



# *The Kernel*

## *Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society*

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

*Newsletter*

*November, 2017*

### *President's Report*

*by Kay Hayes*



As normal for this time of year, the number of visitors to Glenalvon has started to slow down, although we have had tour groups from Westpoint Golden Club, Blacktown and North Sydney Probuss.

The opening days have been quite busy, and the visitors have enjoyed seeing the house and the comments are always favourable. But the change to the programme for the Fishers Ghost Festival, with the street stalls and the parade on the same day, meant that the visitor numbers were substantially down. Mind you the cold, miserable weather did not help!

Julie Crowley and I have been out with our 'Home Delivered History' presentations, to Angus Bristow Retirement Village in Narellan and to Campbelltown Ladies Probuss.

The work of the volunteers for the Society continues non-stop, this work seems to be a bottomless pit (or coffee pot as the need arises). The business side of the society keeps us busy with letters of support for heritage proposals and development applications to respond to. These have included – an additional level on top of the Government building next door to Glenalvon, development of Beulah (on the Appin Road) and once again Fishers Ghost Restaurant.

The service for Remembrance Day was well attended and the Society laid a wreath, crafted by florist Kate Crowley. The gardens in Mawson Park are looking lovely at the moment and in particular we were pleased to see Mrs Macquarie's statue was watering her garden.



After the success of this year's Ivor G Thomas Memorial Lecture, we have published a Souvenir book of the day. This has the speeches and stories of the day, as well as many photos. It can be purchased at Glenalvon or by ordering by mail or email. The cost is \$8 (\$2 per book postage if required). Please note that this 'Lecture' will now be known as 'The Annual Ivor G Thomas Presentation' – a more modern title. Next year's Presentation will be

on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and at the new location of St. John's Church Hall.

I take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society Inc

Correspondence to Secretary

P.O. Box 257, Campbelltown NSW 2560

Phone: (02) 4625 1822

Email: [secretary@cahs.com.au](mailto:secretary@cahs.com.au)

Website: [www.cahs.com.au](http://www.cahs.com.au)

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

### **'Trooper Hall' gets a promotion**

This handsome gentleman lovingly known as Trooper Hall, because he has stood guard in the hall, has now had a promotion! We will now call him *Captain* Hall, as he has a new uniform. A visitor to Glenalvon some weeks ago noticed that the uniform he was dressed in was not that of 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Mark Fletcher is a volunteer at the Army Museum of NSW and kindly offered to arrange for an exact replica of the uniform.

Mark came to Glenalvon in October and dressed him and how resplendent he looks! It may not be a Captains uniform but we think he deserves the title.

The Society extends thanks to Major David Clark and Mark for this generous donation and in return we have donated the uniform he wore as well as some other military clothes.



### **At last the Bursill Room is finished.**

Come and see the Upstairs Sitting Room which features the Bursill Family with a slide show, their family tree and eight drawings of portraits of four generations of the Bursill family drawn by Devasha (Wendy) Scott.

The Bursills were prominent members of Campbelltown society, owning property in town and shops in Queen Street.

Samuel Bursill Senior was Mayor of Campbelltown from 1909 to 1913

Hilda Davidson (nee Bursill) was the last private owner of Glenalvon and it is to her foresight that the house still stands today and has not been demolished to make way for shops or units.

**Need a Justice of the Peace?**

**Greg Dillon can help you out**

**Contact him via email on**

[greg\\_dillon@iprimus.com.au](mailto:greg_dillon@iprimus.com.au)

### **IGT**

While we clear away from our last lecture and start looking forward we have booked

**St John the Evangelist Church hall**

For our

**Dr Ivor G Thomas Memorial**

**Presentation**

**2018**

### *Dates to Remember*

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December and Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December: Open days for Glenalvon 10 am to 1 pm.  
Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. Launch of **The Pictorial History: Campbelltown and District** by Jeff McGill  
at Glenalvon



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

### UNA LAIRD

Una Clariss Rose was born on 22nd February 1922 (22/02/22) and passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (07/10/17), and one of her brothers was born on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1911 (11/01/11) these dates may have a lot to do with her love of numbers in later life. She was the youngest of seven children who were born in many different parts of the country, as Clement Rose was a school teacher and the family moved to wherever he was posted. Una was born in Armidale.



The family moved to Campbelltown when Una was seven and she completed her primary schooling at South Campbelltown School. After attending Ashfield Girls, she finished her high school years at Sydney Girl's High. She worked as an insurance clerk and her wish was to become an actuary, but World War11 intervened.

Una met Reg Laird in 1937 and married in 1944. First living in Fairfield where their four children were born and then moving back to Old Kent Road, Kentlyn.

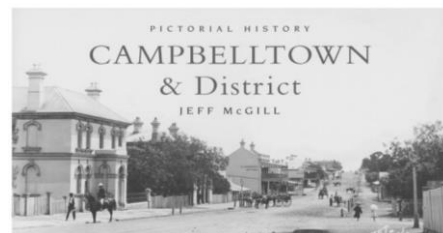
Una became very involved in the local community and particularly Campbelltown Methodist Church which she supported in many roles for over 50 years. Although Reg hated flying, he accompanied Una on many trips overseas – travel was one of many passions. After he died in 2004 Una continued to travel in Australia.

