

New library gets green light

Glen Eira residents will have a new state-of-the-art library and multi-use community centre in Carnegie within 18 months, after Council gave the green light to the facility's design and construction.

The new Carnegie Library and Community centre, expected to be completed by September 2005, will feature a new library, playgroup building, playground area, extended car parking and a community centre. The facility will be linked to Carnegie's Koornang Road shopping strip via a landscaped pedestrian mall.

At its Ordinary Meeting on April 13, Council approved the facility's final design and awarded the construction contract to JA Dodd Pty Ltd.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said the new library and community centre exemplified Council's commitment to renewing and upgrading its ageing and inappropriate facilities.

He said the two-storey facility is the largest and most complex project Council has ever undertaken, involving more than three years of planning and extensive community consultation.

"After years of consultation with library users, community groups, residents and traders, we were pleased to find the final design has met with unanimous approval.

"Along the way Council has had to acquire additional properties, get the land rezoned, secure government funding, come up with a major and complex building design that suited all stakeholders and could be integrated with the shopping strip and growing urban village, and provide additional car parking spaces."

Cr Bury said the main aim of the new facility is to centralise Council services and community activities together in one location and integrate them with the shopping strip.

"The idea is for the library and community centre to be a one-stop-shop where people can borrow a book, attend a playgroup session, take part in other activities and then walk through to the shopping centre to do their shopping," Cr Bury said.

"It is an integrated facility that provides a wide range of options for all residents."

The main component of the new building will be a modern library on the ground floor featuring a program activity centre, children's area, training room, computer area and information desk. It will replace the current cramped shop-front library in Koornang Road.



Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury and Council's Chief Executive Officer Andrew Newton inspect the plans for the new library and community centre on-site at the facility's Carnegie location.
Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

The first floor community centre will have capacity for 200 people and consist of three large meeting rooms with flexible, moveable walls that can be opened to make one large room. It will also feature a commercial kitchen, two smaller meeting rooms, two counselling rooms, a storage area and outdoor covered balcony.

The facility will also feature a purpose-built playgroup centre with a secure playground for Monday to Friday use, as well as several covered walkways and extensive landscaping.

The front of the library and community centre features a foyer with fully retractable doors that connect it with a covered outdoor section and an adjacent playground.

"This area has been developed so that it cannot only be used as an indoor foyer to the library and community centre but it can also be opened and used as a central point that links the Carnegie shopping

strip, the outdoor playground and the tree-lined pedestrian mall," Cr Bury said.

The facility also includes 60 car parking spaces and Council is working towards improving traffic flow by creating a right of way and widening an existing right of way.

The project will cost a total of \$10.4 million — more than \$7 million for construction and the remainder for other preparatory works, design and property acquisition.

Council received a \$500,000 grant from State Government's *Living Libraries* program for the construction phase of the library. It also received a \$30,000 grant under the State Government's *Pride of Place* program towards the design cost.

Turn to pages 6 and 7 for an in-depth look at the new Carnegie Library and Community Centre project.

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Mayor's column



While the recent lack of decent rain is making our parks and gardens suffer, Council is working diligently towards their long-term improvement.

An enormous amount of work is going on at Princes Park in Caulfield South, which will be a showpiece for the City when work is completed later this year.

Work on Bentleigh-Hodgson Reserve is also due to start. This has taken somewhat longer than expected to get off the ground, but Council has taken its time to ensure the plans are best for the City — and I'm sure it will be worth waiting for.

Council's three, free *Party in the Park* celebrations in March allowed us to come together to enjoy our beautiful parks. Many thanks go to the Council staff involved in organising these successful events, and to the residents of Glen Eira for supporting these park festivities and in their thousands.

Our sense of community is what makes Glen Eira such a great City, and the ways in which we enjoy and celebrate our history and culture are as diverse as our community members. From the recent seniors festival activities to community forums held to discuss Council's *Municipal Strategic Statement* and community plan, we're celebrating, planning for and building upon the unique character and people of our City.

The citizenship ceremonies held at the Glen Eira Town Hall are very special occasions for Councillors. I have been fortunate enough to attend two of these ceremonies in my time as Mayor already, and have welcomed more than 220 new Australian citizens to Glen Eira. Many people wait a considerable time before making the decision to take on a new nationality — it is an important decision, and we are delighted that they have chosen to celebrate this choice with the City of Glen Eira.

But as we take time to celebrate we must also take time to reflect.

I recently laid wreaths at several memorials and at Council's Anzac service in Caulfield Park, and wish to give a special thanks to the various community representatives and groups who participated in these services. It was pleasing to see so many young people at the recent Anzac Day services — it is hard to believe that many of the brave soldiers who were lost, particularly in World War I, were not much older than the school children attending those services.

There is much to be thankful for in our great City, and I look forward to celebrating every aspect of it with the community that makes it so.

— Cr Bob Bury
Mayor

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Children celebrate diverse cultures

Council's Murrumbeena Children's Centre resembled the United Nations last month, when children celebrated cultures from around the world at a special open day and morning tea.

More than 60 people attended the event held especially for parents, grandparents and friends.

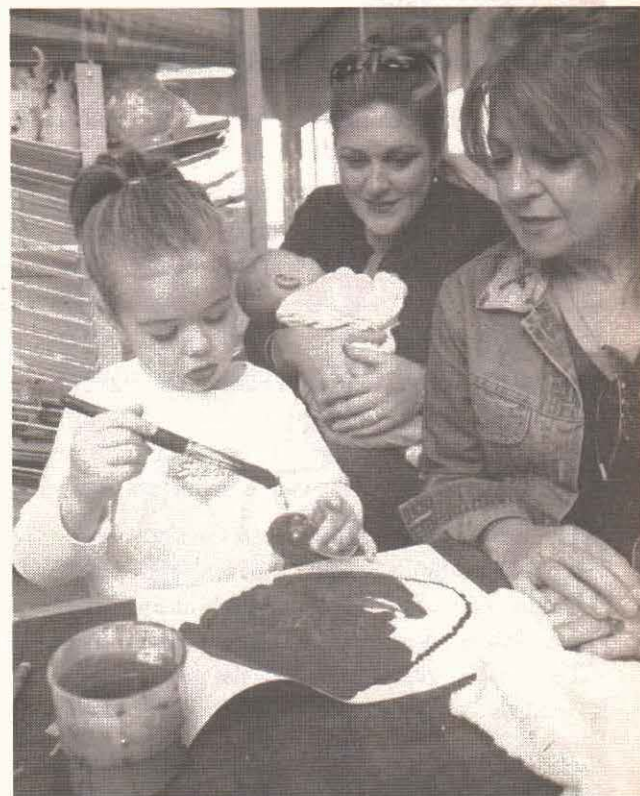
Council's Director Community Services Peter Jones said the morning tea was held to celebrate the children's different cultures and give parents and grandparents an opportunity to see what the children at the centre had learnt and made for the festive break.

"The centre has children from many backgrounds including Greek, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, French, Croatian, and Czech cultures," Mr Jones said.

"The children have learnt about what it means to celebrate religious festivals in different cultures and the morning tea provided a way of getting together and sharing these cultures and celebrate this important time with the children's loved ones."

The walls of the centre were filled with decorative posters of greetings from around the world such as *Kalo Pasha* (Greek) and *good yomtov* (Jewish).

The celebration also provided an opportunity for grandparents and friends to see what the children are doing and learning at the centre. The children took part in egg painting, played in the sandpit, enjoyed games and made artistic play doh sculptures.



Ruby aged 4 paints an egg bright red at Murrumbeena Children's Centre, while Mum Danielle, baby sister Maggie and Grandma Patty look on. Photo: Bernie Bickerton

Deadlines

The deadline for the next issue of the *Glen Eira News* is:

Wednesday 12 May for delivery 4-6 June 2004.

Coming deadlines:

Wednesday 9 June for delivery 2-4 July.

Wednesday 7 July for delivery 30 July-1 August

For advertising and *Community Diary* enquiries contact 9524 3431.

To submit editorial material write to:
Glen Eira News, PO Box 42, Caulfield South 3162
or email: editor@gleneira.vic.gov.au

Community grant applications

City of
GLEN
EIRA

Local non-profit community-based groups in Glen Eira are invited to apply for funds through Council's 2004-05 community grants program.

An information package which includes application forms is available for collection from Council's Service Centre or by calling 9524 3333.

The information is also available from Council's website www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

Applications close on Wednesday 30 June at 5pm (late applications will not be considered).

