

Councillors suspended

Glen Eira's Councillors were suspended following recommendations made in an independent report tabled in State Parliament on 11 August 2005.

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon Candy Broad, MLC, suspended the Glen Eira Councillors on the advice of a report about Councillor governance. An Administrator, Mr John Lester, has been appointed to run the Council until elections are held in November this year.

Ms Broad said the comprehensive report by Inspector of Municipal Administration Merv Whelan made it clear that decisive action was required for the community to have confidence in the ongoing administration of council affairs.

"This report outlines, in great detail, a litany of deficiencies of governance which made it impossible for the Council to provide fair representation for its local community," Ms Broad said.

The Council is very badly governed. There has been, and continues to be, a serious failure to provide good government... Their failure to provide good government is due to a breakdown in working relationships, characterised by a total absence of goodwill, respect and trust between Councillors, and an inability or unwillingness on their part to seriously attempt any remedial action.

(Whelan, M. July 2005, *Report of Investigation into Glen Eira City Council*, pg 2)

Ms Broad said that some of the reasons outlined in the report for suspending the Councillors were:

- the lack of an effective code of conduct;
- the lack of an appropriate Councillor expenses policy;
- breaches of confidentiality;
- misunderstanding of Councillor role and responsibilities; and
- poor relationships between Councillors and Council staff, including the CEO.

Shadow spokesperson for Local Government John Vogels said he couldn't criticise the Inspector's recommendation.

"The Councillors asked the Minister to investigate their expense accounts," Mr Vogels said.

"The Minister put in an Inspector who has done a thorough checking of expense accounts and all those sorts of things and he's made a recommendation — and I can't criticise that recommendation.

"The Municipal Inspector has said these Councillors need to be suspended because they haven't followed due

process and codes of conduct. I would call upon the Minister to apply the same sort of vigour to other councils."

However, while the report raised serious questions of governance among Councillors, it commended the expertise and professionalism of Council's Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Newton, and the administration.

The Council is very well managed. The high standards achieved are directly attributable to the corporate vision, strategic direction, leadership and professional competence provided by the CEO, directors and the management team. They have set the foundations for quality performance by focussing on financial stability, customer service, corporate accountability and a commitment to excellence.

(Whelan Report, pg 2)

In 2004 Councillors requested that the Minister for Local Government appoint a Municipal Inspector to investigate and report on matters arising from an audit of Councillors' expenses and use of Council facilities.

Copies of the report can be viewed online at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au or at Council's libraries.

What this means

- Council's Chief Executive Officer, directors and staff have been commended for their professional conduct and high performance.
- Councillors have been suspended due to poor governance, lack of leadership and inability to make decisions and maintain good working relationships.
- Council services will continue to run in an efficient and professional manner — libraries are still open and rubbish will be collected, playgrounds built and footpaths mended just as before.
- Administrator John Lester will act in place of Councillors until elections are held.
- Council's Chief Executive Officer, directors and staff will continue to work on behalf of Council and the community.
- Elections for new Councillors will be held on 26 November 2005.
- Suspended Councillors will be eligible to stand for re-election.

Councillors and Council staff performance

A snapshot of the Whelan Report

Chief Executive Officer, directors and staff

- "The Council is very well managed." (pg 2)
- "The high standards achieved are directly attributable to the corporate vision, strategic direction, leadership and professional competence provided by the CEO, directors and the management team." (pg 2)
- "They have set the foundations for quality performance by focussing on financial stability, customer service, corporate accountability and a commitment to excellence." (pg 2)
- "The Council is in a strong financial position." (pg 2)
- "Glen Eira ... is recognised as a high-performing municipality due to the expertise and professionalism of the Chief Executive Officer and the administration" (*Whelan Report*, covering letter to Minister Broad)
- "Their competence has, to a large extent, concealed the inadequacy of Councillor performance." (*Whelan Report*, covering letter to Minister Broad)
- "Consultation and communication procedures and processes... are extensive and effective." (pg 6)
- "...the high standards achieved in strategic planning, budgeting, reporting and financial management are the product of a capable and dedicated administration." (p37)

Councillors

- "The Council is very badly governed." (pg 2)
- "...were not providing effective leadership ..." (pg 2)
- "...showed no inclination to focus on strategic direction..." (pg 2)
- "...were immersed in divisive point scoring and interpersonal conflict." (pg 2)
- "...failure to provide good government is due to a breakdown in working relationships, ..." (pg 2)
- "...unruly behaviour, lack of effective debate and ...the inability of the Mayor to preserve order are indicative of deep divisions within the Council." (pg 3)
- "This relationship [with the CEO] has been undermined by the antagonism and vindictiveness displayed by several Councillors ..." (pg 4)
- "...written allegations from Crs Grossbard and Marwick, questioning the credibility and integrity of the CEO... were groundless." (pg 5)
- "Several Councillors appear to have breached the Council's Civic Expenses Policy." (pg 6) "In particular, Cr Goudge made over 20,000 calls in 30 months at a cost in excess of \$12,000." (pg 7)
- "Cr Goudge's qualification to hold the office of Councillor has been the subject of investigation. ...This matter is currently before the Court." (pg 7)

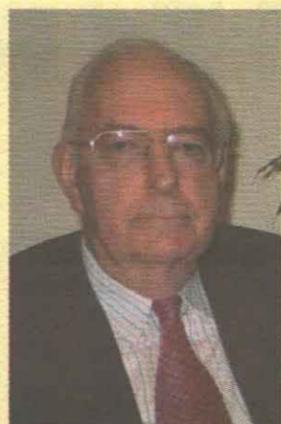
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Page numbers quoted in this table are taken from the *Report of Investigation into Glen Eira City Council*, by Merv Whelan, July 2005, referred to in this publication as the *Whelan Report*.



A message from John Lester



As the State Government-appointed Glen Eira City Council Administrator, I replace the Council. I have the same powers and duties of a Council — the work of Glen Eira City Council continues with an administrator rather than with Councillors.

I am not an elected representative of the

community, but I will certainly participate in Council and community life and make myself available to meet with and hear from concerned community members.

The three most important things I will do in my time here are:

1. to ensure no interruptions to Council services;
2. to put in place a Code of Conduct for Councillors prior to elections. This is well documented to have been a major issue with previous Councillors; and
3. to make myself available to the community.

Given that we are essentially in a caretaker mode with elections at the end of November, it's most unlikely that I'll be making any major decisions about capital expenditure or about changes in services.

Glen Eira City Council has been commended on its organisational practices by the independent report. The report praises the performance of the organisation, managers and staff. I will work to ensure the stability at Glen Eira City Council until a new Council is elected in November and will rely on the professionalism of the staff at Glen Eira.

I look forward to the new beginnings to be created for the City of Glen Eira, its community and Glen Eira City Council as part of the elections in November.

John Lester
Administrator
Glen Eira City Council

About John Lester

In terms of local government, Mr Lester's most immediate background was as chair of the Victoria Grants Commission, a position he held for nine years. In 2004-05 the Commission allocated \$350 million to local government throughout Victoria. As part of his role, Mr Lester visited every municipality in Victoria on several occasions. Mr Lester was also the Chief Commissioner of Darebin City Council at the time of amalgamations.

Outside local government, he has held senior positions in business and has been the chairperson, or board member, of a number of statutory authorities. His chief hobby is music.

From the Whelan Report

Findings from the Municipal Administration Inspector's investigation into Glen Eira City Council

After Councillors requested the Minister for Local Government to appoint an Inspector of Municipal Administration, Merv Whelan, was duly appointed to review Glen Eira City Council's governance practices. The review included, but was not limited to, relationships between Councillors and staff, and advice on actions being taken or which should be taken to address any deficiencies. Most of the report's comments relate to Councillors overall.

The investigation was extensive, involving interviews with more than 50 people and an appraisal of numerous Council files and minutes, as well as documents supplied by members of the public.

Following are some of the findings and recommendations from the report. Full copies of the report can be viewed online at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au or at Council's libraries.

The findings reported in this *Glen Eira News* special bulletin are all taken from the *Report of Investigation into Glen Eira City Council*, by Merv Whelan, Inspector of Municipal Administration, July 2005. The report is referred to in this publication as the *Whelan Report*. Page numbers are attributed in brackets.

Governance by Councillors

The Council is very badly governed. There has been, and continues to be, a serious failure to provide good government. During the investigation it became clear that Councillors were not providing effective leadership, showed no inclination to focus on strategic direction and were almost completely immersed in divisive point scoring and interpersonal conflict. Their failure to provide good government is due to a breakdown in working relationships, characterised by a total absence of goodwill, respect and trust between Councillors, and an inability or unwillingness on their part to seriously attempt any remedial action.

These comments reflect the views expressed by almost all persons interviewed, including those of most Councillors, directors and senior management staff of the Council, the external members of the Audit Committee, the Internal Auditor, former mediators, ex-Councillors and members of the public (irrespective of which Councillor group those members of the public support). The performance of Councillors was regularly described to Inspectors as setting a poor example, an embarrassment to the organisation, and demeaning to local government. (*Whelan Report*, pg 2)

The comments made to the Inspectors by a majority of Councillors indicate that their collective opinion of their own performance is negative.

Their responses to questions asked by the Inspectors consistently identified the following governance problems:-

- no co-operation between them;
- lack of goodwill;
- constant vilification and harassment;
- verbal public attacks;
- lack of mutual trust;
- setting a poor example;
- causing embarrassment;
- actions bringing Council into disrepute. (pg 62)

Management by Council staff

The Council is very well managed. The high standards achieved are directly attributable to the corporate vision, strategic direction, leadership and professional competence provided by the CEO, directors and the management team. They have set the foundations for quality performance by focussing on financial stability, customer service, corporate accountability and a commitment to excellence. These achievements have been independently recognised by the substantial number of awards made to the Council in recent years for outstanding performance.

The Council is in a strong financial position. Rating levels and operating costs are relatively low in comparison to those of similar municipalities, debt is minimal, the operating position is sound, cash levels and working capital are satisfactory, and capital works investment is increasing to address identified infrastructure needs. (*Whelan Report*, pg 2)

Most Councillors agreed that, as an elected body, the Council wasn't doing its job effectively and that the excellent

reputation as a high performer enjoyed by the Council was directly attributable to a high performing staff.

Further, there was general acknowledgement [by Councillors] that the strategic direction of the Council is driven by Officers. (pg 62)

Council meetings

The latter half of each Council meeting comprises items that are initiated by Councillors, or involve their participation without the guidance of reports and advice provided by Officers. During these stages the decision-making process often becomes dysfunctional, resulting in meetings being adjourned to complete unfinished business. The unruly behaviour, lack of effective debate and the inability of the Mayor to preserve order are indicative of deep divisions within the Council. This behaviour typically includes failing to work cooperatively, engaging in disruptive conduct, misusing sensitive information and harassing colleagues. Councillor performance during these sessions contributes materially to the widely held view that the elected Council is "ineffectual and irrelevant". (*Whelan Report*, pg 3)

The productive outcomes generally achieved in the first stage of Council meetings are due substantially to the clear, comprehensive and accurate reports presented by the CEO and the staff. (pg 20)

Councillors' Code of Conduct

In 1998, [it was] recommended that the Council adopt a "Code of Governance" and appoint a "Governance Advisor" to facilitate implementation of the Code, these initiatives being pivotal to improving working relationships between Councillors. No such Code was adopted.

