



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

September, 2019

President's Report

by Kay Hayes

As this year marches on, we start to look at the stories for 2020, and as this year's 29th Annual Ivor G Thomas Presentation was titled "Reflections", the aim was to look at some of the changes that have affected various areas of our community of the past 60 years. The four presenters were Mario Majorich who spoke about the early planning of our city, John Russell reflected on his days as a Pharmacist in Queen Street, Greg Brassil reminded us of the early days of Campbelltown High School and education while Nicki James spoke of entertainment and Campbelltown Theatre Group.



Those present also enjoyed the displays and afternoon tea, also the opportunity to catch up with old friends.

As mentioned in the last Kernel, the long absence of two items of furniture from the Bursill family is over and they are back home in Glenalvon. The gun cabinet which belonged to Samuel Bursill Jnr is upstairs in the sitting room next to the portraits of the family. Hilda Davison's hall stand is still waiting for a permanent place, but is currently put onto the verandah for open days and tour groups. Hilda's mantle clock is currently being restored.

Another item that has come back to the Society is the honour board for "Dedicated to Campbelltown residents who served overseas 1950-1972." The names of those servicemen who served in Korea, Malaya - Borneo, and Vietnam. The board has been on loan to the Soldier's Settlement Museum and with its closure is now at Glenalvon.

While our sub-committees for the year have been formed, we are still appealing for tour guides for Glenalvon. We have 4 regular guides and 2-3 others who can step in, but with holidays, illness etc we have days when it is not possible to give a guided tour of this wonderful asset our Society has. Please consider coming to an open morning and going around with one of the guides. It really is a pleasure to take people around and they always appreciate it. We have all the necessary information available, so you would not be expected to know it all at the start.

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Can you believe Macarthur Square has been open for 40 years? On Thursday 26th and Friday 27th Sept the Society was invited to have a stall showcasing our display photos and publications as well as the calendar, as part of the celebrations. We had many interested residents sharing their memories. Thank you to Lend Lease for inviting us and for a generous donation in support of the Society. Thank you also to our members who gave their time to be on the stall.



Can you help solve this mystery?

This sign was found on a fence in a garden in Menangle some years ago. It was overgrown with 'Wandering Jew' and when it was removed Madame Angela was revealed.

The house owner has no idea who she was. The brass plaque has now been donated to the Society and we would love some information to complete the story.



With the start of a new year in membership, and recent nominations for the Executive Committee, it is interesting to see the original nomination forms to join the Society. Here is nomination No. 1, Ivor Gwynne Thomas. It is a little different to today's membership form.



Dates to Remember

Monday 7th October, Saturday 12th October Glenalvon open 10am to 1pm

Saturday 26th October Glenalvon open 10am to 1pm

Members Meeting Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon

Speaker: Fran Musico-Rullo, St Patrick's History Club

Afternoon Tea will be provided

Macarthur Textile Network displays at Glenalvon
8th October to 25th November - open mornings



Vale

Diana Mary Percival 23.11.1928 – 04.07.2019

Sadly, on July 4, we lost our society member, friend and Patron, Diana Percival. Diana had been struggling with poor health for quite a while.

Born in 1928 in Worthing, England, she came to Australia as an infant when her father became Brisbane's chief medical officer.

In 1936, the family moved to Sydney and Diana's parents also built a house on rural land off Sackville Street, Ingleburn. Here Diana, who had always been a keen sportswoman, enjoyed horse riding, playing polo cross and tennis.

She married her soulmate, Greg, a local Ingleburn boy, in 1951 and enjoyed 60 years of marriage.



Greg, who had been elected to Campbelltown Council in 1956 and served as mayor from 1958 to 1961 was a society patron until his death in May 2011. Diana became patron in 2012.

Diana was involved in many local groups, including Legacy and the Lantern Club as well as our Society; she enjoyed family life, travel, doing things for the local community, and spending hours in her beloved garden.

May Hadden (Marion Handyside Hand) 21.04.1927- 07.09.2019



May and Boyd with the Hadden sisters; Madge Morgan, Betty Ballard and Jean Fairbairn

Although not a member of our Society, many members will remember May Hadden.

