



Glen Eira Historical Society Newsletter

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**



Above: from left to right Gwen Rowe, Myrtle Ballantyne, Richard Ballantyne and Betty Snowball, Caulfield Historical Society housed in Caulfield Central RSL, Hawthorn Rd, 1988. (GEHS collection)

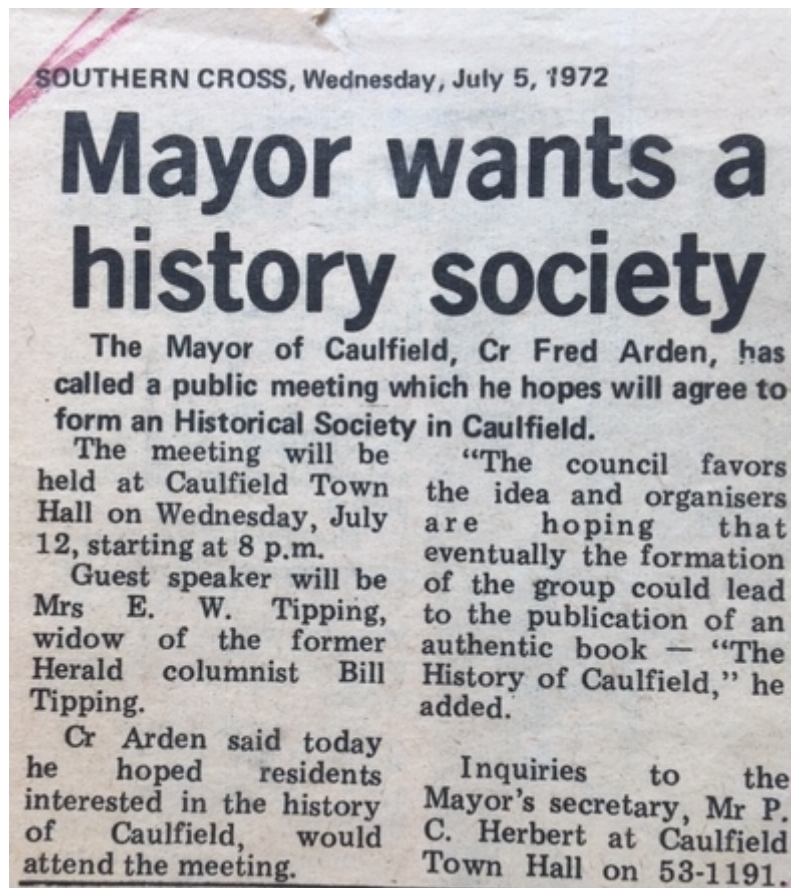
## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year Glen Eira Historical Society celebrates 50 years of collecting, preserving and promoting local history 1972-2022.

### How did we get here?

Back in 1972 Caulfield South resident Trevor Hart wrote to Mayor Frank Arden asking Caulfield Council to support the formation of a local historical society. Hart wrote of 'a strong interest in the history of the municipality' by local residents, in fact we recently uncovered some letters in our collection which indicate the *rumblings* of an historical society back in 1966.

Cr Arden was enthusiastic about the idea and arranged a Public Meeting in the Caulfield Town Hall for 12 July 1972. This public meeting led to the formation of the Caulfield Historical Society.



Above: Southern Cross article 5 July 1972. (GEHS collection)

At the inaugural meeting on 13 September 1972 a Committee of 11 was elected with Kenneth Horn as President (his day job was Chief Librarian of the State Library of Victoria), Trevor Hart as Secretary and Cr Arden awarded Honorary Life Membership.



Above: Mayor of Caulfield, Frank Arden at the opening of the Rosstown Railway plaque, 1983. On his right is CHS President, Felicitie Campbell. (GEHS collection)



Trevor Hart (1942–2014) passionate local historian and archivist, instrumental in establishing the Caulfield Historical Society in 1972. (GEHS collection)



President Felicitie Campbell in 1982 with Secretary Richard Ballantyne at Caulfield Historical Society 10th birthday. (GEHS collection)

It's interesting to compare the early years of the Society to our workings today. The obvious formalities of the times aside, there was important heritage work undertaken by early volunteers as well as the beginnings of a collection as members and friends were encouraged to donate items.

