



GLEN EIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

North Road Medical – A History

North Road Medical (NRM) at 409 North Road, Caulfield South is one of the oldest general practices in Melbourne, having proudly served the community of South Caulfield, Ormond, East Brighton and surrounds for close to 100 years.

Its genesis was almost 20 years earlier when, as a young boy, Bruce Hallows (1899-1976) sustained a laceration which required suturing. The expertise and care provided by the treating doctor impressed him to such a degree that he was inspired to pursue a career in medicine. It launched him on a trajectory that led him, in 1924, to establish the practice which he named St Helen's.



'Deliveries', Dr Bruce Hallows (front row, right) established NRM in 1924
(Courtesy Dr D Mann-Segal)



North Road Medical, October 2023 (GEHS collection)

General practice has changed markedly since Bruce Hallows realised his dream and opened the doors of 409 North Road to the public. In this article I [Dr Daniel Mann-Segal] will attempt to briefly trace the lives and times of those who have led this historic practice.

Dr Bruce Hallows

Bruce Hallows served in Australia's armed forces during World War I. Having graduated in Medicine from the University of Melbourne in 1923, he served the community of Whyalla, South Australia before returning to Melbourne and opening the practice in late 1924.

The practice was surrounded by market gardens and nurseries. Drovers of sheep would occasionally be shepherded down North Road. In the first



Dr Bruce Hallows
(courtesy Dr D Mann-Segal)

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From the President

It's been another year of anniversaries; we acknowledge in this newsletter the Police Strike of 100 years ago, 50 years since Australia's withdrawal from the Vietnam War and closer to home the Camden Hotel, formerly the London Tavern, will celebrate 150 years since the first license was granted for a public house on the corner of Hawthorn Road and Sycamore Street in

1873. Also nearing 100 years of operation is the North Road Medical Centre and Dr Daniel Mann-Segal has written an article on its history with some lovely photos.

We had a most positive response from visitors to our *Musical Notes from Glen Eira* exhibition (pictured) held in Glen Eira City Council Gallery from Thursday 7 September to Sunday 1 October 2023. In addition to items from our Collection and some kindly loaned from GEHS members, our display included photos and musical memorabilia from the Jazz Museum, Australian Performing Arts Collection, Labassa, Golden Days Radio, the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society and more. A slide show, featuring a video of Father Kevin Dillon talking about the rock bands such as Sherbet, Madder Lake, Billy Thorpe and Lobby Loyde who played at St Peter's East Bentleigh in the 1970s, was a hit and the various CDs playing on a 1980s CD/Cassette player, added to the mood.

This is our final newsletter for 2023. Our usual Heritage Matters report by Anne Kilpatrick has been held over until our next newsletter in March 2024. Thank you to our wonderful Newsletter team for writing and sourcing the many interesting and varied articles that have appeared in our newsletters over the years. Our newsletter is a vital tool for promoting the work of our Society and of course engaging our community in local history. We welcome reader's feedback and contributions to future newsletters.

Barbara Hoad, GEHS President





Staff at Stawell Hospital, late 1920s. Dr Gibson, back row, fourth from the right
(Courtesy Dr D Mann-Segal)

half of the 20th century, it was the norm for GPs to deliver babies, perform operations and reside onsite. Before he married in 1938, two of Bruce's sisters also lived and worked at 409.

Gladys Hallows operated her own local general practice and was also registered to work at North Road. She would assist in anaesthetising patients when Bruce operated. Their younger sister, Sylvia, was registered at 409 North Road as a midwife. Bruce's eldest son was born on the premises, but it is unknown if Sylvia performed the delivery.

Dr Hallows operated, if required, in people's homes. In an era where ether was the standard anaesthetic, meticulous checks were essential to ensure the absence of kerosene-fuelled refrigerators, a common household item in late 1920s Australia, as the combination of ether and kerosene fumes posed a grave explosion risk.

