

## Council joins creek litter fight

By Maureen Bathgate

Glen Eira City Council has joined forces with Port Phillip and Bayside City Councils to tackle the mounting litter problem in the Elster Creek catchment.

The three councils have successfully applied for a State Government grant, through the Environment Protection Authority's Victorian Stormwater Action Plan, to improve the water quality in Elster Creek.

The \$81,825 grant will be used to investigate the extent of the litter problem, provide recommendations for capital works and litter prevention and conduct a local education and awareness campaign. The three councils will jointly match the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The Elster Creek catchment drains an area of about 40 square kilometres, extending from St Kilda in the north, to Highett in the South and from Port Phillip Bay to Caulfield East and Bentleigh East.

While the waterway is visible as a creek in certain sections of the catchment, in some parts it resembles a drain and in others it travels underground and cannot be seen at all. The most obvious point of the creek is where it joins Port Phillip Bay, commonly known as the Elwood Canal.

About 75 per cent of the Elster Creek catchment is in Glen Eira, however only a fraction of the creek is visible in the City — most of it is underground. Four main stormwater drain networks carry runoff from streets and parks in Glen Eira to the creek.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said Melbourne Water rated Elster Creek's water quality as very poor and identified litter as a major problem.

"Much of the litter dropped within the Elster Creek catchment area will eventually find its way into the creek and ultimately the bay," Cr Bury said. "It has even been found washed up on beaches in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale.

"Put simply, the catchment is on a downward slope; so a cigarette butt dropped outside the station in Caulfield, will travel through the City's stormwater drains, into Elster Creek, through to Elwood Canal and directly into Port Phillip Bay.



Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury collects some of the litter which is choking Elster Creek and affecting wildlife.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

"Recent studies have shown that 95 per cent of litter on beaches comes from suburban streets and parks via the stormwater drainage system. Across Victoria, more than two billion pieces of litter enter our waterways each year."

Cr Bury said Council was doing its bit to reduce the litter problem by street sweeping, installing litter traps, distributing butt bins, regularly emptying public rubbish bins and cleaning shopping centres, but could not win the battle alone.

"We as a community are all responsible for this problem and anyone who irresponsibly discards cigarette butts, plastic food wrappers, food scraps, drink containers, dog poo, plastic bags, oil, petrol, paint, chemicals, fertilisers and green waste is contributing to it," he said.

"For example, a lot of smokers don't think twice about flicking a cigarette butt out the car window or onto the footpath, but what they don't realise is that

these butts can take up to five years to break down, along the way leaching toxic chemicals into the water in which marine plants and animals breathe.

"Litter is choking the creek — killing marine wildlife, destroying plants and reducing water quality. It is a man-made problem and has a very easy man-made solution — don't litter. Put it in the bin or take it home. It's as simple as that."

The combined councils' education and awareness project will target schools, shopping centres, train stations, parks and construction sites in an effort to make both residents and visitors to the area aware of the creek and its litter problem.

The Elster Creek Catchment Education and Awareness Project will be launched by the Mayors of the three participating councils later this month.

**For more details about the Elster Creek project, turn to pages 8 and 9.**

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# Mayor's column



Council works in many ways to improve the quality of life in Glen Eira — from providing essential services such as waste management and child care to improving community facilities such as parks and shopping centres.

We don't just take projects on a whim. They are carefully planned to provide an economically and socially sustainable

City. We consult community members about their needs, we conduct asset studies to ascertain how they will cope as our City grows, and we monitor the trends and directions of our growing population.

This information comes together in one working document — Council's community plan, *Glen Eira 2010*, which sets out long-term, measurable strategies and goals for Glen Eira's development, and responds to the issues most important to our community.

One of those issues is Council's ongoing commitment to our environment. A number of strategies are in place, not least of which is a program to help combat the growing litter problem in the Elster Creek catchment area, most of which is in Glen Eira.

Together with our neighbouring councils of Port Phillip and Bayside, we aim to improve the water quality of the creek which is suffering from the effects of litter that enters the creek via our stormwater drainage system. The combined councils' education and awareness program will encourage people to dispose of their litter more responsibly and ultimately improve the health of the waterway.

The health of our community is extremely important, and Council looks at many ways to improve the services offered to residents and ratepayers. The recent upgrade of our delivered meals service means that the more than 350 frail elderly residents who receive the service now have a choice of meals provided, catering better to their tastes as well as their dietary needs.

Council has also joined the fight to seek increased immunisation funding from both state and federal governments. Local government administers 47 per cent of preschool aged immunisations in Victoria and nearly 100 per cent of school-aged immunisations. But while doctors receive a rebate of between \$50.20 and \$68.20 for conducting these immunisations and checks, councils receive between \$2 and \$6. This grossly inequitable payment puts Council in the difficult position of wanting to provide the best services without having to shift costs onto ratepayers.

It's a delicate balance, this caring for our City. Council has a lot to consider, but always most important is the health and safety of our community — now and for the future.

— Cr Bob Bury  
Mayor

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## Spurway celebrates milestone

Council celebrated the 15th birthday of its Spurway aged care facility in Murrumbeena with a grand afternoon tea last month.

About 60 people including residents, their families, Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury, Cr Veronika Martens, Cr Margaret Esakoff, Cr Dorothy Marwick and former councillors associated with facility attended the afternoon celebration.

Cr Bury said that over the past 15 years Spurway had been home to 408 residents.

"At the time, Spurway was, and still is, a state-of-the-art development, with its innovative three-house model to promote a smaller, more home-like environment for those who call Spurway home," Cr Bury said.

"The 30 high care residents who live at Spurway receive an exemplary level of nursing, personal care and support and Council is justifiably proud of providing this service to the community."

Cr Bury said Glen Eira has the second oldest demographics of any municipality in Melbourne.

"Council is proud of the broader support it offers to Glen Eira's aged community; it is one of the community's highest priorities and one of Council's top priorities as well," he said.

"Council's largest group of staff members are not road builders or town planners, they are aged care workers."

Cr Bury said Spurway enables residents to feel like they are in a home environment while allowing Council to provide them with nursing, personal care, social and emotional support, recreation and lifestyle options at their doorstep.

Spurway resident Dot Bailes, aged 92, joined the Mayor to cut Spurway's birthday cake. Dot has lived at Spurway for about two years and said she had enjoyed every minute of it.

"I have the nicest room at Spurway with a big



Spurway resident Dot Bailes helps Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury to cut Spurway's 15th birthday cake. Photo: Les O'Rourke.

window so I get to see what is happening around the place," Dot said.

"I get to go for walks, talk to people and listen to the radio, I feel fairly independent being here."

#### Deadlines

The deadline for the next issue of the *Glen Eira News* is: **Wednesday 11 August** for delivery 3–5 September.

#### Coming deadlines:

Wednesday 8 September for delivery 1–3 October  
Wednesday 13 October for delivery 5–7 November.

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

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# Council fights for fairer immunisation funds

Council has called on the State and Federal Governments to provide fairer immunisation funding to local government.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said while general practitioners (GPs) received between \$50.20 and \$68.20 in government subsidies for each child immunised, Council received only \$2 to \$6.

"Payments to GPs have been increased in order to provide incentives to check on the immunisation status of patients, especially children and to administer any vaccines that may have been missed," Cr Bury said.

"Meanwhile, payments to local government have not changed in years, despite rising costs, increasing complexity of immunisation schedules, the introduction of new vaccines and the fact that Council conducts similar checks on about 5,000 infants each year through its maternal and child health services.

"Council does not expect the same funding as GPs but seeks full-cost recovery to ensure ratepayers aren't subsidising this important service."

During 2003-04, Council vaccinated 11,086 people at a cost of \$170,492. In return it received just \$66,000 in government subsidies.

Cr Bury said the Federal Government's decision to fund the new pneumococcal vaccine for all infants aged up to two years from January 2005, provided an opportunity for the government to fund the program properly.

"It will cost Council \$113.50 to administer each

pneumococcal vaccine — \$100 for the vaccine and \$13.50 to administer it. If the Government funds Council only \$6 per immunisation as planned, the program will cost council up to \$24,000 to administer," he said.

"So while the Federal Government takes credit for subsidising important free immunisations to children, in actual fact it would be Council who would wear much of the cost."

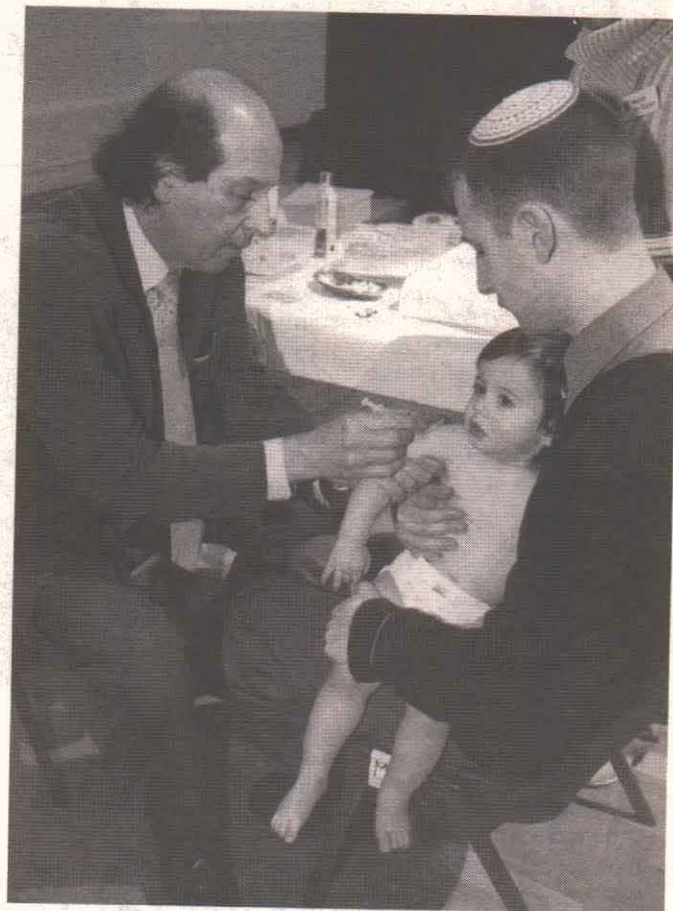
A recent local government immunisation costing study conducted by the Municipal Association of Victoria has confirmed Council's concerns about under-funding of immunisation programs.

The study found that local councils contribute between 61 per cent and 83 per cent of the overall costs to deliver immunisation services to children, saving the State and Federal Governments \$13.5 million per year. Glen Eira's contribution stands at 62 per cent.

Cr Bury said while the National Health and Medical Research Council recommended that all children aged less than five years be vaccinated against pneumococcal disease, initially only children born after 1 January 2003 would be eligible for government funding.

"This means that if the 4,800 children aged two to five years in Glen Eira are going to be vaccinated, they will have to pay for it," Cr Bury said.

