



CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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NEWSLETTER

April, 2017.

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Hello to all members

The launch of our new booklet: "Our Inspiring Women", will happen on 16th May and will be available for sale during the Burns Festival on the following weekend. Put the date in your diary!

The Burns display will be something a little different this year and you can read about that in this newsletter. The speakers for the Festival look like being a very interesting line-up covering food, sculpture and song as well as the traditional historical Scottish subjects.

Our Dairy Display, is well on the way and will highlight and celebrate the importance of this industry to the region. It's amazing how many old items from the past we have unearthed from our collection. Various and inventive types of butter churns, milk cans from different estates, sales documents from the past advertising prize animals, photographs, historical documents, cups and awards - all are being readied for display. We expect to have it ready by some time in July and will be letting members know well in advance about the launching arrangements.

Work goes on with cleaning, re-arranging, planning for the future and, interspersed throughout, are our visitors. There are those who come in just to look around and many who arrive with arms full of documents - researching their families or properties. They may need to examine the rates books, the Chronicle archives, Camperdown Cemetery records, our many files or perhaps, just ask advice on where to look next. There's never a dull moment on Tuesdays!

Welcome to our new members: John Creece, Delyce England, Donald and Vivien Mackinnon, Marie Thomas, Marie and Jock Thornton, Liz Widdop and Clive Allen-Paisley. Welcome!

Gillian Senior Newsletter Editor

Camperdown Heritage Centre

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Opening hours
Tuesdays and 1st Sunday of
month, (Market Day) 10am-
3pm
Or by appointment

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From the Heritage Centre

A surprise discovery in one of our older display cupboards is this engraved pearl shell.

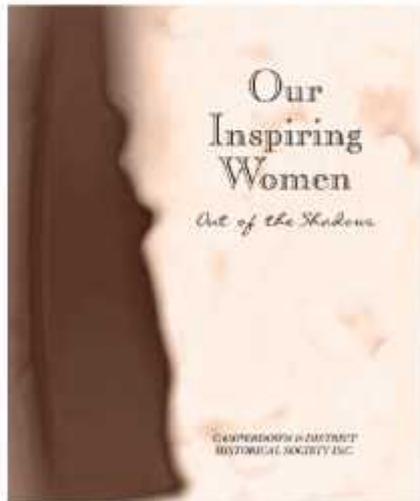
An article later in this newsletter explains how we found it, but we were delighted with the engraving on it:

"May My Little Queenies Life Be Always Bright and Happy. Born November 1st, 1902. from Daddy."

We have no indication in our records of where it came from or who Queenie might be. Perhaps a reader may be able to help?

COMING EVENTS: MAY – JULY 2017

Wednesday 10th May, 9.30 am: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre



Book Launch:

"Our Inspiring Women - Out of the Shadows"

**Tuesday, 16th May, 2.00 pm at the
Camperdown Heritage Centre**

Accounts of the inspirational lives of some of the
pioneering women of Camperdown and district.

Researched and written by members of the
Camperdown & District Historical Society

Official launch by Cr. Jo Beard, Mayor of
Corangamite Shire

Light refreshments provided

Camperdown Robert Burns Scottish Festival

Friday 19th to Sunday 21st May

The following events will be hosted by our Society:

At the Heritage Centre:

Saturday 10 am - 4 pm

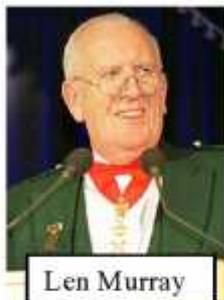
Sunday 10 am - 3 pm

Special Exhibitions:

- Camperdown Brigadoon Festival, 1968
- Scottish memorabilia



Lecture Program:



Len Murray

Saturday 9.30 am - 3.30 pm, Corangamite Shire Old Council Chamber

An excellent line-up of speakers, including International guest Len Murray, regarded as one of Scotland's foremost speakers on Robert Burns.

Further details on the Festival website (address below) and elsewhere in this newsletter

Tribute to Robert Burns:

Sunday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm, at the Statue, Corangamite Shire Civic Centre

Performances of some of his most treasured poems and songs

While there is still a Scot living in the world, Robert Burns will not be forgotten.

Festival information: www.camperdownburnsfestival.com

**Visit to Meningoort
Sunday 4th June**



Meningoort woolshed, c.1875

Discover the history and working of this historic farm.

Nobody knows the property Meningoort better than Stuart McArthur. After all, the McArthur family has farmed the property since 1840!

Stuart will tell us about the history of his historic property and lead us on a tour of the farm buildings (not the homestead)

This is a strictly members only event

Depart from the Camperdown Heritage Centre at 1.30 pm

Afternoon tea provided

NAIDOC week Special Exhibition

Sunday July 2nd - Saturday July 9th

Camperdown Visitor Information Centre

NAIDOC stands for *National Aboriginal and Islanders Day of Observance Committee*. It's a week when Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and communities and recognises the valuable contributions that they make to our country.

For NAIDOC week 2017, the Camperdown & District Historical Society will mount a special exhibition at the Camperdown Visitor Information Centre. It will feature our rich local Aboriginal history.



Wombeech Puyuun
(Camperdown George), c1875

Wednesday 12th July, 10.30 am: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

HERITAGE CENTRE - Jottings and News

The time has come for Our Inspiring Women to meet their public!



At last, our book is printed and ready for public release. As with the society's earlier efforts, the three "Notable Scots" booklets, it has been put together from our earlier display at the Heritage Centre which was a feature of early 2016. All the biographies have been carefully checked and edited, illustrations placed and captioned and the finished version finally sent off to the printer.

We're very happy with the result and look forward to making it available from the Information Centre and the local Newsagency as well as the Heritage Centre.

You're Invited!

