

THE KERNEL



Newsletter of Campbelltown and Airds
Historical Society Inc

July 2008

From The President:

Reflecting on the past year, as we approach the Annual General Meeting, I think of the social aspect of being involved with our Society - plenty of fun and enjoyable morning teas at working bees, Val West's home made cakes, meeting guests and members of groups who present visiting displays, outings, and afternoon teas at general meetings. I think also of the quiet achievers, whose work makes our Society strong, and the reward that comes in seeing the results of their endeavours.

Glenalvon Museum:

Glenalvon Gardens:

Despite the lack of rain plants are flourishing. Camellias are in full bloom, and camellia flowers were used as table decorations for Ingleburn Baptist Church group who visited the museum recently. Winter maintenance by our dedicated gardeners included rose pruning.

New collection items:

We are obtaining a collection of documents, photos and artifacts relating to Hubert Peter Lazzarini, MP, which are of national significance.

Our thanks to Paul and Mary O'Laughlin for the donation of a Pianola, also to Tom Reeve for the loan of two chairs.

Exhibitions and events:

We had good attendance and interest at the opening of the Nursery and Childhood exhibition, which ran through April and May.

The childhood exhibition has now made way for the exhibition of bottles, opened on 12th July by Brian Willott and Jackie Green. Brian spent many hours researching items in this collection and making labels. A series of our heritage photos depicts the origin and use of bottles. Verlie Fowler told those present at the opening of how her father, Mervyn Whitten, found many of these bottles at Hollylea.

Bottle collection:

The CAHS bottle collection ranges from tiny glass perfume bottles through a rather insanitary baby feeding bottle and beer and champagne bottles to a large glazed earthenware bed warmer, from mouth blown to machine made, from as close to home as Hayes and Howell Cordials in Campbelltown to a Chinese Ginger wine bottle reputedly used to carry

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

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opium on the gold fields. Our bottles were used in homes, shops, hotels and were made in a wide range of colours and shapes. Learn about the mysteries of glass making and blowing, the early hotels and industries, and the many uses for bottles.

Meeting Dates and Open Days:

The Museum is open regularly on 1st Tuesday, 2nd Saturday, 3rd Wednesday of every month except December and January, from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Visitors are welcome.

Sat 9th August: Museum open 10 am – 1 pm. Bottle exhibition

Sat 23rd August: Annual General Meeting – Committee Reports, Election of Office-bearers. Speakers: Bev Harrison and Val West “Glenalvon Gardens”

Sat 30th August: Ivor G Thomas Memorial Lecture – see details in column 3.

Wed 10th September: 10.00am. History Week: “Campbelltown, Convicts and Cattle” talk by Alex Goodsell at Campbelltown Reservoir and Cattle Tank, Hurley Park, morning tea at Glenalvon. \$15.00

Sat 13th September: History Week: Museum Open 10.00am – 1.00pm. Slide show “At the Water’s Edge”

Sat 27th September: General Meeting, 1.30pm. Speaker: John Wrigley – “Rivers of Shame”

Sat 11th October: Displays continue – Bottles and At the Water’s Edge

Sat 1st November: Fisher’s Ghost Festival Parade. Museum Open 10.10am – 3.00pm

Sat 8th November: Fisher’s Ghost Street Fair. Museum open 10.00am – 3.00 pm.

Sat 22nd November: General Meeting 1.30pm. Book Launch - “St Helen’s Park”. Members’ “Show and Tell”.

Sat 13th December: Museum open 10.00am – 12 noon. Members’ Social and Trivia Quiz 12.30. Bring a plate.

Help wanted: On Fisher's Ghost Parade Day and Fisher's Ghost Street Fair day the museum will be open all day. We will also have a street stall on the 8th. Please spare a couple of hours to help run the museum and street stall.

