

Celebrate at *Princes Park*

By Sophie Massis

Glen Eira residents are invited to celebrate the opening of one of Glen Eira's newest signature parks, Princes Park in Caulfield South.

The *Picnic at Princes* — a new way to play celebration will be held on Sunday 5 December and will feature free entertainment and fun for the whole family and showcase the park's newly refurbished landscape.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said the first stage of Council's redevelopment of Princes Park is now complete.

"The park has been upgraded to include better sporting facilities, a sensory garden, open spaces and better access in and around Princes Park for the Glen Eira community," Cr Bury said.

"More than 15,500 new plants have been added to the park, including 277 mature trees."

Other stage one works completed so far include the relocation of the soccer ground, construction of a retaining wall to separate the park from the tennis courts and installation of new coloured concrete pathways, entrance ways and raised kerbing and new park furniture. Works to transform the Western end of the park, near Hawthorn Road have been completed with the construction of new paths and entrance points. New automated toilets have also been installed with new signage due to follow shortly.

One of the main features of Princes Park is its new playground, now open for all children and families to enjoy.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said outdated equipment in the playground had been replaced to offer play experiences for all.

"It includes a traversing rock climbing wall, junior train unit with tunnel, spring rockers, a double slide and seesaw," Ms Smith said.

"The playground has been specifically designed to allow access for people of all abilities."

lm "The redeveloped area also includes basketball and netball rings with a rebound wall, new barbecue and shaded picnic areas, and improved amenities and landscaping."

Ms Smith said parents with children in prams and children in wheelchairs would be able to enjoy the new equipment and grandparents with less mobility would also be able to access the playground.

"Unlike the previous playground, which had mulch and tanbark at the base making it more difficult to access, the upgraded playground uses coloured concrete and rubber-surfaced paths that lead through the park," she said.

"Playground items such as ramps and swings that operate with lever arms and have specifically-tailored seats also make the play equipment more accessible for children who use wheelchairs."

"The playground has a section designed for toddlers and children aged two to seven years, and a senior section for children aged eight to 12 years."

Redevelopment of the park has been split into two stages according to the type of work involved — landscaping works (stage one) and building works (stage two).



Six-year old Kosta Lambrou gives Princes Park's brand new playground the thumbs up.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Current works involved only stage one of the project, with the final design yet to be developed for stage two.

Ms Smith said the redevelopment aimed to ensure the park would better meet the community's needs, whether it be upgraded sporting facilities and open spaces or better access in and around the park.

"When completed, Princes Park will be one of Glen Eira's signature parks — just like Packer Park in Carnegie."

The Picnic at Princes — a new way to play celebration will run from 12pm until 4pm on Sunday 5 December at Princes Park, Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South. For more information contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 or visit the website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

Glen Eira turns 10

The City of Glen Eira was created 10 years ago when the City of Caulfield and part of the City of Moorabbin were amalgamated. Turn to pages 9–12 for a special 10th birthday liftout to find out more about how the City developed, its highlights and challenges and opportunities for the future.

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Mayor's column



The year is drawing to a close, and that means the season of celebration is upon us.

With our annual *Carols by Candlelight* concerts, *Picnic at Princes Park*, and the recent traders' festivals in Bentleigh, Carnegie and McKinnon, Glen Eira has come out in style to showcase the City. *Carols by Candlelight*, this year again held in two parks, is a

highlight of Council's events calendar and I invite you all to come along and soak up the festive atmosphere of these family-friendly events.

Glen Eira is home to people of many different cultures and backgrounds, and these celebrations help bring us together. They help create a sense of belonging and provide opportunities for us to share our goodwill and community spirit with friends and family, regardless of beliefs or background.

This year marks the City's 10th birthday, and as part of the festivities we celebrate 10 years of Glen Eira's achievements, such as becoming debt-free and commencing work on the Carnegie Library and Community Centre, as well as celebrating the City's biggest asset — the diversity of our community.

In my time as Mayor I have been fortunate to spend time with many different groups and individuals from our community and have enjoyed hearing their stories and celebrating their strengths. From honouring the fallen on Remembrance Day to recognising the talents of our young people, there is much to be proud of in our City.

One of my favourite tasks has been to help new Australians become official citizens of this great country. Becoming an Australian citizen is not a decision taken lightly, and I congratulate all those who took this final step in the past year.

As a community, we work together to improve our City in many ways. As a Council, we have the benefit of access to the advice and energy of our Councillors and the skills of our talented staff members. It has been an honour for me to toil alongside this hard-working team and appreciate first-hand the effort required and challenges met on behalf of our great community.

As Mayor it has been a pleasure for me to participate in and reward the achievements of our community members. I urge you all to take a look back over the year and reflect on your own successes, celebrate the family, friends and support around you and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the coming year.

I hope you and your families enjoy this holiday season in peace and safety and wish you a happy and prosperous new year.

— Cr Bob Bury
Mayor

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Green thumbs up — 60 years of gardening

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury took his green thumbs and a keen eye along when he recently officially opened the 60th Caulfield Garden Club Diamond Jubilee flower show.

Cr Bury, who attended the show with his wife Marney and Cr Noel Erlich, said he was impressed by the wonderful display created by the more than 200 entries.

"Gardening is a popular past-time for many Glen Eira residents and people of all ages have come together to show off the results of their green thumbs as part of the show," Cr Bury said.

"Sixty years is a significant achievement for any organisation. It is a tribute to the membership and the various committees over the years that not only their plants, but the organisation itself, has continued to grow and thrive all these years."

Entries were judged under a range of categories including roses, cut flowers and shrubs, floral display, container-grown plants, fruit and vegetables, children's sections and miscellaneous.

The Caulfield Garden Club was established in December 1944 as the Gardenvale and District Horticultural Society, before becoming the Caulfield Garden Club in 1982. The club has a membership of 70 gardeners who range from 50 to 60 years in age.



Caulfield Garden Club president and show manager Pam Felgate shows a rose display to Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury.
Photo: Rob Churchus.

Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards

Council is seeking nominations for the Glen Eira Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards. Organisations and individuals are invited to nominate citizens who they believe have made an outstanding contribution to the community. Nominees must be Australian citizens and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, must be residents of Australia. To be eligible, the nominees for Young Citizen of the Year must be under 27 years of age on 26 January 2005. Nominations close on Friday 17 December 2004. Forms are available from Council's Service Centre.

The Glen Eira Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards will be presented at Council's **Australia Day breakfast** to be held in the Auditorium, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Friday 21 January 2005 at 7.30am.

Guest speaker: Health Services Commissioner Beth Wilson

RSVP: Friday 14 January 2005

Cost: \$25 per head

Tickets: Contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

Deadlines

Glen Eira News is not published in January. The deadline for the February issue of the *Glen Eira News* is:

Wednesday 12 January 2005

for delivery 4-6 February 2005

Coming deadlines:

Wednesday 9 February 2005 for delivery 4-6 March

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

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We will remember them

By Sophie Massis

The words of *The Ode* echoed through Caulfield Park last month as Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury recited the verse to a crowd of Glen Eira residents ranging from war veterans to school students.

More than 100 people of all ages braved the cold and threatening clouds to attend Council's annual Remembrance Day service and pay their respects to the men and women who died in conflict.

In his address, Cr Bury said Remembrance Day offered a time to remember the sacrifice made by the servicemen and women who had not returned home from battle.

"I am particularly keen to reinforce the message that this day began as a day to remember the thousands of young, and not so young, men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in that most awful of wars, World War I," Cr Bury said.



Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury (right) and Hon Peter Costello MP discuss the importance of Remembrance Day.

As a formation of planes flew overhead, attendees of the service had an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the day during two minutes of silence. In tribute to the dead, the *Last Post* was played by Year 9 McKinnon Secondary College student Daniel Parsons-Jones.

Caulfield resident and former Polish Lieutenant Nelly Boratyn said she had been attending Council's Remembrance Day service for many years. The 90-year-old attended the service draped in medals of honour, one of which was her *Saviour of Poland* medal.

Cr Bury and Council's Chief Executive Officer Andrew Newton laid a wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph on behalf of the City, followed by the Hon Peter Costello MP and Member for Caulfield Helen Shardey MLA who also laid wreaths.

Wreaths were laid by representatives from the Caulfield RSL, Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL, the Victorian Association of Jewish Ex-servicemen and Women, the Caulfield-St Kilda War Widows Club, Bentleigh Red Cross Unit, Bentleigh Secondary College, Caulfield Grammar, Glen Eira Secondary College, Kilvington Girls Grammar, McKinnon Secondary College and Shelford Anglican Girls School.

Among those at the service were Councillors Margaret Esakoff, Alan Grossbard, Jamie Hyams, Veronika Martens, Dorothy Marwick and Rachelle Sapir.



From left: Former Polish Lieutenant Nelly Boratyn discusses the significance of her war medals with Emilia Gierud and Jessie Gordon. Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

Modern living for older residents

The redevelopment of 30 purpose-built independent living units at Council's Curraweena site in Caulfield South, which will provide residents with better and more modern accommodation, is almost complete.

In November last year, Council demolished the existing outdated 24 bedsitter units and meeting room as part of the first stage of works to make way for improved and additional facilities.

Council's Director Assets and Facilities Geoff Barrow said Council was pleased with the progress of the works.

"The units are nearing completion — the interiors are being fitted out and the exterior site works,

including fencing and driveways, are well underway," Mr Barrow said.

"The units are modern, low maintenance facilities, consistent with the current accommodation needs and standards expected for residents in the senior stage of their life."

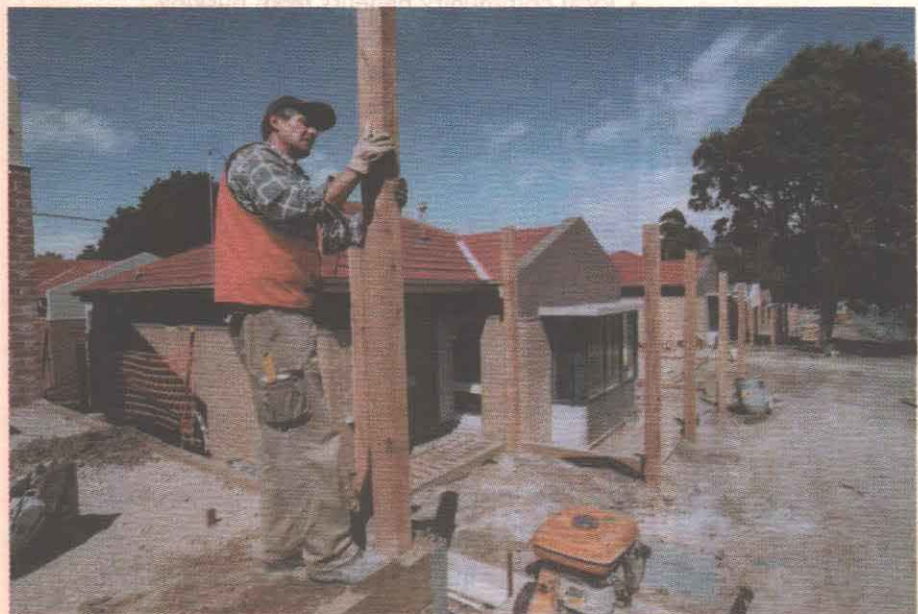
Each unit consists of one bedroom, a separate living space, kitchen and bathroom, designed to accommodate people of all abilities and requiring minimal maintenance. The units also have their own private courtyard and access to off-street parking.

Mr Barrow said the Curraweena units provide low-cost rental accommodation with more living space.

"Works at Curraweena are scheduled for completion early this month and relocation of residents is expected to occur early in the new year," he said.

The independent living units are provided for financially disadvantaged residents aged 60 years and over who live in Glen Eira and meet eligibility requirements.

Council has contributed land valued at \$2.27 million to the project and the State Government provided \$4.1 million in funding for design and construction, under the *Social Housing Innovations Program*.



Exterior site works at Council's Curraweena Independent living units are well under way. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Be a responsible pet owner this Christmas

By Mary Gillman

With Christmas fast approaching, many families will consider purchasing a new family pet — but when it comes to pets, impulse-buying can be a real problem.

According to RSPCA statistics, people often buy puppies or kittens for Christmas only to abandon the pets around July and August the following year. During 2002–03, more than 31,000 dogs and cats were dumped in Victoria alone.

Council's Manager Civic Compliance John Bordignon said part of the problem was a failure to consider what type of pet is most appropriate for the family.

"People really need to think about what type of pet will suit them, what size it will grow to and how much time is required to look after it. They also need to make a commitment to bringing the pet up in a responsible manner and to training it properly," Mr Bordignon said.

"Residents should consider purchasing a pet from the RSPCA or another pound service. This saves a life, and ensures a family is matched with a pet that's healthy and has been temperament tested."

