



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

November, 2016

President's Report

by John White



November has once again proven to be popular with visitors to Glenalvon. We have had 5 tour groups with a total of around 140 people. In addition during our Fishers Ghost Festival open days we have had another 195 Visitors. Our donation box was very active as well, on the Fishers Festival open days 5th, 7th and 12th. \$150 was left for us.

At the street stall on Saturday 12th November, book sales were around \$70, our federal member Dr Freeland stopped by the stall and bought quite a few books.

The volunteer Glenalvon cleaning bee on Tuesday, 1st November was exciting. We achieved a lot given the number of people who donated their time. The weather was great and we did have a good time. Next year make sure you don't miss out.

For those of you not here last month, our launch of the 'Irons to Icons' Grist Mills was quite successful, Andrew Allan gave a fine introduction talk and the number of attendees was good, including a visit by our new Mayor George Brticevic.

There has been a lot of effort put into some new and redesigned displays in Glenalvon this month. Kevin Rixon has been building away in the Agricultural Exhibition and Clarice put together a photo display of old Campbelltown for the Servant's quarters during Fisher's Ghost Festival open days. Thank you. Upstairs the Fitzpatrick curtains have been displayed. Members were given the opportunity to visit the house during our special member's open time before the monthly General Meeting.

Now a public thank you to all our volunteers collectively for the efforts they contribute to our society. This thank you is a collective one so that no names are inadvertently omitted.

I would also like to particularly say thanks to the volunteers who stood all day on the street stall, and those who greeted visitors at the front door, and those who spent the open days showing visitors around Glenalvon, and those who sat in the rooms for hours answering questions, and those who worked for days in the gardens making them lovely for our visitors. The list is endless, so thank you all for your time and efforts.

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

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Dates to Remember

Monday, 5th December and Saturday, 10th 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



60th Wedding Anniversary

Report by Wayne Williams

In mid-September, long term CAH Society members Eddie and Lynette Biddle celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Like her parents and her daughters Lynette wed Eddie in what is now called the Wesleyan Chapel which fronts the Moore-Oxley Bypass. On their honeymoon on the mid-North Coast they saw the Olympic Torch run by on its way to Melbourne.

Lynette is the daughter of the late Gus (William Augustus) Longhurst, a local builder and council alderman in the 1950s and Emily, nee Hagan, whose family ran a mixed farm located on what is now Airds. Lynette has been on the piano and organ roster at the Methodist, now Uniting Church, since she was about 15.

Eddie's father was an immigrant from Worcestershire who became a farm worker on Camden Park Estate.

His intended wife, Rose Barnard, was an immigrant from London and also worked there but as a servant in 'the big house'. They settled in the village of Menangle.

All their married life Eddie and Lynette have lived in the same home in Condamine Street. Their large garden and Eddie's enduring large aviaries are a neighbourhood highlight.

Daughters Dianne and Jan and their families joined them to celebrate.



Beryl Vernon

Sadly we have heard of the passing of Beryl Eileen Vernon on 2nd November, 2016, aged 87. Although Beryl Vernon was not a member of CAHS many members will have known her.

Beryl Deane lived in Campbelltown her entire life. Dean's Rd (with the e omitted) is named after the family in honour of her two brothers and an uncle killed in WW2.

Stella Vernon once gave a talk about 'two brothers who came to town'. The two brothers were Jim and Geoff Vernon.

Geoff came first with his parents during the war and Jim moved in with them after the war.

Through their membership of St Peter's Church and Tennis Club the brothers met two local girls.

On January 20th, 1951 Geoff married Beryl Deane (Jim married Stella in April of the same year).

In their home at 70 Moore St, Geoff and Beryl raised 6 children, continuing to be active in St Peter's Church and its tennis club. Beryl also becoming devoted to activities associated with the Campbelltown Red Cross.

Many members will remember her cake decorating skill. Her meticulous attention to detail with her art made her a sought after local legend.

She had lived in Carrington Nursing Home for the last 6 years.

Need a Justice of the Peace? Greg Dillon can help you out! Contact him via email on

greg_dillon@iprimus.com.au

From the Collection

Jeremiah Quirk's hand saw

Report written by Kay Hayes

Jeremiah Quirk – now isn't that a name that begs to have a story told? We thought so, but apart from some usual dates and places, we are unable to find out much about Mr Quirk. The photos are the things that started our interest, the hat and waistcoat now belong to Margaret Rixon, the map in our archives and the saw is in our Rural Exhibition.

