



# The Kernel

## Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

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

*Newsletter*

*February, 2024*

### *President's Report*

*by Stephen Coppins*

Welcome to the first issue of *The Kernel* for 2024.

During the "quiet months" of the new year, our Society volunteers and committee members have continued to be very busy.

In early January, Glenalvon House was the venue for a Bursill Family Reunion (please see more details on page 3). Thank you to Kay Hayes and all our other volunteers for helping to organise, set up and host this event for the Bursill family.

Thank you to Anne Ross and Julie Crowley, for meeting with representatives of the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee, during their tour of potential conference venues, on 4 January. I am pleased to advise that the RAHS have selected the Campbelltown Catholic Club as the venue for the 2024 RAHS Conference, which will be held on the weekend of 26-27 October. There will definitely be more news about the conference, as we get closer to this date.

Also in January, Campbelltown celebrated the centenary of being connected to electricity (please see pages 3-4, for that story). The Society (especially Kay Hayes and Julie Crowley) assisted the Local Studies Team, by providing some memorabilia, photos and information for their display that was installed at the H. J. Daley Library, to celebrate this important milestone. The display was well received by the public, but unfortunately for anyone who missed it, the display has already been dismantled.

The Society has also been working very hard on our own displays. Thank you to Jenny Goodfellow, Julie Crowley, Sue Kijurina, Clarice Stretch, Chris Hayes and Kevin Rixon, who have done a fantastic job in packing away old displays and replacing them with new ones. More details about these new displays can be found on page 5. Please take time to come in to have a look at our volunteers' hard work, on one of the upcoming open days?

On 20 February, our Society hosted a tour for 30 members of the Combined Leumeah Probus Group. By all accounts the attendees enjoyed their visit, the tour, and of course morning tea. Being a local group, a call for assistance was made, for information about their experiences in the local area. This resulted in a few offers of information, photos or memorabilia to the Society, for our collections and potential Grist Mills. Thank you to those local for their generous donations and offers, and to all our volunteers for providing another successful tour.



Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

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Speaking of volunteers, at our February General Meeting, the Society presented some of our volunteers with Gift of Time certificates. These certificates were provided by Campbelltown City Council, to recognise the work volunteers from a range of community groups and charities across the Campbelltown LGA, provide to the community. Thank you to Marie Holmes, for collecting the certificates on the Society's behalf. At the meeting, **Sue Moore, Gill Blackstone, Michelle Hatfield** and **Greg Dillon** were presented with their certificates. **Julie Crowley** and **Barney Ponsonby** also received Gift of Time certificates, but were not at the meeting to collect theirs on the day. We have many more volunteers who are worthy of our Society's and our community's recognition, and I know they will be recognised on future occasions.

Also at the General Meeting, members elected a new Vice President - **Michelle Hatfield**. Michelle replaces Kay Hayes as Vice President, who stepped down from this role. However, Kay has offered to remain as a volunteer and committee member of the Society, and was also formally elected as a Committee Member. I would like to congratulate both Michelle and Kay on their elections, and thank them for all their work so far and continued commitment to the Society. For those who haven't had a chance to meet our new Michelle yet, a brief introduction to our new VP, can be found on page 8.

Hopefully 2024 will continue be a successful one for the CAHS. It will certainly be a busy one. A list of "Dates to Remember," for March to May 2024 can be found on page 8, for your reference (and possibly fridge door). Look forward to seeing you at one (or more) of them!

Ta!

Stephen

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### *Who do you recognise?*



We have recently come across this photo, marked on the back as the early members of the Apex Club. It was taken at the Golf Club but with no date or names listed. Can you help? If you recognize anyone here, or know when the club was founded, would you please email us at [secretary@cahs.org.au](mailto:secretary@cahs.org.au).

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## *Bursill Family Reunion*

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In early January we were pleased to welcome the Bursill family for a reunion at Glenalvon. Organised by Susan and Graham Bursill who had taken the opportunity of gathering family while their children were home from the US, where they now live.

There was that feeling of warmth, as family members greeted each other, each receiving a name tag and being encouraged to add the newest members of the family to a family tree spread out on a table on the verandah.

Morning tea was served followed by a walk through the house. Much interest was shown in the slideshow running in the upstairs sitting room. The photos were from the CAHS collection and of the Bursill family, many coming from the family photo album owned by Hilda Davidson nee Bursill. Helen Horsfield nee Bursill was particularly pleased to identify photos of herself as a young child in the gardens as well as photos of her parents and grandparents.

Hilda was, of course, the last private owner of Glenalvon. Her parents lived in the house across the First World War, her father Samuel buying the house in 1920. Her mother Mercy, had lifelong tenancy, while the house was bequeathed to Hilda on Samuel's death in 1925. Hilda passed away in 1967. Many Bursills and Kings lived in the house across this time.