Several recommendations have since been made to Council to implement a Code that sets behavioural standards, provides penalties for breaches of its provisions and requires each Councillor to be bound by its conditions. However Councillors have shown no inclination to manage their behaviour in this way.

In March 2003, each Councillor signed a Code that had been prepared some six years earlier by Commissioners, declaring that they would act with honesty and courtesy towards colleagues and staff. Councillors soon abandoned this commitment. In December 2004 the Council, to comply with Section 76C of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), adopted a "minimalist" Code that included processes for resolving disputes between Councillors. This decision was followed by months of bitter, divisive exchanges including an altercation between two Councillors who subsequently took action against each other in the Magistrates Court for assault. (*Whelan Report*, pg 3)

Council relationship with CEO

The Council's tasks of appointing, reviewing the performance of, and maintaining a productive working relationship with



the CEO are of paramount importance for establishing and maintaining good governance. This relationship has been undermined by the antagonism and vindictiveness displayed by several Councillors, whose actions have the potential to threaten the excellent performance standards achieved by the organisation.

The approaches taken by Councillors during the past three years, both individually and collectively to address several significant issues involving the CEO, have been adversarial and retributive. (*Whelan Report*, pg 4)

Council's performance in dealing with the CEO's re-appointment ... exemplifies those weaknesses which collectively constitute bad government at Glen Eira. Councillors demonstrated a complete lack of leadership, an inability to make major decisions in a responsible manner, a disregard for financial risk factors, ignorance of the impact of their actions on organisational performance and staff morale, and a propensity to constantly disseminate confidential information in breach of the Act. (pg 5)

The Inspectors received a substantial number of written allegations from Crs Grossbard and Marwick, questioning the credibility and integrity of the CEO. An analysis these allegations revealed that their assertions were groundless. These persistent attempts by the two Councillors to discredit the performance of the CEO raise questions about the motives for their actions, the negative implications for CEO/Councillor relationships, and the adverse impact on the capacity of the Council to provide good government. (pg 5)

Councillor induction processes

The induction programs available to Councillors are relevant and comprehensive. Nearly all Councillors agreed that information presented to them, and the courses/sessions offered, were adequate and that each Councillor has a responsibility to participate and educate themselves on roles and responsibilities. Any deficiencies in Council performance cannot be justifiably attributed to any shortcomings in the opportunities presented for induction and training. (*Whelan Report*, pg 32)

Staff consultation and communication

Consultation and communication procedures and processes, both external and internal, where generated by the CEO and staff, are extensive and effective. They are a product of the quality and quantity of information produced by the CEO and the administration. (*Whelan Report*, pg 35)

External contact is made through many avenues including the Council Service Centre, *Glen Eira News*, *Community Resource Guide*, Council columns in local newspapers, the website, Best Value Reviews, community forums, position papers, planning conferences and the Annual Report. (pg 6)

Internal consultation and communication involves a Government Digest with a wide range of information for all Councillors, agenda papers, briefing meetings and various meetings at staff / Councillor level and between staff. (pg 6)

Consultation and communication by Councillors

However there is a negative side to communication / consultation processes. This involves the issue of numerous accusatory memos and counter claims between Councillors. These actions are reflective of the acrimonious and distrustful nature of the Councillor/Councillor and Councillor/senior staff relationships, and have a negative impact on Council's ability to provide good governance. The administration has adopted the practice of retaining copious records as protection against possible accusations by Councillors. (*Whelan Report*, pg 6)

To deflect public criticism, the Council has levelled blame at the staff rather than accept responsibility for its own actions. (pg 45)

Conduct of CEO and senior Council staff members

Overall, the Council has performed very successfully, not as a result of leadership provided by the elected Councillors, but in spite of the lack of it. (*Whelan Report*, pg 67)

Councillors were generally strongly supportive of the overall staff performance. However, while several Councillors expressed confidence in the CEO and DCR [Director Community Relations], others were critical of their performance, in particular Crs Grossbard and Marwick who made a number of unfounded allegations against them. (pg 62)

In the Inspectors' view, the DCR acted professionally in very difficult circumstances by providing advice that encouraged the Council to operate lawfully and in accordance with proper meeting practice. (pg 85)

The Inspectors found no evidence to support Cr Marwick's allegations that the DCR had acted improperly... (pg 110)

There is no evidence of corrupt or improper behaviour by the CEO or the CFO [Chief Financial Officer]. (pg 112)

Criticisms levelled at staff for failure to consult and communicate during the Princes Park redevelopment project are, for the most part, unjustified. The Council neglected to set objectives for the project, continually changed the requirements, often made decisions on an ad hoc basis as "Urgent Business" without adequate staff advice and input, directed the staff to implement those decisions and subsequently criticised them for doing so. (pg 42)

Councillors and confidentiality

There are numerous examples of the release of information designated as confidential within the meaning of Section 77 of the Act. The disclosure of information to Leader Newspapers has been constant during the last six months due to the conflicts between Councillors arising from the CEO re-appointment process. The prevalence of this practice inhibits the capacity of Councillors to discuss confidential information, creates a climate of mistrust, and is indicative of a serious governance problem. (*Whelan Report*, pg 5)

Breaches of expenses policy

Several Councillors appear to have breached the Council's Civic Expenses Policy. The policy stipulates that Council-supplied telephones must not be used for electoral purposes or private purposes other than mobile phones for "incidental private use". (*Whelan Report*, pg 6)

Some Councillors appear to have used their phones in contravention of the policy; in particular Cr Goudge who

Cr- Local Government Victoria
Level 14, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne 3000
13 July 2005

The Hon Candy Broad MLC
Minister for Local Government
Nauru House, Level 21,
80 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000

Dear Minister

I have completed an investigation into governance and other issues at Glen Eira City Council in accordance with the Terms of Reference issued by you on 9 December 2004 and submit my report for your consideration.

In 1998, Dr Greg Walsh, an Inspector of Municipal Administration, identified poor governance as a serious concern for the Council and recommended that the deficiency be addressed by implementing a Code of Governance and engaging the services of a mediator. Seven years and two elections later, the Council has made no progress on this issue. Rather, its performance has declined.

The elected Council has failed, and continues to fail, to provide good government. This is primarily due to a serious breakdown in working relationships between Councillors and an incapacity and unwillingness by them to positively pursue any remedial action. Their conduct is characterised by hostile, acrimonious behaviour, denigration of colleagues and a lack of mutual respect and goodwill - behaviour which seriously inhibits their decision making capacity. They are widely perceived as ineffectual and irrelevant. According to the Councillors themselves, attempts to implement change have been completely ineffective because entrenched bitterness and resentment between them has negated any will to achieve it.

Glen Eira City Council is recognised as a high performing municipality due to the expertise and professionalism of the Chief Executive Officer and the administration. Their competence has, to a large extent, concealed the inadequacy of Councillor performance.

Concerns have arisen about the detrimental impact Councillor behaviour will have on the future performance of the City. The working relationships between several Councillors and the CEO have deteriorated and measures have been taken by the CEO and Directors to protect staff from negative Councillor influence.

The Council has been given ample advice, time and opportunity to rectify its deficiencies. A break in electoral representation will send a clear message that a continuing and serious failure to provide good governance is unacceptable. It should also initiate positive change towards restoring responsible elected representation to the City.

Accordingly, I recommend that you consider suspending the Councillors of Glen Eira City Council and appointing an Administrator for approximately four months, pending the general election of Councillors scheduled for the last Saturday in November 2005.

Yours sincerely



Merv Whelan
Inspector of Municipal Administration

The letter from the Inspector of Municipal Administration, Mr Merv Whelan, to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Candy Broad, MLC.

made over 20,000 calls in 30 months at a cost in excess of \$12,000. Irrespective of the Council's policy, the Act provides that Councillors are entitled to be paid only for expenses incurred by them in performance of their civic duties and that they must act honestly and not make a gain from improper use of Council supplied facilities. (pg 7)

Local Government Act breaches

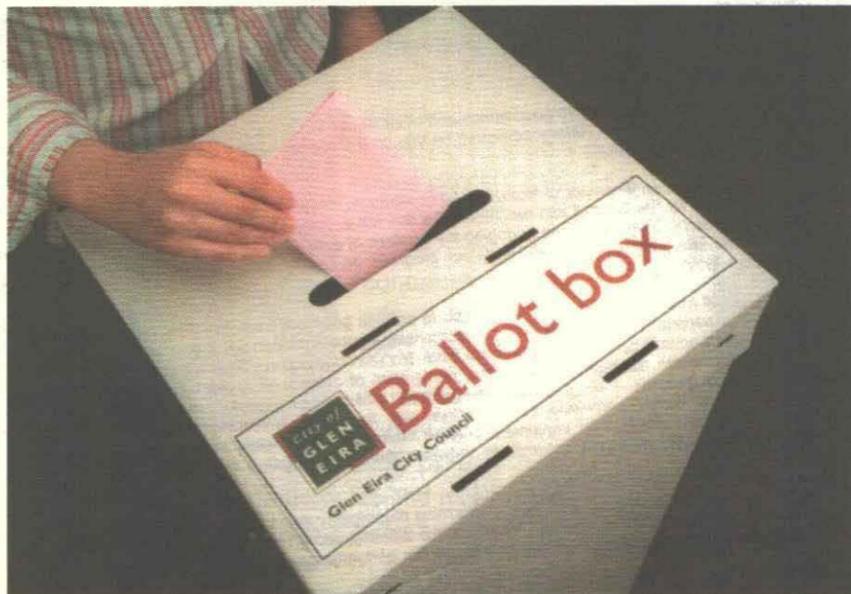
Cr Goudge's qualification to hold the office of Councillor has been the subject of investigation. Cr Goudge was initially elected as a Councillor in March 2000 and re-elected in March 2003. It appears that during 2002 he may have lost his qualification to be a Councillor and breached the Act by acting as a Councillor while incapable of doing so. This matter is currently before the Court. (*Whelan Report*, pg 7)

Mediation

There is no evidence that mediation has been successful, or has been supported by Councillors. It is very doubtful that mediation processes will improve the behavioural practices and relationships of the current Councillor group. (*Whelan Report*, pg 26)

The recent Council decision to engage mediation services appears to be a reaction to the investigation process rather than evidence of a serious attempt to improve behaviour. (pg 26)

November elections bring new opportunity



Residents and ratepayers can have their say when Council goes to the polls on 26 November.

On Saturday 26 November, nine Councillors will be elected to represent the voice and views of residents and ratepayers in three new wards — Camden, Rosstown and Tucker. Three Councillors will be elected for each of the three wards.

Local Government Minister Candy Broad said the Glen

Eira community should be very disappointed in the actions and the failures of the suspended Councillors to provide good governance to their local community.

"Now it's over to the local community to examine the matters that are set out in this report, to make their own judgements," Ms Broad said.