"The vaccine will be available at Council immunisation sessions for a fee of \$113.50 for children not covered by



Council's Medical Officer of Health Dr Mark Faigen administers a vaccine to Joshua Robinson, aged 14 months. Photo: Les O'Rourke.

the federal funding arrangements or parents wanting to have their child vaccinated before 1 January 2005.

"The fee is set at full cost recovery to cover what Council pays to buy and administer each dose of the vaccine. So far, it is the lowest being charged by all neighbouring councils."

# A unique cultural exchange

By Sophie Massis

A lesson in paper-folding and a verse of *Waltzing Matilda* were the order of the day for a group of local elderly residents and young Japanese students who came together for a morning last month to learn about each others' cultures.

Participants in Council's Adult Day Activity and Social Support (ADASS) women's group were joined by seven grade two students from the Japanese School of Melbourne in Caulfield South to learn activities unique to their respective cultures.

The women started off the morning by helping the Japanese students sing along to classic Australian tunes such as *Waltzing Matilda* and *Click go the shears*.

It was then time for the Japanese students to take on the role of

teachers and show the ladies how to play a popular Japanese fishing game called *Sakanaturu*. The game involves using a rod made from chopsticks, string and magnets to catch fish made from decorated paper cups and paper clips.



Japanese School of Melbourne student Nanako Umeda and ADASS member Mary Walters make paper creations. Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

The students also taught the women origami, the Japanese art of paper-folding, using brightly coloured pieces of paper to create wonderful paper dolls.

McKinnon resident Elsie Donnelly, aged 93 years, has been attending the ADASS women's group for two years and said she really enjoyed the visit from the Japanese students.

"I have always been interested in arts and crafts and it was great to learn about origami from the students," Mrs Donnelly said. "I also enjoyed the singing with the children."

The ADASS visit was part of the Japanese school's social studies program called *Seikatu-ka* where the students learn about the local community and building relationships with different groups, including the elderly.

Japanese School of Melbourne teacher Reina Mizota said that the aim of the visit was for the students to learn more about Australian culture from local Glen Eira residents and for the students to teach the residents about Japanese culture.

"English is the second language for these students who are in Australia temporarily while their parents work," Ms Mizota said.

"The students really enjoyed the visit and would like to visit the ADASS centre again."

Student Mizuki Ojada said she enjoyed making paper dolls with the ladies. "I also enjoyed singing and playing instruments with the residents," Mizuki said.

# Clearer numbers for safety's sake

Council is urging residents and property owners to ensure that their property number is clearly visible from the street.

Council's Manager Civic Amenity Carl Russo said non-visible or missing property numbers could affect the response time of the police, fire brigade, ambulance or State Emergency Service.

"Council's local law requires residents to maintain and display their property number so it can be seen from the road or the footpath," Mr Russo said.

"This was included in the local law to assist people, and more importantly emergency service officers, in identifying properties, especially at night.

"The large number of properties not adequately numbered is of great concern to Council. Clear and effective property numbering is both a legal and safety requirement and can save lives."

Council's Works Manager Roger Dunn said having property numbers prominently displayed also enabled Council to identify properties which required footpath or concrete works.

"In some cases Council officers have been called to do either a footpath or concrete inspection at a commercial property only to find that there are five or six shops in a row without visible property numbering," Mr Dunn said.

"Clear and visible property numbers enable Council to identify exactly which residential and commercial properties need to be scheduled for works."

Residents or property owners who fail to have their property numbers clearly and prominently displayed risk receiving a \$50 fine.



# Language line language line

## Comune adotta un piano comunitario

Ambiente, qualità di vita, buona amministrazione, responsabile gestione dei beni, infrastrutture e finanze rappresentano le basi della direzione del Comune di Glen Eira nei prossimi sei anni.

Il Comune ha adottato il nuovo piano comunitario "Glen Eira 2010" per i prossimi sei anni. Il piano rappresenta un quadro programmatico a lungo termine che è alla base delle decisioni relative al bilancio, alla pianificazione urbana, alla politica e al programma dei lavori dell'amministrazione comunale.

Il Direttore Esecutivo del Comune, Signor Andrew Newton ha detto che il piano comunitario analizza la situazione corrente di Glen Eira, le direzioni attuali e future, i punti di vista espressi dalla comunità e le finalità e le responsabilità del Comune.

Egli ha detto: "Il Comune ha invitato tutti i residenti a partecipare allo sviluppo del piano comunitario. Circa 1,000 residenti hanno dato il proprio contributo tramite pubblici fori, sondaggi telefonici e gruppi di consultazione.

"Le risposte della comunità hanno dimostrato che i residenti apprezzano la qualità di vita di Glen Eira e i servizi e le strutture fornite dal Comune, ragioni per cui dobbiamo impegnarci affinché le nostre prestazioni continuino ad essere di alto livello."

Il piano "Glen Eira 2010 include tre obiettivi chiave, strategie specifiche per raggiungere tali obiettivi ed indicatori che verranno utilizzati per misurare il progresso delle prestazioni.

## 市政府採納社區計劃

在今後六年中，環境、生活品質、良好的管理方法和對財產、基礎設施和財務等的負責管理將決定 Glen Eira 市政府的工作方向。

市政府採納了新的六年計劃《Glen Eira 2010》。該計劃將成為指導市政府財政預算、規劃和決策的長期規劃框架並決定市政府的工程計劃。

市政府首席執行官 Andrew Newton 說，社區計劃分析了 Glen Eira 市政區的目前狀況，包括當前和未來趨勢、社區表達的看法以及市政府的目標和責任。

Newton 先生說："市政府邀請全體居民參與社區計劃的制訂。共有近 1000 名居民參與了計劃制定過程，形式包括公眾論壇、電話調查、焦點小組和公眾協商會。"

"社區反饋意見顯示，居民珍視 Glen Eira 市政區內現有的生活品質以及市政府所提供的設施和服務。我們需要確保這些設施和服務能繼續向居民提供。"

計劃包括 2010 年的三大目標、為達到這些目標的具體策略和用於衡量進展的標準。

## Муниципалитет принимает новый план развития

В течение следующих шести лет основными направлениями работы муниципалитета Glen Eira будут окружающая среда, качество жизни, эффективная работа органов местного управления и ответственное использование муниципального имущества, инфраструктуры и финансов.

Муниципалитет принял новый шестилетний план развития - Glen Eira 2010, в котором определена долгосрочная стратегия в области бюджетной и законодательной политики, планирования, и строительства.

Исполнительный директор муниципалитета г-н Andrew Newton отметил, что в плане развития проанализировано нынешнее положение в муниципалитете, существующие и намечающиеся тенденции, взгляды и пожелания населения, а также цели, задачи и обязанности муниципалитета как органа местного управления.

"Мы пригласили всех жителей муниципалитета внести свой вклад в выработку нового плана развития. В общей сложности около 1000 человек приняли участие в общественных обсуждениях, опросах по телефону, и общественных консультациях," сказал г-н Newton.

"Изучение общественного мнения показало, что жители муниципалитета положительно оценивают достигнутый уровень качества жизни и разнообразные муниципальные услуги. Мы должны обеспечить поддержание этого уровня в будущем."

В плане определены три основных задачи на период до 2010г., конкретные пути их выполнения, и показатели, с помощью которых можно будет оценить достигнутый прогресс.

## Το Δημαρχείο υιοθετεί το κοινοτικό σχέδιο

Το περιβάλλον, η ποιότητα ζωής, η σωστή διακυβέρνηση και η υπεύθυνη διαχείριση των περιουσιακών στοιχείων, της υποδομής και των οικονομικών θα καθορίζουν την κατεύθυνση του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου Glen Eira για τα επόμενα έξι χρόνια.

Το Δημαρχείο υιοθέτησε το νέο εξαετές κοινοτικό σχέδιο του δήμου Glen Eira 2010 που παρέχει ένα μακροπρόθεσμο πλαίσιο προγραμματισμού που θα καθοδηγεί τις αποφάσεις προϋπολογισμού, προγραμματισμού και πολιτικής και θα διαμορφώνει το πρόγραμμα δημοτικών έργων.

Ο Διευθύνων Σύμβουλος του δήμου κ. Andrew Newton δήλωσε ότι το κοινοτικό σχέδιο αναλύει την τρέχουσα κατάσταση του δήμου Glen Eira περιλαμβανομένων των σημερινών και μελλοντικών τάσεων, των απόψεων που εκφράστηκαν από το κοινό και τους στόχους και ευθύνες του Δημαρχείου.

"Το Δημαρχείο προσκαλεί όλους τους δημότες να συμμετάσχουν στην ανάπτυξη του κοινοτικού σχεδίου. Συνολικά σχεδόν 1.000 δημότες συνέβαλαν στη διαδικασία μέσω των δημοσίων φόρουμ, των τηλεφωνικών ερευνών, των ομάδων συζήτησης και των δημοσίων διαβουλεύσεων," δήλωσε ο κ. Newton.

"Οι παρατηρήσεις του κοινού έδειξαν ότι οι δημότες εκτιμούν την υπάρχουσα ποιότητα ζωής στο δήμο Glen Eira και τις ευκολίες και υπηρεσίες που παρέχονται από το Δημαρχείο. Χρειάζεται να διασφαλίσουμε την συνέχιση της παροχής τους."

Το σχέδιο περιλαμβάνει τρεις κύριους στόχους για το 2010, συγκεκριμένες στρατηγικές για την ικανοποίηση αυτών των στόχων και δείκτες που θα χρησιμοποιούνται για τη μέτρηση της προόδου.

### Language parenting talk

**City of GLEN EIRA**

Council invites local residents to attend an information session on language development for children. Guest speaker will be speech pathologist Clare Moat.

Friday 13 August from 2pm to 3pm. Cost: \$3  
Glen Huntly Maternal and Child Health Centre, corner Royal and Rosedale Avenues, Glen Huntly  
Enquiries contact 9524 3403.

### Delivered meals volunteers

**City of GLEN EIRA**

Council is urgently seeking volunteer drivers and jockeys for its delivered meals program. The volunteers deliver meals to frail older people and people with a disability which enables them to remain living independently in their own homes.

Volunteers are required seven days a week with a flexible choice of days and hours available. Petrol reimbursement, training, social contact and support are provided. For further information contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

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## Child care vacancies

**City of GLEN EIRA**

Council currently has vacancies for children aged from three to five years at its four child care centres in Caulfield, Elsternwick, Carnegie and Murrumbeena.

Each centre has carefully planned educational programs based on the development and interests of each child, and the culture and values of their families.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment and provided with fun and interesting activities. Council is committed to including children with disabilities or additional needs.

Council's children's centres have all attained a high quality status through the National Child Care Accreditation Council.

Enrolment forms are available at the centres, from Council's Service Centre or by calling 9524 3333.

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# Delivered meals on the menu

Glen Eira residents receiving Council's delivered meals service will be able to choose their own meals for the first time.

Under major improvements to the service, Council's 350 delivered meals clients will now receive a weekly menu which enables them to choose what they want to eat from a wide variety of foods.