In 1934 Dr Bruce Hallows journeyed to Scotland where he received his fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh). In 1945, after 21 years of service at North Rd, he retired from general practice to focus on surgery, consulting from 32 Collins St and performing operations at The Royal Children's Hospital, Western General, St Andrews, St George's, Bethesda and Vimy House.

Dr James Gibson



Dr James Gibson (courtesy Dr D Mann-Segal)

Continuity of care at the practice was provided by Dr James Gibson (1893-1955). After working with the Pacific Cable Company and surviving the German attack on Fanning Island in the Pacific in World War I, James moved to Carlton and commenced his medical studies at the University of Melbourne. He graduated in 1922 and completed his internship in Ballarat.

In 1924 he relocated to Stawell, becoming a cornerstone of the local medical community. He served as Shire Health Officer and worked in both general practice and at the Stawell Hospital.

The burden of 24 hour care in Stawell and subsequently at North Road is considered to be the main factor that led to Dr Gibson's ailing health. He had a myocardial infarct (heart attack) in 1952 and retired from full time work. Dr Jake Arundell took over the practice. Dr Gibson continued to provide medical care within the context of the School Medical Service.

Dr James Gibson's passing in 1955 was attributed to the significant sacrifices and demanding work hours he endured throughout his career. In a somewhat prophetic statement, Sir Victor Hurley [Sir Thomas Ernest Victor Hurley (1888-1958), surgeon and medical administrator] noted in Dr Gibson's obituary in the *Medical Journal of Australia* that such sacrifices would inevitably pave the way for the development of group practice.

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Dr Jake Arundell (courtesy
Dr D Mann-Segal)

Dr Jake Arundell

Jacob (aka Jake) Arundell (1924-1983) was born in Colac. Commencing medical school at the age of 16, he won numerous academic prizes in the course of his undergraduate studies and was one of the youngest graduates in Medicine from the University of Melbourne.

Whilst working as a Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1948,

he contracted tuberculosis and spent three months in Gresswell Sanatorium in Macleod followed by a six months recuperation in Lorne. This ended his ambition to specialise in Surgery and Jake decided to move into General Practice. He took over the practice at North Road from Dr Gibson in 1952.

His family note that whilst he loved Ormond and its people, he remained a 'Colac boy, born and bred'. He divided his time between the clinic and his farm. Jake and Betty lived on site with their children. Betty would wash the clinic linens in a copper washtub and the stables/sheds at the back of the building were used to collect and sort clothes to be sent by the Ryder Cheshire Foundation via P&O ships to needy communities in India.

Jake brought some of the country life with him to the clinic: he used to distribute skinned rabbits from his farm to the appreciative patients of nursing homes and it is reported that he once brandished a shotgun at an individual who was trying to steal script pads from the clinic.

Dr Marius Griffin

Marius (aka Mark) Griffin joined Jake as a partner in the practice in 1955. Mark studied science at the University of Melbourne whilst working as a clerk with the Federal Taxation Department.

He enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in June 1942 and served as a wireless mechanic, setting up, maintaining, and servicing radar stations behind enemy lines in New Guinea and on outlying islands. Following discharge from the RAAF he commenced Medicine at the University of Melbourne, receiving the Margaret Ryan

Scholarship in Medicine on graduation in 1951 and completing his residence at St Vincent's Hospital.

Doctors Arundell and Griffin enlarged the practice at North Road and installed an X-ray machine. For many decades, NRM provided the only radiological service outside the hospital system in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Many babies were delivered by them at the local hospitals. Their cars were fitted with two-way radios ensuring efficient communication between doctors on the road and the surgery.

The practice's growing workload led to the inclusion of Dr Patrick Casey, in 1979.



Dr Marius Griffin (courtesy
Dr D Mann-Segal)



Dr Marius Griffin inserting an IV, location
unknown (Courtesy Dr D Mann-Segal)

Dr Patrick Casey

Patrick Casey was drawn to Medicine by his love of science and a deep interest in first aid and health. After graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1975 followed by an internship at Western General in Footscray, he commenced surgical training. A six week locum under the mentorship of his uncle, Jake Arundell, heralded a change of direction for Patrick, to general practice that spanned almost 40 years at NRM.

