



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

February, 2025

President's Report

by Stephen Coppins

Dear members,

Welcome to the first issue of *The Kernel*, newsletter of the "Award Winning" Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, for 2025 (a bit more about that later).

Although December and January are considered the "quiet months", we have still been pretty busy.

Hopefully, despite the wet weather members enjoyed our annual Christmas party?

I would like to thank Jenny Goodfellow and Clarice Stretch for their hard work installing two new displays. In the Display Room of the main house, is an object and information display about the life and public service of Hubert Peter 'Bert' Lazzarini, who was Federal Member for Werriwa between 1919 and 1952. The second display, located in the Servant's Quarters is of his Granddaughter Kathleen's international doll collection, which she acquired over many years.



As members may be aware, the Committee has decided to try a different open house timetable for 2025. Instead of two Saturdays and a Sunday each month, we will be trialling two Sunday Open Days each month and reviewing this in June. This was decided mainly because we were not getting a lot of visitors on the Saturdays and hopefully, this will also give our regular volunteers a break between open days. The new schedule can be found in the Calendar of Events page. A huge thank you to all our members who volunteer on the open days, and also take time to do work around the property and for the Society, during the week.

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December and January turned out to be award season not just for our Society but also for our members. I would like to congratulate **Fran Musico-Rullo, Alley Rullo** and **Andrew Allen**, along with the staff and students of St. Patrick's College History Club and the Campbelltown City Library Local Studies Team, who were presented the 2024 Anzac Day Schools Award (National Winner) and the Brigadier Bill Rolfe AO Award for Veteran Involvement, on 2 December. This was for the school's project researching and interviewing local veterans who have served across many wars. More about this award and project is included in this issue.

A well-deserved congratulations goes to **Judith Trimboli**, who was named Campbelltown City Council's 2025 Senior Citizen of the Year, at the Campbelltown Australia Day ceremony, for her continued work for the Campbelltown community, over many years.

Also at that ceremony, Michelle Hatfield (Vice President), Chris Hayes (Secretary), Anne Ross (Treasurer), Julie Crowley (Editor) and myself, were honoured to represent Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, when our Society was presented with Campbelltown's 2025 Community Group Initiative of the Year. Despite the name of this award, it recognises the 77 years of work the CAHS has put into our community. I would like to thank the Society's members and volunteers, past and present, who made this award possible. We are still not sure who nominated the CAHS for this award, but would also like to thank them, whoever they are!

Speaking of volunteers, Gift of Time Certificates were presented to volunteers of our Society. We hope to be able to present members who were not at the February General Meeting, with their certificates in the coming weeks.

There are a couple of late-breaking news items:

Firstly, the good news - there is a members' excursion opportunity to visit the "Shadows of the Past" photo exhibition, at the old Advertiser building, on **Wednesday 12 March** (please see details in this issue).

In the somewhat sadder news column, Treasurer Anne Ross and long-term committee member (current Curator and former President) Jenny Goodfellow, both announced their intentions not to nominate for the committee at the next AGM in August 2025.

Both ladies have offered to continue volunteering for the Society in other capacities, which I would like to thank them for. Another advantage of this early announcement, is that gives us an opportunity for a hand-over period, where Anne, Jenny, myself and the committee can show members the ropes of both roles before they decide to (hopefully) commit to them, in August. More details about these roles, should be sent out by email by now, if anyone is interested.

We will also properly thank Anne and Jenny at the AGM and in a future issue of *The Kernel*.

Kind Regards,

Stephen

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.



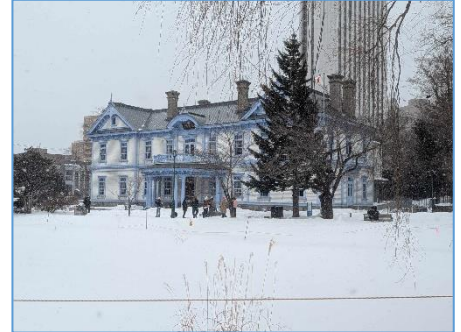
To keep up to date with all the latest news, make sure you check out the CAHS Facebook Page

More from Sapporo City

One of our members, John Morthern is at present on the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) living in Sapporo City and working as an Assistant English Teacher. We have here his second report in a series designed to tell about the historical places around him. John sends his story from a cold and snowy city, adding some photos to show his surrounds.



