



# The Kernel

## Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society

*"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"*

**Newsletter**

**November, 2018**

### *President's Report*

*by Kay Hayes*

I know I am not original when I say "it is that time of year again!" Also "where has this year gone". I think this is a sign we are all getting YOUNGER! Anyway it is that time and it has gone, so may I start by saying again a Very Big Thank You to all of our members for your continued membership and support. In particular to those who help out in any way, either for as short a time as they can manage and those who spent a lot of time, either at Glenalvon or working from home. None of this can happen without you all.

Members attended two Remembrance Day commemorations in Mawson Park. On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November the Mayor and the RSL Sub-branch with Campbelltown Council held a service for school students. This was exceptionally well attended and organised. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> the official service was also well attended and a wreath was laid on behalf of all members.

We are very pleased to learn that Appin Historical Society now has a permanent home in the Old Inn. The Walker Corporation has made rooms available for them and their displays. When all is finalised the Society will have a display on Carollan.



The Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine has recently been presented with a drawing of Campbellfield, home of Dr Redfern at Minto. As they do not have their own premises it was suggested to them to donate it to us. Their Secretary will visit Glenalvon on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December to present this to us. Life Member, Arthur Jones, who has a great interest in Dr Redfern and Campbellfield will also attend. As we do not have a photo, painting or drawing of the house in its complete state, and knowing the damage that has been sustained over the past few years, we are delighted to accept this generous donation. It is a drawing by Ron Driscoll and done in 1980. It had been displayed in the home of a close

friend of the artist and on her death has come the long way round to us.

I send Best Wishes on behalf of all members to our patron, Diana Percival who is celebrating a very special Birthday this weekend.

On behalf of the committee, I wish each and every one of you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and Health and Happiness for the New Year.

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## *News: Changes to look out for in Glenalvon*

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Walking into the children's bedroom in Glenalvon we now have a refreshed space with a delightful model of *Marieville Cottage* sitting on a tallboy, to catch the eye of those who come on tour.

The model, encased in glass, shows a lively scene of the house, before the extension wings were added. Straight away you can see a coach and horses arriving at the front door while the family sit along the verandah, but on closer inspection Grandma is having a picnic on a blanket on the lawn (could that be a beer bottle on the tray?), while behind the house a young girl is chasing some goats.

The model, meticulously worked by Allen Chessell was donated to us in early November, along with a watercolour painting.

*Marieville Cottage* was built on land granted to George Woodhouse in 1823 on the Appin Road near Campbelltown. The model shows the original three-roomed rectangular building with a shingle roof. In the 1840s the homestead was extended with the construction of a north wing having eleven feet high ceilings lined in sailcloth. Around 1865 a south wing was added.



The Woodhouse family sold *Marieville* in 1856. In 1875, after various owners, one of Sydney's leading architects, George Allen Mansfield bought it. At this time Mansfield changed the name to one more familiar to many older residents of Campbelltown. It became known as Glen Lorne.

Glen Lorne homestead was destroyed by fire on 9 July, 1981



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### *Dates to Remember*

Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December and Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December: Open days for Glenalvon 10 am to 1 pm.



After this date we will close for our Christmas break.  
We will be open again at the beginning of February.

*All the best for the holiday season*



**Roderick McLean 1934-2018**



Roderick McLean, known to all as Rod, is remembered for his strong love and support of community. To honour this he was awarded the Campbelltown Citizen of the Year and the Rotary clubs Citizen of the Year for 2005.

Rod was born in Milby Private Hospital in 1934, when his family lived in Waminda Ave. His mother was a teacher at Campbelltown Public School and his father was a shop keeper. The family Milk Bar and Tea Rooms in Railway Street was well known to residents and visitors to town who enjoyed a “cuppa” when they got off the train. Rod worked there before working in the transport industry and as a local bus driver.

He joined the Cub Section of the Boy Scouts in 1942 and amongst other events he attended the Australian Jamboree in Melbourne in 1948-49 and the World Jamboree in Austria in 1952. After 70 years association with Scouting he retired in 2010.

Scouting and Rotary were Rod’s passions as well as many other community activities.

Rod and his wife Miriam were long time members and supporters of our Society, which Rod continued after Miriam’s death in 2012.

Roderick McLean passed away on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October and a memorial service was held at Forest Lawn on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

To his son David, daughter Sue and their families we extend our condolences.

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**Eddie (Edmond) Biddle 1934 to 2018 , aged 84 yrs.**

The death has occurred of Historical Society member Eddie Biddle. He fought hard against a cancerous condition for nearly three years.

Eddie was born in Camden and grew up on one of the Macarthur family’s properties at Menangle. His father was a farm worker there from the 1910s and he fell in love with Rose Barnard, one of the domestic servants in ‘the big house’.

Eddie at first was employed in the mechanic’s workshop at Camden Park. Following his marriage in 1956 to Lynette Longhurst, one of four daughters to Emily and Alderman ‘Gus’ Longhurst, he took up better paid work in a coal mine south from Moss Vale. Later he worked as welder at Fairfield then locally at Down Engineering.

Eddie’s hobbies included very detailed wood-crafting skills, rearing birds and anything to do with cars and car and bike racing. He at first owned a swish MG sports car. From when their family was quite young they had camping and then caravanning holidays, once as couple all around Australia. As with the rest of his family he worshipped at the Methodist then Uniting Church.

Eddie is survived by his wife Lynette and two daughters Dianne Williams and Janice Evans of Toowoomba and five grandchildren.

His memorial was on Friday, 9th November in the Uniting Church, Allman St, Campbelltown.



## *Santa Comes Early*

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The Campbelltown community have been able to celebrate several early gifts this Christmas.

Earlier we had news of Campbelltown Catholic Club purchasing the site of what is best known as the old *Fisher's Ghost Restaurant*. This was originally a steam-powered mill built by Laurence Kendall. James Bocking ran a bakery and store in the attached mill-house before it eventually became *Milby Hospital*. The announcement of purchase came with the understanding that it is too early for solid plans, as it needs to be fully assessed after a fire severely damaged the building in 2005, followed by the recent years of neglect.

The good news continued a month later when it was announced that the Catholic Club was also in the process of acquiring *Emily Cottage*. They have expressed their desire to preserve and perhaps restore the building.

This month Campbelltown Council has purchased two of the Queen Street Colonial buildings. The Coach House on the southern end of this historic row and the old *Railway Hotel*. In between these two buildings is the Bursill Store. Council was interested in this building, which was also up for auction but it went to a private bidder.



While today we realise the value of having this full row of Georgian buildings to the south of the town centre, this was not always so. In the era (1950s and 1960s) when everything of historical value was just 'old' and not worth keeping, some on the council thought they were 'junk of doubtful history value' and should be bulldozed. With far more foresight Councillor Clive Tregear lobbied for their restoration, supported by our own Dr Ivor Thomas and in 1963 they were bought by the state government. They were again sold in 1992 by the Greiner Government.

Mayor George Brticevic has said council hope to restore them, and we hope they will find a community use which will allow the general public to enjoy them for many years to come.

Those of us who value our heritage buildings are able to breathe a little easier this Christmas. Thank you to the Catholic Club and the Campbelltown councillors who have recognised the importance of heritage in our community.

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