



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

June, 2025

This *Kernel* is a catchup on some of the events members have been involved in since our last newsletter and information about some things to note in your diary, whilst our President, Stephen Coppins, is away overseas.

Anniversary of the Appin Massacre

On the 13th April three of us went to the Memorial Ceremony to honour the Dharawal People who were massacred on the 17th April 1816. This year is the 209th Anniversary of the Appin Massacre at Cataract Dam. The Massacre was a tragedy of Australia's frontier wars, so remembering this each year, is a part of healing and reconciliation.

This truth is difficult to read but it has been hidden constantly in our history. Early one morning Captain Wallis of the 46th Regiment, a leader in the Appin area came across a Dharawal men's camp. Following Governor Macquarie's orders, the men, mostly elders, were slaughtered. Their heads were cut off and taken back to Sydney. The other men hunted down the local clan and shot and trampled the women and children with their horses and drove them over the cliffs at Broughton Pass. Fourteen people were listed as being killed that day but the true figure will never be known.

The commemoration started with a BBQ supplied by community groups and coordinated by the amazing Sister Kerry. The walk down the hill, by hundreds of people, to near the dam wall is always very quiet and moving, then people were greeted and invited to participate in the smoking ceremony.

Peter Jones, who is often our music entertainer on Market Days at Glenalvon, was the Master of Ceremonies, introducing speakers and dancers for this years' function. Aunty Glenda Chalker spoke, along with Gawaian Bodkin- Andrews and his daughter. The leaders from our 3 local government areas: Mayor of Wollondilly Cr Matt Gould, Mayor Campbelltown City Council Cr Darcy Lound and Camden City Council Cr Ashleigh Cagney followed, each speaking about reconciliation.

It is always a sobering but very worthwhile ceremony to attend.

Sue Kijurina

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

Correspondence to Secretary

P.O. Box 257, Campbelltown NSW 2560

Phone: (02) 4625 1822 Email: secretary@cahs.org.au Website: <https://www.cahs.org.au/>



Anniversary of the Appin Massacre



Official Opening of Macarthur Memorial Park

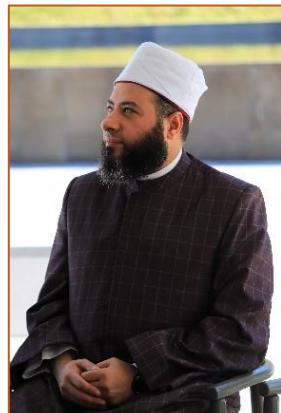
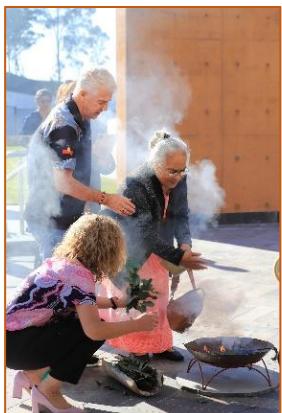
On April 7, 2025 I was privileged to attend the Multifaith Prayer Service and Opening of the Macarthur Memorial Park on behalf of our Society.

Driving to the Park through Varroville, along St Andrews Road, where 113 hectares of open space has been landscaped, partly as parkland, partly as cemetery, within the Scenic Hills, I arrived at a stunningly designed chapel. This dramatic sandstone and timber building, once inside, displayed the landscape below through a huge glass window at the front.



While the project had been developed by the Catholic Church, with Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher giving the main address, the service was truly a multifaith service. The program for the event presented two full pages of special guests; leaders from 25 different faith groups including Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Baha'i, Greek Orthodox, the Uniting Church, Baptist and Jewish faiths, as well as Members of Parliament for the surrounding areas and some government officials.

In the courtyard where guests were assembling the peace and respect for each faith was evident, as leaders mixed and talked to each other.





Once Premier Chris Minns arrived, a Smoking ceremony was conducted and the guests processed into the sanctuary, led by elders carrying bowls of earth.

Following the welcome by the CEO of Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria, the representatives of Abrahamic faiths passed the bowls of earth to all faith leaders to mirror the sharing between all faiths.