Councillor contacts

JASPER WARD



Cr Jamie Hyams

Phone/Fax:

9578 8966

Mobile:

0418 374 072

jhyams@gleneira.vic.gov.au



Cr Bob Bury

Phone: 9524 3225

Fax: 9524 3358

Mobile:

0418 317 128

mayor@gleneira.vic.gov.au



Cr Margaret Esakoff

Phone/Fax:

9578 2877

Mobile:

0407 831 893

mesakoff@gleneira.vic.gov.au

MACKIE WARD



Cr Veronika Martens

Phone: 9579 0297

Fax: 9579 7072

Mobile:

0419 218 474

vmartens@gleneira.vic.gov.au



Cr Rachelle Sapir

Phone/Fax:

9579 7218

Mobile:

0409 186 941

rsapir@gleneira.vic.gov.au



Cr Peter Goudge JP

Mobile:

0419 505 614

pgoudge@gleneira.vic.gov.au

ORRONG WARD



Cr Alan Grossbard JP

Phone/Fax:

9533 0052

Mobile:

0407 374 474

agrossbard@gleneira.vic.gov.au



Cr Dorothy Marwick

Phone/Fax:

9596 1459

Mobile:

0417 398 250

dmarwick@gleneira.vic.gov.au



Cr Noel Erlich

Phone/Fax:

9533 0054

Mobile:

0417 218 485

nerlich@gleneira.vic.gov.au

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

PO Box 42 Caulfield South 3162 Phone: 9524 3333 TTY: 9524 3496 Fax: 9523 0339

Email: mail@gleneira.vic.gov.au Website: www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

Anzac service honours Diggers

About 200 people braved cold conditions at Caulfield Park last month to attend Council's annual Anzac Memorial Civic Service, in honour of Anzac Day.

The service began with the City of Glen Eira Band and ex-service men and women or their descendants marching through the park to the Cenotaph war memorial.

In the crowd were ex-servicemen and women, local Members of Parliament, students from Kilvington Girls' Grammar, Glen Eira Secondary College and Leibler Yavneh College and members of the Caulfield RSL club, Carnegie RSL club, Bentleigh War Widows,

Caulfield St Kilda Legacy Widows Club, Polish Servicewomen, Victorian Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women and the 10th Caulfield Scouts.

Dignitaries including Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury, Major Michelle Agar from the 1st Petroleum Company of the Australian Army, local parliamentarians and representatives from local schools, service organisations and Scouts laid wreaths of remembrance at the base of the memorial.

Caulfield RSL Sub-branch President Michael Fidler delivered the Anzac address, Cr Bury read the Anzac ode and Carnegie RSL Sub-branch President Jack Hill read the Anzac requiem. The sounding of *The Last Post*, the minute's silence and *Reveille* brought back tearful memories for many loved ones and comrades. Glen Eira City Choir and the City of Glen Eira Band led the crowd in two hymns *Abide with me* and *Lead kindly light*, as well as *God Save the Queen* and *Advance Australia Fair*.

Cr Bury said that the service was a time to remember the first Anzac Day 89 years ago and the service of the members of the armed forces since then.

"Let us remember that our men and women are serving their country as we speak in East Timor, the Persian Gulf and other parts of the world," Cr Bury said.

"It is very pleasing to see such a large number of our young people taking their time to pay their respects to



Ex-service men and women and their families march through Caulfield Park at the start of Council's Anzac memorial service. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

those who lost their lives fighting for their country".

"Many of those who went to wars were only a few years older than many of the young people here today."



Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury and Council's Chief Executive Officer Andrew Newton lay a wreath of remembrance at the Cenotaph. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Land to benefit aged

Council will sell a 7,500 square metre block of land it owns in Carnegie on the proviso it is used only for aged accommodation.

Council approved the sale of the former Carnegie RSL Bowls Club site in Rosanna Street, Carnegie at a recent Ordinary Meeting.

Council's Manager Corporate Assets Tim Frederico said large blocks of land suitable for building aged accommodation were not readily available in Glen Eira.

He said this, coupled with the high community need for further aged accommodation in Glen Eira, prompted Council to put the specific land use clause as a condition of sale.



Council will sell the former Carnegie RSL Bowls Club site to be used for aged accommodation.

"Glen Eira has a high population of aged people and, according to Federal Government estimates, is believed to be several hundred beds short of the aged accommodation needed," Mr Frederico said.

"This site, due to its size, is one of few suitable sites remaining for aged accommodation in Glen Eira. The lack of suitable building sites means that new providers are less likely to build in Glen Eira.

"By making this land available for the development of aged accommodation, Council is helping to increase the City's capacity to support an adequate number of aged care beds."

The Carnegie RSL Bowls Club finished its lawn bowls activities at the site more than two years ago and has advised Council it will be permanently vacating the clubrooms due to a merger with the nearby Oakleigh District Sub-branch RSL.

"Council does not intend to undertake the development itself but to sell the site to a third party to do so, subject to a number of conditions designed to protect the amenity of nearby residents," Mr Frederico said.

"Council will use all proceeds from the sale for capital works to renew ageing community infrastructure, particularly parks and reserves."

A time to reflect and remember

Anzac Day is always a particularly poignant time for Glen Huntly resident Joyce Cleaves.

Mrs Cleaves attended Council's Anzac service in Caulfield Park, proudly wearing her father's medals.

Her father, Private Arthur Davern, not only served in the Boer War, but was also part of the 14th Battalion AIF during World War I and served in Gallipoli, where he was wounded in a battle at Suvla Bay in 1915.

His wounds ultimately led to his discharge from duty in 1916. After he returned home, he met and married Joyce's mother. Joyce was born in 1919 and her parents bought a home in Caulfield South in 1923 and started their life in Glen Eira.

After years of therapy at the repatriation hospital in Caulfield, Joyce's father died in 1927 and left behind Joyce, her mother and two siblings.

Joyce's family was helped by Legacy, an Australian organisation founded in Melbourne by ex-servicemen to care for the spouses and dependants of deceased servicemen.

As a member of Legacy, Joyce met her husband Joe, whose father was killed fighting in Belgium during World War I. Joyce and Joe married in 1942 and worked tirelessly to assist other war widows and orphans through the support services provided by Legacy.

Joyce has been a member of Legacy for 75 years and has helped raise more than \$40,000 to arrange holidays for disabled children of war widows, to provide respite to their mothers and carers.



Joyce Cleaves of Glen Huntly wears the medals awarded to her father. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Language line

Εγκρίθηκε η ανοικοδόμηση της νέας βιβλιοθήκης

Μια νέα εντελώς σύγχρονη βιβλιοθήκη και κοινοτικό κέντρο πολλαπλών χρήσεων θα είναι έτοιμα για χρήση των κατοίκων της Glen Eira σε 18 μήνες, μετά την έγκριση των κτιριακών σχεδίων και έργων ανοικοδόμησης από τη Δημαρχία τον περασμένο μήνα.

Η νέα Βιβλιοθήκη και Κοινοτικό Κέντρο Carnegie, αναμένεται να αποπερατωθεί κατά τον Σεπτέμβριο 2005, και θα περιλαμβάνει μια νέα βιβλιοθήκη, κοινοτικό κέντρο, κτίριο για ομάδες παιχνιδιού, παιδική χαρά, μεγάλο χώρο στάθμευσης αυτοκινήτων, μεγάλο χώρο πρασίνου και σκεπασμένους διαδρόμους πεζών. Οι εγκαταστάσεις θα συνδέονται με την εμπορική ζώνη της οδού Koornang Road στο Carnegie μέσω ενός πεζόδρομου με πράσινο.

Ο Δήμαρχος Glen Eira κ. Bob Bury είπε ότι η νέα βιβλιοθήκη και κοινοτικό κέντρο αποτελούν ένα παράδειγμα της δέσμευσης της Δημαρχίας για ανανέωση και αναβάθμιση των παλιών και ακατάλληλων εγκαταστάσεων του Δήμου.

Ανέφερε ότι οι εγκαταστάσεις αποτελούν το μεγαλύτερο και το πιο πολύπλοκο έργο που έχει αναλάβει ποτέ η Δημαρχία, για το οποίο απαιτήθηκε τριετής προγραμματισμός και εκτενείς κοινοτικές διαβουλεύσεις.

"Ο κύριος στόχος των νέων εγκαταστάσεων είναι να συγκεντρώσει τις δημαρχιακές υπηρεσίες και κοινοτικές δραστηριότητες σε ένα κεντρικό σημείο και να τις ενσωματώσει με την εμπορική ζώνη," ανέφερε ο κ. Bury.

Το καινούριο κτίριο θα έχει μια σύγχρονη βιβλιοθήκη με χώρο για προγράμματα δραστηριοτήτων, χώρο για παιδιά, εκπαιδευτική αίθουσα, χώρο για υπολογιστές και γραφείο πληροφοριών. Θα αντικαταστήσει την υπάρχουσα μικρή δημοτική βιβλιοθήκη στην οδό Koornang Road.

Одобен проект новой библиотеки

В прошлом месяце муниципалитет Glen Eira одобрил дизайн и проект строительства новой современной библиотеки и многофункционального общественного центра. Проект должен быть закончен в течение 18 месяцев.

