



# The Kernel

## Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

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

*Newsletter*

*November, 2024*

### *President's Report*

*by Stephen Coppins*

Dear members,

This issue of *The Kernel* will be recapping two big events the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society has been involved with, in our area, during the month of October – the bicentennial celebration of the Hume & Hovell expedition from Appin to Port Phillip; and the 2024 RAHS Conference.

Thank you to the Institution of Surveyors of NSW and Campbelltown City Council, who invited the Society to contribute to the Hume & Hovell expedition bicentenary celebrations, held on 2 October, which saw the unveiling of a new information board, next to the newly restored RAHS centenary monument at Appin, and reception held at Campbelltown. Thank you in particular to Julie Crowley, who helped with wording for the board, and tracking down descendants, not just of Hamilton Hume, but some of the servants who also went on the expedition.

Thank you also to the Royal Australian Historical Society Affiliated Societies Committee, for inviting Campbelltown to host the 2024 RAHS Conference, which was held over 25-27 October. A lot of work went into organising this conference, from the RAHS ASC members, the RAHS Executive, Campbelltown City Council staff and of course the CAHS committee and volunteers, and of course all the guest speakers. A lot of positive feedback has been received by conference delegates and the RAHS about the weekend overall. They were very impressed with Campbelltown, its history and heritage. There were many inspiring and interesting speakers over the weekend, with some good ideas for potential projects and networking opportunities for the Society to consider capitalising on, in the near future...



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However, the Society has continued on with its regular activities (albeit having to adapt to the conference schedule in October, where our regular open morning and General Meeting were cancelled). In addition to the regular Saturday and Sunday Glenalvon open days, volunteers also hosted tour groups from the East Hills View Club (23 Sep); Pagewood Seniors Group (15 Oct); delegates from the RAHS Conference (25 Oct), and also the first school group for quite some time, from Mount Annan Public School (4 Nov).

The Society also hosted a wedding photo shoot at Glenalvon on Saturday 2 November, again the first for quite some time, and hopefully not the last. A huge thank you to all our committee members and volunteers, who help arrange these events, prepare the house and grounds, cook and serve morning teas and take the groups and members of the public around the property, explaining the history of Glenalvon and our collection.

I am pleased to advise that the Society was the recipient of a 2024 Cultural Grant through the RAHS and NSW State Government. The grant valued at \$5,000 is to go towards the publication of a history of Catholic education in the Campbelltown area. More details about this exciting project to be advised in future issues and at future meetings...

Speaking of publications, by the time you read this issue, the launch of the latest issue of *Grist Mills* should have been held.

Also the Member's Christmas party and the end of 2024 are fast approaching.

During January 2025, the Society will be operating on a needs basis behind the scenes, with regular volunteer days, meetings, and open days starting again in February 2025. If you need to get in contact during late December or January, please email or phone the office number, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

If I don't see you before, I hope you and your loved ones have a relaxing, safe and happy Christmas and New Year's.

Kind Regards,

*Stephen*

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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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## *Celebrating the Bi-Centenary of the Hume and Hovell Expedition*

Growing up with an interest in history also meant having favourites. I'm sure many of you know exactly what I mean...

Macarthur or Macquarie?

Bourke or Wills?

Bass or Flinders?

And of course, Hume or Hovell?

Also, growing up and attending Campbelltown High School with sport house 'Hume', the monument on the school badge and standing to the refrains of "Macquarie, Hume and Hovell and other men of fame..." in the school song, Hamilton Hume was always going to be the winner in that duo.

The Institute of Surveyors NSW were also well aware of Hamilton Hume and the date of his significant expedition, which started at the Hume property on the Appin Road and trekked to what became known as Port Phillip. That date being 2 October 1824.

A committee comprising of several members of the Institute of Surveyors NSW Heritage Group, Campbelltown City Council Open Spaces unit and local solicitor Patrick Duffy met to discuss the plan to commemorate the occasion. Local Studies librarian Andrew Allen with Stephen Coppins and Julie Crowley representing our Society, completed the group.

