



GLEN EIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Ida Rentoul Outhwaite books

We recently received into our Collection, two books from local resident Deborah Burns - *Elves and Fairies* (1916) and *The Enchanted Forest* (1921). They contain beautiful illustrations of magical creatures by the Australian artist Ida Rentoul Outhwaite (1888-1960), with verses by her literary sister Annie/Anne Rentoul (1882-1978) and Ida's husband Grenbry Outhwaite (1875-1938).

Deborah Burns was a young neighbour of Ida and Annie in the 1950s. She remembers: -

"I was given the books by the sisters in the mid 1950s. As a young girl between the ages 6 and 10, I was taken by my mother Leline Burns to visit the sisters Miss Anne Rentoul and Mrs Ida Rentoul Outhwaite. We lived at 8 Khartoum Street, Caulfield North, a few doors down from the sisters who lived in a bungalow at the rear of a large house in our street.

My mother recognised that the sisters were frail and living in what was known as genteel poverty. Their living conditions were modest and seemed cramped as the bungalow was small with not enough room for their possessions. There were piles of books and folders lying around.

Mum was concerned they may not have been eating well and often would take dishes for them to share. I accompanied Mum on these occasions. The sisters

were warm and friendly towards me. It was at these meetings that they gave me the signed books as a gift. My elder brother Andrew also visited the two sisters and Anne gave him a signed Bible written in Latin. She knew he would study Latin at school in the near future."



'Fairy-beauty rocks a babe' *The Enchanted Fairies*, 1921

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We are fascinated to have learnt about Ida and her sister Annie, who spent their later lives in Caulfield. They both attended Presbyterian Ladies College with Annie excelling in the Classics; Greek, Latin and Ancient History. Along with the fairy books was Annie's Latin bible *Biblia Polyglotta Versio Latina*, which she gave to Deborah's brother. Ida is mentioned briefly in Dr Geulah Solomon's Caulfield's Heritage (1989) as exhibiting in London, Paris, Sydney and Melbourne but there is no mention of her sister Annie. In 1985 Ida was honoured on an Australian postage stamp, depicting an illustration from *Elves and Fairies* promoting an exhibition in Sydney of her work.

Barbara Hoad (President)

Sources:

Deborah Burns memories, May 2025

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/outhwaite-ida-sherbourne-7933>

'An artist who believed in Fairies' by Jenny Brown, The Age 1/11/1985

ELVES AND FAIRIES

THE BILLABONG

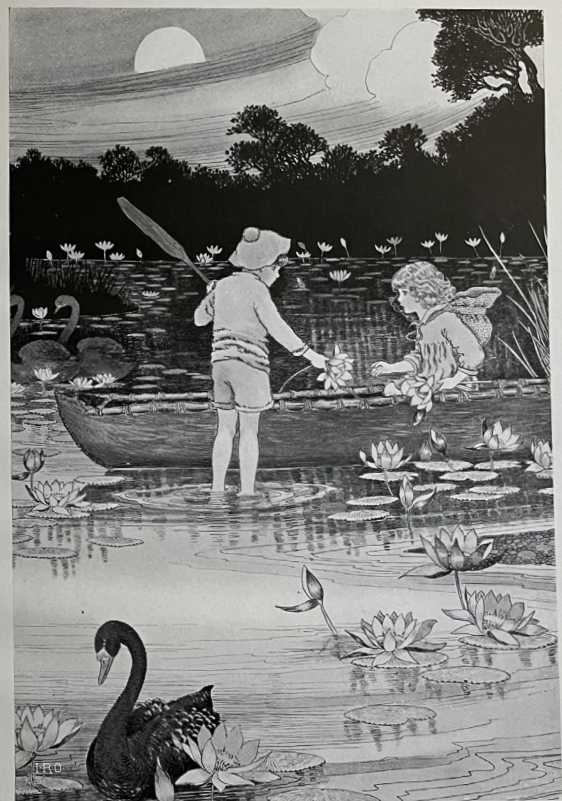
Beyond the red sandhills, beyond the rim of pines,
Lies a little billabong, very fair it shines,
Shy as a Fairy, round as the moon.
Will you run away with me, and hide there soon?