With Then and Now photos being popular on social media here are some with that theme in the grounds of Glenalvon.

### *Then*



### *Now*



## *An exciting and timely donation*

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In mid-February Tony Beech, came into Glenalvon with the offer of a donation.

He explained that he had a lamp; a rather large, kerosene lamp, that had once been used near the Old Town Hall....Sorry, no post. Tony had worked for Council replacing the old lamps with new and he knew that the Society would appreciate its' importance and display it for visitors to see.

It appears that it was one of two, the other one having come to grief when hit by a car.

What an opportune time to be offered such an object, having just celebrated the centenary of electricity coming to Campbelltown.

*The lamp has been put into the Ag Shed by Kevin Rixon, who just happened to have a post that suited perfectly.*

The last lamplighter in Campbelltown was Mr Edwin (Ted) Bamford, who, from 1902 until 1924, could be seen each twilight with a small ladder taking out the globes of each streetlamp, cleaning it, filling it with kerosene and returning it well lit. He would repeat this process continuing down Queen Street with lamps at the Town Hall, Allman, Dumaresq, Lithgow and Broughton Streets as well as one near Mawson Park. He often had young helpers along the way, with local lads such as Fred Sears and David Rixon only too happy to follow along.

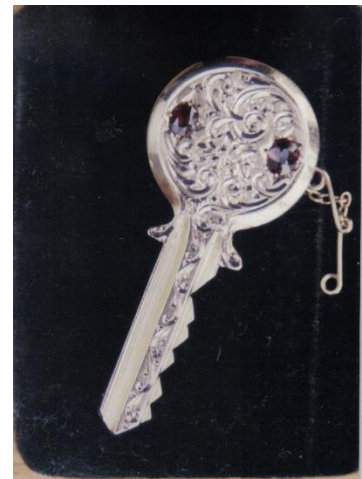
### *Electricity comes to Campbelltown.*

It is hard to believe that it is only 100 years since electricity was turned on in Campbelltown.



On the evening of Wednesday, 23rd January 1924 over 1000 people gathered for the occasion. The Mayoress was greeted with a guard of honour formed by the Campbelltown Boy Scouts at the newly created power station. At 7:30 they cheered as Mrs Hannaford threw the switch and illuminated Campbelltown.

Those invited, made their way along Queen St "festooned" with lights to the Town Hall. A banquet awaited, brilliantly decorated with orange-chrome lights embedded in clusters of gum leaves.



Many speeches were made and the Mayoress was presented with a gold key inset with two garnets.

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*The Power Station on the corner of Cordeaux and Moore Streets, demolished in 1931.*



*Mayor Hannaford in Lodge regalia*

Alderman Hannaford should be remembered for his tenacious fight to bring power to town as not everyone wanted electricity. Many were afraid of this “new-fangled business.”

Mayor Hannaford had been a fervent believer that electricity was the key to Campbelltown’s future prosperity. A referendum was held by the council in 1921 to gauge support for electric lighting. The votes came in with 80 people in favour but 65 against. Not overwhelming support but Charles Hannaford pressed on. The poles needed would be sourced locally (likely Appin), the powerhouse building to protect the diesel engine would be constructed from Weatherboard and fibro and that Messrs. Fairbanks & Morse would start within a week.

Soon after the celebrations on 23rd January, the Resident Engineer of the Power House, Mr Norman Tuck, at a meeting of Campbelltown Municipal Council recommended “the engine be run on Tuesday afternoons, from about 3 o’clock, for the purpose of permitting of persons to use the power for ironing, etc., as he considered that it would be an inducement to consumers to purchase irons and other appliances and so use more current.” The power was connected to the show pavilion where Mr Geoffrey Winton demonstrated many time-saving electrical appliances to hundreds of eager potential customers. The usual hours of operation initially would be 6 pm until midnight

### *Wanted*

We are always on the lookout for stories and photos. If you have some golden oldies in your family album or a memory that would be of interest consider writing to us at [secretary@cahs.org.au](mailto:secretary@cahs.org.au) or drop in on a Monday or Tuesday morning. (There is usually a cuppa on offer about 11am. Soon we will be looking to do a social history of

### **Sherwood Hills/Bradbury**

If you settled there early in its establishment please get in touch

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## *New Displays*

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Jenny Goodfellow and the Curating Sub-Committee have spent some time over the Christmas break, putting together new displays in the Servant's Quarters and Display Room. Three themes have been used;



Bottles from our collection, highlighting the Hayes Cordial factory bottles to support the next Grist Mills, to be launched in April with its feature story on the cordial factory, written by Alison Morris nee Milliken, granddaughter of Reg Hayes.

