

THE KERNEL



Newsletter of Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

November 2011

From The President and Curator:

As you can see I still enjoy the privilege of being your President. I am pleased to report that this year has been a very busy one with 1,527 visitors through Glenalvon in the 12 months ending 30 October 2011, an increase of over 300 on the previous year. Our wonderful volunteers have worked very hard to make sure that everyone has enjoyed Glenalvon Historic House and Museum, learnt more about Campbelltown's rich heritage, and seen the house and garden at their graceful best. Groups from all over Sydney have visited Glenalvon during the year, many being surprised at the wealth of historic sites in the greater Campbelltown area. It is also especially rewarding to show one of Campbelltown's treasures to members of our local community.

Ken and I represented the Society at the renaming of the Ingleburn Library and Community Centre to the Greg Percival Library and Community Centre on Thursday 24th November. This was an emotional ceremony for the Percival family, friends and representatives of the Campbelltown and Ingleburn communities. Greg was a wonderful and tireless supporter of so many community groups as well as a seasoned and respected statesman. He was also a Patron of CAHS, and I am very pleased to announce that his widow, Diana, has graciously consented to take his place in that role.

During the year we lost another local identity who was directly connected to Glenalvon, Samuel William (Bill) Bursill, just two days before his 96th birthday. Many Bursill and King family members attended his funeral service at St David's Church and his wake at Glenalvon.

Our new position of Volunteer Co-ordinator has been filled by Sue Kijurina who is very organized and has already approached other members to join our band of loyal volunteers. Sue and Kay Hayes are also working on the research archives, learning a great deal and enjoying themselves. We have received many research enquiries and Marie Holmes, and Kay, with assistance from Sue, Clarice Stretch and I, have been handling them efficiently. June Vercoe and Neville have catalogued the map collection and are up to date with the photos.

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

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Some new items have been added to the Museum displays – an early Dental X-ray machine donated by Dr Peter Benson, an Edwardian tea trolley and butlers tray, Royal Albert china, and a silver plate sugar caster to complete the trolley display in the upstairs Sitting Room. Two large and 2 small coal scuttles for the house, bought by the Society and Ken and I respectively, complemented by washed lump coal courtesy of Peter Vale. The Society has also purchased a crumb tray and brush for the Dining Room. Our displays are always well received and the more we work on them the better the reception.

You will have noticed features on Glenalvon in the media lately – Sydney Magazine in the Herald, and the Macarthur Advertiser this week. Glenalvon has also been photographed for the upcoming In Macarthur magazine and on the 3rd December more photos for the Southern Highlands News. Publicity triggers enquiries, new visitors and raises public awareness.

I would like to say a special thank you to all our volunteers and especially the Executive Committee who have worked with such dedication to keep the Society and Glenalvon running so effectively.

If you have not visited Glenalvon recently please try to come soon – we would love to see you.

Jackie Green. President & Curator

Open Days and Meeting Programme:

The Museum is open to visitors on 1st Tuesday, 2nd Saturday, 3rd Wednesday of each month, February to Mid December, 10.00am-1.00pm; other times by appointment.

Visitors welcome at all general meetings, held on 4th Saturday of each month commencing at 1.30pm.

Saturday, December 10th 2011 - 10am - 12.30 pm

Last open day for the year. Tours of the house, the original cottage, the Rural Exhibition Centre and the grounds and garden.

To celebrate the beginning of 100 years since Douglas Mawson's voyage to the Antarctic, The Society will run a series of photos on the Imac in the cottage from 10.00 am. The photos relate to the 1961/62 season voyage and resupply of the Wilkes Station, and have

been made available to us by Mr. Bob Jones. Captions have been added by the Mawson Antarctic Committee, which launched its own celebrations on December 2nd in Hobart. Douglas Mawson was the brother of William Mawson, the local doctor after whom Mawson Park is named, and who visited Campbelltown soon after his return from the expedition in 1912.

12 Noon. Members Christmas lunch and trivia - Bring a plate of food to share.

December 2011, January 2012 - In recess

Saturday, February 11th, 2012: Open morning 10 am - 1.00 pm. 10.45am - Launch of Grist Mills. 'The History of Leumeah Estate' by Stella Vernon.

Saturday, February 25th, 2012: Meeting 1.30 pm - Speaker - Member Learna Coupe- 'Gallipoli '

Saturday, March 24th, 2012 - Meeting 1.30 pm - Speaker - Jeff McGill

Saturday, April 28th, 2012 Meeting 1.30 pm - Speaker - TBA

Saturday, May 26th, 2012 Meeting 1.30 pm - Speaker - TBA

Saturday, June 23rd, 2012: Meeting 1.30 pm - Speaker - Andrew Allen – Local Studies Resources at Campbelltown Library

Memorandum of Understanding.

The current temporary Memorandum of Understanding between Campbelltown City Council and the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society for use of Glenalvon expires in April 2012, and we are currently in discussions and negotiations to formalize a new one. Three meetings with Council representatives, a Glenalvon Management Sub-Committee meeting, and a visit from the Heritage Architect, when we took him on a comprehensive tour to show how we interpret to the public the house and its use during the last 170 years, have already taken place in the past month, and another two meetings are scheduled this year. The final Memorandum of Understanding is due to go through Council at their March meeting, so we hope for a positive outcome by then.

Please come and visit your Museum to see what is new.

Jackie Green, Curator

Research

For research enquiries please contact Marie Holmes.
marielholmes@iprimus.com.au

Extra News Item.

Do you have a family member who is sight impaired? Would you like some of our Grist Mills prepared as 'Talking Books'. A friend Mr. Ted Baker, who is expert in this work has offered to do this for us. Please let us know if you are interested in the current Grist Mills, or some of our older volumes. There will be a small cost to cover discs and postage if needed.

Volunteers are still needed. We currently need some additional Glenalvon tour guides. Give Jackie or Jenny (0417 556 756) a ring to find the most suitable time to come. Tour guides are given plenty of training, and do not have to take up the duty alone until they feel ready.

GRIST MILLS Do you have a particular topic you would like to see researched for our Journal 'Grist Mills'. The issue you will find in the mail-out with this Kernel is an article on dentist Peter Benson originally researched by Wayne Williams and added to by information in our files on dentist Norman Gilbert. The February issue is advertised above and the July issue will commence with an article on 'The Vulcan Fireworks Factory' written by Jackie Green, with other material added.

Envisaged for the future are articles on Dr. William Morris and his son Jock, and also on 'the Soldiers Memorial School of Arts'. If you have material or ideas you would like considered, please submit them to our editorial team, Stella Vernon and Marie Holmes, so they can be fitted in to our programme.

Our next coach trip

The next bus trip will be to Joadja, in Mid March 2012. More details will be available during December. Please contact Jackie Green or Learna Coupe.

New Website

Please visit the updated website at www.cahs.com.au. Note our garden section.

John White

If you would like to learn more about how the Society and/or Museum works, please join us at Glenalvon on one of our usual Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday administration mornings.

Contact Jackie on Mob 0402 008 970 or Jenny on 0417 556 756.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email please send your email address to David Beddie at newsletter@cahs.com.au