The original plan was to add an information board to the south side of the monument (a pillar made from the stones of the Hume house and unveiled by the RAHS in 1924), however the RAHS, rightly, objected to this, as the monument has significant heritage value and it was preferred to place an information board 'at a location near and adjacent to the Appin Pillar Monument.'

The advantage to this decision was the ability to make the information board landscape orientation and larger, allowing more information to be attached, including a map of the expedition.

Campbelltown Council did a wonderful job in having the pillar cleaned and the lettering reworked as well as clearing and mowing around the area.

Owing to the location of the monument an event was always going to be tricky. It is on an incline, on a bend, on a road that continues to grow busier. The idea of a large group of people driving out and parking was never going to be considered, so on the day the ISNSW organised a bus to leave from the Harlequin Club in King Street Campbelltown and with the aid of Heather McSpadyen, of the Open Spaces team on CCC, the bus was parked on neighbouring land and with a fence removed and a path mowed; easy access was gained.

Once the unveiling was complete and the photo opportunities reached their limit, the bus returned to the Harlequin Club for a light lunch and speeches. Bob Hanna of ISNSW Heritage Group talked of the journey undertaken by Hume and Hovell while our President, Stephen Coppins looked at a different view, the others who completed the trek, namely the five convicts and one servant who helped to make it all possible.

Hopefully, one day the monument and its neighbouring information board will be moved back from the road and a parking area made, to allow access to this special tribute to our history.

JC

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***Celebrations at the unveiling of the pillar in 1924 with Mayor Charles Hannaford***



***1. The unveiling of the information board by Narelle Underwood (Surveyor General 2016-2021) with Mitch Hanlon ISNSW, Greg Warren Member for Campbelltown, Ben Hoyle Deputy General Manager CCC. 2. RAHS members Professor Carol Liston and Donna Newton 3. Descendants or families of descendants Donna LaRue (Boyd), Annette O'Donnell (Fitzpatrick) Mark Wilson (Hume) Pauline Geitz (Bollard) Neil Wilson (Hume) 4. Heather McSpadyen CCC***

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## *2024 RAHS Conference – Friday Night Welcome Reception*

The Campbelltown Art Centre with its open, terraced approach and wide exhibition areas; with its café and outdoor courtyard seating, flowing onto the beautiful, peaceful Japanese garden. This is the perfect space to showcase Campbelltown, and so it was on Friday night, October 25 when our Society was host to the Welcome Reception for the 2024 RAHS Conference.

With a few heartfelt but very short speeches, delivered firstly by the newly appointed Mayor of Campbelltown, Cr Darcy Lound followed by Iain Stewart, President of RAHS and lastly and also briefly by our own President, Stephen Coppins, the evening proceeded with casual mingling and chatting; with the added bonus of being able to view the entries in the 2024 Fishers Ghost Art Competition, its timely installation being completed 50 minutes before the reception began.

It was nice to welcome Deputy Mayor Karen Hunt, Cr Meg Oates and Cr Warren Morrison from Council, members of the RAHS including Carol Liston and Judith Dunn and people from other Historical Societies as far as Wagga and the South Coast to Lennox Head in the north. We are hugely indebted to the work done by Alana Bond, Civic Events Officer and Campbelltown Council for all their support with this event, including allowing us this space for the evening. JC



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## *My review of the RAHS Conference, 2024 by Sharon Greene.*

The last time the Royal Australian Historical Society held their annual conference in Campbelltown was back in 1942, almost eighty years ago, so I thought I had better not dally, as I mightn't make it to the next one! So over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024, I attended my very first RAHS conference. For good measure I signed up for the drinks on Friday evening and the formal Saturday evening dinner, so I could appreciate the entire experience. I also attended the bus-trip and drive around old Campbelltown on Saturday afternoon, so as not to miss anything.

Being held at Campbelltown Catholic Club and in our backyard was very convenient and no additional accommodation expenses! A bonus! Plus, as I have recently joined the Committee of Campbelltown & Airs Historical Society, it behoved me to support the local team and attend. I was very pleased I did.

