



# The Kernel

## Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society

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

*Newsletter*

*September, 2024*

### *President's Report*

*by Stephen Coppins*

Dear members,

Firstly, I would like to thank all members who have renewed their memberships for 2024-25, and welcome new members who have recently joined the Society.

Sadly, since the last issue of *The Kernel*, we have lost three long-standing members – Don Nash, Eve Mitcherson and Everard D'Arcy. Condolences are extended to the family and friends of not just three valued members of our Society, but also of our community.

The 2024-25 Committee was elected at the Society's AGM on 24 August, with many familiar faces stepping-up again to work for the benefit of the Society. I would like to thank the returning committee members and also welcome Sharon Greene, who is joining the committee for the first time. Sharon's professional and community background and interest in history, will be a valuable asset. I would like to especially thank Clarice Stretch, who decided not to stand for re-election after 16-years' service as a committee member. Fortunately, the Society will still be benefitting from Clarice's knowledge and experience, as a volunteer, especially with the various museum collections.



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A lot of work has been going into the upcoming 2024 Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) Conference, which will be held over the weekend of 26-27 October, at the Campbelltown Catholic Club. The program and booking form, to see the range of interesting speakers on informative local and historical topics, with options to also attend a Welcome Drinks evening (Friday 25 October at the Campbelltown Arts Centre), a range of engaging local historic tour options for Saturday afternoon, and the Saturday evening conference dinner, can be found at the RAHS website - <https://www.rahs.org.au/2024-rahs-conference/> Early bird registrations are now available until 30 September 2024 (from 1 October, registration fees increase). As members of the CAHS, please also register as an RAHS Affiliated Member, for an additional discount.

Thank you very much to Julie Crowley who has been working with the RAHS on the conference webpage and promotions, including the fantastic video, narrated by member Sue Kijurina, which can be viewed on YouTube - <https://youtube.com/watch?v=eZNMucizdIY> Please have a look, like, and share the video, and conference webpage, to family, friends and other networks who may be interested in the conference.

Thank you to all our committee and members, as well as Campbelltown Council, who have been working on promotion and events, and who have also offered to help at the conference, so far. It is very much appreciated.

Hopefully we will be able to provide some good reports on the conference in the next issue of *The Kernel*. Until then...

Kind regards,  
Stephen

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### *A Previous Visit From the RAHS*



With the RAHS Annual Conference fast approaching, it was interesting to see the photograph of the visit in 1942. This photo has been used by the RAHS as the main promotional image for this year's conference.

*RAHS members visit St Peter's Church  
in Campbelltown  
on 27 June 1942 (RAHS Collection)*

*Campbelltown News*, Fri 3 July 1942 reports the visit  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY VISITS CAMPBELLTOWN.**

Last Saturday afternoon, June 27, a party of some fifty or sixty members of the Royal Australian Historical Society visited Campbelltown. The party, led by the President, Mr. A. E. Stephen, and the General Secretary, Mr C. Price Conigrave, visited numerous points of historic interest throughout the town.

After having lunch in Mawson Park, the party visited St. Peter's Church of England where they were welcomed by the Rev. J. F. Rofe, who pointed out that the church would be celebrating its

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119th Anniversary the following day. Mr. Morris then gave a brief outline of the history of the church, and also mentioned that John Warby, James Tyson, and Frederick Fisher are buried in St Peter's cemetery. The lecturer told the story of Fisher's Ghost, and then presented the historical facts of the case.

On-leaving the church, the party inspected various historic buildings in Queen Street, the lecturer giving a brief history of each one in turn.

Returning to Lithgow Street, Mrs. Bursill's residence, "Glenalvin Hall" was inspected.

The Presbyterian Church, which will be 100 years old on July 10th, was then inspected and after outlining the history of this church, the lecturer told the history of St. John's Roman Catholic Church. It was regretted that time would not permit a visit to this old church.

After expressing pleasure at having had the opportunity of visiting Campbelltown, the party left on the 4.15 p.m. train.