"I certainly have faith in the capacity of the local community to make their own judgements about who they want to elect to government at the next election."

The November elections will provide eligible voters with the opportunity to demonstrate their passion for issues and representation in the City.

As elected representatives, Councillors act as the voice of the community in Council discussions. They are ideally placed to consult with community members and liaise with senior Council staff to determine the priorities for projects, programs and initiatives in the City.



Ward changes — check your boundaries

On 1 August 2005, Glen Eira's ward boundaries officially changed and three new wards were created — Camden, Rosstown and Tucker.

The new wards reflect the shift in ward boundaries from the previous north-south structure of Jasper, Orrong and Mackie.

Residents and ratepayers will find their new ward shown on their rates notices, but further information about ward boundaries and voting will be sent closer to the elections.

The restructure was announced after a review earlier this year, directed by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Candy Broad, MLC. The review looked at whether the existing electoral and Councillor structure provided a fair and equitable representation for voters at Council elections and involved a two-stage public submission process.

The Minister directed the change to the wards after accepting the recommendation of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), which conducted the electoral review. The VEC argued that redefining the ward boundaries would provide for stronger representation and would better reflect communities of interest which, according to the submissions, ran on an east-west basis.

Council appointed the VEC to conduct the review because recent changes to legislation require reviews to



be run independently by an electoral commission at least once after every second election is held. Previously, councils ran their own reviews.

The VEC's final report on Glen Eira's electoral representation is available on Council's website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au and on VEC's website at www.vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolling to vote

Elections for Glen Eira City Council will be held on Saturday 26 November 2005, but if you want your vote to count, you first need to make sure you're on the electoral roll.

Enrolments for voting in the Glen Eira City Council elections close on Friday 7 October* at 4pm.

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you are on the State and Federal electoral roll for your present address and will be 18 years of age or over on 26 November 2005; or
- you own a property in the City of Glen Eira but don't live at that property, and you are the first or second-named person on the Council's rate records; or
- you have applied to Council to be enrolled for this year's elections.

If the above applies, you do not need to do anything to enrol.

To check whether you are on the State and Federal roll, call the Victorian Electoral Commission on 13 18 32 or visit www.vec.vic.gov.au

You need to enrol if you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on 26 November 2005 and:

- you are not on the State and Federal electoral roll; or
- you have lived at your present address for at least a month and have not updated your enrolment details.

Enrolment forms for the State and Federal electoral roll can be picked up from any post office or Coles or Bi-Lo supermarket, or can be downloaded from www.vec.vic.gov.au. Forms can also be posted to you by calling the Victorian Electoral Commission on 13 18 32.

You may also apply to enrol at these elections if:

- you are a non-Australian citizen who lives and pays rates in the City of Glen Eira; or
- you pay rates on a property you occupy (eg. you are a shop tenant) and are either named on the Council's rate records to receive the rates or have the written consent of the owners to vote in their place; or
- you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in the City of Glen Eira and have no other voting entitlement within the municipality.

Application forms are available from Council, and must be received by 4pm on 7 October.

Voters may now only be enrolled in one ward in a municipality. If, in previous Glen Eira City Council elections, you had multiple entitlements to vote, you will now only vote for the ward in which you live. If you are a non-resident owning multiple properties, you may nominate to Council the property for which you wish to vote. If you do not nominate the property for which you wish to vote, the Council will choose one.

If you have an enquiry regarding your application to Council to enrol, call Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

Further information about voting enrolments can be found on page 11 of the September edition of the *Glen Eira News*.

* This date is conditional on the *Local Government (Further Amendment) Bill* being approved by State Parliament. This bill proposed to delay the roll inspection period and the close of the roll for Glen Eira's election by one week from 30 September to 7 October 2005. To confirm these dates are correct, contact the VEC on the number above.

Best of the bunch

Glen Eira parks are the best in Melbourne for the second consecutive year according to a recent independent survey of park users.

Glen Eira came first out of 21 metropolitan councils in the annual *Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey* conducted in April and May this year.

Parks in Glen Eira rated best in the areas of shelters, tables and seats, barbecues, toilets and change rooms, rubbish bins, removal of ground litter, internal roads and car parks, pathways, trails and the removal of graffiti.

The survey, which interviewed more than 100 participants in 13 Glen Eira parks, provides valuable information to Council as the people involved were actually using the park at the time the survey was carried out. The survey measures park users' satisfaction with the level of park maintenance and compares results with other park managers.

Chief Executive Officer Andrew Newton said Council's experience is that upgrading parks has a dramatic effect on the willingness of residents to exercise and socialise and this benefits people of all ages.

"The survey has provided invaluable feedback on residents' priorities for improvements needed in parks," Mr Newton said.

"The survey results are also supported by Council's annual independent community satisfaction survey which shows consistently high levels of community satisfaction with Glen Eira's parks.



Glen Eira parks are the best in Melbourne for the second consecutive year according to the annual Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

"Council aims to maintain and further develop the standard of parks in the City. This is documented in Council's *Glen Eira 2004-10 Community Plan* which proposes that all residents have access to parklands and sporting facilities which also have disability access and are located within two kilometres of their homes."

Council has already upgraded six parks, including Packer Park and Mallanbool Reserve in Carnegie, Allnutt Park in Bentleigh, Harleston Park and Hopetoun Gardens in Elsternwick, and is currently redeveloping Princes Park in Caulfield South. Bentleigh-Hodgson Reserve will be the next park to be upgraded.

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Safer, better food in Glen Eira

A 90 per cent compliance rate with National Food Safety standards means Glen Eira residents can expect better food quality from local food businesses.

More than 750 food businesses are regularly inspected by Council each year to ensure food quality and safety standards are met. Since 2001, the quality of samples from local businesses has risen by 15 per cent.

Council's Manager Public Health Mark Saunders said the improvement resulted from a number of Council initiatives and strict checks.

"Local food businesses are taught about safe food handling procedures and techniques under Council's innovative *Safe Food* program," Mr Saunders said.

"All food businesses must submit a food safety program to Council, detailing how they control safety hazards, and are required to nominate a food safety supervisor who is trained and responsible for staff who handle food.

"Training sessions are held for food business operators, including sessions for non-English speakers, to improve food safety knowledge."

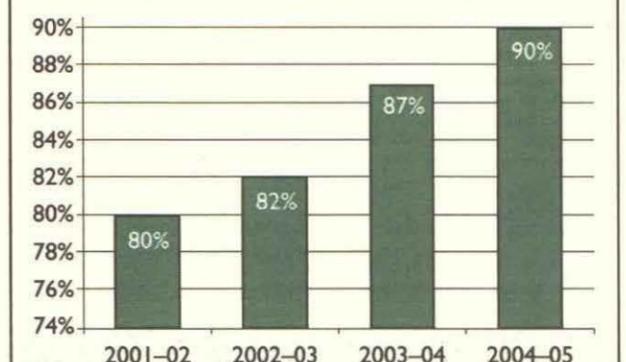
Council's *Safe Food* program also rewards businesses with a five-star food safety rating when they operate

within the food safety program designed specifically for their business.

Mr Saunders said although Council works hard to help businesses achieve the best quality food for their customers, if a sample fails to comply, Council officers may visit the premises to discuss food safety measures with the proprietor to ensure the product or process is compliant in the future.

"Legal action may be taken if the non-compliant food sample is considered a serious offence," he said.

Percentage of tested food samples in Glen Eira complying with National Food Safety Standards



CEO's message



The report by the Municipal Inspector has given the organisation, staff and management a clean bill of health. We will continue to deliver Council services to the best of our ability in the lead up to the election of Councillors in November.

The Administrator, Mr John Lester has visited Glen

Eira City Council on a number of occasions while he chaired the Victoria Grants Commission. He is familiar with our diverse community and our issues. He has a wealth of experience in governance and is adamant it will be business as usual during his time with us.

For Glen Eira City Council business as usual means maintaining 163 hectares of parkland, 360 kilometres of drains, 840 kilometres of footpaths, 470 kilometres of roads, 8,500 street lights and 35,000 street trees.

In addition to repairing and maintaining our picturesque streets, we also ensure our 123,000 residents have access to a wide range of facilities and services. From the delivery of meals, to the annual immunisation of more than 6,726 people, to caring for all our aged and disabled citizens, we work to ensure quality services are available for every member of our community.

The financial stability of Glen Eira City Council means that we continue to have below-average costs, below-average rates and remain debt-free. Glen Eira gives the highest pensioner rate rebate (\$270). The rebate and debt-free position highlight our commitment to delivering quality services to the community while keeping rates as low as possible.

The Inspector's report calls for a range of reforms to governance. Management will be working closely with the Administrator to have these in place for the Councillors you elect in ten weeks' time.

— Andrew Newton
Chief Executive Officer

Deadlines

The deadline for the October issue of *Glen Eira News* is **Wednesday 7 September** for delivery 30 September to 2 October.

Coming deadline:

November issue: **Wednesday 12 October** for delivery 4-6 November

For advertising and *Community diary* enquiries, contact 9524 3366.

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

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The information in this publication is of a general nature. The articles contained herein are not intended to provide a complete discussion on each subject and/or issues canvassed. Glen Eira City Council does not accept any liability for any statements or any opinion, or for any errors or omissions contained herein.

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Digging the environment

Bentleigh West Primary students got their hands dirty last month for National Tree Day. The students planted native trees to revegetate an area in their school — recreating the natural landscape as it was 300 years ago.

Bentleigh West's environmental co-ordinator Leonie Brown said the school wanted to recognise the importance of providing an innovative environmental education program that continued to improve the students' knowledge.

"We have introduced a new curriculum that gives students hands-on experience rather than just reading and writing about their environment," Mrs Brown said.

The new landscape is part of the school's *Learning Landscapes* project which creates outdoor classrooms that reflect the development of Bentleigh.

As part of the program, students recycle paper and cardboard, cans, cartridges, corks and plastic. Each classroom has a compost bin to collect food waste,



From left: Leonie Brown with students Grace, Alice and Mitchell and School Principal Jennifer Small plant some new trees in the school grounds.

Photo: Rob Churchus.

which is either composted for the school's gardens or given to the chickens and geese kept in an enclosure at the school. The school has also installed rainwater tanks to help conserve water.

Trim trees for safety

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

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

Council's Manager Civic Compliance John Bordignon said it is up to the property owner to maintain trees and shrubs on the edge of their land.

"With recent rains triggering a lot of garden growth, now is the time for residents to trim their trees and shrubs," Mr Bordignon said.

"This is particularly important along roadways and footpaths, where overhanging trees and shrubs pose a safety hazard to pedestrians or bicycle riders. Overhanging branches can also obscure the view of motorists reversing out of driveways or travelling along streets and laneways."

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

Mr Bordignon said if trees and shrubs were found to exceed these guidelines, residents or property owners would receive a notice and be advised to take action within 14 days.

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

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

For further information or a copy of Council's *Overhanging branches* guide for residents, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

Council election looming Becoming a councillor

Considered becoming a councillor at the next local government elections and not quite sure how to go about it?