Stars love to bathe there, dipping out and in;
Every lily in the pool peeps to see its twin.
I want to go there; I know how!
Won't you fly away with me, and hide there now?

Gray broilgas dance there, swan-galleons float;
There a little bark canoe waits to be our boat.
There stands a mia-mia, just made for two,
Rather lonely just for me without just you!

Beyond the dark pine-trees, beyond the golden flowers
Waits a little billabong, longing to be ours,
Just made for children, just made for fun!
Take my hand before they come, and off we'll run!

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The Billabong

'The Billabong', *Elves and Fairies*, 1916



Volunteers enjoy lunch after RUSI library visit, May 2025 (Photo GEHS)

From the President

This newsletter is a little later than usual and will coincide with our July Annual Report, so I will keep my report here brief.

Our 50 year history of GEHS has been sent to the publisher/editor, after nearly three years of planning, researching and writing. We hope to launch the book in late September, details to be confirmed. Funding for our book came via a community grant from Glen Eira City Council and all GEHS members will be entitled to a free copy.

In May our volunteers visited The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria (RUSI) Library at Victoria Barracks. It is open to the public but you will need a security clearance. This wonderful library is full of books, pamphlets and maps relating to defence and national security matters. <https://www.rusivic.org.au/library>

Barbara Hoad,
GEHS President



Fairfield Hall, North Road

If you are driving along North Road from Kooyong Road to Hawthorn Road, a majestic house on the left side as you reach the crest of the hill looks enticing. The house is called FAIRFIELD HALL and it has a rich and interesting history.

According to Andrew Ward's 1990 *Caulfield Conservation Study*, T. McCombie and R. Keys owned the allotment 42, measuring 30 acres on the north east corner of Kooyong and North Roads. The site was originally a complete square bounded by 640 feet on each side, with a frontage to North Road. By 1888, the land had been sub-divided and Frederick W. Curwan owned 10 acres on North Road. He built a large 14 roomed brick house on the site. According to *Caulfield's Heritage Vol 1* by Dr Geulah Solomon, the house was designed by architect George Jobbins, who created other 'Boom' time mansions around Melbourne. The

house was primarily single storey, of Hawthorn Black brick set high on bluestone with a three storey tower and elaborate timber ceilings. A large veranda surrounding the house had elaborate wrought-iron lacework. Inside beautiful leadlight and stained glass windows reflected light into the house. The mansion combined Italianate, early Queen Anne and Australian homestead styles and was set in large grounds that allowed vistas from various rooms.

By 1899, the owners of the house were Wragge and Hearne and in 1909, Henry Wall, a commercial agent, leased the property and named it Manaia (Maniar/Manala). Following the 1890s Depression, large houses became vacant as they were expensive and needed staff to maintain house and grounds. By about 1915-16 Alexander Mackie Younger purchased the property and renamed it "Fairfield Hall" – possibly a nod to Younger's early life growing up in Fairfield/Northcote area. After

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Fairfield Hall, North Road cont'd

purchasing Fairfield Hall, Younger subdivided the land and created Younger Avenue and Fairfield Grove. As a builder/developer, he frequently used the Christian names of his children for new streets e.g. Mackie Grove in East Brighton is named after him and his grandson and May Street after his eldest daughter.