## Windows into Local History Campbelltown

Campbelltown Catholic Club, 26–27 October 2024

### Friday Night Welcome Reception

Campbelltown Art Centre

### Saturday and Sunday Conference Topics

include

Views on Campbelltown's past

Opening the classroom to community stories

Exploring Ghost Stories and Unveiling the Shadows of the Murderous Past

### Saturday Afternoon Tours

Campbelltown Heritage Walking Tour

Campbelltown Heritage Highlights Bus Tour

Glenalvon Historic House Tour

### Conference Dinner at Campbelltown Catholic Club

Engage with local history and discover what  
it can reveal about our  
community.



2024 RAHS Conference



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## *St Patrick's College History Club*

A huge congratulations to Fran Musico-Rullo, Jo Cavillin and the girls at St Pat's.

Students at St Patrick's College for girls have taken out first prize in the National Anzac Day Schools' Awards for a passion project through which they recorded the stories of local servicemen and women, then built a website to publish their research.

In addition to taking out the top spot in the competition run by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, these students were awarded the Brigadier Bill Rolfe AO award for veteran involvement.

The student-led project titled, *Our local veterans: discovering, recording and reflecting on stories of service*, was completed outside school hours by members of the school's history club and aimed to preserve the first and second hand stories of service personnel.

The girls conducted 14 interviews with veterans and their families. Interviewees were invited to bring an object from their military service to discuss and were asked a range of questions, including about the challenges they faced during and after their service.

Many of the military personnel were parents or relatives of the students and the girls reflected on how the project helped them view their family members in a new light.



Particularly poignant is the interview Year 8 student Hope Schwarze conducted with her grandfather, John Matthew Purkis, who served in the military for 19 years, including in the Vietnam War.

*Left: Hope Schwarze and her late grandfather and Vietnam veteran John Matthew Purkis.*

*Below: Emma and Caitlin Reynolds holding a photo of their great-grandfather Harley James Daley.*

Year 12 student, Caitlin Reynolds, documented the story of her great-grandfather, Harley James Daley, who was 34 years old when he enlisted in WWII in 1940.

While serving, Daley was captured by Japanese soldiers in Malaysia. He spent four years in brutal POW camps, including the infamous Changi.

As a Warrant Officer, Daley was responsible for 200 Allied soldiers in Changi prison and risked his life documenting his experiences in a diary which he buried each day.

Upon returning home, Daley resumed his former position with Ingleburn Municipal Council, which was later amalgamated with Campbelltown Municipal Council.

He made a significant contribution to the local area, helping to facilitate Campbelltown's transformation from a small country town to a burgeoning city.

The previous article is taken from *South West Voice* Sept 4, 2024

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## *Thank you for a thankless task*

Spring has well and truly sprung, so in this seasonal spirit, and in preparation of the 2024 RAHS Conference, many of our volunteer members gave up their Saturday to come in to clean Glenalvon House, inside and out, as well as the Alex Goodsell Rural Exhibition Museum, and the original cottage (Servant's Quarters), on 7 September.

As we are aware that nobody really wants to do housework, we would like to give a big thank you to all our volunteers who helped on the day. You all did a fantastic job!



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## Vale

### Donald Gordon NASH (1938 – 2024)

This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous Hume and Hovell expedition which set out from Hume's farm on the Appin Road on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1824. One of the party, chosen by Hamilton Hume, was Irish convict James Fitzpatrick (1800-1882), who came to Australia in 1822 and was assigned as a servant to the Hume family.

Donald Nash was a direct descendant of James Fitzpatrick through his grandmother Elizabeth Susan Fitzpatrick (1873-1957) and his mother Elizabeth Sedgwick (1900-1980), who was known as Bess or Bessie Nash. She would be remembered by many of our older members for her community work, particularly with the Camden-Campbelltown Legacy Torchbearers. She was elected Vice-President when it was founded in 1946, becoming President in 1960.