View from the school window,
with Mt Moiwa during a snow
storm



Above: The Blue House in
Nakojima Park. Foundation Day,
February 2025
A lady walking in Nakojima Park.
Foundation Day

What's the time?

This must've been an important question on the minds of the settlers that moved North into Hokkaido (Japan's Northern most Island) as the Sapporo Clock Tower is the oldest building still standing in the city.

Following the restoration of the emperor in 1868, the decision to establish power over Hokkaido was set in motion. At the time, Hakodate (which I shall explore next time after I have visited its spectacular fortress) was the regional capital. However, it was determined a new city must be established which could better project influence over the land. The City of Sapporo was founded and became an agricultural frontier settlement. One of the first projects undertaken was the construction of an agricultural college in 1871 under the guidance of American professor Dr. William S. Clark who oversaw the development of the farming industry.

But who was going to farm this land, and furthermore, who would defend it? Hokkaido was very much the frontier and Russia, having already claimed Sakhaline to the North, had its eyes on the vast and fertile land. It was decided that Tundra Soldiers (Frontier Soldiers) would be

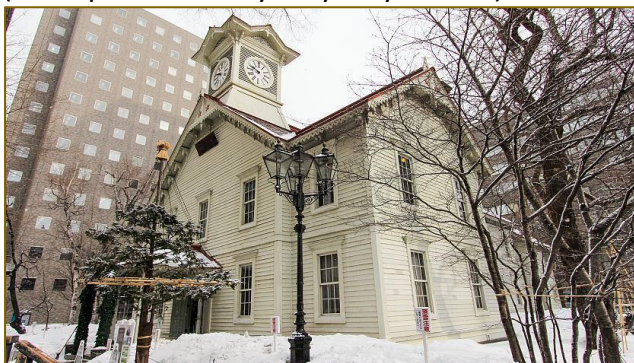
used in the new colony. “One soldier and a farmer”, essentially a citizen soldier as we would know them in Australia, they were farmers who would maintain a high level of military training. These were recruited from the ranks of former Samurai, who following the restoration of the emperor, were left jobless.

With the Tunda soldiers in place, they needed somewhere to train them. In 1878, the construction of a Drill Hall at the Agricultural college was completed. But the poor souls still had no idea what time it was, and so within a month of completion a clock was ordered and by June the following year a tower housing the device had been added to the main hall structure, thus creating what has become an iconic symbol of Sapporo.



Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the School of Agriculture in 1896

The Clock Tower remained a Drill Hall but also went on to be a centre piece of the college’s education, functioning as a lecture hall, as well as for civic events and balls. Over the decades, its use was replaced by more convenient locations, and eventually the old clock tower became little more than a reminder of the past frontier settlement. Today the Clock Tower is open to the public most days and is very well preserved. Its clock still ticks but many who need to know the time now prefer to look towards the far more visible TV Tower located in Odori Park (the equivalent of Sydney’s Hyde Park).



Sapporo Clock Tower during Winter.



Sapporo TV Tower located in Odori Park, Summer



Calendar of Events

March

Sunday	2 Mar	10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets
Wednesday	12 Mar	10.30am – CAHS Members' visit to "Shadows of the Past" Photo Exhibition, Lavender & Willow, Suite 2, 263 Queen Street, Campbelltown
Sunday	16 Mar	10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets
Saturday	22 Mar	1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting Guest Speaker: Wal Walker, author of <i>The Squatters' Grab</i>

April

Sunday	6 Apr	10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets
Tuesday	8 Apr	9.30am – CAHS Committee Meeting
Friday	18 Apr	Good Friday Public Holiday Heritage Festival 2025 Start: Theme: Unearthed
Saturday	19 Apr	Easter Saturday
Sunday	20 Apr	Easter Sunday 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets – Devonshire Teas CANCELLED
Monday	21 Apr	Easter Monday Public Holiday – NO VOLUNTEERING
Friday	25 Apr	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Saturday	26 Apr	1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting Grist Mills launch: RAHS Conference Local Area Talks

May

Sunday	4 May	10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets
Tuesday	13 May	9.30am – CAHS Committee Meeting
Sunday	18 May	10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets Heritage Festival 2025 End: Theme: Unearthed
Saturday	24 May	1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting Guest Speaker: Dr Ian Willis, President Camden Historical Society
Tuesday	27 May	9.30am – Museum Committee Meeting

Member's Excursion



There is an opportunity for members of our Society to visit a heritage building photo exhibition, titled

“Shadows of the Past: Campbelltown’s Historic Buildings Revisted.”