Библиотека и общественный центр в районе Carnegie будут готовы к эксплуатации к сентябрю 2005г. В проекте предусмотрены новая библиотека, здание общественного центра, игровая площадка, расширенная автостоянка, большой сквер и пешеходные дорожки с навесами. Будет также сооружен пешеходный переход в торговый центр на улице Koornang Road.

Мэр муниципалитета Glen Eira, член муниципального совета г-н Bob Bury сказал, что проект новой библиотеки и общественного центра - это еще один пример активной деятельности муниципалитета по усовершенствованию и обновлению устаревшей инфраструктуры.

Г-н Bury отметил, что это самый крупный и сложный проект в истории муниципалитета: планирование и интенсивные общественные обсуждения заняли в общей сложности более трех лет.

"Главная задача нового комплекса - объединение муниципальных услуг и общественных мероприятий в одном месте, и интеграция с торговым центром", сказал г-н Bury.

В новом здании предусмотрены современная библиотека, детские и учебные помещения, компьютерная комната и информационная служба. Новый комплекс заменит собой нынешнюю муниципальную библиотеку в маленьком помещении на улице Koornang Road.

Approvata la nuova biblioteca

Entro 18 mesi i cittadini del comune di Glen Eira potranno servirsi di una nuova modernissima biblioteca e centro comunitario multiuso, in seguito all'approvazione del progetto e della costruzione il mese scorso da parte del consiglio comunale.

Nel complesso Carnegie Library and Community Centre, la cui apertura è prevista per settembre del 2005, vi sarà una nuova biblioteca, una sala dei "playgroup" per bambini, un campo da gioco, parcheggio ad orario prolungato, giardini e passaggi pedonali coperti. Il centro sarà collegato ai negozi di Koornang Road tramite una bella passeggiata.

Il sindaco di Glen Eira, il consigliere Bob Bury, ha detto che la nuova biblioteca/centro comunitario conferma l'impegno del comune nei confronti del rinnovo e la sostituzione di vecchie strutture inadatte.

Il sindaco ha detto che si tratta della struttura più grande e più complessa mai progettata dal comune e che ha necessitato di più di tre anni di preparazione, accompagnata da un'ampia consultazione comunitaria.

"Obiettivo principale della nuova struttura è di riunire in un unico centro i servizi comunali e le attività della comunità, integrandole con il centro commerciale," ha detto il sindaco.

Del complesso faranno parte una moderna biblioteca con aree riservate alle attività programmate e ai bambini, una sala per la formazione, una sala computer e un banco informazioni. Il complesso prenderà il posto dell'attuale piccola biblioteca di Koornang Road.

Opportunity

Would you like to feel like you are making a difference?

Revitalise yourself and strengthen the local community by becoming a volunteer.

Gain skills and new friends too.

Compassionate, self-aware volunteers are needed at Community Information Glen Eira Inc. A training course will be provided. For more information call Laurel at Community Information Glen Eira Inc. on 9524 3200.

Social support volunteers needed

to participate in a valuable community service.

The Social Support and Monitoring Service, part of the Home and Community Care program (HACC) is seeking volunteers to assist elderly or disabled residents of Glen Eira. Volunteer tasks include assistance with shopping, transport and friendly visiting. A car is necessary for this volunteer work.

If you have good communication skills, enjoy the company of older people and are available for a couple of hours a week or fortnight, please contact the volunteer co-ordinator Susan Rutherford on 9524 3314.

Glen Huntly Friendship Group

99 Grange Road, Glen Huntly
Activities for May

Enquiries and bookings
Margaret 9596 6124

Wednesday 26 May and Thursday 27 May
A two day trip to Bendigo

This popular town and its surrounds are full of attractions and interests. It owes much to its unique ethnic character. Overnight dinner, bed and breakfast at Heritage Motor Inn. Time 8.30am from 99 Grange Road, Glen Huntly and 8.45am at 185 Poath Road, Hughesdale.
Cost: \$135 all inclusive.

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Council adopts disability policy

Council has put the official stamp on its commitment to make Glen Eira an inclusive place for local residents with disabilities, by adopting a disability policy.

By adopting the policy, Council aims to provide leadership in the community in promoting awareness, positive community attitudes and responses towards people of all abilities.

The policy confirms the goals and objectives that Council has been working on since the conception of its disability action plan in 1998. The plan, which is currently under review, was introduced to ensure the

rights of people of all abilities to be fully participating members of the community are upheld.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said about 15 per cent of Glen Eira residents have a disability.

"The policy will assist Council to update and maintain the current disability action plan, actively consult with disability representatives, ensure accessibility to Council's events and services and ensure that work practices and opportunities are not discriminatory to people with disabilities," Cr Bury said.

"The policy has four key areas which are, compliance with the *Disability Discrimination Act*, development of a culture of inclusion, ensuring a physically accessible environment and being a community leader."

Council also has a Disability Reference Committee which meets on a bi-monthly basis and comprises Council staff and five members from the community who have a disability or are carers of people with disabilities.

Cr Bury said the aim of Council's Disability Reference Committee, disability policy and disability action plan is to ensure Council's services are available to people of all abilities.

"Council recognises that many barriers exist to some conventional services and activities which can be eliminated with community consultation and forethought," he said.

"With the aid of the policy, Council hopes to improve access to all facilities, information and programs it runs to achieve a planned, co-ordinated and flexible approach to service provisions for people of all abilities and create opportunities to enable them and their carers to participate fully in the community."



Tac tiles which Council has installed in footpaths at intersections help mobility impaired residents such as Greta Daniel.

Photos: Bernie Bickerton



Visually impaired resident Wanda Edgerton uses Braille signage to find her way around the Glen Eira Town Hall.

Dog prosecution first for Council

A Bentleigh East dog owner whose two American pit bull terriers attacked a couple and their dog has been convicted and fined in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court for failing to comply with tough restricted breed dog laws.

The dog owner was fined a total of \$2,500 and ordered to pay \$2,336 in costs after pleading guilty to 11 charges including not providing a secure enclosure for his restricted breed dogs, having dogs at large and for an animal attack on a person.

It is the first time since the restricted breed dog legislation became effective in November 2002 that Council has prosecuted a dog owner for failing to comply with the new laws.

Council's prosecutor Alan Katz told the court that Council had advised the dog owner by letter in August 2003 that he needed to build a secure enclosure for his two dogs, as required under the State Government's restricted breed dogs legislation.

A follow-up inspection in October 2003 found he had not built the enclosure and he was given 60 days to comply. A further inspection in December, after the dogs were reported to be roaming in Dega Avenue, Bentleigh East, found the property still did not comply with the requirements.

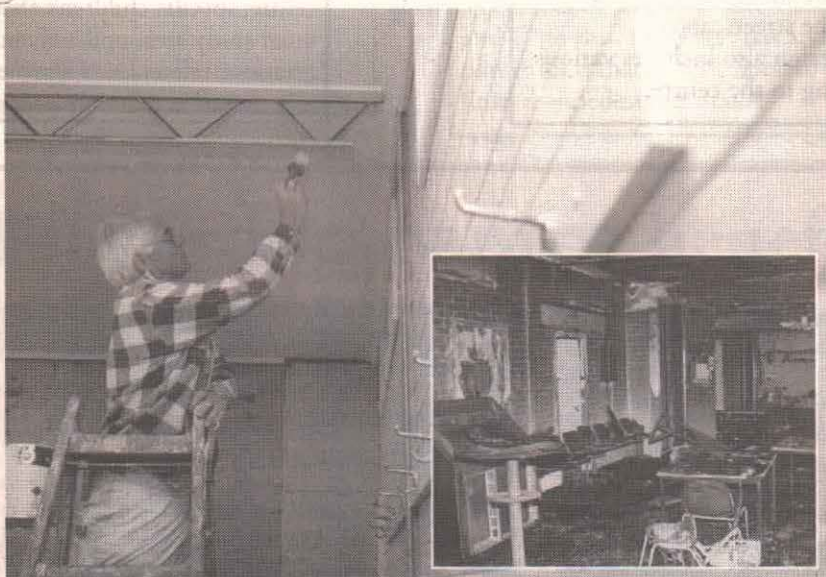
Later that month the two dogs escaped from the property and attacked a Bentleigh East couple walking their female Schnauzer dog. The attack resulted in a woman falling to the ground, her husband being bitten on the left foot and their dog suffering 18 puncture wounds.

The *Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994*, along with Council's Local Law requires that restricted breed dogs are kept in an enclosure built to specific requirements so they cannot escape. Warning signs must be displayed at the property's entrance and restricted dogs must be leashed and muzzled when they are away from the property.

Council's Manager Civic Amenity Carl Russo said the restricted breed dog legislation was put in place to protect the community from known dangerous breeds of dogs.

"Council sees dog attacks as a serious issue and will prosecute any dog owners who fail in their responsibilities," Mr Russo said.

