

THE KERNEL



Newsletter of
Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society
September 2006

From The President:

My thanks to David Milton, who has stepped down from the Committee after a long stint as Treasurer, for a job well done. Thanks also to Stella Vernon and Verlie Fowler have stepped down from the Executive, and all committee members and others who have, during the past twelve months, ensured the smooth running of the Society and the Museum. Congratulations to new Secretary Greg Simoni and Treasurer David Beddie.

Foremost in the next few months will be the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding between our Society and Campbelltown City Council for the use of Glenalvon. Negotiations have begun, and we hope for an early completion of the process.

Jenny Goodfellow

Ivor G Thomas Lecture:

Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sat 23rd September, 12.30.
Tickets must be booked and paid for at Campbelltown Arts Centre, phone 4645 4100, by 15th September, for catering purposes. If you have not already made your booking, please ensure that you do so as soon as possible.

A reminder that our monthly meeting will not be held at Glenalvon this month, due to the lecture falling on our regular meeting date.

Glenalvon Stables Museum will be open on Sunday 24th September, 11am – 1pm.

Committee Members:

President: Jenny Goodfellow
Vice President: Trevor Rhodes
Secretary: Greg Simoni
Treasurer: David Beddie
Minutes: Wayne Williams
Committee: Verlie Fowler
Beryl Godley
Alex Goodsell
Marie Holmes
Stella Vernon

Glenalvon Stables Museum:

We have received a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from Council for the use of Glenalvon, and negotiations are continuing.

A tour group from Liverpool U3A recently visited Glenalvon and the museum. Other tour groups, guided by Verlie Fowler, have visited Glenalvon. Verlie donates all her tour guide fees to the Society, for which we are very grateful.

Welcome to new museum volunteers. A training session will be held very soon.

Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society Inc.

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Meeting Dates and Open Days:

September 16 - 17 Sat/Sun:

Camden Park House Open Weekend.

September 17 Sun:

7 pm. Ecumenical Service celebrating the use of St Peter's Anglican Church by Father Therry in 1822.

September 22 Fri:

Celebrate 130 years of public education in Campbelltown at Campbelltown Primary School in Lithgow Street, Campbelltown. Morning tea provided by the P & C from 10 am. The Library and classrooms will be open. See the collection of class photographs gathered by Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society. If you plan to attend this event, please phone Stella Vernon on (02) 4625 1394.

September 23 Sat:

12.30 pm for 1.00 pm Ivor G. Thomas Lecture will be held at Campbelltown Arts Centre. Guest speakers will include RTO (Bob) Jones, son of Dr K. O. Jones.

October 7 Sat:

9.30 am - 1 pm. Glenalvon House and Glenalvon Stables Museum open.

October 14 & 15:

Royal Australian Historical Society Conference at Hornsby RSL.

October 28 Sat:

Meeting - 1:30pm at Glenalvon Stables Museum.
Lindsay Reynolds will be speaking on "Wind and Fire".

November 4 Sat:

9.30 a.m. - 4 pm. Glenalvon House and Glenalvon Stables Museum open day. Launch of journal regarding Campbelltown photographer P. C. Marlow, with funding from the Ministry of the Arts.

November 25 Sat:

Meeting - 1:30pm at Glenalvon Stables Museum. Members will each be invited to speak for 3 minutes about their first position of paid employment, whether full-time or part-time. Participants are invited to bring any photos they might have pertaining to that job or place of employment.

December 2 Sat:

9.30 am - 1 pm. Glenalvon House and Glenalvon Stables Museum Open Day.

December 10 Sun:

Christmas Social. 1 pm at Glenalvon. Please bring a plate.

Elizabeth Campbell Macquarie Unveiling

Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society members were excited when, in May 2001, we had a very special guest speaker, a renowned sculptor who spent his early life in Minto.

Tom Bass spoke of those early days in this area, his decision to become a sculptor, and his association with the Society's founding President, Dr Ivor G Thomas.

