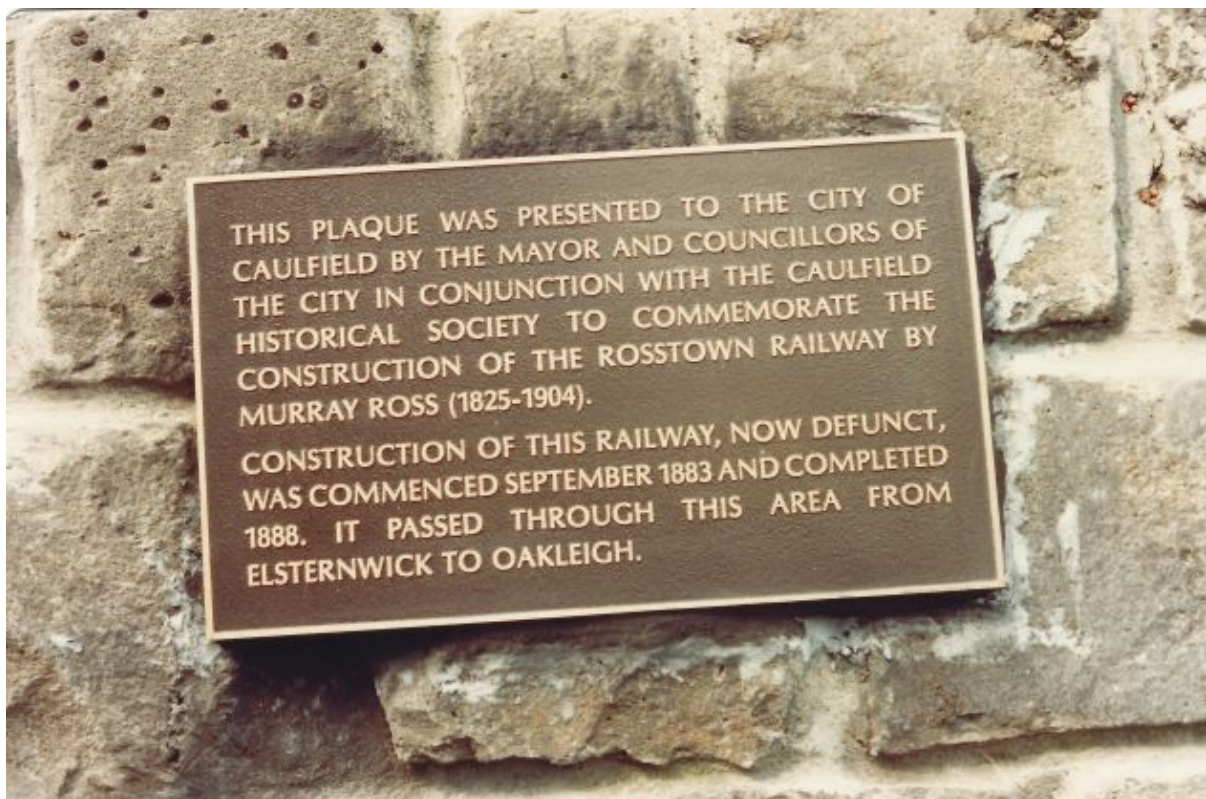




## GLEN EIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP CAULFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND CAULFIELD COUNCIL



Above: The Rosstown Railway plaque was placed on a bluestone wall in Marara Reserve near Narrawong Rd, Caulfield South in 1983. The railway line ran along this strip of land. (GEHS collection)

Caulfield Council was there at the foundation of Caulfield Historical Society (CHS). It was Cr Frank Arden who enthusiastically backed a proposal from local resident and archivist/historian, Trevor Hart and called a public meeting that saw the formation of Caulfield Historical Society. The first elections saw the new Mayor Cr Walters graciously accept the invitation to be the first patron of the Society thus establishing the convention that incoming mayors would be the patrons in future years. This continued until Caulfield Council ceased to be a local government entity. The special relationship was further evidenced by Council's willingness to make its facilities available as venues for the Society's general meetings. It actively searched for suitable records and artefact storage and display facilities over the years. In 1974 CHS received its first grant from Council, a sum of \$75 to assist with ongoing

operations.