Patrick has commented that in general practice



Dr Patrick Casey (Courtesy
Dr D Mann-Segal)

one is 'called upon to deal with a wide range of medical issues and emergency situations. One never knew what challenges the next patient would bring'. In the pre locum service era, GPs would continue to provide 24/7 service covering the practice, nursing homes, small local hospitals and home visits with minimal annual leave.

Patrick has 'wonderful memories and fondness for the families he had the privilege to care for - often

involving three generations of the same family' during his years of service at North Road.

Patrick's tenure as director at 409 overlapped initially with Dr Michael Irlicht and then Dr Noelene Jacka and Dr Daniel Mann-Segal. Patrick was instrumental in computerising the practice which allowed for greater coordination and efficiency in care, further paving the way to a larger and better facilitated group practice.

Dr Michael Irlicht

Michael Irlicht joined the practice when Mark Griffin retired as a consequence of a stroke related to his radiation exposure during the war.

Michael was a graduate in Medicine from the University of Melbourne. He practiced at North

Road for 20 years and served the Melbourne Horse Racing community in his medical capacity. An annual race, the \$70,000 *Dr Michael Irlicht Handicap* was named in his honour.

Dr Noelene Jacka

Noelene Jacka was born in Bendigo and completed her schooling in Melbourne. She embarked on a career in Medicine inspired by her mother's background in nursing.

Noelene's academic journey led her to Melbourne University where she studied medicine. Following her graduation in 1984, she completed her clinical training at Royal Melbourne Hospital, followed by four years in Toronto where her husband, Paul, was specialising.

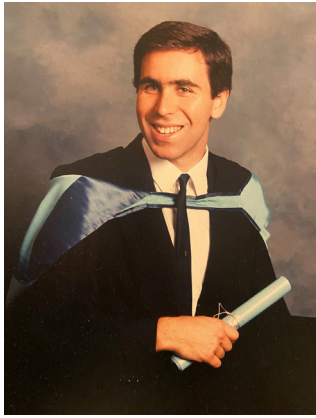
Upon their return to Melbourne, Noelene commenced work in General Practice and in 1997, she began working at NRM. She fondly recalls her interview with Patrick Casey and Michael Irlicht, who were in search of a part-time female GP. The interview concluded with, 'I guess we're expanding!' Consequently, they extended the consulting rooms, taking over more of the original house. In 2000, when Michael retired, Noelene became a partner in the practice.



Dr Noelene Jacka (Courtesy
Dr D Mann-Segal)



Dr Michael Irlicht pictured here (centre in blue cap) with jockeys at his last metro meeting in July 2019. <https://twitter.com/HylandKmhylant/status/1153893310190067712>



Dr Daniel Mann-Segal

Dr Daniel Mann-Segal

Although I was born and spent most of my childhood in Melbourne I had the privilege to spend periods of my high school years in Perth and Israel. Inspired by cousins in the medical field

I attained my medical degree from Monash University in 1988. After completing the first part of a fellowship in Surgery, I moved to Israel, where for eight years I trained in Family and Sports Medicine. Since returning to Australia in 2002, I have balanced my

professional endeavours between family medicine, surgical assistance, and occupational health. I became a part of the NRM team in 2006.

The practice has continued to grow and currently has seven doctors and three nurses providing care in all aspects of general practice, travel medicine and wound care.

I take great pride in being a member of an exceptional team consisting of doctors, nurses, and reception staff. Their dedication in providing high-quality and comprehensive care stands as a testament to the vision of our founders, which we continually endeavour to uphold a century later.

Dr Daniel Mann-Segal

Pottery Display

For the last few months GEHS has used its display cabinets for a collection of early to mid-20th century pottery with some pieces from our collection and some from members personal collections.

Pottery was an important manufacture in the early days of Australia, mostly making utilitarian domestic wares as well as bricks and pipes.