In determining the most suitable type of cat or dog breed, residents should consider:

- how much time they can spend on exercise and grooming;
- how much money they can afford on pet food;
- how much space the animal will have;
- whether the pet will be around children;
- what changes might occur in the household such as travel, moving house or welcoming a new baby; and
- whether the pet can be looked after for the rest of its life.

Council urges people to be responsible pet owners this Christmas by buying the most suitable pet, registering it with Council, training it, and committing to looking after it for the rest of its life.



New library taking shape

Council's new Carnegie Library and Community Centre has started to take shape with works on the development well underway.

Council's Director Assets and Facilities Geoff Barrow said Council was pleased with the overall progress of the facility which will include a library, playgroup building, playground area, extended car parking and a community centre.

"The framework of the main building and the concrete lift shaft has been erected. The steel framework is nearing completion, forming the skeleton of the building, and the foundation for the playgroup has been laid," Mr Barrow said.

"Jersey Parade has also been closed and numerous services such as gas, sewerage, water, telephone and electrical services have been diverted to make way for the building works."

Mr Barrow said Council is also already working towards ensuring the internal areas of the buildings will be ready for operation once the external works are completed.

"Final planning is also underway to enable the purchase of furniture and equipment for the library and community centre to proceed as soon as possible," he said.



Structural works at Council's Carnegie Library and Community Centre are underway.

Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

The main component of the new building will be the modern library on the ground floor featuring a program activity centre, children's area, training room, computer area and information desk.

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

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

The front of the library and community centre will have a foyer with moveable doors connecting it with a covered outdoor section and an adjacent playground.

Building works are scheduled for completion by September 2005.

Developers praised for tree consideration

Council has praised the efforts of local developers for preserving existing trees on their development sites.

Council recently received a number of planning applications which have shown that existing trees can be retained and still allow for sizeable new homes, units or apartments to be built on the site.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said these developers had created site-sensitive designs which allowed for suitable existing trees to be retained and incorporated into the design.

"One of Glen Eira's greatest assets is its leafy suburbs and garden environment. Established trees can add considerably to the enjoyment and amenity value of property and to the local streetscape," Cr Bury said.

He said developers were encouraged not to see established trees as an obstacle to developing land, nor consider the only solution to be to cut the tree down.

"Council does not support removing existing trees prior to an application for a planning permit. In a recent case, a developer cut down existing trees before applying for a planning permit to build two dwellings in Marquis Road, Bentleigh East. The application was refused and the developer was actually fined for removing the trees.

"State Government requirements under *ResCode*, the residential development code for building, planning and subdivision, require developers to acknowledge everything that existed on the site for 12 months prior to submitting an application for development," he said.

Developers can determine whether a tree can be retained in conjunction with a

development by engaging a suitably qualified arborist to assess the trees before a building footprint is proposed. Such professionals will take into account factors such as the tree species, age, size and condition.

Cr Bury said it may not be appropriate to retain a tree if the probability of its long term survival is low, as this will actually detract from the amenity of the development.

"But, if a tree can be retained, an arborist will also recommend how far the buildings should be from the tree and, if necessary, recommend alternate foundation construction methods to minimise the impact on the tree roots," he said.

"A careful design can result in a quality development with existing trees adding to the amenity value and even the financial value of the land. Developers who make the effort to retain trees are setting a great example and making a significant contribution to maintaining our beautiful City."



A recent local development in Caulfield South where a tree has been retained.

Busker safety a Council issue

By Mary Gillman

Busking can add to the vitality and cultural life of any city and Glen Eira is no exception.

The music, singing, recitals, juggling, puppetry, mime and dance of buskers livens up the streets and adds colour to an otherwise ordinary shopping day.

But along with the entertainment value, come some responsibilities — shopping centre amenity, appropriate noise levels and the safety of both buskers and pedestrians.

Council's Manager Civic Compliance John Bordignon said that in order to ensure the local community benefits from busking performances and to minimise risk, buskers are required to obtain a permit from Council before they perform.

"A permit to busk is required to enable Council to regulate the performance and to ensure shopkeepers and residents are not affected by excessive noise," Mr Bordignon said.

To obtain a permit, buskers must lodge an application form with Council and include written permission from the relevant trader association, nearby shops or residents, and evidence of a current public liability insurance policy.

Busking without a permit may incur a penalty of up to \$125.

For further information or contact details for trader associations, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

Speed cushions slow drivers

Council has recently installed speed cushions in McKinnon Road to stop speeding motorists.

The result has been a dramatic improvement in safety, with the numbers of speeding motorists in McKinnon Road considerably reduced following the installation of the speed cushions between Jasper and East Boundary Roads.

Council installed seven speed cushions in the stretch of road from McKinnon to Bentleigh East in a bid to address the problem of speeding drivers. Surveys undertaken by Council had shown that at least a third of drivers using McKinnon Road were breaking the 50 kilometre speed limit some by up to 30 kilometres per hour.

Council's Manager Traffic and Parking Carl Russo said a further traffic survey, conducted after the installation of the speed cushions, had shown that the numbers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit had fallen by an encouraging 27 per cent.

"Results from the two surveys show the proportion of speeding drivers has gone from more than 35 per cent, just 8 per cent," Mr Russo said.

"As well as showing a substantial decrease in vehicle speeds, there has been a 15 per cent reduction in the volume of vehicles travelling through this section of road each weekday."

Mr Russo said the installation had come as a response to Council receiving regular complaints from residents and pedestrians regarding vehicle speeds in McKinnon Road.

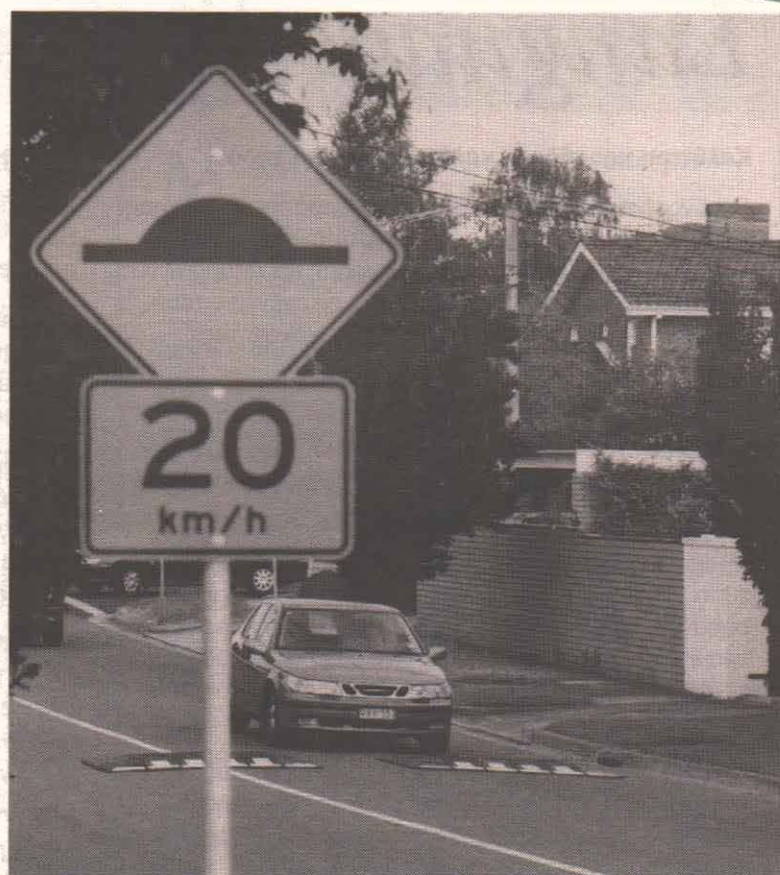
"We conducted a number of surveys of vehicle speeds and traffic volume, and the results indicated that action clearly needed to be taken," he said.

"The high traffic volume showed that many motorists were using McKinnon Road as an alternative to nearby arterial roads. In simple terms, there was more traffic was moving through McKinnon Road than the road was designed to take."

As McKinnon Road is also part of a bus route, speed cushions were the obvious choice — the gaps in the cushions allow buses to pass without hindrance. The speed cushions are different to traditional speed humps as they are made from sections of prefabricated rubber pieces placed together.

Mr Russo said Council had chosen to introduce this particular type of speed hump to improve pedestrian safety by slowing drivers down without interrupting the efficient flow of traffic.

"Council surveyed residents in McKinnon Road



Speed cushions in McKinnon Road make motorists slow down and roads safer.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Moira Avenue comes to a stop

New line markings and more signs will make for safer traffic conditions in Moira Avenue in Carnegie.

Council recently installed more stop signs and painted clearer red and white line markings at the intersections of Moira Avenue and Miller, Morgan, Lyons and Neville streets.

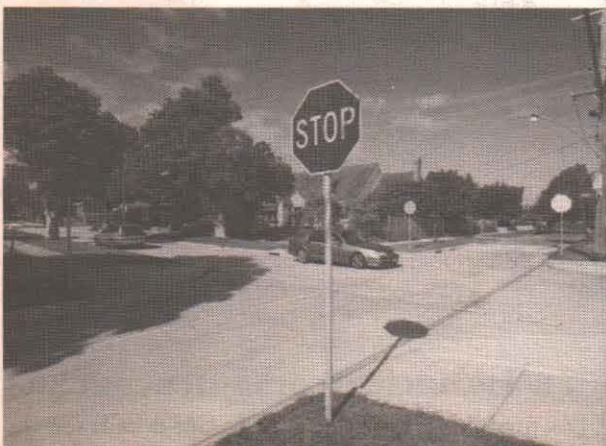
Council's Manager Traffic and Parking Carl Russo said concerns from local residents about motorists not stopping at the stop signs had prompted Council to investigate, and resulted in implementing the additional traffic safety actions.

"As Moira Avenue has a white coloured concrete surface, we anticipate that applying a red surface around the white line markings will make them more visible to motorists," Mr Russo said.

"Council also increased the size and number of the stop signs so there are now two signs, on each approach to the intersections.

"Council has made appropriate changes to ensure safety on Glen Eira's roads increases, but we urge motorists to be responsible and obey the road rules.

"The increased visible presence of the new signs and line markings will mean motorists now have no excuse for not stopping at these intersections."



New signs and line markings at the Moira Avenue intersections will make traffic conditions safer.

Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

Off-road track for safer cycling

Local residents can look forward to safer cycling thanks to Council's recently completed off-road track in Cadby Avenue, Ormond.

The \$90,000 project completes the link between Glen Eira's on and off-road bicycle tracks from Caulfield Station in Caulfield to South Road in Bentleigh and finishes the north-south rail trail as part of Council's ongoing bicycle strategy.

Council's Manager Works Management Roger Dunn said construction of the dual-purpose track in Cadby Avenue required the use of alternative materials to ensure the best possible long-term outcome for cyclists and pedestrians.

"We used concrete on the Cadby Avenue track instead of an asphalt surface as a cost and time-saving measure, opening the door to trial other products, such as a new flexi-rubber product in the concrete joins which protects the roots of existing large trees by expanding with them over time," Mr Dunn said.

The Cadby Avenue track winds through a narrow strip of road reserve and required Council reconsider its proposed tree plantings to ensure the track width could be maintained.

Mr Dunn said new trees will be planted in appropriate positions along the track in autumn, the optimum planting time, to replace those removed and to improve the aesthetic of the reserve.

"Council aims to provide a safe, alternate route through the City for cyclists and pedestrians — a track that encourages use by everyone from mums with strollers and regular cyclists to people in motorised wheelchairs. The amenity of the track is paramount, but it's nice if it takes you through leafy, green areas too," he said.

through the completion of a questionnaire. The installation of the speed cushions was supported by at least 74 per cent of households between Jasper and East Boundary Roads," he said.

"Council is committed to the ongoing improvement of safety on its roads and McKinnon Road is another example of this commitment."

The project was funded by Council with assistance from the Federal Government's *Roads to Recovery* program. The next stage in the bicycle strategy is to complete an east-west trail from Grange Road in Carnegie to Poath Road and Hughesdale Station in Hughesdale to link with bike paths established by the City of Monash.

Glen Eira has a number of on and off-road bike paths for residents to enjoy.

Rosstown Rail Trail

Following the original Rosstown Railway constructed in 1883, the path extends from Elsternwick Plaza to Oakleigh Station. Generally flat, it follows streets and small parks. Rosstown Rail Trail is 8.5km long, with an optional detour of 3.1km, and takes approximately 1.5 hours.

Frankston Rail Trail

Extending from Caulfield Station to South Road, Moorabbin, the path's combination of on-road and off-road routes is suitable for recreational and family riders. It also intersects the Rosstown Rail Trail.

Gardiner's Creek Trail

Gardiner's Creek Trail can be accessed by crossing Princes Highway from Boyd Park, Murrumbeena. The path provides riders with access to the city as well as other bike trails.