Council, in conjunction with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), will provide a free candidate information session on becoming a councillor and the roles and responsibilities involved. All prospective candidates for the November 2005 council elections are strongly encouraged to attend the information session.

The session includes information on local government — expectations of a councillor, how to become a councillor, campaigning, and what it is like to be a councillor — and will include handout material and an opportunity for open discussion and questions.

Speakers are expected to include councillors, senior staff from other municipalities and MAV staff members.

The session will be held in the Caulfield Cup Room, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Thursday 29 September at 7pm. Contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 for further details.

City of
GLEN
EIRA

Japanese friends visit Glen Eira

Council played host to some special guests last month when teachers from Glen Eira's sister city Ogaki in Japan, visited Glen Eira.

The delegation of 16 teachers spent a day meeting with Council staff and Friendly Cities Committee members, and visiting local schools.

The teachers started their whirlwind visit with a tour of Shelford Anglican Girls Grammar in Caulfield where they observed Year 9 students doing ikebana — traditional Japanese flower arranging.

The teachers also visited Prep students during their reading and writing classes. The young students had prepared a Japanese greeting for the event, much to the surprise of the visiting teachers.

The visit, part of the Glen Eira–Ogaki Friendly Cities program also included a tour of the Japanese School of Melbourne and Kilvington Girls Grammar, followed by a luncheon at the Glen Eira Town Hall.

Addressing the luncheon, Council's Director Community Services Peter Jones said the friendly cities relationship between Glen Eira and Ogaki was an important one and was valued highly by Council.

"The links Glen Eira has with Ogaki create opportunities for local residents to learn more about Japan, its history and culture," Mr Jones said.

"The strength and commitment of Glen Eira to the relationship between our two cities can be seen around the Town Hall, in the Japanese Garden, and throughout the various rooms dedicated to the relationship, such as the Ogaki Room."



Six-year-old Shelford Anglican Girls School student Shreya shows off her crossword skills to Japanese teacher Keiko Watanabe.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

The visit concluded with a tour of Caulfield and Packer Parks and the Caulfield Racecourse.

Glen Eira's friendly cities relationship with the City of Ogaki began in 1990 with the former City of Caulfield. This relationship was reaffirmed with the City of Glen Eira in January 1998. It has been fostered with the mutual goals of strengthening international friendship, peace and understanding.

Rubbish and recycling in the City

Keeping Glen Eira clean is everyone's responsibility. Council aims to provide the most economic, effective and environmentally-aware waste collection service and asks residents to help keep the streets clean and the waste collection service running smoothly. The following actions can help.

Household garbage collection

Do

- Wrap or bag dust and loose material.
- Leave a half-metre gap between bins and other containers.
- Remove bin from naturestrip as soon as possible after the collection.

Don't

- Place rubbish beside or on top of bins.
- Overfill or overload bins, they should not weigh more than 75 kilograms.
- Place asbestos in the garbage bins — it is illegal.
- Place bricks, heavy timber, steel or other hard rubbish items in bins.
- Place oil, hazardous or liquid waste in bins.
- Place bins under low-hanging power lines, near trees, poles or behind parked cars.

Recycling

Do

- Ensure all containers are rinsed and lids removed.
- Squash plastic and aluminium containers.
- Flatten cardboard food boxes and weigh down the paper crate with a brick.
- Ensure crates are not overfilled.

Don't

- Leave extra cardboard or bags of recyclables on the naturestrip — material must be placed inside crates.
- Place non-recyclable items in crates — this includes plastic bags, ice-cream and margarine containers, plastic lids, polystyrene, coloured plastic, window glass or mirrors, Pyrex, crockery, ceramics, light globes, batteries, nappies, syringes, oil containers and waxed cardboard.

For further information on waste collection or a copy of Council's 2005–06 Residential waste and recycling services brochure, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.



Sticking to waste collection guidelines can help keep Glen Eira's streets clean. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Secure the future — clubs asked to sign up

Neighbourhood houses, community-operated child care facilities and sporting and seniors clubs which lease property from Council will now have more certainty about their rights and obligations.

In a move to formalise current and expired lease agreements, Council is calling on 300 tenants in Council-owned properties around Glen Eira to sign up to new leases.

A number of groups and organisations have been in negotiation with Council to sign leases and all tenants are required to have new agreements in place by 30 June 2006.

Council's Director Assets and Facilities Geoff Barrow said signing a lease would give community groups and organisations certainty of term, clarify their responsibilities as tenants and protect the community from possible litigation.

"While these clubs and organisations have leased land from Council for many years, some leases have expired or are outdated. We have started some negotiations and will progressively contact all clubs and organisations," Mr Barrow said.

He said while community organisations were often under pressure to manage the rising costs of running and insuring their organisation, having a lease could help provide them with some certainty and enable them to budget for any lease obligations.

"Having a formal lease agreement clarifies who is responsible for insurance, repairs and maintenance.

"Leases also set limitations on how the property can be used by the tenant and this in turn protects the public by placing restrictions on things such as activities and events.

"Ratepayer's interests are also protected by the insurance and indemnity clauses of the lease, which makes tenants responsible for any public liability claims arising from their use of the leased premises and makes sure they have the right cover," Mr Barrow said.

Τα καλύτερα απ' όλα - τα πάρκα μας παίρνουν το πρώτο βραβείο

Τα πάρκα του Δήμου Glen Eira είναι τα καλύτερα στη Μελβούρνη για δεύτερη συνεχή χρονιά σύμφωνα με μια ανεξάρτητη έρευνα ατόμων που χρησιμοποιούν τα πάρκα.

Το Glen Eira ήρθε πρώτο μεταξύ των 21 μητροπολιτικών δημαρχιών στην ετήσια Έρευνα Ικανοποίησης Χρηστών Πάρκων Συγκριτικής Μέτρησης Επιδόσεων που πραγματοποιήθηκε φέτος τον Απρίλιο και Μάιο.

Τα πάρκα στο Glen Eira πήραν την καλύτερη βαθμολογία στους τομείς σκέπαστρων, τραπέζια και καθίσματα, μπάρμπεκιου, τουαλέτες και αποδυτήρια, δοχεία σκουπιδιών, αφαίρεση απορριμμάτων απ' τα γήπεδα, εσωτερικοί δρόμοι και χώροι στάθμευσης αυτοκινήτων, μονοπάτια, διαβάσεις και αφαίρεση γκράφιτι.

Η έρευνα, στην οποία μίλησαν περισσότεροι από 100 συμμετέχοντες σε 13 πάρκα του Glen Eira, παρέχει πολύτιμες πληροφορίες στη Δημαρχία δεδομένου ότι οι άνθρωποι που ρωτήθηκαν χρησιμοποιούσαν πράγματι το πάρκο την ώρα που γινόταν η έρευνα. Η έρευνα μετρά την ικανοποίηση των χρηστών πάρκων σχετικά με το επίπεδο συντήρησης των πάρκων και παρέχει ένα μέσο σύγκρισης των αποτελεσμάτων με άλλους διευθυντές πάρκων.

Ο Γενικός Διευθυντής Andrew Newton είπε ότι εμπειρία της Δημαρχίας είναι ότι η αναβάθμιση των πάρκων έχει μια δραματική επίδραση στην προθυμία των κατοίκων να γυμνάζονται και να έχουν κοινωνικές επαφές με άλλους ανθρώπους και αυτό ωφελεί άτομα κάθε ηλικίας.

"Η έρευνα παρείχε ανεκτίμητες απόψεις για τις προτεραιότητες των κατοίκων σχετικά με τις βελτιώσεις που απαιτούνται στα πάρκα," ανέφερε ο κ. Newton.

I migliori in città — primo premio ai parchi

Per il secondo anno consecutivo i parchi di Glen Eira sono stati giudicati i migliori di Melbourne, secondo un recente sondaggio indipendente condotto tra i fruitori dei parchi del quartiere.

Glen Eira ha conseguito il primo posto su 21 comuni metropolitani partecipanti all' annuale sondaggio di opinione Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey condotto quest'anno nei mesi di aprile e maggio.

I parchi di Glen Eira hanno ottenuto il miglior punteggio per le aree di ricreazione protette, i tavolini e i sedili, i barbecue, i gabinetti e gli spogliatoi, i contenitori e la rimozione dei rifiuti, i viali carrabili interni e le aree parcheggio, i vialetti e i sentieri, e la rimozione dei graffiti.

Il sondaggio, che ha coinvolto più di 100 partecipanti in 13 parchi dell'area di Glen Eira, ha fornito al Comune preziose informazioni dal momento che è stato condotto nei parchi stessi fra coloro che ne stavano utilizzando le attrezzature. Il sondaggio dà una precisa indicazione del livello di soddisfazione dei fruitori dei parchi in relazione al livello di gestione degli stessi e fornisce un indice di paragone utilizzabile da altre amministrazioni di parchi pubblici.

Il Direttore Esecutivo Andrew Newton ha affermato che il Comune riconosce la notevole influenza che la continua manutenzione dei parchi ha sulla buona disposizione dei residenti all'esercizio fisico e alla socializzazione, attività che sono di beneficio a tutte le età.

Newton ha ribadito inoltre: "Il sondaggio ci ha fornito una preziosa indicazione sulle priorità dei residenti al riguardo delle opere di miglioramento necessarie nei nostri parchi".

Лучше всех: наши парки получают высшую награду

По результатам независимого опроса посетителей парков, парки муниципалитета Glen Eira второй год подряд были признаны лучшими в Мельбурне.

Этот ежегодный опрос проводился в апреле и мае этого года, и муниципалитет Glen Eira занял первое место среди 21 муниципалитета города.

Парки в Glen Eira оказались лучшими по таким показателям, как наличие навесов, столов, мест для сидения и барбекю, туалетов и раздевалок, мусорных ящиков, а также уборка мусора, дороги внутри парка, места для парковки машин, пешеходные дорожки и маршруты, и удаление граффити.

Результаты опроса более 100 человек в 13 парках муниципалитета Glen Eira предоставили муниципалитету особо ценную информацию, т.к. во время опроса эти люди проводили время в парке. Опрос позволяет оценить степень удовлетворенности благоустройством парка и провести сравнительный анализ с другими парками.

Исполнительный директор муниципалитета г-н Andrew Newton сказал, что благоустройство парков приводит к тому, что люди всех возрастов гораздо охотнее проводят там время и общаются друг с другом.

"Результаты опроса предоставили нам важную информацию о предпочтениях жителей муниципалитета по поводу благоустройства парков," отметил г-н Newton.