Council rebuilds damaged pavilion



The finishing touches go on the new roof at Mackie Road Reserve pavilion. Inset: The pavilion immediately after the fire.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

The new-look Mackie Road Reserve pavilion in Bentleigh East is beginning to take shape after being ravaged by fire earlier this year.

The pavilion, which is home to four local sporting clubs, suffered about \$200,000 damage when fire swept through the building in January.

The fire damaged about 70 per cent of the pavilion including the scoreboard, roof and kitchen.

The fire also caused damage to the interior of the building with white goods, carpets, curtains and

windows being either melted or damaged by water.

Council began works to repair the pavilion in late March. Changes to the design have been made after consultation with user clubs and Council's insurers.

Council's Manager Corporate Assets Tim Frederico said Council took immediate remedial action, barricading the pavilion to ensure the site was safe for park users and providing portable change rooms at the reserve for the local sporting clubs.

"The pavilion was partially demolished and damaged sections of the building were removed," Mr Frederico said.

"The existing damaged roof was also removed and a new deck roof has been installed."

After extensive rewiring, power has been reinstated to the reserve floodlights to enable sports clubs to continue training at the reserve.

The pavilion will gain a brand new kitchen which will include cabinets, sinks, a new floor surface and a more open, user-friendly layout will be installed in the coming weeks.

The works at the pavilion are scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

Read, meet, play — Carnegie's centre of community

What's what at the new

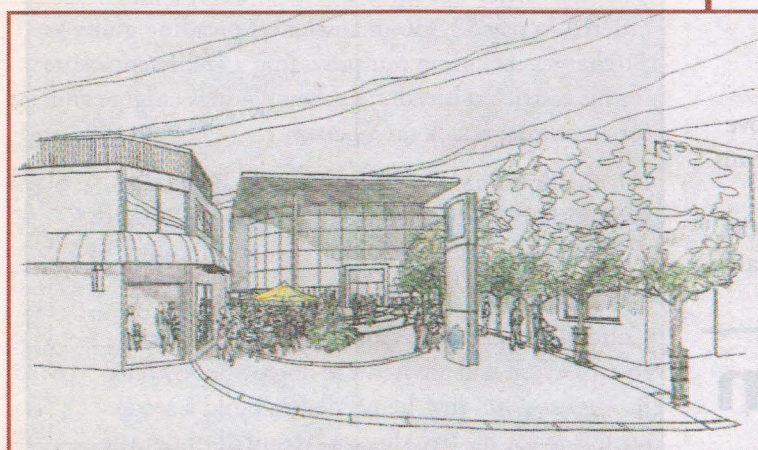
Carnegie Library and Community Centre

Council has approved the final design of the new Carnegie Library and Community Centre after three years of consultation with library users, community groups, residents and traders.

The design, prepared by architects Perrott Lyon Mathieson, is for a part two-storey multipurpose facility featuring a library, community centre, playgroup centre, large multi-purpose foyer, playground, additional car parking, landscaping and a landscaped pedestrian mall linking the centre to Carnegie's Koornang Road shopping centre.

The centre will have access for people of all abilities, including a lift and toilets for people with disabilities.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of August 2005.



An architect's impression of the pedestrian mall which links Carnegie Shopping Centre with the new Carnegie Library and Community Centre.

Design: Perrott Lyon Mathieson.

From cramped to comfortable

For the past 20 years Council's Carnegie library has operated from a small shop-front in the Koornang Road shopping centre. The current building has long-since outgrown its usefulness as a library, proving too small to meet the needs of today's users.

Council's Manager Library and Information Services Sue Webster said the new library would be four times the size of the existing library and provide a wide range of services and activity areas for users.

A key feature will be a program activity centre where Council events such as the school holiday program, authors' talks, Children's Book Week, school group visits and seniors festival events can be held.

Ms Webster said Council has previously held some of these events at other library branches and locations because of the lack of space at Carnegie.

"The new library will give Council the opportunity to centralise these events at the library," Ms Webster said.

The library will also have a specific children's area, a training room and quiet study area, updated computer facilities, an extensive magazine/newspaper and

language reference area as well as a fiction and non-fiction collections.

"The children's area will include a children's book collection and will hold special events such as Council's *Storytime* program," Ms Webster said.

"Internet classes will be held in the training room and there will be four times the number of computers available."

The library's design provides an open and visible layout to enable residents to use the library for different needs while making them aware of other programs and events that are happening in the library.

Ms Webster said library users can appreciate what is happening without being interrupted or impacted.

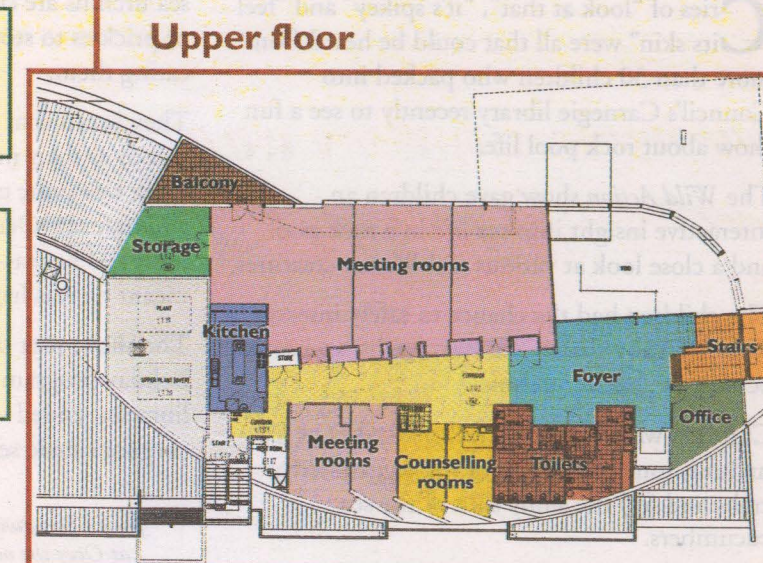
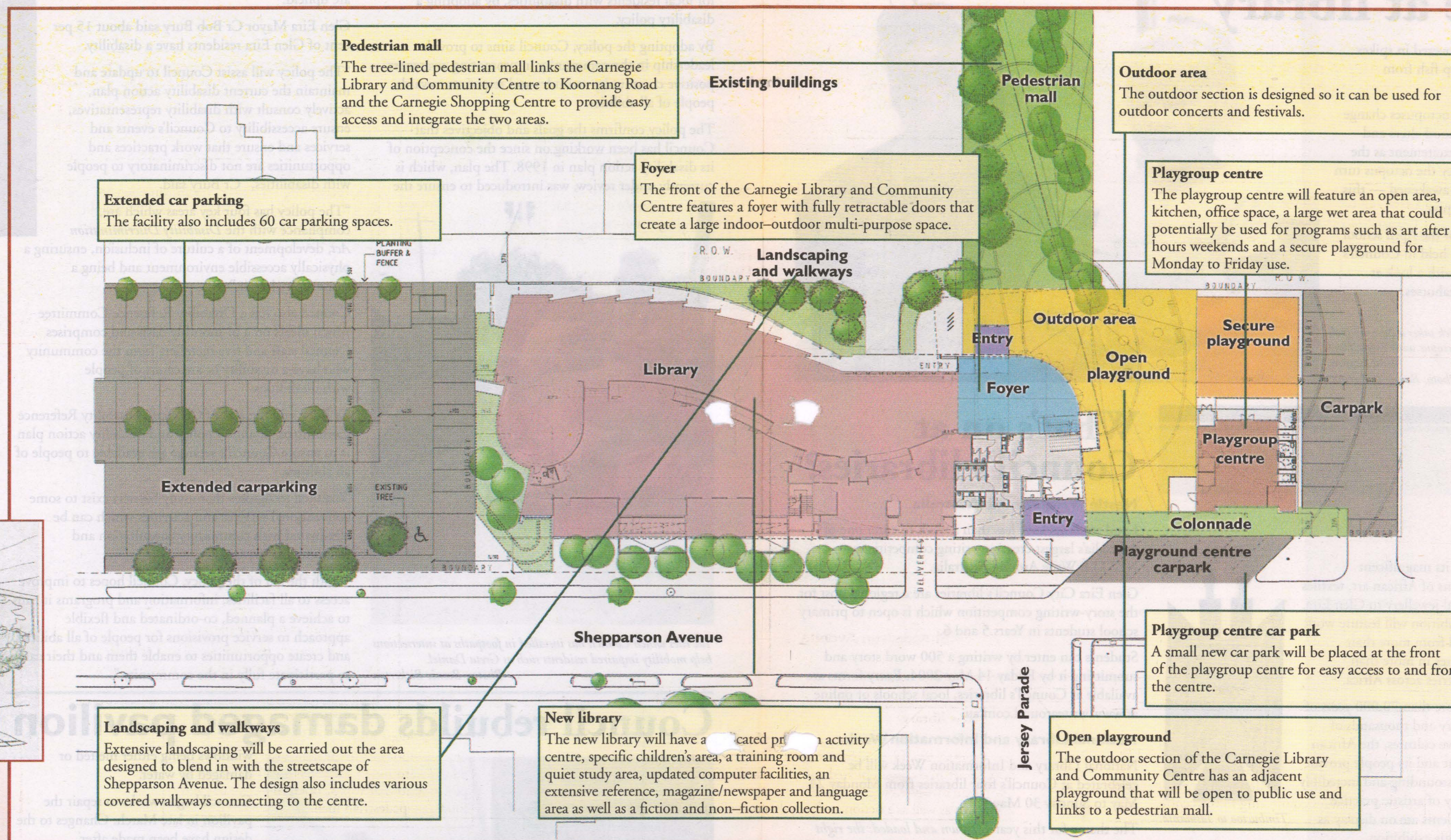
"At the entrance to the library, staff will be on hand at the information desk to offer assistance if required. Visitors can then move on to look at reference material, use the computer facilities, sit and read or



Cramped conditions at the current Carnegie library mean events such as Storytime sessions are held in busy collection areas. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

select books to borrow," Ms Webster said.

