



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

November, 2015

WELCOMING THE KANGAROO MARCHERS

A moving speech by Dr Brendan Nelson, director of the Australian War Memorial and Patron of the March, was part of an impressive Valedictory Commemoration to welcome the participants to Campbelltown. Also addressing the large gathering at Mawson Park were Mayor Paul Hawker and Mr Graham Brown, President of the Kangaroo March Centenary Re-enactment Committee.

This was the conclusion of the march which started in Wagga Wagga on September 5th 2015, almost 100 years since the original march left in December 1915 with 88 recruits. Along the way their numbers swelled with men joining in towns such as Junee, Cootamundra, Yass, Gunning, Goulburn and many others through the Southern Highlands, and on to Campbelltown. Here, the last recruits joined and the numbers eventually reached 222 men.

The story of what these gallant and brave men were to face is now an important part of our history.

The re-enactment march commemorated their enthusiasm to serve King, Country and Empire.

The special event held in Mawson Park on Saturday October 10th also featured stories of two local servicemen, Walter John Hagan who was awarded the Military Medal and George Munro.

The society purchased four Poppies from the Poppy Park, Penrith and had labels printed for Campbelltown servicemen - Walter Hagan, Basil Williamson, James Longhurst and Kevin Wheatley VC (Vietnam). These are currently on display at Glenalvon.



HISTORY REVEALED

After being in storage at Campbelltown Council's Depot, the Society is pleased to have the Campbelltown and District World War 1 Honour Boards on display. The council restored the two boards and replaced the glass and they now hold pride of place in the Servants Quarters.

Over 180 servicemen are listed on the boards, many of who did not come home. Many visitors to town on the day of the arrival of the March came to Glenalvon to see these significant boards. Angela Williamson the vocalist for the Re-enactment March supported the Society in our endeavours to have them bought out of storage.

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President's Report

Welcome to our 'new look' Kernel, Our thanks to Julie Crowley and the members of the editorial committee for their work in developing this new format.

The Fisher's Ghost Festival is over for another year and we had two very successful Open Days, with 96 visitors on the day of the parade and 102 on street fair day. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time on either one or both days.



A highlight of both days was the wonderful music of the pianola played by David Vassallo. Our visitors obviously received a lot of pleasure from this, as there were people dancing in the drawing room and the looks of wonder and surprise on young (and older) faces, shows there are many who have never seen or heard a pianola. We also welcomed the ladies from Campbelltown Patchwork and Quilters Guild, who decorated the house with beautiful samples of their work, and also worked in the cottage on the day of the Parade.

What a Month!

November has been a very busy month for the Society and at Glenalvon with school students from Leumeah Public School visiting over three mornings. In total there were 170 students, years 4-6 This was part of their studies on 'Colonisation' and as well as touring the house, Clarice showed them articles and clothes of interest from the collection.

The Monday open days saw 47 visitors, and with approx. 74 for the launch and a tour group of 20, the total is 509. Not only is this exposure for our beautiful Historic House, but people also showed great interest in the Society and we received a number of new memberships.

Dates to Remember

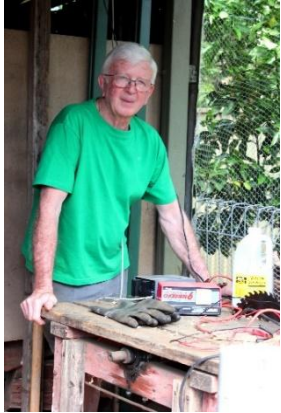
Saturday 12th December – open day cancelled for a tour group.

Christmas luncheon and trivia at 12noon

After this date we will close for our Christmas break. We will open again the first Monday in February.

....With vinegar and brown paper (or molasses):

An account of how rust was removed from items in the collection



In our collection we have many tools and household items. These have been sitting on shelves or in cupboards in the stables and Ag shed and with time, many have become rusty.

Kevin Rixon has been busy over the last few months building a new display cabinet in the Alex Goodsell Rural Exhibition Centre, grouping items; the planes, household irons etc., so they are easily seen and the collection appreciated. His next challenge was to remove the rust. The process is fascinating, here is his account-

The quality and age of the iron to be cleaned determines the time and process of each piece; cast iron is much easier than blacksmiths heated, folded and hammered iron.

Three processes have been used.

Vinegar is only effective on light surface rust and is the costliest method, as it loses its effect after a few days. Costing for 2 litres is \$1.10 and it needs to be used neat, not diluted.

Molasses is the most effective for general use. It costs \$21 for 14 kilos and it is mixed with water at 1 part molasses to 9 parts water.

A 60 litre bin of the mix will work on several items at the same time and maintain a good working strength for about three to four weeks. Then you can add another litre to boost the mix. It is easy to use but also very messy. You need a place to wash off the molasses; it is black, and sticky and loves to be seen!

Electrolysis is also very effective but messy. You need a plastic container of water and a battery charger or 12 volt transformer. There is one small trick: the negative is connected to the item to be cleaned and the positive is connected to a piece of wire, or iron bar that is scrap. This becomes the sacrificial electrode, which erodes during the process, and wire especially, disappears as a lump of rust. Washing soda is required as well. This process also extracts the oxygen from the rust and converts it to Magnetite, which looks good after it is washed. Gloves must be worn or your hands will be black for days.

Many items that have been cleaned of rust are on display in the Ag shed.

Come in, it is well worth a look.



Launch of the Grist Mills

After a record breaking hot day on Friday, we were glad of the weather change on Saturday November 21st, for the launch of the last edition for 2015.

We welcomed just over 70 members and visitors to Glenalvon, including Paul Hawker, Mayor of Campbelltown.

This journal is titled 'Beverley Park – Recollections' and the author Kathryn Millar told of her time at Beverley Park and of the way it has evolved over the years, since it's opening in 1938. The journal contains a number of interviews with former employees and students of Beverley Park, all of whom remember their time at either the school or the hospital with great fondness.

We were pleased to have the company of Jennifer Nicholls, who is the niece of the late Faye Doherty. Jennifer has donated to the society a wonderful album that was presented to Faye at the time of her retirement. Also many photographs that were in Faye's collection. By coincidence this day would have been Faye's 89 birthday and we received a letter of apology from her sister Judith, who had also donated photographs.

Julie Crowley displayed some of these photographs as well as the album, and they bought back many memories. Guests Lyn Morgan, Dianne Elliott and Dane Drca told their stories of their time at Beverley Park.

This edition of Grist Mills is the first produced by the newly formed Editorial Sub-Committee, and they can be justly proud. Thank to this committee for their inspiration and hard work. At the first meeting of the committee, Kathryn asked if Beverley Park could be the subject and it was then we found that so many people had a story to tell. We were put in contact with many people and now we know there are many more memories and stories we can feature, maybe next year.