In turn CHS developed display material of historical photographs and other artefacts suitable for presentation on boards and in display cabinets. It was ever ready to have these available and hosted at Council community events beginning with the 1977 Caulfield Community Day. There was an even more extensive display as part of the Caulfield Festival held between the 27<sup>th</sup> of November and 5<sup>th</sup> December 1982. CHS was given a prime position; the sole use of the Town Hall Balcony. A pamphlet "Early Caulfield Names" was to be produced for the occasion. Subsequently, 109 people were recorded as having visited the display.

The 1988 Heritage Week was to see a more sophisticated operation; this time a slide show of historical Caulfield buildings and gardens in the new art gallery at the Town Hall on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April. Other items including a sample of artefacts could be seen in the CHS rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Caulfield Central RSL rooms. History has repeated itself with the current display at the Glen Eira Art Gallery celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

CHS, fairly early in its existence, was to take the initiative in alerting the Council to important heritage issues. In 1975 it gained support from Council in an approach to the Victorian Railways for the leasing of the land to preserve in Murrumbeena part of a post and rail fence.

It could be argued that the establishment of CHS was a factor motivating Council to commission an Official History of the municipality. The research by CHS volunteers on notable Caulfield buildings and the publication of the official history may have encouraged the Council to produce a booklet on notable Caulfield mansions and appoint a Senior Records Officer/ Archivist, Mr. B. Carroll. He, in turn was to make himself readily available to be of assistance to the CHS researchers and, in turn, tapped into the records held by the Society. An example was where Council called on CHS for assistance in a search for missing photos so that the official photographic record of former Shire Presidents and Mayors would be complete.

It is not clear whether CHS or Council made the first move in recognising the Centenary year of the Rosstown Railway. What is clear is that Council initiated getting quotes for a memorial plaque and then asking CHS what they would like to contribute to the cost. The Committee agreed that \$50 would be appropriate and so its name appeared on the plaque inscription. We are fortunate to have a photograph taken of the unveiling ceremony and the plaque is pictured on the front page.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Victorian settlement provided a heritage windfall of state government celebratory grants for municipal councils and their respective historical societies and CHS was involved in at least two of these projects. It took on the extensive task of completing a Directory of Foundation Stones and Historical Plaques in Caulfield. The Council also placed a plaque on the historical cannon in the Hopetoun Gardens. The information attached had relied on extensive research over a number of years provided by CHS volunteers.

Not long after came the Bi-Centenary, this time with funding from the Commonwealth Government. A Bi-Centennial Grant was to see Dr. Geulah Solomon write her four Volume detailed history of Caulfield, *Caulfield's Heritage*. CHS was to assist this project with historical photographs and other material from its extensive records and artefacts. The investment in a historical society had produced significant dividends.

Neville Daynes

Member and Volunteer, Glen Eira Historical Society





Above: Cr Brian Rudski, in 1983 at the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the construction of the Rosstown Railway which commenced in 1883 and was completed in 1888. Part of the railway line ran along what is now Marara Reserve. (GEHS collection)



Above: The Rosstown Railway plaque is still in Marara Reserve but was moved to this site near Booran Road and is easily missed on the side of the bench seating. (Photo Anne Kilpatrick 2022, GEHS collection)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming to an end. Our final event for 2022 was a very successful exhibition of items from our Collection held at Glen Eira Council Gallery from 1 September till 23 October 2022. We chose a variety of objects, including the recently donated Glen Eira City Band trophies and photographs and a 1904 photo of women archers from the Kooyong Archery Club of Gladstone Parade Elsternwick; a favourite of our volunteers. We thank Gallery Curator Diane Soumilas for her encouragement and help in displaying these treasured items from our Collection.

During 2022 we bravely decided to go ahead with in-person events and were delighted with the turnout to our regular Speaker Series and to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Murrumbeena Bowls Club in May. Thank you to all members and volunteers who support us by turning up. Our AGM was held online via Zoom on Wednesday 27 July at 7.30pm with a talk by author Jenny O'Donnell on "Researching a Roll of Honour". A transcript of Jenny's talk is available here and on our website [Researching Honour Rolls.pdf](#).