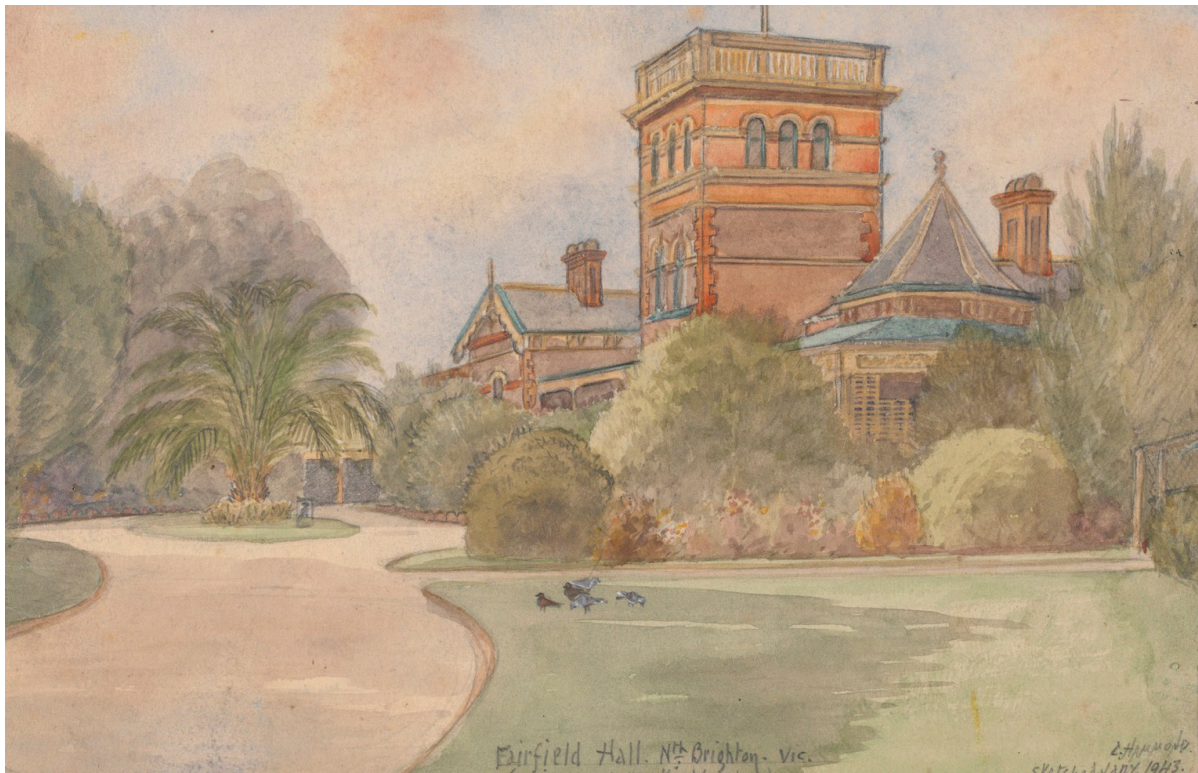
Alexander Mackie Younger was born in Yering, Victoria in 1882. One of nine children, he grew up in the Fairfield/Northcote area. He married Elizabeth May Bond in 1904. By 1916, they were living at Fairfield Hall with their 4 children Jack, Alexander Jnr., May and Jean/Jeanne. Sadly his wife Elizabeth died accidentally of a gunshot wound in October 1918 aged 33 years, leaving Alexander a widower. In various documents Younger was described as a contractor, builder and property developer. In his own words, he described himself as a 'journey-man' (a man hired to work for the day). Younger may have done a carpentry apprenticeship as a youngster because he was actively engaged in building and development from the early 1900s.

After the death of his first wife, he remarried Nellie K. Davidson in 1923 but the marriage lasted only 10 days. Trove's online newspapers provide

numerous stories of the family upset. Younger divorced Nellie in 1928 and went on to marry his children's nanny, Maud Brownbill, the woman his second wife asserted was his lover in 1923!

The children had a wonderful childhood in the house and gardens and many social events were held at Fairfield Hall over the decades. Alexander Junior married Emily Valmai Lewis. May Elizabeth Younger married Bertram Enion and Jeanne M. Younger married Captain W. Elliott (US Army) in 1944. Sadly John Thomas, known as 'Jack', Younger's eldest son, was killed in Kenya in the early 1930s whilst game hunting. As the eldest son, Jack had been destined to take over the family business from his father. Younger was devastated with his loss and took over the raising of Jack's young son. **Alexander Mackie Younger** died in April 1952, leaving his widow Maud and three married children. Maud continued to live at Fairfield Hall until her death in 1976. An oral story provided by a man who grew up near Fairfield Hall, explained how Maud would chat to him on his way back from school and read his short stories – giving feedback and encouragement to a young writer.

