



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

February, 2016

President's Report

By Kay Hayes



After a well-earned break for most of our volunteers, (some stalwarts were here in Christmas week and back on 4th January) we are now back in full swing. We already have bookings and enquiries for tour groups and weddings.

Everybody has a story to tell, some we tell for them by research and others are told to us, so I know you will enjoy reading about John White's work on the 'Gore Collection' and since this story was written we have obtained and printed a wonderful photo of Emily "Doody" (nee Gore) and her husband Dr Smyth taken at the door of the stables. This photo will be featured in an upcoming Kernel. Also Beryl Godley's profile. This story is taken from a book put together by Beryl's family for her 80th birthday, and we thank Beryl for allowing us to use it. We also thank Julie Crowley for her writing and editing of these stories, she has bought them to life.

Curator, Clarice has spent her 'break' changing the display in the Servants Quarters. The four display cases feature many items from our collection (it is amazing to see how much we actually have). Of special interest in the 'Gentlemen's Personal Items' are a tobacco cutter and measure, a desk set which belonged to Dr Ivor G Thomas and a wallet from World War 1. Amongst the items in two cabinets of 'Ladies Personal items' are a silver plated evening purse, an Egyptian style hair ornament, two mink stoles (with heads!) and curling tongs for marcel Waves. Also featured is part of the collection of International Dolls from the Lazzarini Collection. Please take the time to enjoy these displays, and others that will be set up during the next few months.

Andrew Allen Local Information Services Librarian at Campbelltown City Library has sent us an invitation to walking tours of two Campbelltown Cemeteries. This is in conjunction with the 2016 National Trust Heritage Festival.

The tours are of St David's Presbyterian Cemetery, on Wednesday May 4th at 11am-12noon

Methodist Congregational Cemetery, on Thursday May 12th 11am – 12noon

The cost of free, but bookings are essential and we will meet at the cemeteries at 11am on both dates. Contact Andrew on 4645 4431.

CURATING ASSISTANT.

We have an interesting 'positions vacant' for a willing volunteer to assist Clarice with displays and gathering research for future displays. We are hoping to devote part of the upstairs sitting room of Glenalvon to the Bursill family and we need to compile a time line and some family history from our research archives. Clarice is here on Monday and Tuesdays and would welcome a visit by anyone interested or please phone Kay on 0418 493 676.

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Obituary – Raewyn Sinclair-Kydd

It is with sadness we note the passing of former member Raewyn Sinclair-Kydd, on Friday October 9th 2015, following a fall at her home.

Raewyn and her husband Ron were long-time residents of Kentlyn and Ron gave his time and expertise as the architect for the Alex Goodsell Rural Exhibition Centre at Glenalvon.

Raewyn was the former Director of Community and Cultural Services at Campbelltown City Council, and was instrumental in the development of the HJ Daley Library and Campbelltown Arts Centre. During her time at Council Raewyn was involved in many significant achievements for the area.

We extend our sympathy to her family.

We also note and express sympathy to the family of member Maurice Blackwood, who passed away in December 2015. Maurice worked tirelessly for the Menangle Community Association and our Society supported many of his projects.

Birthday greetings.

Our friend and patron John Bunyan celebrated his 80th birthday on Australia Day. Congratulations were sent to John on behalf of the members and committee. We hope you had an enjoyable double celebration John, for your birthday and Australia!

On Sunday, January 31st at St Stephen's church, Macquarie Street, John hosted a very simple but wonderful pot luck lunch for family and long term friends, 'with a lot of yarnin'. This was followed by a special and unique Sunday afternoon programme of some of his hymns and poems and a launch of the book containing them, "Four Score Deodatus : an autobiographical anthology of prose and verse". All in all a very happy occasion.

Do You Know??

Around 1958, meetings believed to be civil defence related, were being held in Campbelltown. It is recalled that they were related to being safe in case of a major incident or war and the McLaurin, Cooper and Weatherall families attended. If anyone knows of such meetings and could give information please contact the Society.