Following our AGM I can confirm our current committee members are Barbara Hoad (President and Treasurer), Anne Kilpatrick (Secretary and Vice President) and Carol Stals (General Committee). We would love to hear from any members who are interested in joining our Committee as we find ourselves an unusually small committee at present. We meet online every two months.

Our September Speaker Series was held for the first time at Murrumbeena Bowls Club, where an audience of 45 enjoyed a lively and interesting talk by Terry Young, *Chinese Market Gardens – Coburg to Bentleigh*. Terry took this opportunity to launch his website Chinese Market Gardens of

Melbourne <https://chinesemarketgardens.wordpress.com/> which includes an excellent map of market gardens across the city. Caulfield's first Chinese market gardener was Kee Poy, who leased 15 acres at the corner of Inkerman and Kooyong Road in the 1860s. Terry's website is a valuable resource.

Our final Speaker Series for 2022 will be held at 7.30pm Wednesday 23 November at the Murrumbeena Bowls Club. Barbara Minchinton will speak on her book *The Women of Little Lon*, which arose from her work as a historian with urban archaeologists on the material dug up during the Little Lonsdale Street digs of the early 2000s.

In August we were very pleased to accept a grant of \$4,000 from Glen Eira Council to publish a book on the history of our Society, highlighting our achievements over 50 years with some glimpses into local history and the work of volunteers. And as we are talking books, a reminder that our 2019 publication *Along the line - Caulfield to Oakleigh rail stories*, is still available for sale from GEHS and from the Bendigo Bank in Murrumbeena, thanks to the wonderful bank staff. You might like to pick up a copy for Christmas. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the Chair of Murrumbeena Financial Services, Dennis Tarrant for continuing to support us with an annual sponsorship grant.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Barbara Hoad  
President, Glen Eira Historical Society







Above: Exhibition to celebrate GEHS 50th anniversary, Glen Eira City Council Gallery Two, 1 September - 23 October 2022. (Photo Zina Sofer, GEHS collection)

## FACING LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHANGE

Much of local history is centred on the activities of Local Government Authorities (LGAs) providing services to the community and funded by rates levied on local residents. From time to time the colonial or state government, moved by reports of corruption or just utter incompetence, would suspend a council and its elected councillors and appoint a commissioner to rectify things.

However the reforming Kennett Government decided that only through council amalgamations could cost efficiencies be achieved, together with caps on rates and the tendering out of council services. Reductions in council employees could be achieved through the restructuring made possible by the larger councils. Such a case could have been made in reference to the small inner city councils and many in regional and country areas.

Caulfield, a council of moderate size saw logic in an amalgamation with the smaller neighbouring Prahran Council but the Government had other ideas. The neighbouring Moorabbin Council certainly met the Government's criteria of size and argued for stand alone status. Instead the government elected to divide it into three parts with the north section of McKinnon, Ormond, Bentleigh and Bentleigh East being hived off to form, with Caulfield, a new City of Glen Eira.

To ensure the desired efficiencies were achieved, all councillors in the state were dismissed and replaced by Government appointed commissioners who also were given the task of setting up their councils for the future return of elected councillors. To assist the commissioners in their task the Government appointed an interim CEO for each council.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1994 all the Caulfield Councillors headed by then Mayor,

James Barrett were dismissed and replaced by commissioners; Cliff Caldwell as Chief Commissioner and two other Commissioners Charles Williams and Virginia Rogers (at least the latter could lay claim to have been a former local councillor). They would oversee a city of 38.6 sq. km, a population of 16,800 residents and an estimated rates revenue of \$32.8 million. [1]

The vast majority of residents adopted a wait and see approach. If the new City of Glen Eira led to lower rates as a result of greater efficiencies this would be good but not to be tolerated if that led to cutbacks to valued services. Those who had viewed the services received from the City of Caulfield positively in the past hoped the status quo could be retained. Those more critical of the former Caulfield Council and its councillors felt a new broom could not do any worse. [2] Those involved in local Community Arts programs feared these might be targeted in the name of efficiencies. [3]

