

Ray Peace, *Eliza's Vision, A History of Wattle Park 1838-2006*, Prahran Mechanics Institute Press, 2006, pp. viii + 207. ISBN 0 9756000 6 1. Distributed by Ray Peace, PO Box 8061, Ferntree Gully, 3156. The



author chronicles the land and the people of this 'urban oasis' in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne from its prehistory to the present. Eliza Welch was a key member of the families that controlled Ball & Welch, the large Melbourne store. She became the owner of Wattle Park in 1904 and after her death in 1915, her wish that it be used by the general public and remain public open space was carried through by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board whose successors controlled the park until 1991 when it was taken over by Melbourne Water. It is now run by Parks Victoria and its future is reasonably assured. There is much of interest in the history of the park and its links to tramway extension and recreation by public transport users; the development of its chalet, golf course and sporting facilities; and its persistent battles to remain an 'urban oasis'.