



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

April, 2021

President's Report

by Kay Hayes



It is lovely to be able to report we are having visitors again to Glenalvon!

Our first tour group in almost 18 months came from Canberra with Potter Travel on Tuesday 6th April. The 26 visitors enjoyed a light lunch on the terrace followed by the story of the families and a tour of the house and grounds. We look forward to welcoming more groups during May and before the weather gets too cold. You will read about the two functions in March, each of which attracted well over 50 members and guests. The launch of Grist Mills was postponed for a week due to the very heavy rain that weekend. Fortunately we fared much better than many others in our State, who are still facing the clean-up and repairs.

The Society and Campbelltown Council are hosting four morning teas at Glenalvon for Seniors Festival Week. Tours of the house will be available afterwards. Council staff are working closely with our volunteers to make these mornings a success.

We are pleased to welcome our new member, Stephen Coppins to our volunteer ranks. Stephen is working on our archives and brings with him knowledge of Local Studies and Family History.

No previous experience is required if you would like to be a tour guide! Just an interest in Glenalvon and the history. The number of tour guides we have available is sadly low and we would love to hear from anyone who is interested. Our current guides will tell you how satisfying it is to tell people the history of the House and the families. If you are at all interested please call me on 0418 493 676.





On Saturday, 20 March, our first *Grist Mills* for 2021, *Girl Guiding in and around Campbelltown: A History*, was launched. Written by Wayne Williams it is a good companion to his *Scouting in the Campbelltown Area*. The book encompasses the establishment of the 1st Campbelltown pack with leader Pat Cosgrove in 1947 after interest was shown a few years earlier by several local girls with familiar names such as Jill McLean, Rosemary Price, Anne Braithwaite and Margaret Longhurst.

The book takes us through the growth in the interest of the guiding movement in the 1950s and 60s, the establishment of the Brownie packs, Ranger Guides, and our first Queen's Guides. It goes on to mention the start of guiding in our neighbouring areas including Ingleburn, Bradbury, Leumeah as well as Bardia.

The morning was well attended, in perfect weather and a festive atmosphere under the gazebos, with many members and several notable guests. We were pleased to have Sue Belling, the District Leader from Ingleburn, address the meeting as well as Wayne outline his work.

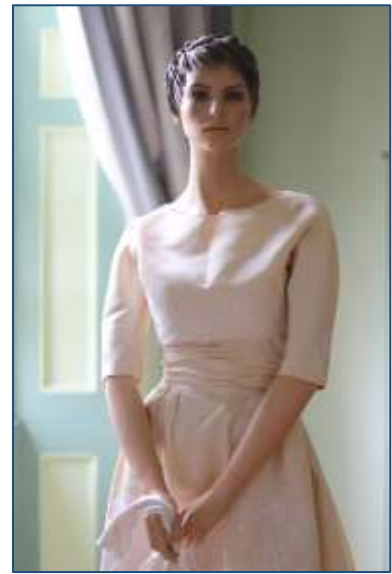
Also present were members of the Bunbury Girl Guides Trefoil Guild, June Tayler and Jenny Rombi.

For Guides and Rangers, at least annual camps were held; for our local groups this meant going to *Camp Kui*, a permanent campsite on Darling Avenue between Ruse and Kentlyn. This well serviced site remains with Macarthur Region, as it has since the 1980s. It was pleasing to have Phil Gifford, who has been property manager out there for over 20 years also join us for the launch.

Two Society members Kathryn Thornton (nee Evans) and Margaret Francis (nee Vernon) joined Lucy Quinn (nee Reeve) to celebrate the launch. All three had achieved the Queen's Guide badge during their Guiding. This, for these ladies had included a trip to Government House, Sydney, to be presented with their Royal Charter by the Governor.

At the conclusion of the speeches, morning tea was served and an invitation issued to see the display of various photos and objects related to guiding, compiled by Wayne Williams.

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In the upstairs sitting room of Glenalvon a group of ladies were carefully dressed, ready to display the work of local dressmaker May Clissold. They had a very brief opportunity to show their gowns, as the day they were launched was the day we were told that the Covid outbreak was taking us into a lockdown. They were no sooner ready when we needed to throw sheets over them and tell them to be patient.

Only a few weeks short of a complete year, the sheets were removed and the display was relaunched. On Saturday, 6th March 'Made by May' was open and members and visitors arrived. After a short talk, explaining how the original exhibition accompanied the launch of the Grist Mills journal *Dancing in Perfect Harmony*, guests were encouraged to enjoy a morning tea catered by Society member Anne Ross and to go to the sitting room to view the display.

The book encompassed several stories starting with Deb balls in an era when it was a major event in the lives of the young ladies in town. This led into a story about the lady who made so many of the gowns; gowns for all the major social events and for many local weddings.

This second story is the one that is important to the exhibition. As the book started to take shape and people came forward with their memories of a socially active town they also came forward with their dresses.

So important were the events and so beautifully made were the garments that ladies everywhere still had them in boxes and in wardrobes.

All these were dresses made by May Clissold. May, the wonderful seamstress, was May Morgan, born in Campbelltown, daughter of Amy and George Morgan who lived in the Northern Railway Gatehouse. When she had left school she went to work for a local dressmaker who taught her the basic skill of hand sewing. She had no formal training in dressmaking, in using a sewing machine or drafting patterns but she went on to prove great skill in all these areas

Reportedly, if you couldn't see anything you liked or had an idea for a gown, May would cut it out, with no pattern: she just measured up.....with a few pins here and there and cut exactly how you imagined.

She married a local lad, Mort Clissold and set up her dressmaking business in her home, Athelstone, in Queen Street, the town's main street.

By word of mouth the news of May and her story spread.

One particular dress has its own story which I will share....