Council's Director Community Services Peter Jones said Council was now not only offering a menu for the first

## A different kind of home delivery

By Vida Ivan

For Glen Eira resident Bruce, a home-delivered meal relieves the pressure of having to prepare a meal for one, only to be too tired to enjoy it by the time it's done.

Arthritis and declining health have reduced the 79-year-old's ability to perform many basic household tasks to his satisfaction, but Bruce is more than happy with the quality of meals provided by Council's delivered meals service and has been enjoying Council-provided meals since December 2002.

"The new menu gives you lots of choice," Bruce said.

"I had the pickled pork the other night and I liked the fish too — I quite enjoy it. There are three courses with every meal and the food is quite nice."

A former caterer and musician, Bruce regularly has meals delivered and has no reservations about using the service. While the task of making dinner has become difficult due to failing fitness and sight, Bruce takes it all in his stride and his taste for life is as strong as ever.

"I used to like getting my own dinner, but now once I make it and eat it and then turn around to all the pots and pans that have to be cleared I think 'oh no!'. I get puffed out and I just can't finish it. The delivered meals have saved me more than a little bit of work," Bruce said.

"Besides, there's a fair amount of choice so everyone should be able to find something that suits."

Husband and wife volunteer team Ron and Joan Cooke see Bruce on their round every week and know that the "little bit of work" they put in means a great deal to the many recipients of Council's delivered meals service.

"It's an important service to provide," Ron said.

"People really appreciate us coming to see them and the meals we deliver — we've had no complaints."

Joan started volunteering 14 years ago and Ron seven years ago. Their regular route involves little more than two hours of their time on Wednesday mornings, but they are both on call should emergency drivers or deliverers be required.

"We really enjoy getting out and about, meeting different people and seeing what's going on in the community. We're both nearly 80 ourselves so it's great to get out and know that we can get out and do this kind of work."

"Being out there every week, it makes you wonder how some people would get on without it."

time, but is also alternating it on a four-week cycle to provide even more variety.

"Council has recently appointed a new contractor to provide the 120,000 meals delivered annually to residents who are part of its delivered and centre-based meals service," Mr Jones said.

"Council now offers clients a choice of four main meals, two salads and two desserts each day, including vegetarian dishes. All meals will include seasonal vegetables and a fruit juice and fresh soup will be provided during the winter months."

"Under the old system clients received a set meal, predetermined by the contractors."

Mr Jones said while the new service would cost slightly more, the price increases were greatly outweighed by the provision of a much improved delivered meals service to clients.

"While Council's costs associated with the delivered meals service have increased by about \$200,000 per annum, clients will be paying only 20 cents more per meal than previously — a rise equal to the CPI (Consumer Price Index)," he said.

"However this new contract enables Council to provide a much better delivered meals service to residents — one which gives residents a say in what they eat, greater menu variety and a more customised service."

Mr Jones said the delivered meals service was for frail elderly residents who had no other means of providing



Volunteers Ron and Joan Cooke deliver Bruce his three-course meal from Council's new delivered meals menu.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton

a meal for themselves.

"The contact that elderly clients have with Council officers and volunteers is, in some cases, the only contact they have with the outside world," he said.

"This service also allows Council to keep in contact with elderly clients and to monitor their health and wellbeing."

To receive the delivered meals service, residents must meet eligibility requirements that are restricted to older people and people with disabilities who are nutritionally at risk. An assessment is undertaken prior to the service starting.

Meals are available either chilled or heated, depending on circumstances, and delivered by a team of 160 volunteers.

## Eggs come before chickens at Caulfield

By Anne Stafford

It's an age-old question — which came first, the chicken or the egg? Children at the Caulfield Children's Centre discovered the answer last month when 10 black chickens hatched before their eyes.

Part of the centre's interactive learning program, the egg-hatching project enabled the children to witness the miracle of life first-hand.

Ten eggs were delivered to the centre in an incubator with a viewing window so that the children could study

the eggs closely and see the little black chicks hatching over a three-day period.

Although some of the chicks hatched overnight, a few children were lucky enough to witness a newborn chick break through the hard shell with its egg tooth — this falls off the beak later after hatching. The children saw the chicks struggle through the first few days of their lives, damp and unsteady on their feet, only to be transformed into warm, fluffy, cheeping chicks.

The children were taught how to look after the chicks, feeding them twice a day and taking care to hold them gently. "They're all tickly," laughed one excited child as the little chick scrambled over her hands.

Council's Caulfield Children's Centre Co-ordinator Geraldine McCarthy said the egg-hatching project provided a great opportunity for children to learn about the life cycle of chickens by experiencing it first-hand.

"It is most important that the children learn the care taken in raising them from eggs to chickens," Ms McCarthy said.

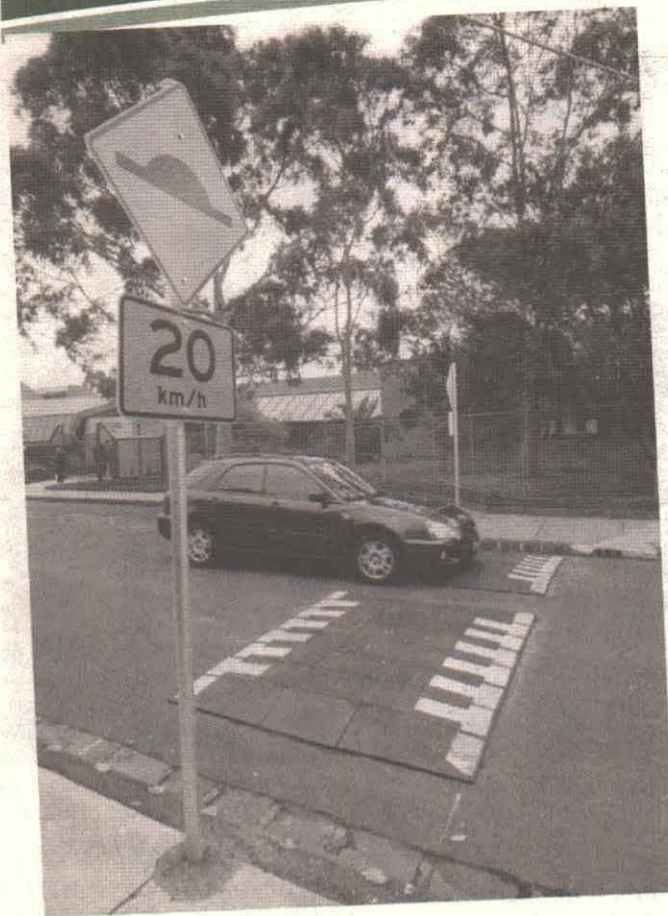
Some of the children's parents joined in too, eager to play with the centre's latest star attractions. And fortunately for the chicks, they have all been found happy homes to go to.



Hollie Munn and Zoe Manning get to know two of the Caulfield Children's Centre's recently-hatched chickens.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.





Council has installed new speed cushions near two St Kilda East schools to make travelling to school safer for local children.  
Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

## Council cushions speed for safety

Local children will have a safer journey to school, following Council's recent installation of six new speed cushions near two St Kilda East schools.

Council has installed the speed cushions near Ripponlea Primary School in Carrington Grove and Mount Scopus College in Mayfield Street as part of its commitment to improve pedestrian safety, particularly around schools.

The speed cushions are the first of a new design to be installed in Glen Eira. They are different to traditional speed humps in that they are made from prefabricated rubber pieces and are segmented into sections.

Council's Group Manager Statutory Services Duncan Turner said Council had chosen to introduce this type of speed hump to not only improve pedestrian safety, but to keep traffic flowing efficiently.

"The speed cushions have been installed near the schools to slow motorists down before they near school crossing points," Mr Turner said.

"Both these streets have a high volume of traffic especially during school drop-off and pick-up times. The aim of these particular speed cushions is to slow

vehicles down to make pedestrian travel safer, while still allowing the traffic to flow."

The speed cushions in Carrington Grove are part of the State Government's *Safe Routes to Schools* program which is implemented by the combined efforts of Council and VicRoads.

In a separate road safety measure, Council has installed new high profile pedestrian warning signs around the Booran Road shopping centre in Caulfield.

Council installed painted median strips along Booran Road last year, to provide a safe place for pedestrians to stop when crossing the road. The new signs, located at each end of the shopping centre, are an added warning to passing motorists that they are approaching a pedestrian area.

Both projects are part of Council's *Glen Eira Road Safety Strategic Plan* which is based on six key themes — co-ordination and leadership, school road safety, traffic management and safer drivers, young children, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety.



## New life for historic road

A historic road in Carnegie has been fully restored after Council finalised a complete road reconstruction last month.

One of Glen Eira's oldest roads, Moira Avenue in Carnegie, was reconstructed to preserve its heritage look. Moira Avenue is one of Glen Eira's few concrete pavement roads, originally built in 1930 over consolidated ashes and swampland.

Council's Director Community Relations Paul Burke said Moira Avenue is the first of Glen Eira's concrete roads to be fully reconstructed.

"It was originally constructed on unstable swampland that was drained in the 19th century to make way for farm land," Mr Burke said.

"The road had deteriorated in recent years with cracks in the pavement and damage becoming clearly visible."

Council began works in Moira Avenue in June last year when the first section between Neville and Miller Streets was replaced. The second and final stage involved reconstruction of the section between Lyons and Miller Streets.

Mr Burke said reconstruction involved the complete removal of 175mm thick roadway and replacement with new concrete.

"Council replaced the concrete surface because it is best suited to the conditions and soil base under Moira Avenue," he said.

"The works are part of Council's ongoing program to replace, repair and upgrade ageing community infrastructure and facilities."



Old, damaged concrete pavement in Moira Avenue is removed to make way for the new road surface.  
Photo: Anne Stafford.

## Community consultation

Council sees community consultation as a vital part of its decision-making process. Consultation involves the community in Council's planning and activities and helps Council to understand the community's priorities and issues.

### Upcoming consultation opportunities

Subject	Type	Date	Where
Elsternwick Urban Village design vision	Workshop	Tuesday 3 August 6.30pm-8.30pm	Elsternwick Club, 19 Sandham Street, Elsternwick
Bentleigh Urban Village design vision	Workshop	Thursday 5 August 6.30pm-8.30pm	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, 111 Jasper Road, Bentleigh
Carnegie Urban Village design vision	Workshop	Tuesday 10 August 6.30pm-8.30pm	Rosstown Hotel, corner Dandenong and Koornang Roads, Carnegie
Urban village design framework	Public exhibition	Monday 2 August to Friday 20 August	Glen Eira City Council Service Centre, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield

### Recent consultation opportunities

Meeting	Type	Date
Public questions at Council meetings	Submissions	Monday 28 June to Friday 30 July
Glen Eira Activity Centre Strategy workshop	Workshop	Wednesday 21 July
Amendment C38 — Caulfield Racecourse signage proposal	Submissions	Thursday 10 June to Monday 12 July
Sale of land — Centre and Mackie Roads	Submissions	Monday 14 June to Monday 28 June

For further information about any of these consultation opportunities contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 or visit Council's website at [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au)



# Council determines *future direction*

The environment, quality of life, good governance and responsible management of assets, infrastructure and finances will drive the direction of Glen Eira City Council for the next six years.