The first Committee was made up of four women and seven men with the women consigned to general committee positions and the men taking the 'important' positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer. The tables have turned over the years with Committees since the mid-1970s generally including more women. Felicitie Campbell was elected President in 1975, a position she held for over 30 years. Our Committee today consists of four women and one man.

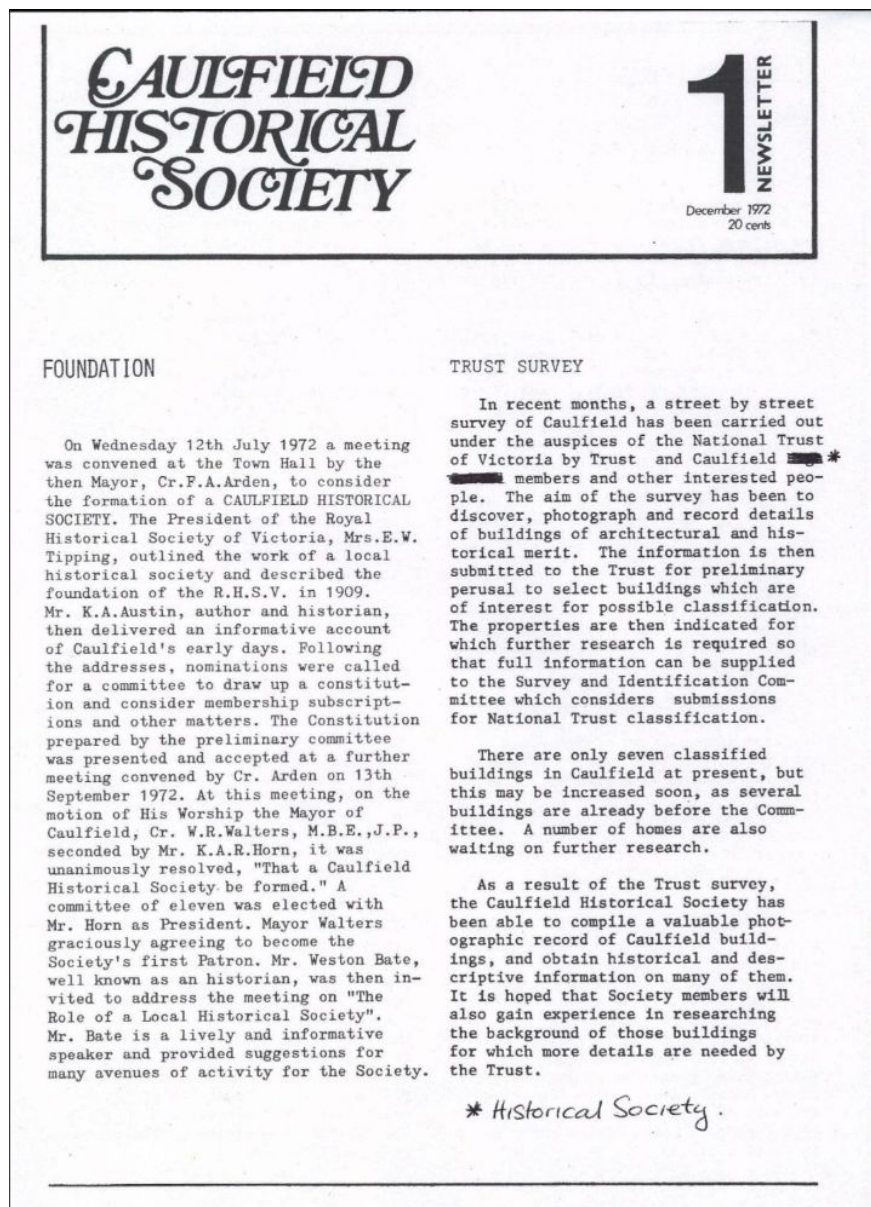
In our 50th year I'd like to put a callout to all members to think about getting more involved in GEHS. Please consider joining our Committee (currently there are five of us) – come along to a meeting as an observer and see what we do, no obligations. At the moment we are meeting via Zoom. Please feel free to contact us and find out more - [gehs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gehs@optusnet.com.au)

The Society has had various homes over the years. Today we are fortunate to have ongoing support from Glen Eira City Council which has enabled us to maintain our substantial Collection at 965 Glen Huntly Rd, Caulfield. We celebrated 10 years at 965 in 2019.