The National Trust Celebrate its 70th Anniversary

On Monday, February 15th the National Trust celebrated its 70th anniversary with an evening on the lawns of the S H Ervin Gallery. Live music, food and an exclusive private viewing of the Gallery's new exhibition *Destination Sydney* were on offer. Sue Kijurina, John White and Julie Crowley enjoyed the perfect summer weather and joined the festivities.

Dates to Remember

Monday 7th March. Open Day at Glenalvon. 10 am to 1 pm.

Saturday 12th March. * Launch of Grist Mills - 'Moving In and Other Stories' by John Fenwick
Launch at 10.45 am followed by morning tea.

*Wedding Ceremony and Photographs - afternoon

Monday 21st March. Open Day – cancelled. Tour Group visit. Strathfield West Senior Citizens Club

Saturday 26th March. Members Meeting. Time: 1.30 pm. At Glenalvon.

Speaker: John Wrigley Topic: New Discoveries at Camden Park.

Afternoon Tea will be provided.

Campbelltown City Library celebrates National Trust Heritage Festival 2016

26th April – 26th May "Rediscover Queen Street" display, H J Daley Library.

Wednesday 4th May St David's Presbyterian Cemetery walking tour.

Thursday 12th May Methodist Congregational Cemetery walking tour.

From the Collection

The Gore Family – Treasure Revealed report written by Julie Crowley

The Gore family would be undoubtedly one of the most notable families to have lived in Campbelltown. Their names are found attached to many of the grand houses – Nina Gore of Raith, Sylvia of Englorie Park; Mabel married Alan Yates of Beverley Park, Marjorie married Arthur Allen of St Elmo, Emily 'Doody' married Dr Smyth and lived for a while in Glenalvon.

So over the last couple of months, when the work of volunteer, John White, added important photos and objects from the Gore family to the collection, it was hard not to feel we had gained 'pure treasure'.



The 'treasure' came in two different forms, from two different paths. Firstly, some time ago Bev Harrison, Geoffrey Gore's daughter, had given the Society a cardboard box, packed with dozens of photographic envelopes, containing hundreds of strips of negative film. The envelopes themselves were interesting, showing four decades of design on cardboard packets (See photo below). Holding the negatives to the light revealed the faces of the Gore family, at home, on trips to the country, scenes from Sydney Harbour; photos taken by Geoffrey Gore, a keen photographer, from the 1920s through to the 1960s. It was evident that within those hundreds would be many photographs relevant and valuable to our collection. John White set up lights, copy stand, camera and matting equipment on a light box, all attached to a computer with software that allowed him to photograph and convert the negatives into positive images. After a couple of weeks the true photos were revealed, processed and entered into our database. (See below the beautiful beach photo showing Geoffrey, Jeanne and his young sisters, taken in the 1920s).

This process, however, led us on our next discovery, for while we had so many great photos, many of the faces looking back at us were unfamiliar and the time and place unknown, with nothing but a few vague labels on the negative packets. Bev Harrison's booklet 'Glimpse of the Gores' was our first help but left still many blanks, when by sheer luck, Wayne Williams was at Glenalvon one morning and noticed the work being done. He gave Pamela Butler's contact number to John. Pam lives in Inverell, is a family friend of the Williams' and most importantly, is Geoffrey Gore's other daughter. With the wonders of technology, emails were soon exchanged, John sending copies of photos and Pam swiftly sending back names, places, events.

Next the second 'treasure' arrived, for Pam organised her daughter, who lives in Sydney, to come to Glenalvon. With her she brought two very large scrapbooks. The first was a book given by Nina Gore to her husband-to-be Herbert Mitchell Merewether just before their marriage in 1903. It contained newspaper articles, menus, dance cards, photographs and invitations, including one for 'Mr Herbert Merewether, Esq and Lady' to attend the laying of the Commemoration Stone for the Mitchell Library. This scrapbook is on loan to us and has been completely scanned. It will be given to the Mitchell Library when we are finished.