Una was a long-time member of our Society and in recent years was accompanied to meeting by her daughter Roslyn. A copy of the eulogy given by Roslyn at the Memorial Service is now in our archives for anyone interested in reading about this special lady's busy and varied life.

*Christmas shopping?? Books make great presents.*



The souvenir edition of this year's IGT.  
The story of Ivor G Thomas and the  
achievements of the Campbelltown and Airds  
Historical Society  
Available Now!!



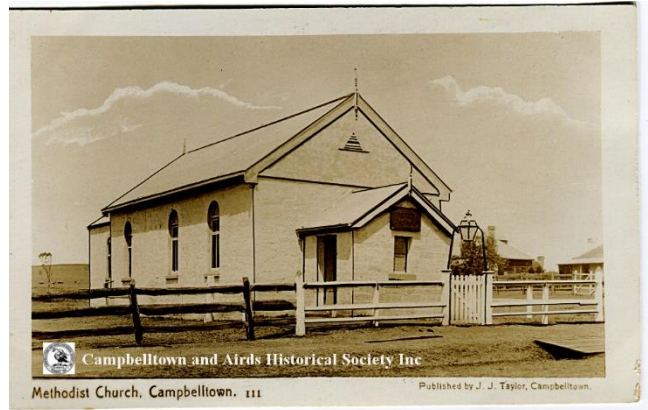
To be launched on 9<sup>th</sup> December, a  
beautiful book showing Historic  
Campbelltown using many photos from  
the Society's valuable collection. Text  
written by Jeff McGill

---

## *The Wesleyan Chapel*

Since 1846 the Campbelltown Wesleyan Chapel has stood at what was the corner of Oxley and Allman Streets. The streetscape has changed dramatically in the meantime, but it is still there nestled amongst the modern buildings and facing a 6 lane bypass.

Reverend John McKenny reported the commencement of the construction of a small church measuring eighteen by thirty feet. The land was a grant and the 100 pounds for the estimated cost had already been subscribed. Built with a hip type roof and square foundation it was used by local Wesleyans until the 1860s when it was noted, a 'serious decrease in the Wesleyan population of the town caused a curtailment and later a discontinuation of the services'.



The 1885, some twenty years later the doors again opened and in 1888 when the Court House was being rebuilt, some of that stone was used to build a vestibule at the front of the church. A service with choral and orchestral music was held in 1900 to celebrate further building works and a new roof.

Now 117 years later the Chapel has undergone further work including replacing the cloth-wrapped electrical wires with compliant wiring, restoration on the walls and the beautiful timber floor in the nave have been buffed and recoated. Still it has the simple interior in the Wesleyan and Methodist tradition.

An honour board inside remembers Lt.'Gus' Longhurst killed in 1945 in Bouganville and Flight Lt Stones, killed over Europe. Also to be seen is a marble memorial tablet to Mark and Lilla Longhurst, who you would have read about in our recent edition of Grist Mills.

## *Return of the travelling font*

Stella Vernon was on a quest, not long before she passed away, to have to original St Peter's Baptismal font restored. At the time she gathered together the story of the font and it is one of those times you can't help thinking 'If only it could talk!'

For those of you who have not heard the story, it is recounted here; too good to be overlooked.

The font was installed in St Peter's not long after its completion in 1823. By 1875 a new, more ornate font took its place and the travelling font made the first leg of its journey out to Glen Alpine where the Reddall sisters, daughters of the first incumbent, resided. Here it stayed until 1900 when the last of the Reddalls passed away. The font was then bought by the Sedgwick family and taken to Smeaton, to be used as a bird bath.

Half a decade later, while visiting Smeaton, Dr Thomas recognized it and bought it, moving it into his garage where it was stored for some years. The Society had no building to be used as a museum at that time. On Dr Thomas' death in 1960 it travelled to his widow's home in Lindesay Street. When she moved from the district, it was given to the Rev Geoffrey Chandler for safe keeping in the old Rectory garage.







Soon that space was needed by the youth group so it was taken back to the Historical Society, where it lived in their newly acquired Stables museum.

When the Society had to move into Richmond Villa it became a problem. It was just when the church was establishing its office in the new administration building and Rev. Peter Stavert was happy for it to be moved into the entrance way. Here, as a flower vase, it made quite a talking point.

More recently, Senior Minister Rev. Nigel Fortescue was refurbishing the entrance and our traveler was moved outdoors once more, into the Church office garden. Here it lived in the ivy until the Society recently negotiated with the church to have it moved back to the grounds of Glenalvon. Here an acknowledgement to Kevin Rixon and Tom Reeve is called for. Moving such a heavy object did create some lively discussion.

With such a varied and long life it was showing its age and a face lift was in order.

We are indebted to James Gardner, a professional stonemason and friend to the society for giving his time and expertise to repair, what was two separate parts, created with different sandstone, securing them into a safe complete whole.

We are also indebted to Kevin Rixon for giving several hours of 'hard labour' to cleaning, undercoating and painting the font.

It is now in the porch of the Servant's Quarters, and while many dints and knocks around its rim testify to its long and colourful history, its new coat of paint will protect it and give it a new lease of life...for many more adventures, no doubt!



---

**We acknowledge the assistance of the office of  
Dr Mike Freeland MP for the printing of this newsletter.**

*1947-2017 - Celebrating 70 years*

---