



## Edendale owners

The original site of 51 acres was purchased by Henry Stooke in 1852 to establish a farm.

Thomas Cool bought the property in 1896. Cool was the wealthy manager of the Victoria Coffee Palace in central Melbourne. He built the homestead as a gentleman's residence in an ornate style that was unusual for the area at this time.

John William Cox bought the central part of the property in 1922, with essentially the same boundaries as you see today.

The Certificate of Title shows the property transferred to Elizabeth Julia Gaston on 19 December 1938, and remained in Gaston family ownership until 22 June 1970, when it transferred to Douglas Henry Mummery. The Gaston's operated a poultry farm, planted an orchard and divided up some paddocks. The property name Edendale is thought to have originated during the Gaston's ownership.

Douglas Mummery continued to farm animals and established several dog kennels until Eltham Shire Council purchased the property in December 1970. The kennels were used as a pound and a small nursery was established.

The Council relocated the pound in the 1980s to develop the area initially as a community park and then an educational farm. In the mid 1990s Edendale operated as a Community Farm with a small Indigenous nursery, and more recently became known as the Edendale Community Environment Farm.



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# Edendale

## HOMESTEAD

### The history



NILLUMBIK  
THE GREEN WEDGE SHIRE



In 1896, Thomas Cool, a wealthy coffee house manager from Melbourne, built the homestead as a country retreat. The homestead was built with unique styling that was fitting for the period, though a rarity in the district.

The property exchanged hands a number of times before being purchased by the Council in 1970.

In 2010 with Federal, State and Council funding the residence was restored, replicating the original architectural details and paint colours.

The homestead is currently used for educational purposes and offices.

## restoration features



The four front rooms all have decorative fireplaces with unique ornamental carvings. In one of the rooms the mantel was made of marble.

Three fireplaces were in good condition when the restoration occurred and only needed a clean and varnish. The fourth fireplace was replaced with another in the original style.

## Ghost stories



A council ranger's wife, who lived at Edendale from 1970 to 1978, reported sighting a ghostly figure in the front room (Gaston Room). 'Charlie', as he was known, was a 'Puritan dressed' man with a long black coat, white shirt and bow tie. The ranger never saw the ghost himself and once their son was born the ghost was never sighted again.

Another former resident, who lived at Edendale in the late 1990's, described the house as a 'very cold house' and was often aware of a female figure sitting in one of the front rooms. Their children were occasionally aware of a lady leaning over them at night, and they sometimes awoke to sounds of 'chopping' coming from the kitchen area.

Various Edendale staff have also reported feeling a 'presence' in the front rooms of the homestead and have come to know this as 'Lizzy' in reference to Elizabeth (Lizzy) Gaston who passed away in the front bedroom.

## architecture

The central hallway has many ornate architectural features, such as, mouldings around the archway, ceiling rose, cornices and timber skirtings.

Glazing in the front and rear doors features painted Jacobean and leaded glass.



## kitchen

The room at the rear of the homestead where the stove is located was the old kitchen. At this time, a room further down the hall was used for dining. Later, a smaller, more modern kitchen was built nearby and the old kitchen became known as 'the eating room'.

The cast iron stove has been restored to its former glory. During the renovations the original house keys were discovered in the chimney.