The second scrapbook belonged to A J Gore and includes similar items, with clippings dating back to the second half of the 1800s. Included are some photos of Henry Parkes visiting Campbelltown in 1891. John White has just finished scanning the second book. His work isn't quite finished for the album needs to be preservedready for permanent storage AT GLENALVON: for the Gore family have kindly (and amazingly) allowed us to keep it!



People Profiled

Beryl Godley saw an advertisement in the local paper. Alex Goodsell and Verlie Fowler were running an historical tour of Campbelltown on behalf of the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society. She thought it sounded interesting and, with a friend, set off on the tour. Her interest caught, she decided to join the group. She started to go to the meetings, at that time being held at Campbelltown Public School, then went on to help David Milton, the treasurer, doing all the Memberships. She went to Richmond Villa for open days and helped Verlie record objects donated to the society, in a book. Many people and places have changed, Beryl still comes to meetings, and helps with tour groups, recording book sales. Her work over the years has culminated in a well-earned Life Membership.

But this is just a small part of what Beryl has done; there is so much more to....

Beryl's Story



'Mine was a happy childhood. I had loving parents and brothers and sisters. Being the sixth of 7 children, my older brothers and sisters are not strong in my memory. As I was growing up they were starting to leave home for education, jobs and WW2. I was born 16th March 1933 at the Kennedy Hospital in Bowen. Mum had turned 39 six days before.

When I was very small I remember men coming up the hill from the railway line near the salt works looking for food. This was where they 'jumped the rattler' – jumped off the moving goods train when it went around to the goods yard in Bowen. Mum always fed them- we had our own milk eggs, fruit and vegetables, and therefore we were better off than these poor men. '

When the war started her father dug a big air raid shelter under the mango trees at the back of the house. The sirens would sound nearly every night. When the war ended Beryl was 12 and like everybody else, felt relief. But they still had to go without so many things. There was rationing of clothes, sugar, meat, tea, butter and petrol for quite some time after the war ended.

Beryl's mother died in 1955 and she stayed home with her father for 3 more years before leaving home to work, first in Townsville and then Sydney before going further south to Deniliquin.

Here she met Tom Godley staying at the same boarding house. They were married on Easter Monday, April 1960. After living in a terrible flat for a while, Tom's work, the NSW Department of Main Roads, bought a lovely house with a big backyard, they were able to rent. Joy was born in 1961 and Diane in 1962.

After a move to Billinudgel a village near Mullumbimby in the north of NSW, Tom was transferred down to Maclean. Tom's work was involved with bridge building over the northern rivers. Eleanor was born in 1964 and Anita in 1965. The family enjoyed life in Maclean, making many good friends but soon the next move came with a choice of Newcastle or Sydney. The choice was made.



They looked in the paper for sale of houses and finally decided on a newly built house in 'Sherwood Hills' backing onto the reserve of Fishers' Ghost Creek.

'When we arrived at Campbelltown the 50 metre swimming pool was just completed but had a crack so was closed until October 1967'

Once the pool was ready they used it constantly. One day they received a letter from John Marsden, President of the swimming club, asking Tom and Beryl to come to the club Friday night to help with its running. Soon Tom was race starter and Beryl became chief recorder and race secretary. Both eventually became Life Members of Campbelltown Amateur Swimming Club. The girls did very well at swimming, achieving champion status under local coaches, however Beryl undertook coaching the girls during a short absence of coaches.



They also played tennis on Saturday morning competition. On Saturday afternoons they played netball for Castlefield. Margaret Reeve was in charge of managing the teams, Beryl was always there to help. She became involved with Campbelltown Girl Guides Local Association.

In 1976 Beryl was voted Campbelltown's 'Mother of the Year'.

