



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

March 2019

The launch of 'Scouting in the Campbelltown Area: 1921-1970'

by Wayne Williams, on Saturday 16th March

Volunteers stood on the verandah of Glenalvon watching rain pouring down, onto the verandahs of the House and Servant's Quarters and between the two gazebos set ready for the event. Within the hour the storm bursts had stopped and around fifty guests and many volunteers sat and listened as the newest Grist Mills was launched. Wayne Williams has done a fantastic job of researching the first fifty years of Scouting in the Campbelltown Area from its start in 1921 until 1970.

It tells of the inception of the 1st Campbelltown Scouts from its simple beginning, with 14 year-old Cliff Watson's chance encounter with a group of Scouts from 1st Leichhardt troop heading to the *Woolwash*; becoming a Lone Scout attached to that troop and the growth of Scouting with the help of Mayor Hannaford and the attention of the Parents and Citizens Association in Campbelltown.

The story of Scouting in the area reflects the community of the time with all the names we remember so well; the Hepher family, Jack, Val, Alice and Joyce; the Walker family, the Bursills.... the list goes on.



It was great to see Dr Peter Benson at the launch. Dr Benson, at the age of 12, in 1936 was invested as a Lone Scout attached to 2nd Redfern troop. It was also great to see David Jehan, son of Eric Jehan and Ros, daughter of Jack Hepher.

Ros has given to the Society a three piece Scout-issue pocket knife, Patrol Leader's whistle and army issue Prismatic Compass, all significant items belonging to her father. Also in her possession was a bronze bugle originally won by Cliff Watson at his very first camp in 1921-22, and had for many years hung on the wall of the Scout hall.



Joe Attard, Assistant State Commissioner for Heritage, spoke about the origins of Scouting in England and brought with him a framed letter from none other than Lord Baden-Powell, written after he went to the 1934-35 Australian Jamboree.

Sean Langshaw spoke about the progress of Scouting today. He is the Hume Region's Commissioner for the Scout section. Registrations in our area are improving, leading the state.

We did learn as the launch progressed that Dr Mike Freeland, Federal Member for Macarthur, had been a Scout. In fact he went to two jamborees and was awarded the Queen Scout badge by Sir Denzil Macarthur-Onslow.



Wayne, as well as launching the book, had set up a very good display of uniforms, equipment and photographs in the Servants Quarters. It must also be mentioned that amongst the items, as well as a good collection belonging to Jack Hephner, there is a considerable number of things belonging to the late Rod McLean, including a shirt with many rare Scouting badges.

Visitors had the chance to look through this display as well as enjoying morning tea.

Thank you to Wayne for such extensive work. (We hear there is to be a Girl Guides edition in a future Grist Mills.) Also a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up chairs, tables, gazebos and urns; who helped prepare the food and clean up later.

It was a very successful morning!

J.Crowley 3/19



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Vice - President's Report



Since the end of last year Kay has needed, for family reasons, to have time at home, so I have stepped into the President role as this year starts. She wishes to thank all those who have sent her and Philip well wishes.

I would like to thank our extremely busy volunteers who have hosted three tour groups and the launch of the Grist Mills as well as the regular open mornings.

Many of you will not be aware of the amount of work involved in these activities. Many hours go into each of these events and the personal time volunteers donate here is worth more than money; it is priceless. The gardens are looking especially cared for at the moment with extra time being put in by a few of our gardeners. One of our newest gardeners, Steven Goodchild has been making extra contributions, recently. There are brick paths and edges that have not been seen for quite a while.

We have had a general invitation for all members, to attend an event in Camden in September. You will need to book for this, so early notice has been given. Sharon Green has organized a talk for Camden Area Family History Society. John Cann from NSW State Records is to present an hour-long talk on bushrangers in NSW. He will also discuss what records are held about bushrangers by the NSW State Records.

We have been asked about Eschol Park House. It has been purchased by a wedding venue company who are planning to take some time in renovating it. It will be an up-market venue once this work is done.

I would also like to draw your attention to a Campbelltown Council initiative, *Rebranding Campbelltown*. The Council's website has dates and times of meetings, so you can have your say.



Vale Joyce Ellen Baker

Joyce Baker was born on 28 January, 1931 during the Depression era and lived at Coogee as a child. She married Eric Baker and they moved into 2 Meriel Street, Campbelltown in 1954. Here they raised their two daughters, Janice and Julie and their son David. Her daughters remember her as dressing stylishly, always wearing pearls and high heels.



Eric died suddenly at an early age. Joyce joined many local organisations, including Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, where she was a member for many years. She was a willing volunteer and enjoyed outings run by the Society.

Joyce was a strong member of the church, attending St Peter's Anglican Church in Cordeaux Street.

Late in life she suffered dementia and resided at Kilbride until her death. She passed away on 25 January, 2019 three days before her 88th birthday.

Jessie Newham says 'See you later' not 'Goodbye'

In mid-January Jessie Newham, her daughter Lyn and son-in-law Bob Lagetti moved from the house 'Jesslyn' on Amundsen Street, to settle in Port Macquarie. Before the move, over a cuppa (and some donuts) a few key questions were asked.