The new broom administration was moderately successful in ensuring they would heed community feedback. An advisory Community Panel of 30 was selected after calling for expressions of interest from local community organisations and community leaders. This body would be consulted by the Commissioners before making decisions. At the council meetings members of the public would be admitted and allowed to ask questions and make comments. Among the panel members were office bearers of local progress associations and the former Mayor James Barrett. [4]

More problematic was the tendering out of maintenance services including rubbish collection and local roads maintenance. Many employees had spent much of their working life at the Caulfield Council. They would now have to seek employment from a successful tenderer. It was estimated that 10% of council staff would be made redundant. Uncertainty led to low morale, especially as decisions about organisational structure of the new council were delayed. An example was the resignation of staff associated with the well regarded Arts Complex. [5] On the other side of the ledger four new town planners would be required to deal with planning associated with the suburbs previously part of the City of Moorabbin. These positions were to be advertised both internally and externally. [6]

The Commissioners reassured local ratepayers that competitive tendering would not see any reduction in services as the successful tenderer would have to retain all existing services. Disappointed failed tenderers were prompt to suggest publicly that faulty, if not corrupt processes had occurred. [7] This probably did not concern the vast number of local residents apart from ratepayer cynics who were convinced that it always had been the case with local government processes. More concerning for the rank and file resident was the decision to tender out the operations of the municipal swimming pools. It was with relief that local residents read that the commissioners had decided to keep the library services 'in house'. [8]

### **What impact did a council amalgamation have on the future of the Caulfield Historical Society (CHS) and its operations?**

The Glen Eira Council operations, at least were still centred within the Caulfield City Hall. Much more insecure was the Moorabbin Historical Society. Its operation of Box Cottage was now within the boundaries of Glen Eira. The uncertainty associated with the new council structure was to see meetings by representatives from the two organisations; including a follow up combined meeting at Box Cottage where the Moorabbin Historical Society made it clear to the Glen Eira Council it wished to retain its own separate identity.

A scanning of the minutes of CHS suggest that the newly elected councillors, (in March 1997) proposed to charge local organisations for meetings held in council facilities. This led to the suspension of meetings by the CHS executive due to these increased costs. In the same period the CHS membership declined and the newsletter was to cease publication between 1997 and 2000. Storage facilities for the collection became unavailable with the redevelopment of the upper floor at City Hall. [9]

Fortunately, Council officers in 1999 discovered a new site in Bailey Reserve, East

Bentleigh with space both for the collection, records and furnishings plus a meeting area. The CHS collection was moved there by Council employees on the 29<sup>th</sup> July. The Council also arranged for Dr Graeme Whitehead, the City Historian at Kingston Council to run a workshop for the committee members of both the Caulfield Historical Society and the Moorabbin (Box Cottage) Historical Society. It probably was not coincidental that an Extraordinary Special General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2000 saw CHS's Rules of Incorporation amended and the substitution of the name Glen Eira for Caulfield. A new era had begun. [\[10\]](#)

Neville Daynes

Newsletter Committee, Member Volunteer, Glen Eira Historical Society

Joy Mawbey

Newsletter Committee, Glen Eira Historical Society

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[\[1\]](#) *Caulfield Leader* 19/12/1994; GEHS Newsletter No.41 April 1995 pp2-3; Newsletter No.42 Nov 1995 P.2

[\[2\]](#) *Caulfield Leader* 02/01/1995, Letter to Editor from Daniel Lehrer Carnegie

[\[3\]](#) *Caulfield Leader* 09/01/1995, comment by Local Community Arts Program Leader, Jenny Harrington

[\[4\]](#) *Caulfield Leader* 20/02/1995

[\[5\]](#) *Caulfield Leader* 13/03/1995

[\[6\]](#) *Caulfield Leader* 06/03/1995

[\[7\]](#) *Glen Eira Leader* 25/11/1995

[\[8\]](#) *Glen Eira Leader* 18/12/1995

[\[9\]](#) *Newsletter* 46 November 2000

[\[10\]](#) *Newsletter* 46 November 2000



Above: Cr James Barrett, the last mayor of Caulfield, is pictured far right in 1987 at a Caulfield Council Christmas Party. From left to right: Cr Brian Rudski, Doug Aylen, Sandy Anderson, Cr Jack Campbell, Hannah McGowan, Ian McGowan, Cr Geoff Patience and Cr James Barrett. (GEHS collection)



## END OF AN ERA - QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The recent death of Queen Elizabeth II prompted me to search for some photos of my father and the Queen which I knew were somewhere in one of the many boxes of family photos and research I keep in a wardrobe. I found the photos, taken in 1981 outside Scots Church in Collins St, the year my father Rev. Frank Hoad was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria. He was also Minister of St Giles Presbyterian Church in Neerim Rd, Caulfield (1970-1983).

