



Glen Eira College

Glen Eira College Submission
Caulfield Racecourse Masterplan Development Public Consultation

About Glen Eira College

Glen Eira College (GEC) was established in 1997 after the amalgamation of three existing secondary schools. The college is located on the site of the former Caulfield Secondary College about 10 kilometres to the south east of Melbourne, adjacent to the Caulfield Racecourse. The Glen Eira English Language Centre (ELC) is housed within the college.

Glen Eira College is a dynamic, co-educational school committed to the values of respect, excellence and tolerance. The college offers a traditional, academic approach with firm discipline in a supportive environment as well as a rich and varied extra-curricular program. In addition to our focus on academic rigour, we have also been focusing on the development of our Music and Performing Arts areas and the extension of our languages programs.

The college population is growing and enrolments have increased significantly over recent years; 407 in 2010 and 575 students in 2015 with approximately 80 additional students in our ELC. Our student population is projected to grow by over 25% to over 1000 students by 2019. Increased enrolments have allowed greater flexibility in staffing and curriculum while still maintaining a community feel and sense of belonging.

Our facilities are excellent and comprise a three storey core building overlooking Caulfield Racecourse (see Figures 1 and 4), immaculately maintained, with an attached 260 seat Performing Arts Centre. Our gym and other sporting facilities and the English Language Centre are situated on the opposite side of Booran Road. The college is currently developing plans for significant refurbishments after a State Government election commitment for \$9.5 million to improve the school facilities and cater for the current and projected school population.

Approximately 422 students, 61% of our students, live within a 3 kilometre radius of the Caulfield Racecourse.

About this submission

In preparing this submission, GEC has consulted students, staff and the School Council to gain a range of ideas and input into consultation process for the development of the Caulfield Racecourse Masterplan. This submission responds to the consultation questions from John Patrick Pty Ltd Landscape Architects. Contact details are included in the cover letter.

Figure 1. View of Caulfield Racecourse from second floor GEC classrooms



Name of your Organisation:

Glen Eira College

Principal Place of Activity

76 Booran Rd, Caulfield East (adjacent to the Caulfield Racecourse)

Do you currently use Caulfield Racecourse for any purpose?

Students do not formally use the Racecourse for any purpose. Physical Education (PE) staff reported seeking permission to use the reserve for the College's supervised annual cross country run about 5 years ago. They reported being refused permission to use the racecourse for this purpose.

What restricts your use of the facility?

Access

Access to the Racecourse reserve is difficult from the school. Students consulted in the development of this submission did not know that access is available through Glenhuntly Park which is the closest access point to the College. Access points are difficult, unwelcoming and not always open at the said opening times.

Awareness

There is limited knowledge among the school community about public access to the racecourse reserve. It is generally assumed to be private property and closed to the public.

Lack of Facilities

At present, there is little of interest to attract the school community to use the Racecourse.

How would you envisage your association could utilise the open space provided at the Caulfield Racecourse?

The GEC community welcomes the opportunity to develop accessible world class community recreation facilities at the Caulfield Racecourse. This would enhance local and regional access to sport and recreation in formal and informal settings.

It is envisaged that students and staff could use the Racecourse facilities during the school term for formal PE classes and informally for recreation, socialising, quiet study and relaxation. These facilities would be available for young people generally in the community to use after school, in school holidays and on weekends depending on racing and other activities.

GEC would like formal access by students and staff to any facilities built under the Masterplan supervised by staff during school hours and for after school training. GEC envisages students and their families accessing the facilities informally after school hours and on weekends.

What facilities would you like to see provided or upgraded at the Caulfield Racecourse?

Access

Currently the closest access points for GEC to the Racecourse is through the Glenhuntly Park entrance or the main Glen Eira Road entrance. Improving access to any planned facilities would benefit the school community greatly.

The College adjoins the Racecourse Reserve at the south western corner of the Reserve. This would provide an excellent access point for the College community to the Racecourse and its planned facilities. A gate could be installed in the fence at this point (see Figure 2) to facilitate access. In addition, a tunnel or overpass from this access point into the centre of the Reserve would be ideal for students to access the proposed facilities.

Figure 2 Map of Caulfield Racecourse with proposed access for Glen Eira College marked

