



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

June, 2024

President's Report

by Stephen Coppins

Dear members,

Once again the last three months have been busy for the Society and our volunteers.

In addition to our regular open days and booked tour groups, at the request of Campbelltown Council, volunteers were on hand to open up Glenalvon House, and prepare and serve Devonshire teas, for Council's Senior's Festival and International Women's Day Open Day event, on Sunday 10 March. Thank you to all the volunteers involved in making these days a resounding success.



The Council is making good use of Glenalvon these days. The Council events team opened up the grounds on the evenings Friday 22 and Saturday 23 March, for families to sit, catch up and celebrate Ramadan. These evenings were very successful, by all accounts. A big thank you to Council staff, who did a fantastic job cleaning up the grounds after both evenings of this event, and the Society was still able to open for the Saturday open day and member's meeting, with some limited access issues.

Council also arranged for petting zoos to be at the back of the gardens for the 14th and 21st April Sunday Market Open Days, the latter coinciding with our Open Day, which was also very popular and profitable for the Society.

In relation to other events, the Society was represented at the Appin Massacre Memorial Service at Cataract Dam on Saturday 14 April, it was a beautiful day and service, for a somber event in Australia's history. Please see Sue Kijurina's article about this service, later in this issue. Members were also present for this year's Anzac Day dawn service, at Mawson Park.

As reported in the last issue of *The Kernel*, the Society had put together a display about the Koshigaya Sister City relationship, which celebrated 40 years in 2024. With the kind assistance of Ruth Banfield and Mark Annetts, more information, photos and objects about the Sister City exchange program, Koshigaya Park and Campbelltown Park (in Koshigaya), were installed in the display room for the 2024 Heritage Festival.

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

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As Glenalvon House is about 185ish years (give or take), the house and grounds do require a bit of TLC. Recently Council's maintenance team arranged for restoration work to be carried out in the Servant's Quarters. More details about this work, and thanks to all involved, can be found later in this issue.

The Society received a delivery of archival storage boxes and albums, from Albox, on 9 April. These items were purchased using grant funding the Museums & Galleries NSW, and will provide better access and protection for parts of our archives and photographic negatives collections.

Hopefully all members have received the latest issue of Grist Mills, if not, please contact Secretary, Christine Hayes. Also, just a reminder, that if you have a photo, object, letter, or piece of information that can go into a future issue of *The Kernel*, please also forward this to Christine, at secretary@cahs.org.au

As most members will be aware, the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) will be holding the 2024 RAHS Conference in Campbelltown, on the weekend of 26-27 October 2024, at the Campbelltown Catholic Club. The CAHS committee are working hard behind the scenes to assist the RAHS Affiliated Societies Committee and executive staff, in arranging local guest speakers, as well as promotion for Campbelltown and the conference. The CAHS will be hosting a welcome drink's event on the Friday evening before the conference. More details will be provided as they become available, but we will be having a special feature and retrospective report in the next two issues of *The Kernel*.

Just a couple of housekeeping notices of important upcoming events, to look out for:

Membership Renewals

Membership renewal notices will shortly be sent out all members. Due to recent increases in postage, renewals will be sent out to most members via e-mail, with the option to fill in an attached form, or renew via the CAHS website. Members without e-mails, should find their membership renewal form enclosed with this newsletter.

2024 AGM

The next AGM is only a few short months away – Saturday 24 August 2024, to be precise.

Just a reminder that if you would like to nominate another member for Life Membership, please let any of the committee know, as soon as possible? If you could please provide some details about the person you are nominating and the work they have done for the Society, that would help when the committee determines their nomination.