What can you say to the Town on leaving, after living here for over eighty years?



I have been in Campbelltown all my life. I was born in the front bedroom of this cottage 87 years ago. Mum couldn't get to the hospital as they had no transport in those days, only horse and cart. There was a lady over the road, Mrs Kisbee, who was a relation of Eve Mitcherson and she nipped over. She was a midwife.

I never really thought I'd leave here, it is a lovely town. It is a lovely place to live.

We have been lucky to have had all this acreage, until I got married and moved to Warby Street. But later of course we had the opportunity to come back up here. We could in the old days see the smoke from the steam trains as they made their way up the western line to Katoomba.

What would be the highlights of living in Campbelltown?

My highlight of town would be the band.

But also working at the council for 17 years. It was great, I loved that work. I started at Ingleburn Council in 1946 and then it amalgamated with Campbelltown in 1948. Harley Daley was Town Clerk and Bob Bloomfield was deputy and they came over to Campbelltown. I loved working there. I was rates clerk. I did all the supplementary lists when St Elmo estates were subdivided and I did the electoral rolls. I got to know a lot of Campbelltown people. Before that I didn't really know many Campbelltown people living up here and we didn't really go very far.

Then I met Stan. He was with the PMG and we bought our place in Warby Street through the Building Society. I have really loved Campbelltown.

How did you meet Stan?

We were both in a photographic club, I always took a lot of photos and he used to develop his own photographs, he had his own darkroom.

Bob Bloomfield, Deputy Town Clerk was in the club as well and they had a weekend at Yellomundee in the Blue Mountains below Springwood. Stan and I started to go out together after that.

My grandfather had a Water Board cottage at Glenlee. That's where my mother and her sisters were born. They walked across Mt Annan to where there was a platform at Kenny Hill and they went to Narellan School.

They were restoring the canal; that's how dad met mum. Mum's father was working on the canal that ran from Mt Sugarloaf to right passed where they were living at Glenlee. Dad got a job there. This was before the Depression. He met mum's father and from there, he met mum; that was how they got together.

One day my grandfather rode right into the canal. There was a brown snake and it chased him, it must have had young ones so he rode straight into the canal. Then he had to go back and rescue his bicycle.

I went to school on the steam train. We used to jump on our bikes and ride down. We would throw the bikes under the waiting room and jump up on the wrong side of the train. Mum never knew about that.

I remember when I was going to school, you'd be standing on Leumeah station waiting for the steam train, and the troop trains would come through. They would practically blow you off the station. There was an old lady, Mrs Payten, who lived at Woodbine, she was so thin we had to hang onto her when the trains went through.

What about the fires out here?

There was one fire; it was the week that mum and dad were married in 1929. It started at Leumeah station from a spark from one of the steam engine and came all the way up here. It got to the top of the hill and the sparks from the high trees burnt holes in the front verandah of the house, that's how close it was. It went right out through Kentlyn and burnt down several houses out there.



Lyn, what would be your highlight, growing up in Campbelltown?

My highlight was the band. I started when I was 7, playing the cornet, then I got braces on my teeth when I was about 12 and had to change to the clarinet. I have actually been in the band for about 48 years. I have had a break for a few years from the senior band. I play with the Daytones as part of the Campbelltown-Camden District Band on Tuesdays. I love my music and of course my dad was

drum major and started the band off with Harold Pollard. He got us into music and I went to the Conservatorium and studied there, went into lots of competitions and played a lot of swing bands. I have enjoyed my music.

And in answer to music and Jessie;

Everybody is musical except me.

We can't leave my son out. He plays the tuba, he started when he was 7 or 8 in the Campbelltown Band and he's still playing. He plays with the NSW Fire Brigade band and also with Yagoona and the Holroyd band; all 'A' grade bands.

We had a great time here!

J.Crowley 3/19





This wonderful photo is new to our collection and captures the time when street photography was a familiar sight in the centre of Sydney, particularly around George Street and Martin Place. However this particular photo was taken locally as a family group alight from a train at *Maryfields*, to walk towards the Franciscan Novitiate.

In the family group is Edna Powell who, four years later, was to marry the gentleman seen escorting her, Angus McBride; to their right is her cousin Claire Hennessy who within the year married the gentleman accompanying her; a Mr James Patrick Dillon. A little further back is Claire's mother, Annie (Powell) Hennessy.

The photo is dated 15 December 1935.

A copy of the photo has been donated to the Society by member and volunteer, Greg Dillon. Greg's parents, his grandmother and his aunty and uncle all lived at Paddington at this time. We would guess that they travelled by tram along Oxford Street to Central Railway then caught a train to Campbelltown. The steam train would be express with stops at Strathfield and Liverpool. Changing to the Camden tram (seen in

the background of the photo) to get to the stop at the Maryfields platform.

In 1967, 32 years later, Greg and his wife, Vivienne purchased land in Campbelltown.