Younger was involved in many building projects across Melbourne. In the early 1920s, he built Ardoch in Dandenong Road – an early housing development



Sketch of Fairfield Hall by Charles Hammond, 1943 (Courtesy State Library of Victoria)

that incorporated cluster housing with gardens for residents to use and enjoy. He developed the Chevy Chase¹ estate in Were Street Brighton, knocked down the original J.B. Were home (Moorabbin House) in Were Street in 1924 and was involved in the subdivision of the Landcox Estate. At the time of his death he owned a lot of property in St. Kilda Road. With a keen interest in game hunting, his house was filled with elephant's feet, buffalo heads and monkey pelts.

After the death of Jeanne in 1979, the long link with the Younger family ended and the property was auctioned in 1981.

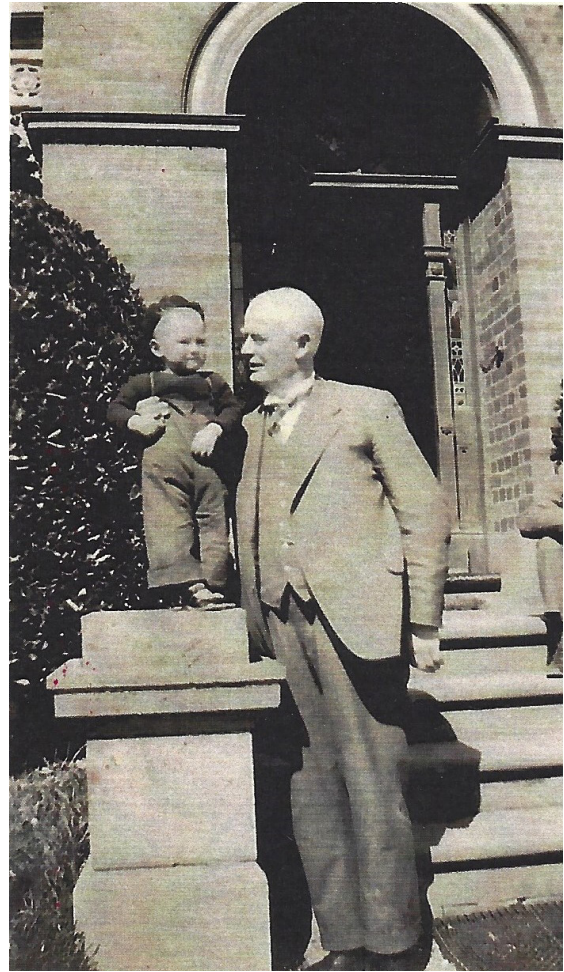
Fairfield Hall remains an imposing and well maintained mansion of an era long gone.

Heather Mallinson (GEHS member/volunteer)

- 1 Built in 1881 Chevy Chase, 201 Were Street, Brighton stands today on an area of land much reduced from its original estate. <https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/162>.

Sources:

GEHS file no. 1068 Fairfield Hall includes research by Rosalind Landells of Brighton Historical Society in 1981, various newspaper articles found on Trove, Victorian Heritage Database - <https://www.ardochstories.au/alexander-mackie-younger/>.



Alexander Younger with his grandson at Fairfield Hall, undated (GEHS Collection)

Eyes on our Collection, March 2025 Speaker Series report

Volunteers gave short talks on some of the items in our collection at an afternoon and evening session held at GEHS on the 25th and 26th March this year. Here are two reports from the sessions.

