



# The Kernel

## Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

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

*Newsletter*

*November, 2023*

### *President's Report*

*by Stephen Coppins*



Welcome to the latest issue of *The Kernel*.

A lot has happened since our last issue in June. At the AGM held in August, a new President, Vice President and committee have been elected for 2023-24. I would like to thank our outgoing President, and current Vice President, Kay Hayes, for her continued work, and would like to thank the incoming committee.

I would like to congratulate both Clarice Stretch and Kay Hayes, for receiving Life Membership of the Society. These are both well deserved recognitions of their work for the society, and I would like to thank them both again for the work they have done for our Society over many years, and their continued service on the committee and as volunteers.

While there has been changes to some of the committee positions, there have also been some recent changes made to the Society's website and e-mails. More details about this can be found later in this newsletter.

On 20-22 October, our Treasurer Anne Ross, member Margaret Francis and myself, attended the 2023 RAHS Conference in Wagga Wagga. Margaret has very kindly provided a report on the Wagga conference for this issue.

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

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I am also very pleased to confirm that Campbelltown has been asked to host the 2024 RAHS Conference, scheduled for October next year. The committee and I look forward to working with the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee, to prepare for next year. I would also like to thank the RAHS committee members, as well as Geoff Burch, President of the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society, not only for putting together a very informative and interesting conference, but for their advice and insights on what is required from our Society.

Congratulations also to Wayne Williams and the Editorial Sub-committee, for the successful launch of the latest issue of *Grist Mills*, titled, "Flashing Pedals. Stories of Three Campbelltown Cycling Clubs 1900 – 1982." If you have not received your copy yet, it should be in the mail. Non-members are able to order a copy for \$8.00 each, by e-mailing [secretary@cahs.org.au](mailto:secretary@cahs.org.au), or through our new webstore - <https://www.cahs.org.au/product/flashing-pedals/>

I would like to remind members that our Christmas Party will be held at Glenalvon arriving from 12.00 noon for 12.30, Saturday 2 December, at Glenalvon. If you are able to attend, please e-mail Kay at [vicepresident@cahs.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@cahs.org.au), for catering numbers?

I would also like to thank all of our volunteers who come in to help with the various tasks, whether that is helping with the regular open days, special tour groups, sorting and cataloguing collection items, or helping with the gardening or general cleaning. Our Society couldn't operate without you!



As this will be the last issue of *The Kernel* for 2023, I would like to wish everyone a *Very Merry Christmas, or whichever festive holiday you may celebrate. I hope you and your loved ones have a safe, happy, healthy, interesting and fun 2024!*





Banner of the new Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, Inc. website.

The Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, have recently changed website providers. This has resulted in an updated website, which you can now access at - <https://www.cahs.org.au/>.

Thank you to David Beddie, Kay Hayes, John White, and Dennis Allsopp (Web Master for the Campbelltown District Family History Society), for their advice and work on getting the updated website up and running.

We are aware that there are still a few teething problems to work out (technology is great when it works), but If you have any feedback or ideas for additional content for the website, please contact Web Manager David Beddie, or President Stephen Coppins?

#### New e-mail addresses:

The change in website host, has also resulted in a change of e-mail addresses for the Society, from the old .com.au domain, to the new .org.au domain.

The public e-mail addresses for the CAHS are now:

- Stephen Coppins, President – [president@cahs.org.au](mailto:president@cahs.org.au)
- Kay Hayes, Vice President (and Volunteer Co-ordinator) – [vicepresident@cahs.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@cahs.org.au)
- Christine Hayes, Secretary – [secretary@cahs.org.au](mailto:secretary@cahs.org.au)
- Anne Ross, Treasurer – [treasurer@cahs.org.au](mailto:treasurer@cahs.org.au)
- David Beddie (as Web Manager) – [webmanager@cahs.org.au](mailto:webmanager@cahs.org.au); for general correspondence for David, please use - [newsletter@cahs.org.au](mailto:newsletter@cahs.org.au)

We are still able to receive e-mails from the previous addresses, for the time being. However, if you could please update your e-mail address books that would be very much appreciated?

We are aware some messages from our new e-mail addresses are going to some people's spam or junk folders. We apologise for any inconvenience, during this transitional period.