Elster Creek Trail

Riders can join the Elster Creek Trail directly from North Road, Caulfield South. The path passes through Gardenvale and St Kilda and riders can cycle all the way to the bay along signed routes. The signed bayside route takes riders south to Hampton or north to Melbourne and Williamstown.

Language line

Καλύτερη πρόσβαση - καλύτερη παιδική χαρά

Η καινούρια πρόσβαση στην παιδική χαρά της Δημαρχίας που είναι για άτομα όλων των ικανοτήτων στο Princes Park, Caulfield South είναι τώρα ανοιχτή και μπορούν να την απολαύσουν όλα τα παιδιά και οι οικογένειες του Glen Eira — οποιασδήποτε ηλικίας και ικανότητας.

Η Διευθύντρια των Υπηρεσιών Ψυχαγωγίας και Νεοτήτων της Δημαρχίας, η Linda Smith είπε ότι ο ξεπερασμένος εξοπλισμός στην παιδική χαρά έχει αντικατασταθεί ώστε να προσφέρει εμπειρίες παιχνιδιού για την απόλαυση όλων των παιδιών.

“Η καινούρια παιδική χαρά περιλαμβάνει ένα τοίχο σε τύπο βράχου για αναρρίχηση, παιδικό βαγόνι τραίνου με σήραγγα, κουνιές με ελατήριο, διπλή τσουλήθρα και τραμπάλα, και έχει σχεδιαστεί ειδικά για την πρόσβαση και απόλαυση όλων των ατόμων διαφόρων ικανοτήτων,” είπε η κ. Smith.

“Επίσης περιλαμβάνει οριζόντια στεφάνια για μπάσκετ μπόλ και νητ μπόλ με τοίχο για το αναπήδημα της μπάλας, καινούριους χώρους με σκίαση για μπαρμπεκιού και πικνίκ, και βελτιωμένες ανέσεις και γενική διαμόρφωση του ανοιχτού χώρου.”

Η κ. Smith είπε ότι τα σάπια φύλλα και τα δεντρόφλουδα έχουν αντικατασταθεί με μονοπάτια η επιφάνειες των οποίων είναι από χρωτατισμένο τσιμέντο και λάστιχο που δίνουν την ευκαιρία σε γονείς με παιδιά σε καρότσι να απολαύσουν το καινούριο εξοπλισμό και που δίνουν στους παππούδες και στις γιαγιάδες με μειωμένη κινητικότητα πρόσβαση στην παιδική χαρά.

Είπε ότι η επανάπτυξη, που γίνεται σε δύο στάδια, αποσκοπεί να εξασφαλίσει ότι το πάρκο θα ανταποκρίνεται καλύτερα στις ανάγκες της κοινότητας, είτε από τις αναβαθμισμένες ανέσεις για τα σπορ ή από τους ανοιχτούς χώρους για την καλύτερη πρόσβαση μέσα στο και γύρω από το πάρκο.

Усовершенствования на детской площадке

Детская игровая площадка в Princes Park, Caulfield South в муниципалитете Glen Eira теперь открыта для всех детей - всех возрастов.

Начальник муниципального отдела по делам молодежи г-жа Linda Smith сказала, что все устаревшее оборудование на площадке было заменено.

“Новая площадка спроектирована с учетом потребностей инвалидов. На площадке установлены стенка для скалолазания, детская железная дорога с туннелем, качалки, двойная детская горка и качели,” отметила г-жа Smith.

“На площадке кроме того имеются кольца для баскетбола и нетбола с тренировочной стенкой, новые места для барбекю и пикника с навесом. Окружающая территория также была благоустроена.”

Г-жа Smith отметила, что пешеходные дорожки, раньше имевшие мягкое покрытие, теперь имеют разноцветное бетонное или специальное резиновое покрытие, и ими могут пользоваться родители с детскими колясками, дети на инвалидных колясках и пожилые люди.

Усовершенствование площадки проводилось в две стадии, с учетом потребностей местного населения в спортивных сооружениях для детей и благоустройства территории парка.

更好的遊戲場 - 更加便於使用

市政府在 Caulfield South 的 Princes 公園新建的遊戲場現已開放，供 Glen Eira 所有兒童和家庭享用 - 無論多大歲數，無論個人身體能力如何都可使用此遊戲場。

市政府娛樂及青年服務經理 Linda Smith 說，遊戲場過時的設備已經更新，供所有兒童體驗遊戲的樂趣。

Smith 女士說道：“新遊戲場包括一堵橫越攀岩牆、帶隧道的少兒火車、彈簧搖馬、雙滑梯和蹺蹺板。遊戲場經過特別設計，各種身體能力的人都可盡情享用。”

“遊戲場還有一個帶回彈牆的籃球網和一個無板籃球網、新燒烤爐和遮陽野餐桌，以及改進了設施和景觀美化。”

Smith 女士還說，原先的地面覆蓋料和樹皮渣由彩色水泥地和橡膠小道所取代，以讓推嬰兒車的家長和坐輪椅的兒童享用新的設備。行動不便的祖父母也可方便地使用遊戲場。

她說分兩個階段施工的工程目的在於確保公園能更好地滿足社區需求，無論是更新運動設施和開闢地，還是改進公園裡和周圍的進出便利程度。

Le caratteristiche di Glen Eira meglio protette

Agibilità migliore — miglior parco giochi

È stata inaugurata dal Comune l'agibilità al nuovo parco giochi multiabilità del Princes Park di Caulfield South, accessibile a tutte le famiglie e bambini di Glen Eira, di qualunque età e abilità fisica.

Linda Smith, direttrice della sezione Servizi giovanili e ricreativi del Comune, ha affermato che tutti i vecchi equipaggiamenti sono stati sostituiti con nuove strutture allo scopo di fornire a tutti i bambini esperienze di gioco nuove e divertenti.

La signora Smith ha puntualizzato che: “Il nuovo parco giochi comprende una parete sormontabile per scalate, un'unità per i più piccoli con trenino e tunnel, altalene a molla, scivolo doppio ed altalena alternata, il tutto specificatamente pianificato per permetterne l'accesso e l'utilizzo a utenti di diverse abilità.”

“Include anche campi da basket e pallavolo con parete di rimbalzo, nuove aree barbecue e zone picnic all'ombra, con una migliorata valorizzazione delle attrattive e delle zone coltivate.”

La signora Smith ha aggiunto che il suolo a terriccio corteccia è stato sostituito da cemento colorato e da sentieri a pavimentazione gommosa, cosa che permette alle mamme con bambini in passeggino ed ai bambini in sedia a rotelle l'accesso ai nuovi equipaggiamenti ed ai nonni con limitata mobilità l'accesso al parco giochi.

La Direttrice ha inoltre affermato che la riorganizzazione del parco, suddivisa in due stadi, si propone di assicurare una più agevole utilizzazione adeguata alle necessità della comunità, sia che si tratti del miglioramento di attrezzature sportive e spazi aperti, che della migliorata fruibilità del parco stesso.

Parent information session

Council will hold two information sessions for new parents at the Glen Huntly Maternal and Child Health Centre, corner Royal and Rosedale Avenues, Glen Huntly.

Surviving and enjoying the first months with a new baby

The session is designed for parents of babies aged 4-8 weeks old and will address the issues of understanding normal baby behaviour, reducing family stress and encouraging a settled baby. Partners and grandparents are welcome.

First and third Tuesday of each month from 1pm to 3pm. Cost: \$2.

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A taste of Japanese culture

Eight Glen Eira students swapped greeting term G'day for Konnichiwa recently when they travelled to Glen Eira's sister city Ogaki in Japan.

The students and two leaders spent 10 days in Japan as part of Council's annual Friendly Cities exchange program, staying with host families in Ogaki, visiting schools, taking in the historic sights, then finishing their trip with sightseeing in Tokyo.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said the exchange, partly funded by a Council scholarship offering the students a unique insight into the culture and traditions of Ogaki.

"All of the students study Japanese at school so the exchange program complements their studies and provides a unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture first-hand," Cr Bury said.

"As part of the trip, the students lived with a host family. This is an experience that allowed the students to be part of a family and experience traditions that a regular tourist may not see."

The students visited Japanese schools and participated in a range of classes where they also prepared presentations in Japanese.

Students enjoyed a rare opportunity to prepare and eat their own traditional Japanese sushi and they took part in a Japanese tea ceremony, making their own tea and wearing traditional kimonos.

The trip also included a visit to Hikone Castle Ogaki, an 800-year-old castle which provided an amazing contrast between Australian and Japanese history, culture and architecture, and a visit to the Golden Temple, before catching the bullet train to Tokyo.



Japanese exchange student Kylie Dolan receives a lesson in sushi making from an authentic sushi chef.

Cr Bury said Council was proud to be involved in the program which was one of many that strengthened the relationship between the two sister cities.

"Not only are students given an opportunity to live in a country they study at school, but the alliance between Glen Eira and Ogaki is further strengthened, creating future opportunities for business, education and the community," he said.

A new life experience for local students

Michael Sacks had never eaten rice until his recent student exchange trip to Ogaki — now he loves it.

Sixteen year-old Michael said the trip to Glen Eira's sister city, Ogaki in Japan, had prompted a number of positive changes in his life.

"I have been studying Japanese at school, but now feel more confident in speaking the language," Michael said.

"The trip to Ogaki helped me to better understand the language and it now has a deeper meaning to me."

Michael said one of the highlights of the trip was the visit to Kyoto to see the ancient Golden Temple.

"It was absolutely beautiful. We learnt about the temple, about Buddhism and the holy rituals performed at the temple, such as lighting candles and fortune telling," he said.

Michael said the trip also allowed him to better appreciate the Japanese culture.

"I now appreciate there are people living in the world who have different customs to mine. I would definitely encourage anyone who is studying Japanese, or who is interested in Japan, to be part of the program. They will get so much out of it, it really is an amazing experience," he said.



Michael Sacks reminisces about his trip to Japan with some memorabilia that he collected. Photos: Jim Hooper.

Sixteen-year-old Dipti Narasimhan, a Year 11 Kilvington Girls' Grammar student who was also part of the recent exchange trip, said the best part of the trip was to be with her host family.

"At first it was difficult to communicate, but it was great once we found a way to understand each other and I began to feel more confident speaking in Japanese," Dipti said.

"My host family made me feel very welcome — I felt like I was really part of the family. They were a very traditional family and taught me a lot about their culture and customs."

Dipti said being welcomed as part of her host family gave her new-found confidence when she spoke Japanese, a confidence which has remained with her since returning home.

"I was put in a situation where I had to communicate in Japanese and just give it a go. So I did, and I now feel so much more confident," she said.

"I plan to continue learning Japanese when I go to university and hope to go back to Japan and stay for a year next time."

Summer fun at swim centres

Council's Caulfield and Bentleigh East Swim Centres opened their doors for the swim season last month, and opened the pools for a summer of fun.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury handed the swim centre reigns over to Group Manager Victorian YMCA Bob Anderson, who said the

YMCA was planning a season full of activities for the whole family.

"We started working in October to get the pool ready — buying equipment and ensuring we had the right staff," Mr Anderson said.

"We're open for business and a season of fun activities — everything from jazz by the pool and jet ski demonstrations, to fitness training and family fun days, plus all the usual swimming lessons, youth clubs and the dive club."

Many pool facilities have been upgraded as part of the handover to the YMCA, including new aquatic disability lifts at both pools which provide wheelchair users with good access from anywhere on the pool deck.

For more information on swim centre hours and activities, contact Bentleigh East Swim Centre, Bentleigh East, on 9570 7394 or Caulfield Swim Centre, Carnegie, on 9571 8143.



Mayor Cr Bob Bury joined the first water play of the season with new centre managers from the YMCA Bob Anderson and Rochelle Spivak and swim fans Caitlin, Yasmin and Courtney. Photo: Les O'Rourke.

It's all worth that smile

For Kath Dawes, the best part of her job is to see smiles on the faces of the children she helps. Kath has worked with Council for more than 21 years and has enjoyed every minute of it, especially the past 12 years.

Kath was initially employed by Council as a home care worker, assisting elderly residents in their homes, before she moved into providing respite care.

In her current role as an in-home support respite carer, Kath looks after and assists children with disabilities, while providing respite for primary carers such as parents and guardians. She describes her job as deeply satisfying.

"It is a good feeling to know that parents feel comfortable to leave their child with me and can walk away and not be worried or concerned about their child's welfare," Kath said.

"I have always enjoyed my job. I enjoy looking after children and have been blessed with four healthy children of my own, so this is my way of giving something back."

As part of her role, Kath takes the children on walks, feeds and bathes them and occasionally takes them on outings. She sometimes even sings to the children to keep them entertained.

"We go for outings on weekends and holidays, to the movies, swimming and sometimes for a train ride," she said.

