



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

May, 2018

President's Report

by Kay Hayes



The past few months have been busy for the Society and for Campbelltown as you will read in this edition. Although it was back in March, many will remember the launch of Grist Mills, a gathering of friends old and new reminiscing about "Yarns Along the High Street". Visitor numbers to Glenalvon have been very good and we have bookings through the winter months. In particular we welcomed 25 staff from Campbelltown City Council to morning tea and to hear about the work of the Society and tour Glenalvon.

In the last Kernel, I mentioned the need for a new Treasurer. I am delighted to let you know that this position has now been filled! Committee members approached the firm of Accountants in Lithgow Street (opposite Glenalvon) Flegg, Kehlet and Wagner, who have kindly agreed to look after our legal requirements and submissions, pro bono. Rod Wagner put us in touch with Anne Ross who has agreed to take on the day to day collection of monies etc. A problem solved with a great outcome.

At the Annual Dr Ivor G Thomas Presentation in August, the Society will launch a book by Andrew Allen (more information to come) and we are pleased to acknowledge the generosity of Campbelltown Philatelic Society, Marsden's Law Group and Campbelltown City Council in assisting in the cost of printing.

Our Guest Speaker for the meeting on 23rd June will now be Michael Crowley who has written a book called "On Stony Ground" about James Ruse. Michael arrives from the UK two days before the meeting and is only in Australia for a short time, so we are very lucky to have him come to speak to us. Betty Villey's talk on "Razorback" will hopefully be later in the year.



Photos from Grist Mills Launch and Council Morning Tea

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc
Correspondence to Secretary
P.O. Box 257, Campbelltown NSW 2560

Phone: (02) 4625 1822

Email: secretary@cahs.com.au

Website: ww.cahs.com.au

50 Years- Proclamation of Campbelltown as a City and Railway Electrification

May 4th 2018, 12.20pm. A Red Rattler slides into the station at Campbelltown and a large group of excited people spill onto a platform which is already packed with a reception group of flag waving spectators.

In an atmosphere that clearly reflects the importance of the occasion, the cohort from the train, includes the Mayor George Brticevic fully dressed in Mayoral Robes, Howard Collins Chief Executive of Sydney trains as well as Mike Freelander, Greg Warren and many Campbelltown Councillors. CAHS is well represented both on the train and on the platform. The other large group of note, and this is very warming to see, is that of the enthusiastic school children. So many of our local schools represented by their school captains and teachers including most of the schools that existed at the time of the original celebration in 1968; Campbelltown Public, Campbelltown High, St Patrick's College, to name a few.

After many photo opportunities on the platform and next to the original plaque, on the wall near the station entrance; the group move on to the Civic Centre to a Mayoral Reception to honour the other part of that important day, the Proclamation of Campbelltown as a City. The highlight of the reception would have to be the screening of a video, using film footage taken by Ron Moore and Bob Lagetti, showing the events of 4th May 1968.

The celebrations in 1968 were spread over 10 days and included many and varied events.

On Saturday 4th May there was a Marching Girl Contest, Model Aero Display, Costume Pageant or Parade along Queen Street as well as the arrival of 3 trains – the official electric train at 11.45, the historic train with passengers dressed in period costumes at 1.45pm and at 2pm, an 8 car souvenir electric special conveying hundreds of passengers.

The Proclamation of the City was at 3.30pm in front of the Civic Hall. It had long been agreed upon by those in power that Sydney's population was growing south and another city south of Liverpool was needed. The Council was growing in number which effected the construction of a council Administration Centre – this combined with the electrification of the line meant Campbelltown could become a City.

Sadly 2018 does not quite match the pizzazz of 1968; the community has changed with the growth of a city, but when it is rallied, it is still there, and in the case of this event full recognition has to be given to Michael Chalker who put in an incredible amount of time and work in bringing all of this together. Michael was the driving force behind it all with his vision of recreating the events of 1968: the schools, the band, the train, down to every minor detail.



Gillian Blackstone (Walker) was Campbelltown High School Captain in 1968 and so it is fitting to see her pictured here with Mia Ha (left) great granddaughter of another well-known local, Sid Percival. Mia is part of Campbelltown High School leadership team for 2018. Photo Jeff McGill



This year, in conjunction with our Dr Ivor G Thomas Presentation we will be launching the book **'More than Bricks and Mortar: Remembering Campbelltown's Lost Buildings'** written by well-known local and member of our Society, Andrew Allen. It is a topic that seems to capture the interest of many, especially those who have been around town awhile and have seen many of our beautiful and historical buildings levelled for roads and carparks. We are looking forward to seeing this finished story; meanwhile Andrew has given us the following piece....a teaser, until we can have access to this exciting new book.

The Good Intent

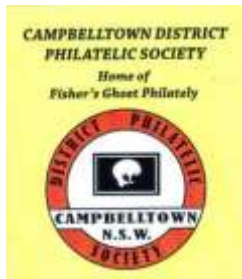
The Good Intent opened its doors to the public on March 24, 1939. It was built on the site of *Alpha House* which was demolished the previous year. The license was transferred in the names of Mr and Mrs Kerr from the nearby *Commonwealth Hotel* to *The Good Intent*.