出類拔萃 —— 本市政區公園獲得最佳獎

根據最近對公園使用者的獨立調查，Glen Eira 公園連續兩年獲得墨爾本最佳。

在今年 4 月和 5 月進行的年度《基準公園使用者滿意程度調查》中，Glen Eira 在 21 個都市市政區中名列前茅。

Glen Eira 市政區的公園在遮棚、桌椅、燒烤設施、公廁及更衣室、垃圾桶、清除地上垃圾、園內道路和停車場、小徑、自行車道及清除塗鴉等方面均為最佳。

這次調查共與 Glen Eira 市政區 13 個公園的 100 多名參與者進行了面談，這向市政府提供了重要的資料，因為這些參與者實際上都是調查開展期間的公園使用者。調查衡量了公園使用者對公園維護的滿意程度，並提供了與其他公園管理者比較結果的一種手段。

首席執行官安德魯·牛頓指出，市政府的經驗是公園升級對滿足在公園鍛煉和社交的居民產生重大的效果，這有益於各年齡段的人。

牛頓先生說："這項調查提供了居民對公園需改進的優先事項的重要反饋意見。"

Household chemical collection

City of GLEN EIRA

Ecorecycle will conduct a household chemical collection day for the south-eastern region on Saturday 10 September. A drop-off facility will be set up at the Bayside City Council depot, 144 Talinga Road, Cheltenham. The facility will be open from 8am to 4pm. Residents can dispose of limited quantities of unwanted items such as oil, paint, solvents, batteries and gas cylinders. A full list of the chemicals accepted can be found on the Ecorecycle website at www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au

GLEN EIRA U3A BUS TRIPS 2005 THE BIG BOUQUET

scheduled for Wednesday 14 September 2005 is cancelled.

We regret to announce that there will be no further trips this year. We thank all those who have supported us over the past twelve months.

JUDO

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9578 4460

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

Student housing — policy adoption

City of GLEN EIRA

Glen Eira City Council has adopted amendment C42 to the Glen Eira planning scheme. The amendment is a policy on student housing which aims to assist Council in making decisions on applications for student housing.

The student housing policy will address the issues of location, provision of on-site parking, internal amenity and off-site amenity impacts for purpose built student housing. This provides direction for Council, the community and the development industry in considering student housing developments.

The amendment was referred to an independent panel in April to hear the 19 submissions received in relation to the amendment. The panel concluded that the amendment should be adopted as exhibited, subject to minor modifications.

More specifically the panel concluded that the student housing policy:

- has strong strategic support;
- is consistent with other Glen Eira policies related to housing and community development and supports the locations for student housing prioritised in the policy; and
- will be the most comprehensive metropolitan student housing policy developed so far.

The amendment has now been sent to the Minister for Planning for formal approval.

Parent information sessions

City of GLEN EIRA

Council will hold 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 Tuesday of each month from 1pm to 3pm. Cost: \$2. For further information contact 9524 3403.

Principals learn about traffic safety

By Anna McGibbon

More than 20 primary school principals attended a traffic safety seminar recently to learn about the importance of traffic safety in and around schools.

The Council and VicRoads seminar was held to help them design a traffic safety policy for their school and

find out about the educational resources available to them.

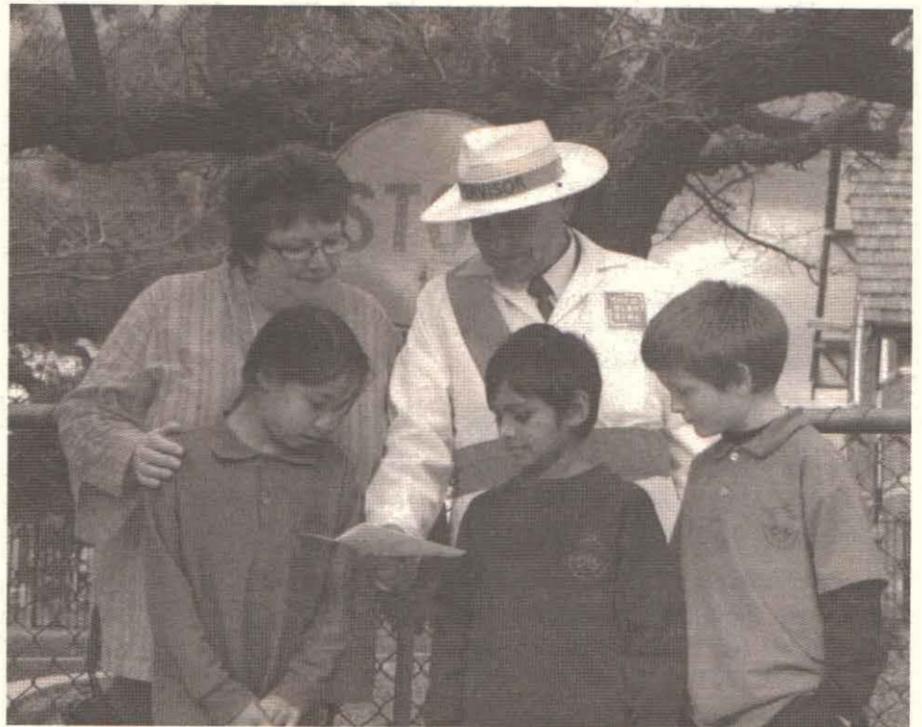
Council's Manager Public Health Mark Saunders said Council was committed to leading the way by introducing community initiatives to improve the level of safety in Glen Eira.

"A safe City contributes greatly to the health and wellbeing of the community," Mr Saunders said.

"Local principals can now start implementing a road safety program in their schools to help keep their students safe."

Council has several initiatives in place to help improve safety for local school children, including a zero-tolerance policy on illegal parking and stopping around school crossings. This policy ensures the safety of both school children and school crossing supervisors, and contributes to the safe flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic around schools. Council traffic officers are now empowered to issue on-the-spot infringement notices.

Speed limits around schools have been reduced to 40km/h during times students are travelling to and from school. Council and Victoria Police have systematically checked all school crossings for adequate signage and have made recommendations for improvement where possible.



From left: Caulfield Primary School Principal Helen Clayfield, School Crossing Supervisor Dionisios Petousis and students Lillian Clifford, Rohan Malik and Dominic Firmager talk about traffic safety around their school.

Photo: Anna McGibbon.

Mr Saunders said three people had been killed and 133 people had been seriously injured on Glen Eira roads over the past four years — of those seriously injured, 13 were children under the age of 12.

"Education is the key. We know drivers need to be more aware of the risks, but educating our school principals and providing them with the skills to develop policies and procedures to complement other safety strategies, is a great boost to ensuring the safety of our children as they travel to and from school," Mr Saunders said.

Council seeks direction on Glen Huntly

Council has asked the State Government to appoint an independent panel to assess the future planning status and direction for Glen Huntly.

In a letter to the Minister for Planning earlier this year, Council asked for a review of the State Government's *Melbourne 2030* development policy which classifies Glen Huntly as a major activity centre.

Council's Director City Development Jeff Akehurst said the State Government's view that Glen Huntly should be a major activity centre is based on what is, at best, a broad brush analysis of all of Melbourne's shopping strips.

"After conducting a detailed study of more than 40 strip shopping centres, Council sees Glen Huntly as serving a more local role. The study, adopted as Glen Eira's *Activity Centre Strategy*, identified Glen Huntly as a large neighbourhood activity centre. This is lower in the activity centre hierarchy than a major activity centre," Mr Akehurst said.

"We examined the relationship between Glen Huntly, Glen Eira's other strip shopping centres, and the influence of centres outside Glen Eira — such as Chadstone and Southland. It is unrealistic to expect Glen Huntly to become a major activity centre given its location, development profile, and particularly the competition from Chadstone, Carnegie and Caulfield shopping centres.

"There is also the impact of additional dwellings on residential areas that go along with a major activity centre. While this equates to significantly more houses and more traffic in areas such as Glen Huntly, it wouldn't necessarily mean more business for the area as these services are already provided elsewhere in Chadstone, Carnegie and Caulfield.

Mr Akehurst said Council's view is that Glen Huntly has the potential to become a vital and attractive neighbourhood centre with a retail area, offering a suitable range of services and facilities for the local neighbourhood. We see a more moderate level of residential development surrounding Glen Huntly than if it was a major activity centre.

"Council and the State Government have reached a stalemate — the State Government calling Glen Huntly a major activity centre and Council calling it a neighbourhood activity centre," he said.

"We are calling for an independent panel of experts to advise the Minister on the issue so that we can break the deadlock. We would like to get on with the job of developing policies to guide future development in Glen Huntly and to make it a more attractive and vital centre."

Pedestrian safety upgrade

Council has upgraded the roundabout on the corner of Sir John Monash Drive and Queens Avenue, Caulfield, in a bid to improve pedestrian safety.

The roundabout, located at Monash University's Caulfield campus, is currently under construction and works are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

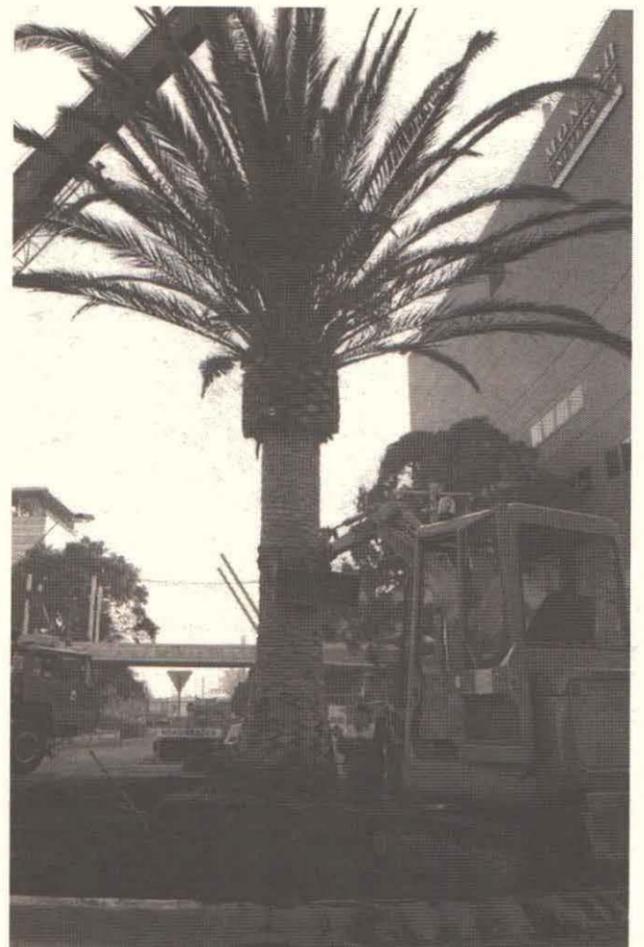
Council's Manager Traffic and Parking Carl Russo said representatives from Monash University had expressed concern for the safety of pedestrians crossing around the roundabout.

"The old roundabout was constructed many years ago and no longer worked effectively enough to slow cars approaching it. We have completely reconstructed the roundabout, making it bigger to slow motorists down.

"We will also install zebra crossings around the roundabout with yellow flashing lights on all three approaches to make pedestrians as visible as possible and crossing the roundabout safer," Mr Russo said.

"We also recently planted a Phoenix palm in the middle of the roundabout. This particular palm was selected because the roundabout is in what is known as the Phoenix Precinct — the area in and around Monash University, Derby Road and the Melbourne Racing Club."

The project was jointly funded by Council and Monash University.



Pedestrian safety upgrades will continue at the roundabout until the end of the year. Photo: Rob Churchus.

Responsible pet ownership — don't let pets down

Pets make wonderful companions to people of all ages and owning a pet can help provide stress relief and improve health. However, along with the benefits of owning a pet come responsibilities to the pet and the community.

