



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

August, 2018

'Families of Another Time

Remembering the Gore, Payten, Morgan, Lysaght and Langdon Families'

From the start, when Father John Ho welcomed us to St John's Church hall with words of encouragement embracing history and community, through the five targeted families and the launch of our newest book, the Twenty-Eighth Ivor G Thomas Presentation was a successful afternoon. An audience of over one hundred and twenty people gathered to view the presentation and listen as various speakers talked of the families, who for one reason or another, have disappeared from town. Where once when local couples married they stayed in town, near their parents and other family members; the community was strong, marriages often between couples who had met at social events in town.

Some families have simply disappeared as their line came to an end such as the Lysaghts and Paytens, other families are no longer found in town as the world changed; employment opportunities, travel, communication all made it more attractive to broaden horizons.

Although the local community has changed, our Society's community near and far always seems to muster and help when the need arises. When we need help - be it for a publication, a launch or presentation, support is there.



On 18th August, we welcomed Pam Butler, late member Bev Harrison's sister and member of the Gore family. Pam travelled from northern NSW. We also had Margaret Clues speak on her mother's family, the Morgans. Margaret travelled from Geelong while her brother Michael, also a presenter, came up from Berry

It is always wonderful to welcome back 'old Campbelltonians'.

Sue Guggenheimer with her mother Pam Butler nee Gore.

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Members Sue Kijurina, Gwen Overton and Margaret Rixon presented on behalf of the featured families, Payten, Langdon and Lysaght, backed by a slide show compiled by Julie Crowley.

Once the presentation was finished Andrew Allen, Society member and Local Information Librarian, launch his book 'More than Bricks and Mortar; Remembering Campbelltown's Lost Buildings'. The book traces the history of many of the beautiful buildings we remember from passed years, along with photos from our collection and the city library.

Everyone present reacted positively to the change of venue, the extra space that allowed us to set up tables for afternoon tea without encroaching on the lecture space, the improvement in car parking and the all-important kitchen with so much extra working space; not to mention the supply of plates and cups which saved organisers from having to transport all we needed from Glenalvon.

Here a special mention must be given to the volunteers who worked in the kitchen to get the afternoon tea ready for such a large group of people. While we appreciate all the kitchen helpers, many mention how hard Thelma White worked to make sure the food was hot and the washing up was in hand, so a special 'thank you' is given here.



Morgan descendants Stewart Morgan, Margaret Clues nee Veness, Michael Veness, Penny Kilner nee Morgan

President's Report

by Kay Hayes



The past year has been very busy, not only with tour groups, open days and visitors to Glenalvon, but the usual work to keep our Society running. We receive many request for research information and images and in doing this have had the chance to meet descendants of many of the families who lived in Glenalvon.



One of the interesting requests for research we received was from a firm of Architects who are putting together a Conservation Management Plan on The Stone Cottage, Ben Lomond Rd, Minto.

The property was part of the Campbellfield subdivision and three portions were bought by Elizabeth Chaperon in 1886 for \$700. She built the small stone cottage, also known as "The Jug" as one of the rooms had a still.

Modern additions have been made in weatherboard at the rear, without detracting from the character of the original building.

Glenalvon is an integral part of the Society, and as you know without this wonderful place of work we probably would not be able to achieve as much as we do. I know there are many Historical Societies who envy this fact!

To recap and share memories of this past year which seems to have flown by....we have had some important and exciting events, actually starting back in October last year with the arrival of St. Peter's church font and the subsequent part restoration, and the launch of the final Grist Mills for 2017. In December we were pleased to host the launch of Jeff McGill's very successful book on historic Campbelltown.

Into 2018 and the launch of "Yarns along the High Street" in March. Another successful day with so many people catching up with long lost friends.

Also in March we gave a submission to the Joint Planning Commission at Council to protest the building of that huge tower behind the CBC. The developers were instructed to reconsider their application and it is now to be decided yet again, with a new proposal on the table. The society is naturally not happy with any high-rise in that area of Queen Street. Next door is the Old Post Office and it is good to see a business in there after a long vacancy. In May we hosted staff from Campbelltown City Council for morning tea and also shared in the excitement of the anniversaries of the Electric train arrival and Campbelltown becoming a City.

July's general meeting saw the launch of the next Grist Mills and we had a packed room. The final Grist Mills for this year will be presented in October, this one is being written by Prof. Carol Liston.

Earlier this month we were all pleased to hear the news that Fisher's Ghost Restaurant has been purchased by Campbelltown Catholic Club and we look forward to hearing their plans for the building and the land around it.

To top it all off, Saturday August 18, was the Annual Ivor G Thomas Presentation. The new venue was a great success with so much room to move comfortably and sit for afternoon tea. But most importantly – the kitchen was a pleasure to work in, so much room for preparation. Read all about it in this newsletter! It has already received excellent coverage in the Macarthur Advertiser thanks to Jeff McGill, this also included the Society's launch of the book by Andrew Allen.

In closing I would particularly like to thank the members of the executive committee, and of the various sub-committees. Julie Crowley and the Editorial sub-committee, the IGT presentation sub-committee, the Policy and Procedures sub-committee and the new one for the celebration of Campbelltown's Bi-Centenary. They are also looking at ideas to commemorate 50 years since Glenalvon was handed to the State for safe keeping.