"I am pleased to be able to give parents some time for themselves. Looking after children with a disability

24 hours a day can sometimes be demanding for parents and guardians so I am happy to be able to provide them with a break when they need it."

Kath has provided care for some of her clients for more than 10 years, but one of her recent additions is two-year-old Hannah Grech-Smith, who Kath has been assisting for just six months. Kath helps Hannah develop her motor skills and supports her in becoming more independent.

Hannah's mother Lisa said she could not have asked for a better carer than Kath.

"In this day and age, it is really comforting to know I can leave my child in the care of someone like Kath who has extensive experience, is trained and is honest," Ms Grech said.

"I am studying at the moment, and knowing that Kath can look after my daughter is a real help and gives me peace of mind. She is a fantastic carer."

Council's Manager Community Care Services Michelle Marr said Council's in-home respite carers provided an invaluable service to the community.

"This service provides benefits for everyone — staff receive satisfaction from their work, primary carers enjoy a beneficial break and the children involved are given quality time with another significant person," Ms Marr said.

"More than 140 families use the service and a further 36 are on a waiting list.

"Council's in-home respite service is offered seven days per week and carers are provided with on-going training and support and flexible working hours."

Council is seeking people who are interested in becoming an in-home respite carer and encourage those who have qualifications in a health-related area and experience with children to contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

On the job with a
**In-home support
respite carer**



Two-year-old Hannah Grech-Smith enjoys supervised play time with Kath.
Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Glen Eira — a safe place to live

Glen Eira has one of the lowest crime rates in Metropolitan Melbourne and the recorded crime rate per 100,000 Glen Eira residents is well below the Victorian average.

Council's Director Community Services Peter Jones said Council is committed to providing educational and environmental initiatives to help reduce crime in the City.

"Glen Eira has the lowest recorded drug offences per 100,000 of population in the southern metropolitan region and the second lowest rate of crimes against a person," Mr Jones said.

"Community safety is a priority and Council has undertaken a number of initiatives throughout the year to assist with community education and awareness of safety in Glen Eira."

This year, crime prevention information packs were distributed to 4,000 older residents who receive home and community care to educate them about safeguarding their homes. Victoria Police's *Savy Program* was also developed in partnership with Council to help residents protect themselves against the possibility of burglary.

Mr Jones said by raising awareness of how to reduce crime in the community and continually introducing new measures to combat crime, Council, in partnership with the community and other support agencies, had created one of the safest metropolitan cities.

"This is a win-win for Council and the Glen Eira community," he said.

No Bias at local bowls club

By Anne Stafford

A group of people of all abilities tried their hand at lawn bowls recently when they joined the No Bias recreation program.

The program, co-ordinated by Joint Councils Access for All Abilities (JCAAA) in partnership with the Coatesville Bowls Club, offered a new experience for many of the participants, who took on the challenge with gusto, a bit of patience, and some help from club volunteers.



From left: Lyn, Julie and Tabitha from the Coatesville Bowls Club receive a lesson in bowls from club secretary Chris Davis.
Photo: Les O'Rourke.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said JCAAA, an initiative of Glen Eira, Bayside, Port Phillip and Stonnington City councils, aimed to develop community-based support, recreation and arts opportunities for people of all abilities.

"Council is pleased to support a program which provides recreational options for people of all abilities and events like No Bias, offer chances to participate in activities they might not otherwise have access to," Cr Bury said.

Coatesville Bowls Club Secretary Chris Davis said the No Bias program was something the committee was looking at achieving last year and it was great to see it finally up and running.

"The group probably needs to have a few more sessions, but they seem keen to get a competition going amongst themselves," Mr Davis said.

The program has also been running successfully at Black Rock Bowls Club and it is hoped a competition may eventually be established between the two clubs.

For more information contact Helene Agius at JCAAA on 9209 6552.

Glen Eira's 10th birthday

Celebrating a milestone for the City

By Vida Ivan

Glen Eira celebrates a municipal milestone this month — the 10th birthday of the City renown for its leafy, green streets, diverse community, vibrant strip shopping centres and heritage character.

Looking at Glen Eira today, now home to more than 123,000 people, it's difficult to imagine that the area was once swamps and farms to the north and market gardens in the south.

In fact, the Glen Eira of today didn't even exist until 15 December 1994 when it was created by an order of the Governor under the *Local Government Act*. The order merged the City of Caulfield and the northern part of the former City of Moorabbin and Glen Eira was born.

Primarily a residential area, Glen Eira brings together period homes, from as long ago as the 1800s, with stylish contemporary housing. Its leafy streets, beautiful parks and established neighbourhoods give its suburbs a rich sense of history, complemented by modern building styles and materials.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury says the City has come a long way in its 10 years, and that residents and ratepayers have much to be proud of.

"The creation of a new City offers great challenges, but also great rewards," Cr Bury said.

"While we inherited a City full of heritage character, we also inherited a City with an ageing population and infrastructure and a diverse community of changing needs.

"To ensure we meet these needs Council has had to make some tough decisions but we now have a City that is debt-free, where parks are rejuvenated to provide open space for all, our neighbourhood character is protected by appropriate planning standards, and we work towards providing the best facilities to cater for our diverse community."

Cr Veronika Martens, a former City of Caulfield councillor and Glen Eira mayor and current Glen Eira Councillor, said the merger created a City that was almost double the size — and double the cost.

"The transition was smooth but very costly. Caulfield was well run, but when the City became bigger we discovered we had huge liability costs," Cr Martens said.

"There were so many facilities that were beyond band-aid situations. To accommodate our diverse community, recreation needs and ageing population, our infrastructure needed upgrading — and to do all this while keeping costs down is a huge challenge.

"My biggest pride in the City is that we are now without debt and, within ten years, have addressed more than any of our neighbours with regard to updating, improving and redeveloping infrastructure. We are leaders in our field."

Council's proactive planning process has enabled the



Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury celebrates 10 years of the City.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton

City to monitor development and direct it appropriately as well as forward plan for the greater needs of the community. Developing urban villages such as Carnegie, Elsternwick and Bentleigh are part of this process, as is addressing the issues of open space access, facilities for older residents and the ability of the City to continue to meet service needs.

Council's Director City Development Jeff Akehurst, who also worked with the City of Caulfield prior to the merger, said Glen Eira's biggest achievement was recognising that it needed to rejuvenate the City physically.

"Historically, councils tend to build things but then let them run down, but Glen Eira has always set about rejuvenating the City's assets — everything from footpaths and drainage to park pavilions and libraries," Mr Akehurst said.

"Because of a need to plan for the City's future we've also made some great advances in town planning. We now have a clear strategic plan which gives certainty to developers and residents alike, it directs housing to appropriate locations. The strategic plan provides a sensible balance by directing new development to activity centres whilst protecting the City's valued neighbourhood character."

"It took a long time to come about, but by involving the community Council now has a plan that provides future housing needs whilst protecting the best of past years."

"Just as our community is diverse, so are our housing areas, and Council's planning controls allow us to differentiate the municipality and identify the parts we love and want to retain and the parts that are best able to take change."

Former City of Caulfield and current City of Glen Eira Councillor and former mayor Noel Erlich believes Glen Eira's enormous catch-up process in capital works will pay off for the community in the short and long term.

"Our capital works budget at Caulfield was \$4 million — here we spend upwards of \$20 million on roads, drains, footpaths, parks and facilities for our community," Cr Erlich said.

"The Carnegie Library and Community Centre, Warrawee Community, urban villages — we've undertaken projects which never could have been done in the smaller city. And then there's the rejuvenation of parklands such as Mallanbool Reserve.

"Glen Eira is seen as a green suburb and our open space is constantly being improved. We have ample shopping areas, terrific schools and great access to transport — it's a fabulous place to live."

Current Glen Eira Councillor Alan Grossbard JP, Glen Eira's first mayor and a former Caulfield councillor, said that bringing the two former cities together and maintaining a community that works together was a great achievement.

"We have a community that is working towards the common goal of self-sustainability," Cr Grossbard said.

"That type of community doesn't develop on its own, we have to nurture it and cater to the needs and wants of our residents by providing recreation facilities, libraries, and better roads, drainage and planning and health and welfare services for everyone.

"The challenge will be to meet these needs in the future as our infrastructure ages and needs replacing and as our community continues to change. It's a big ask, but we're good forward planners."

Glen Eira's 10th birthday

The City of Glen Eira — 1994 to today

Ten years is a long time in a City, and the City of Glen Eira certainly has much to celebrate since its creation in December 1994. Here are some of Council's highlights of the past ten years.



• In May 1998 Council initiated work on plans and guidelines for recognising and protecting 18 heritage areas within the City as part of the Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan.



• In January 1995 trials of Council's food safety program for local food businesses commenced with resounding success. The program, five-star food safety awards and other initiatives such as the Taste 4 Health program were rolled out the following year and continue making the City a safe and healthy place to eat to this day.



1994

• The City of Glen Eira was created in December 1994 by merging the former City of Caulfield with part of the former City of Moorabbin.

1996

• Council's Service Centre established in July 1996 as a one-stop-shop for customer enquiries.

• The first issue of a revamped, broadsheet-sized paper, the *Glen Eira News* was delivered to residents in October 1996. Today, the *Glen Eira News* is delivered 11 times per year to more than 53,000 households and businesses.



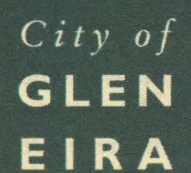
1997

• Glen Eira residents voted in Council's first election on 15 March 1997 when more than 62,000 residents voted in six Councillors — Cr Norman Kennedy, Veronika Martens, Russell Longmuir, Alan Grossbard (also elected as the City's first Mayor), Noel Erlich and Barry Neve.

• Public Internet access began in Council's libraries in July 1997 with a network of 13 computers. Council's libraries were the first public libraries in Australia to have a catalogue available in web-browser format.

• Council changed its look in July 1997 with the introduction of a new logo.

• The City's first annual *Carols by Candlelight* concert was held in December 1997.



2000

• In March 2000 Council made its final repayment on the \$6 million debt inherited from the previous City's to become debt free.

• Council's new Service Centre at the Glen Eira Town Hall opened for business in January 2000. Refurbished function rooms including improved facilities, new signage and disability access were opened in April 2000.

• Thousands of residents lined Glen Eira streets to get a first-hand look at the Olympic flame as it passed through Melbourne on its way to Sydney in July 2000. The torch passed through the City again in June 2004 on its way to Athens.

• *Eira's Escape* reading program began in December 2000, encouraging children to read during their summer holiday break and win great prizes.



2001

• Work began on the rejuvenation of Packer Park and pavilion in Carnegie in January 2001. The park opened in March 2002 and has become one of the City's signature open spaces.

• In September 2001, management of the Warrawee Residential Community Nursing Home was transferred to Glen Eira City Council. Building of a new facility began in November, and residents moved in to the newly refurbished Warrawee Residential Community in Bentleigh East in December 2002 when works to upgrade the facility from a 30-bed centre to a 90-bed residence were completed.



2002

• Council's innovative pre-lodgement certificate program launched in January 2003 cut planning application decision time from 80 days to 40 days with a 90 per cent approval rate.

• Council's environmental health officers worked with Glen Eira food businesses to ensure that all 750 businesses complied with the State Government's strict new food laws in March 2003.



• Council's first Party in the Park celebratory events were held in March 2003 with huge success — the events becoming a regular fixture of the community and Council year.

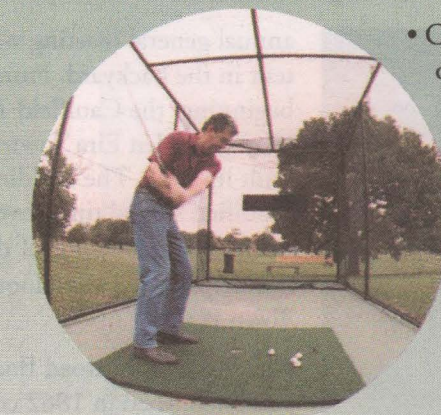
• In August 2003 community consultation began for the development of Council's 5–10 year community plan. Workshops, a telephone survey and focus groups were held as part of the consultation process.

• In July 2003 the City's third all-abilities access playground was opened in Caulfield Park. Other playgrounds had been installed in Packer Park, Carnegie, and Allnutt Park, Bentleigh.

• The Governor of Victoria John Landy AC MBE paid an official visit to Glen Eira in October 2003, meeting Council representatives and touring some of the City's leading businesses and community organisations.

• Internet communications were greatly improved by the launch of Council's new website in October 2003.

• A new format for Council's annual *Carols by Candlelight* concerts commenced in December 2003 — the celebrations being held over two nights in two of the City's parks to provide better community access.



• Council's first Birdie Cage golf practice facility was opened at Packer Park, Carnegie in May 2002. This award-winning facility has since been reproduced at many of the City's parks.