I met up with Margaret Francis, nee Vernon, and a fellow student from my Campbelltown High School days and as she had married my second cousin, Rodney, we had plenty of topics to cover and talk about. Campbelltown history and the Grist Mills got a good mention too.

The conference covered many and varied topics, with excellent speakers sharing their passion and knowledge with the audience, who showed their appreciation. The program was a good balance of topics: both known facts and thought-provoking ideas, with some new resources to be investigated.

The things that touched me most as a local and something I had experienced were the talks about the Bardia Barracks at the Ingleburn Army Camp, with the disregard by bureaucracy of its significance and the pain of Bob Gosling; the History Club at St Patrick's College and the passion of Fran Musico Rullo with her students showing respect for our military heroes; Berrima District societies and their Street Names Project – an excellent and simple way of recording local history; a total surprise was the Unreserved Access and discovering the Reserve Bank Archives (something I have already delved into); and the very last speaker but not least, was Andrew Allen, bringing to life the facts of Frederick Fisher and the story behind our famous local ghost.

Plus, it was lovely to see all the hard-working volunteers recognised for their gift-of-time to many various groups and to hear of the worthy Cultural Grants given to over twenty organisations by the RAHS. Great books and other items were for sale and I managed to buy a few, and another bonus was receiving a brand new copy of Carol Liston's Bicentennial book about Campbelltown (hard back and published in 1988).

The Catholic Club venue and staff were well organised and helpful to any requests, and as always the venue was clean and tidy. Some found the air-conditioning cold, but I have learnt from past exposure!

And did I mention the bonus? There were a couple of raffles over the weekend and I was very fortunate to win one of the major raffle prizes at the Saturday night dinner. Whilst I would have dearly loved to have won the two-year membership to the RAHS, I won the next best thing: an escorted tour of the Parramatta Female Factory for a party of 10, kindly donated by Judith Dunn. I've already lined-up nine girlfriends with the excuse for a day out, in the New Year, thank you Judith. I will also mention that I sat at a table of total strangers and very soon, we were all chattering like old friends. So I had a very enjoyable experience attending my first RAHS conference and I plan to repeat the process.

**History** holds the **story** of things that have passed, it's from these stories we need to learn and not repeat the mistakes. But by the very nature that it is passed we cannot change the **story** no matter how hard we try.

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## *Reflections of the 2024 RAHS Conference by Judith Trimboli*

The Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society were privileged to host the 2024 Annual Royal Australian Historical Society Conference. Held over 2 days in October it was a wonderful gathering of many members from various Societies.

The key note speaker Mark McKenna set the scene with a thought-provoking talk encompassing the theme of the conference “Windows into Local History”.

The President of the Campbelltown Society, Stephen Coppins gave a history of Campbelltown and surrounds touching on special events and places of interest. I thought the following talk by Uncle Gavin Andrews about the displacement of the First Nations people by the colonists was well received as he spoke about the terrible tragedy that was the Appin massacre in our region.

A special feature of the Conference was the awarding of Certificates to various members of Historical Societies for their great commitments to preserving the history of their districts. I hope some of our hard-working members may receive certificates as well at future Conferences.

Something I thought was particularly interesting was the talk by Gizette Waldron about the Geographical Names Board. Choosing names for new suburbs and streets was fascinating.

Another very good resource for Historians and Family Historians was the Reserve Banks’ Archives. Sarah Middleton-Jones told us that many of the records are being digitised and available on their online platform “Unreserved”. Mortgages, loans and other bank transactions can be found and can add another layer to stories of our ancestors.

To conclude the Conference, we were delighted with some stories about murder, mayhem and ghosts. Ending with the history of Fishers Ghost by Andrew Allen. Although I had heard the story many times, I still learnt quite a lot from Andrew’s presentation.

All in all, a fantastic Conference. Many thanks must go to Stephen and Michelle and the rest of the hard-working committee who pulled it all together. I know the work it takes to plan a big event like this. I look forward to attending more Conferences in the coming years.