The innovation and imagination of toolmakers of years gone by is reflected in the saw and the style has been around for hundreds of years.

The top rung is a tension bar which tightens and loosens the blade as required. The centre bar is for balance. The long handle on one side prevents the blade touching the ground when not in use as well as assisting with ease of sawing.

Although Jeremiah lived all of his long life in the area, very little is known and despite extensive research and speaking to members we have not been able to expand on the notes written by Ed McBarron.

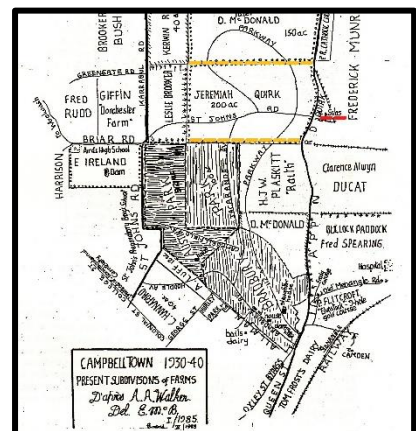
The Quirk family came from Ireland and lived in Menangle where Jeremiah was born. He died in 1961 in his 90th year, his wife Mary survived him for 13 years and died aged 98. They did not have children. Named after his grandfather Jeremiah was the son of Thomas and Margaret with siblings Hannah, Annie, Thomas, and Phillip.

Jeremiah, also known as Jerry owned the 70 acre land grant of James Kenny near the Appin Road. Over time it was extended to 200 acres. We know that he leased part of this land to the Johnston family and later to Marsiglio (Jack) Bonomini and family. Around 1933 the silos were built, these are still a prominent landmark south of town however the alignment of the Appin Road has changed since Jeremiah owned the land. Quirk Reserve is on a portion of his property. In 1957 the farm was sold and Jeremiah and Mary moved to a house in Condamine Street.

Ed McBarron notes tell us that Jeremiah was "one of the largest property owners in the municipality – it would support all tax payers." Also that "he was a candidate for extraordinary election of alderman."

Jeremiah, Mary and other Quirk family members are buried in St John's Cemetery.

Not a 'quirky' story! (Sorry Jerry)



People Profiled

The Percival Family have had connections with the Historical Society for many years. Greg Percival was one of our Patrons and now we are privileged to have Diana as a Patron. With her unassuming ways she was reticent to tell her story but working with her daughter Virginia, who knew what an interesting life her mother had lead, we now have a wonderful story to share.

The Life of Diana Mary Percival.

My life began in Worthing in England on 23rd November, 1928. I was the second child and second daughter of Dr John Grahame Drew (known as Grahame Drew) and Mary Dawson Muir. My sister Elizabeth Barbara Drew (known as Barbara) is twenty months older than me.

My father was born in Stirling, Scotland and my mother was born in Brisbane, Queensland.

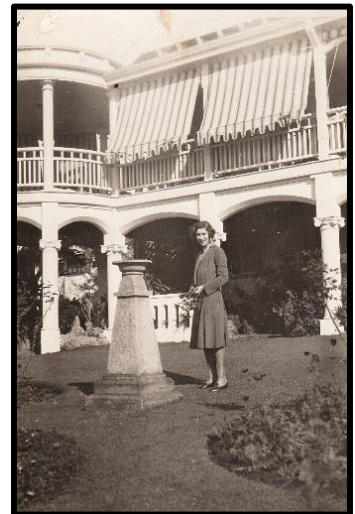
My mother went to finishing school in Switzerland and it was here, at the end of her schooling, where she met my father. They married in 1925 and moved to Worthing where my father set up his medical practice on the ground level of our house, which incidentally still stands today. I was born at that house.

When I was a year old we travelled by ship to visit my grandmother and family in Brisbane. While holidaying there my father was offered the position of Chief Medical Officer for the City of Brisbane and so we settled in the area where my Mother grew up.

I remember our house had two big lion statues on either side of the entrance to the pathway to the house, Barbara and I would feel so grand sitting up, one on each lion, playing there in the sunshine for hours and pretending to be statues ourselves.

My mother was a Muir and her grandfather was a McWhirter.

McWhirter's were a prominent family in Brisbane and started the McWhirter Store, which is still trading, but as a little shopping mall. It was the McWhirters that became Grace Bros, then Myer, in Australia.



My sister and I use to frequent the McWhirter Store with our mother to shop and to have our hair cut.