Carnegie Progress Association

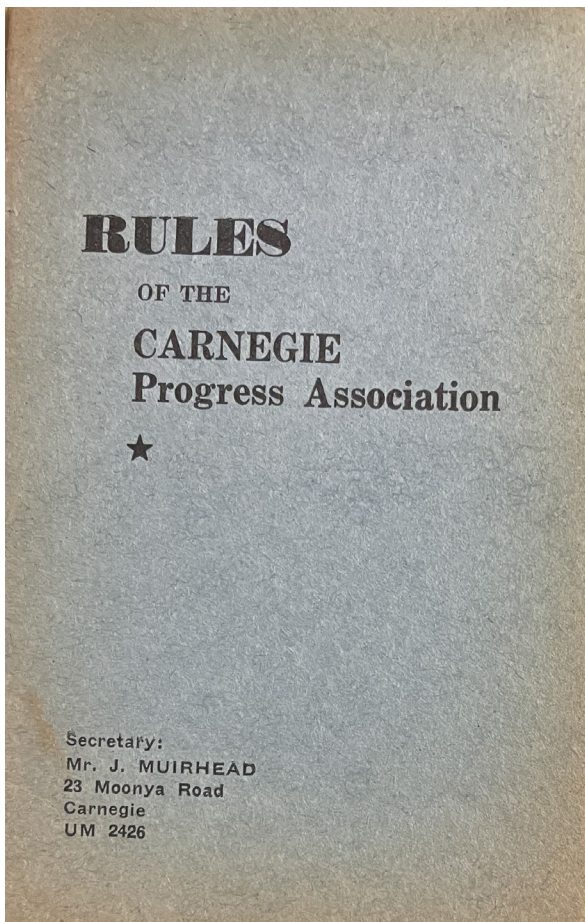
The Society holds a box of records of the Carnegie Progress Association including a list of members, minute books, financial reports, correspondence and some rule books. It also includes a short history written in 1994 by Joseph Cripps, a foundation member of the Association and listed as member number one.

Progress Associations were formed by groups of residents who wanted to improve services in

the local area – asking for better playgrounds, footpaths and drainage, halls and sporting facilities. Local councilors were often on the committees of progress associations.

The Carnegie Progress Association was formed in 1947. The City of Caulfield was growing like all municipalities following the end of WW2 and residents were demanding better services. Progress Associations formed in Glen Huntly (1909), Elsternwick (1907), Murrumbeena (c.1913) and Caulfield (1955).

The history of the Carnegie Progress Association is interesting in that according to Joseph Cripps, it grew out of the Caulfield Air Raid Precautions Group (ARP). ARPs were established when war started in 1939, their aim was to guide and protect residents in the event of the war reaching Melbourne. Groups of local wardens patrolled the streets at night to ensure windows were covered



CPA rule book (GEHS Collection)

and no lights could be seen. They carried gas masks, helmets, whistles and buckets of sand.

When the war was over the Air Raid Precautions groups disbanded but a group of Carnegie residents, who had presumably got to know each other quite well, decided to form a Book Group which was very well attended. Unfortunately there is no book list in the box of records so we don't know what books they were reading in the 1940s.

One of the women members of the book group had the idea of forming a home help group and the Carnegie & District Social Services Association was formed with the aims to 'afford relief to the sick distress and needy of the district, to provide social education of Youth' and to promote any welfare related proposals. This service didn't last long because the Caulfield Council decided to establish its own Home Help service and the local group was no longer needed.

What next? The remaining members decided to form a progress association and so the Carnegie

Progress Association was born. Help arrived from Caulfield Council who arranged for a wooden building to be moved from the Town Hall site to Truganini Road, Carnegie. Later a brick Progress Hall was built and all sorts of groups held their meetings in the hall and paid hire fees to the Progress Association. The records show the variety of groups that used the hall: the Independent Order of Rechabites, The Studebaker Car Club, The Sailors Soldiers and Airmen's' Fathers Association, Loyal Murrumbene Lodge No. 77 and the Carnegie Ladies Auxiliary of Southern Memorial Hospital.

What did the Progress Association achieve? The Carnegie association pushed for improvements to local public gardens and playgrounds, storm water drains and lobbied for a swimming pool in the Eastern part of the municipality. The Caulfield Memorial Pool was built in 1966 and recently redeveloped as the Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool.

The Carnegie Progress Association dissolved in the early 1990s with a dwindling membership. Their remaining funds were handed to Caulfield Council.

Similar groups today are often more single focused such as Neighborhood Watch, local heritage groups such as Stop the Elsternwick Towers (STET) and local environment and climate action groups like Glen Eira Climate Action Network (GECAN).