The first important art potter, based in Murrumbidgee in the 1920s, was Merric Boyd. Art potters and commercial potteries produced a wide variety of decorative and functional wares from the 1920s



to the 1950s when the plastic age supplanted ceramics.

The contents of the display cabinet (left) include works mostly created before the 1950s. Note the Neil Douglas decorated bowl from the Boyd pottery and the Remued and Raynam drip glazed vases.

The photo above includes more practical wares for the home; pieces by Hanston, Sylah (Artek and Sylvia Halpern), Deborah Halpern, Eric Juckert and Martin and Guy Boyd.

Joy Mawbey, GEHS Volunteer/Member

50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War

A commemorative event was held in Canberra on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, 1962-1975. The event remembered those who had served during the Vietnam War and thanked them and their loved ones for their contribution and sacrifice.

Background

Australia's initial military contribution to the Vietnam conflict began in 1962, in response to a request for support from our ally the United States of America. Prime Minister Robert Menzies committed a team of 30 advisers, known as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). These advisers were to assist the former Republic of Vietnam to halt the efforts of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, also known as the Vietcong, which fought to unify the country as a communist state.



Photo: Australian War Memorial collection.
Horseshoe Hill, South Vietnam. 1969-09.
Corporal (Cpl) David Waterston, 25, of Caulfield, Vic.
Cpl Waterston was engaged on retraining Vietnamese soldiers in infantry tactics and weapon handling.

By 1965 the Vietnam conflict had escalated. Once again in response to requests from the United States and the former Republic of Vietnam, Australia this time committed an infantry battalion, the 1st Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), which landed in Vũng Tàu, South Vietnam that same year.

In 1966 the 1st Australian Task Force was dispatched and the Australian base was established at Núi Đất, north of Vũng Tàu.

Australia sent over 60,000 defence personnel to Vietnam from 1962 to 1972, according to the National Museum of Australia. Most Australians were deployed for a 12 month tour of duty.

The 'television war'

The Vietnam conflict became known as the 'television war'. For the first time the public was directly exposed to 'horrific scenes' that conveyed the suffering in Vietnam.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs observed in their 50th anniversary commemoration essay that,

'In the early years, most Australians appeared to accept their country's involvement...' However, 'The introduction of conscription, the graphic images of the war beginning to appear on television and the increase in Australian casualties all contributed to an increased awareness... which saw strong opinions formed in opposition to the war.'



An Nhut, Vietnam. One of the casualties of a mine explosion being evacuated to Vung Tau by a 9 Squadron Iroquois UH-1B helicopter (A2-1019)



Iroquois helicopters land to take members of 7RAR back to Nui Dat after completion of Operation Ulmarra, August 1967.

Conscription

The *National Service Act 1964* enabled deployment of troops. The Act was used to boost troop numbers for the Vietnam War, beginning in 1965. It required 20 year old males, if selected, to serve 24 months in the Army, reduced to 18 months in 1971, followed by 3 years in the Reserve.

Young men were selected by a ballot system, referred to as the 'birthday ballot', which was like a lottery. Numbered balls were drawn from a hand spun barrel twice a year. Those whose birthdates matched the numbers drawn were then called up for national service. This conscripted group became known as 'Nashos'.

In total, 16 ballots were held between March 1965 and September 1972 with over 1000 dates being drawn. Birthdates ranged from 1945 to 1952.

15,381 young Australians were conscripted under the ballot system.

Criteria at the time for National Service:

- Literate (able to read and write)
- Physically and mentally fit
- Taller than 5 foot 2 inches (157cm)
- Heterosexual (the Army tried to screen for homosexuality)

Personal note: At the age of 15, I recall the consternation of older brothers, family members and friends about their lives and future being determined by the 'birthday ballot'.

Moratorium marches

Australian moratorium marches, demanding an end to conscription and a withdrawal of Australian troops from Vietnam, began in 1970. A total of 200,000 people marched in the first moratorium, with 70,000 of those marching peacefully in Melbourne. These marches were the largest public demonstrations in Australia's history at the time.