Donald Gordon Nash was born 86 years ago to Bess and Jack Nash (married 1933) who were dairy farmers along Camden Road on the Camden side of the road where the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living is located, on Mount Annan Drive. He had two sisters – Margaret (m. Robert MacAllister) and Barbara (Doble) who with her husband Robert also lived for a time on the home property.

Don grew up on the "Birriwa" farm in an area known from the early 1800s as Pratts Bush. They specialised in Ayrshire cattle which were plentiful in the Camden area last century. One of Jack's young stock of the Birriwa stud was awarded Junior Champion Ayrshire bull at the RAS Easter Show in the 1960s. Don and Colleen lived on the farm as well as their parents. The dairying operation concluded in June 1969 with the sale of all their stock through William Inglis & Son. Jack died four years later and Don ran beef cattle on the property while he worked in Campbelltown. He also enjoyed running (including marathons) and could be seen along the Camden Road jogging when we were boys on nearby Gowrie farm.

Don became a milk vendor in Campbelltown, delivering to the Allman St, Bradbury Avenue and Hoddle Avenue areas. He also made grocery deliveries with the milk trucks during the day, including Coles when it opened on corner of Queen Street and Dumaresq Street. His last job was working at the local Dairy Farmers Co-Operative Milk Distribution Depot on the other side of the railway line.

In November 1967 Don married Colleen Beacham and they have enjoyed 46 years together, with four children – three boys James, Andrew, Matthew and a daughter Elizabeth. There are 11 grandchildren. Don and Colleen retired off the farm in 2003 to live in Canberra.

Don had a respect for God and the family notice in the SMH quoted the words of St Paul (2 Timothy): 'He has fought the good fight, he has finished the race, he has kept the faith.'

We extend our condolences to Mrs Colleen Nash and to all the family.

*Don and Colleen Nash with Ted Sedgwick*

[Tom Reeve, with help from Ted Sedgwick, his cousin, and John Fenwick.]



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## Eve MITCHERSON (February 1932-July 2024)

We knew her as Eve but she was Eva Lillian Jarrett born in Wagga Wagga in February 1932.



At age 17 she moved with her family to Campbelltown driving along the Hume Highway in a 1937 Ford Ute, living first in Kentlyn. With encouragement from family, Eve decided to become a hairdresser and did her apprenticeship at *The Master Ladies Hairdressing Academy* in Sydney. After receiving her certificate Eve worked for Monica Rixon in *Monica Beauty Salon* in the *Athelstone* Building in Queen Street. At this time Eve was living in *Richmond Villa*.

Eve met John Mitcherson at Cecil's garage when he was working for Mr Wilkinson the plumber. Eve and John married on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1952 at St. Peter's Anglican Church.

They moved into a house in Rudd Road and raised 4 children; daughters Kerrie, Kim, Deborah and son David.

John was an electrician and electrical repairman in Ingleburn and tells of the time they had the first television in Ingleburn and people stood in the street in the evening to watch the TV in the window.

During this time Eve had completed a course in Floristry and was able to take a job as a teacher of floristry at the first evening college at Campbelltown High School.



They eventually moved to Randolph Street to a small home built by Merv Jensen. Eve stayed in this home until she went into care.

Daughters Kim and Debbie also trained to be florists.

The first florist shop was in Railway Street in 1972, also John and Eve bought some land in Werombi where they planted proteas and other plants from Queensland to produce native bouquets.



In the 1980's the business had grown so they moved to a shop in the Madison Arcade, Queen Street. They also opened a Bridal Shop upstairs in the arcade.

John passed away in 1997

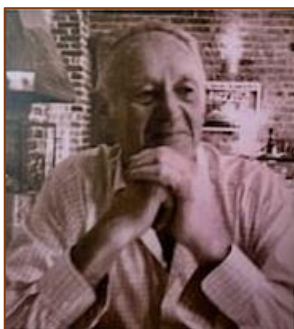
Eve was active in the community as a member of St. Peter's Church Guild, Campbelltown Quota, Soroptimists, Campbelltown & Ingleburn Show Committees as well as our Society, being a member since 2007.