Penny Morgan, May's niece had a wedding dress made by May. Penny now lives in Queensland. So she messaged me to say....

Last year our local community was having a fund raising fashion parade so I donated some items, among them being my wedding dress. It didn't sell, which I didn't think it would, so it was still with all the other things that didn't sell at the back of the hall. After I heard about the display I thought of trying



to get it back for you but I wasn't sure who to contact. Then we went to a birthday party of a friend on our street and the lady I needed to contact was there so I talked to her about it and she said that she thought it was still at the hall and she would have a look and put it aside for me. I didn't hear anything. The next Saturday I went to the local markets that are held once a month. She was there and had discovered that ALL the left over clothes were gone, including my wedding dress. She had been away and some other people had done a clean-up. Some clothes had been sent to a women's refuge and the rest to Lifeline. So then, on the next Monday, I went to Lifeline while I was in town and there was my wedding dress, After speaking to the manager she said that I could have my dress back but I would need to bring in a photo of me in the dress before she would give it to me.

So the following Thursday, I went in to town with the photo, and got my wedding dress back. It is still in great shape for

something that is 44 years old.

So the dress came down from Queensland and is now gifted to us and is on a model up in the upstairs sitting room.

At the launch several of the ladies who own these gowns were present: Robyn Simmond, Diana Brookes, Dianne Grey, Carmel McAuliffe, and Margaret Rixon This is the first chance some of these ladies had to see the display.

Dates to Remember

Saturday 24th April Members Meeting: *Mill to Mill: A Visual Presentation* at Glenalvon 1.30pm Afternoon Tea to follow

Saturday 8th May Open morning 10am – 1pm
Morning Tea will be provided.

Saturday 27th May Open morning 10am – 1pm
Members Meeting at Glenalvon. Guest speaker Andrew Allen *Remembering Zillah Dredge*
Afternoon tea to follow



Alexander George Goodsell and Marie Patricia Brunero

Celebrating their Platinum Wedding Anniversary

Alexander George Goodsell and Marie Patricia Brunero were married at St Johns Church Campbelltown on the 24th March 1951, celebrating 70 years of marriage in 2021

Alex was born in Manly the eldest son of Frederick and Isabel Goodsell who had been a Pastoralist and teacher in Condobolin.

They moved to Dorchester Park in Airds and then Minto Heights, the family expanding to include Ian, Colin, Neil and Wendy.

Alex studied at the then Sydney Tech High. He travelled by train and it was here they first noticed each other.

Marie was the eldest child of the Brunero family, which also included Frances, Donald and John. The Brunero brothers owned the Timber Mill in Patrick St, Campbelltown. She studied at St Patrick's Commercial College and then East Sydney Technical College in Millinery and Dressmaking.



Cycling was a big sport at the time with very few driving or having a car and the pursuit of romance often involved a lot of fitness. Marie, unusually, had a driving licence needed for the truck at the mill.

They met again at the cycling races in Liverpool where a number of family members competed. Brother Don's workshop being a destination on training runs.

In the end two brothers married two sisters, Frances and Colin being the other couple.

Rita Brunero (nee Tripp) ensured the closeness of family, with the wedding gifts of adjacent blocks of land to the couples at 30 and 32 Oxley Street, where they built homes and built herself at 28 Oxley St.

Alex was selected to study at Sydney Tech High. Here he joined the airforce cadets which lead to officer training in the Airforce. The war ended and

Alex went on to do a Degree in Science, a Diploma in Town and Country Planning and a Diploma in Education-Teaching; which he thought suitable for a family man.

He had a rewarding career, initiating breakfast and reading programs, welcoming Vietnamese refugees to his school at Miller. He was proud to offer 4 unit maths and have the State Champion Volley Ball Team.

A long friendship and association with Dr Ivor G Thomas, the Historical Society and its members led to his service to the Society being recognized with an OAM.

Marie and Alex still live at 32 where they raised Barbara, Peter, Margaret and Andrew.

They are the grandparents of Jarith and Ebony Young, Jessica, Samantha, Natasha and Alexander Goodsell, known as little Alex and great grandparents of Harlen Young.



Glenalvon Tour Guide, John Morthen, in the uniform of NSW Sudan Contingent 1885.

Visit Glenalvon on open morning, 24 April to meet John and fellow members of the 18th Battalion WW1 Group, who meet regularly to “live the History” of the average Australian Infantry Soldier.

Open morning 10am – 1pm. Enquiries to 462 51822.

Society Patron, Rev. John Bunyan at the Old St Thomas Chapel, Narellan on Good Friday after a simple united Christian service of Evensong.

The chapel is the former historic Parish Church of St Thomas, designed by the eminent architect, Edmund Blacket. It is now privately owned and has been beautifully restored by its present owners, Peter and Kylie Lyons

FAHEY FAMILY REUNION

'SAVE THE DATE'

A notice for any local relatives

DATE: Sunday 26th September, 2021

VENUE: Appin Park, 4 Market St, Appin

BACKGROUND:



180 years ago, on 7 September 1841, Thomas Fahey (26 years of age) and his wife Catherine (21), arrived in Australia on the ship "United Kingdom". With Thomas were his five brothers, William (24), Peter (22), Edward (21), James (19) and Timothy (16). The brothers were assisted (bounty) immigrants and exiles from 'Erin'. They were recommended by their priest as being fit, young and willing to work. They started work at Denham Court, under Squire Blomfield. Later, several of them moved to Appin and purchased 'Hardwick Farm' at Brookes Point. William and his young family, eventually headed to Burrowa (Boorowa) and settled in Reids Flat at 'Green Hills'.

CONTACT DETAILS: Please forward any enquiries to Catherine Ryan (cryan211608@gmail.com)

FAHEY FAMILY TREE IN AUSTRALIA website
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