Council has adopted its new six-year community plan *Glen Eira 2010* which provides a long-term planning framework which guides Council's budgetary, planning and policy decisions and shapes its works program.

Council's Chief Executive Officer Andrew Newton said the plan analyses Glen Eira's current situation including current and future trends, the views expressed by the community and Council's goals and responsibilities.

"Council invited all residents to participate in the development of its community plan. Altogether nearly 1,000 residents contributed to the process through public forums, telephone surveys, focus groups and public submissions," Mr Newton said.

"The community feedback showed that residents value the existing quality of life in Glen Eira and the facilities and services provided by Council. We need to ensure the provision of these is continued.

"The community also values Council's position on low-cost structures, low debt and low average rates and these need to be maintained."

The new community plan includes three key objectives for 2010, specific strategies to meet these objectives and indicators which will be used to measure progress. It also includes a long-term financial plan.

Council's three key directions for development over the

next six years are to enhance Glen Eira's natural and built environment, enhance the quality of life in Glen Eira and advance the public interest by good governance and responsible management of community assets, finances and risks.

Mr Newton said Council had limited resources and needed to focus its capital expenditure and service delivery on essential services.

"Situations change over time and what might have once been a widespread community need might diminish in priority, or vice versa," he said.

"Council needs to withdraw from diminishing priorities and accept emerging responsibilities. We must continue to focus on core services, which provide value-for-money, while also making continual improvements.

Mr Newton said Council must ensure that sufficient capital is generated each year to upgrade or replace essential community facilities and infrastructure which had a large bearing on Glen Eira's quality of life.

"Council needs to keep its 900km of footpath hazard-free; the capacity of drains needs to be increased; road works need more funding; and many of Council's buildings and recreation facilities have reached the end of their economic life and will struggle to meet increased accreditation standards," he said.

"The other challenge is that Glen Eira does not have areas like Chapel Street or Chadstone which are focal points for young people, and Council cannot create them. Instead we must give priority to active and



Providing services for Glen Eira's ageing population is a priority in Council's new six-year community plan.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

passive recreation projects and revisit the younger community's needs and priorities for facilities."

## Council's priorities — *the community plan in detail*

Council's new six-year community plan *Glen Eira 2010* contains three main objectives and lists strategies for meeting those objectives. While Council will maintain its ongoing service commitment to existing functions, its directions for development are as follows:

### 1. Enhance Glen Eira's natural and built environment

#### Green space, leisure and recreation

- All residents to have parklands and sporting facilities, up to the quality of Packer Park, that have disability access and are located within two kilometres of their homes.
- Optimise the use of scarce sporting facilities by introducing lighting, irrigation, multi-use arrangements and similar improvements.
- Provide modern recreation facilities to replace the current Maple Street Recreation Centre, including facilities for young people
- Promote leafy streetscapes by renewing street trees at the rate of 1,500 trees per year.
- Ensure cost-effective compliance with evolving State Government waste processing policy as it becomes clear.



Council will give priority to home care services for elderly residents over the next six years. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

#### Protecting residential streets

- Within State Government planning policy, the majority of additional dwellings to be located in areas classified as urban villages and neighbourhood centres.
- Encourage use of public transport and reduced need for cars by locating 50 per cent of additional dwellings close to railway stations, tram lines and bus routes.
- Deny residential on-street parking permits for new multi-unit developments in order to encourage the provision of on-site parking.
- Encourage the integration of Monash University Caulfield campus with Derby Road and the Phoenix Precinct in order to achieve a cosmopolitan environment.
- Recommend protection of neighbourhood character to the Victorian Minister for Planning for consideration.

Parks, recreation facilities and open space are a focus for Council in its community plan. Photo: Les O'Rourke.

### 2. Enhance the quality of life in Glen Eira

#### Community safety

- Complete the bike path network in order to improve the safety of cyclists and promote recreational cycling.
- Provide information to residents regularly on the incidence and seriousness of crime in Glen Eira.

#### Supporting local business

- Ensure all strip shopping centres' infrastructure meets Council's specified standards including disability access.
- Develop a planning policy for Virginia Park as Glen Eira's premier industrial-technology estate.
- Co-locate Council and community services in urban villages.

#### Prioritise services for maximum benefit to Glen Eira residents

- Of children's services, give priority to maternal and child health and immunisation.
- Of aged care services, give priority to home care, as agents of the State and Federal Governments.

### 3. Advance public interest by good governance and responsible management of community assets, finances and risks.

- Communicate openly with residents and other affected parties regarding proposed developments and make the decisions Council is elected to make without fear or favour.
- Demonstrate responsible government through open and accountable processes and prudent financial and risk management.
- Make continual improvements through the completion of the best value process for all Council services.
- Generate capital each year, excluding sale of property, at least equivalent to depreciation.
- Continue to be a low-cost Council.



# Litter crisis — creek losing rubbish battle

## When is a creek, not a creek?

When most people think of creeks, they think of flowing streams dotted with a few rocks and grassy reeds. Not so Elster Creek — for this is a waterway of many disguises.

At its origins in Bentleigh it is a large underground drain. Through Brighton and Gardenvale it is an open concrete drain. Through Elsternwick it appears as a concrete channel, natural creek and an artificial lake, and in Elwood a vast canal.

Elster Creek was once a well-defined watercourse and its lower reaches an ill-defined swamp area. The name "Elster" is German for magpie, the bird which once used to dominate the area.

Due to urbanisation, the creek is now a highly-modified channel with an urban catchment and a constructed outlet carrying stormwater to Port Phillip Bay. The only part of the creek which still resembles a natural waterway is in Elsternwick Park in Elwood.

The catchment area surrounding the creek covers 40 square kilometres of land in the Cities of Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside. While more than 75 per cent of the catchment is in Glen Eira, only a fraction of the creek itself is visible in the City.

The catchment extends from St Kilda to Highett and from Port Phillip Bay to Caulfield East, taking in the suburbs of Elwood, Brighton, Elsternwick, Caulfield, Carnegie, Ormond, McKinnon, Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Highett, Hampton and Moorabbin.

The creek drains a previously extensive wetland area adjacent to the bay. Extreme urban stormwater pressure, extensive pollution, floodplain development and flood protection modifications have all had a major impact on waterway health.

The creek and surrounding areas are home to a variety of marine life. Birds such as thrushes, wagtails, mudlarks and native noisy minors nest along the creek. The Australian water rat, known as the rikali, live and feed in Elwood Canal and along the breakwater of the bay, and native fish, such as short-finned eel and common galaxias, use the creek to complete their lifecycles.



Elster Creek is more commonly known as Elwood Canal just before it enters the bay.

## The journey of litter — from resident to critter

Many Glen Eira residents would not think twice about dropping a cigarette butt in the street or squashing an aluminium can and leaving it on the ground. What they don't realise is that their litter will eventually find its way into Port Phillip Bay, via the stormwater drainage system and Elster Creek, causing untold damage to marine plants and animals along the way.

People tend not to think of the consequences of dropping a piece of rubbish on the ground. But that one small item helps to make up the more than two billion pieces of rubbish which enter Victoria's waterways each year. More than 95 per cent of litter on beaches comes from suburban streets via the stormwater system. So even that drink bottle

absent-mindedly dropped in suburban Caulfield or Carnegie will eventually find its way to the bay, as this journey shows.

Stories: Maureen Bathgate.  
Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

**1** Litter begins its long journey at the hands of residents and visitors in the suburban streets of Glen Eira — in this case the Carnegie Shopping Centre in Koornang Road, about 7km from the bay.

**2** Rather than putting the bottle in a rubbish bin or taking it home to recycle, it is dropped in the street and then washed into the gutter by the rain, becoming part of the thousands of tonnes of rubbish dropped in Glen Eira each year.

**3** The bottle has been carried along the gutter by rainwater flowing into the City's drains. Just one more downpour and the bottle will enter the stormwater system via this side drainage pit.

**4** The bottle is carried through part of Glen Eira's 360km of stormwater drains, most of which lead into Elster Creek. The rain can't distinguish between what is and isn't harmful and washes everything from the roofs, roads and footpaths into the stormwater system.



**5** The stormwater system is a network of drains and pipes designed to take rainwater to the closest waterway to prevent houses and streets from flooding. Here the bottle is about to leave the City's stormwater system on its journey to Elster Creek.

**6** The bottle is set to enter Elster Creek, carried from the stormwater system via combination of rain and gravity.

**7** The bottle flows along Elster Creek on its way to the bay. The creek is home to many varieties of birds and fish as well as the native water rat, known as the rikali.

**8** The bottle is the only blot on any otherwise perfect scene. Elster Creek was once a natural stream but is now a highly-modified channel. The final part of Elster Creek is known as Elwood Canal.



**12** Marine animals regularly mistake plastic bags, wrappers and other rubbish for food and then die a slow and painful death from either ingesting it or being choked by it. This snapping turtle, now 15 years old, crawled into a plastic ring from a bottle when she was very young and became stuck. As she lived mostly in the water, the ring did not become brittle and break down, and instead constricted her shell as she grew. On part of her shell there is no backbone protecting the spinal cord. She was found in the Louisiana Bayou in the United States and is now cared for in the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. Photo © Dino Ferro

**11** The bottle's journey comes to an end, washed up on the beach to become an environmental eyesore and a safety hazard for beach-goers.

**10** The bottle has become one of the more than two billion pieces of litter which enter Victorian waterways each year, floating away to become a danger to marine animals.

**9** The stormwater travels into the bay completely unfiltered and untreated — immediately impacting on water quality. The bottle has finished its journey along Elster Creek and now enters Port Phillip Bay.

## What a load of rubbish

Most of the litter and pollutants which contaminate Elster Creek come from roofs, roads, parks and footpaths right across the Cities of Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside, via the stormwater drainage system. When it rains these contaminants are washed into stormwater drains which flow into Elster Creek and discharge into Port Phillip Bay.



- Common pollutants**  
Some of the creek's common pollutants include:
- animal manure;
  - garden fertilisers;
  - plant matter;
  - detergents;
  - kitchen waste;
  - nitrous oxides from car exhausts;
  - overflowing bins, particularly in shopping centres;
  - pesticides, herbicides and household chemicals;
  - petrol, oil and other fuels;
  - paints, primers and solvents;
  - rubbish thrown onto streets from cars or by pedestrians;
  - items left for recycling being carelessly stacked or collected;
  - material blowing or washing off industrial or landfill sites; and
  - cigarette butts being stubbed out on the ground or footpath.