To conclude, one of the highlights I felt was the meet and greet on the Friday evening at the Arts Centre. The staff at the Centre worked tirelessly to mount the prestigious Fishers Ghost Award entries in time for the evening. They finished just in time for our guests to experience one of the showpieces of our local district.



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*John Morthern is at present on the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) living in Sapporo City and working as an Assistant English Teacher. With this move driven by his love of history, and especially modern East Asian history he has suggested that he write a report on some of the historical places around him. This way John can stay connected to the Society and we, in turn can broaden our knowledge of Japan.*

### *Takeshiro Nagayama*

In the shadows of a postmodern shopping complex, the grand Sapporo Factory, is hidden away a small park which houses one of the true historic gems of the city. For many, me included, the feature goes completely unnoticed as countless people go about their daily business, seldom looking through the tree line at what lies beyond. So one can imagine my amazement as I walked through said trees in search of a good Autumn leaf photo spot, only to find one of the best preserved Historic buildings, the residence of Takeshiro Nagayama.

Takeshiro was born in 1837, being raised in the waning days of the Edo Period, a time where Japan was ruled by a military overlord known as the Shogunate and the Emperor was merely a figure head. Following Western contact with the U.S, a shift in power occurred leading to a political drive for the young 15-year-old Emperor Meiji to become the absolute ruler of Japan as in the ancient times. Takeshiro's clan, the Satsuma, sided with the Emperor and over the year-long bloody conflict known as the Boshin War (1867) he served as a Captain. He continued his military career after the war and in 1877 he fought in the Satsuma Rebellion where he was second in command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tunda Battalion from Hokkaido (Japan's Northern most Island).

Takeshiro rose steadily in his career and became a prominent figure in Hokkaido politics and the development of Sapporo as its capitol city. Around 1880 he had a home built on his land next to the present-day Sapporo Factory shopping center. The was a typical blend of Western and traditional design which had become so popular following the restoration of the emperor and the modernization of the country. It is a single floor structure with a high ceiling and low doorways, the floors lined with tatami matting and the windows large forming sliding doorways to the garden outside.

In 1904, Takeshiro passed away and in 1911 his property was sold to the Mitsubishi Goshi Kaisha (Limited Partnership) who decided to use the house as a dormitory for their staff working in Sapporo. In 1937, with the increase of personnel working in the city, a second structure was built connecting to the side of the existing building. It is a two-story house made of wood, painted green and off-white. The building was constructed specifically with the intention of being accommodation and so consist of large spacious rooms in a far more Western design, however, maintains some Japanese feature typical of the early Showa (Emperor Hirohito) Era.

During the subsequent Second World War, Sapporo went largely untouched by Allied bombings and the war ended prior to the Soviet Unions planned invasion of Hokkaido. As a result, this spectacular building still stands as one of the best examples of private dwellings from the Meiji and Showa periods. Much like Glenalvon today, it is open to the public and run by a local historical society, allowing people the opportunity to see what homes were like firsthand.



*Takeshiro Nagayama*





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## *New to the collection: A beautiful mantle clock belonging to John Agar Scarr*

The Society was approached by a gentleman by the name of David Scarr, to see if we would be interested in a clock. We naturally jumped at the chance of taking it, knowing the significance of the name Scarr from the early years of Campbelltown. The clock turned out to be a beautiful marble mantle clock and has been given pride of place in our sitting room. The clock, however, is not the first treasure we have been gifted by the Scarr family. We have in our possession a watercolour painted by John Agar Scarr's father in 1828. This unique painting shows Agar Cottage completed as a street scene with figures chatting or strolling by.

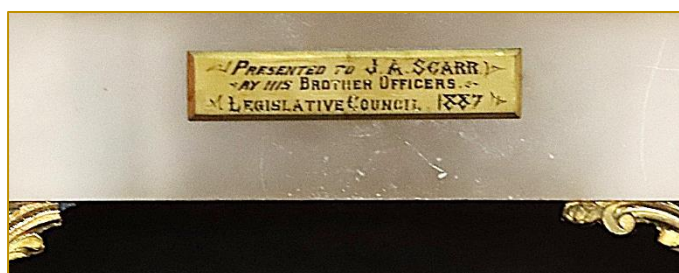
John Agar Scarr was born in Agar Cottage, Campbelltown in 1830. He was the son of John Scarr, who arrived as a free settler in the colony in 1823 being appointed as Postmaster of Campbelltown in 1828, and his wife Anne nee Campbell originally from Perthshire. John Agar Scarr entered the Civil Service at the age of 17 eventually taking up the position as Parliamentary shorthand writer, a position he held for 37 years.