Our 'official' 50th celebration, *An afternoon of local history*, will be held at Murrumbeena Bowls Club on Sunday 29 May 2022 at 3.30pm. Invitations will be sent in April.

To take us back to 1970s Caulfield we asked some of our members to write about their day to day lives. We hope you enjoy their stories. And we've included the front page of our first ever Newsletter, issued December 1972.

**Barbara Hoad**  
**President, Glen Eira Historical Society**



## AN ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE 1970S

Letters and reports were produced on electric typewriters by a typist reading from a hand-written draft. Occasionally, a letter would be dictated to the typist. Changes to the text after typing often required retyping the complete document as there was no 'cut and paste' facility. In a large office, typing staff were usually in a 'pool' of typists who typed documents in order of receipt. Using carbon paper, it was possible to make a copy of the document on the typewriter. Photocopy machines started to be introduced but this process was quite expensive.

Computers were not seen in the office – they were huge items that took up an entire room and used only for large or complicated technical calculations and analyses. Data input to these computers was usually by punch cards and a 'run' took place overnight. Electric calculators in the office performed the basic functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Drawings and plans were produced manually on a drawing board using either a tee-square or a drafting machine attached to the drawing board. A draftsman would quickly convert field notes or sketches to produce a pencil drawing. This was then passed to a tracer, proficient in calligraphy, who would reproduce it in ink, thereby ensuring the finished drawing was permanent with a neat and attractive appearance.

Senior staff were provided with a rotary dial or push button telephone on their desk for their own use. Other staff usually shared a central telephone – and in an open office it was obvious who was on the phone during work hours! Long distance calls (trunk calls) had to be booked with the operator and then one waited for a call back. In remote areas of Australia, telephones were available in larger towns, but smaller communities relied on transmission of messages by radio. Written messages could sometimes be sent by a Telex machine that transmitted text only, like a telegram. It was not possible to transmit sketches or photos by Telex.

A tea lady, who, with a trolley, served tea around the office at a certain time of day, was being replaced by a kitchenette with a self-serve tea making facility. The tea lady was popular not only for her refreshments, but she knew all the office gossip and that was good for office morale!

Colin Kirkham  
Member, Glen Eira Historical Society

## LIFE IN MCKINNON IN THE '70s



Above: Backyard McKinnon circa 1972. (Image courtesy of Ailsa Hunt)

In the 1970s, we were a typical suburban family living in McKinnon - mother, father and four children - two at secondary school and two at primary. The children walked to and from school, meeting up with their friends on the way. They took their home made lunch with them, consisting of a round of sandwiches, a cake and a piece of fruit. An occasional treat was to buy lunch (usually a pie) at a nearby tuck shop.

All the neighbours knew each other, and after school the children would gather in one another's large back yard or in the fairly quiet street and entertain themselves with games or a bike, scooter or billy cart ride. (No helmets at the time). Pogo sticks were very popular, swap cards, and raising "sea monkeys"\* was a craze just starting. Most of their sporting activities were through the school, little athletics etc., was just starting. School shoes were always mended at home. School holiday programmes at the nearby Higgin's park were always popular.

I was fortunate enough to be a stay-at-home mum (married women were just getting into the work-force) so I could walk to the local shops for our daily needs, going to Bentleigh for larger items and, for something special, to the newly opened Southland Shopping Centre. Local shops would deliver if asked. The baker still delivered our bread daily, and the Loy's man would call monthly for a soft drink order. The Rawleighs man also called every couple of months with his case of lotions and potions, and the Avon lady would visit monthly. The postman always blew his whistle. Tupperware parties were popular.

Meals were always eaten at the kitchen table except for special occasions when the dining room would be used. KFC & McDonald's were very new and not close to us so a special meal treat was to take a saucepan to the nearby Chinese restaurant and bring a meal home.