- What residents can do**  
To help reduce the creek's litter problem, Council suggests residents make the following tips regular habits.
- Secure waste in the rubbish bin or recycling crate so that it does not blow away.
  - Pick up garbage instead of flushing it away. Sweep paved areas and pick up all the garbage rather than hosing it down into gutters and drains.
  - When out and about, put waste in public rubbish bins, not beside them or on the ground. If there is no bin available, or it is full, take the litter home. Carry a litter bag in the car for collecting rubbish.
  - Refuse plastic bags when shopping. Instead take along calico, string or paper bags.
  - Dispose of cigarette butts either in a bin, public butt bins or carry a personal ashtray. Used film canisters make good personal ashtrays.
  - Pack a rubbish-free lunch with reusable plastic containers and water bottles, rather than bags and drink boxes.
  - Put a "no junk mail" sign on the mail box, or make sure junk mail is placed in the paper recycling crate.
  - Report litterbugs to the Environment Protection Authority by calling the litter report line on 1800 352 555 or accessing a litter report form at [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)
  - When walking the dog, carry a bag to collect and dispose of animal waste.
  - Dispose of chemicals, paints, petrol, oil, acids, household chemicals and cleaners, fertilisers, herbicides and insecticides at EcoRecycle Victoria's free household chemical collections held regularly throughout the state. To find out collection dates go to [www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au](http://www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au)
  - Pour small quantities of unwanted water-based paint into absorbent material such as kitty litter and dispose of it in household garbage once it has dried out thoroughly.





Leading Firefighter Cam Villani gets Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury kitted out for his firefighting experience.

Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

## Mayor gets fire safety lesson

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury lived every young man's dream last month when he experienced life as a firefighter during a visit to Ormond Fire Station.

Cr Bury donned a firefighter's uniform, inspected a fire truck, received a lesson in how to use firefighting equipment and even got to put out a small blaze in a rubbish bin.

During the visit, local firefighters demonstrated how to put out a fire safely using an extinguisher and fire blanket and gave Cr Bury the opportunity try out his newly-developed skills on a small rubbish bin fire.

The Mayor also gained a birds-eye view of Glen Eira when he was given a ride on a hydraulic platform lift, generally used to assist firefighters when battling high-rise fires.

Cr Bury said the visit gave him a unique insight into the important work of local firefighters and the facilities and equipment used.

"Community safety is one of Council's highest priorities. Fire safety and awareness is crucial to our community and Council is pleased to be able to work with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) to help spread this message," Cr Bury said.

"Firefighters play a vital role in community safety, not only in extinguishing fires but also in assisting people who have been involved in car accidents and are in life threatening situations."

A highlight of Cr Bury's visit was a demonstration of the brigade's Emergency Medicine Response (EMR) system, used when firefighters are called out to life-threatening situations.

MFB Manager Community Safety Southern Zone Commander Colin Bibby said the EMR system

### Fire safety tips

Local residents still trying to warm up during the current cold spell, should keep in mind these fire safety tips from Ormond Fire Station.

- Turn off electric blankets before going to bed.
- Ensure heaters are away from flammable materials.
- Test smoke alarms weekly by pressing the button on the alarm, and change their batteries every year.
- Keep candles and oil burners away from flammable materials and put them out before going to bed.

involved fire-fighters using first aid and automatic defibrillators to maintain life until the ambulance arrives at the scene of a life threatening situation.

"The MFB undertook the EMR system seven years ago in an attempt to be more valuable to the community," Commander Bibby said.

"Firefighters are called out to a number of situations from heart attacks to car accidents and EMR is what they use to help save lives."



Cr Bury puts his newly learned firefighting skills to the test.

## Learning through play at expo

Local children's services workers gained an insight into the latest equipment and resources available in early childhood education at a children's services expo Council held at the Glen Eira Town Hall recently.

Council's two-day *Children's Services Expo 2004* was held to give Glen Eira based children's services staff access to information, training and resource options.

Council's Manager Family and Community Support Marg Sullivan said the expo was aimed at people who work in long day care, family day care, occasional care and out of school hours care.

"The expo provided staff and some parents who attended with the opportunity to view updated information, equipment and resources available from different agencies and traders in the children's services field," Ms Sullivan said.

"In most cases staff order equipment from catalogues — the expo provided them with a first-hand look at available resources such as play equipment, teaching aids, musical instruments, multicultural resources and wooden toys.

"It was an opportunity for staff and parents to broaden ideas on presenting and offering materials to help children to learn through play and curiosity."

Ms Sullivan said the expo also featured four training sessions such topics as autism spectrum disorder, communicating and partnering with parents, inclusive practices and embracing multicultural perspectives.

"The expo was also a networking opportunity for staff and a way for staff from different areas across children services to come together and share ideas," she said.

## Council cracks down on fire safety

Council is currently conducting random audits of commercial buildings in Glen Eira and cracking down on building owners to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations.

Council is focusing the audit on high risk buildings such as special accommodation homes, hostels and nursing homes which usually accommodate people who need help evacuating a building in an emergency.

Council's Manager Building Services John Bordignon said recent changes to the *Building Regulations Act 1994* required high risk buildings to have residential sprinkler systems installed to ensure a high level of fire safety for occupants.



"Residential sprinkler systems are purpose built sprinklers that have a fast response to fire and can control and contain fire so that occupants can evacuate the building," Mr Bordignon said.

Council conducts random audits of commercial buildings annually with about 100 buildings inspected, assessed and rated. The inspection establishes whether the buildings are high, medium or low risk.

Mr Bordignon said commercial building owners are required to maintain fire and safety systems under the *Building Regulations Act 1994*.

"Notification of an inspection is sent to the owner and occupier of the building along with information about their obligations under the Act. The inspection is carried out within two to four weeks," he said.

"Council officers aim to identify whether the building complies with the Act and essential services such as fire hydrants, extinguishers, exit signs, emergency lighting and power supplies, smoke detectors, fire alarms and sprinkler systems are maintained."

If items are found to be non-compliant, a building notice is issued to the property owner who has 30 days to comply. Property owners who do not comply are issued with a building infringement notice and \$200 fine for each non-conforming item.

Council's Assistant Manager Building Services Keith Franklyn inspects a fire safety system. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.



# Trim trees for safety

Council is urging local residents to make sure trees and shrubs along the front of their properties aren't posing safety hazards.

Trees and shrubs planted on private property are the property owner's responsibility and any trees or shrubs which hang over public footpaths and roadways must be cut back to reduce possible dangers to the public.

Council's Manager Civic Amenity Carl Russo said it is up to the property owner to maintain trees and shrubs on the edge of their land.

"With recent rains triggering garden growth, now is the time for residents to trim trees," Mr Russo said.

"This is particularly important along roadways and footpaths, where overhanging trees and shrubs pose as a safety hazard to pedestrians or bicycle riders.

"Overhanging branches can also obscure the view of

drivers reversing out of driveways or travelling along streets and laneways."

Trees and shrubs must be cut to a height of three metres above the ground and they must be trimmed back to be vertical to the property boundary. Residents wishing to dispose of the excess vegetation can use Council's free monthly bundled branch collection or its fee-based fortnightly green waste service.

Mr Russo said if trees and shrubs exceeded the guidelines, residents or property owners would receive a notice and be advised to take action within 14 days.

"If no action has been taken, a second caution notice allows a further 10 days to carry out the work," he said.

"Ultimately if an owner still fails to comply, Council will engage a contractor to undertake the work and all charges associated with the work will be charged to the property owner in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

"Property owners will also be issued with a \$200



Gardenvale resident Peter Todd makes sure his hedge isn't a safety hazard for pedestrians. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

penalty notice under Council's local law."

Mr Russo said Council took its community safety responsibilities seriously.

"We not only respond to complaints from the community about overhanging trees and shrubs, but we are also proactive with more than 5,000 properties inspected annually."

Council has recently produced an *Overhanging branches* guide for residents. To obtain a copy, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

## Community feedback assists planning review

Increased traffic and parking safety, poorly designed developments and inadequate public transport are some of the issues which have been raised by residents and community groups as part of a review of Council's Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS).

Council's Director City Development Jeff Akehurst said Council received valuable feedback from a recent community consultation workshop held as part of the review process.

"Feedback indicates the community values good resources and infrastructure, safety, quiet streets which are also close to amenities, established trees and gardens and a diverse population inclusive of different cultures and ages in Glen Eira," Mr Akehurst said.

"The information gathered during the consultation will help Council ensure the MSS better achieves its objectives and meets community needs.

"We do need to be realistic about what Council can do through the MSS. Council cannot wave a magic wand and make cars disappear. Cars and the congestion they bring are part of our way of life. The key is to plan our communities to minimise the negative impacts as much as possible."

Under the Planning and Environment Act, every Council is required to review its MSS once every three years.

The MSS outlines the key land use, strategic planning and development objectives for Glen Eira, as well as policies and strategies for achieving these objectives. It also forms part of the Glen Eira Planning Scheme.

Issues raised at the MSS workshop regarding changes in Glen Eira over the past five years included heritage controls, increased traffic, parking and safety problems associated with medium density housing, poorly designed new residential developments, and accessibility of public transport services.

Suggested improvements related to the provision of quality multi-unit developments, adequate car parking, the importance of the environment and improvements to parklands, better public access to Caulfield Racecourse, quality student housing and facilities, better public transport connections and greater consistency from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Council will consider a report on the MSS review later this year.

## Property information goes online



Local property owners selling their land will be able to access property information more quickly with Council's new online land information certificate system. Photo: Anne Stafford.

Local property information will soon be more easily obtainable thanks to a new computerised system Council will implement this month.

Council has received a \$29,994 State Government grant to make land information certificates available online through its website at [www.gleneira.vic.gov.au](http://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au)

Land information certificates provide information about a property, including valuation, rates and charges and outstanding moneys owed, and are usually sought by people selling, buying or refinancing a property.

Council's Chief Financial Officer Cynthia Lahiff said land information certificates are currently available through an application process which involves applying for the certificate, paying a fee by cheque and receiving the certificate by mail.

"The new computerised system means that land information certificates can be requested and paid for online via the internet, with the results of the request being delivered either electronically, by fax or mail," Ms Lahiff said.

"For those who do not have internet access or find the existing arrangements meet their needs, the current process will still be available."

Ms Lahiff said Council received about 5,000 land information certificate requests per year with most coming from solicitors or conveyancing agents who would use the more time-efficient online option.

"Property owners selling their land will have access to this information in one day as opposed to two to three days," she said.

"This initiative is part of Council's plan to provide more services to residents and other customers online."

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# Council improves customer service

Glen Eira residents can expect to have a more efficient answers to their queries following improvements to Council's customer service system.

Council has introduced a new information management system which will enable customer enquiries received over the phone or at the customer service counter to be answered more efficiently.

Council's Director Community Relations Paul Burke said the new system would provide a seamless flow of information, which would enable Council's customer service consultants to better respond to queries from residents and ratepayers.

He said information from a number of different service areas was now linked under the one system, which would enable quicker response times, particularly for multiple-issue enquiries.