• Mallow Reserve in Carnegie became the City's newest park in March 2002. It was built on the former site of the Murrumbeena High School, and features a cultural and botanical interpretive trail allowing visitors to learn about the original inhabitants of the area — the Kulin Nation (aboriginal) people.

2004

• Demolition began for works to start on the new Curraweena independent living units in Caulfield South in February 2004, replacing 24 outdated bedsitter-type units with 30 purpose-built units. The new units are expected to be completed in December 2004.



• Council approved the design and construction of the \$10.4 million Carnegie Library and Community Centre in April 2004. Works began on the centre, the largest public and community capital works project undertaken by Council including a new library, playgroup building and community centre, which is expected to open in September 2005.

• Council's older adults' social support program and delivered meals service started operating in their new purpose-built home at the former Glen Eira Bowls Club in Carnegie in July 2004.

• In November 2004 the Minister for Planning Mary Delahunty approved Council's Housing Strategy, Amendment C25 to the Glen Eira Planning Scheme, allowing the City's valued

neighbourhood character to be better protected.

• In December 2004 the City of Glen Eira celebrates its 10th birthday.



Glen Eira's 10th birthday

The evolution of a City



In the mid-1800s, dirt tracks wound through the swamps and sandy heaths of the area now known as Glen Eira. These tracks were constantly damaged by farmers' cart wheels, creating dangerous holes and making access difficult, and it became clear that a governing body was needed to ensure that roads were maintained and passable. Residents lobbied for a roads district to be proclaimed, and local representation was born in the community.

The City of Caulfield dates back to 1857 when the Caulfield Roads Board District was proclaimed and the first Caulfield Roads Board was elected. The board had control over the roads in an area bounded by Warrigal Road, Hotham Street, Dandenong Road, North Road and Brighton Road. In 1863 the Caulfield Road District became the Shire of Caulfield, and was proclaimed the City of Caulfield in 1913.

For the first 25 years of Caulfield's municipal life, board or shire members met in Mood Kee, the house of Cr Harold Pennington. He was paid 10 pounds a year to cover the cost of candles, fuel and the room. The

annual general meeting was held in a tent in the backyard. From this beginning, the Caulfield Town Hall (now the Glen Eira Town Hall) was built in 1885. The building was modified several times over to meet the growing demands of the municipality, as was Moorabbin's Town Hall.

The Moorabbin Road Board District was established in 1862 controlling an area which extended from the outskirts of Brighton and south-east along both sides of the Nepean Road as far as Mordialloc Creek, taking in the coastal areas now known as Hampton, Sandringham, Beaumaris and Mentone. Moorabbin was proclaimed a Shire in 1871 and a City in 1934.

After World War II, Moorabbin became one of the first boom areas and by the 1950s was the fastest growing municipality in Australia.

Road conditions were just one of the major challenges to face the elected bodies in the developing areas of Caulfield and Moorabbin. As the farms and market gardens gave way to housing and the districts' populations grew, street lighting (originally gas), drainage, sewerage, rubbish collection, tips and other services were needed. Today, the City of Glen Eira is an established area. Glen Eira City Council is tackling the issue of maintaining ageing infrastructure and has an extended program of catch-up works on the City's roads, drains and footpaths.

The area has a long history of social support — from maternal and child health centres (the first opened around 1924) to providing work for the unemployed during the Depression, digging trenches in Caulfield Park during World War II, setting up welfare funds, and operating a delivered meals service from 1957. Immunisation services have been provided since last

century. Council libraries began in the district with the Bentleigh Library in July 1961 and the Caulfield Library service followed in 1963. Council began work on Glen Eira's newest library, the Caulfield Library and Community Centre, this year.

Providing public open spaces has also been a long tradition. Paddy's Swamp (now Caulfield Park) was set aside as a reserve in the 1880s. Many other sites once used as tips were turned into parks and gardens — some parks provided in part to cater for the large crowds at municipal band performances. The tradition of community celebration has continued, and today some of these same parks have been redeveloped and rejuvenated and are used to hold Glen Eira's *Carols by Candlelight* and *Party in the Park* events.

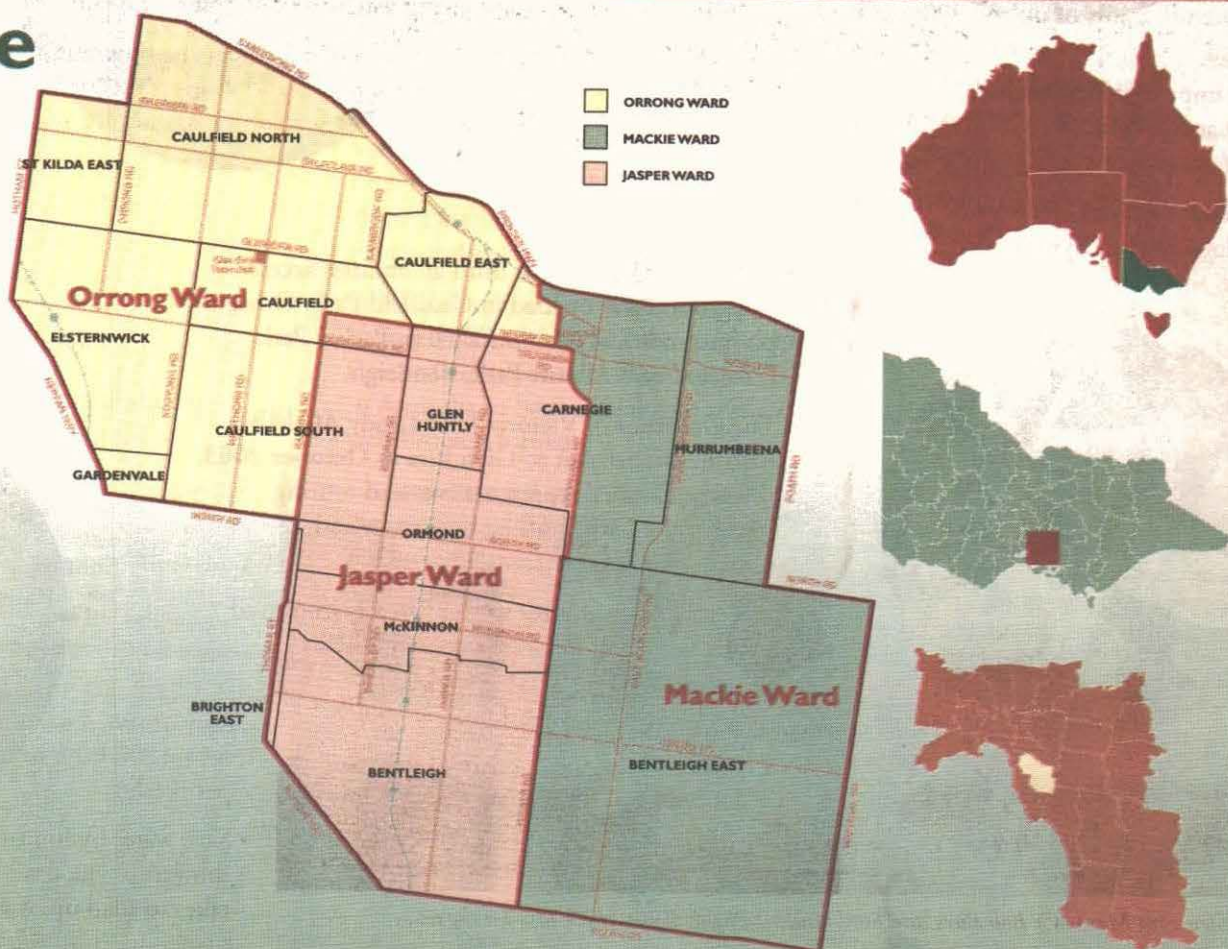
In 1994 the local government structure was radically altered. The City of Glen Eira was formed from the City of Caulfield and the northern part of the City of Moorabbin. In March 1997, Glen Eira's first Council was elected by residents and ratepayers. The City of Glen Eira now covers the suburbs of Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Carnegie, Caulfield, Caulfield South, Caulfield North, Caulfield East, Elsternwick, Gardenvale, Glen Huntly, McKinnon, Murrumbeena, Ormond and part of St Kilda East. It includes the whole of the former City of Caulfield and the nearby suburbs of Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, McKinnon and parts of Ormond which were all in the former City of Moorabbin.

Area timeline

- 1857 Caulfield District Roads Board
- 1862 Moorabbin District Roads Board
- 1863 Shire of Caulfield
- 1874 Shire of Moorabbin
- 1913 City of Caulfield
- 1934 City of Moorabbin
- 1994 City of Glen Eira (merger of City of Caulfield and north section of City of Moorabbin)

Glen Eira at a glance

- 163 hectares of parks and reserves — enough to fill 80 MCGs
- 44 playgrounds
- 50 sportsgrounds
- 360km of drains — enough to reach Swan Hill
- 935km of kerbing — enough to reach Sydney
- 840km of footpaths — enough to reach Adelaide
- 470km of roads — enough to reach Mount Gambier
- 12,000 drainage pits
- 3,300 off-street car parking spaces
- 105 different ethnic groups
- 5,953 registered businesses providing 32,750 jobs
- 54 strip shopping centres
- 55,793 rateable properties
- 52,585 households
- 35,000 street trees
- 8,500 street lights
- 52 per cent of the population is female
- 47.9 per cent of people use the Internet
- 38.7 square kilometres of land in Melbourne's south-east



Sportsgrounds get dressed for summer

Glen Eira's parks and sportsgrounds will be ready to take on the extremes of the summer season now that Council's spring parks maintenance program has kicked in.

More than 37 sportsgrounds underwent the annual spring maintenance program to restore playing surfaces and ensure the grounds are prepared for the approaching hot, dry weather.

Council's Manager Parks Services Laurie Unwin said the program aimed to mend sportsground surfaces after the rigours of winter sport and wet weather, preparing them for enduring the summer elements.

"Council only has a very short window between the winter and summer seasons. But it needs to be done to restore the sportsground surfaces so they are at acceptable safety levels and can be enjoyed by Glen Eira residents and local sporting clubs," Mr Unwin said.

"Winter sports are responsible for the majority of damage sportsgrounds suffer, and a very wet winter means considerable damage to the surface because wet surfaces get damaged much faster and more severely.

The condition of the ground after the winter season determines the amount of work needed to get it into a fit and safe state for summer sports to be played."

The spring parks maintenance program involved shattering or breaking up the soil so it could be

oversown with drought tolerant seed, then top dressed with turf sand to improve the soil and even out the surface.

The surface of the sportsground was smudged by using a tractor with a smudge bar attached to it that levels out the top dressing by forcing it through the existing grass and into the soil. A wetting agent was then sprayed over the ground to assist with water penetration and water-holding abilities. Finally, grounds are nourished with slow release fertilisers which give a more even release over a longer period and help keep the turf healthier.

Mr Unwin said this process also provided an effective means of conserving water.

"The varieties of grass seed we use are drought tolerant, mainly kikuyu and couch. These grasses do need the



Council's parks officers shatter the sportsground surface for oversowing.
Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

same amount of water to get going, but once established, they require only about 30 per cent of the water needed by grass species used in previously," he said.

Water saving pilot a City first

Council will join forces with South East Water and the Department of Sustainability and Environment to help residents save water in their homes and contribute to restoring diminishing water storage levels.

The *Water Conservation Assistance Pilot* scheme aims to increase the capacity of homeowners on low incomes to make their homes more water efficient by using water-saving fixtures such as flow control valves on kitchen, bathroom and laundry taps.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said the program offers one-off grants of up to \$500 to eligible concession holders for the assessment, repair, maintenance and replacement of plumbing fixtures, taps, showerheads and toilet devices over a two-year period.

"Glen Eira is one of only six metropolitan and regional municipalities chosen to participate in the pilot

program. The program is intended to show support, especially of the ageing community in their continuing effort to save water," Cr Bury said.

He said saving water was an important reality for local residents, especially with the approaching summer season and with Stage 2 water restrictions continuing for the foreseeable future.

"Council supports this innovative water saving program and encourages residents who fit the eligibility requirements to take advantage of the grant and ensure they are saving water in their home," he said.

Residents who are eligible under the program may also have leaking taps, toilets and showers repaired. Worn tap washers and flow regulators may also be replaced.

To be eligible, residents must hold a current Centrelink issued Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Veteran Affairs concession card and live in their own home. For further information and application details, residents can contact South East Water on 13 28 12.

The following tips can help residents to conserve water around their homes.

- Use a glass of water to rinse mouths after brushing instead of letting the tap run. This could save 9,100 litres per year, per person.
- Save water by limiting showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down and rinse off.



Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury and local resident Phyllis Fossey check taps for the best water saving devices to be applied.
Photo: Les O'Rourke.