Barbara Hoad (President)

Ephemera – Caulfield Council invitations

Claire Barton showed the audience some of the invitations donated to the Society over the years with dates ranging from 1900 to 1992 -

- Grand Concert at the Elsternwick Hall in 1900
- Smoke Night for the Caulfield Members of the 2nd AIF
- 19th Annual Australia Day Breakfast themed Antarctic Adventure in 1992
- Art Deco Dinner and Dance in 1982
- Cocktail party in the Mayoral Suite in 1965
- Coronation Dinner in 1937 given by the Mayor and Councillors, (the insert of this invitation contains a number of autographs)
- Coronation Pageant 1957

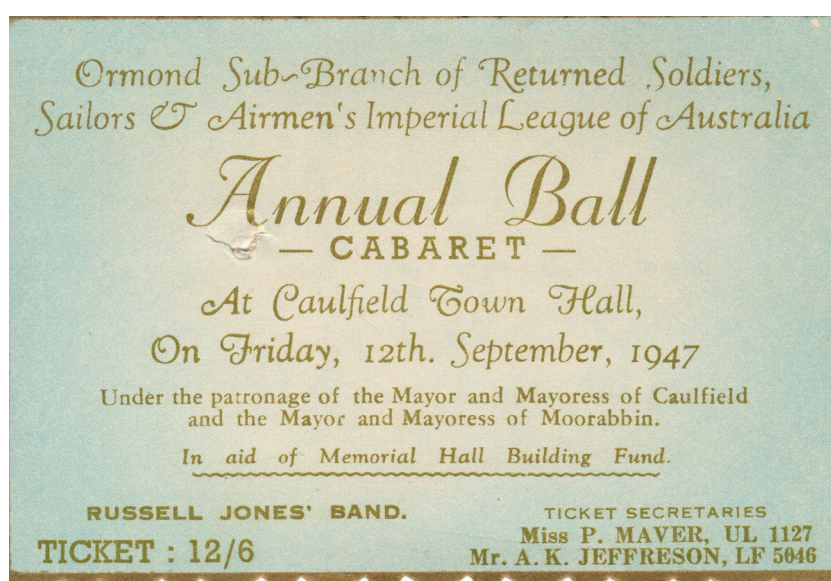
- City of Caulfield Victory Dinner in 1945
- Annual Ball Cabaret for the Ormond Sub-branch of Returned Soldiers, Sailors & Imperial League of Australia in 1947 (coloured blue with gold deckled edge)
- Card Night for the Queen Victoria Hospital in 1955 (in pink with fine deckled edge)
- Victorian Racing Museum Dinner in 1987
- Invitation to the official opening of the Daily Planet (brothel) in Horne Street Elsternwick in 1988.

Most invitations are in buff colour and often include the dinner menu. The end of war dinner invitations are quite decorative with tri-colour ribbons and one with a multi-colour pompom with ribbons to wear on a lapel. In all, a fascinating collection of ephemera held by GEHS.

Claire Barton (GEHS member/volunteer)



An invitation to the official opening of the Daily Planet (brothel) at 9 Horne St Elsternwick in 1988 (GEHS Collection)



Annual Ball Cabaret for the Ormond Sub-branch of Returned Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, at Caulfield Town Hall, 1947 (GEHS Collection)

Speaker Series Event held Wednesday, 28 May 2025

We were pleased to host the second GEHS Speaker Series Event for this year, **'A conversation about preserving our lived history'**, presented by guest speaker Nina Fromhold.

Nina Fromhold is the founder of 'Memory Lane Life Stories', www.memorylanestories.com

Nina skilfully facilitated the event through a presentation and interactive workshop discussing

how, through sharing and recording our family stories, we can help create understanding across the generations.

Our appreciative audience of twenty-six people enthusiastically participated in the workshop by practising some of Nina's respectful tips and prompts on effective methods to preserve our lived history.