Aubrey John Raymond, better known as "Titus" Oates, became the licensee of *The Good Intent* after winning the lottery. "Titus" seems to have been a divisive personality in the town. Many enjoyed his company and regarded him as a generous man. Others are less complementary. Whatever the views, no one could doubt his courage as a pilot. During the 1949 coal miner's strike, he would go on a "beer barn-storming mission" flying his Comper Swift, to ensure the beer supply at *The Good Intent* was kept flowing! He would fly as far as Adelaide locating supplies for the hotel. In 1954 "Titus" sold *The Good Intent Hotel*, in order to enter television production and film making.

The Good Intent was one of the more popular pubs in Campbelltown during its existence, especially on Sundays. It was a two-storey brick building at the front and had three levels at the rear. A large car park was situated on the southern side of the building. The pub was set on a large block of land and included a brick shed, living quarters and a large garden at the rear. In 1973 a drive-in bottle shop was added.



The hotel closed its doors for the last time on April 17th, 1982. This was an unpopular decision and many regulars defied the demolition signs on the hotel doors and arrived for their usual drink on the Sunday morning- the day of the demolition. They were eventually coaxed out of the bar by a security guard. It was demolished to make way for Campbelltown Mall.



We are grateful to the Campbelltown Philatelic Society for supporting our special publication

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IGT Change of Venue

Have you noted the change of venue for this year's presentation?

We have booked

St John the Evangelist Church hall

For our

Dr Ivor G Thomas Memorial **Presentation**

18th August 2018

We wish to acknowledge Marsdens law Group for supporting our special publication

Ingleburn

Originally named Macquarie Fields, this station was opened in Sept, 1869. The name was not changed to Ingleburn until 1883.

The platform was erected in 1879 and the waiting shed in 1883. The station was destroyed by fire in 1901.

The platforms were lengthened to 300ft during the duplication of the line with the Up Platform lengthened to 520ft in November 1939 to accommodate the extra trains required by the nearby army camps.

STEAM TRAINS GO

The days of steam-hauled suburban passenger services to and from Sydney Terminal Station have ended.

The opening of electrified services to Campbelltown on Saturday, May 4, removed the last steam-hauled passenger train service to and from Sydney Terminal.

This was announced in Sydney today by Mr. N. McCusker, Commissioner for Railways.

Mr. McCusker said the only remaining steam-hauled passenger trains now operating anywhere in the Sydney Metropolitan area were between Lidcombe and Abattoirs, and between Richmond and Blacktown.

Of the country trains, only two steam-hauled services were still running to

and from Sydney Terminal Station, Mr. McCusker said.

These were a Sydney-Moss-Vale return service and the "Southern Highlands" return service to Goulburn.

Mr. McCusker said as passenger services in and out of Sydney Station each day total about 1,500, steam motive power virtually has been eliminated.

The Commissioner said the Department's programme for dieselisation of services outside the electrified network due for completion in 1970, was proceeding to schedule.

Campbelltown-Ingleburn News May, 1968

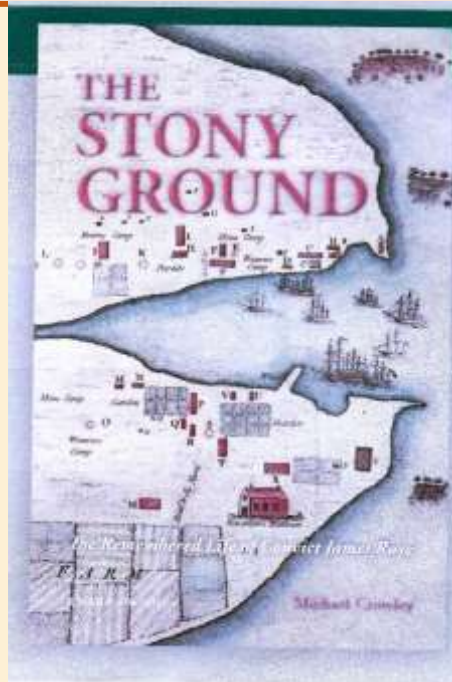
The Stony Ground: The Remembered Life of Convict James Ruse by Michael Crowley

Waterside Press Ltd. Paperback. \$25.00

The story of Australia's most symbolic convict. A narrative of exile and survival from rural England to NSW and the Tasman Sea.

Michael Crowley is a writer and dramatist from West Yorkshire, briefly visiting Australia at the end of June, 2018.

We are lucky to have the chance for Michael to speak at the June Members Meeting



Dates to Remember

Monday. 4th June: Glenalvon is open. 10 am to 1 pm. **Saturday.** 9th and 23th June: Glenalvon is open. 10am to 1pm

Saturday Members Meeting. 23th June Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon

Note change from the advertised speaker-visiting UK author Michael Crowley-'The Stony Ground: the remembered life of Convict James Ruse. Afternoon tea to follow.