These are recent photos of heritage building in Campbelltown, by local photographer Glenn Smith, along with some of his flora and fauna photography.

A visit by our members, has been arranged for:

10.30am

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Lavender & Willow

Suite 2 (Level 1), 263 Queen Street Campbelltown

Glenn will be available during this visit, to talk about his photos and the process he undertook to make modern photos look a little bit historic. He is also happy to answer any questions about his nature photos or photography in general.

Marisa Pacho, the owner of Lavender & Willow, has also kindly offered to provide morning tea for our members, for a gold coin donation.

Please note, numbers are limited to 15, due to space. And as this is located on the first floor of a heritage-listed building, there are stairs, so may not be suitable for all members, sorry.

If you would like to attend this members’ visit, please contact me by Sunday 9 March 2024, for catering purposes.



'Our local veterans-Discovering, Recording and Reflecting on Stories of Service'

The Anzac Day School's Award is a national competition conducted by Veterans' Affairs, recognising the work of students and teachers, in schools that engage with veterans and honour Australia's wartime history.

It is so pleasing to see the work St Patrick's College History Club, under the guidance of teacher, Fran Musico-Rullo, be acknowledged, winning this prestigious award.



Also of mention is Andrew Allen and Michael Sullivan from the Campbelltown Library Local Studies team, who supported this project, videotaping and participating in the interviews.

Each student compiled a biography, as well as learning interview techniques they developed research skills by accessing primary material from sources such as Trove and the National Archives.

Some students from years 8, 9 and 12 developed a website so the research could be accessed publicly and used by other classes in the College as a teaching and learning tool.

With the aid of a staff member, a photographic portrait was taken of each veteran.

Combining all these skills a booklet was created, given to guests as part of the presentation assembly.

The assembly was held in the Mary Sheill Centre on 2 December, 2024, to acknowledge the forty-two students, three teachers and 14 service personnel. They worked on the project during their free time in and after school, recording stories of local servicemen and women who served in all conflicts and peacemaking missions since World War I.

They were also awarded the Brigadier Bill Rofe AO Award for Veteran Involvement.

Many of the girls wore the replica outfits of the nurses from WWI and WWII setting the scene for the presentation.

Guest of Honour, British Deputy Consul-General Edward Kitt delivered the keynote address, speaking of his own grandfather's service in WWII while many other distinguished guests included Dr Mike Freeland MP Federal Member for Macarthur, Mr Greg Warren MP State Member for Campbelltown, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Early Learning, Cr Darcy Lound Mayor of Campbelltown and Ms Alison McLaren Deputy Secretary representing Secretary, Department of Veteran Affairs, Canberra.

Congratulations to all those involved!





Ally Rullo as part of the History Club addresses the Assembly



Hope Schwarze Year 8 interviewed her Pop. John Purkis. John joined the Australian Regular Army and did one tour of Vietnam and two trips to Malaysia. Sadly, a few weeks after his interview John Purkis passed away.

H J Daley was researched by his granddaughter Caitlin Reynolds Year 12

Good with numbers?

The Society needs to fill the position
of

Treasurer

Starting in August 2025.

The current treasurer will be available
to work you through what is needed in the next few months.

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Australia Day Award



The Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society is very honoured to have been awarded 'Community Group Initiative of the Year', at the Campbelltown City Council 2025 Australia Day Awards ceremony, held at the Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn.

Stephen Coppins (President), Michelle Hatfield (Vice President), Chris Hayes (Secretary), Anne Ross (Treasurer), and Julie Crowley (Editor) were presented the award by Campbelltown Mayor Darcy Lound, and Australia Day Ambassador Mary-Ruth Mendel, Co-founder and Co-Chair of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation.



Thank you to Campbelltown City Council for this award, and to all of our volunteers for making it possible. This award is recognition of the work done, not only by those who give their time today, but for the past presidents, secretaries and treasurers; for those who received significant items for the collection, for those writers of Grist Mills, for all who have contributed since 1947. It celebrates what we are, thanks to all who have been.

Our Society would also like to congratulate and thank all of the other individuals and community groups who were recognised at the awards ceremony, for all the work they do for the Campbelltown City community.

Congratulations to those who have received the Australia Day Award on behalf of Campbelltown & Airds Historical Society for 2025.

Everyone involved should be proud of the society's ongoing achievements.

Strong vibrant organisations continue to be the glue that holds communities together.