These people and many others have all helped to make the 2017/2018 year a success and I look forward to this next year.

Dates to Remember

Saturday. 22nd Sept : 13th and 27th October Glenalvon is open. 10am to 1pm

Monday. 1st October: Glenalvon is open. 10 am to 1 pm

Saturday Members Meeting. 22nd September Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon

Speaker Lloyd Pitcher - Topic: 'Hamilton Hume'

Saturday. Members Meeting. 27th October Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon:

Including launch of Grist Mills. Afternoon Tea provided

Need a Justice of the Peace?
Greg Dillon can help you out!
Contact him via email on
greg_dillon@iprimus.com.au

People Profiled

We have recently been in contact with Dr. Deirdre O'Hare, Clinical Psychologist at Central Health Medical Practice, Hong Kong. She will be better remembered in town as Deirdre O'Dowd, daughter of Dr Seamus (James Thomas) O'Dowd.

We had indicated that we would like to write a story, at some time in the future, about the doctors in town in the 1950s and 60s, when the town started to grow and there was a need for more than the one country town practitioner. Deirdre has sent us a marvelous account of her father and his career. Following is the start of that story.

Dr. Seamus O'Dowd



Born in Ireland, Seamus trained as a medical practitioner at University College Dublin, Ireland. He was the son of a well-known obstetrician, Dr Patrick O'Dowd, who was the registrar of births for Dublin and the Minister for Health in the second Finna Fail (the elected government of the Republic of Ireland).

A gold medallist in Obstetrics, Seamus relocated to Manchester in the UK to become a cardiothoracic specialist. Whilst in Manchester he was called up to do military service by the UK government. He then returned to Dublin as a cardiac registrar at the Richmond Hospital. During this time Seamus met and married Deirdre.

Seamus received an offer to undertake his two years of military service as commanding officer of Two Camp Hospital at the Army Base in Ingleburn. The young newlyweds, excited by the opportunity for an adventure, accepted this invitation. They boarded the passenger liner *the Iberia* for an extended honeymoon, arriving in Australia in late 1956.

Over the next two years of running the hospital, Seamus and Deirdre lived on the base, and welcomed their first child. They also socialised in Campbelltown and gradually became part of the community. When the time arrived for the couple to consider their return to Europe, the then mayor of Campbelltown, Mate Sedgwick and the Town Clark, Harley Daley, visited the couple at home to ask if they would consider opening a general medical practice in Campbelltown.



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The Market Street entrance to the theatre in the early days

A group of Society members took a trip down memory lane on the 8 August. An early morning train took 17 members to St James station for the short walk to The State Theatre in Market Street. A stop for coffee and tea revived all for the excellent tour of the theatre conducted by a thoroughly knowledgeable guide. The guide's commentary not only informed but entertained as well. The theatre opened in June 1929 has undergone much in the intervening years, including near demolition. Thanks to far seeing people who cared, this important part of our heritage is now protected and provides a venue for live entertainment in unique surrounding.



Arthur Jones and Surgeon William Redfern

A respected Life Member of our Society is Arthur Jones. The Royal Australian Historical Society published a paper by Arthur in Volume 103 Part 2 of their journal. It is titled "Surgeon William Redfern in London and Edinburgh 1828-1833?"

Arthur's contribution to this prestigious publication covers the later years of Redfern's life in immense detail.

The introduction reads –

"In the 1970s historians concluded that despite William Redfern's successful career as emancipist doctor, his return to Britain had led to extravagance, debt and an ignominious death in 1833. New evidence suggests a re-interpretation of his final years".

Letters from Elizabeth Macquarie in support of Redfern's position and records of financial help are recorded.

The author – "Arthur Raymond Jones became interested in the life and times of William Redfern when he was Principal at Minto Public School (1961-1969), which is adjacent to the historic precinct of William Redfern's Campbellfield home. He was an alderman on Campbelltown City Council (1971-1977) and a community representative on the Macarthur Development Board (1981- 1987)".

Vale Laurie Porter

With the death of Laurie Porter of Pembroke road, Minto on 23 August 2018 we have lost one of our passionate history campaigners for Minto. She was an advocate for heritage items in the local area especially of St James Anglican church at Minto. She spent years campaigning to save the church from demolition and was rewarded when the site was added to the local heritage register and we will remember her for the work on this project. She also worked on other heritage projects including a book on the history of Minto Public School with which she held a long involvement.

Another interest that Laurie pursued were her crochet pieces she entered into Sydney Royal Easter show. She was also very proud of the Porter Family's long history in Minto for they have called the suburb home since 1897.

Just recently Laurie was honoured with a NSW government Community Service Award. In 2017 when Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society celebrated their 70th anniversary, Laurie was the winner of the History Essay Writing Competition held by the Society. Laurie's funeral was held at her beloved church, St James Anglican Church in Redfern Street, Minto. Laurie Porter is survived by her husband Arthur and sons Ian and Andrew and daughter-in-law Kathryn.



Avon Calling

Were you an Avon Lady?

Organised or Hosted Tupperware Parties?

If you have a story to tell, please ring us

here at Glenalvon.

We are looking for entries for a Grist Mills

to be written in the new year