Next an address by Premier Chris Minns (short and totally without political grandstanding) was followed with a Ceremony of Light, bring up the leaders of the Buddhist, Sikh and Baha'i faiths to light from a main candle and move through the chapel until everyone present had a candle lit.

The service was enhanced by choir, organ and orchestra brought from the city when, finally, the official plaque was unveiled by Most Reverend Brian Mascord, Bishop of Wollongong.

Moving out into the courtyard for morning tea I could not help thinking how we live in a pretty remarkable country!

By Julie Crowley



The project was developed by the Catholic Cemeteries + Crematoria Trust (CCC), and has now been returned to the NSW Government as publicly-owned Crown land, to serve the people of NSW, this being the first new crown cemetery in 85 years (the previous one being at Frenchs Forest where the first burial took place in April 1940).

As well as the memorial park, where the landscape principle is one of no headstones visible from main roads, no crypts or crematorium, there is 35 hectares set aside for publicly accessible parkland with walkways, a sculpture park, boardwalks and cafe.

The Tale of a Door Knocker

Donation by John Feeney, 13th May 2025

John Feeney met with Stephen Coppins, Julie Crowley, Jenny Goodfellow and Christine Hayes on 13th May 2025, to donate an original painting of "The Barn" by Yvonne McManus, photographs, slides, and documents, also the door knocker of John Warby's "Leumeah House" and several hand-made nails from Warby's Stables. These are listed in John's letter to the Society.

He donated a door knocker and door knob from the Waterloo area, to be used as the Society sees fit.

He recounted that he was driving through Campbelltown in 1961 and noticed the "for Sale" sign on a small parcel of land, part of what had originally been John Warby's estate.

On a whim, he approached the vendor, a Camden solicitor by the name of Johnson, who advised that the land was available, but that he had been offered \$500 pounds for "The Barn" by a builder who could use the sandstone blocks.

John wanted to retain "The Barn". The price including "The Barn" was \$1,500 pounds. John said he could not afford that amount. He had \$1,000 pounds, and would have to obtain a loan for the balance. Mr Johnson told him to pay the 1,000 pounds, and that he could pay off the balance monthly, at his office in Camden.

Documents and photographs donated show the conversion John undertook, commencing with the removal of horse stalls. "The Barn" was in fact Warby's Stables Building, and the building known as "The Stables", currently belonging to the Colonial Inn Motel, was The Barn. John kept the name "The Barn" as this was recognised by the Mitchell Library.

When Warby's "Leumeah House" was being demolished, John saw the front door on the pile of rubble. He asked the builder if he could have the door, and used it on "The Barn".

After he sold the property to Sid's Restaurant, he was driving by one evening and by chance saw the door on a bonfire of discarded building materials. Using some tools kept in the boot of his car he was able to take the smouldering door from the fire, and remove the knocker. The door could not be rescued this time.

We thank John Feeney for his donation, and for the curious tale. By Jennifer Goodfellow



An historical holiday to the city of Hakodate

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.

Here is the third report in a series designed to tell us about the historical places around him.

From the 24-27th of April, I was on an historical holiday to the city of Hakodate. Hakodate was founded by the Japanese Shogunate in 1454, however the land was occupied by indigenous peoples for thousands of years prior, namely the Ainu. Like all colonial powers, the Japanese suppressed, exploited and assimilated the Ainu to the point there are almost none left today. The city flourished as a fishing and trading port. Under an isolationist Tokugawa Regime, it was one of the few links to the outside world. In 1854, Commodore Mathew Perry of the US Navy forced Japan to open several 'Treaty Ports', one of these being Hakodate. From then on it has been a thriving hub of international trade. Due to its position in the north, it largely escaped Allied bombing in WW2 and many its historic late Victorian era buildings remain, making it a history buffs dream spot. Today I am going to attempt to squeeze in two of these locations.

On the west coast of Mount Hakodate, you'll find a small pink building, a lovely café which I can confirm sells delicious honey toast and strawberry milk. Well preserved and homely, between 1885-1942 it was a quarantine station. The site holds a secret however, a completely forgotten history which not even the city heritage sign outside the cafe mentions.