Their son, Stuart had been born at Camden in 1972, Beryl was 39. Life had been going along smoothly, she was well into the 'Swipe' business, having a few consultants under supervision, and also being involved in Catechist teaching and helping run courses, when sadly, in 1983 Tom passed away. He was laid to rest at old St John's cemetery.

Towards the end of 1984 it was suggested that she should do a course at TAFE, book keeping, the first year of accountancy. She joined the class, most of the student were from the Tax Office.

'I remember sitting at my desk listening to the teacher and not absorbing what I was reading. I thought to myself, I'm not buying any books until I can give full attention to the subject.'

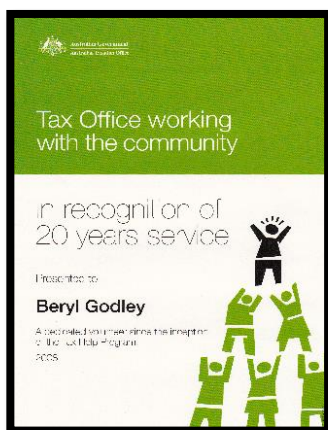
'After three weeks I was ready to get started. It was good for me to be absorbed in study. I would stay up until midnight doing my homework. It gave me something to do at night, I hated going to bed'

She did the examination in November and when the results came out early the next year, she had topped the class and the teacher suggested she do the full course. She did, giving up teaching as a Catechist allowed her time to study full time. The course was two years full time. Passing all the subjects (including Company Law by correspondence) gained Beryl her Accountancy Certificate.

She started employment, first at a brake service place for 6 months she then applied for the position of bookkeeper at Glenquarie Family Support Service Inc. She was appointed there and started work. She continued bookkeeping for seven years, while doing volunteer work as a financial counsellor and Tax Help volunteer

Deciding that she needed counselling skills as well, she enrolled in Institute of Counselling run by the Catholic University. This was at St Patrick's College, Strathfield. The course was very intensive, by the second year she was working one day per week as a paid financial counsellor, so the experience was very useful in the course. After working there for one year, on her 60th birthday, she was asked to work two days while still doing 20 hours at Family Support. (Soon it was too much and both jobs were dropped.)

Only idle for a couple of months, Sister Christopher from the Good Samaritans asked her to come down to the new Nagle Centre, St Vincent de Paul's Crisis and Counselling Centre.



'So I went and did all the work I had previously been paid for, now as a volunteer. I did their books, financial counselling and tax help, working one day per week.'

I started training for Tax Help in 1989 at Glenquarie Family Support when a young man from the tax office asked if we were interested in a trial for a special project. I had studied taxation in my accountancy course and wanted to get involved in the scheme. The training was done at the Centre. In July that year we did tax returns for low income people. I did mine at lunchtimes and after work. I also worked in Claymore, Airds and Miller from July to October each year. We would train every year and do an examination to qualify for that year's tax returns. In 2008 the Tax Office recognized 20 years of service with a certificate for my work.'

Beryl travelled to Canberra to receive a certificate and cake cutting, also receiving a glass trophy at the end of that year and a thank-you morning tea in Sydney. She continued this work for another two years

After Tom passed away Beryl travelled. There were lots of trips in those years. She travelled through South Australia to the thermal springs, witnessing amazing sunrises.

She travelled from Lawn Hill to Burketown, Hell's Gates and to Darwin and Birdsville. Frazer Island, Whitsundays, Lawn Hill National Park close to The Gulf of Carpentaria. The scenery of the ranges and the chasms, the sights and sounds of the colourful birds; canoeing down the ravine with another woman as inexperienced as she was with them just going around and around in circles at first. Another camping trip took her to the Simpson Desert, starting from Broken Hill, going out to Silverton to see the artists at work and admire the beautiful scenery.



Photo by Eleanor Godley
Honeydew Photography

This is a little more of Beryl's story.