Of course, at the AGM there will also be elections for the 2024-25 committee and appointed officer positions. An official call for nominations will be sent out soon. It is always good to get some help and ideas, so if you would be available and interested in nominating for any of these positions, please get in contact and we can go through what the duties of these positions are. **Just a reminder – if you don't sign a nomination form before the AGM, it is safe to turn up to the meeting! ;-)**

Regards,
Stephen

Anniversary of the Appin Massacre

On the 17th April, President Stephen Coppins, Mario Majorich and Sue Kijurina attended the very moving Memorial Ceremony honouring the Dharawal people at the 208th Anniversary of the 1816 Appin Massacre. There was a smoking ceremony, explanations of the significance of the memorial spoken in indigenous language and in English, singing and dancing followed by tributes from the Indigenous leaders, local Mayors and Council representatives. A very soulful morning followed by a great BBQ lunch, supplied by volunteers, amidst very proud indigenous people from various groups and their supporters

Captain James Willis leader of the Grenadiers of the 46th Regiment wrote in his diary of the deaths of Aboriginals, some being shot, and many men, including an old native Balyin, along with women and children who rushed over the cliffs near the site of the Cataract Dam today. Many who survived from the Gundungurra, D'harawal & Dharug nations were driven over the mountains, in response to Macquarie's orders, were imprisoned or went into hiding. (Taken from an account written by Gawaian Bodkiin-Andrews, Associate Professor at University of Technology, on his Facebook page 17/4/2024)

Sue Kijurina



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Launch of the Grist Mills

Yesterday is a common theme for the work we do with the Historical Society, it also seemed a good title for our latest Journal. *Yesterday: Memories of the Cordial Factory and Life in Oxley Street*, launched on April 27 at the Members' Meeting.

The lead story was written by member Alison Morris nee Milliken, properly titled *100 years of the Campbelltown Cordial Factory* and we were pleased to have Alison travel from Canberra for the day to launch this, the first Grist Mills for 2024.

We were also delighted to welcome so many of Gus Hayes's grandchildren; Alisons siblings and cousins.

The second story in this journal, *Life in Oxley Street in the 1950s*, was written by Robert Penfold, whose family lived at 3 Oxley St when they first came to Campbelltown. While Robert very openly champions the merits of growing up in Campbelltown, he has for quite some time lived in Los Angeles. Many of us would know him as Channel Nine's American news correspondent and I am pleased to add, has recently been 'home' to receive an Order of

Australia for his contribution to journalism, the broadcast media and mentoring young journalists.

Since Robert was unable to attend the launch, he deputised his sister Carolyn Stewart to speak on his behalf.

It was perfect weather for an outside event, and, as always, had the welcoming feeling of people chatting, occasionally reconnecting with others and showing that the old Campbelltown community ties still exist.

Extra copies of the book are available at *Glenalvon* for \$8.



Michael Veness, Bob Stewart, Gillian Blackstone, Carolyn Stewart, Barney Ponsonby, Cheryl Reynolds



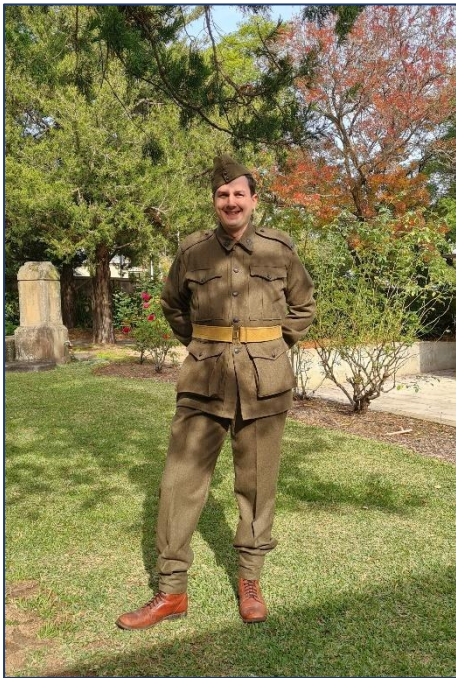
Above: Alison Morris with brother David Milliken



Gus Hayes's grandchildren Terry Hayes, Milliken siblings including Alison (3rd from left) and Jill and Peter MacDonald



Au Revoir... For Now



At the Members' Meeting on Sat 25 May our Guest Speaker was member John Morthen and the topic, *Campbelltown's POW: the WW2 Story of Robert Goodear*.

John had come across some boxes of photos and documents about Roy Goodear that allowed him to build up an interesting profile on this returned serviceman.

While not living in Campbelltown in his early years, Roy, like many others settled here in the 1950s.