Ivor G Thomas Memorial Lecture: 30th August, the date for this event, is fast approaching. The venue is again St Peter's Parish Centre, and afternoon tea will be catered by St Peter's Women's Guild. The theme this year is St Helen's Park, a presentation by the Brookes family. This will be a fascinating tale. Please book early, as we need to advise numbers for afternoon tea. Cost \$8.50 per head.

Scouts: Sunday 31st August – 1st Campbelltown Scouts over 50's reunion.

Heritage Items:

Kendall's Millhouse: Members of Campbelltown community continue to contact us about the problem of Kendall's Millhouse, also known as Milby Hospital and Fisher's Ghost Restaurant. The only thing that may save this building is people power.

The Manse, Lithgow Street: The Manse will become a venue for aged day care, with the upstairs rooms being used as offices.

Mawson Park: Stage two of Mawson Park upgrade is under way. The Rotary Arch opposite Railway Street has received attention, and the park entrance widened. Lighting in the park will be improved.

Campbelltown Rotary Club: A dinner will be held on 23rd August 2008 to celebrate 50 years of Campbelltown Rotary Club. The Rotary Club will present plaques to Council, to be placed on the Rotary Arch in Mawson Park.

DGR Status.

We have received Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from the tax department. This will enable donors, to the Museum, to obtain a tax deduction for donations of \$2 or more. If you have any questions, please discuss with David Beddie. treasurer@cahs.com.au

Outings: A successful bus trip to Rouse Hill House and the Hills District Historical Society's Museum at Castle Hill on 31st May was enjoyed by 22 members and friends.

Apologies to those who missed out on this event. Organisation of a bus tour is complex, and on this occasion those who were first to pay received tickets. Learna Coupe is planning three bus tours for next year. More details will be provided in the next issue of 'The Kernel'.

Queen Street Walk: The Queen Street walk that Jenny and Jackie led for at least 25 Power Talk International ladies, mainly from interstate, was very well received.

The Queen Street walk will be added to the Society's range of activities to generate funds and interest in our historical area. It has been some years since we undertook walks. If you are interested in leading walks, please talk to Jackie or Jenny.

Launch of Grist Mills: The current issue of 'Grist Mills' was launched by Councillor Meg Oates at Glenalvon on 12th July. Written by Verlie Fowler, and edited by Marie Holmes, this captivating edition details the life of the Whitten family, including their time at Hollylea.

Research: Our Society receives regular research enquiries on a variety of topics, many of them relating to family histories. Our Honorary Research Officer, Marie Holmes, spends many hours diligently investigating and providing detailed answers to enquiries.

This major function of our Society happens mainly behind the scenes. Marie also undertakes volunteer work at Campbelltown Library on behalf of Campbelltown District Family History Society. Many people benefit from her knowledge and effort.

Obituary: Our condolences to the family of Olive McBarron, who passed away recently. The widow of Ed McBarron, former Life Member of our Society, Olive was also a member of St Peter's Church community.

Members' News:

Beryl Godley travelled to Canberra recently to receive an award for twenty years work with "Tax Help". This is a voluntary organisation run by the Australian Tax Office, and volunteers have to undertake training each year to make sure they are up-to-date with tax changes. Stella Vernon was surprised and overcome recently to receive a Paul Harris Fellowship from Macarthur Sunrise Rotary Club for community work. This included her work in research and writing for the Historical Society and St Peter's Church.

Verlie Fowler was presented with a prestigious Campbelltown City Council Community Service Award. Cr Meg Oates officiated on behalf of the Mayor, Cr Aaron Rule.

Congratulations to Beryl, Stella and Verlie.

Jackie Green and Brian Willott appeared on a recent episode of "Ready Steady Cook" on channel 10, and proved themselves to be polished performers.

Roger Goodfellow recently celebrated a milestone birthday.

This is your Newsletter. If you have an item or anecdote you wish to contribute to this Newsletter or if there is a Historical item you would like us to explore for Grist Mills, or a comment to make please advise the President or Secretary.