Learning about our history helps families, communities and nations to better understand where they have come from and what we should value today and in the future.

In the digital age, community groups that maintain strong personal bonds and connections between members and the wider community will be even more essential.

With best wishes,

Verlie Fowler



Mary-Ruth Medel, Australia Day Ambassador 2025



Michelle Hatfield and Stephen Coppins

Congratulations to the Senior Citizen of the Year

It was wonderful to see one of our members, Judith Trimboli, receive the Senior Citizen of the Year award. Judith has been volunteering her time to numerous groups and events since 1997. Just to name a few, she is President of the Seniors Issues and Interest Group and responsible for the Seniors Chat Newsletter. She has also been involved in the creation and implementation of Cyber Seekers, supporting seniors to learn new technology. As well as a member of our Society, she is a Friend of the Campbelltown Art Centre.

AND an added bonus....Judith got to cut the Australia Day cake!!



Facelifts and More



Anyone wandering along Lithgow Street will find our House, at the moment, hidden behind a tall cyclone fence. The front gate, sorry, space (there is no gate) is barricaded off, as the fencing stretches the entire length of the property. Someone walking past the other day asked me if we were moving! The explanation is much simpler, we are getting our fence restored panel by panel. I say restored rather than replaced as much of the wood is being attempted to be reused, as it is no longer able to be sourced. Still much has rotted over the years making it necessary to be replaced by a more widely used wood of today.

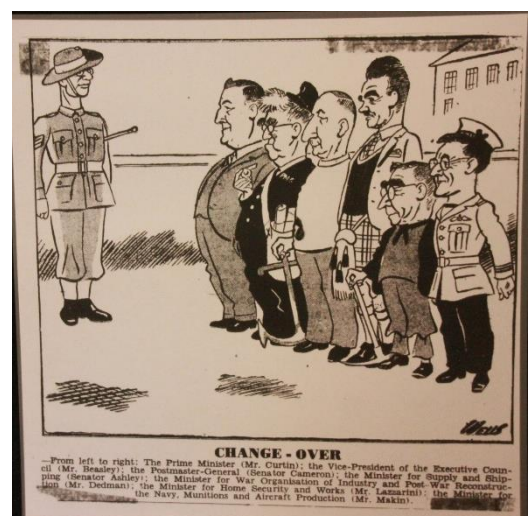
The back of the House was painted not so long ago and, in our break, the main staircase was also painted and is looking fresh and shiny. We are truly grateful to Campbelltown City Council, who look after us so well.

Julie Crowley

New Display

Jenny Goodfellow and Clarice Stretch) have been working to install two new displays.

In the Display Room, in the main house, you can see a display, featuring objects and information, about the life and service of Hubert Peter Lazzarini, Federal MP for Werriwa, for many years.

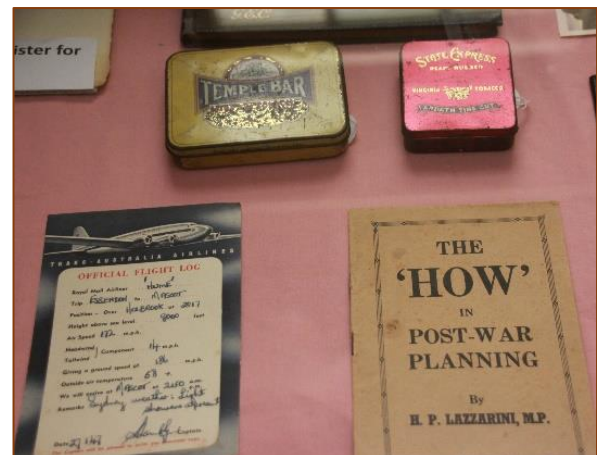


Hubert Peter Lazzarini (known as Bert) was the M.P. for the seat of Werriwa from 1919 to 1952 with a break of 3 years during the Depression.

Under John Curtin in 1941, Bert became Minister for Home Security and Minister assisting the Treasurer. In 1945 he shed the Treasury duties but gained the portfolio of Works. At this time his title was changed to Minister for Works and Housing where he administered the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement to provide homes for low-income families.

Bert was succeeded in the seat of Werriwa by E. Gough Whitlam.

Hubert Peter Lazzarini died in 1952 and is buried in Liverpool.



In the Servant's Quarters you can see the Lazzarini Doll Collection. These dolls were collected over many years by Kathleen Lazzarini, granddaughter of former Federal MP Bert Lazzarini.