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## *A feast for history lovers*

Margaret Francis née Vernon

The four of us, the children of Stella Vernon, were all drawn into her love of history. I sometimes come across one of the 'History' magazines to which she subscribed through RAHS... and I usually decide to keep it for a while because ... 'it's still interesting and relevant...' So, I was quite excited to discover, a few months ago, that the first 'physical' RAHS conference since lockdowns, was to be held in Wagga Wagga, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023, round the corner from our house! I qualified as a member of two 'affiliated societies' - CAHS and the Wagga Wagga and District Family History Society, so I booked early, looked forward to it for months – and was not disappointed.

The weekend began with a Friday evening gathering in the Museum of the Riverina: (Historic Council Chambers site). There was a welcome to country and a warm welcome by the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society. No-one could miss the large painting of the 'Tichborne Trial' that takes up one wall. In my mind this is Wagga's famous old story to match Campbelltown's Fred Fisher.

Next morning, people gathered at the conference venue, (Wagga Wagga RSL Club). The welcome to Country was from Aunty Mary Atkinson. The theme for the 2023 conference was *The Way Ahead: Local and Community Histories for our Future*, and the tone for the next two days was firmly set with the keynote address and its main message ... 'digitisation, collaboration, reconciliation'.

For the speaker sessions on the late mornings and early afternoons of both Saturday and Sunday, we heard interesting Riverina stories as well as a range of advice for all societies on navigating the digital world of preservation (both written and oral) and the continued significance of real documents and artefacts in storage in our archives, libraries and museums.

There was an interesting tour on Saturday afternoon to view the newly renovated Museum of the Riverina: (Botanic Gardens site) to tour the public display area but also to be shown the depth of collections still held in storage for dedicated preservation and occasional viewing.



Sunday morning's business session was very helpful with advice to societies on navigating round the practical running of a society while not losing sight of the shared interest in history itself.

The RAHS committee are very experienced and skilful in running their sessions to time, allowing questions/feedback from the floor and factoring in the breaks and meals where people mix or browse the book stalls. The Saturday evening dinner was run well, with the sense of 'let's all enjoy history'.

I certainly did this. I connected with Stephen and Anne over the weekend and was delighted to hear announced at the very end of Sunday's session that next year Campbelltown will be the hosts! My current home handing the baton to my childhood home!

There's just one little problem ... I had already succumbed to temptation at the sales tables before winning one of the dinner raffles and receiving another bag of goodies ... now I have more of my own stash of wonderful time-wasting books and my own copies of 'History' magazines to add to Stella's collection!

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## October - Book Launch



Our October members meeting also marked the launch of our second *Grist Mills* for the year. Wayne Williams recorded the history of local cycling in the journal titled *Flashing Pedals; the Stories of Three Campbelltown Cycling Clubs 1900 – 1982*.

If you have not yet received your copy it is not far away, and remember that extra copies are always available if you had family or friends involved in the sport.

As is the case so often in the clubs of the time, there is strong town support and the individual names become a who's who, with many distinguished local riders.

Jack Hepher is, of course, one that has long been associated with cycling and gains fair mention in the journal.

We are truly indebted to Wayne for the time and care he takes, with many hours of researching, sifting through local newspapers and talking to people who have been involved.

It was a pleasure to have so many of the specially invited guests able to come to the launch, with Mark Windsor the Chair of Cycling NSW: Heritage Commission coming from Bathurst as a special guest and very energised speaker.

Mark showed many interesting objects; a map traced by cycle riders on penny-farthings in the early 1900s, the evolved footwear, helmets and suits wore by riders over decades as well as other recorded histories.

During afternoon tea there was time to move through the servant's quarters where Wayne had set up a display of photos and objects.

JC



Wayne Williams with special guests Bruce White, Harry Peters (sitting), Tony Norton and Bill Peters

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## *Some exciting new acquisitions*

From time to time we get the offer of photos and objects that add to our collection and usually cause a stir of interest amongst the volunteers: anything new to us that we can gather is a bonus. Rarely do we get a multitude of different objects and photos at the same time, however these can build a wonderful story.

