

# Wattle Park's story told



*At the launch of Eliza's Vision, the first comprehensive history of Wattle Park. L to R: Christine Worthington of Prahran Mechanics Institute Press, author Ray Peace and Bob Stensholt, State MP for Burwood, who launched the book at the Melbourne Tramways Band Christmas concert.*

**PEOPLE** who grew up in Melbourne's east may well have happy memories of picnics in Wattle Park, playing in the old tramcars on site, listening to the Tramways Band near the rotunda on a lazy Sunday afternoon, or perhaps arranging a teenage tryst under a leafy bower near the lake.

A new book tells the story of Wattle Park from its inception when wealthy company director Eliza Welch purchased the property and bequeathed it in 1915 as an open space for the people of Melbourne through

to the present day. The story also includes the construction of the Wattle Park tramway, the effects of economic depression and war and the involvement of community groups closely linked with the park such as the Melbourne Tramways Band and the Field Naturalists' Club.

*Eliza's Vision: A History of Wattle Park 1838-2006* by Ray Peace, is published by Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press and is available from Ray Peace, PO Box 8061, Ferntree Gully, 3156, for \$29.95 plus \$6 for postage and handling within Australia. Enquiries 9758 2330.