Council to the rescue

A mother duck got a nasty surprise when she walked her offspring over a stormwater pit in Griffiths Street, Caulfield South recently.

One by one the ducklings fell into the stormwater pit, sending the mother duck into a quacking frenzy. A concerned resident immediately reported the matter to Council's Service Centre who contacted Council staff.

Local residents applauded as Council drainers hoisted up the drainage lid and gently lifted the 11 ducklings to safety, while the concerned mother duck looked on from the confines of a Council recycling crate.

Council's Manager Works Management Roger Dunn said the call for help surprised staff.

"We don't get too many calls for ducks in distress, but staff certainly felt good about helping out in an emergency. If they hadn't got there in time, the ducklings would have died," Mr Dunn said.

The rescue mission was completed within the hour and the feathered family were safely delivered to their new home at Caulfield Park lake.

- Use washing machines and dishwashers wisely and ensuring there is a full load before use.
- In the garden, the wise way to keep lawns green during summer is to aerate the soil, feed it but not over fertilise it, and to water it only twice a week to toughen the grass and encourage its roots to spread deeper.
- If residents don't have a compost heap, they can start one with lawn clippings, leaves, garden rubbish and food scraps or collect mulch from Council's mulch site at Caulfield Park.

Business

Village fair makes a comeback — to record crowds

Despite the dark clouds which loomed on the first Sunday in November, the sun still shone through for visitors to the McKinnon Village Fair.

With record crowds in attendance, the fair offered something for the whole community. Younger members enjoyed pony and train rides, the animal farm and face

painting, while adults enjoyed the live entertainment and antics of community group *Knights Hospitallar* who roamed the fair dressed as 13th century knights.

Council's Manager Business Development Lynda Bredin said it was great to see so many people at the fair enjoying themselves and showing their support for the McKinnon community.

"Unfortunately, due to public liability insurance issues, the McKinnon fair was cancelled last year. But this year the Ormond McKinnon Lions Club came to the rescue to support this community event, bringing it back to life," Ms Bredin said.

Local bands entertained the crowd and Council organised African drumming workshops and a basketball demonstration. McKinnon Village Fair is also known for its vintage steam train, running from Caulfield to Mordialloc, which was enjoyed by many on the day.

Ms Bredin said the fair was an opportunity for McKinnon Village Traders to promote their services while offering a great community-building event.

"The most enjoyable element to the fair is its unique grass roots atmosphere and genuine community feel — there is always something for everyone," she said.

Local children enjoy the McKinnon Village Fair from new heights.
Photos: Peter Bury.



The Little Toot ride proved to be one of the most popular at the McKinnon Village Fair.



BusEd helps students connect

Ten Kilvington Girls' Grammar students now know everything that is worth knowing about community needs in and around the North Road shopping strip and Ormond railway station.

As part of Council's BusEd program, the students undertook an eight-month community project, studying the area to determine community needs and safety issues and developing recommendations for enhancement.

Council's Manager Business Development Lynda Bredin said the project required the students, in consultation with Council and the Ormond Shopping Centre Association, to analyse the needs of the area.

"The students' work resulted in an extensive report, outlining recommendations for the enhancement of the area including streetscaping, customer needs and safety," Ms Bredin said.

"The depth and scope of the work conducted by the students is extraordinary. Their methodical and mature approach to the process and grasp of all stakeholders' areas of interest and responsibility is impressive.

"This community-building and partnership project has been a valuable, educational and life experience for the students — and provided a very worthwhile resource for Council."

The students shared their new knowledge with local business operators by presenting the results of their efforts at a recent Council BusEd dinner seminar.

Ms Bredin said the project was one of many BusEd projects that aim to link businesses with the varied specialist skills of students.

"BusEd's primary aim is to help local businesses grow while providing real life experiences for students," she said.

Council's BusEd program is a free service which to date has facilitated projects with 81 businesses — 58 projects have been successfully completed while the remaining 23 are still in progress.

BusEd has a register of students who can undertake projects for 2005 in the areas of website design, information technology and systems integration, IT operating systems and networking, marketing and market research, graphic design and business management.

For more information about BusEd or to register a project, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 or visit Council's website on www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

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
Glen Eira Activity Centre draft strategy	Written submissions	Monday 15 November to Wednesday 15 December	Glen Eira Activity Centre Strategy, Glen Eira City Council, PO Box 42 Caulfield South 3162

Recent consultation opportunities

Meeting	Type	Date
Best Value review — child care centres	Community consultation forum	Wednesday 10 November
Former Carnegie RSL Bowls Club rezoning — Amendment C41	Public exhibition	Thursday 14 October to Monday 15 November
Student Housing Policy — Amendment C42	Public exhibition	Thursday 7 October to Monday 8 November
Sale of land — Woornack Road	Written submissions	Closed Tuesday 9 November
Future planning for recreation services in Glen Eira	Community consultation forums	Wednesday 17 November at 7pm Tuesday 23 November at 7pm
Delivered meals service survey	Survey	Closed Friday 26 November
Street cleaning community consultation — Elsternwick	Survey	Closed Friday 29 October
Road management plan	Written submissions	Closed Thursday 28 October

For further information about any of the consultation opportunities, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 or visit Council's website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

YouthYouth

A great year for young people

By Anne Stafford

It has been an incredibly busy year for Council's Youth Services team which continues to provide information and programs for young people, encouraging them to be active participants in their local community.

Over the year, the variety of programs and services has expanded to cover topics such as education, self-improvement, parent and community forums, and to include nationally-recognised events and a wide variety of workshops.



Dimitri Blazos (right) gets a one-on-one lesson on Manga from OZTAKU Manga magazine artist Kenneth Chen.
Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Best trick and under 18 category winner Matt Lawrie shows his moves to the crowd.

Photo: Les O'Rourke



Council's Why? Stop Wildcats basketball team in action on their way to premiership victory.
Photo: Les O'Rourke.

Council held four ceremonies during the year as part of its annual Foundation for Youth Excellence Awards, recognising 36 young people aged between 10 and 25 years who

achieved excellence in the fields of creative and performing arts, education, leadership or sport. Each recipient received a trophy and financial support to participate at state, national or international levels in their chosen field — assistance of \$13,500 was granted overall.

Seminars such as *Shades of blue* and *Living with generation why* were specifically designed to help parents understand teenage depression and other issues their children face, helping them put effective parenting strategies in place.

Programs including surfing, yachting, fishing, basketball, music, Manga cartooning and, more recently, the skate jam, provided opportunities for young people to engage their skills and talents within the community.

Council's *Just Youth* leadership and project group, together with the YMCA, invested more than five months work in developing and planning the Bentleigh East Spring Skate Jam. More than 200 people attended the event that provided an opportunity for young people to learn skills in program development and community participation.

Hip-hop with the Glen Eira Krew

By Anne Stafford

There was plenty of beat boxin', rapping, and hip-hop going on in Glen Eira recently when a group of young people participated in the *Hip-Hop Workshop* with the Glen Eira Krew presented by Council in conjunction with workshop provider Living Music.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said hip-hop was a form of expression that many young people had adopted through their clothing styles, choice of music and dancing style.

"The workshop, for young people aged 14 to 21, was run over four sessions and allows the participants to express themselves lyrically and through dance," Ms Smith said.

The first two workshop classes were devoted to teaching participants the art of rapping — putting

together lyrics and performing them with music. Marlon Porter, aka Elf Tranzporter, who has an extensive background as an emcee, beat boxer, producer and DJ, provided the rapping instructions for the enthusiastic students.

Students learned to beat box, incorporating vocal percussion techniques, hip-hop concepts and song arrangements. They were also shown how to nurture their poetry skills, essential for an up and coming rapper, via word association games and some freestyling examples from Marlon.

The final two classes focussed on basic entry level break dancing with Arch from WickidForce Breakers — Australia's leading breakin' crew.

For information on future hip-hop workshops contact the Why? Stop Youth Information Centre on 9572 5389.

Based in Carnegie, the Why? Stop Youth Information Centre continued to offer support to young people aged 10 to 25 years and their parents, providing them with a safe environment in which to discuss issues of concern.

Council would like to thank the community for its input into and support of Council's youth programs and looks forward to working with everyone again in 2005.

Access over the holiday season

Council's Why? Stop Youth Information Centre will close from Monday 27 December until Tuesday 4 January. The following agencies will be able to offer young people assistance over this time.

General counselling

Anglicare Southbridge Youth Services 9523 1999
(Open every day except 27 and 31 December)
Bentleigh-Bayside Community 9575 5333
Health Service
(Open every day except 25, 26 and 27 December and 1 and 3 January)

Crisis counselling

CareRing 136 169
(Open 24 hours, seven days a week)

Alcohol and drugs

Directline 24 hour drug and alcohol counselling 1800 888 236
Taskforce Community Agency 9532 0811
(Open every day except 25, 26 and 27 December and 1 and 3 January)

Sexual assault and violence

South East Centre against Sexual Assault (SECASA) 9594 2289
(Open every day except 25, 26 and 27 December and 1 and 3 January)

Accommodation

Front Yard Youth Services 1800 800 531
(Open every day except 25, 26 and 27 December and 1 and 3 January)
Melbourne Youth Support Service 9611 2411
(Open every except 25 December)

Education, employment and training

Job Placement Employment and Training (JPET) 9569 1677 or 9584 9366
(Open every day except 25, 26 and 27 December and 1 and 3 January)

Legal services

Youth Advocacy and Legal Service 9794 5428
(Oz Child)
After hours: emergency 0418 336 482
(Open every day except 25, 26 and 27 December and 1 and 3 January)



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

Community diary

Meetings and clubs

Caulfield Ladies Probus Club meets at the Gladys Machin Hall, Cedar Street, Caulfield South, on the third Thursday of every month at 10am. Enjoy friendship, guest speakers and outings. Contact: Nan Haig 9596 7321.

Caulfield Life Activities Club offers opportunities for people aged 50 and over to meet, enjoy social activities and outings. New members welcome. Contact: 9557 2562.

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

DJ Coakley East Bentlying Senior Citizens' Club meets at 1 Derry Street, Bentlying East, offers classes for Tai Chi on Mondays, line dancing on Thursdays and bingo on Fridays. All classes at 1pm. Contact: 9579 4573.

Glen Eira Tennis Club hosts social tennis for men and women aged 55 and over at Princes Park each Thursday from 9am to 1pm. Ladies group meets each Tuesday from 9.30am. New players welcome. Contact: Dominic 9523 6966.

Katalyst youth service is held at the Anglican Parish of Ormond, 436 North Road, Ormond, on the fourth Sunday of every month (with a break for December and January) from 7pm to 9pm. Next session will be Sunday 27 February 2005. Contact: James 0413 587 543.

McKinnon Scrabble Club meets at Marriot House, 100 Wheatley Road, McKinnon, every Thursday from 7.30pm to 11pm. Contact: Lesley 9578 6767.

Murrumbeena Bowls Club welcomes new members for the summer season at 10 Blackwood Street, Carnegie. Contact: 9568 5144.

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

Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliaries (Caulfield Branch) meets at the Alma Club, 1 Wilks Street, Caulfield North, on the third Wednesday of every month, from February to November, at 1pm. Contact: Olive 9578 5395 or Pat 9571 2666.

Caulfield Day View Club meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month for outings and lunches. Contact: Shirley 9564 8163.

Coatesville Uniting Church holds Café C on the corner of Mackie and North Roads, Bentlying East, on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at 7.30pm. Contact: 9570 6632.

East Bentlying Combined Probus Club meets at the Bentlying Club in Yawla Street, Bentlying, on the second Tuesday of every month at 9.30am. Contact: 9557 8236.

Murrumbeena Bowls Club welcomes new players for the summer season at 10 Blackwood Street, Carnegie. Contact: 9568 5144.

Ormond Tennis Club holds night tennis at EE Gunn Reserve, corner of Malane Street and Foch Street, Ormond. Contact: 9572 3507.

4th Caulfield Cubs and Scouts meet in Birch Street, Caulfield South, every week. For girls and boys. Cubs are 7 and a half to 10 years, Scouts are 11 to 14 years. Contact: Jo or Steve 9505 6995.

Events

Adelphi Players Theatre Company will stage Enid Blyton's *Noddy and the Noah's Ark* at Labassa National Trust home, 2 Manor Grove, Caulfield North, Saturday 11, Sunday 12, Saturday 18, and Sunday 19 December. Cost: \$8 adults and \$6 concession. Contact: 9690 1593 or 9578 0952.

Glen Eira City Choir celebrates Christmas with selections from Handel's *Messiah*, and traditional and Australian carols at Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Sunday 12 December at 2.30pm. Contact: 9502 7707.

St Mary's Caulfield will hold its annual *Carols on the Lawns* at 281 Glen Eira Road, Caulfield on Sunday 12 December. Sausage sizzle and BYO picnic from 5.30pm and carols from 6.30pm.