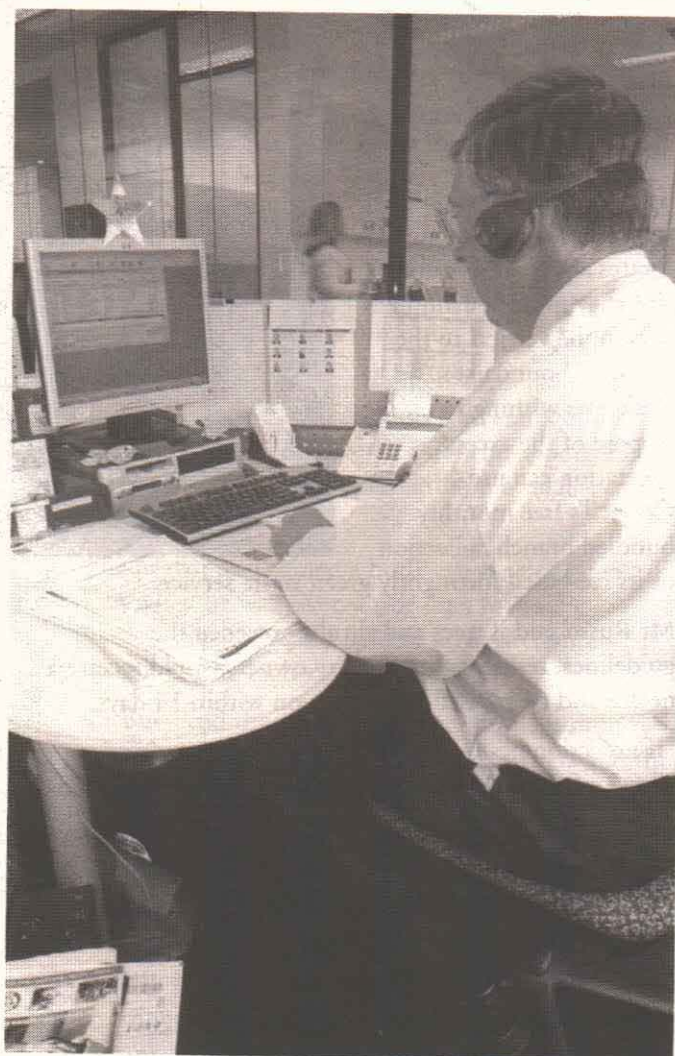
"Council's Service Centre is recognised by both public and private sector organisations as a best practice organisation in regards to call response times," Mr Burke said.

"Council currently answers 96 per cent of calls within 20 seconds and almost 72 per cent of queries can be resolved by the customer service consultant answering the call.

"This new system will enable to Council to improve its customer service to residents even further."

Mr Burke said the new system also introduced safeguards so that better internal monitoring of requests could take place.

"We can now ensure we receive the right information to be able to answer the request, make sure the most appropriate person actions it and that it is being actioned within the appropriate time frames," he said.



Council customer service consultant David Mulcock enters an enquiry into Council's new customer service system.  
Photo: Robert Churchus.

"It also means that if a customer wants to know what stage their request is at, we can quickly and easily provide that information."

## Top customer queries

Council's Service Centre has been operating since 1996 and handles about 195,000 telephone enquiries and more than 50,000 counter enquiries each year. These are its most common queries.

### When are my rate payments due?

Rates are payable in four instalments during the year — 30 September 2004, 30 November 2004, 28 February 2005 and 31 May 2005. Instalment amounts are listed on the annual rate and valuation notice. Reminder notices will be sent before each instalment is due. Residents wishing to pay all instalments in advance by 30 September may do so.

### How do I register my pet?

Council's animal registration form needs to be completed and if a discount applies, proof of eligibility needs to be provided. The form needs to be signed and the amount indicated on the form must be paid.

### What size rubbish bins are available from Council and what is the charge?

For residential properties, Council has a 240-litre bin which costs \$119.50 per year and a 120-litre bin which costs \$109 per year. Both charges include the provision of separate recycling crates.

### When is the next hard rubbish collection in my area?

Glen Eira is sectioned into four areas and a collection is made in each area once every four weeks. The date varies each month. To have hard rubbish collected, residents must make a booking by contacting Council's Service Centre. Consultants will advise residents of the next collection date, the hard rubbish guidelines and the date they should place their items on the naturestrip for collection.

### Can the poor-looking tree on my naturestrip be looked at?

The request will be forwarded to a qualified parks officer who will inspect the tree and provide the resident with a written response on the outcome.

Contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

## Property values rise in Glen Eira

Property values across Glen Eira have increased by an average of 23.08 per cent, Council's biennial property revaluation has shown.

The revaluation, conducted by specialists Matheson Stephens under contract to Council, reveals residential property values in Glen Eira have continued to outstrip commercial and industrial property values. The State Government requires all councils to conduct property valuations every two years.

To comply with this legislation, Council has revalued every property in Glen Eira this year. The new valuations are used in two ways — by the State Government to levy land tax and by councils to levy rates. The valuations are determined by referring to all property sales which occurred in Glen Eira around the valuation date of 1 January 2004.

This year's revaluation found that stand-alone house values in Glen Eira have risen by 25.65 per cent in the

### 2004 revaluation results

Property type	Average value (CIV)	Value increase (NAV)**
Houses	\$552,758	25.65 per cent
Flats and units	\$312,936	22.66 per cent
Commercial and industrial	\$563,076	8.29 per cent
<b>All property types</b>	<b>\$458,992</b>	<b>23.08 per cent</b>

\* Capital improved value (CIV) is the market value of the property at the date of valuation.

\*\* Net annual value (NAV) is the assessed rental value of the property.

past two years, flat and unit values have increased by 22.66 per cent while commercial and industrial property values have increased by 8.29 per cent.

Properties in Caulfield North have shown the greatest increase in value, while Bentleigh East properties have shown the lowest rate of growth.

Council's Chief Financial Officer Cynthia Lahiff said Glen Eira had witnessed a steady increase in the residential property market over the past two years, with rises generally between 0.5 per cent and 1.5 per cent indicated each month.

"Generally prevailing low interest rates, and the first home buyers' grant resulted in increased prices since the completion of the 2002 revaluation and during the first three quarters of 2003, Ms Lahiff said.

Ms Lahiff said that because of the revaluation, every property owner's rates were likely to change in 2004-05, depending on the movement in the value of their property since the last revaluation in 2002.

She said while property value increases had occurred across the board, the wide range of movements in value behind the averages meant that individual properties would be affected differently.

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

"In fact, as properties increase in value, Council's rate of taxation is relatively stable — the increases in rates occur as the rates proportion is redistributed more

equitably amongst properties in the municipality.

"In 2004-05 this redistribution means that residential properties will potentially be paying a higher proportion of the rates while commercial and industrial type properties may pay a slightly lower proportion. The actual impact will depend on the individual property and whether its value has increased or decreased in relation to the City's average."

Since 1996-97, the value of rateable property in Glen Eira has increased from \$9.3 billion to \$26 billion.

### How rates are determined

Glen Eira property owners will receive their 2004-05 annual rate notice in the mail this month.

The annual rate is calculated by multiplying the Net Annual Value of the property (the estimated annual rental value of the property which for residential properties is fixed at 5 per cent of the Capital Improved Value and no lower than 5 per cent for any property) by the rate in the dollar.

For example:

#### If the valuation of a property is:

<b>\$410,000</b>	
Net Annual Value:	\$20,500
Rate in dollar (per cent)	3.3786
Rates for 2004-05	\$692.61
Waste and recycling charge:	\$125.50
<b>Total rates and charges payable:</b>	<b>\$818.10</b>



## Music legend *to perform in Glen Eira*

One of the biggest names in Australian music, Joe Camilleri headlines Council's *Winter Music Series 2004* this month.

Joe Camilleri, one of Australia's most acclaimed singers, musicians and songwriters, will hit the stage at the Glen Eira Town Hall auditorium with his new band Bakelite Radio on Sunday 29 August at 2.30pm.

Camilleri has been the front man of bands such as Jo Jo Zep and the Falcons, the Black Sorrows and the Revelators. His latest project involves the five-piece rhythm and blues and jazz outfit Bakelite Radio.

Together with his songwriting buddy Nick Smith, Camilleri offers a unique and intimate style of acoustic blues with dynamic and meaningful tunes explored in new and original lyrics.

Council's Manager Arts and Culture David O'Halloran said Joe Camilleri was a living legend in Australian music, having performed almost every style of music imaginable, worn every hat from singer to record producer and label owner and mastered the guitar, keyboards, harmonica and saxophone.

"Council is delighted to have secured Joe Camilleri for the *Winter Music Series* and give local residents the opportunity to hear a performer of his calibre in their local community," Mr O'Halloran said.

"Joe gives his heart and soul to the development of the Australian music scene. He is undoubtedly one of the biggest, most exciting performers we have ever featured in the *Winter Music Series*."

Mr O'Halloran said the successful Klezmania and Belle Musette concerts which launched the series in July were just a taste of what is in store for the rest of the program.

"The remaining three concerts will offer concert-goers a variety of music styles from classical with a twist, to swing and rhythm and blues," he said.

We have had full houses for the first two concerts, so

residents should get in quick and book their tickets, to secure a seat."

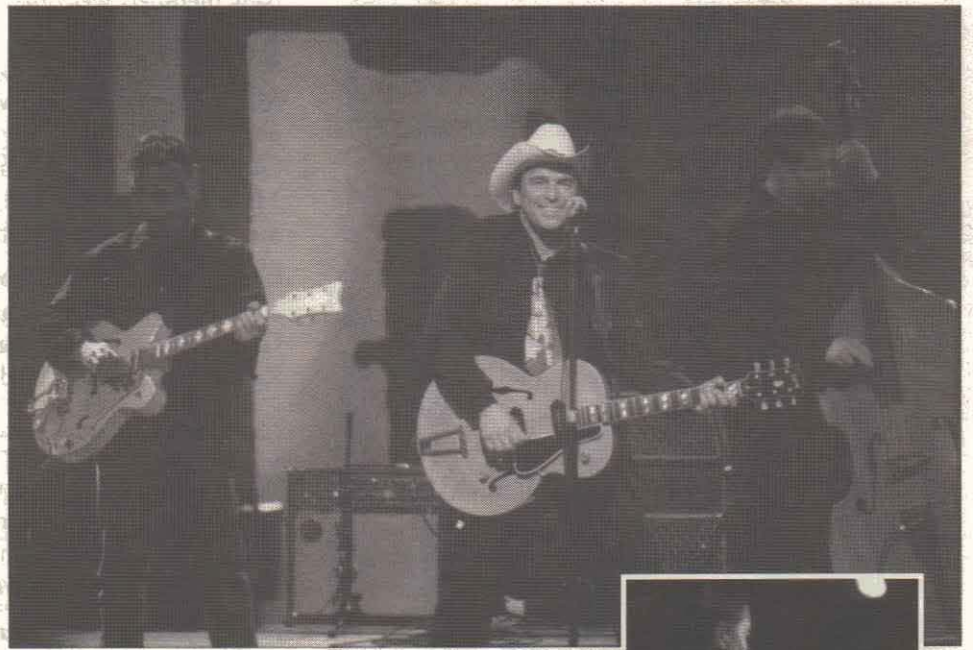
Silo String Quartet will challenge the aloof, classical traditions of chamber music in the Theatre on Sunday 8 August by performing new and contemporary works with a gritty, punchy edge.