They shared an interest in Governor Lachlan Macquarie and in his wife, Elizabeth Campbell Macquarie, a nurturing person who often accompanied the Governor on his travels. On these journeys through the Colony, Elizabeth gave encouragement to the wives of settlers.

Tom enlightened us on his vision of a sculpture of Elizabeth. He explained the process of manufacture, involving the use of Minto clay in the first stage, and left with the Society a maquette of the proposed sculpture.

Delighted with the concept, our Society began fund raising. Friends and members made contributions. When Tom made available a limited edition of maquettes of Elizabeth, a number of people responded.

Campbelltown Council gave their approval for the positioning of the sculpture in Mawson Park, where it is thought that Governor Macquarie stood when, on 1st December, 1820, on a visit to the district of Airs, he proclaimed "Campbell Town", in honour of his wife's maiden name.

In addition to a monetary contribution to the sculpture, Council undertook to complete the setting, and in March this year, after much anticipation, Elizabeth was positioned in her garden.

Special thanks must be conveyed to all the sponsors of Elizabeth, and to members of our Society's committee whose dedication has helped bring the project to fruition.

On Saturday 5th August, on a perfect sunny winter's day, around one hundred people gathered in Mawson Park to witness the unveiling of the sculpture, including The President and executive members of the National Clan Campbell.

Russell Matheson, Mayor of Campbelltown, gave a welcoming address, and spoke of the proclamation of Campbell Town, Council's role in the project and the upgrade of Mawson Park.

Jenny Goodfellow spoke on behalf of our Society.

Tom Bass delivered a heartfelt talk on his early life in Minto and his desire to honour Elizabeth Campbell Macquarie, whom he considers a "totemic" figure, an inspiration both to Campbelltown's pioneers and for the future.

He recounted the tale of Mrs Macquarie's gifts of irises to settlers, and recalled seeing descendents of those irises on Campbelltown Road during the 20th century.

At the moment of unveiling, St Peter's church bells rang out, to the delight of all those present.

Memberships: Welcome to new member Val West.

Local Government Week:

Glenalvon was the venue for Campbelltown Council's Local Government Week display on 5th August. Activities included a jumping castle and face painting, and a sausage sizzle by the Lions Club.

Trevor Richardson showed a video of the ship "James Craig" in the Museum.

The Cemetery Rose:

A "ceremonial planting" of the Cemetery Rose was held in Glenalvon Garden on 23rd August. The Cemetery Rose was grown from a cutting from a grave in the Congregational Cemetery.

The Parsonage, St Peter's Church:

Members from our Society and Campbelltown Family History Society recently enjoyed a tour of The Parsonage, now used for music classes by St Peter's Primary School. The Rector of St. Peter's Anglican Church the Revd Canon Peter Stavert greeted those present. Stella Vernon detailed the history of the building. School Principal Stephen Blomfeld explained the restoration process, and the archaeological find of a number of old bottles.

Obituary - Colin Braithwaite:

Friends from the Campbelltown Scout movement and Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society are mourning the sudden death on 1st July at his home at the Gap, Queensland of member Colin Braithwaite.

Col as he was known, was born in Campbelltown in 1926 soon after his parents moved into a poultry farm on the Settlement in Waminda Avenue, Campbelltown. Colin attended primary school in Campbelltown and spent weekends and holidays exploring Campbelltown bushland with scouting friends.

Col travelled extensively overseas in his early twenties, and on return settled in Queensland with his wife Pat. He shared his early memories of Campbelltown by writing several small articles for the Society's Journal Grist Mills and in 1998 wrote a full-length booklet entitled A Soldier Settlement Poultry Farm at Campbelltown, which was published by the Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society. Col also left with the Society various articles for the Museum.

Col is survived by his wife Pat and family and his sister Nita Buchanan, from Canberra

Col Braithwaite's article "Sounds heard in Campbelltown in the early 1930s and not heard today" was published in the society's journal in 1996 and can be read in "From the Journal" on our website.

Barbeque:

Members of Campbelltown and District Family History Society will join with members of our Society for a barbeque, to be held on Saturday 21st October, commencing at 10.30 am at Glenalvon.

For enquiries or comments please contact
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