He had served in the Australian Navy in the 1930s before being discharged: joining the Army at the start of the war. He was one of the famed *Rats of Tobruk*.

John Morthen is passionate about most things to do with Australian war history and has been a volunteer with the CAHS for many years, but after his talk members learnt that John will be moving on for a while, taking an exciting professional opportunity in Japan.

John has been asked to write something about his time with the Society and career so far, and his future plans, which is included below, without edit:

I started volunteering at Glenalvon in August 2019 during the first year of my university studies, a Bachelor of Heritage, Museums and conservation. I initially worked as a tour guide under Dennis Roach (the man, the myth and the legend!). Since late 2021 I have worked full time at the Liverpool Regional Museum, and admittedly have slacked off in my volunteer duties, but still hold a soft spot for the house.

Over the past years and a half, as you mentioned, I started preparing for my upcoming move to Japan. I successfully applied for the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) and from July 28 I will be moving to Sapporo City to work as an Assistant English Teacher in schools. This move was driven by my love of history, and especially a love of modern East Asian history, which you may have guessed based on my passion and talk of the Korean War. I think this move will have a drastic change on my life as it will mark my first time living alone and in a totally alien country, but it is a change I am optimistic about and will tackle head on. I'm sure over the next year or two I will have many glowing reports to send back to the society. John M.

As a volunteer, John has helped the Society in many ways: being a Glenalvon tour guide; arranging military re-enactments for open days; lending & installing military uniforms for display, identifying army paraphernalia; using his experience at the Liverpool Regional Museum to help preserve and clean CAHS collection items; and presenting some very interesting talks.

The Society's office is usually open on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9am until 1pm, for volunteers to carry out admin, collection maintenance and gardening work. Feel free to come in, we can always do with an extra hand.

Members are also welcome to use the library and archive collections, to carry out any research or borrow certain library books.

Calendar of Events



June

Saturday 08 Jun – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Monday 10 Jun – **King's Birthday Public Holiday – No volunteering**

Sunday 16 Jun – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets –

Devonshire Teas

Saturday 22 Jun – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

– 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Guest Speaker:** John Johnson, "The penny farthing and road safety in 19th Century Australia"

June – **Remember Membership Renewals are due – In person by cash or credit card payments, Direct bank deposits or Online PayPal payments are all acceptable.**

July

Saturday 13 July – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House - **Chrysler Restorers Club car display and**

Devonshire Teas

Sunday 21 July – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets

Saturday 27 July – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

- 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Guest Speaker:** Larry Writer, author of *The Shipwreck: the true story of the Dunbar, the disaster that broke the colony's heart and forged a nation's spirit*

August

Family History Month

Saturday 10 Aug – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Sunday 18 Aug – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets –

Devonshire Teas

Saturday 24 Aug – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

– 1.30pm – **CAHS Annual General Meeting**

– 2pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Guest Speaker:** Sue Kijurina, "The Unravelling of Our Blaxland Family Secret"



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

Servant's Quarters Restoration

The Servant's Quarters was closed between 11-18 May, while the interior walls received a little TLC, with workers from James Gardener's stonemason firm, repairing some of the stone and brick work, and reapplying whitewash. Work was also carried out in the stables and cellar areas.

Council contractors also kindly repainted the ceiling.

A big thank you also go out to Sue and Clarice for boxing up all their work and equipment, prior to the closure and to Barney Ponsonby, Roger Goodfellow, Colin Menger and Barry Moore for moving furniture, equipment and collections away from the walls on Saturday 11 May.

The above gentlemen, along with the assistance of Jenny Goodfellow, Michelle Hatfield, Kevin Roxon and Julian Casey-Lowry, were instrumental in putting everything (well mostly everything) back again the following Saturday.

The work carried out by these members meant that the Servant's Quarters was only closed to the public for the one Open Day on Saturday 11 May, and was open again in time for the Sunday 19th Open Day and the Kiama tour group on Tuesday 21st.



Save The Date!

The Chrysler Restorers Club is coming to Glenalvon
Saturday July 13, 10am – 1pm