It was suggested that the moratoriums had a direct impact on government policy regarding conscription, with a subsequent reduction in the number of draft-resisters jailed.

Australia, under Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's Labor government, took action to lower the



Photos: National Museum Australia,
<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/vietnam-moratoriums>

minimum voting age from 21 to 18 years in 1973. This action acknowledged that conscripts and serving military aged under 21 were fighting in the Vietnam War.

Withdrawal of troops

Prime Minister John Gorton had already begun withdrawing troops from Vietnam by the time of the moratoriums and Prime Minister Gough Whitlam completed the withdrawal when he came to power in 1972.

All military personnel who returned home on the HMAS Sydney received a 'welcome home' parade. Troops who returned by air were invited to join the parade but few joined.

Some returned soldiers reported being abused and ostracised on their return.

Anecdotes also indicate that the Returned Services League (RSL) initially rejected Vietnam veterans due to the belief they didn't fight in 'a real war'. The NSW RSL issued an apology on the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary, 18 August 2023, to Vietnam Veterans' for these injustices and misjudgements, saying, 'we are sorry'.

Loss of life and casualties

According to the National Archives of Australia, 521 Australians lost their lives and around 3000 were wounded or injured. National servicemen accounted for 202 of the 521 who lost their lives and 1,279 of the 3,000 wounded.

Some returned veterans were scarred emotionally and mentally for the rest of their lives.

The Battle of Long Tan, 18 August 1966, is considered one of the most significant of the Australia Army's actions. The date is commemorated annually and is known as Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day.

Over 60,000 defence personnel served in Vietnam from 1962 - 1973.

National Archives of Australia: "Australian troops marching in 'welcome home' parade in Brisbane after returning from Vietnam"; Creator: Australian News and Information Bureau; Date: 1970; Citation: A1500, K269NSW

End of the war

Australia's involvement in the war formally ceased in January 1973, when the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the Vietcong signed a peace agreement in Paris. The North Vietnamese army entered Saigon, now Hồ Chí Minh City, in 1975. The Socialist Republic of Vietnam was declared in 1976.

References:

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Department of Veterans' Affairs, <https://www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/vietnam-war>

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RSL NSW, <https://rslnsw.org.au/news/rsl-nsw-apologises-to-vietnam-war-veterans/>

Shrine of Remembrance, <https://www.shrine.org.au/australia-and-vietnam-war>

Carol Mayell, GEHS Volunteer/Member



The 1923 Police Strike

The first week of November this year was the Centenary of the police strike in Melbourne. The 1923 police strike coincided with the Spring Horse Racing Carnival. Most of the violence and destruction to property centred on the central business district area of the City; however, there were ripple effects that reached the then outer suburbs such as Caulfield.

By 1923, the uniformed police of Victoria (many of whom were ex-servicemen) were becoming increasingly resentful about the poor pay and non-entitlement to pensions for those recruited after 1902. This compared unfavourably with the conditions available in other states. In addition promotion was limited and demotions made without explanation. The breaking point came when the new Commissioner decided to employ plain clothed police, to 'spy on' the uniformed police when on the beat, to ensure that they were following regulations.

On the evening of Thursday 1st November, 26 uniformed police from the Russell Street Headquarters refused to go on duty. By the next day that had increased to an estimated 600 (most of the uniformed metropolitan force). By the afternoon, as news spread, mobs emerged from Finders Street Station and the hotel bars and proceeded to indulge in violence and vandalism. Many others came into the city to watch 'the fun.' In desperation, the Government asked Sir John Monash to organise squads of 'special constables' who were sworn in and issued with identification tags and batons at the Melbourne Town Hall (many were former AIF members).

On the Saturday the race crowds emerged and

complete mayhem occurred. Most of the shop windows along Swanston Street, Elizabeth Street and Bourke Street were smashed and goods pilfered. Particularly targeted were clothing stores such as the Leviathan and various jewellery stores. However, by the Sunday afternoon, aided by 1300 special constables and the decision to suspend public transport, the city businesses could begin repairing the damage. By Monday martial law had been proclaimed.