"The design allows for a continuous flow of people through the library using the different facilities, without causing interruption to people using the quiet study areas or computers."



Upper floor — community centre

Meeting rooms
The community centre will fit 200 people and have three large meeting rooms with flexible, moveable walls that can be opened to make one large room.

Counselling rooms
There will also be two small meeting rooms and two counselling rooms that can be used by Council's maternal and child health and youth services. It is hoped that other community services such as legal aid and financial planning will operate out of the centre in future.

Kitchen and storage
The centre will also have a commercial kitchen and a storage area that will also be available for the community centre's key users, such as older persons groups.

Balcony
An adjoining outdoor covered balcony can be used for barbecues and other outdoor events.

Playgroup centre benefits families

More than 100 families will benefit from Council's new purpose-built playgroup centre to be located at the new Carnegie Library and Community Centre.

Council's Manager Family and Community Support Marg Sullivan said playgroups provide support and social options mothers and children from birth to kindergarten age.

"Playgroups offer structured, creative activities and informal play activities for children and assist in preventing isolation for new mothers and their children," Ms Sullivan said.

"This new playgroup centre will allow Council to specifically meet growing needs of toddlers and their parents."

The new facility will meet children's services regulations and will be registered to cater for 25 children. It will feature a secure playground for playgroup use only, an open space with kitchen, office space and a wet area.

The new playgroup centre will replace the previous Jersey Parade playgroup facility which was held in a converted house.

"This upgraded facility will be safe and highly accessible because of its secure playground and new car parking spaces directly outside the centre," Ms Sullivan said.

Ms Sullivan said Council conducted extensive consultation on the new facility with Jersey Parade playgroup representatives and other playgroup users.

"The groups had input about the playground and one of the needs was to have a highly visible playground from inside the centre and for the equipment in the playground to be toddler specific," she said.



Parents and toddlers in Glen Eira will benefit from the new purpose-built playgroup centre in Carnegie. Photo: Les O'Rourke.

"The new playgroup encompasses all these needs and it will also complement the library and community centre."

Library

Ocean adventure at library

Cries of "look at that", "it's spikey" and "feel its skin" were all that could be heard from more than 30 children who packed into Council's Carnegie library recently to see a fun show about rock pool life.

The *Wild Action* show gave children an interactive insight into sea life in a rock pool and a close look at various real-life sea creatures.

The children had the chance to safely interact with live baby sharks, sea stars, crabs, seahorses, octopuses and sea urchins.

Children were invited to feel the spikes of sea urchins, touch the shells of red-legged hermit crabs and feel the slimy skin of the sea cucumbers.

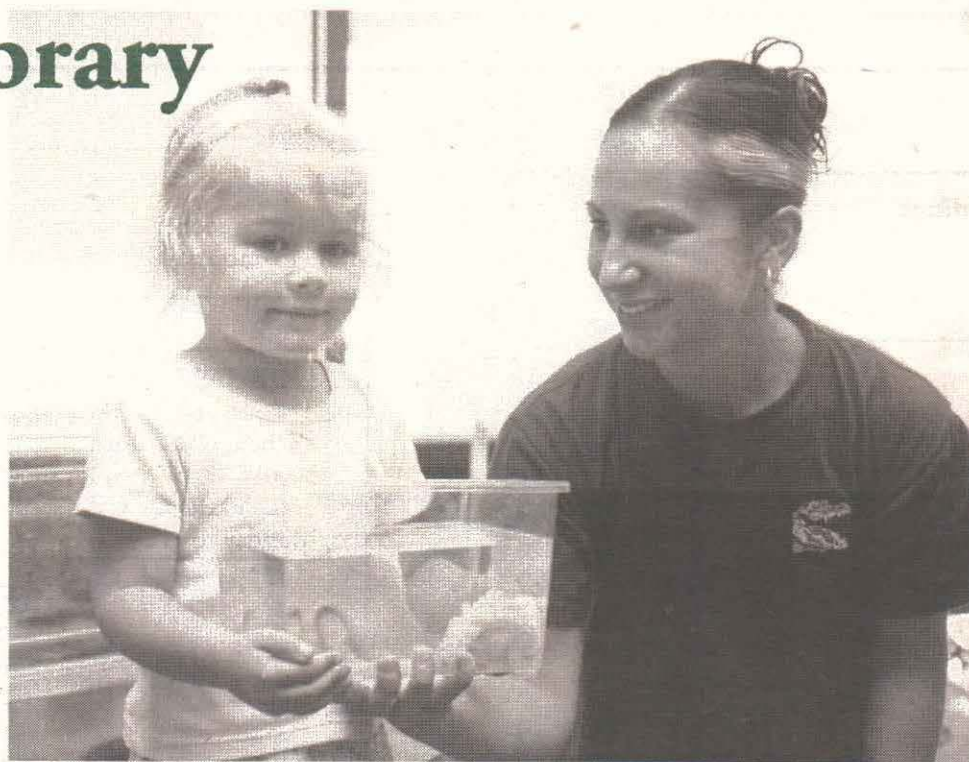
They were told about how sea stars have bones on their exterior to protect themselves and how

sea urchins are covered in spikes or prickles to stop fish from eating them.

They learnt that octopuses change colour as their mood alters and there was some excitement as the children saw Occy the octopus turn brown as he was awakened — this meant he was happy.

The show, part of the April school holiday program held in Council's libraries, ended with a look at pregnant male seahorses.

Jessica Strudwick takes a close-up look at Occy the octopus with Kayla from Wild Action.
Photo: Bernie Bickerton.



Arts

Exhibitions

Bid for freedom

Opens Wednesday 5 May and continues until Sunday 9 May. The auction will be held on Sunday 9 May at 2pm

This exhibition features paintings, photographs and sculptures by some of the Australian art community's most acclaimed and rising artists. The works will be be auctioned to raise funds for Brigadine nuns to aid their work with refugees.

Real estate personality and experienced auctioneer Phillippe Batters will auction works from artists including Wolfgang Sievers, Wendy Stavrianos, John Howley, Ron Tandberg, Judy Horoczek and Morris Lurie. Last year's event raised more than \$70,000.

Probus Association of Victoria 20th anniversary arts, crafts and hobbies exhibition

Opens Thursday 13 May and continues until Thursday 20 May. To be opened by Dame Elizabeth Murdoch on Thursday May 13 at 2pm.

This exhibition aims to provide the local community with an inspiring demonstration of the creative capacity and artistic abilities of elder members of the community.

It showcases more than 600 exhibits including embroidery, tapestry, oil, watercolours, pastel drawing, woodwork, patchwork, knitting, quilting and bobbin lace-making demonstrations, the diverse talents of Probus members will be showcased.

Some of the works displayed will be available for sale and a small entry fee will be charged. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Probus Association of Victoria Inc.

Timbuctoo to Tasmania

Opens Wednesday 26 May and continues until Sunday 13 June.

This is the eighth year Hobart's Sidewalk Gallery has

brought its magnificent collections of African art, textiles and tribal jewellery to Glen Eira. The exhibition will feature work collected from more than 80 cultures in more than 25 countries across Africa.

With more than 70,000 years of art history and thousands of distinctive cultures, the African continent and its people provide a truly astounding and incredibly rich array of artistic practice. These talents are on display as part of this exhibition.



Timbuctoo to Tasmania.

Literary awards

Entries are now being accepted for the 2004 Glen Eira City Council Literary Awards which offer \$8,000 in cash and prizes.

The awards are separated into two sections, local and national and include categories for short stories, poetry, screenplays and stage plays. There are also youth and junior sections.

This year's judges include Miles Franklin Award winner Frank Moorhouse, screenwriter and actor Elise McCredie, playwright Ben Ellis, and authors Archimede Fusillo, Leonie Stevens and Andy Griffiths.