Greg recalls around 1949 when he was 10 or 11 years old his mother took him to *Maryfields* for a Good Friday celebration of the Way of the Cross. He lived at Marrickville so the closest railway station was Dulwich Hill. When his mother asked for tickets to *Maryfields* the reply by the ticket office was that they had never heard of it. Eventually they suggested that they go to Central and ask there. With the crowds making that pilgrimage for Good Friday, there was potentially a special train. Either way, buying the tickets at Central proved to be of no concern and the journey was completed.

Many Campbelltown residents would be familiar with how popular a visit to *Maryfields* was as part of a Good Friday Pilgrimage, so this raised the question:

Why was this photo taken in **December** 1935?

We look back to the history of the site.

In 1823 the original grant including the present property of *Maryfields*, was made to Patrick Cullen. Later the Rudd family acquired the land eventually being owned by Sarah Mary Keane, a granddaughter of James Rudd. In 1930 she gave the land by deed to the Franciscan Order.



At that time, the main building on the land was the old farmhouse, the homestead was later altered by local architect Alfred Rose Payten. The grounds were more or less as they are now. The Franciscan Friars moved to *Maryfields* on 7 September 1934.

In 1935 the foundation stone for the Franciscan Novitiate was laid.

From 1936 to 1988, the friars hosted the Stations of the Cross every Good Friday.

The idea of these Stations came from two groups: one a group of Catholic laymen led by Dr Harold Norrie; the other, the Franciscan friars at *Maryfields*, particularly Fr Bernard Nolan OFM.

Dr Norrie had seen outdoor Stations of the Cross in California. On his return to Australia, he wanted to have something similar here. He wanted to create a sense of religious pilgrimage outside the city area of Sydney but near enough to the city to make the Stations accessible to people of limited means.

At the same time, Fr Bernard Nolan OFM was seeking a way to counterbalance the tendency in Australian society, to secularize Holy Week.

The first Way of the Cross was organized for Good Friday, 1936 with fourteen wooden crosses placed along a path through the fields. The first Station was located on one side of the little creek and the second Station across the creek. The Stations were positioned in an ever mounting path to Calvary.

Artists and manufacturers of statuary were consulted about the best material to be used, and designs were chosen. A set of three-dimensional terracotta stations was ordered from France at a total cost of 3,000 pounds. Catholic families contributed to the cost. These donors are recorded on the back of the pedestals.

Good Friday, 1936, saw the beginning of the Stations at *Maryfields*. On Good Friday 1937, His Excellency, Archbishop Panico, addressed a crowd of 20,000 and pronounced the Benediction. Every year, except during World War II, thousands of people travelled by special trains, buses and cars to the site.

In those days, the railway ran from Campbelltown to Camden. At *Maryfields* there was a stop called *Rudds Gate* which was later renamed *Maryfields* when it was lengthened and strengthened to accommodate the crowds. One year, the platform collapsed because of the weight of the crowd.

Each Good Friday until 1988, crowds came regularly to attend the Stations of the Cross. However gradually the numbers dwindled. The convenient train service to *Maryfields* had ended in 1963 with the building of the new Narellan Road and finding sufficient space for the hundreds of cars proved a problem. In 1983, the Franciscan Novitiate moved to Victoria, which meant that the burden of preparing the grounds and cleaning up after the event fell on the few friars who remained. In 1990, after the Stations had been cancelled for the previous two years because of bad weather, the Stations were no longer held on Good Friday.

In 1999, the Stations of the Cross was listed as part of the Heritage of Campbelltown.

Now back to our photo of Greg Dillon's family:

Street photography emerged in depression-era Australia as jobless men picked up a camera and took pictures of unsuspecting pedestrians.

Many of us have in old albums or photo boxes, a snap of our mothers, fathers, grandmothers; walking in the city, dressed in good suits, hats and gloves captured mid-stride by one of the many street photographers. Next they would have been given a card for a nearby kiosk where they would be able to see a proof copy and order their post card sized photo.

These photos now capture the history of Australian fashion; women and children in their finery, men in double-breasted suits or perhaps a serviceman's uniform.

To this end, the Museum of Sydney (Corner Phillip and Bridge Streets, Sydney) has an exhibition of these street photos taken from the 1930s to the late 1950s on display until Sunday 21 July 2019.

And if you do go to see it, watch out for a photo of one of our favourite Society's members on display. (Elsie Evans was one of the successful entrants into this exhibition, see if you can spot her!) J Crowley 3/19

Need a Justice of the Peace? Greg Dillon can help you out! Contact him via email on
greg.dillon38@outlook.com

Dates to Remember

Monday 1st April. Open Day at Glenalvon. 10 am to 1 pm.

Saturday 13th April and 27th April. Open Days at Glenalvon. 10am to 1 pm

Tuesday 18th April – Sunday 19th May Australian Heritage Festival 2019

Saturday 27th April Members Meeting. Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon

Guest speaker To be advised

Afternoon Tea will be provided.

Sunday 5th May Walking tour at Rookwood from 10am.

Present Display Then and Now - How things have changed.