**Carol Mayell (GEHS Committee member/
volunteer)**

Vale Felicitie Elizabeth Campbell (26/1/1930 – 20/3/2025)

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of our foundation member and longtime President, Felicitie Campbell, who died on 20 March 2025 not far away at Mayflower Brighton Aged Care Home. Her long life was mostly lived at the family heritage home *Glenmoore* in the heart of Elsternwick. That her home and family have been a part of the City of Glen Eira's history since 1868, particularly in Elsternwick, only adds to the sense of the ending of an era. Felicitie was the

remaining foundation member of GEHS still on our Members Register.

Felicitie joined the Caulfield Historical Society at its inaugural meeting in 1972, subsequently taking on the President's role from September 1975. She continued as President until 2009 when she stepped into the Vice President's position when John O'Callaghan took the lead role as President. It was only in 2016 that Felicitie ended her time on Committee. Together with her husband (John) Jack Campbell, who was a former Mayor and Councillor for the City of Caulfield, Felicitie freely gave her time, support and commitment to the Society over

a very long period. She ensured that this community volunteer-run organisation is functioning today and that the value of Glen Eira's history is unquestioned. GEHS recognised her enormous contribution by appointing her an Honorary Life Member. We send our condolences to the Campbell Family.

It was my and current President Barbara Hoad's honour and privilege, along with Life Members John O'Callaghan (past President) and Vivienne O'Callaghan, to represent GEHS at Felicitie's funeral on 4 April 2025 at St John's Uniting Church Elsternwick.

Anne Kilpatrick (Secretary)



Felicitie pictured left at GEHS 10 years at 965 Glenhuntly Rd morning tea with John O'Callaghan, Vivienne O'Callaghan and Chris Mingos, 2019 (GEHS Collection)

Heritage Matters

For our March 2025 Speaker Series *Eyes on our Collection*, my contribution was a look at the **Elsternwick Structure Plan Heritage Review (Update)** prepared by the City of Glen Eira.

I chose to highlight this as an example of how valuable heritage reviews are in encapsulating a high level of research into the built history specifically, but also the broader history of our suburbs. Of course heritage reviews are the key documents for demonstrating local heritage

values for the Glen Eira Planning Scheme so that local heritage protection for individual places and precincts is put in place. We also love the embedded historical references (maps, photos, documents) which we frequently refer to when responding to the many research queries we receive. Here's a link to Council's webpage for the many heritage reviews, with more to come:

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/planning-and-building/heritage/heritage-studies>

10-16 Selwyn Street Elsternwick (Woolworths proposed development)

As mentioned in our March Newsletter, Woolworths lodged an Application for a Ministerial Permit on 10/12/2024 with a new set of plans (affordable housing, 9 storeys for the South tower and 10 storeys for the North tower). In our submission lodged in March 2025, we outlined our issues about this including concern about Woolworths simply walking away from their current Planning Permit obtained via VCAT.

Stop Press: *The Age* online is reporting on 4/7/25 that "Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny has approved two towers with 148 apartments and 11 storeys above a new Woolworths on the site of the former ABC studios in Elsternwick." You can read the full decision here:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planning-approvals/ministerial-permits-register/ministerial-permits/38c29f67-eab5-ef11-b8e8-000d3ad1b913>



Front page of Heritage Review (Photo RBA Architects+Conservation Consultants)

Department of Planning and Transport Ministerial decisions/approvals

Delays in Ministerial approvals continue for City of Glen Eira Planning Amendments, including Heritage Reviews. Apart from the planning amendment/heritage review reported below (**Good News #1**), there continues to be no clear information about why the Minister for Planning is delaying many of these decisions state-wide (not just in Glen Eira), with the risk that heritage is being side-lined. City of Glen Eira Councillors considered a report from Council officers at 30/06/2025 Council meeting, which outlined the actions taken by Council and staff to at least understand these delays –

meetings with the Minister for Planning, many emails and other communications. None of these stopped key announcements by the Minister/DTP which had not been conveyed to or consulted with the City of Glen Eira beforehand. This report (and the video – click on Watch the meeting online) of the item make compelling reading so I encourage you to read it by opening the Agenda pdf, go to page 4 and click on item 10.7 which will take you straight to the item:

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/about-council/meetings-and-agendas/council-agendas-and-minutes/ordinary-council-meeting-monday-30-june-2025>

BALACLAVA ROAD VICTORIAN GROUP

Address	Balaclava Road: 330 to 338A and 344 (north side), and 347 to 351 (south side)
Significance	Local
Construction Dates	1888-89
Period	Late Victorian period
Date Inspected	Mid-2019, Late 2022



338 and 338A Balaclava Road

Excerpt from front page of Heritage Report (Photo RBA Architects+Conservation Consultants)

continued on page 11

The report also gives a comprehensive and current update on all Glen Eira heritage-related Amendments and State Government Activity Centre plans so I am largely not repeating them here.