For further information and entry forms contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333, visit Council's website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au or email arts@gleneira.vic.gov.au. Entries close on Friday 25 June 2004.

The literary awards are sponsored by Classic Cinema, Sunflower Bookshop, Baha'i Community and Eastend Booksellers.

What's on at Council's libraries?

Nestlé Write Around Australia

Local students have less than a week to enter one of Australia's largest creative writing competitions — NESTLÉ Write Around Australia.

Glen Eira City Council's libraries are a regional host for the story-writing competition which is open to primary school students in Years 5 and 6.

Students can enter by writing a 500 word story and submitting it by Friday 14 May 2004. Entry forms are available at Council's libraries, local schools or online at www.writearound.com.au.

National Library and Information Week

National Library and Information Week will be celebrated at Council's four libraries from Monday 24 May to Sunday 30 May.

The theme for this year is *Down and loaded: the right information at the right time* which is designed to acknowledge and celebrate the innovative activities and services provided by library and information specialists.

To celebrate National Library and Information Week, Council will hold the following events at its libraries:

Can you stump the Librarian?

Test the librarian's knowledge and research skills at Caulfield and Bentleigh libraries. Think of a question, write it on a sheet and leave it at the information desk. Librarians will have 24 hours to find the answer. Completed answers will be placed on the display board at the branch. The question judged the best for the week by library staff will win a \$50 book voucher.

It's Eira's birthday

Be a special guest at Eira's birthday party. Eira will have a party at each *Storytime* session with birthday stories, songs, party hats, and Eira lolly bags.

Search the answer — online competition

Enter Council's online competition to win a \$50 book voucher. The answers are all a simple click away. Go to the library page at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au for details.

Internet sites with a difference

Remember to collect the library's guide to interesting websites.

Plans afoot for shopping strips

Council will hold community consultation workshops as part of a project to plan for Glen Eira's network of strip shopping centres.

The Glen Eira Activity Centre Strategy aims to determine the place of Glen Eira's 35 strip shopping centres, or activity centres, in the overall centre network in accordance with the State Government's metropolitan planning strategy, *Melbourne 2030*.

Council's Director City Development Jeff Akehurst said an activity centre is where people shop, work, meet, relax and live.

"The purpose of the strategy is to review and develop a new hierarchy of activity centres in Glen Eira that identifies where each centre is positioned, the

relationship between the centres in the overall network and opportunities and future directions for the centres," Mr Akehurst said.

"This will allow Council to identify each of the centre's strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities for the future and will give Council an outlook for retailing, commercial and residential activity."

Mr Akehurst said the information from the strategy will allow Council to prepare an action plan that identifies key issues and priorities in planning for each centre that will form the basis of a longer term strategic planning work program.

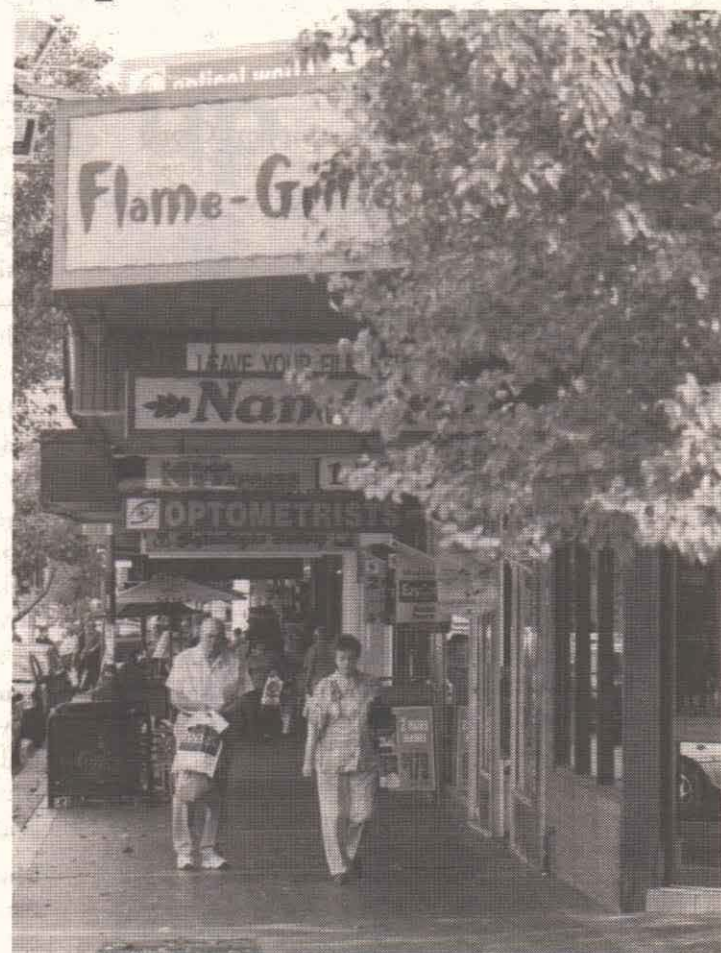
Council has engaged Peter McNabb and Associates to prepare the strategy that is jointly funded by Council and the Department of Sustainability and Environment under the *Melbourne 2030* implementation program. The project is expected to finish in August.

Council will hold two rounds of stakeholder workshops during the project with the first round to be held in May to discuss issues and opportunities for each activity centre, and the second round in July to discuss the draft activity centre strategy.

The workshops exclude the City's three urban villages of Bentleigh, Elsternwick and Carnegie which are being covered in separate workshops as part of Council's urban design framework project.

Workshop one: All activity centres north of North Road

Wednesday 19 May 7pm-9pm
Caulfield Cup Room
Glen Eira Town Hall,
corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield.



Council will consult with traders, shoppers, residents and workers as part of the Glen Eira Activity Centre Strategy. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Workshop two: All centres south of North Road

Thursday 20 May 7pm-9pm
Progress Hall
118 McKinnon Road, McKinnon

To register attendance for one or more of the workshops contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

Olympic flame route set

Local residents can witness a part of history on Saturday 5 June when the 2004 Olympic torch relay journeys through Glen Eira on its way to the Athens Olympics.

Torchbearers will carry the Olympic flame into Glen Eira along Balaclava Road in St Kilda East in the early afternoon. The torch will then turn left into Kooyong Road in Caulfield North and travel up to the Dandenong Road intersection where the relay will continue into the City of Stonnington.

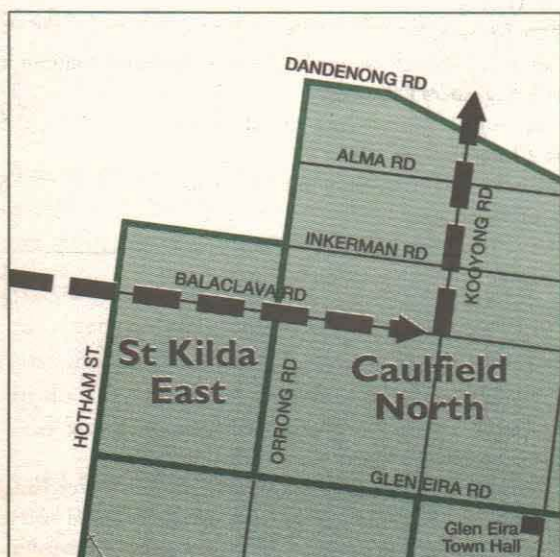
Glen Eira is one of only six Melbourne municipalities chosen to be a part of the torch's route to Athens. Australia is the first stop for the torch relay which will visit Sydney on Friday 4 June before heading to Melbourne. The relay will then continue its 33-city global journey back to Athens for the opening ceremony on 13 August.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said he expected the flame's arrival to re-ignite the City's Olympic passion and called on Glen Eira residents to turn out to support torchbearers on their journey.

"Residents have a unique opportunity to be a part of this a special international event. I urge as many people as possible to go along and applaud the torchbearers," Cr Bury said.

There will be 133 torchbearers carrying the flame on its 60-kilometre journey through Melbourne including past and present Olympians, Melbourne identities and members of the general public.

Specific timings of the Glen Eira leg of the relay will be available closer to the event. Contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 for details.



The route the Olympic torch relay will take through Glen Eira.

Property values up in Glen Eira

Initial figures from Council's biennial property valuation show a strong rate of growth across the City.

Property values in Glen Eira have increased by an average of 24 per cent since the completion of the last valuation in 2002 — equating to an increase in Capital Improved Value of close to \$4.5 billion.

State Government legislation requires all councils in Victoria to conduct property valuations every two years. The new valuations will be used by councils to levy rates and by the State Government to levy Land Tax.

Conducted by specialists under contract to Council, the valuations are determined with reference to all property transactions that occurred within Glen Eira around the valuation date of 1 January 2004.

Residential properties showed an increase of 24 per cent across the board, while commercial and industrial property growth was lower at 18 per cent. Stand-alone dwellings increased by an average of 23 per cent and flats and units averaged a 25 per cent increase.