Community

Riding for the Disabled seeks volunteers of all ages to assist with handling horses and assisting riders at the Caulfield Racecourse each Monday from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Contact: Marion 9752 9044 or 0412 129 166.

JUDO

YAMADA JUDO ACADEMY
Caulfield Recreation Centre
6 Maple St, Caulfield South
9578 4460

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

U3A Glen Eira calls for enrolments for 2005. Office opens on Monday 31 January and classes start on Monday 7 February. To receive an enrolment form, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Box 286 Glen Huntly 3163.

Glen Eira News is not published in January. The deadline for next *Community diary* is Wednesday 12 January 2005 for publication 4-6 February 2005.

Immunisation sessions

December

Bentlying Baptist Church
10 Vickery Street, Bentlying
Monday 6 December 1.30pm-2.30pm

Glen Eira Town Hall (entry via Glen Eira Road)
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield
Tuesday 7 December 6pm-7pm
Tuesday 14 December 9.30am-10.15am

Murrumbeena Baptist Church
44 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena
Monday 13 December 10am-11am

Bentlying-Bayside Community Health Service
Gardeners Road, Bentlying East
Wednesday 15 December 6pm-7pm

Glen Huntly Maternal and Child Health Centre
Corner Royal and Rosedale Avenues, Glen Huntly
Wednesday 22 December 9.30am-11am

January

Glen Eira Town Hall (entry via Glen Eira Road)
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield
Tuesday 4 January 6pm-7pm
Tuesday 11 January 9.30am-10.15am

Murrumbeena Baptist Church
44 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena
Monday 10 January 10am-11am

Packer Park Pavillion
Leila Road, Carnegie
Monday 17 January 10am-11am

Bentlying-Bayside Community Health Service
Gardeners Road, Bentlying East
Wednesday 19 January 6pm-7pm
Saturday 22 January 9.30am-10.30am

GLEN EIRA U3A BUS TRIPS 2005

Take advantage of low budget bus trips organised by volunteers for you. Travel with an accredited bus company.

Bookings are now open for the first trip in 2005
Wednesday 16 February 2005

Cruise on the Moonraker cruiser on Port Phillip Bay to spot the Dolphins, seals and sea bird colony. Air-conditioned coach travel, cruise on fully equipped cruiser and morning tea. Morning tea on board - eat all you can. Afterwards we stroll in Sorrento and enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the village. Bring your own lunch or buy. Bring camera and sun hat. Cost \$52, 9am to 5pm

Bookings: by phone U3A Glen Eira office on 9572 0571 or at U3A Glen Eira office, Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm at 1151 Glen Huntly Road, Glen Huntly until 3 December when office closes, re-opens 27 January 2005.

LAWN BOWLS

LAWN BOWLS FOR MEN AND LADIES,

LEARN TO BOWL FREE, QUALIFIED COACHES, COURSES CONSIST OF 4 x 1 HOUR LESSONS

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL,
RING BRIAN BAKER
9557 2947 A/H

BENTLEYING BOWLING CLUB,
1 HIGGINS ROAD BENTLEYING

CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S

281 Glen Eira Rd, Ph 9532 8129

Sunday 12 Dec
6.30 pm Carols on the Lawns, Sausage Sizzle & BYO Picnic from 5.30 pm

Christmas Eve
11.00 pm "Midnight Mass"
with Carols & Supper

Christmas Day
9am Family Service
(Holy Communion)

Boxing Day (Sunday)
10 am One Service
(Holy Communion)



Just who is Eira the bookworm?

Eira, Council's library bookworm, is about to embark on yet another adventure for the summer with the *Dive into reading with Eira* program.

Eira has been on many reading adventures over the past few years — on *Safari in Africa*, voyaging the high seas as a pirate in *Pirate tales*, and most recently hitting the trail on his BMX bike in *Power away with Eira*.

Council's Manager Library and Information Service Sue Webster said the summer reading program aimed to encourage children to use their local library, as well as continue reading over the summer holiday break.

"Eira has been the face of the summer reading program for the past four years and has been a successful mascot used to draw the interest of local children," Ms Webster said.

"When Eira was first introduced, he immediately drew lots of interest from local children and their parents and added to the enjoyment of taking part in the reading competition, collecting incentive prizes and having the chance to win major prizes.

"The success of Eira continues, as more than 1,000 children take part in the reading competition each year — the biggest response to any reading program ever held at Council's libraries."

Eira was also used to relaunch the libraries' *Storytime* sessions which include stories, music, songs and a hands-on activity suitable for preschool children.

Ms Webster said audiences for *Storytime* sessions had grown three-fold at all branches, thanks to Eira.

"Eira began to make an appearance in 2002 at *Storytime* sessions and is guest of honour at the sessions which are attended by more than 12,000 children and parents annually. He has been a big hit," she said.

Up close and personal — an interview with Eira

Before heading off to the pool for a summer of reading and fun, Eira took time out to speak with local children Lauren Sotelo and Finn Doyle. The children asked Eira some questions.

What has been your favourite adventure?

All of them have been great. I love dressing up and traveling to interesting places. I've had lots of exciting adventures and can't wait to dive in to more reading this summer.

What is your favourite book?

I enjoy reading all sorts of books. I find lots of different and interesting books to read at the library.

What is your favourite game?

Being a bookworm, my favourite games are Snakes and Ladders and Twister.

What is your favourite colour?

I am green so I would have to say that my favourite colour is also green.

Where do you live?

I live at *Kid's Place* in the kids' section of the libraries.



Local children Lauren Sotelo and Finn Doyle test their journalistic skills during an interview with Eira. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Kid's Place is a special place just for kids where they can find lots of picture books and junior fiction books to read.

Festive season at Council's libraries

Dive into reading with Eira



Council's popular reading competition for children aged 12 years and under is back this summer. This year the program, *Dive into reading with Eira* will take on a pool party theme.

Preschool and primary school children will be able to follow Council's library bookworm Eira on his summer adventure as they read books. Children can collect a reading record from any of Glen Eira's libraries or their school or can download a copy from Council's website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au.

There are great prizes to be won, including movie passes to the Classic Cinema, swim vouchers to Glen Eira's swimming pools and passes to Lollipop's Playland and Café. There are two major prizes of an *Everything for summer* fun pack which includes a boogie board, beach toys and cool summer accessories to make this summer more fun than ever.

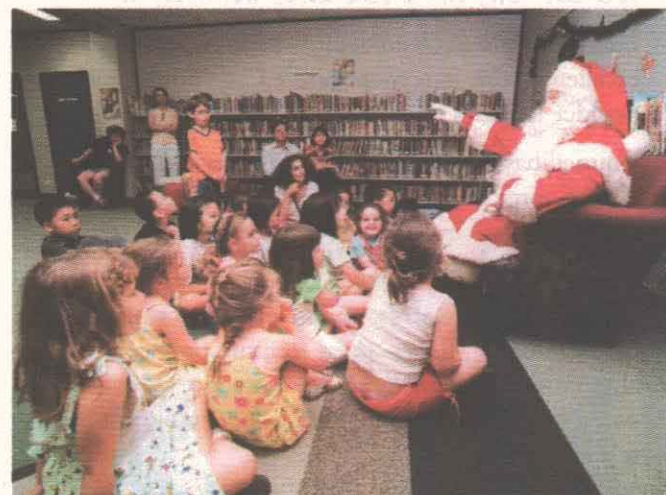
Primary school-aged children also have the chance to win their own movie party at the Classic Cinema by testing their reading knowledge and answering quiz questions. The *Dive into reading with Eira* competition starts on 6 December and closes on 28 January 2005.

Festive Storytimes

Council's regular *Storytime* program will take on a festive mood between Monday 6 December and Friday 10 December. All *Storytime* sessions during the week will be packed full of wonderful festive stories and songs and children can make something special to hang on the tree.

Sing-a-long with Santa

Young children and their families can *Sing-a-long with Santa* at two free shows to be held at Council's



Local children enjoy *Storytime* with a special visit from Santa. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Caulfield and Bentleigh library branches. Children and their families are invited to join Santa as he sings his favorite songs and some catchy new tunes.

Caulfield Library, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Sunday 5 December at 3.30pm. Bentleigh Library, 161 Jasper Road, Bentleigh on Tuesday 7 December at 7pm.

Great gift idea

Gift certificates available for all Internet classes held at Council's libraries. There are a range of classes to suit all levels of experience and certificates are available for *One-on-one*, *Computer Basics*, *Introduction to the Internet*, *Further Steps on the Internet* and *Introduction to Genealogy on the Internet* courses. Certificates are valid for six months.

All classes are held at the multi-stationed computer training facility at Caulfield Library. Certificates can be purchased at any branch.

Holiday hours

Council's four libraries will be open at the following times during the holiday period:

	Bentleigh Library	Carnegie Library	Caulfield Library	Elsternwick Library
Friday 24 December	10am-3pm	10am-3pm	10am-3pm	10am-3pm
Saturday 25 December	All branches closed			
Sunday 26 December	All branches closed			
Monday 27 December	All branches closed			
Tuesday 28 December	All branches closed			
Wednesday 29 December	10am-9pm	Closed	10am-9pm	Closed
Thursday 30 December	10am-9pm	Closed	10am-9pm	Closed
Friday 31 December	10am-3pm	Closed	10am-3pm	Closed
Saturday 1 January	All branches closed			
Sunday 2 January	All branches closed			
Monday 3 January	All branches closed			
Tuesday 4 January	Regular hours resume			

Borrowed items can be returned throughout the holiday period at all branches during opening hours or through the after hours return chutes.



Sensory garden a Glen Eira first

Council's new sensory garden in Princes Park, Caulfield South, is now open for residents of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

The garden is the first of its kind in Glen Eira and features a fountain, scented foliage, brightly-coloured flowers and textured plants — all designed to stimulate the senses and enhance the garden experience.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said residents have been watching the garden's progress over the past few months and have eagerly awaited its opening.

"This garden is unique in Glen Eira and is a great place for residents to wander — taking in the beauty of the plants, enjoying their aromas or simply sitting and watching the fountain," Ms Smith said.

"The sensory garden is set on different levels to ensure access for people of all abilities. It is a particularly enjoyable experience for residents to watch this garden grow and develop over the next few years."

Warrawee resident Francesca Porter enjoys the smell of lavender at the new sensory garden in Princes Park.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Located in the Hawthorn Road end of Princes Park, the garden features granitic sand pathways, seats, raised planters, a fountain, pergolas and garden areas for massed colourful and scented plantings such as lavender, wormwood, butterfly bush, roses, rosemary, sage, and thyme, with climbers such as honeysuckle, rose and wisteria.

Ms Smith said the sensory garden was first proposed during the master planning stage of the Princes Park redevelopment.

"Council's Disability Reference Committee suggested that a garden area such as this would be popular with people of all ages and abilities so the garden was designed to ensure access for everyone," she said.

"Council hopes the garden diversifies and enhances recreation opportunities for a greater cross-section of the Glen Eira community."

Ms Smith said the redevelopment was part of Council's ongoing commitment to upgrade the City's parks.

"We encourage residents to take a stroll through the garden and enjoy the exciting new development through all their senses," she said.

What's new in Glen Eira's parks?

Birdie cages a hit this summer

Local golfers will be enjoying new-found driving excellence with four more Birdie Cage public golf practice facilities to choose from in Glen Eira's parks.

Council has installed the nets in Bailey Reserve and King George VI Memorial Reserve in Bentleigh East, Koornang Park in Carnegie and Victory Reserve in Bentleigh.

With a pad to tee off from and a net into which the balls can be hit, the enclosed facilities provide a safe alternative for people wishing to practice their golf swing while maintaining a safe environment for people relaxing in the park.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said golf is a popular pastime with local residents and Council was pleased to provide the facilities, which also reduce damage to park infrastructure.

"The installation of the new facilities follows on from the success of the first birdie cage which opened at Packer Park in Carnegie in May 2002," Ms Smith said.

"Council trialled the Packer Park facility with overwhelming success. Residents can also enjoy existing birdie cage at McKinnon Reserve in McKinnon, Caulfield Park in Caulfield, Centenary Park in Bentleigh East, and EE Gunn Reserve in Ormond."

All birdie cage facilities are open from morning to dusk and are free to use. Golf practice is strictly prohibited in any of the open space in Glen Eira, except for these golf practice facilities.

Cricket wickets receive a makeover

Local residents and cricket clubs can now enjoy a better playing surface thanks to the replacement of two cricket wickets in Bailey Reserve, Bentleigh East and Victory Park, Bentleigh.

Along with the new concrete and synthetic wickets, Council has also installed a new concrete pitch, synthetic surface and turf sodding around the wicket.

The wickets were replaced as part of Council's capital works program and now also comply with new safety standards.