Items from Campbellfield at Minto, used by Claude Charles Tarlington Murray and his second wife Margaret (Greta) during the 1950s and 60s. These include a tea and coffee set, a silver cake stand and a water jug and glasses.



A large display of items celebrating 40 years of the Koshigaya -Campbelltown Sister City relationship. Mark Annetts who has been so active in working for the Association has travelled to Japan many times as part of the youth delegation, gathering many beautiful objects. He kindly dropped in several crates for us to choose from.

These displays are well worth the visit. If you have not been through Glenalvon recently do come on a Saturday open day or for the Sunday Market.



## *Some Successful Sleuthing*

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In mid-January we found an envelope in the letterbox at Glenalvon containing an old document but with no note or address of the sender, just totally anonymous. This was quite intriguing, the document even more so.

It was headed with the place-name *Morpeth* and dated *April 1879*. The signature on the bottom was that of Stephen Wilkinson.

Knowing that 'Wilkinson' is a prominent name in our town history the first task was to reach out to John and Penny Wilkinson, whose grandparents were Fred and Rita Wilkinson. Neither could find any trace of a Stephen at this time.

As there seemed to be no connection to Campbelltown, the next step was to get in contact with Morpeth, an historical town in its own right near Maitland, however looking closer at the sender of the document, a Robert Thorp Esq, the town of Alnswick was mentioned.

A quick email, after a little Googling brought me to the Morpeth Antiquarian Society in Morpeth, Northumberland and a gentleman by the name of John Bidy. The story of the Society caught my attention. I had explained a little of our Society's history and it seems as though we have kin on the other side of the globe. I will copy a part of the answer I received from John.

*We'd be delighted if you could send us the Wilkinson-Thorp document! The Thorps were a local family which owned land to the north of Morpeth's town centre (where the early Morpeth Olympic Games were held, though that's another story) which was built on for rows of houses in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>C. One of the streets is called Thorp Avenue. Secondly, we were very interested to read the story of your society. Morpeth Antiquarian Society began in 1947 too and we've also built up a considerable collection of artefacts, documents and images. We did have a small museum for a number of years forty-odd years ago in the medieval Chantry, but were ejected when the council changed the building's usage, and we have ended up with everything stored, very expensively, in a building in Pegswood, a distance out of the town. Therefore we're very jealous of your situation! We live in hope of a new museum, but without local authority support, not to mention an ageing Society membership.... Drastic Government cuts here since 2010 make getting grants and the like much harder. Though our monthly lecture programme sees a good regular audience there's a great risk the Society will run out of money because of the high Pegswood rent.*

*As our societies have so much in common we should stay in touch!*

It helps us to feel even more privileged to be able to work out of Glenalvon and, although the story does not embrace Campbelltown, I would like to include an update in the next Kernel, as I know John Bibby is keen to share his findings.

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To keep up to date with all the latest news, make sure you check out the CAHS Facebook Page



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## Calendar of Events

Sat 09 Mar – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House **CANCELLED**

Sun 10 Mar – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets – **Devonshire Teas**  
[2024 Senior's Festival and International Women's Day event]

Sun 17 Mar – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets

Sat 23 Mar – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Sat 23 Mar – 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Guest Speaker:** Andrew Allen, *Colourful Characters of Campbelltown – Part 2*

Fri 29 Mar – **Good Friday Public Holiday**

Sun 31 Mar – **Easter Sunday**

### April

Mon 01 Apr – **Easter Monday Public Holiday** – No volunteering

Sat 13 Apr – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Thur 18 Apr – **Start of 2024 Heritage Festival – Theme: Connections**

Sun 21 Apr – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets – **Devonshire Teas**

Thur 25 Apr – **ANZAC Day Public Holiday**

Sat 27 Apr – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Sat 27 Apr – 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Grist Mills launch**

### May

Sat 4 May – 12.30pm, Campbelltown District Family History Society Meeting, at Glenalvon

Sat 11 May – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Sun 19 May – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets

Sun 19 May – **Last Day of 2024 Heritage Festival – Theme: Connections**

Sat 25 May – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Sat 25 May – 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Guest Speaker:** John Morthen, 'Campbelltown's POW: the WW2 Story of Robert Goodear'



### *Breaking News*

Meet the new Vice-President, elected at the last Member's Meeting on February 24.

**Michelle Hatfield**

*I've lived in Campbelltown for 51 (almost 52) years after my parents moved to Campbelltown in 1967. I went to Campbelltown East Primary School and Campbelltown High School. I left high school at the end of Year 10 in 1987. I've worked in various places over the years, the main one being*

*Fire and Rescue NSW for just over 17 years. I've worked at a few businesses locally since then and am currently looking for work locally. I've been a Society member and volunteer for just over 12 months and I'm a member of the local Family History Society as well for about 12 months. I also enjoy doing craft and researching my family tree in my spare time.*

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