Values also varied across suburbs for both houses and units, but a significant proportion of units increased in value by more than 25 per cent. Catering to entry-level property buyers and investors, purchases of the smaller, older and cheaper units have increased dramatically, assisted by the first home buyers' grant and investors' appetites for property.

Council's Rate and Valuations Co-ordinator Wilbur Scully said that while property value increases had been seen across the board, the wide range of movements

behind the averages would mean that individual properties would be affected differently.

"The common misconception is that increased property values automatically leads to increased rate revenue for Council," Mr Scully said.

"Council's rate revenue does not increase just because property values have increased — rates are redistributed according to shifts in the value of properties across the municipality.

"The preliminary revaluation figures indicate that the distribution of rates will shift slightly towards residential properties, while commercial properties will be paying slightly less."

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Community diary

Meetings and clubs

St. Peter's East Bentleigh Cancer Support Group meets at St Peter's Parish Centre, 844 Centre Road, Bentleigh East on the first Thursday of every month at 10.30am. Contact: 9579 4255.

Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga offers courses in meditation for beginners at 275 McKinnon Road, McKinnon on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm and positive thinking courses on the first Wednesday. Voluntary contributions are welcome. Bookings essential. Contact: 9578 9955.

Club 66 holds old-time, modern and new vogue dances with live band at the Bentleigh Uniting Church hall, 495 Centre Road, Bentleigh on the first and third Saturday of each month at 8pm. Cost: \$6. Contact: 9587 1092.

Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary (Caulfield branch) meets at the Alma Club, 1 Wilks Street, Caulfield North on the third Wednesday of each month (February–November) at 1pm. New members welcome. Contact: Olive 9578 2395 or Pat 9571 2666.

The Life Activities Club Caulfield will meet in the Gladys Machin Hall, Cedar Street, Caulfield on Wednesday 19 May at 7.30pm. New members welcome. Guest speaker. Contact: 9568 5849.

Young Mothers' Group for mothers up to 25 years meets at the Bentleigh Bayside Community Health Service, Gardeners Road, Bentleigh East every Thursday 10am–12pm. Free child care available. Contact: Denise 9575 5349.

Over 40s Club dance. All ages — old-time, modern, new vogue at Ormond Uniting Church, corner North and Booran Roads, Ormond, on second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 7.45pm. Supper and live music. Cost: \$7. Contact: 9570 4564.

Bentleigh Life Activities Club offers opportunities to meet new friends and enjoy social activities such as carpet bowls, table tennis and theatre outings. New members welcome. Contact: 9557 2562.

Little Steps Playgroup meets in the lower hall at St Catharine's Anglican Church corner Clarence Street and Kooyong Road, Caulfield South, on Tuesday and Wednesday 9.30am–11.30am and Thursday from 10am–12pm. Contact: Stephen 0412 267 437 or Gillian 0414 568 272.

Caulfield Park Croquet Club will hold lessons for beginners at Caulfield Park, enter via Balaclava Road, Caulfield, every Tuesday at 10.30am. Contact: 9596 3845.

Moorabbin Historical Society opens Box Cottage in Joyce Park, Jasper Road, McKinnon on the last Sunday of each month 2pm–4.30pm. Admission by donation. Contact: 9578 7060.

4th Caulfield Cubs and Scouts meet weekly in Birch Street, Caulfield South. Activities and weekend camps for girls and boys. Cubs: 7½–10 years. Scouts: 11–14 years. Contact: Jo or Steve on 9505 6995.

Community

Visiting Friends, St John Ambulance seeks volunteers to visit individuals living in aged care homes. Volunteers will assist with social outings. Contact: Jim 9736 2123 or Wendy 9737 1053.

U3A Glen Eira seeks voluntary tutors to teach drawing and French post-beginners to retired senior citizens. Contact: 9572 0571 between 10am and 3pm.

Ogonyok Multicultural Association of Russian Women, a Russian social support/educational group, seeks volunteers to assist with administration and driving. Russian and English speaking volunteers welcome. Contact: 9570 8480 or 0416 251 317.

Family Drug Help, a 24-hour telephone support service staffed by volunteers, seeks volunteers who have had to deal with drug or alcohol related issues in their family or friendship circle. Contact: 1300 660 068.

Events

Music Lovers' Society will hold a concert at St Paul's Anglican Church, 530 Dandenong Road, Caulfield North on Saturday 15 May at 8pm. Cost: \$15–\$35. Members free. Contact: 9822 7292 or 9571 0850.

East Bentleigh Senior Citizens' Club will hold its annual concerts for local school children in the clubrooms at 1 Derry Street, Bentleigh East on Monday 10 May and Thursday 13 May at 9.30am.

Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary (Caulfield branch) will hold a fundraising card luncheon at the Alma Club, 1 Wilks Street, Caulfield North on Monday 31 May at 11am. Contact: Olive 9578 2395 or Jean 9528 6616 after hours.

Glover Street Preschool will hold an open day at the Glover Street Preschool, 11 Glover Street, Bentleigh East on Saturday 22 May 10am–12pm. Contact: 9570 5200.

Rotary Club Moorleigh Bentleigh East presents *Tivivilovelies* in the Auditorium, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Saturday 22 May at 7.30pm. Cost: \$25 includes, chicken and champagne. Bookings essential. Contact: 9512 022.

Bentleigh Uniting Church will hold an exhibition and sale of watercolour paintings by Reverend Ian Johnston at the Bentleigh Uniting Church Hall, 497 Centre Road, Bentleigh on Saturday 15 May 2pm–4pm, Sunday 16 May 11.30am–2pm. Money raised will go to Uniting Church Share Appeal.

Immunisation dates

April

Murrumbeena Baptist Church
44 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena
Monday 10 May 10am–11am

Glen Eira Town Hall (entry via Glen Eira Road)
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield
Tuesday 11 May 9.30am–10.15am

Bentleigh-Bayside Community Health Service
Gardeners Road, Bentleigh East
Wednesday 19 May 6pm–7pm
Saturday 22 May 9.30am–10.30am

Glen Huntly Maternal and Child Health Centre
Corner Royal and Rosedale Avenues, Glen Huntly
Wednesday 26 May 9.30am–11am

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Computers–Excel	31 May–28 June, 10am–12pm	\$62
E-mail/Internet	23 June–14 July, 10am–12pm	\$69
Handcrafts	Learn to knit/Crochet Mon 1pm–3pm	\$3

Spanish Conversation	4 May–15 June, 1pm–3pm	\$56
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Ribbon Embroidery	1 June–22 June, 7pm–9pm (plus materials)	\$40
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Occasional Childcare	Mon, Thurs, 9.30am–12.30pm (a session)	\$12
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Sheila's Singers	Thurs 10am–12pm	\$3
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Learn songs from shows and entertain others in the community

Art 1 Beginners Drawing	7 May–4 June, 10am–12pm (plus materials)	\$55
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Art 2 Intermediate	7 May–11 June, 1pm–3pm (plus materials)	\$55
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Natural Therapies	Intro to Homeopathy Sat/Sun 10am–4pm	
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For home use or preparation for further study		\$80
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How to Afternoons 1pm–3pm (a session)		\$3
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1. Make a fresh flower table centrepiece — 13 May (plus \$10 if you want to make one to take home)
2. Make a delicious Italian meal — 27 May
3. 5 Tibetan exercises for Youth, Vitality and Wellbeing — 10 June (Bring a mat or towel to lie on)
4. Herb Exchange—bring your favourite herb plants to exchange

Neighbourhood House Week — 13 May. Come and visit the house, have a cuppa, tell us what classes you're interested in.

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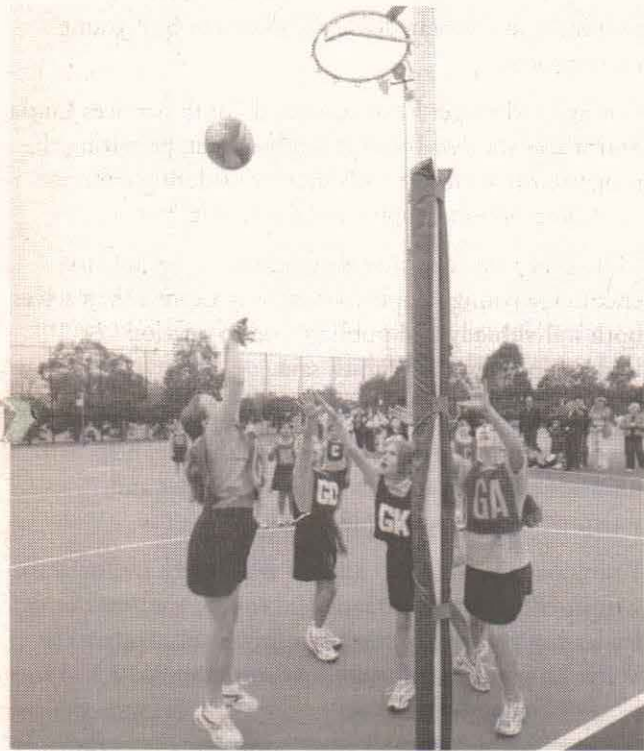
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Recreation

New surfaces get thumbs up

Extensive surface restoration works at the Duncan Mackinnon Reserve athletics track and netball courts in Murrumbena are proving to be a huge success.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said Council had recently completed extensive works to resurface the athletics track and netball courts to provide safer playing surfaces for users.