Keeping Centenary Park above water

Underground pipes have been installed to increase drainage at the outer ground oval in Centenary Park, Bentleigh East.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said the increased drainage was necessary as the oval had been waterlogged after heavy rainfall during the wetter winter months.



Local children from the West Bentleigh Cricket Club take advantage of the new Victory Park cricket pitch.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

"Unfortunately, Council was forced to close the oval to sports club users to ensure the surface was not further damaged," Ms Smith said.

"This additional new drainage will make the ground safer and more usable after wet conditions."

A new standard for fitness

Residents wanting to work on their fitness levels can take advantage of the recently installed fitness equipment at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve in Murrumbeena and Caulfield Park in Caulfield.

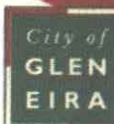
Council has replaced outdated equipment with apparatus that meets updated safety standards, including stretching stations, balancing beams, abdominal stations, jumping and chin-up bars.

The equipment is conveniently located close to the walking tracks and provides users with the opportunity to undertake various exercises while walking or running around the park.

Venues for hire

Council has a range of facilities located throughout Glen Eira available for family reunions, birthday parties, wedding, conference, exhibition, anniversary or special event. The facilities range in size and are clean and comfortable.

Council also has rotundas situated picturesque park settings to hire for a wedding or special event. For a free brochure or more information contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 or visit Council's website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au



Arts

Snap-happy citizens on display

Council's *My Glen Eira* photo competition may have closed, but residents will soon have a chance to see the results, and winners, for themselves at the *My Glen Eira* exhibition to be held in Council's Gallery this month.

Entrants of all ages took snapshots of their view of the City for the chance to win great prizes and be on display in Council's gallery as part of the *My Glen Eira* exhibition.

The exhibition will feature entries from each category and will be open to the public from 16 December.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury will be on hand at the exhibition opening on 15 December to announce the winners, and the top shots will be featured in the February 2005 issue of *Glen Eira News*.

Held to help celebrate the City's 10th birthday, the competition asked residents, students and people

working in the City to enter a photo of what the City meant to them.

There were three categories available: junior category (under 12 years at 1 October 2004) with prizes of a Kodak EZ200 digital camera (sponsored by Photo Boutique) plus \$150 of products and processing (sponsored by Elsternwick Camera Centre); youth category (13–18 years at 1 October 2004), with prizes of a Kodak 3200 digital camera (sponsored by Photo Boutique) plus \$150 of products and processing (sponsored by Elsternwick Camera Centre); and open category, prizes including a \$300 cash (sponsored by KwikKopy Printing, Clayton) plus \$150 worth of photography supplies (sponsored by Council).



Council's Arts and Culture Curator Paul Magin (left), and Manager Arts and Culture David O'Halloran prepare for the *My Glen Eira* and *The Interior Word* exhibitions.

Photos: Bernie Bickerton.

The *My Glen Eira* exhibition will be open at Council's Gallery from 16 December 2004 until 23 January 2005.

January opening a first for gallery

The Glen Eira City Council Gallery will be open over January for the very first time as part of plans to improve community access to arts and culture.

Council's Manager Arts and Culture David O'Halloran said Council hoped opening the gallery over January would increase opportunities for the local community to participate in the arts.

"We will hold two exhibitions over January, *The Interior World* and the *My Glen Eira* photo competition exhibition, both designed around a local Glen Eira theme," Mr O'Halloran said.

"*The Interior World* showcases the works of three photographers from Council's permanent collection — Wolfgang Sievers, Ponch Hawkes and Jane Burton — all with a Glen Eira theme.

"In line with the City's 10th birthday celebrations, Council is holding the *My Glen Eira* competition which asks participants who live and work in the City to submit photographic works depicting what Glen Eira means to them."

The Gallery held a number of exhibitions this year with a local flavour, starting with the *Neighbours* exhibition which displayed 40 pieces of work from eight local artists and celebrated the quality and diversity of artists living and working in Glen Eira.

Council's survey exhibition this year, *Wounded: Land, Memory and Destiny*, profiled McKinnon-based artist Victor Majzner, exploring a number of specific themes including Jewish–Australian history and the passage of emigrants.

Council also opened the doors to its art collection with *Perspectives: our collection in context*, displaying significant works by artists such as Howard Arkely, Arthur Boyd, Charles Blackman and Fred Williams, and placing them in context with a variety of other works from the artists' careers.

Mr O'Halloran said the gallery aimed to provide residents with a unique range of cultural experiences throughout the year, exhibiting Glen Eira artists

and works from further afield, across a wide range of mediums.

"Many exhibition catalogues are still available from the gallery and there is now more information on Council's website about previous exhibitions, which we hope will increase awareness and accessibility of this valuable community asset," he said.

The *Interior World* and *My Glen Eira* exhibitions will run concurrently from Thursday 16 December 2004 to Sunday 23 January 2005.

Exhibitions

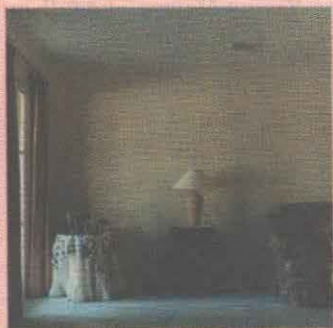
Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield
Opening Hours: Monday–Friday 10am–5pm, Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 1pm–5pm

The Interior World: photographs and photographers from Glen Eira City Council's collection

Opens 6pm Thursday 16 December and continues until Sunday 23 January

The *Interior World* examines aspects of suburbia through the work of three photographers — Wolfgang Sievers, Ponch Hawkes and Jane Burton.

Wolfgang Sievers documents the interior of the Fooks House in Caulfield, highlighting the Japanese and Scandinavian influences on suburban architecture in the 1960s. Ponch Hawkes looks



Jane Burton, Lounge Room, Glen Eira, 1998

at the interior world of family history where everyday objects are filled with collective memory.

Presented together, the three photographers in this exhibition describe the interior world of suburbia — its spaces, its memories and its fantasies.

The Big Do: Visual Communications, Monash University graduate exhibition

Opens 6pm Wednesday 1 December and continues until Sunday 12 December.

The *Big Do* celebrates the work of graduating students from the Visual Communication degree at Monash University. Brimming with energy and sophistication, wit and humour, the exhibition will highlight the skills of 45 students embracing graphic design, motion graphics, illustration, typography and photo media.

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Glen Eira City Council presents

Carols by Candlelight

in Glen Eira

Carols by Candlelight
7pm–10pm

>> Packer Park
Sunday 12 December

>> Caulfield Park
Sunday 19 December

Families and friends are invited to help celebrate the 2004 Carols by Candlelight ceremonies with Frankie J Holden, Alyce Platt, Vika and Linda and the Young Voices of Melbourne.

Council's 2004 *Carols by Candlelight* family celebrations will be held at Packer Park on Sunday 12 December and Caulfield Park on Sunday 19 December from 7pm–10pm.

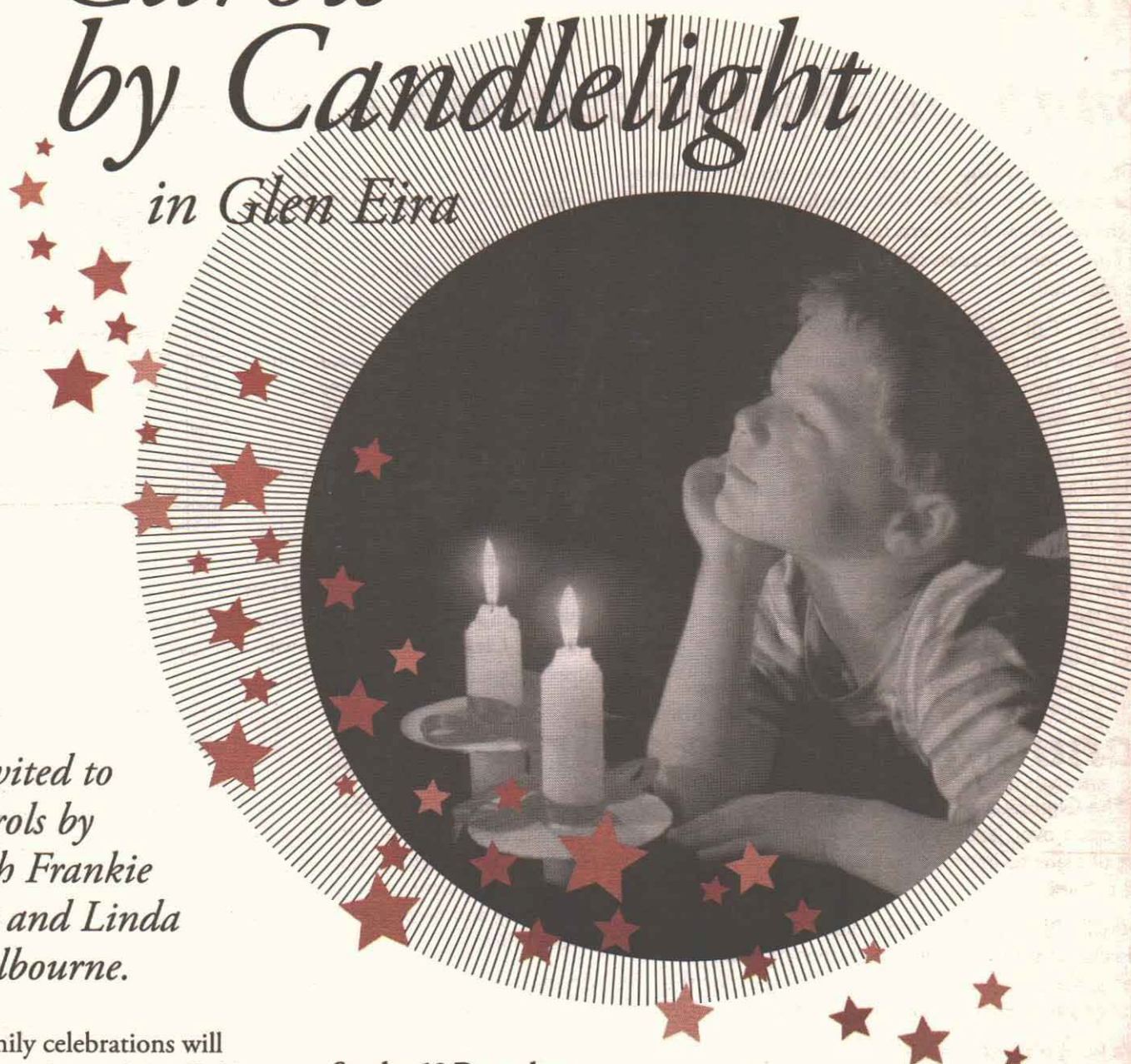
Featuring the best of local and Australian musical talent, the concerts build on the success of last year's events with Vika and Linda returning, this time for both Caulfield Park and Packer Park. Family favourites Frankie J Holden, host of the Packer Park ceremony, and Alyce Platt, host of the Caulfield Park ceremony, will lead guests through a number of carols and traditional songs.

Glen Eira Mayor Cr Bob Bury said the *Carols by Candlelight* ceremonies will appeal to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

"Council's annual *Carols by Candlelight* events celebrate the cultural and religious diversity of Glen Eira's residents," Cr Bury said.

"The festive season means so many things to so many people and Council would like to think that these events create a sense of belonging to all in our community."

The *Carols by Candlelight* celebrations form part of Council's arts and culture program, which delivers a variety of annual events including *Party in the Park* community celebrations and the *Winter Music Series*, plus exhibitions held in Council's Gallery.



Sunday 12 December

Packer Park, Leila Road, Carnegie (Melway 68 J8)



Australian entertainer Frankie J Holden will host the Packer Park celebrations and entertain guests along with Vika and Linda, the Young Voices of Melbourne, Glen Eira City Band, Glen Eira City Choir and St Anthony's Primary School Choir.

- 6.30pm Sale of programs
- 7pm Pre-carols entertainment by Glen Eira City Band
- 7.30pm Glen Eira City Choir
- Young Voices of Melbourne
- St Anthony's Primary School Choir
- 9.05pm Special appearance by Santa
- 9.15pm Vika and Linda

Sunday 19 December

Caulfield Park, Hawthorn Road, Caulfield (Melway 59 B12)



Host of the Caulfield Park ceremony Alyce Platt will perform some carols and introduce entertainers Vika and Linda, the Young Voices of Melbourne, Murrumbeena Baptist Church Band, McKinnon Secondary College Senior Singers and Glen Huntly and Coatesville primary school choirs.

- 6.30pm Sale of programs
- 7pm Pre-carols entertainment by Murrumbeena Baptist Church Band
- 7.30pm Coatesville Primary School Choir
- McKinnon Secondary College Senior Singers
- Young Voices of Melbourne
- Glen Huntly Primary School Choir
- 9.05pm Special appearance by Santa
- 9.15pm Vika and Linda