Our garbage was still collected in tins and we burnt other rubbish in the incinerator in the back yard. This was before mobiles - we had one land-line phone and there were only 7 digits in the number. Our television was black and white housed in a large wooden cabinet, bigger than the actual screen, and

remote controls had not yet appeared. I think we also paid a T.V. and radio license.\*\*

We listened to the radio, serials, quiz shows, music and amateur hour type programs. Television programs for the children included the Mickey Mouse Club, Playschool, Simon Townsend's Wonder World, programs including the Beatles and Bay City Rollers for the older ones. The Rock and Roll era had just begun, and the infamous Sunbury festival was held for the first time in 1972! Fortunately, our children were too young to go. We laughed at "The Jetsons" never dreaming that some of their gadgets would be in everyday use these days. Children's parties were mostly simple family affairs with cousins and a few neighbours and held in the backyard.

We were paying a very high interest on our mortgage (I think about 18%) and a postage stamp was about 7c for a standard letter, bread about 50c and eggs 84c a dozen.

My husband Lindsay was a grocer, working first in a service shop (Crooks Grocery Store) in Elsternwick and then managing a new self-service supermarket (Actons Supermarket) in Beaumaris. This meant many hours away from home working 9am-6.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-12.45pm Saturday, as well as checking takings and making sure the shelves were filled and ready for opening the next day, before finally closing the doors.

Lindsay's hobby was wood-work and somehow he found the time to spend in the workshop he built at the back of our garage. He built a cubby house for the children in the back yard as well as looking after their billy carts and bikes. In his spare time he extended our small back porch and re-built all our kitchen cupboards as well as looking after the lawns and garden.

Ailsa Hunt

Member Volunteer, Glen Eira Historical Society

\* They were sort of "eggs" you bought in a packet - tipped them into a jar of water and after a couple of days they started to grow, like baby shrimps and they would swim around. The pack contained food for them. Not sure how long they lasted. I seem to remember my daughter holding a torch at one end of the tank that she had hers in and they would swim to the light and she thought they were performing for her. I also have the feeling that you can still buy them.

\*\* TV and radio licences were abolished in 1974.



Above: Prince Edward Avenue, McKinnon, circa 2000s. (GEHS collection)



Above: Actons Supermarket Beaumaris.(GEHS collection)



Above: Crooks Grocery Store Elsternwick, corner Glen Huntly and St Georges Road (now Carter Lovett Cafe) 1949. (GEHS collection)

## WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE WIDER WORLD IN 1972?

*In our discussions on the content of our 2022 newsletters we tried to remember where we were in our life's journey in 1972. Little did we realise, until newspapers were consulted, how pivotal the year was at global, national and local levels. The seeds of political and social change were gathering momentum.*

*The items listed below are a mere 'tasting plate'.*

- Black September Arab terrorists invade Israeli Olympic compound in Munich. A botched rescue attempt saw 9 Israeli athletes and 5 terrorists killed.
- The Labour Party in New Zealand and Democratic Socialists in West Germany won sweeping victories in elections and in the first New Guinea election, the Pangu Pangu was successful and Michael Somare was appointed Chief Minister.
- Meanwhile in Australia, it was also election year. The McMahon Government had lost the confidence of the business community. Interest rates were reduced to 7.5%, and unemployment benefits increased to \$10 a week for singles and \$18 for couples. Unemployment was 2%. Polls indicated that support for McMahon and his government declined throughout the year.
- The Aboriginal Tent embassy was established on the lawns in front of (Old) Parliament House. Numerous attempts by the police to remove it resulted in violent clashes.
- More locally, Henry Bolte was Premier of Victoria and received a KCMG in the New Year's Honours List. He retired in August after 17 years as Premier. He was succeeded by Dick Hamer who introduced 3 new portfolios, Conservation, Arts and Youth and Recreation.
- Mrs Louisa Jones, the owner of Rippon Lea Estate, died, having successfully combined with the National Trust to save the property for the people of Victoria. Henry Bolte remarked, "Few people have worked so hard to give so much away".
- Jack Thompson appeared as the nude centrefold, "Mate of the Month" in *Cleo's* 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Ita Buttrose thought it would be a one-off but Kerry Packer had other ideas. No fines recorded!