“The officers of the Legislative Council Department invited Mr. John A. Scarr (who for 37 years was connected with the department and for many years filled the office of shorthand writer to the Council) to meet them in No. 2 committee room for the purpose of presenting him with a token of the high appreciation in which he was held by all his brother officers. Mr. Calvert, as head of the office, made the presentation, which consisted of a handsome clock, with a suitable inscription. The health of the guest was proposed in felicitous terms by Mr. Calvert and responded to by Mr. Scarr.”

GENERAL NEWS. (1887, August 31). *The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930)*, p. 5.

We also wish to thank Sharon Greene for visiting David Scarr at Marsfield and bringing the clock safely to Glenalvon.

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## *First official use of AI for the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society.*

Following the RAHS Conference, where one of the sessions was on how AI could help historical societies, our illustrious Editor asked me to go to Chat GPT to come up with a title for my article for the November *Grist Mills* about the servants who went on the Hume & Hovell expedition. Here's what AI came up with...

**Question:** "Hello, I am working on an article about the lives and experiences of the six servants, five of them convicts, who travelled with Hamilton Hume and William Hovell on their expedition from Appin to Port Phillip in Australia in 1824-1825. Could you suggest 10 title options, please? Maybe make 3 of them humorous, if possible? Thanks in advance."

**Answer:**

"Certainly! Here are 10 title options, including a few humorous ones for a creative twist:

### **Straightforward Titles**

1. "The Unsung Heroes of the Hume and Hovell Expedition: Stories of Convict Servants on Australia's First Overland Journey"
2. "Forgotten Hands of History: The Lives of Convicts on Hume and Hovell's Expedition"
3. "Servants to Explorers: The Convict Companions of Hume and Hovell's Journey"
4. "Beyond the Leaders: The Convict Servants Who Helped Shape Australian Exploration"
5. "From Chains to Exploration: The Convicts of the Hume and Hovell Expedition"

### **Humorous Titles**

6. "Convicts in the Outback: Six Servants Who Really Went the Extra Mile"
7. "From Penal Colony to Port Phillip: Convicts and Chaos on Hume and Hovell's Trek"
8. "You Think Your Commute Is Rough? Meet the Convicts Who Crossed Australia for Free"

### **Creative/Intriguing Titles**

9. "Trailblazers in Chains: The Convict Servants of Hume and Hovell's Legendary Expedition"
10. "The Overlooked Pioneers: Convicts Who Carved Paths in Australia's First Great Overland Adventure"

I hope these spark some inspiration!"

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## *Calendar of Events*

### December

Saturday 07 Dec – Christmas Party

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

Monday 16 Dec – **Glenalvon closed to the public, until Monday 3 Feb 2025**

Wednesday 25 Dec – **Christmas Day Public Holiday**

Thursday 26 Dec – **Boxing Day Public Holiday**

### January 2025

Wednesday 01 Jan – **New Year's Day Public Holiday**

Monday 06 Jan – **Optional volunteering days start from this date – Please contact Society, prior to coming in, if required**

Sunday 26 Jan – **Australia Day**

Monday 27 Jan – **Australia Day Public Holiday**

### February

Monday 3 Feb – 9.00am-1.00pm – Volunteering starts – **first official day back**

Saturday 8 Feb – 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Tuesday 11 Feb 9.30am – CAHS Committee Meeting

Sunday 16 Feb 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets – **Devonshire Teas**

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

1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting **Guest Speaker: Jeff McGill – West's Celebrates 50 years 1974-2024**



*Wishing all our members a safe and happy holiday season*