In 1942, the Japanese government requisitioned the building to form a larger complex known as Hakodate Main Camp No1. A holding camp for Allied Prisoners of War. In this camp there was 283 British, 53 Dutch, 50 Americans, 1 Canadian, 1 Estonian and 8 Australian prisoners. These men were forced to work manual labour at the nearby Hakodate shipyard, repairing merchant vessels and fishing boats. In 1945, due to an increased threat of bombing, these men were moved to a new camp about an hour north of Sapporo city. All 8 men did survive the war, though 114 of the other prisoners were not so lucky.



Captain Vincent G. Bristow, Warrant Officer Cecil V. Vowles, Corporal Oliver S. Coles, Private Vivian C. Bath, Private Frederick George, Private Alfred E. Langford, Private Clarence J. Lee and a Gunner A. Growder who hasn't yet been positively identified.

The second site is the most famous in the city, the fortress of Goryokaku. Commissioned in 1855 and completed 11 years later, this European inspired star fortress is at the heart of the city. In 1869, following a series of defeats to the Imperialist government in the ongoing Boshin War (a civil war between the old Tokugawa Shogunate and the new Meiji Imperialist Governments), the Tokugawa loyalist fled to Hakodate and formed the Republic of Ezo (Ezo is the former name for Hokkaido). They established themselves in the fortress with 3,000 men and waited for the Imperialist. In June, some 7,400 New Government troops arrived and



besieged the fort. The siege lasted a week, and having suffered 1,400 casualties, the Republic of Ezo accepted the terms of surrender.

The fort was never used as a military installation again, and eventually was converted into a city garden. One main reason I chose to visit was to do Hanami (Cherry blossom viewing) as the fortress is now filled with hundreds of cherry blossom trees and is stunningly beautiful. Though on an end note, the museum within the fort was dreadfully boring, largely because 80% of it was completely empty rooms.



A Huge Congratulations to John Mortnern !

We could not be more pleased at being able to share the news that our member, John Mortnern has finished writing his first book, ready for release on

29th July 2025

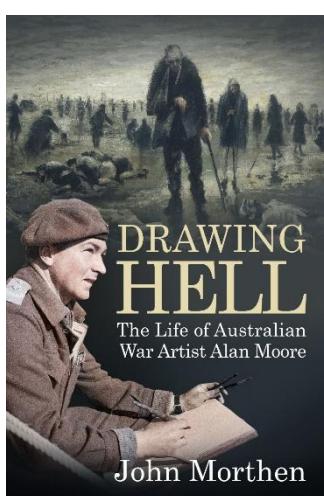
John emailed us to say

‘I just wanted to reach out and share the link to my book’s listing. There are also several online shops that anyone can pre order through, otherwise physical copies will be in store from the end of July. I am not certain if QBD in Campbelltown will get it, but that chain will be one of the suppliers. Thank you again for offering to help spread the word. ‘

[Drawing Hell | Book by J P Mortnern | Official Publisher Page | Simon & Schuster AU](#)

John Mortnern is a passionate historian dedicated to preserving and sharing Australia’s military past. Based in Sydney, he specialises in early to mid-20th-century conflicts and the pre-Federation era, bringing forgotten stories to life through meticulous research and immersive storytelling.

A graduate of the University of Canberra with a degree in Heritage and Museum Studies, John has spent years working in Sydney’s most respected museums, including the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park, where he served as a researcher, and the Liverpool Regional Museum. His commitment to history extends far beyond Australia—his research has taken him to historic battlefields and archives across Western Europe, the United States, South Korea, and Japan. John’s debut book, Drawing Hell: The Life of Australian War Artist Alan Moore, is the result of nearly four years of dedication, uncovering the extraordinary story of a man who documented war through art. With a deep reverence for the past and a talent for uncovering untold narratives, John is fast becoming a leading voice in Australian military history.



‘For those who believe history should never be forgotten, *Drawing Hell* is an essential read’

From the sweltering battlefields of the Southeast Pacific to the levelled cities of Europe, Alan Moore witnessed the greatest war in human history from a unique perspective. As an official war artist working with the RAAF, Moore travelled through the numerous theatres of operations where the RAAF operated and captured their exploits in his art.

