature a number of colour illustrations.

The publication of the Journal will be complemented by a lecture series organised by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, beginning in March with a lecture by Prof. Weston Bate, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. It continues with:-

17 April at 8.00 p.m.

Mr. Richard Aitken, Historian and Architect: director of Nigel Lewis Richard Aitken Pty. Ltd.
Gardens, Buildings and Adornments

23rd April at 8.00 p.m.

Ms Eve Almond, Former interpretations Officer, R.B.G. Picturing the Gardens

8th May at 8.00 p.m. **Mr. Darren Watson**, Archivist, Australian Archives 'Propagators, Seedsmen and Boy Labourers' - Staffing the Gardens, 1846-1970

20th May at 8.00 p.m. **Dr. Andrew Brown-May**, Research associate, Department of History, Monash University Indifference, Audacity and Disobedience: Social Landscape and the Suppression of Nuisances in Mueller's Botanic Gardens, 1850s - 1870s

All lectures will be held in the National Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, and will be followed by supper. The entry fee will be \$8.00 for members of the Friends and the RHSV, and \$10 for others. For bookings and further information ph. 9650 6398.

Open Day

The RHSV's Open Day will take place during the Autumn on Sunday, 5th My. An interesting and varied program is planned, including a monster book sale, tours of the Royal Mint, Flagstaff Gardens and St. James Old Cathedral, plant and preserve stalls and refreshments. The Open Day will also give visitors the opportunity to view the Society's Heritage Festival exhibition - "Main Streets - interpreting Our Urban Culture" which will be on display throughout April and May.

Heritage Festival 14-28 April