As Church Moderator my father was required to take part in a Divine Service on Sunday 27 September attended by the Queen during the 1981 Royal Visit to Australia. My brother and I, along with our mother were in the congregation. I can't remember much of the service and I don't remember actually seeing the Queen but I do remember there were armed police on top of the T&G building opposite and there was a bomb scare which delayed the service. My father is standing directly behind the Queen on the church steps and again on the footpath. To the left of the Queen in both photos is Rev. Norman Pritchard, Minister of Scots Church at the time.

Barbara Hoad  
President, Glen Eira Historical Society



Above: Queen Elizabeth II with Rev. Norman Pritchard on the steps of Scots Church, Collins St, Melbourne, during the 1981 Royal Visit to Australia. (Photo courtesy Barbara Hoad)





Above: Queen Elizabeth II outside Scots Church in Collins Street during the 1981 Royal Visit. Rev. Norman Pritchard is on the Queen's left and behind her and to the left is Rev. Frank Hoad of St Giles, Caulfield. (Photo courtesy Barbara Hoad)

## HERITAGE MATTERS

### CAULFIELD RACECOURSE

Key dates:

24/12/2021 - Minister for Planning approved Amendment C229<sup>glen</sup> authorising works including demolition – broad details only available on DELWP website.

21/01/2022 - Heritage Victoria (HV) advised GEHS that our nomination had been accepted with a recommendation later made to the Heritage Council of Victoria that it be included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

27/01/2022 - Advice that IPO has been granted by Heritage Council of Victoria (HCV). Works stopped and IPO notice displayed at main entrance to the Racecourse.

21/11/2022 - Heritage Council Registration Hearing for 3 days: 21, 22 and 23 November 2022.

28/02/2023 - Expiry of Interim Protection Order unless withdrawn earlier by HCV.



Above: Hiskens Stand, Caulfield Racecourse, 2022 (Photo Zina Sofer, GEHS collection)



Above: View to grandstands from north lake, Caulfield Racecourse, 2022.  
(Photo Zina Sofer, GEHS collection)



## HERITAGE NOMINATION

### Hearing with Heritage Council of Victoria

At time of writing, GEHS and others have submitted written submissions for the Hearing along with expert evidence. We are fortunate in having Dr Andrew Lemon as our expert historian witness. The Hearing does include a site visit to Caulfield Racecourse. Other than the site visit, this is an online hearing.

**Heritage Permit Applications** – these can be applied for when a place has been added temporarily to the Register via an Interim Protection Order (as for Caulfield Racecourse). To date, three Heritage Permits have been decided by Heritage Victoria including for the northern section of the Racecourse i.e. the patron and horse areas used on Race Days; for underground infrastructure to do with Tracks; and for the area around the Aquanita Stables on the south east corner\* adjacent to the Neerim Road level crossing. These works include further demolitions and tree removals alongside new work.

Permit Exemptions (6) have also been decided by Heritage Victoria (for work to continue that will not harm any heritage). The Heritage Council has requested details of all Permits albeit their decision is about the nomination to the Victorian Heritage Register, not Permits.

### Interim Protection Order

The IPO is still in place, scheduled to expire on 28/2/2023.

***It's time to ask your candidates for the state election or indeed the successful new member 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.***

\* The Level Crossing Removal Authority has now leased this area from the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust (CRRT) for a work site for the Neerim Road Crossing removal.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### 10-16 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick

(re: Woolworths' entity Fabcot Pty Ltd)

The decision of 7/9/2022 from the second round at VCAT approved the Planning Permit with some changes including:

- 3 floor reduction for the southern tower
- increased setbacks for the eastern side of the southern tower.

