



The Kernel

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society

"Love and Cherish the City in which you live"

Newsletter

November, 2022

President's Report

by Kay Hayes

As we farewell 2022, I can report that things are beginning to return to normal and we all look forward to 2023. We hope to welcome more visitors to Glenalvon with tour groups and during open mornings.

In the past month we have welcomed school students from St. Thomas More Primary and two large groups from Blairmount Public School. We also had a visit from Berry Historical Society, who enjoyed morning tea and the tour of Glenalvon. They were very complimentary of the way our tours are run and went home with ideas to assist with visits to their museum.



On Tuesday, 13th December a group of Society members visited St. Patrick's Girls College to view their archives and small museum. A most enjoyable visit and the archivist, Joanne Cavallin and history teacher Fran Musico-Rullo are to be congratulated on the hard work put in to collect and display many items of the history of the college. They have indicated they will invite us again next year, giving those who were unable to attend a chance to see the collection.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all

A Very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year.

Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society Inc

Correspondence to Secretary

P.O. Box 257, Campbelltown NSW 2560

Phone: (02) 4625 1822

Email: secretary@cahs.com.au

Website: www.cahs.com.au

October-A Busy Month

The launch of the second Grist Mills for 2022 at the October member's meeting

The writing of a book about Campbelltown Baseball was the idea of Beryl Hunter. In 1997 Beryl wrote to John Murray (co-founder in 1956 with Eric Henson) of the *Campbelltown Colonials Baseball Club*, giving him information she had been able to collect, and asked if he was able to provide any more. John did provide more information and that was added to photographs Beryl had obtained from Coral and Eric Henson and extracts she'd obtained from the Campbelltown Ingleburn News (1956 to the early 1970s).

Soon after, in 1998, Beryl passed away unexpectedly and all the photos and information she had collected remained in a filing cabinet, untouched for the next 22 years.

In 2020 after coming into chance contact with Greg Dewick, then President of the Ghosts Baseball Club, which evolved directly from Colonials, Jeff Hunter took what he thought was going to be a short trip down memory lane. Soon he realised he was in the position to be able to write a book about Campbelltown Baseball. This is where his obsession started and spare time ended.

Saturday, 15th October, 2022 was the day long awaited for by the few remaining Campbelltown baseballers who still called themselves *Colonials*. We celebrated the book launch of the Grist Mills, *The Story of Campbelltown Baseball 1956 to 1974*, written by Jeff Hunter.

Having been 48 years since any Campbelltown baseballer of the Colonials era took to the field it follows that those remaining were few in number.

On the day it was wonderful to see the six Colonials who were able to attend; Ron Bruce, Bob Mitchell, Jim Flynn, Kevin Goff, John Vaughan and of course Jeff Hunter.



*At back: Kevin Goff, Bob Mitchell, Ron Bruce, Jeff Hunter, Jim Flynn.
Front: Paul Jackson, John Vaughan, Greg Dewick*

Paul O'Loughlan would have made the number seven, however he was unwell and not able to attend.

It was also wonderful to see the family members of two past Colonials at the book launch: Joy Lewis and her two sons came along. Col Lewis was a Colonials foundation member and attended the very first meeting in 1956. He played 166 games. Diana Brookes's late husband Cyril was a foundation member in 1956 and played the 1956 and 1957 seasons with Colonials.

Representing the Ghosts on the day were Paul Jackson, President of Campbelltown Ghosts Baseball Club, Greg Dewick, past President, now Vice President and Life Member of Ghosts, Jack Butcher, the Ghosts First Grade premiership winning coach 2022 and Adam Forbes, President of Macarthur Baseball League.

It was a privilege to meet these present baseballers, who were all very keen to be part of the event and to see the history of baseball in the town recorded.



75th Anniversary Afternoon Tea

On Saturday, 29th October 2022, the Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society celebrated its 75th Anniversary. As we often tell the tour groups when they visit, this makes us one of the oldest historical societies, a point to be proud of!

We were fortunate to have Greg Warren, our State Member and Cr George Greiss, the Mayor of Campbelltown join us for the celebrations.