The quartet will give songs by Joy Division and Jeff Buckley their own original flavour at the concert, as well as showcase their exciting and exhilarating repertoire of sexy tangos, slinky jazz, new wave and driving rhythms.

The Auditorium will again come alive on Sunday 22 August to the toe-tapping sounds of JW Swing Orchestra. The authentic 19-piece orchestra will take concert-goers back to the dance halls days of the 1930s to 1950s performing the music of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Jimmy Dorsey, Duke Ellington and Tommy Dorsey

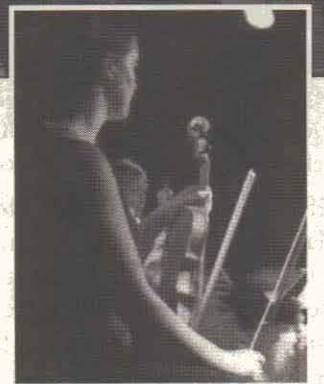
Vocalist David Moody will pay tribute to some of the great singers of the era including Frank Sinatra and Mel Torme, while Keren Summers will recreate the soulful sounds of Billy Holiday.

**Silo String Quartet**  
Sunday 8 August 2.30pm-4.30pm (doors open at 2pm)  
Theatre, Glen Eira Town Hall  
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield  
Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 concession



Australian music legend Joe Camilleri will perform in Council's *Winter Music Series* this month.

Silo String Quartet targets challenges the traditions of chamber music with its original arrangements of contemporary rock songs.



**JW Swing Orchestra**  
Sunday 22 August 2.30pm-4.30pm (doors open at 2pm)  
Auditorium  
Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 concession

**Joe Camilleri Bakelite Radio**  
Sunday 29 August 2.30pm-4.30pm (doors open at 2pm)  
Auditorium  
Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 concession  
For further information and bookings, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

## Exhibitions

Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Glen Eira Town Hall,  
corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield  
Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 1pm-5pm

### June Evelyn Banks-Smith

Opens Wednesday 11 August and continues until Sunday 22 August

This exhibition celebrates the achievements of Glen Eira resident and celebrated artist, author and illustrator June Evelyn Banks-Smith.



Wattle fairies by June Evelyn.

June has been drawing for 75 years and painting for nearly as long. At age 17 she became a student at the Gallery School where she studied under several prominent artists including Ruth Leber and Kath Ballard.

June is well known for her fairy illustrations and Melbourne cityscapes — her series of Melbourne's historic buildings was presented to the Prince and Princess of Wales, Charles and Diana. This exhibition celebrates her achievements and includes many works from her own collection.

### Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors 95th Annual Exhibition

Opening 6pm Wednesday 25 August and continues until Sunday 5 September

This exhibition showcases works produced by members of the Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors over the last two years. It is an eclectic grouping of works which reflects the diversity of the society's membership, but is organised around a shared theme — celebration.

The exhibition is a celebration of the society and its revitalised premises, the Ola Cohn Art Centre in East Melbourne. The society is the oldest of its kind in Victoria and has included many notable artists including Clarice Beckett.



Coleraine.

Noted academic, writer and curator Felicity St John Moore will open the exhibition.

### Morrie Gold Memorial Prize

Opens Wednesday 11 August and continues until Sunday 22 August

The 9th Annual Jewish Youth Art Exhibition 2004 celebrates the work of young Jewish artists aged 11 to 18 years. The exhibition will feature a range of works including painting, sculpture and other media.

Now in its ninth year, the competition has been inspired by a bequest left by arts lover and philanthropist the late Mr Morrie Gold to the B'nai B'rith Shalom Unit. The exhibition's aim is to encourage children's interest and confidence in art through interaction with the public.

Approximately 200 artworks are submitted to the competition each year by students from Jewish day schools. Artworks are judged by a panel of professional artists and prizes are offered in all categories and all age groups.



# Community diary

## Meetings and clubs

**Caulfield Combined Probus Club** for retired professionals meets in the Gladys Machin Senior Citizens' Centre, 8 Cedar Street, Caulfield South on the first Wednesday of each month at 10am. Contact: 9569 9170.

**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 Auxiliaries (Caulfield Branch)** meets at the Alma Club, 1 Wilks Street, Caulfield North on the third Wednesday of every month (February to November) at 1pm. New members welcome. Contact: Olive 9578 2395 or Pat 9571 2666.

**Murrumbeena Bowls Club** invites interested players to try out for the forthcoming summer season at 10 Blackwood Street, Carnegie. New bowlers welcome. Contact: 9568 5144.

**East Bentleigh Combined Probus Club** meets at the Bentleigh Club, Yawla Street, Bentleigh on the second Tuesday of each month at 9.30am. New members welcome. Contact: 9557 8236.

**Life Activities Club Caulfield** will meet in the Gladys Machin Senior Citizens' Centre Cedar Street, Caulfield South on Wednesday 18 August at 7.30pm. Guest speaker and supper served. New members welcome. Contact: 9568 5849 or 9523 9669.

**The Moorabbin Historical Society** opens Box Cottage in Joyce Park, Jasper Road, McKinnon on the last Sunday of each month (February to November) from 2pm to 4.30pm. Admission by donation. Contact: 9578 7060.

**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.

## Events

**Music Lovers' Society** will hold a bequest recital with pianist Amir Farid at the Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Saturday 14 August at 8pm. Cost: \$10-\$50. Members free, new members welcome. Contact: Zohreh 9467 4896.

**Community Information Glen Eira** will hold its Annual General Meeting in the Caulfield Cup Room, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Wednesday 25 August at 12pm. Contact: 9524 3200.

**East Bentleigh Primary School** in Bignell Road, Bentleigh East will hold its monthly community market on Saturday 28 August from 9am to 2pm. Stalls and fun activities for children. Stallholder enquiries contact Janet 9558 0793 or Jo 0417 702 866.

**St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh**, corner Centre and Tucker Roads, Bentleigh will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a month of festivities to be launched by Bishop John Wilson on Sunday 29 August at 3pm. A celebration concert featuring organ recital, choral and community singing will be held at the church on Sunday 5 September at 2.30pm. All welcome. Contact: 9557 2226.

## Community

**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 of every month. Voluntary contributions welcome. Bookings essential. Contact: 9578 9955.

**Community Information Glen Eira** seeks an honorary auditor. One day per year time commitment is required. Contact: Sue 9524 3200.

**Ogonyok Multicultural Association of Russian Women** will hold ballroom dance classes with qualified teachers for all ages and all levels in Ormond on Tuesdays from 6pm to 9pm — includes including old-time, modern and new vogue. Enrolment essential. Contact: 9570 8480.

**Community Information Glen Eira** provides a free service to help low income earners prepare tax returns and baby bonus applications. Volunteers are trained by the tax office. Tax help is available by appointment until the end of October. Contact: 9524 3200.

**Helmesmen Kiosk** at Caulfield General Medical Centre seeks volunteers to work in the kiosk. There are three shifts per day. Proceeds are given to the centre to help buy urgent medical equipment. Contact: 9578 7457.

## Immunisation sessions August-September

**Glen Eira Town Hall**  
(entry via Glen Eira Road)  
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield  
Tuesday 10 August 9.30am-10.15am  
Tuesday 7 September 9.30am-10.15am

**Murrumbeena Baptist Church**  
44 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena  
Monday 9 August 10am-11am

**Bentleigh-Bayside Community Health Service**  
Gardeners Road, Bentleigh East  
Wednesday 18 August 6pm-7pm  
Saturday 28 August 9.30am-10.30am

**Glen Huntly Maternal and Child Health Centre**  
Corner Royal and Rosedale Avenues, Glen Huntly  
Wednesday 25 August 9.30am-11am

**Bentleigh Baptist Church**  
10 Vickery Street, Bentleigh  
Monday 6 September 1.30pm-2.30pm

## Glen Huntly Friendship Group

99 Grange Road, Glen Huntly  
Activities for August

Tuesday 10 August

Just the place to be on a winter's day. Enjoy a program of morning melodies at the Village Green Hotel. Presenting the music of Nat King Cole and Sammy Davis Jr. Followed by a smorgasbord lunch.

Depart 10am from 185 Poath Road, Hughesdale and 10.15am from 99 Grange Road, Glen Huntly.  
Cost: \$44.

Enquiries and bookings Margaret 9596 6124

## Kung Fu

for Fitness, Confidence & Self Defence

Learn to defend yourself while you get fit. Develop better concentration, focus and awareness. Your balance and coordination will improve.

Special breathing, stretching and mind-body control exercises will increase your power yet you'll be graceful and flexible. Separate classes for children and adults. Numbers are limited.



**Golden Lion Academy**

98b Murrumbeena Rd, Murrumbeena

**9569 5084**

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- The 3-step process for building a tax effective investment portfolio.
- Strategies for investing in Shares, Commercial Property and High Yielding Fixed Interest.
- How to protect your capital and achieve a growing income stream.

Speaker: Mark Gashi — Chartered Accountant

Date: 10 August 2004

Time: 5.45pm for presentation 6pm-8pm

Venue: Glen Eira City Council  
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads,  
Caulfield, Victoria

Places are limited. Call to enquire further and reserve your place on 9526 0009 or confirm online: www.prudentiafg.com.au  
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**9578 4460**

**Self defence, Concentration, Discipline, Co-ordination, Self-esteem, Enjoyment, Stress Release**  
BEGINNERS TO BLACK BELT — From 4 years old

**Careprovider vacancies**

City of GLEN EIRA

Council seeks committed individuals who are interested in providing quality child care in their own home to become family day care careproviders. Careproviders may care for up to four preschool aged children, including their own. Residents who enjoy working with children and are able to provide a safe and stimulating environment for their early childhood development, can apply to become a family day care careprovider.

For more information contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.



## Super sleuthing at the library

By Anne Stafford

Council's Elsternwick Library plunged into mystery and intrigue last month when author Cen Fox paid a visit as part of Council's *July Holiday Mania* program.

Author of the *Nicholas Twit* schoolboy detective series, Fox regaled the children with mysterious stories surrounding the fictitious detective Sherlock Holmes, who turns 150 this year.

His talk was illustrated with pictures and a variety of props including a walking stick, a bowler hat and of course a deer stalker hat, the classic Sherlock Holmes accessory.

Throughout his talk Fox fired questions at the children such as, "where did Sherlock Holmes keep his tobacco" and "who was the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories". Many of the children already had some knowledge of the detective and were able to call out the correct answers.

The big mystery though, was the significance of the number 221B. It is, of course, the address in Baker Street where Conan Doyle based his famous detective.

