

Since the last newsletter...

During the past three years the Society has not held formal meetings for a number of reasons:-

- Hiring fees for meeting rooms within the City Hall were introduced making it too expensive for our small Society to meet there.
- The re-development of the upper floor of the City Hall meant a further relocation of the collection.
- The Council has now provided a suitable venue to house the collection with good working space available.
- The number of members available to participate actively in the Society had been in decline (but this trend has now reversed).

Despite the lack of formal meetings the Executive of the Society has continued to respond to both written and telephonic enquiries, and they have re-organised and continued the documentation of the collection in its new home.

Our new venue

The northernmost building in Bailey Reserve, East Boundary Road, East Bentleigh is a cream brick building surrounded by a high cyclone security fence. The entrance to the car park, serving the Bailey Kindergarten, Moorabbin Softball Association, etc. is north of the pedestrian traffic lights, approximately one kilometre south of North Road, and is opposite a small shopping centre in East Boundary Road.

Activities in the interim

On 29th July, 1999 the Council moved the collection to its new home after meetings with the Executive of the Society. The furniture and shelves were placed and the task of unpacking all the items, photographs, prints, books, artifacts etc. was completed over a period of weeks.

The Council sponsored a training session for both the Caulfield and Moorabbin Historical Society officials with Dr. Graham Whitehead, City Historian of the City of Kingston. He facilitated the forming of guidelines and parameters for the future operations of both the Research Centre and the Box Cottage Museum.

Meanwhile the Executive has continued to respond to all enquiries with the result that some researchers have now joined the Society and with their enthusiasm will prove to be valuable members.

The meeting on 6th December will give you an opportunity to see the collection in its new home and to participate in the re-development of an expanding society.

Background for change of name

In 1994 the State Government of Victoria decreed that the number of municipalities, i.e. local governments, should be decreased

The whole of the City of Caulfield was required to merge with approximately one third of the city of Moorabbin to create a single enlarged municipality. Operational changes were also required.

Cr. James Barrett became the last Mayor of the City of Caulfield in March 1994.

The Government appointed three Commissioners Clifford Caldwell (Chairman), Charles Williams and Veronica Rogers to manage the City for a period of three years. The name of *Glen Eira* was chosen for the new municipality. The City Hall remained the seat of Local Government. Procedures were changed. In future Councillors were to be policy makers, more dependent on Council staff.

The City was divided into three wards –Mackie to the east, Jasper to the south and Orrong in the north-west and two councillors would represent each ward with tenure being for three years when elections for all positions would be held.

The first *Glen Eira* Councillors elected in March 1997 were:

Mackie Cr. Veronica Martens, Cr. Norman Kennedy

Jasper Cr. Barry Neve, Cr. Russell Longmuir

Orrong Cr. Alan Grossbard, Cr. Noel Erlich

Alan Grossbard became the first Mayor of the City of Glen Eira in 1997 and was succeeded by Barry Neave in 1998 and Norman Kennedy in 1999

The Council found problems with as few as six Councillors and were granted Government permission to increase the number of Councillors to nine at the March 2000 elections – three representing each of three wards. There were many nominations and those elected were:

Mackie Cr. Veronica Martens, Cr. Norman Kennedy, Cr. Peter Goudge

Jasper Cr. David Bloom, Cr. Eamonn Walsh, Cr. Rachelle Sapir

Orrong Cr. Alan Grossbard, Cr. Dorothy Marwick, Cr. Noel Erlich

Cr Martens was elected fourth Mayor of the City of Glen Eira and first Mayor of the new Millenium.

The City of Glen Eira is now well established. Caulfield continues as the name of a suburb within the municipality. The history of the former City of Caulfield remains part of the history of Glen Eira.

It is time for the Caulfield Historical Society to change its name to reflect the whole municipality of Glen Eira.