John Seddon and Liz Breden came to represent Dr Ivor Thomas's family, and as always, it is wonderful to have that connection to our founder.

Members from Liverpool, Camden and Appin Historical Societies joined us as well as many of our present members. Many thanks to Anne Ross, our Treasurer and caterer, who worked so hard to prepare our afternoon tea, as always it was amazing.



John Seddon and Liz Breden



Paula Pfoeffler and Kay Hayes cutting the cake



Only part of Anne's handiwork!

It is a Mystery to be Solved



We were recently given a copy of this photo from Pam Henson. Her parents Eric and Coral are to the right.

Eric and Coral were well known in the community, part of the Uniting Church congregation, active in the Theatre Group and involved in the start of The Colonials Baseball team. Coral was the daughter of Gus Longhurst.

The question is.....who are the other two ladies in the photo? If you recognize them, please let us know. We would appreciate it, as would Pam Henson.

Some exciting new acquisitions



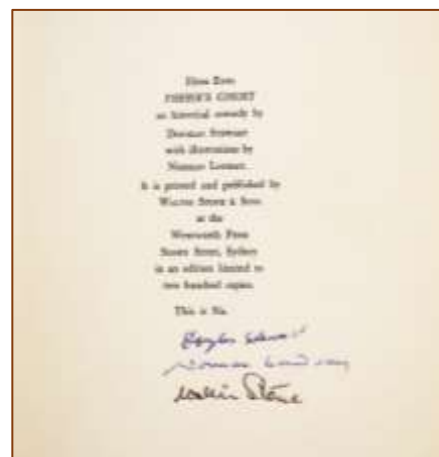
At the 75th Anniversary afternoon tea we were pleased to receive an unexpected gift to add to our collection. Donated by Liz Breden, granddaughter of Dr Ivor and Mary Thomas, it is a wonderful portrait of Dr Thomas, capturing his character as most of those who knew him, will remember him.

An added bonus to having the portrait, is that it was the work of Marj Bursill (Morrison), drawn in 1952. Marj was the granddaughter of Samuel Bursill, who owned Glenalvon from the 1920s.

Also at the Anniversary afternoon tea we were very lucky to receive a rare book, on our favourite early settler. Fred Fisher, of course. The book was given to us by Brian Stratton, who was a guest as part of the Camden Historical Society, but the donation is his personal gift. I will include his email as the back story of the book.



Fisher's Ghost: An Historical Comedy by Douglas Stewart (1960)



Two renowned men of the 20th century, Douglas Stewart AO OBE (1913-1985) and Norman Lindsay (1879-1986) were great friends.

I had the pleasure of meeting Douglas on a few occasions, but it was his wife, artist Margaret Coen (1909-1993), with whom I had an association of a period of some 30 years, when we were both members of the Australian Watercolour Institute.

One little known anecdote of Douglas is that Prime Minister Gough Whitlam asked him to write new words to Waltzing Matilda as a possible new National Anthem. The project was doomed owing to copyright issues.

The Copy for CAHS

Recently I came across this book. It was a surprise to me as I had no memory of it, but I soon realised it would have been in my possession for some 50 to 60 years. The only reasonable explanation I can offer is that it was given to me by my father Allan.

In his working life he had a strong association with the printing industry. For the last part of his career he was Head Teacher of Bookbinding in the NSW School of Printing.

Over these years, publications would be given to him, mostly without covers.

He would bind them, then hand them on to me or others.

Your book is a limited publication (200) and as yours is unnumbered I can only surmise it is one of the extra copies held in reserve in case some may be spoilt.

Happily it is signed by the 3 people responsible for its publication.

Who gave this copy to my father Allan Stratton (1912-1997) I would never have known, but he would have been, as I am, pleased it is now in your Collection as another part of the Fisher's Ghost Legend.

Brian Stratton OAM.



Dates to remember

Office opens on Monday, 16th January 2023 for phone enquiries

First members meeting for 2023 -

February 25th presented by Tom Reeve. Topic: Stan Reeve's *Campbelltown Old-timers*

Heritage festival: April 10 - May 14. Theme: *Shared Stories*

And to finish 2022 - A pictorial recap of the members' Christmas lunch