Above: Rippon Lea Estate, Elsternwick. (GEHS collection)

## HERITAGE MATTERS

### CAULFIELD RACECOURSE

Caulfield Racecourse – no heritage protection prior to Interim Protection Order on 18/1/2022.

As one of our members says, the planned redevelopment of the Racecourse is looking like a planning mess currently. You may have seen our emails to members and/or some media about this or indeed, have seen some shocking results of the recent removal of heritage trees and a couple of heritage buildings at least from the Racecourse.

Given none of the major players in this i.e. the Melbourne Racing Club, the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust, Glen Eira City Council and the Minister for Planning, were initiating a nomination for the Victorian Heritage Register, GEHS took the plunge and submitted a nomination in December 2021. For brevity, here's the timeline for some key dates from December 2021:

16/12/21 GEHS emailed our nomination request to Heritage Victoria.

24/12/21 Minister for Planning approved Amendment C229 *glen* authorising works including demolition – broad details only available on DELWP website and unexpected.

5/1/22 GEHS emailed additional information required for our nomination.

18/1/22 GEHS applied for an Interim Protection Order (IPO) from the Heritage Council of Victoria and Heritage Victoria, having seen heritage trees being felled that day.

21/1/22 Heritage Victoria advised GEHS that our nomination has been accepted for them to consider (assess) whether to include in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR).

27/1/22 advice that IPO has been granted; works stopped and IPO notice displayed at main entrance to the Racecourse.

16/3/22 **Heritage Victoria advised that they are recommending "That Caulfield Racecourse is of State-level cultural heritage significance and should be included in the VHR ..."**. There is now a period of 60 days (ending 17/05/22) to advertise and receive submissions to the Heritage Council of Victoria after which there may be a hearing.

Media coverage has included The Age, 774 ABC, 3AW, RSN 927AM; plus some excellent social media posts.

The IPO is current for 4 months. Heritage Victoria has provided some permit exemptions for work to continue that will not harm any heritage e.g. restoration of the Boomerang Room.

Your support with this is much appreciated. Please do tell your Councillor, State MP, Club and/or the Minister for Planning about your concerns regarding this whole process and the lack of opportunity for the community to be meaningfully consulted about the impacts including heritage and tree losses.

See <https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/registrations-reviews/executive-director-recommendations/> for the full recommendations. All supporting submissions welcome!



Above: demolition of historical buildings, first aid room and toilets, Caulfield Racecourse, February 2022. (GEHS collection)

## Planning Amendments Summary *by exception*

See [Heritage next steps - Glen Eira City Council](#) | [Glen Eira City Council](#) for much more detail.

**C204 Elsternwick, Carnegie and Bentleigh** (mostly about implementing some of the heritage overlays contained in the **Glen Eira Heritage Review of Elsternwick Structure Plan Area 2019**) – Council adopted the recommendations of the independent Panel Hearing at their meeting of 1/2/22, a very welcome result. Of course, **not included** were the many Elsternwick heritage properties and precincts properties found by the Minister of Planning not to be experiencing development pressure in September 2020. Unfortunately, those ones do not have any interim heritage protection and are awaiting Council's progression of the Elsternwick Structure Plan.

**C214 Post-war and Hidden Gems** (the heritage review for mid 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards, plus a scan across the City of Glen Eira for significant precincts and properties which are standouts for heritage protection; and an updated Thematic Environmental History for the City of Glen Eira) – the independent Panel recommended heritage protection for the vast majority of the properties. Council decided to only partially adopt the recommendations at the 3/11/21 Council meeting. They abandoned 9 recommended heritage places sadly, but pleasingly did adopt 25 new heritage places and 4 heritage precincts.

**Together with C204glen and C190glen (Bentleigh and Carnegie), C214glen Part 1 and C214glen Part 2 are now awaiting the final authorisation from the Minister for Planning.**

## Planning Applications *by exception*

**10-16 Selwyn Street Elsternwick** (re Woolworths' entity Fabcot Pty Ltd) – Woolworths have lodged a VCAT appeal with a Hearing date announced for 15 sitting days 23/5-16/6/2022. (No resolution at VCAT's Compulsory Conference in December.)