Caring for pets takes time and the all important consideration that the chosen pet suits the family lifestyle and surroundings.

Don't poo-llute Glen Eira

There is nothing worse than walking through a park and stepping on something that is soft and is not the grass.

Dog owners are reminded to carry a litter device, or collect a plastic bag from a Council dispenser, before visiting local parks and gardens with their pet. Glen Eira parks and gardens are patrolled regularly by Council officers who carry plastic bags and help to educate dog owners about cleaning up after their pet.

Council's Manager Civic Compliance John Bordignon said dog litter was not only an eyesore but can create environmental and public health concerns for residents.

"The problem of dog litter in public places is getting worse, despite owners being legally required under Council's local law to collect and dispose of their dog's droppings out in public," Mr Bordignon said.

"There is really no excuse for it. It is not difficult for dog owners to plan ahead to help ensure Glen Eira's

A significant part of being a responsible pet owner, is also ensuring the pet is registered with Council. Pet registration in Glen Eira is a must. As well as being a legal requirement, registering pets with Council is the best form of identification for pets and acts as a safeguard for pet owners if their animal is lost.

The age at which pets must be registered in Glen Eira was recently reduced from six months to three

parks, gardens, playgrounds, footpaths, naturestrips and other public spaces are free from dog waste and more enjoyable for everyone."

Mr Bordignon said Council had tried to make it as easy as possible for local pet owners to do the right thing.

"We provide plastic bag dispensers in most Council parks and reserves, and officers also carry and distribute plastic bags and pooch pouches to dog owners when patrolling parks," he said.

"Ultimately, it is up to dog owners to do the right thing and dispose of dog waste appropriately."

He said owners who fail to clean up after their dogs face a \$125 on-the-spot fine.

months due to changes to the State Government's Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994.

Once a pet is registered, owners receive a new registration tag which their pet must wear whenever it is outside its owner's property.

Existing registrations must be renewed by 10 April each year.



Local resident, Jason, takes a plastic bag and a pooch pouch with him whenever he walks his Golden Retriever, Hamish. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Registration reunited Jessie

When Heather Caminiti's dog, Jessie, decided to go on an adventure through the streets of Glen Eira, she thought she'd never see it again.

The Curly Coat Retriever's recent adventure left Heather and her family frantically searching every nook and cranny for hours to find their beloved dog.

Despite their pet's need for adventure, the family's responsible pet ownership paid off with a Glen Eira resident finding Jessie, using the information on her pet registration tag, and reporting the missing animal to Council.

Heather says she and her family were lucky to be reunited with the 13-month-old dog.

"Jessie is just the cutest dog. When she went missing I had a feeling that she was okay and nothing had happened to her, but I was afraid that someone had found her and wanted to keep her," Heather said.

"We realised she went missing and went looking for her.



The whole family and our friends were out looking. We were all devastated and it was very scary.

"While we were all out looking for Jessie, Greg [a Council animal management officer] had found her and left a message at our home. We were all so relieved when we got home and heard Greg's message. The kids were so excited.

Council's Animal Management Officer Greg reunites Jessie with Heather and her two sons Jack (left) and Jet. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

"It all worked out in the end and we got her back the same day. Jessie was allowed to sleep inside the house that night."



Keeping a dog on-leash when in public can help everyone to feel safe and enjoy the outdoors. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Important facts about pets in Glen Eira

- More than 18,730 dogs and cats were registered in Glen Eira last year.
- Out of the 599 lost pets found by Council, 310 were returned to their owners.

Dogs to be leashed at parks

Exercise is a crucial and enjoyable part of responsible dog ownership but owners are reminded that all dogs must be properly restrained whenever in public places. This includes roads, streets, footpaths, car parks or any on-leash areas of parks or reserves.

Under the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994, dogs must not be off-leash within 50 metres of playgrounds, barbecue areas, sporting events or organised public meetings.

To cater for the needs of all residents and their pets, many Glen Eira parks have designated off-leash areas. Green off-leash signs are located in most parks in Glen

No more barking...please

For many residents there is nothing more annoying than a dog that constantly barks.

Last year, Council received more than 321 barking dog complaints from residents, the majority of which could have been avoided by the dogs' owners taking a few simple actions.

Barking is natural behaviour for dogs but they generally don't bark without a reason and excessive barking is often a sign that something is wrong.

Barking can occur when a dog is excited, stressed, lonely, hungry or sick. A dog may also bark to give a warning, seek its owner's attention, protect its territory or respond to a distant sound or signal.

Residents who feel that a neighbour's dog is causing a nuisance should attempt to resolve the matter first by

Eira. Dogs must be under effective voice control when in an off-leash area and when on a leash, the length of the leash must not exceed 1.5 metres.

Council's animal management officers regularly patrol parks and sportsgrounds and owners of unleashed dogs will be asked to leash their animal immediately if they are in on-leash areas. Owners without a leash, or who refuse to leash their dog, can face an on-the-spot fine. First time offenders will be issued a caution notice.



speaking to their neighbour before contacting Council. In many cases, the owner is not at home when the dog is barking and may not be aware of the problem.

It is the owners' responsibility to ensure their dogs do not annoy neighbours by barking excessively, which can be done in a number of ways. Firstly, dog owners must find out when and why the dog is barking and try to address any obvious reasons for the barking.

It may be as simple as ensuring their dog receives enough exercise, stimulation and company, to prevent boredom or loneliness. Disciplining the dog with a firm reprimand as soon as it barks at distractions or visitor arrivals or allowing the dog to sleep indoors at night may also help to stop excessive barking. Dog owners can also contact professionals, such as vets or animal behaviourists, to help address barking problems.



Cats make wonderful pets and making sure they are registered can save pet owners a lot of heartache if their cat strays from home. Photo: Anna McGibbon.

Stray cats boom in spring

With spring starting this month, Glen Eira cat owners are asked to help reduce Glen Eira's stray cat population.

Council's animal management officers experience an increase in stray cats during spring — they picked up 20 stray cats last September compared to an average of 14 per month during the remaining months of the year.

Roaming cats who have to hunt for food create a significant environmental problem — each one has the potential to kill large numbers of small mammals, reptiles or birds, especially native fauna.

Council's Manager Civic Compliance John Bordignon said residents could help to keep stray cat numbers down by not feeding strays and by notifying Council if they encounter any in their local area.

"Residents shouldn't feed cats which are not wearing a collar or registration tag. If they're strays, then feeding them only exacerbates the problem," Mr Bordignon said.

"Council offers a cat-cage loan service for residents to trap strays. The cat may have lost its registration tag, but if it is registered or microchipped we'll be able to return it to its rightful owner."

Discounts for Glen Eira pet owners

Glen Eira pet owners can have their pets microchipped at substantially discounted rates thanks to a program provided by Glen Eira City Council and the RSPCA.

The discount program provides year-round discounted microchipping for cats and dogs — offering the service for just \$20, a saving of \$30.

The State Government requires all cats and dogs over the age of three months to be registered with Council. Pets are also required to wear their identification tags at all times but microchipping can also offer permanent identification.

Even though microchipping is not a replacement for registration, it can save pet owners a lot of heartache if their pets are lost and are not wearing their registration tags. It is easy for collars and registration tags to fall off or become lost, so microchipping offers a further safeguard that pet owners can take to ensure their pet does not go missing.

To receive the discounted microchipping rates, pet owners need to firstly contact the RSPCA on 9224 2232 to make a booking. The discount will be made available on presentation of a current registration notice or letter from Council.

Mr Bordignon said desexing cats could also help control the stray cat population.

"As cats can have up to three litters per year, stray cat numbers can grow at a rate faster than the population can be contained," he said.

Responsible pet ownership checklist

- Carefully choose the type and breed of pet.
- Register the pet with Council.
- Protect the health of the pet and take it to the vet regularly.
- Give the pet adequate food and shelter, and provide regular exercise.
- Don't allow the pet to become a nuisance to neighbours or anyone else.
- Properly confine the pet to the property.
- Ensure the pet is cared for when on holidays.

Pet information available

Council has a range of information available for cat and dog lovers on how to be a good pet owner. Booklets are available on responsible pet ownership, dog litter, and barking dogs. Animal registration application forms are also available. For a copy of any of these items contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.



MY BROTHER JACK LITERARY FESTIVAL 2005

2005 Glen Eira City Council Literary Awards

With the closing of entries for the 2005 Glen Eira City Council Literary Awards last month more than \$2,500 in prizes will soon be decided for hundreds of budding Glen Eira writers.

Entries are now being considered by Council's judging panel which includes nationally recognised authors, Cate Kennedy, John Mateer and Hazel Edwards.

Alongside the monetary prizes and recognition offered by the awards, winning writers will have their stories and poems published on Council's website and will receive their awards at two presentation evenings to be held in October.

The 2005 Glen Eira City Council Literary Awards junior presentation evening, including the announcement of the winner of the Baha'i Junior short story and poetry categories, will be held on Wednesday 12 October from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Theatre, Glen Eira Town Hall. Host for the evening will be best-selling author Archie Fusillo. Entrants and family members will be invited to attend.

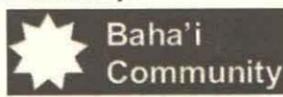
The 2005 Glen Eira City Council Literary Awards adult and youth presentation evening will be held on Thursday 20 October from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the Auditorium, Glen Eira Town Hall and will include the announcement of the winners of the Sunflower Bookshop Short Story Award, Adult Poetry Award, Youth Short Story Award and Youth Poetry Award. The evening will be hosted by popular award-winning author Arnold Zable.

For presentation evening tickets and further information, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.



Writer and author Jane Sullivan gives Anna a few tips on what makes a winning piece of writing. Photo: Sophie Massis.

Sponsored by:



Sporting clubs called to join Commonwealth Games fun

Glen Eira sporting clubs are invited to be a part of a Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games celebration day on Sunday 19 February 2006.

Council will host the celebration day that will include sporting themes and cultural activities, in Packer Park, Carnegie, and is seeking expressions of interest from sporting clubs to participate in the celebration of sport, arts and the games.

Sporting clubs are invited to participate and take the opportunity to broaden awareness of their club or sport.

Contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333 for further information.

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

Morrie Gold Jewish Youth Award

Continues to Sunday 11 September

The 10th annual Jewish Youth Art Award Competition celebrates the work of young Jewish artists aged 11 to 18 years. The exhibition will feature a range of works including painting, sculpture and other media.

Inspired by a bequest from the late philanthropist Morrie Gold to the B'nai B'rith Shalom Unit, the exhibition aims to encourage children's interest and confidence in art through interaction with the public.

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

Diversity

Continues to Sunday 11 September

This exhibition celebrates the work of a group of female artists who, as the title suggests, come from diverse art backgrounds and work in a variety of media. The materials used in the artwork range from stone, clay, glass, and metal to paint and paper. The styles are also mixed, from representational to stylised and total abstraction. The subject matter ranges from ideas generated from nature as well as man-made forms.



Alisa

Each artist offers a unique approach to handling her chosen subject and demonstrates her own interpretation of the way she sees her environment.

Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors 96th annual exhibition

Opens 6pm Tuesday 13 September and continues to Sunday 25 September

This exhibition, showcasing works by members of the Melbourne Society of Women Painters and Sculptors, is an eclectic grouping of pieces reflecting the diversity of the society's membership, but organised around a shared theme — celebration.

The society is the oldest of its kind in Victoria and has in the past included many notable artists such as Clarice Beckett. This exhibition showcases works produced by members over the last two years.

Noted curator Lauraine Diggins will open the exhibition and judge the Annie Davison Oliver Award.

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 and current consultation opportunities

Subject	Type	Date	Where
Renewal of leasing contracts	Meetings held and letters written to clubs and organisations	ongoing	Glen Eira City Council PO BOX 42 Caulfield South 3162

Recent consultation opportunities

Meeting	Type	Date
Proposed changes to local laws on building sites	Consultation via invitation to submit written comments	Closed Monday 15 August
Municipal Early Years Plan	Consultation forum	Held Wednesday 17 August

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

Recreation and youth and youth

Join the team at Just Youth

By Lidija Ivanovski

Conflict resolution, media writing and event promotion may not sound like typical teenage pursuits, but these are just a few of the topics Council is offering to support young people in Glen Eira.

Council's youth leadership and project group, *Just Youth*, meets weekly to plan innovative and exciting events for local young people. The program offers 15 to 19 year olds the chance to learn valuable life skills like first aid and conflict resolution in a friendly, supportive atmosphere, with local business people on hand to offer their expertise.

Last year this youth think-tank staged a skateboard contest, complete with sausage sizzle and prizes, the success of which has spurred them to plan something even bigger this year.

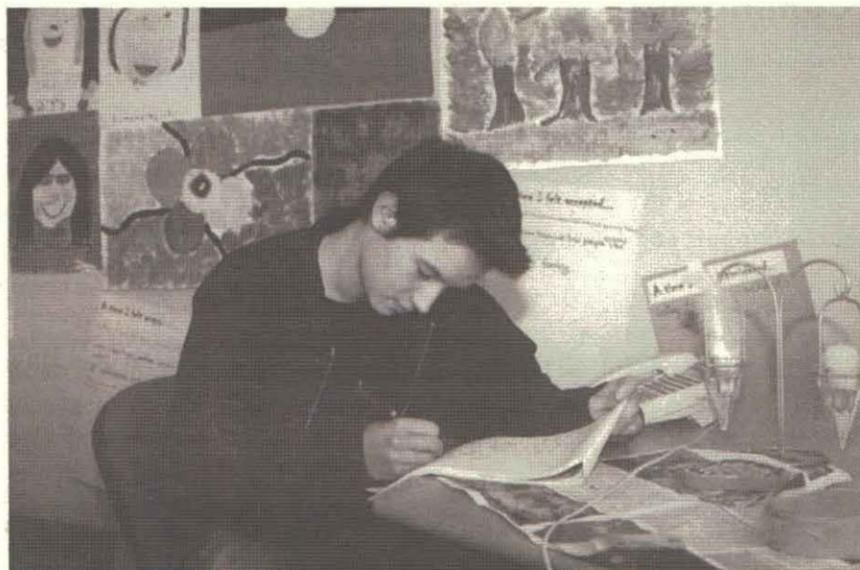
Fifteen-year-old Matthew Brown has been part of *Just Youth* for two years and, although a friendly case of sibling rivalry led him to join, the skills and friendships he has forged have been invaluable.

"My brother was coming home talking about these cool things he was doing and I thought I want to be part of this too," he said.

Matthew said the program was a great place to make new friends from different backgrounds and schools and — as the group comprises of people he would "not usually hang out with" — has made him less likely to judge people.

Council's Manager Recreation and Youth Services Linda Smith said, along with learning key event management and people skills, the group looks at issues affecting young people in the community.

"They work as a sounding board and the feedback they provide enables us to put together initiatives and strategies to better help young people," she said.



Fifteen-year-old Matthew Brown puts his Wednesday afternoons to good use, helping to organise exciting youth events for Glen Eira.

Photo: Lidija Ivanovski.

Glen Eira residents aged between 15 and 19 are encouraged to join the group, which meets on Wednesday afternoons from 4.45pm to 6pm. Contact Council's Why Stop? Youth Information Centre on 9572 5389.

What's new in recreation

Get fit, get down to the Caulfield Recreation Centre

It's never too late to get fit! Why not start now at Council's Caulfield Recreation Centre?

Under new management, and offering new programs such as members' breakfasts and meet the staff sessions, the centre features cardio equipment, toning machines, free weights, and a range of aerobics classes.

It even has a trampoline room with three in-ground trampolines providing people of all ages and abilities with a fun and enjoyable way to get fit.

Qualified gym instructors can discuss members' needs and tailor individual fitness programs, plus a qualified nutritionist can offer advice on healthy-eating habits.

Personal training sessions will also be provided in the coming months.

The centre also runs gym-based children's birthday parties on weekends, suitable for boys and girls from two to 10 years, providing participants with exclusive use of the centre. The centre's trained party leaders will ensure a special and memorable event.

The Caulfield recreation Centre is located at 6 Maple Street, Caulfield South.

Extended operating hours are Monday to Friday 6am-8pm; Saturdays and Sundays 8am-1pm and public holidays 9am-1pm. Aerobics timetables are available by calling the centre on 9532 4956.

Caulfield Park playground takes shape

Children and their families will be the big winners this spring when playground works at Caulfield Park are completed.

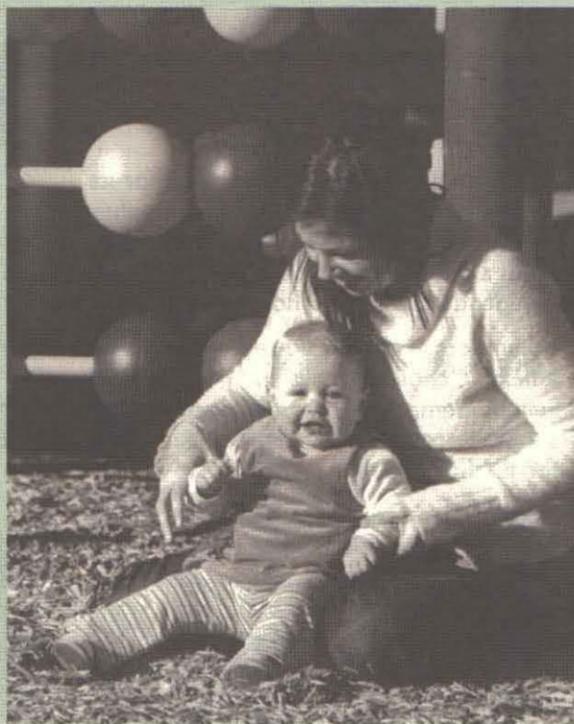
Significant works were completed at the Inkerman Road playground in 2003 and now the Park Crescent playground has also undergone a total redevelopment — the old playground has been removed and replaced with colourful new equipment, including pathways, retaining walls, rubber under-surfacing and mulch. A space net has also been installed, providing a challenging climb for the lively and young at heart.

The second stage of the upgrade includes barbecues and picnic facilities for all the family to enjoy.

Work on four other Glen Eira playgrounds has also been completed recently with Halley Park (Bentleigh), Duncan Mackinnon Reserve and Boyd Park (Murrumbeena) and Wattle Grove Reserve (McKinnon) all receiving makeovers to turn tired playgrounds into exciting play spaces.

Rebecca Feldman and her one-year-old daughter Summer enjoy updated playground facilities at Caulfield Park.

Photo: Bernie Bickerton.



Alsorts of fun

With the end of the winter netball season fast approaching, Council invites young women to join its *Alsorts* netball team. The team, initially launched at the beginning of the season, has already given participants an opportunity for fun and fitness and to work as a team and make new friends.

Women aged 15 to 25 years who enjoy netball, making friends and want to become involved in the forthcoming summer netball season, are encouraged to join. No previous experience necessary.

Council's youth workers coach the team which will play competition netball at Oakleigh Recreation Centre on Thursday nights. Transport can be arranged. The summer netball season will consist of 20 games and finals.

To join *Alsorts* contact the Why? Stop Youth Information Centre on 9572 5389.

Caulfield Lacrosse Club members win world cup

Three members from the Caulfield Lacrosse Club, representing Australia at the 2005 Women's Lacrosse World Cup in the USA during July, were successful in winning the cup.

Congratulations to Meredith Carre, Michelle Lincoln and Sue McSolvin from the Caulfield Lacrosse Club on being selected in the Australian team and on winning the world cup.

The Caulfield Lacrosse Club welcomes new members for the womens, mens and junior teams. Contact Sandra Hecker on 0418 124 733.

Community diary

Community

Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga holds free courses in meditation for beginners at 275 McKinnon Road, McKinnon on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and positive thinking courses on Wednesdays. Bookings essential. Contact: 9578 9955.

Social Support and Monitoring Service seeks volunteers to assist with aged and disabled Glen Eira residents. Contact: Susan 9524 3314.

Meetings and clubs

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

Caulfield Ladies' Probus Club meets at the Gladys Machin Hall, Cedar Street, Caulfield South on the third Thursday of each month at 10am. Visitors welcome. Contact: Margaret 9563 1482.

Caulfield Little Athletics is looking for boys and girls aged under six to 15 to join little athletics at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve, Murrumbeena. Contact: 9570 7575.

Caulfield Men's Probus Club meets at the St John's Church Hall, Foster Street, Elsternwick on the first Thursday of each month at 10am. Visitors welcome. Contact: Bill 9571 7723.

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

East Bentleigh Self Help Group of Arthritis Victoria meets at Bentleigh-Bayside Community Health Service, Gardeners Road, Bentleigh East on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.15am. All welcome. Contact: 9598 3094.

Murrumbeena Bowls Club is getting ready for the summer bowls season with social bowls at 10 Blackwood Street, Carnegie. Contact: 9568 5144.

Murrumbeena Park Bowls Club holds social and competitive bowls at Gerald Street, Murrumbeena on Wednesday evenings. Contact: 9568 7387.

Murrumbeena Playgroup holds playgroup sessions for preschool-aged children at the Community of Christ Church Hall, corner Poath and Dalny Roads, Murrumbeena from Monday to Friday. Contact: 0432 271 204.

Glen Eira Saints Amateur Football Club seeks under 19 players, and officials for 2006 season. Contact: Matt 0413 419 352.

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 in 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

City of
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Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliaries (Caulfield) meets at the Alma Club, 1 Wilks Street, Caulfield North on the third Wednesday of each month at 1pm. Contact: Pat 9571 2666.

Events

Carnegie Primary School will hold a car boot sale and community market at Truganini Road, Carnegie on Saturday 22 October from 9am to 1pm. Contact: Amanda 9571 2578.

Coatesville Uniting Church will hold a concert titled *The Gilbert and Sullivan Society* at Coatesville Uniting Church, corner North and Mackie Roads, Bentleigh East on Sunday 18 September at 2.30pm. Cost: \$15/ \$10/ \$40 family (includes afternoon tea). Contact: 9570 6632.