He saw the Japanese counterattack at Los Negros Island, felt the exploding flak in the skies over Eastern Europe, and walked through the gates of one of Nazi Germany’s most infamous concentration camps, he captured it all through photographs and oils. His art shows the destruction and tragedy of war, laid bare for all to see.

Alan Moore is one of Australia’s great forgotten artists. Living through a century of excitement and horror and dedicating his work to ensuring that we never forget the carnage man is capable of inflicting. To this day, his art hangs as a stark reminder of our past in some of the most prestigious museums and galleries around the world, including the Australian War Memorial.

Then, Now-ish and Now



As a family home, facing towards the south-western railway line close to Morgan's gate level crossing

Kialfa

built by architect Alfred Payten



The home still stands in the late 1960s

Photo: Ken Bagley



For several decades an empty block of land was easily spotted from the train, because of the telltale palm trees.

Photo: J Crowley 2018



Over the last few months an industrial complex has sprung up on the land.

However, some trees still stand, paying homage to the site of a significant historical home.

Photos: J Crowley 2025



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

Honouring Harley Daley



CAMPBELLTOWN

28 June 2025

Your invitation to join us

1.45pm

HJ Daley Library
1 Hurley Street, Campbelltown

Join our walk to the new library location
at Downtown Plaza, Queen Street

We will then continue to
Mawson Park for refreshments

We hope you can join us for this special occasion



Our next Member's Meeting will look a little different

It would be great to see as many members as possible take part in this very special event!

We plan to meet at Glenalvon at 1.30pm and walk as a group down Lithgow Street to Queen Street, to join in this relay. This will take the place of our normal meeting.

Please let us know if you wish to continue to Mawson Park, as council need to know numbers for catering.

The HJ Daley Library will soon be relocating to its new site at Downtown Plaza. In the lead-up to this move, Campbelltown City Council and the Library are hosting a special commemorative event

Honouring Harley Daley—on Saturday, 28 June 2025 at 2pm.

We're inviting you

to join 1,000 community members who are expected to take part in a symbolic hand to hand walk, passing the medals along a human chain to their new home. The walk will conclude at Mawson Park with speeches and refreshments.

As part of the celebration, we will honour Mr Daley by transferring his WWII medals—part of the Library's collection—from the current location to the new Library at Downtown Plaza on Queen Street.

The Mayor of Campbelltown, Cr Darcy Lound, will present Harley Daley's war medals to the Daley family. The medals will then be passed along the community chain, culminating in a handover to representatives from the RSL Sub-Branch, the Campbelltown District Family History Society, and the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society, before being returned to the family.

The march will pause at the new Library location (Downtown Plaza, Queen Street), where the Daley family will formally present the medals to the Mayor, marking their entry into the new display space. The group will then continue to Mawson Park for the final part of the program.

Wanted: Treasurer!

Are you interested in numbers and money matters? Can you help with the day-to-day running of the Society's finances?

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Anne Ross is retiring from the position of Treasurer after a number of years of great service, so we need a replacement treasurer.

Anne will be around to assist for a few months and our honorary accountant would also be available for advice and assistance.

It is not a huge job, but an important one.

If you are interested, please contact

Christine our secretary (secretary@cahs.org.au)

and we can arrange for you to speak to Anne and get all the information.

Calendar of Events

June

Saturday 28 Jun 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting – **will be replaced by the Honouring Harley Daley Relay.**



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

July

Sunday 6 Jul 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Sunday 20 Jul 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets

Saturday 26 Jul 1.30pm – CAHS General Meeting: Speaker Ron Kydd Topic: The Architecture of Heritage Buildings in Campbelltown.

AUGUST Family History Month

Sunday 3 Aug 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House

Sunday 17 Aug 10am-1pm – Glenalvon Open House Handmade & Homegrown Markets – **Devonshire Teas**

Saturday 23 Aug 1.30pm – **CAHS Annual General Meeting**
2pm – CAHS General Meeting
Topic: A Tribute to Ken Bagley -Slide Show