Saturday. Members Meeting. 28th July Time: 1.30pm at Glenalvon: Speaker Ruth Banfield on Denham Court. Including launch of Grist Mills. Afternoon Tea provided

Vale - Robert T. O. Jones (Bob) 1937-2018

In March we were notified of the passing of Robert T.O. Jones (Bob) the son of Dr Karl Owen Jones. Bob who is survived by his wife Beverley and sons Karl, Rohan and Grant and 8 grandchildren passed away on 2nd March in Toowoomba Qld. He was the third of seven children of Dr Jones and his wife Hannah ("Tommy"). Many will remember Bob presenting the 16th Ivor G Thomas Memorial Lecture in September 2006 and the subsequent book written about his father's "Thirteen Years of Contribution to the Campbelltown Community." The society has sent condolences to Beverley and family on behalf of all members.



CBC Bank Development Proposal

While the results of the first round in the fight against the development of the site behind the CBC Bank have been well published, with a positive result for Campbelltown Council and CAHS, we understand there will be an appeal to the Land & Environment Board, so the issue is far from being settled.

The following report is included in this Kernel, not so much to inform you of the results of the 19th March meeting, but to share the speech that Kay Hayes presented, on behalf of the Society, on that occasion.

The words written by John White and Kay Hayes seem to be the core to all we do and why our work is worthwhile.

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward the view of Campbelltown & Airds Historical Society, which is to vigorously oppose this development.

Historical societies are founded not only to preserve significant old buildings; they are founded to preserve community.

Communities are not just groups of people who live in close proximity. Communities are groups of people with a sense of belonging, a sense of pride and, awareness of common interests for the benefit of all.

Our community heritage contributes significantly to the overall pride both new residents and "old timers" feel about our city.

When we see the value of our heritage being chipped away piece by piece through the neglect of curtilage and space for the appreciation of that heritage we see our community pride being diminished.

Our society has visitors from all over Sydney and even interstate, and almost every one of those visitors' comments on the historic value of our district and the wonderful heritage buildings currently preserved for future generations. We have no doubt that the feeling of value will be diminished and the sense of community pride threatened if the buildings are overshadowed, both literally and figuratively, by huge office or apartment buildings.

The whole of our precious heritage precinct will be completely diminished if this proposal proceeds. Many of those buildings have stood since the 1840's with the bank building dated to 1881. The preservation of some of these was thanks to our society's founder Dr Ivor Thomas and others who fought to conserve them.

Dr Thomas wrote to Prime Minister Robert Menzies on the 50th anniversary of Federation saying "as keeper of the public purse, we courteously solicit your aid in urging the wisdom, the value and the need of preserving remaining structures and buildings typical of each period of our nation's history, and each phase of the national way of life. A humble shepherd's hut of an original grantee, a bridge to spread a pathway for our pioneers and an elegantly proportioned barracks are of equal worth as pages of the history of our land."

In protest at a proposal to construct a tower block on top of New York's Grand Central Station in 1975, Jackie Kennerdy Onassis said "if we don't care about our past, we can't have very much hope for our future....is it not cruel to let our city die by degrees, stripped of her proud moments until there is nothing left of all our history to inspire our children? Maybe this is the time to take a stand, to reverse the tide, so that we won't all end up in a uniform world of steel and glass boxes." Her voice and others was heard and acted upon.

The CBC building development if approved as it now stands will be the start of the destruction of our "heritage precinct" the precedent will have been set.

Council's height limit of 32 metres, enshrined in CLEP2015 gave at least a small measure of respect to the heritage of our city centre. Doubling that height is a gross overdevelopment and as such should be disallowed.

We ask you to respect this view and refuse the development proposal.....



When Jane Francis moved back into her childhood home in June 2016 after the death of her step mother, Lucy, she found amongst her father's belongings, several folders containing photos that he had taken of Campbelltown.

Jane's father, Stan Stebbing had become interested in photography after his retirement and across the 1980s photographed many of Campbelltown's buildings, both historical and new. Stan seemed to have a knack of being in the right place at the right time, capturing images of many of our beautiful buildings, literally just as they were being demolished.



The Stebbings had moved from Burwood in 1956 to settle on St Elmo Estate No. 2, taking up Neil McLean's offer of a Special Purchase Plan to help in the housing of ex-servicemen. Stan had served with the Australian Army in theatres of war such as PNG and the islands to the North.

Stan initially worked at Maurie Bloom's furniture store but is probably best known as the manager of a number of hotels in Campbelltown, including Lack's Hotel.

Jane has contributed stories of the Stebbing family to both the 'Living on the St Elmo Estates' and the 'Yarns along the High Street' Grist Mills. Jane gave the Editorial Committee two beautifully written stories along with the folders of photos on loan, to scan, so we could create a Stan Stebbing Collection in our database. Stan lived in Campbelltown, in the same house in Ronald Street, until his death in 2006 and Jane felt it would be fitting to have his photos recorded for posterity.

Amongst the photos was one of a gentleman in the Club Bar in Lack's Hotel. It was included in Jane's story in 'The Yarns' Grist Mills about Lacks Hotel but incorrectly captioned as Stan Stebbing. I would like to apologise for this mistake and thank Jane for all that she has given to the society.



Campbelltown Police Station demolition Dec, 1987-Jan 1988 and Court House Restoration