Eva Mitcherson passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and a celebration of her life was at St Peter's Church on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August. The flowers in the church were arranged by her daughters and were absolutely beautiful – Eve would have approved.

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## Everard Joseph D'ARCY (23/02/1929-27/08/2024)



In his own words, Everard D'Arcy had "a long and strong history in the town of Appin, both in farming and community. My father opened Appin's first petrol and service station in 1927, and supplied mechanical services, water delivery, tow trucks, coal trucks, earthmoving equipment, as our establishment was a major hub of the town's activity. My father even established the Appin Rural Fire Brigade in 1944; in fact, we were an integral part of the fire brigade, providing our water tankers!"

And while he may be telling of his father's achievements, they also reflect his own achievements.

Everard spent all of his life in Appin, the eldest son of Joseph D'Arcy; with his family going back nearly 200 years in the area. Three of his great-great-grandfathers had land grants as early settlers of Appin, including Lawrence D'Arcy of Spring Valley Farm.

Most people will know of J D'Arcy & Sons on the corner on the main road in Appin, and will think of how often they travelled past Darcy's corner on the way to and from the coast. Joseph D'Arcy, with his sons Everard and John built the garage in 1927. Both sons were qualified mechanical engineers.

Everard knew Deidre Percival all of her life, partnered her at her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday ball in Campbelltown, they were married in 1968 and had three children: Joanne, Adrian and Chantelle.

Everard gave strongly to the community, being a member of the Appin Rural Fire Service for 75 years; the garage was a meeting place for a long while and the place people would often come to report fires even after the brigade had its own building.

Campbelltown Picnic Races was held for many years as a charity event to raise money for the hospital Campbelltown so urgently needed. The races were held on the Darcy property, another support for the local community.

He was also a member of Quota club and, of course, Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society, always having a strong passion for history.

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Glenalvon is open from 9.00am to 1.00pm, Mondays and Tuesdays (except Public Holidays), for members to use the library and archives or to help with collections, displays, gardening and other duties around the property.



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

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## *Come in spinner*

Thank you to our member Michael Trimboli, who has very kindly made a new spinner to be used for raffle draws at Society General Meetings.

It has been in use since our June meeting, and is a lot more stylish than the waste paper bin we had been using. Thanks again, Michael!



## *Calendar of Events*



### September

Sat 7 - Sunday 15 Sep – **History Week: Marking Time**

Saturday 14 Sep – ~~10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House~~ – **Cancelled due to Sunday 15 Sep Market Open Day**

Sunday 15 Sep – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets

Saturday 28 Sep – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Saturday 28 Sep – 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Guest Speaker:** *Visual Highlights of Campbelltown and the Society*

### October

Monday 07 Oct – **Labour Day Public Holiday – no volunteering**

Sunday 20 Oct – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets – **Devonshire Teas**

Friday 25 - Sunday 27 Oct – **2024 RAHS Conference**, Campbelltown Catholic Club

Saturday 26 Oct – ~~10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House~~ – **Cancelled, due to 2024 RAHS Conference**

Saturday 26 Oct – ~~1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting~~ – **Cancelled, due to 2024 RAHS Conference**

Saturday 26 Oct – **3.30pm – 2024 RAHS Conference:** Conference delegates tour of Glenalvon

### November

Thursday 31 Oct – Sun 10 Nov – **Festival of Fisher's Ghost**

Saturday 09 Nov – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Monday 11 Nov – **Remembrance Day**

Sunday 17 Nov – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets

Saturday 23 Nov – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

– 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **Grist Mills Launch, A Reservoir and a Canal: Drinking water to Campbelltown**, by  
Wayne Williams

### December

Saturday 07 Dec – Christmas Party – **Details to be confirmed**