During my father's time as Chief Medical Officer he started Health Week in Brisbane and in the early 1930's he introduced Immunisation to Australia.

Coincidentally, in 1998 my daughter Virginia was asked in her role of her Event Management Business based in Sydney to organise a Media Relaunch of Immunisation for Australia which was such a coincidence as the people involved with the Federal Government of Australia had no idea that Virginia was the granddaughter of the founder of Immunisation for Australia!

In 1935 we moved to Palm Island where my father in his role as Administrator of Palm Island and Resident Doctor set up a medical system for the Aborigines living on Palm Island. He also set up a police



force and in the hospital started training the girls to be nurses.

This was such a different place for us to live - an island a 50 mile boat journey from Townsville with only one other white family living on it, with no shops or electricity, only hurricane lamps.

Our entertainment for the week was the Corroboree held on a Saturday evening where all the Aborigines on Palm Island would gather and perform their corroboree.

I also remember how scary it was going into the bathroom and having a bath with the bats hanging down looking at you!

My sister Barbara and I did our schooling by correspondence and once a week a boat would come in from Townsville and bring our school work, mail, books, food and provisions for the week and we would send our school work back to the teacher in Brisbane.

It was during our time on Palm Island that my father organised the building of a jetty. Until then, at low tide the water receded so much that to board a boat you had to walk out a long way to get to where the water was deep enough for the boats to wait. This project was not



completed until after we left Palm Island but many years later I flew over the island and the long jetty was quite visible from the air.

In 1936 we moved to Sydney and lived at Elizabeth Bay. We lived next door to Kincoppal where Barbara and I attended school for eighteen months. Later we attended Ascham.

At weekends we were often out on the harbour on my father's boat and Barbara and I use to enjoy rowing on Sydney harbour.





I was always at the top of the class at school but as the years went on I didn't enjoy studying so much. I loved playing sport and became the school's champion runner. When I go to school reunions I am always remembered as Di Drew the school runner (and also for having the tidiest drawers!)

My parents travelled a lot as my father was always being asked to give medical papers around the world. He also delivered a medical advice segment on the wireless which preceded the long running radio series Dad & Dave. This program was listened to by many in those days.

During our time at school my father built a grand house on land in Ingleburn. My parents spent their weekends there and had many social parties, as there was a ballroom in the house. When Barbara and I were able to have some weekends out of school and in school holidays we spent these days also at Ingleburn. Country school friends would also

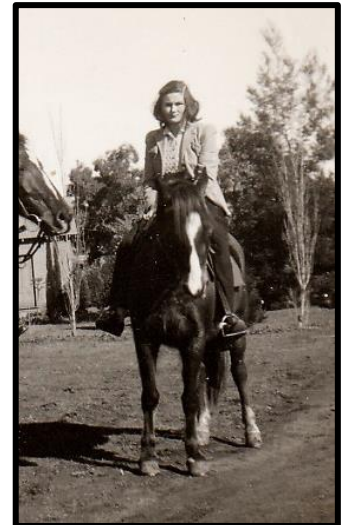
come to stay and we loved riding our horses and playing tennis.

I also enjoyed playing polo cross in Ingleburn.

My first job was working at Perpetual Trustees in Hunter Street in Sydney.

I remember my first day feeling scared when I was told I would be working for thirteen men until someone said it is far better than working for thirteen "bitchy" women. What true words! I enjoyed my job very much as all the men were so very kind and considerate.

I worked there until one day I collapsed in Martin Place and it turned out I had pleurisy and pneumonia and was sick for some weeks, however, returned to work and worked at Perpetual Trustees until I left to get married.



I use to enjoy playing tennis and this is where I met Greg - Harold Gregory Percival and the rest is history as the score was LOVE ALL!

My life with My Dear Greg began when we married on 2nd June, 1951 at St. Marks Church, Darling Point and had our reception at home in Elizabeth Bay.

Greg worked with his father in the local butchery business and we were lucky enough to be able to purchase a house in Carlisle Street, Ingleburn with money that Greg had managed to save for a deposit.

This is just the start of Diana's story. Her life has been so varied and colourful that we could not tell the whole story in The Kernel, nor did we want to reduce the story by cutting it to fit a few pages. Her story of life with Greg, their work in Ingleburn and involvement in the community; the story of ties to Campbeltown in Scotland and connections to the Historical Society will continue in a future publication in the New Year.
