

"I was stunned, they asked me to paint a mural for the side of a building 30ft long!"

by Alan Close

The theme was 'Glen Park and surrounds, yesterday and today.' A Good topic I thought, so I said yes.

The first thing I had to do was create a design that would be approved by council.

RESEARCH

For historical information I read a short history of Croydon and spoke to local residents and members of the Knox Historical Society. I learnt about the early days in Bayswater of apple orchards, market gardens, transport by horse cart, day trippers and the very first cars touring country Bayswater and the Dandenongs.

I learnt how important the rail line, steam trains and Bayswater station was to the area.

I put into the design the Dandenong creek and for the present day I tried to capture the community spirit and

how social and friendly Glen Park is by showing people chatting in the cafe and enjoying a meal. Of course I couldn't leave out the art classes with so many artists attending classes at Glen Park.

All this came together in a colourful succession of images. Softer muted colours for yesteryear progressing through to the bright colours of today. I tried to keep the design simple as we only had three months to paint the mural. The mural had a black outline to unify the style. A team of eight community artists would be assisting with the artwork and I didn't want different individual styles to show on the mural.

WE LOVE IT!

The council loved the design. Fred Painter the council liaison officer an ex signwriter said he thought the mural was going to be one of the best in Maroondah.

The basic sketch before full colour



***Right:
Heidi Victoria
Minister for the Arts
opens the Glen Park
Community Centre
Mural***



***Left:
Heidi Victoria and
the Mayor of
Maroondah
unveil
the Mural***



***The completed
mural***



Congratulations to Whitehorse Arts Association members who donated their time and artistic skills to assisting with producing such a colourful public art piece.

Well done, Jean Close, Rhonda Greenfield, Margaret Waters, Marcia Wright, Kath Mackay, and previous WAA member, Patrick Loverso. -Alan Close

Patrick Loverso and myself at work.

*Patrick was my right hand man.
Undoubtedly without his help we
would not have finished on time.
Thank you Patrick!*