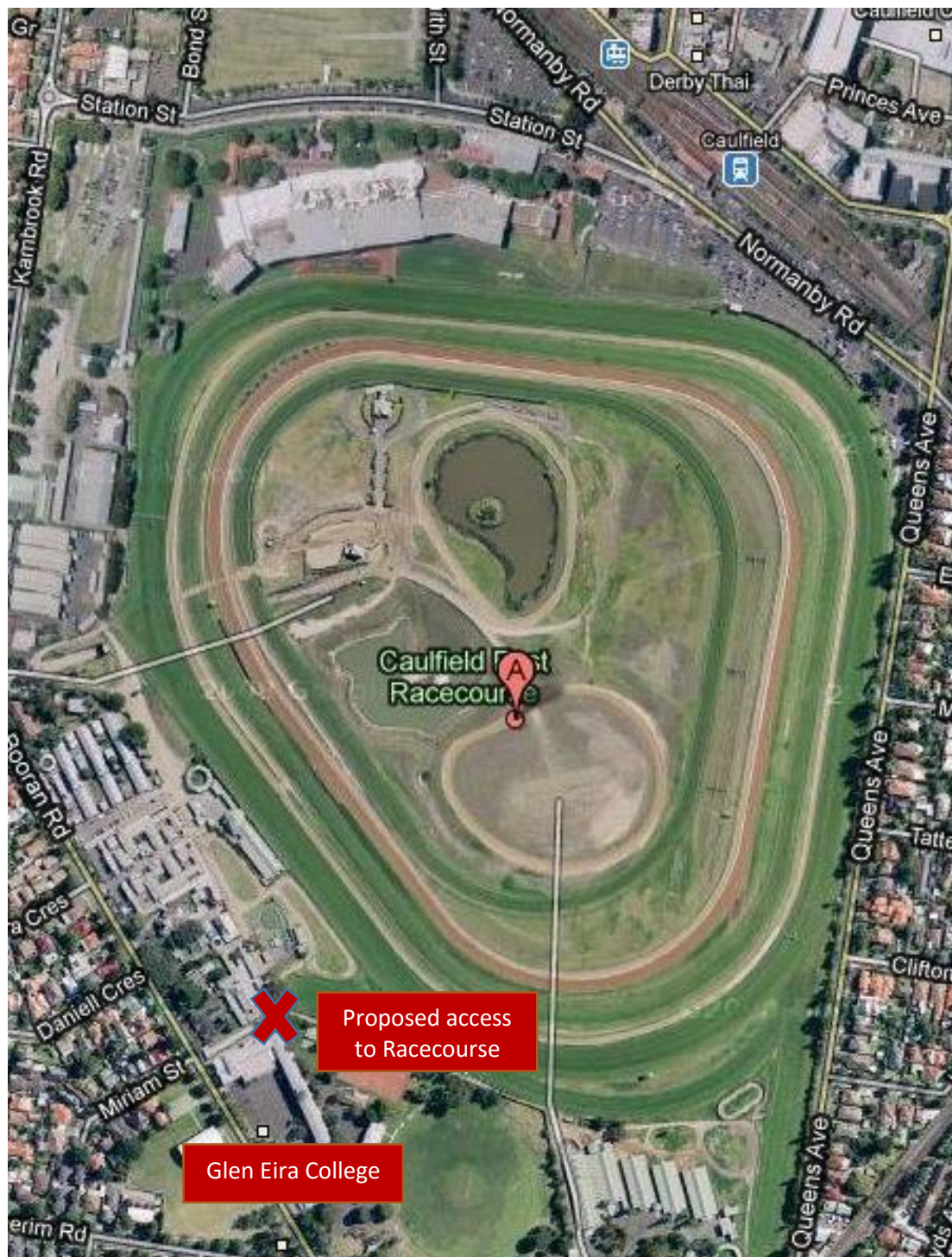


Figure 3. Glen Eira College adjoins Caulfield Racecourse and Glenhuntly Park



Formal Use of the Caulfield Racecourse by GEC

GEC would benefit from facilities provided for use by students in regular Physical Education classes, intra-school and house sports competition and district as well as regional inter-school sports competitions.

As our school population is growing, space and facilities (including change rooms) for Physical Education classes is currently very tight and will be further stretched in the future. Provision of facilities for use during Physical Education classes would support the health, wellbeing and education of our growing school community.

Each term, GEC students participate in a broad range of interschool sports including athletics, badminton, basketball, soccer, netball and cricket. These are run on a regional level, against other schools in the Beachside Division. Students from participating schools travel to regional sports facilities such as the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in Albert Park to participate in these competitions. The Racecourse redevelopment could be used to provide a range of facilities for these regional interschool competitions. For GEC, this would save substantial costs (in dollars and time) of transport to these facilities, leaving more funding to go towards student education. Hosting these regional interschool competitions at Caulfield Racecourse would enhance the College's reputation as a regional leader and highlight the Racecourse as a regional facility. More information about sports at GEC can be found at <http://gec.vic.edu.au/extra-curricular-activities/sport/>

Specific facilities suggested for formal use for the GEC community include:

- Athletics track with synthetic field in the centre, sandpit for long jump and storage space for athletics equipment such as hurdles, mats, etc.
- Multi-sport, multicourt indoor/outdoor sports centre to include volleyball, basketball, netball, soccer, badminton, futsal and suitable change facilities for boys and girls.