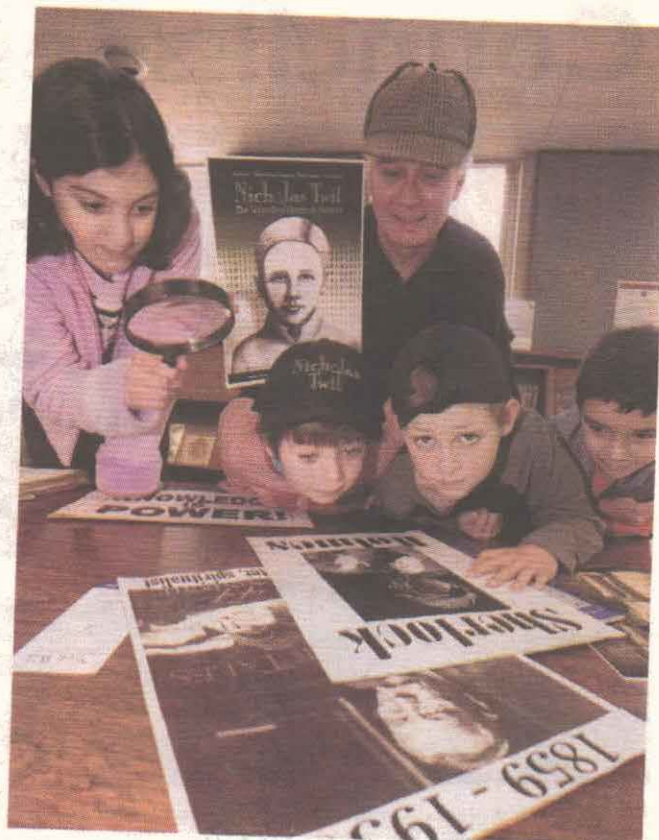
Fox used the discussion of the famous detective to springboard into his own stories of Nicholas Twit; a 10-year-old Melbourne boy, who wants to be a detective like his hero Sherlock Holmes.

The energetic author showed the children how to create basic codes by playing with words and how Nicholas used these codes or "twit-speak" to solve the crimes in the stories.

Fox ended his talk with a question and answer session, during which children quizzed him about Sherlock Holmes and Nicholas Twit. Thus the mysteries of detective writing were duly solved.

Author Cen Fox is joined by apprentice sleuths, Eleonora Kay, Joel Mason-Shaw, Lawson Thomas and Joshua Reuben in unravelling the mystery of Sherlock Holmes.

Photo: Les O'Rourke.



## Record entries in story prize

A record number of stories from local students were entered as part of this year's Nestlé Write Around Australia competition which Council is hosting.

The first round of judging for the competition has taken place and more than 2,000 stories written by local students read by the judging panel.

Council's libraries are the regional hosts for the competition which is open to local students in Years 5 and 6.

Council's Manager Library and Information Services Sue Webster said the judges had the arduous task of selecting 10 finalists each from Years 5 and 6.

"The selected finalists were then invited to attend a writing workshop at Caulfield Library with popular children's author Paul Collins last month," Ms Webster said.

"The children were given the opportunity to rework their stories under Paul's guidance and then resubmit their 500 word stories for a second round of judging."

Judges will select one winner from each year level who will then go up against other finalists from around the Victoria. Two state representatives will be selected for national judging at the end of the year.

## Kids create mosaic masterpieces

Red, green, yellow, orange and blue coloured tiles filled Council's Carnegie Library last month as local children gathered for a lesson in mosaic tiling.

The library hosted the event at which children, mums

and grandparents worked together to create their mosaic masterpieces.

The children had a choice of fish, heart or football shaped boards to glue the colourful broken tiles to — hearts were clearly the popular shape.

Once finished, the children could use the mosaic boards as a placemat or a decoration that they could proudly display on their bedroom wall.

Council's Manager Library and Information Services Sue Webster said the class was an affordable opportunity for young children to try the mosaic craft.

"The children could create something that they could be proud of and take home," Ms Webster said.

"This is the first time we have held the mosaic class at Carnegie Library and it has been successful judging by how quickly the class was fully booked."

The mosaic class was held as part of Council's *July Holiday Mania* program, held at Council's libraries during the June-July school holiday break.



Charlotte Lionnet, aged 4, creates a colourful heart-shaped mosaic placemat at Carnegie Library. Photo: Anne Stafford.

## What's on at Council's libraries?

### Learn to use the Internet

Council will hold the following Internet classes in the multi-stationed computer training facility at Caulfield Library. Gift certificates are available for any of these classes and can be bought at any branch.

#### Computer basics

The ideal class for the absolute beginner.  
Tuesday 24 August 2.30pm-4.30pm  
Monday 6 September 10.30am-12.30pm  
Cost: \$33

#### Introduction to the Internet

A beginner's course to browsing the Internet.  
Tuesday 10 August 2pm-3.30pm  
Cost: \$22

#### Further steps on the Internet

This class builds on the information learnt in the introduction class and includes search engines, newsgroups and downloading.  
Wednesday 1 September 10.30am-1pm  
Cost: \$33

#### One-on-one Internet training

Personalised training tailored to individual needs and interests. Suitable for any level of experience, including beginners. Sessions last for one hour.  
Cost: \$44

### Children's Book Week

Council's libraries will celebrate Children's Book Week from Saturday 21 August to Friday 27 August.

This year, local schools have been invited to attend free talks at Caulfield Library with author Anna Ciddor who wrote the *Viking Magic* books, *Runestone*, *Wolfspell* and *Stormriders*. At Elsternwick Library, illustrator Kevin Burgemeestre will talk to Years 2 and 3 students about sketching, cartooning and the importance of illustration in books.

Storytime sessions during Children's Book Week will focus on nominated books from the 2004 *Book of the Year* early childhood category.



## Council seeks budding young leaders



Just Youth members Louise Rowntree and Kerry Dobson discuss an upcoming skating event with Council youth workers Simon Kuut and Katarina Filipi. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Council is calling on young people in Glen Eira to join its *Just Youth* program and help co-ordinate youth-orientated projects and events.

*Just Youth* is a Council leadership program which is facilitated by local Year 9 and 10 students who help Council develop activities and events for young people in the Glen Eira community.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said the program provided an opportunity for young people to have direct input into the development and evaluation of Council's youth programs.

"*Just Youth* gives young people hands-on experience in developing programs, forums and activities that educate and develop other young people," Ms Smith said.

"Members also receive training in a range of relevant areas such as communication, time management, leadership, and organisational skills."

The program started in May 2003 when Council teamed up with Year 9 students from Kilvington Girls Grammar to develop a two-day youth leadership training seminar *Let us Lead*.

The success of *Let us Lead*, prompted Council to create the *Just Youth* program which now involves young people from various Glen Eira schools including McKinnon Secondary College, Kilvington Girls Grammar and Leibler Yavneh Secondary College.

Ms Smith said that since its inception *Just Youth* had organised a stress management workshop, indoor rock climbing and team building activity, an evaluation and planning trip and a two-day youth forum.

"The group has been successful in encouraging young

people to creatively express themselves both individually and publicly and develop leadership skills," she said.

*Just Youth* members meet at Council's Why? Stop Youth Information Centre in Carnegie on either a fortnightly or weekly basis during school terms, depending whether an event is upcoming.

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

### Young people help just youth

By Sophie Massis

When local students Louise Rowntree and Kerry Dobson were asked to be part of a Council event to help young people, they never thought it would be the beginning of a successful youth program.

Louise and Kerry are founding members of Council's *Just Youth* leadership program which is facilitated by local Year 9 and 10 students.

A Year 10 student at Kilvington Girls Grammar in Ormond, Louise said the program has helped her to connect with teenagers throughout Glen Eira and develop new personal skills.

"We constantly learn things about ourselves and what we can achieve but at the same time help other young people," Louise said.

"Because of the different events that we have organised as part of the program I have learnt to arrange guest speakers, book venues, book caterers, arrange advertisements and co-ordinate and facilitate events.

"It is an opportunity to have fun and get to know people from other schools around Glen Eira while learning communication and leadership skills."

Kerry, also in Year 10, said being a part of *Just Youth* has helped her to gain self confidence and develop her people skills.

"I feel more comfortable standing and speaking in front of a group of peers and talking to people on the telephone," Kerry said.

Kerry said the program enabled young people to share opinions on world issues, studying and stress management in a casual forum with other young people who could relate to them.

"We discuss their experiences with teenage issues in a fun and relaxed environment which is different in most cases to a school environment," she said.

"The program is about creating workshops for young people by young people as we are closer in age and better understand their needs."

## Local students just clown around

By Sophie Massis

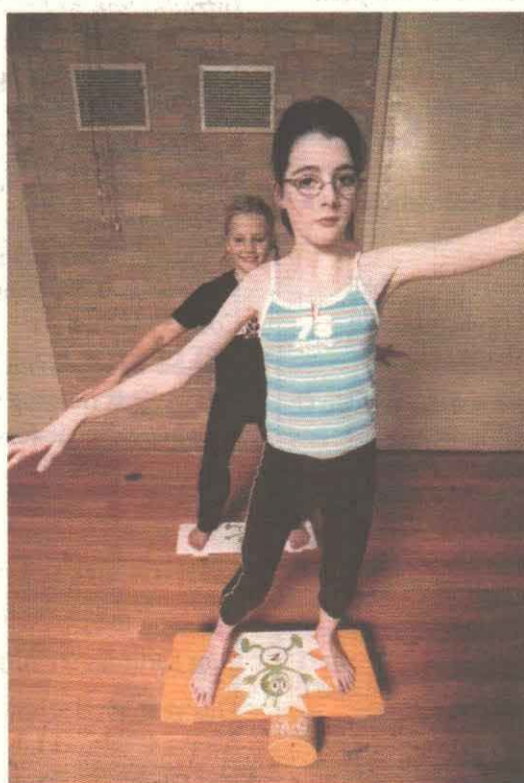
Most young people in Glen Eira wouldn't think that acting like a clown would be a recreational option but it was for 30 local students who took part in Council's *Just clowning around* workshop last month.

The three-day workshop involved specialist training to teach participants circus skills and was aimed at children who would benefit from additional community support.

Participants of the workshop were taught juggling, hoola hoop, gymnastics, handstands, slapstick comedy, rolls, diablo, pole and cylinder balancing and how to build human pyramids.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said the workshop was designed to provide young people with a positive recreational experience and provide an opportunity for them to participate in recreation on an ongoing basis.

"The program encourages young people to look at



Britney Gale and Cheney Dobson learn to balance on cylinders at Council's *Just clowning around* workshop. Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

alternative recreation programs outside the traditional sports such as football, basketball and netball," Ms Smith said.

"The circus theme was chosen because it incorporates a number of different techniques that encourage physical, intellectual, emotional and social skills."

Participants were divided into small groups and had to create a routine that incorporated the new skills they had learned. They then performed the routine on the last day of the workshop in front of their peers.

Participant Britney Gale, aged nine years, said the workshop gave her an opportunity to learn new skills.

"I always wanted to be part of the circus and this is my chance. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity," Britney said.

The workshop was aimed at children aged 10 to 17 years and is part of Council's Flying High Circus program which has been running for six years.



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](mailto:ystop@gleneira.vic.gov.au)