These are in recognition of the Design and Development Overlay 10 applying to that part of Elsternwick and in recognition of the effect of the visual bulk and reduction in amenity for *Glenmoore* 1 St Georges Road,

The approved Woolworth development includes:

- Southern tower of 6 storeys
- Northern tower of 9 storeys
- Full scale supermarket with full parking provided in a basement carpark – entry from Selwyn Street
- Loading bay with truck turntable for supermarket will be on Sinclair Street with a range of traffic restrictions.

Reflecting on the original proposal Woolworths put to the first VCAT of 14 storeys for the Southern tower with it extending into the (heritage) registered land for the Former Fire Station, this final result is 6 storeys with no extension into the registered land.



Elsternwick.

The outcome for the southern tower is in line with our key requests for it and so is a good result albeit the heritage issues did not directly drive the changes. The reduced height will be a better outcome for the former Elsternwick Fire Station, the residential surrounds of Elsternwick and the heritage retail strip of Glenhuntly Road.

*Thanks to all our GEHS Committee and GEHS members for your continuing support with this. Thanks also to the Campbell Family (owner of Glenmoore), Stop The Elsternwick Towers group and local community as well as our heritage expert for all the hard work, time and money which has gone into the community response.*

#### **430-434 Neerim Road, Murrumbeena**

(old Woodlands grocery)

The decision of 13/8/2022 from the second round at VCAT approved the Planning Permit, notwithstanding opposition to the proposal from some residents and GEHS. This seven storey development was approved.

The developer is required in the Conditions to provide a Conservation Management Strategy for Council's

approval before the development (including demolition) starts. This covers the heritage facades of 430 Neerim Road plus the replica 'twin' and infill buildings at 432 and 434 Neerim Road.

Suffice to say that we are disappointed while recognising that it is a better outcome by far to the original proposal. It at least partially retains the facades as opposed to demolishing everything on the site.

*Thanks again to our GEHS Committee and members for your continuing support and to the local community for their sustained commitment and effort.*

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

We will learn after the State Election if this Inquiry is to reconvene to properly consider all those 285 submissions.

#### **Next time, a focus on Glen Eira Council including the Glen Huntly Structure Plan.**

Anne Kilpatrick  
Secretary, Glen Eira Historical Society

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## **GLEN EIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE**

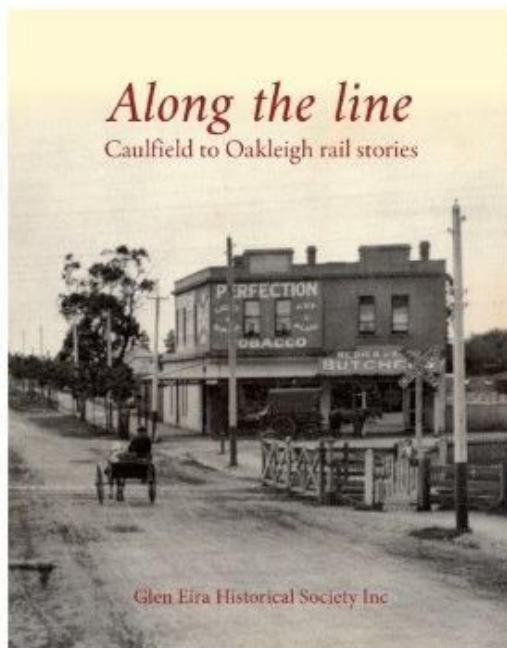
President and Treasurer - Barbara Hoad  
Secretary and Vice-President - Anne Kilpatrick  
General Committee – Carol Stals

### **Editorial team November 2022 Newsletter:**

Adriana Konidaris, Joy Mawbey, Neville Daynes and Barbara Hoad

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

**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'.



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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



*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



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#### Address

965 Glen Huntly Rd Caulfield 3162

#### Get In Touch

Call: (03) 9077 5395 | Email: gehs@optusnet.com.au

#### Opening Hours

Open on Tuesdays by appointment only  
ABN: 11 335 469 474, A0041700U

**Visit our website**