By Cup Day the violence and theft had subsided. A subsequent government inquiry led to improved wages and conditions and the reintroduction of pensions to the non-striking police and the new recruits who replaced the 600 striking police who had been dismissed.*

Although not experiencing the same lawlessness of mob behaviour, damage to property and theft from shops which had occurred in the centre of Melbourne, there had been some sporadic events in the outer suburbs such as Caulfield. Fear remained that such behaviour could escalate.

On the Monday a meeting was called for local citizens to attend the Caulfield Town Hall and be sworn in as special constables. At the conclusion of the meeting 300 had been sworn in. Most would be asked to patrol the streets. However a smaller number were to be held in reserve for taking by car to reported trouble spots. All would have individual identifiable armbands provided. Not surprising, it was the ever energetic Cr. Packer who assured all those present that a supply of batons was available in case they were needed.

Council Officers had also advised local shop keepers to remove valuables from behind shop windows at night. Also Council staff had asked



'Scene Following Police Strike Meeting'. Having agreed that they would not return to duty without promise of 'no victimisation' and unless the supervising officers are withdrawn, a crowd of about 650 mutinous constables gathered outside the Temperance Hall after their meeting yesterday and cheered their 'solidarity.' *The Argus*, 3 November 1923 p. 33

the Tramways Board to arrange for the keeping of tram track lights on in the shopping centre areas. Two years before Council had been urging the Tramways Board to install more powerful tram track lights at shopping centres and major road intersections.**

By the end of the week, as elsewhere, things settled down and law and order returned to the streets of Caulfield. One wonders if any of the uniformed police attached to the police stations scattered around the City of Caulfield had also gone on strike. If so, those familiar faces in police uniform would no longer be seen patrolling the streets. Like their

colleagues elsewhere they had been dismissed from the service never to be reinstated.

Notes

*For readers interested in a more detailed account of the 1923 Police Strike and its effect on the central business area, Google Search '1923 Police Strike' where there are links to a Wikipedia article, a Trove Newspaper article and other links and publications.

** *Caulfield News* Vol. 5 No.34 Thursday 8th November 1923

Neville Daynes, GEHS Volunteer/Member

The Camden Hotel – 150 years

The Camden Hotel (formerly the London Tavern) in Caulfield South celebrated its 150th anniversary on the 19th November 2023.

The hotel takes its name from the c.1850s Camden Town settlement, the Caulfield Roads Board's first self-contained settlement near the junction of Hawthorn and Glen Huntly Roads. Camden Town was an area mainly occupied by tradesmen, and women of financial independence such as dressmakers. It was surrounded by market gardens on large allotments.

The first hotel on the site was established by John Guess and his wife Louisa, who, on obtaining a public house licence in 1873, converted their three

room timber grocer shop and dwelling on Hawthorn Road into the seven room London Tavern.

Camden Town had a reputation for being a wild area. The settlement was frowned upon by the more sophisticated residents in the suburbs to the north-west, and regarded as a place to avoid, especially on dark nights. Their main aversion was the 'boisterous London Tavern and the Irishmen who gathered there'. 'It had a reputation for fights and where there is a fight, there has to be an Irishman.'

But sport also played a large part in the life of the community and the Camden Town Sports Club (comprised of teams of athletes, footballers, cricketers and cyclists) was possibly Caulfield's first club and survived in various forms until after World War I.



London Tavern & Store, c.1882, J Riordan was the third licensee* (GEHS collection)



London Tavern, remodelled in 1886 and the Camden Town Sports Club cyclists (GEHS collection)

The photo above was taken after a cycle race c.1888. The sportsmen in the photo would have been able to retreat to the London Tavern (by then a larger two-storey brick building), for a meal and a leisurely drinks session, knowing that the gazetted closing time was 11.30pm.

These conditions were to continue until the state governments introduced an early 6pm closing time as a wartime austerity measure for Victoria and most other states in 1916. Due to pressure

from the various temperance movements, this became permanent in 1919 and before long hotels were forced to adapt to what became known as the 'six o'clock swill'.