Good news #1: Balaclava Road Victorian Group – Planning Amendment C251

This heritage amendment was recently approved by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) with gazettal on 19/06/2025. (See photo on previous page.)

Good news #2: Glen Eira's Heritage Reviews are recommencing with a heritage review of Murrumbeena and the south-eastern section of Carnegie in 2025-2026.

This welcome decision was made by Council at their 10/06/2025 meeting when Councillors unanimously adopted the yearly report *Heritage Work Program Update 2025*. There are still further suburbs to be done but reviews are now progressing again. Here's the link to the Council Agenda for this meeting – open Agenda pdf and on page 4, click on item 10.11 to go straight to the report:

<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/about-council/meetings-and-agendas/council-agendas-and-minutes/ordinary-council-meeting-tuesday-10-june-2025>

Halstead, 23 Bambra Road Caulfield North (VHR H0450 / H010)

While the Interim Protection Order by Heritage Victoria over Lot 1 (front garden) has expired, the Hearing with Heritage Council Victoria was held on 16/05/2025 and a decision is expected by mid-August. You can keep an eye out for the decision via the link:

<https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/decisions/reviews-and-hearings>

467-473 Neerim Road, Murrumbeena - Glen Eira Planning Scheme Amendment C267glen and Planning Permit Application PA2403365

This proposal on the eastern edge of the Murrumbeena Shopping Centre on surplus

government land was approved by DTP on 23 May 2025. It rezoned the land to a Commercial 1 Zone and enabled development of the land for an 8 storey mixed-use development containing dwellings (including affordable housing) and a reduction in car parking and visitor bicycle parking at Neerim Road, Murrumbeena. Unfortunately we couldn't see any inclusion of the issues raised in our submission.

Caulfield Racecourse

You can find Mount Scopus's information of its plan (via *Project Generation*) to consolidate all its school locations in Caulfield East adjacent to the Racecourse along Kambrook and Booran Roads:

<https://www.projectgeneration.org.au/latest-news/>

Melbourne Football Club is continuing its plan to move training to Caulfield Racecourse, according to news reports.

Other

You may also be interested in the recent *Select Committee on Victoria Planning Provisions Amendments VC257, VC267 and VC274* by the Victorian Parliament's Legislative Council. This included consideration of current and future heritage issues in the planning world. Click on link below and scroll down to *Committee Final Report* 13 May 2025, p11 for the summary of Findings and Recommendations: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/VPPamendments/reports>

There's a lot going on and it is hard for everyone to keep up with it all, including us. If you hear of any issues which seem pertinent to GEHS's concerns, please email us.

Anne Kilpatrick (Secretary)

Seeking information about the Elsternwick Club

If you have any photographs, ephemera (brochures, invitations, menus, programmes) or anything about the early or more recent history of the Elsternwick Club at 19 Sandham St, Elsternwick we would love to hear from you.

You may have family members who were club members? We can scan your photos or documents if you wish to keep them.

The Elsternwick Club site was bought by Glen Eira Council in June 2024, (settlement mid 2027), with plans for a community facility in the house plus a garden/open space area.

It's a good time for us to collect any material relating to the heritage listed house (formerly Stanmere) and club before it is lost.

July 2025 Newsletter Editorial Team

Barbara Hoad, Carol Mayell

GLEN EIRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE

President / Treasurer - Barbara Hoad

Secretary / Vice-President - Anne Kilpatrick Committee - Carol Mayell

Committee meets monthly

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

Community Bank · Murrumbeena



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Appointments at other times may be arranged.

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