[10-16 Selwyn Street Elsternwick | Have your say Glen Eira](#)

**430-434 Neerim Road Murrumbeena (old Woodlands grocery)** – Council refused this new 7-storey application at the 3/11/2021 Council meeting. This is now going to VCAT again in May - we are one of many objectors

### Parliamentary Inquiry on the Protections within the Victorian Planning Framework (including Heritage)

GEHS completed the survey and sent a submission to this Inquiry drawing on our experience over recent years in Heritage nominations, Heritage Amendments and Planning applications. This was only open for submissions over a short time in January 2022.

[Inquiries \(parliament.vic.gov.au\)](https://inquiries.parliament.vic.gov.au)

### Classified Tree Register (City of Glen Eira)

Please do nominate your favourite trees (on private or public land) for Council's Classified Tree Register – it does give additional protection in the event of development and land clearing.

To nominate a tree:

[Nominate a tree or trees | Glen Eira City Council](#) (ignore where it says "There are no trees currently listed on the Classified Tree Register" as there *are* now trees listed, trees currently being assessed and trees already assessed as ineligible.) For a map of trees on the Register: [Pozi - Glen Eira](#)

**Deferred for next time: Glen Huntly Structure Plan**  
[Transforming Glen Huntly together | Have your say Glen Eira](#)

## EVENTS

### SPEAKER SERIES

## Dorothy Baker

A talk by Golden Days Radio Presenter, Barry Gomm

7.30pm Wednesday 23 March 2022

Caulfield Cup Room, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Rds,  
Caulfield.

Bookings – <https://www.trybooking.com/BYAON>

*Proof of vaccination is required for this event. Please do not attend if you are unwell.*



Within 18 months of the introduction of television in Melbourne a new singing star appeared in 'live to air' programs. Winning several radio talent quests led Dorothy Baker to become a favourite singer at Melbourne dance venues and on TV, within a short time becoming a household name.

She made several overseas trips in the 1960s appearing with identities such as David Frost, Ken Cope and Semprini and recording for Parlophone. Fortunately for us she always returned to Melbourne TV where she stayed until retirement in 1970.

Her legacy continues with this talk on her music and career with **rare clips of her TV performances** which include other well-remembered stars of Melbourne and Australian television.

Enquiries to [gehs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gehs@optusnet.com.au)

### 50TH CELEBRATION AN AFTERNOON OF LOCAL HISTORY

3.30pm Sunday 29 May, Murrumbeena Bowls Club, an afternoon of local history talks. Afternoon tea/refreshments provided. This will be a free event – bookings will open in April.

## EXHIBITION

*Glen Eira Historical Society celebrates 50 years 1972-2022*, an exhibition in the Glen Eira Gallery annexe from 1 September to 2 October 2022. This display will showcase our collection and include a history of GEHS.

## FLOODING ON RAILWAY PARADE



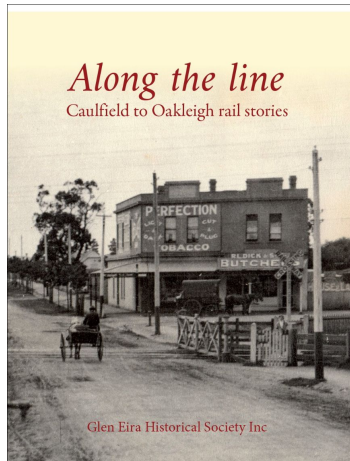
Above: Railway Parade, Murrumbeena 5pm Friday 28 January 2022.  
(GEHS collection, photographer Margaret Dunbar).

**Did you take photos of the heavy rain and flooding on 28 January this year? Please send photos to [gehs@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gehs@optusnet.com.au)**

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

**March 2022 Newsletter editorial team:  
Joy Mawbey and Adriana Konidaris**

## RAIL STORIES BOOK FOR SALE - \$30



### *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'.



*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 Murrumbeena

Community Bank - Murrumbeena

 Bendigo Bank



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965 Glen Huntly Rd Caulfield 3162

#### Get In Touch

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Opening Hours  
Open on Tuesdays by appointment only

[Visit our website](#)