A little while ago a lady walked in with just that...a folder full of what we regard as treasures. She had been given it by a family member at a funeral and decided there was a better home for these things - she had never really followed her family history.

The family attached to this is the Down family. Percy worked at Campbelltown Railway Station his entire working life. He married Janet, who moved from Parramatta to set up their home in Warby Street. In old age they stayed in the area, living in Bradbury. JC

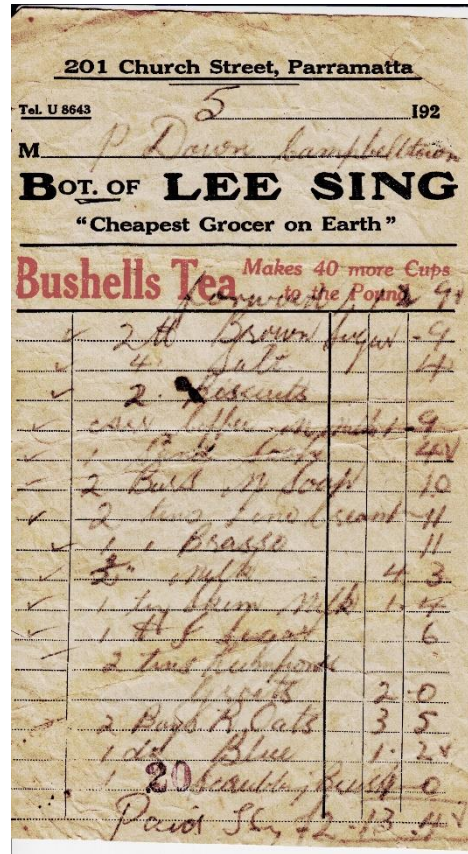
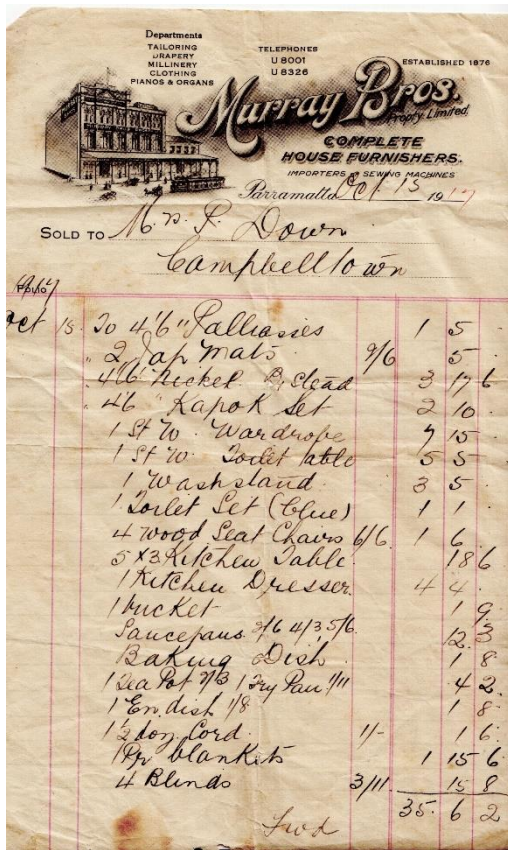


*Campbelltown Railway Station in 1917 with Percy Down standing in the back row at the far right.*



*Campbelltown  
Railway Station*

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Setting up home in Warby Street in 1917, everything from kitchen dressers to a bucket. In the 1920s, supplies 2lb brown sugar 4d, Brasso for 11d from the 'Cheapest Grocers on Earth'



Percy and Janet in later years outside their Warby Street home with one of their grandchildren.

## *Dates to remember*

### *Last Members Meeting for the year*

Saturday, 25 November at 1.30pm

Guest Speaker Marjo Hallowell from Picton and District Historical and Family History Society  
author of *Bargo: Two Hundred Years in the Making*

2024 Members meeting resume February

### *Check out*

Fisher's Ghost Festival November 3-12

Along with Fisher's Ghost Art Award until December 8<sup>th</sup>

### *Members Christmas Lunch*

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Glenalvon Historic House

12 noon for 12.30pm start

\$10 each

RSVP with payment by November 24<sup>th</sup>