Glen Eira Lupus Support Group will hold an information and awareness seminar in the Theatre, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Sunday 2 October at 1.30pm. Cost: \$5 donation. Contact: 9509 2735.

Jewish Holocaust Museum will hold a temporary exhibition titled *Bittersweet Freedom: Memories of Liberation 1944-45* at 15 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick until 30 September. Contact: 9528 1985.

Kilvington Girls' Grammar will hold an in action day at 2 Leila Road, Ormond on Wednesday 7 September from 9am to 1pm. Contact: 9578 6231.

Friends of Labassa will hold a combined tour of Villa Alba and Labassa at 2 Manor Grove, Caulfield North on Wednesday 14 September at 11am. Cost: \$35 (includes lunch). Contact: 9506 6596.

Music Lovers' Society will hold the Ida Doubleday Bequest recital at the Glen Eira Town Hall on Saturday 17 September from 8pm. Cost: \$15/ \$12 seniors/ \$9 pensioners/ \$6 students/ \$35 family. Refreshments will be served. Contact: 9571 0850.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College will hold the 17th Bentleigh Art Exhibition and sale at the school hall, 111 Jasper Road, Bentleigh, Friday 14 to Sunday 16 October. Contact: 9563 9522.

Reach Out Southern Mental Health will hold a forum on the problems of confidentiality in mental health at McKinnon Secondary College, McKinnon Road, McKinnon on Tuesday 27 September from 6pm to 7pm. Contact: Enza 9585 5677.

Volunteers needed

Council urgently seeks volunteer drivers and jockeys for its delivered meals program. These volunteers deliver meals to frail, older people and people with a disability which enables them to live independently in their home.

Volunteers are required seven days a week with a flexible choice of days and hours. Petrol reimbursement, training and social contact and support provided. Contact Stefanie on 9576 9748 for further details.

Council also requires volunteers to help staff with clients on outings, the community bus and assist with conducting activities for clients who attend social support programs. For further details contact Angela on 9578 7194.

City of
GLEN
EIRA

Rotary Club of Caulfield will hold the 8th Rotary concert spectacular in the Auditorium, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Sunday 2 October from 2.30pm. Cost: \$20 adults/ \$15 concession/ \$10 ages 12 and under. Refreshments provided. Contact: 9573 1902.

Rotary Rebuilding East Timor Committee will hold a concert featuring the Australian Army Band — Melbourne at Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield on Wednesday 14 September from 7.30pm. Cost: \$20. Contact: John 9836 9165.

Southern Suburbs Orchard Society will hold a spring show at NG Wishart Senior Citizens Hall, 964 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September from 10am to 4pm. Contact: Michael 9571 1880.

Immunisation sessions

McKinnon Public Hall
118 McKinnon Road, McKinnon
Monday 5 September 10am-11am

Glen Eira Town Hall (entry via Glen Eira Road)
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield
Tuesday 6 September 6pm-7pm
Tuesday 13 September 9.30am-10.15am

Murrumbeena Baptist Church
44 Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena
Monday 12 September 10am-11am

Packer Park
Leila Road, Carnegie
Monday 19 September 10am-11am

Bentleigh-Bayside Community Health Service
Gardeners Road, Bentleigh East
Wednesday 21 September 6pm-7pm
Saturday 24 September 9.30am-10.30am

Glen Huntly Maternal and Child Health Centre
Corner Royal and Rosedale Avenues, Glen Huntly
Wednesday 28 September 9.30am-11am

October

Glen Eira Town Hall (entry via Glen Eira Road)
Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield
Tuesday 4 October 6pm-7pm

Please note: immunisation sessions will not run at the McKinnon Public Hall on Monday 3 October, Monday 7 November or Monday 5 December.

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9569 1388

Library library

What's on at Council's libraries

September Holiday Mania

Looking for some school holiday fun? Then look no further — September *Holiday Mania* is back at Council's libraries for the school holiday break. All activities are designed for children aged 5 to 12 years (unless otherwise stipulated). Tickets are available from all library branches from Saturday 3 September. Limited numbers apply to all events so book early to avoid disappointment. For details call 9524 3623.

Roaming reptiles

A hands-on learning experience of the world of reptiles. Meet some fascinating creatures up close.

Thursday 22 September 11.30am to 12.30pm
or 1pm to 2pm
Elsternwick Library

*Children must be school age (due to animal handling)
Tickets: \$5

Drawing animals

Learn the skills needed to draw animals in this fun and practical class.

Friday 23 September 10.30am to 12pm
Bentleigh Library

*Children must be school age
Tickets: \$5

Beach ball band

Come on a fun-filled imaginative outing full of song and dance — an entertaining and interactive show.

Tuesday 27 September 11am to 11.45am

Theatrette, Glen Eira Town Hall,
corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn
Roads, Caulfield

*suitable for all ages
Tickets: \$5

Preschool-aged children and their families can attend the free *Storytime* sessions at Council's libraries. Details are available at the libraries or on Council's website at www.gleneira.vic.gov.au

New library draws near

Carnegie Library in Koornang Road, Carnegie will close on Friday 30 September in preparation for the opening of Council's new Carnegie Library and Community Centre.

During the brief closure, residents are invited to use the library services available at Council's other library branches:

Caulfield Library, Glen Eira Town Hall, corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield.
Telephone: 9524 3623.

Bentleigh Library, 161 Jasper Road, Bentleigh.
Telephone: 9557 8278.



Jack O'Neill gets up close and personal with the jester and frog puppets from the *Sleeping Beauty* puppet show, part of last year's September Holiday Mania. Photo: Bernie Bickerton.

Bentleigh and Caulfield libraries are open Mondays to Thursdays 10am to 9pm; Fridays 10am to 6pm, Saturdays 10am to 4pm and Sundays 12pm to 5pm. Elsternwick Library, 4 Staniland Grove, Elsternwick. Telephone: 9532 9321.

Elsternwick library is open Tuesdays to Fridays 10am to 6pm and Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

For the convenience of library members, the current Carnegie library's return chutes will remain open during this period.



City of Glen Eira

Council elections November 2005

Are you enrolled to vote?

Enrolment closes 7 October*

Elections for the Glen Eira City Council will be held on Saturday, 26 November 2005. To be eligible to vote you must be on the voters' roll by 4.00pm on Friday, 7 October 2005*.

You are already enrolled for this election if:

- you are on the State and Federal electoral roll for your present address and will be 18 years of age or over on 26 November 2005; or
- you own a property in the City of Glen Eira but don't live at that property, and you are the first or second-named person on the Council's rate records; or
- you have applied to Council to be enrolled for this year's elections.

You need to enrol if you are an Australian citizen aged 18 or over on 26 November 2005 and:

- you are not on the State and Federal electoral roll; or
- you have lived at your present address for at least a month and have not updated your enrolment details.

How do I enrol?

Download an enrolment form from the VEC's

website or pick one up at any Coles or Bi-Lo supermarket or post office.

Enrolment forms must be returned by 4.00pm on Friday, 7 October 2005*.

Others who may apply to enrol:

- non-Australian citizens who live and pay rates in the City of Glen Eira; or
- people who occupy and pay rates on a property and have no other entitlement, e.g. you are a shop tenant, and are either named on the Council's rates records or have the written consent of the owner to vote in their place; or
- a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in the City of Glen Eira and has no other voting entitlement within the municipality.

People and corporations who wish to enrol and who fit the above criteria should contact the Glen Eira City Council on 9524 3202 for a special enrolment form. If you applied to be enrolled at previous Council elections, you will need to do so again to vote at this election.

One vote only at the election

Voters may now only be enrolled in one ward in a municipality. If in previous Glen Eira City Council elections you had multiple entitlements to vote, you will now only vote for the ward in which you live. If you are a non-resident owning multiple properties, you may nominate to

Council the property for which you wish to vote (phone 9524 3202). If you do not nominate a property for which you wish to vote, the Council will choose one.

Checking your enrolment

You can check your enrolment details on the exhibition roll during business hours at:

Glen Eira Service Centre

Corner Hawthorn and Glen Eira Roads, Caulfield

Libraries

Bentleigh Library, 161 Jasper Road, Bentleigh
Carnegie Library, 104 Koornang Road, Carnegie
Caulfield Library, corner Hawthorn and Glen Eira Roads, Caulfield
Elsternwick Library, 4 Staniland Grove, Elsternwick

The exhibition roll will be on display from Monday, 3 October to Friday, 7 October 2005*.

You can object to errors in the roll until 4.00pm on Friday, 7 October 2005* by writing to:

The Registrar for the Glen Eira City Council
Voters' Rolls
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

* This date is conditional on the *Local Government (Further Amendment) Bill* being approved by State Parliament. This bill proposed to delay the roll inspection period and the close of the roll for Glen Eira's election by one week from 30 September to 7 October 2005. To confirm these dates are correct, contact the VEC on the number below.



Victorian Electoral
Commission

Information:

13 18 32 or www.vec.vic.gov.au

Enrolment closes on Friday, 7 October 2005*
TTY: 9299 0570 (text telephone)

Community centre on target for October opening



August 2005: 11-year-old Lauren Sotelo takes a sneak peak at the new Carnegie library.

As the finishing touches are made to the Carnegie Library and Community Centre, Council begins preparations for an opening celebration in October.

A program of community events is being planned for residents to join in a special weekend of celebrations for the opening of the new centre in late October.

Council's Director Community Services Peter Jones said visitors to the centre during the celebration weekend would enjoy children's entertainers, roving musicians, clowns, face painters, an animal farm, puppet making, Origami, special *Storytime* sessions and youth and jazz bands.

"When the doors swing open in October, the community can begin exploring the new centre, which includes meeting rooms, a 50,000 item library with the latest facilities, and a multipurpose children's centre," Mr Jones said.

The \$10.4 million centre includes a library, community meeting and function rooms, a multipurpose children's area, and an outdoor open space that will link to the vibrant Koornang Road shopping strip by a landscaped pedestrian walk.

Mr Jones said Council was proud to offer a centre of such quality to the whole community — from playgroups for toddlers and their parents through to senior citizens' activities.

"The Carnegie Library and Community Centre will become a focal point for local people, providing the stimulus for a greater degree of enjoyment and participation in community life," he said.

Construction works at the centre began in May 2004 after more than three years of planning and extensive community consultation. The two-storey facility is the largest and most complex project Council has ever undertaken.

Council has received support for the Carnegie Library and Community Centre through the State Government's *Living Libraries Infrastructure* program (\$500,000) and *Pride of Place* program (\$30,000).

Further details on the October opening celebrations will be published in the October issue of the *Glen Eira News*.



Stage 5: July 2005
The finishing touches are put to the internal parts of the centre with landscaping works beginning.

Stage 4: April 2005
External works are almost complete with internal works progressing.



Photos: Bernie Bickerton and Anna McGibbon.



Stage 3: November 2004 Structural works are well underway. The framework of the main building is erected.



Stage 2: June 2004 Foundation works are progressing at the site.

Stage 1: April 2004 Land is cleared at the site of the proposed new Carnegie Library and Community Centre.