Street widening in 1922 resulted in the disappearance of the original hotel buildings and a new building being constructed further back on the block. The new building featured a tiled front and patterned leadlight windows.



London Tavern in 1935 (as it would have looked after the 1922 rebuild) and just prior to 1937 remodelling (GEHS collection)



Public bar entrance to the revamped London Tavern, 1937 (*Decoration and Glass Magazine*, August 1937)

Its interior would have had to cater for the effects of early closing. Longer bars and counters were featured with bare floor boards and partially tiled side walls to assist with cleaning. To speed up the pouring process, spigots attached to pipes linked to kegs now enabled the filling of a number of glasses in one swoop. Less space was available for kitchen options and dining facilities for those wanting a counter lunch. This was a male world except for the barmaids.

In 1937 the hotel (pictured above) was enlarged and updated with a new ornamental cantilevered verandah and exterior walls of primrose tiles relieved with black.

Ten o'clock closing was introduced in 1966 following the Phillips Inquiry recommendations, leading to further changes in hotel interiors.

No crowded jostling at bar counters. Carpeted rooms. Bar stools at the counter, small tables in the adjacent space where drinks could be accompanied by bar snacks. Like other hotels with the space, room was made for a well-appointed kitchen serving bistro like meals and this attracted families, or couples and singles not wanting to face up to cooking an evening meal after work. There was evidence of some electing to have a couple of drinks at the local after the family dinner. For others, more leisurely drinking could be had before going home for dinner. No need to do business with an SP Bookie out the back. Now it was legal for the pub to make space for a licensed TAB in one of the adjacent areas following the establishing of the Totalisator Agency Board.



London Tavern, possibly 1970s (GEHS collection)

In 2018, the building was renovated and is now known as The Camden Hotel. There is nothing of the old knockabout London Tavern about either its appearance or facilities. It is a typical modern community hotel with its range of liquor and food items.

There are chefs rather than cooks in the kitchen producing menus and food that tap into a range of ethnic cuisines that appeal to a more cosmopolitan crowd. The wine list reads more like that of a restaurant. After all many of the clientele are just as likely to order a cocktail or a glass of wine as a 'pot'. Even the beer ordered is likely to be a bottle with a boutique beer brand.

The TAB remains but also there are Pokies which were legalised in Victoria in 1991. No more do locals have to organise a bus trip over the Murray River to satisfy that gambling habit.

The Camden Hotel at the corner of Hawthorn Road and Sycamore Street continues after 150 years to meet the changing expectations of the times.

*Some of the hotel licensees:

- John and Louisa Guess 1873-1877
- Rowland Evans 1881
- John Riordan 1882-1887
- Mrs Susan Harley 1888-1891
- H. Mott 1895
- AJ Woods 1903-1912
- Mrs Scott 1925-1969
- Ballantyne family c2012

Sources:

From sand, swamp & heath – A history of Caulfield (Murray and Wells, 1980)

Caulfield's Heritage (Dr Geulah Solomon, 1989)

City of Glen Eira Thematic Environmental History (Refresh) 2020

Glen Eira Historical Society - File London Tavern, 1695A

Melbourne Weekly Bayside – Your Community Voice, 22 February 2012 p9

Various articles on Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_o'clock_swill

Claire Barton, Joy Mawbey, Neville Daynes and Barbara Hoad, GEHS Volunteers/Members

The Camden Hotel today
(GEHS Collection)



The Victorian Parliamentary Library – September Speaker Series Report

Carolyn Macvean, the Manager of the Victorian Parliamentary Library Service, was the speaker at our meeting held on Wednesday 27th September at 10.30am in the Caulfield Cup Room in the Glen Eira Town Hall attended by members and guests.

Those present were provided with a fascinating power-point presentation by Carolyn, which covered both the architectural features and notable fittings of the Library as well as the services provided to the members of the Victorian Parliament. Carolyn also noted in her introductory remarks that she had been employed as a librarian at the University of Melbourne and with the Glen Eira Library service.