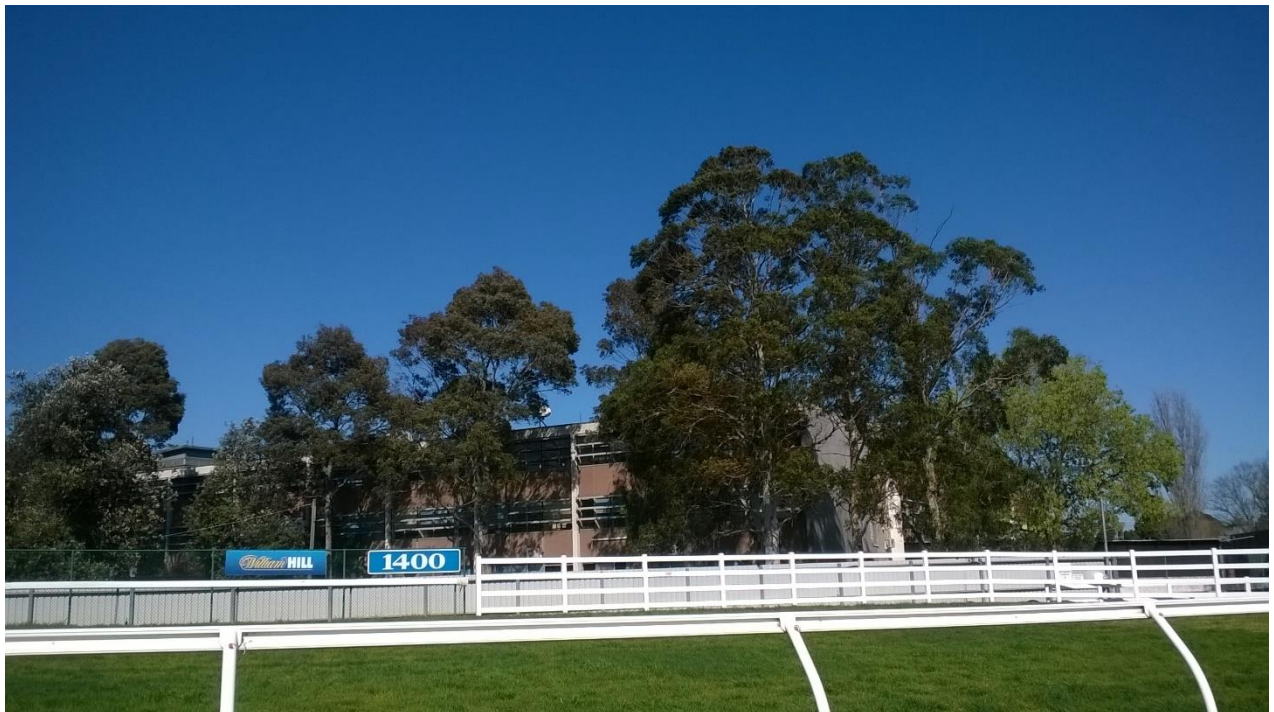
- Cross country running track that can also be used for community fun runs and walkathons.
- Football and soccer pitches.
- Velodrome
- Outdoor basketball facilities that can be accessed at all hours. (Basketball is very popular at GEC and our outdoor facilities are used extensively and informally by the general community as well as our gym being used by local basketball clubs).

Informal Activities for Young People

There are currently limited informal recreational facilities for young people in the Caulfield East area. The GEC community made a number of suggestions for informal activities for young people that could be included in the Racecourse Masterplan. These include:

- Skate park
- BMX track
- Recreational park with picnic facilities, BBQs and shade
- Play equipment suited to teenage children including interactive equipment, flying fox, etc
- Naturally landscaped areas (including watercourse, rocks, shade and indigenous plantings) and sculpture for quiet socialising, study and relaxation
- Fitness circuit equipment
- Water fountain playground

Figure 4 View of Glen Eira College from Caulfield Racecourse



Environmental Sustainability

Landscaping in the Racecourse could include a wetland with indigenous planting to encourage biodiversity and environmental sustainability in the area. Not only does the municipality of Glen Eira have the least amount of public open space of any Melbourne municipality, it also has very little natural open space with remnant or replanted indigenous plants or biodiversity. The wetland could be used as water filtration to improve the quality of storm water entering Port Phillip Bay and would attract native birds and other local wildlife. This area could be used for environmental science study by GEC students as well as passive recreation for the whole community. Enhancing the indigenous planting, wetlands and natural feel of the Racecourse open space would provide a rare and appreciated place in Glen Eira for local people to enjoy nature in a calm passive open space; as well as enhancing biodiversity and the health of the bay.

Other

Other comments from our consultations included:

- The need to limit dog access to facilities during times of student use
- Providing a direct route through the Reserve to Caulfield Station would benefit students walking to the station.
- Community garden to provide sustainable garden plots to people in the community without gardens. This has the potential to be a community hub similar to St Kilda's Veg Out.

END OF SUBMISSION