Marion (always known as May) was born in Milby Private Hospital in 1927, the ninth child and one of a second pair of twins to local couple David and Janet Hadden. The Haddens lived in Queen Street in a house near Lack's Hotel until 1921 when they moved to Jennerville, 69 Dumaresq Street Campbelltown. The family remained there until 1966.

May married Boyd Hand on 30 May 1969, so had not long celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary. May died at Tweed Heads on 7 Sept, aged 92.

Phyllis Fox

Phyll joined the Society in about 1999. I can clearly recall delivering her home after meetings when they used to be held in the primary school. Over the next two decades she became more and more infirm and was unable to attend meetings.

However, on one occasion in the early to mid-2000s she and husband Ken gave a talk at a general meeting about their time with the Australian Inland Mission, which was founded by Reverend John Flynn. Phyllis (known as Phyll), Fox died recently at the age of 96. Her memorial service was held at Campbelltown Uniting Church on 19th July.

Wayne Williams

Born near Orange in 1922 she grew up within her farming family near Lake Cargelligo in the Riverina region. Her formative years brought out creative writing abilities and she was a poet for life.

Phyll married a Presbyterian minister, Ken Fox, in 1946 and there followed his placement as a patrol minister with the Australian Inland Mission. They were in the Western Australian Goldfields for five years followed by more conventional ministries in Elizabeth near Adelaide, and back to Croydon and Mona Vale. They finished in Finlay and Tocumwal, NSW. Along the way they had four children one of whom is also a minister.

Phyll and Ken retired to Leumeah in 1984. Phyll was a great correspondent with relatives and friends all over the world. She retained a strong interest in Australian history. After Ken died in 2010 she moved to Pembroke Lodge, Minto. A gentle soul, was our Phyll.'



Check out February:

You can only just imagine what went on here.

*A beautiful
Bicentennial Calendar*

to commemorate

Campbelltown 2020

\$15



Built in 1926 the Macquarie Cinema once located on the corner of Browne and Queen Streets, was the main entertainment centre in Campbelltown from 1926 to 1956. As the book *From the Days of the Early Cinema* by Jim Merry tells us, there were cinemas in Campbelltown, Minto, Glenfield and Ingleburn. In 1917 Mr S R Bragg was to present "Braggs Pictures" in the Town Hall now the Old Town Hall Theatre in Queen Street Mall. (Copies still available from the Society.)

The following are some of the memories of the days at the Macquarie Cinema, in an interview between Lorna Humphries and Mr & Mrs Eves. Our thanks to Campbelltown Library for supplying the transcription.

Frederick (Fred) Eves and his wife Ida bought the Macquarie Cinema with Ida's father Harry Nickless in December 1930. The business was bought from Mr Holdsworth, but the building was owned by Dr William Mawson (and later the Mawson Family Estate). Mr Holdsworth ran the cinema and owned the equipment. Fred was a musician, playing the clarinet in many silent movies.

They showed movies for six night of the week and two matinees a week, and the cinema could seat 800 people. In the latter days they couldn't cope with the number of people who came in buses from Macquarie Fields, Ingleburn and other areas, so they would run an extra session between the matinee and evening shows. Many times the patrons would not know what movie was showing, they came for the entertainment!

In those early days when the Melbourne Cup was run they would show footage of the race on the same night. The film came from Melbourne by plane, sometimes landing in Nowra, so Fred would drive down to pick it up and have it back by the evening session. He states "he would have driven anywhere to give the people of Campbelltown the Melbourne Cup on the same day."

There were up to eight people working at the cinema then, including the Eves family, Norm Campbell and Eric Brown

The cinema was exceptionally hot in summer until they installed some fans on the walls but they were of little help. In winter people came with rugs and hot water bottles and "cuddled up" to keep warm.

In the early days there were problems with censorship particularly from the churches and many times Fred was asked not to show a certain film. And then there were the trouble makers; those who tried to sneak in without paying, throw lollies into the fans, disrupting the movie and generally being a nuisance – many times these people were banned.

Eventually with the coming of television in 1957, the cinema attendance declined but Fred and Ida held on until 1966. They sold the lease to "Skatelands" a roller skating rink company which only lasted until 1968. The building was pulled down for commercial use.



Many would remember Fred from his days as the doorman at the Catholic club.

As Fred says "you could write a book on what went on!" There are more memories in this interview and if any members would like to read it please contact Kay or Julie.