Carolyn observed that the Parliamentary Library first opened in 1851 making it the second oldest in Victoria. The oldest being the Athenaeum Library which opened in Collins St in 1839. The Parliamentary Library consists of three large rooms linked to the dome and placed between the two parliamentary chambers and is carpeted in red. The Library can boast having served 68 parliaments up to the present.

The Central Library occupies the space between the four large columns that support the dome. The base of each column has space for a fire place but these have not been used since the 1950s. The highlight central feature is a chandelier with 2000 pieces of Belgian Crystal in its settings suspended from the Dome, at present being restored for replacement in 2024.

The round centre table, designed and constructed by Peter Kerr (Principal architect of Victoria's Parliament House) and with superbly carved heavy wooden legs can be dismantled. It is the repository of current newspapers of the day. About nine rows of book shelves surround the chamber; the upper shelves accessed by frail looking light frame ladders. As one leaves, the gold painted parliamentary mace can be seen above the door. This is the third mace as the first was stolen in the 1880s and the second removed by the Federal Parliament when it shifted to Canberra in 1927.

Events

Speaker Series

Heatherbrae - a Caulfield mansion

We invite members and friends to our November Speaker Series to learn more about the architecture and past residents of one of Caulfield's earliest surviving houses, Heatherbrae, which dates from the 1860s. Who the original six room villa was built for remains a mystery but from 1875 local worthy John Charles Holland set about turning Heatherbrae into a building worthy of his status. Speaker, Jenny O'Donnell, is the author of a number of historic house biographies and her recently published book on Heatherbrae will be available for sale on the night (\$30 cash only please).

7.30pm Wednesday 22 November 2023

Murrumbeena Bowls Club,
10 Blackwood Street,
Carnegie VIC 3163

Bookings - www.trybooking.com/CMPMI

Above, off the gallery is the North Library, formerly a smoking room. It has doors leading to the Legislative Assembly. It too, has a notable table and is surrounded by bookshelves. In a glass case is Clarence the lion, a plaster maquette for two bronze statues planned for the entrance to parliament in 1888, but never completed.

Off the opposite gallery is the South Library of similar dimensions. Occupying pride of place is a most comfortable leather couch where MPs can chat together. MPs are able to hire this library for private functions.

A stairway leads to the Alfred Deakin Gallery which is used for exhibitions. Occupying pride of

place is a bust of Deakin who played a major role in establishing the organisation of the Library, including the use of vacuum tubes to get books to MPs. However, it was Thomas Bent who ensured a full set of Hansards was always to be kept in the Library.

Most of the Library collection consists of non-fiction books and periodicals and organised using the Dewey Decimal System, although there is a small collection of fiction housed in an alcove of the Central Library for use by MPs.

One of the other main functions of the library staff is of a research nature including responding to requests for information from MPs. The Library also provides background information on bills before parliament or matters being inquired into by parliamentary committees or that arising from reports. The Library is also responsible for providing information kits for new MPs. In addition, it oversees the heritage collection including the commissioning of portraits of Victorian Premiers to be displayed in Queen's Hall. Some of the items

on display in the Library are a 1990s computer, an 1899 Federal Referendum Voters Roll and a record of all female members of parliament.

The first female Victorian Parliamentary Librarian (and incidentally the first in Australia) was Josephine McGovern who occupied the post between 1970 and 1986. Finally we were informed that the Librarian is totally separate from the oversight of parliamentarians and the Government. Instead, she reports to the Secretary to the Department of Parliamentary Services so ensuring the apolitical nature of the service. This has been the process since 2006.

All those attending agreed that this had been a most informative presentation which had added to our understanding of a part of Parliament House, some of its history and the very important service that ensures the parliamentary process in Victoria is more efficient.

Neville Daynes, GEHS Volunteer/Member

November 2023 Newsletter Editorial Team
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We thank David Southwick MP for printing this Newsletter.

We acknowledge that the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation are the traditional owners and custodians of the area covered by the City of Glen Eira

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