The new netball court surfaces at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve.

"The synthetic athletics track was resurfaced and relined marked to provide schools, clubs and residents with the best possible running surface," Ms Smith said.

"This new surface will help ensure the track continues to be one of Melbourne's most popular athletics facilities."

Ms Smith said the netball courts were also resurfaced with all eight courts being given a new synthetic surface and four of these being transformed into cushioned show courts.

"This is a vast improvement on the original asphalt courts and a much safer surface for players," Ms Smith said.

"The four cushioned courts provide excellent show courts that will enable the Caulfield and Districts Netball Association to host high quality events."

President of the Caulfield and District Netball Association Marg Cummings said that 10 years ago Council had taken a look to the future of Glen Eira's young netballers and built the courts.

"Council and our Councillors have again looked to the future in providing a flexi-pave surface for the courts that provides a safer and injury-reducing cushioned surface which will help our netball players and umpires perform at their best," Ms Cummings said.

"We are very pleased with the result and thank all those people involved in this vision of future for all in our community."



The new surface at the Duncan Mackinnon Reserve athletics track is a hit with local athletes. Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

More works on the way

Glen Eira residents will benefit from more capital works that are being undertaken in Glen Eira's parks as part of Council's ongoing commitment to upgrade the City's ageing infrastructure.

New cricket practice nets will soon be completed at Koornang Reserve in Carnegie and Mackie Road Reserve in Bentleigh East. A new oval fence is being installed at Centenary Park in Bentleigh East, while the Victory Park playground in Bentleigh will gain a new pathway and a refurbished picnic area with a new picnic shelter.

Fresh recreation ideas

Local residents with disabilities are discovering exciting new recreation opportunities in their own area thanks to an innovative new project called *Fresh*.

Co-ordinated by Joint Councils Access for All Abilities (JCAAA) in partnership with Council's Caulfield Recreation Centre and Yooralla Recreation Services, *Fresh* is a 12-month pilot project catering for adults with disabilities living in Glen Eira.

The aim of the project is to introduce people with disabilities to recreation activities happening in their local area and to provide them with an opportunity to develop new friendships. Participants meet at the Caulfield Recreation Centre for four hours every second Sunday afternoon.

So far they have attended a range of Council events such as the *Party in the Park* celebrations, a lawn bowls clinic at a local club, used the recreation facilities at Caulfield Recreation Centre and participated in swimming sessions during the warmer months.

The project also provides an opportunity for family members and carers to have a break while participants are enjoying a fun recreation activity.

JCAAA works with local sports clubs, recreation providers and arts groups to help include and develop sustainable opportunities for people with disabilities in the Cities of Glen Eira, Port Phillip, Bayside and Stonnington.

Glen Eira residents who have a disability, live at home with a family member or carer, or live independently and are interested in participating in the *Fresh* project should contact JCAAA on 9209 6723.

Sports seminar provides inspiration

Local sports club administrators were recently treated to an informative and inspirational breakfast seminar about sponsorship and marketing for sports clubs.



Former AFL coach Stan Alves addresses local sports clubs at Council's sports breakfast. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

More than 50 people from various sports clubs around Glen Eira attended Council's breakfast seminar which was officially opened by Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury.

The seminar was held to provide a forum to discover and exchange information on the sponsorship and marketing of sports clubs and to motivate sports club administrators.

Cr Bury said recreation pursuits were vital to the quality of life for Glen Eira's community.

"Providing a safe environment for sport and recreational

pursuits is a major challenge for both Council and sporting clubs," Cr Bury said.

Cr Bury said Council worked with more than 63 clubs which enabled more than 6,000 people to be actively involved in organised sport throughout the City each week.

"These sports include Australian Rules Football, cricket, lacrosse, soccer, softball, baseball, cycling, netball, tennis and athletics and many more sports including callisthenics, Taekwondo, judo, and ballet," he said.

Guest speaker, Public Affairs and Sponsorship Manager for the Victorian Institute of Sport, Lisa Hasker addressed the seminar and gave tips on how to attract new sponsorship to clubs.

Ms Hasker said fundraising was an important issue for sports clubs and could effectively bring money and support into clubs. She also addressed key issues relating to sponsorship and the important elements in preparing a sponsorship proposal.

The second guest speaker Stan Alves, a former AFL coach, player and successful businessman, motivated attendees with details of his own experiences working in small community clubs.

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Discipline, Co-ordination, Self-esteem,
Enjoyment, Stress Release**

BEGINNERS TO BLACK BELT – From 4 years old

Making waves at youth forum



Brendan Creaser and Emmalee Meisels take part in a treasure-mapping activity at Council's National Youth Week forum. Photo: Les O'Rourke.

Encouraging young people to express themselves through music, art, discussion and recreation was the focus of a two-day *Make some waves* forum Council held as part of National Youth Week, last month.

More than 40 Years 9 and 10 students from six local secondary schools took part in a two-day forum organised by Council and its *Just Youth* leadership group.

Participants were involved in a variety of workshops including self defence, drama, art, dance, magic, body image, treasure mapping and leadership. They also took part in discussions about ways young people can express themselves through leadership and communication skills development.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury presented certificates to the students to acknowledge their participation in the forum.

At the presentation Cr Bury said an event like National Youth Week was designed to highlight the commitment, energy and enthusiasm of young people and to recognise the contributions they make to the local community every day.

"The commitment of the *Just Youth* leadership group is admirable and highlights

the degree of excellence that young people can achieve when the opportunity is given to them," Cr Bury said.

"I am certain that the young people who have participated at this special event will take the skills they have learnt here and apply them in their every day lives at home, at school and in the wider community."

Council's *Just Youth* group organised, promoted and facilitated the forum that not only looked at self-expression, but also encompassed leadership training and celebrated what it means to be a young person today.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said the *Just Youth* group had been preparing the program for months in advance, considering different workshop options, topics and discussion formats.

"The group decided that they wanted to be able to encourage young people to creatively express themselves both individually and publicly and to develop leadership skills," Ms Smith said.

"The group was required not only to take part in the programs, but also to help facilitate the day, help with discussion groups and ice-breaker activities and welcome the young people.

Young people in Years 9 and 10 who study, live or work within Glen Eira are encouraged to join the *Just Youth* leadership group. For further information contact the Why? Stop Youth Information Centre on 9572 5389.

Fishy tales

A group of local young people returned from Council's recent *Let's go fishing* program armed with tales about the five fish that did not get away.

The day-long program was organised by Council's Why? Stop Youth Information Centre as a means of introducing young people aged between 9 and 14 years to new recreation opportunities.

Set up on the banks of the Yarra River, the young people learned all about the sport of fishing. Participants learned how to rig up a fishing rod, cast and catch fish and how to care for fishing equipment. The standard of instruction was evident by the five or more fish that were caught on the day.

Afterwards, the group continued its fishy adventure with a visit to the Melbourne Aquarium. They enjoyed a guided tour of the aquarium, saw fish being fed and had a close-up view of sharks, jellyfish, sting rays and other marine life.



Youngsters put their newly found fishing knowledge to the test. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Tackling challenges on the high seas

Local young people tackled the challenges of teamwork, trust and communication during a day-long sailing program Council held last month.

The program was part of a series of outdoor programs co-ordinated by Council's Why? Stop Youth Information Centre to teach young people new skills and provide them with a range of recreation options.

Before embarking on the seafaring experience, participants took part in team-building and problem-solving activities, including a game of blind soccer, to develop trust and teamwork skills.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said the activities were used as a basis to teach the young people to trust each other and work together before they embarked on their afternoon sailing adventure."

At the Sandringham Yacht Club, the young people were taught about the different parts of a small three-person boat, how to rig the boat, set and trim the sails and operate it out on the water.

Ms Smith said the program highlighted the importance of teamwork, trust and communication when sailing.

"We have had very positive feedback about the program and several of the young people were so impressed with their sailing adventure that they have decided to take up the sport on a regular basis."

"Council is pleased to be able to provide young people with unique opportunities, to take them outside their comfort zone and engage them into the local community and services."



Local young people learned important teamwork, trust and communication skills during Council's sailing program. Photo: Les O'Rourke.



The Why? Stop Youth Information Centre provides free, friendly and confidential support to young people. Find out more about what Council's youth centre has to offer — drop in and meet the youth workers at 54 Rosstown Road, Carnegie. Phone: 9572 5389 email: ystop@gleneira.vic.gov.au