Please join us at the Heritage Centre at 2 pm on Tuesday 16th May for our official launch. The Mayor of Corangamite, Jo Beard will be our Guest of Honour to do the honours, a couple of members will give a brief talk about the women they most admire, and we will be providing some light refreshments to end proceedings. Of course the book will be available for purchase - cost \$10.

Work Goes on at the Museum

There's always something that needs doing to upgrade or update our displays or our equipment. New display boards have recently been purchased for the Dairy Exhibition as well as a few other forms of display equipment. New display cabinets have also been purchased to replace a very old wooden cabinet which we discovered was full of borer. They HAVE been treated and we believe they're all dead but.... replacement is very necessary.

This means that the old cabinet has to be emptied of all the display items, some of which have been there for years and, as volunteers Sue and Merle are discovering, some have never been listed or catalogued. This is where the beautifully engraved pearl shell featured on our front page was discovered.



Phonograph Cylinders



There are also some old wax cylinders, which, for those too young to know about such things, were the precursor of gramophone records. Sadly, we don't possess a player like the illustration here; it would be wonderful to be able to hear them

now, particularly as they have titles such as: "My Waikiki Mermaid" played by the Waikiki Hawaiian Orchestra or Duet - "Rescue the Perishing".



Yet another hidden shoe in Camperdown!

An article in our last newsletter created quite a lot of interest. We heard the story behind 'hidden shoes' from our member, Margaret Nixon - that they were a kind of folk magic to protect houses from unwanted intruders or witches. The shoe was a symbol of good luck to warn off the evil spirits.

Then, in February, another member, Karen Richardson, brought in her own discovery to show us: a very small child's shoe unearthed by the builder when renovating the kitchen floor. There was also the remains of a fireplace in the same spot - which, according to the legend, is a favourite place for concealing the shoes. Karen has had it in a small glass display dome ever since, along with a very large handmade nail rescued from the renovations. Imagine the tired little legs that produced the wear on that heel. They probably took the small owner for many a long walk - perhaps to school and back every day - and who knows how far that was?



CDHS Members' community work recognised



Two of our members were honoured with Achievement Awards at the Australia Day ceremony in Lismore on 26th January, this year.

Maree Belyea and Sue Cole were both presented with certificates recognising their volunteer work over many years and in many fields - one of which is the Historical Society. Congratulations to both! Very well deserved!

WW1 Medals



We recently had an email enquiry from Fiona Woodhams whose family came from Mortlake. She attached photos of medals that had been handed down through the family and wanted to know if we could tell her a little about them.

Our Secretary & Researcher, Maree Belyea sent this reply:

What lovely items.

I can tell you that the Our Heroes Day "medal" relates to a huge fund raising event held in Camperdown on 1st September 1917, to aid War Relief.

Various organisations and committees were formed, each looking after their own stalls, eg. Gnotuk Stall, Boy Scouts, etc.

A total of 2,324 pounds 17 shillings was raised (\$4,649-70), a very large amount at the time. The funds were distributed equally between the YMCA and Soldiers Comforts Funds.

The medal was either a memento distributed or sold to raise funds.

We do not have one of these in our collection and it is the first time I have seen one so I find it very interesting.



Fiona was very pleased to learn about the medal and with her permission, we have now put them on Facebook to see if anyone out there has further information. And perhaps, one of the readers of this newsletter may be able to add to the comments.

The photograph of the parade from our catalogue shows a replica of an army tank with the soldiers marching behind open cars and a great crowd watching the parade. There are also many people crowded onto the balcony of the Leura Hotel in the background.

Staying Connected to the World

We have reported in earlier newsletters about the purchase of computers, printers, scanners etc. for the use of the society and, over the past ten or so years, we have managed to cover these expenses through grants, admission charges and research fees. However, the time is drawing near when we will have to invest in the next step in keeping 'up with the times'.

The NBN is coming to Camperdown very soon and we have been advised that, in order to be able to keep our computers updated and use the internet to its full extent, we will need to install a fixed phone line and set up a contract to cover our yearly usage. This will require a regular monthly fee and we will very likely be looking at an increase in membership fees to help cover this. No decision has been made yet but this is just advance notice of the possibility.

We will be trying very hard to keep any increase as low as possible.



BURNS FESTIVAL - 2017

Another Burns Festival and another display required. What to do?

As you may imagine, it's not always easy to come up with something new each year but we think you'll enjoy our latest offering.

Tam o'Shanter

We are featuring one of Burns' most famous poems - Tam o'Shanter. It's a story of Tam on his way home from celebrating in the local inn. He is chased by a coven of witches and has a narrow escape at the Brig o'Doon. An exciting story with some great illustrations.



Brigadoon Festival

As well as Tam - we are recalling a 'Brigadoon Festival' held in Camperdown on 6th April, 1968. This was a grand all-day affair, involving the South Western District Pipe Bands, Marching Girls, Highland Dancing and a re-enactment of a Scottish clan fight, which was followed by a grand Scottish wedding - all at the Camperdown Show Grounds.

We are displaying the original program as well as the Chronicle report of the day. Perhaps you were there?



Lecture Program - at the old Council Chambers.

Organised by CDHS President, Bob Lambell, the speakers cover a range of very interesting subjects. Saturday 20th May. Entry fee: \$5.00 per lecture, \$20.00 for the series.

9.30 am - 10.30 am: **Dr Iain Buckland**: "More than Haggis – Scottish cuisine in the time of Robert Burns".

10.30 am - 11.30 am: **Martin Maloney**: "The life and works of John Greenshields, the Sculptor who created Camperdown's Robert Burns statue".

11.30 am - 12.30 pm: **Gordon Ashley**: "Strange Bedfellows: Robert Burns and Andrew Carnegie – Affinities and Divergences".

1.30 pm - 2.30 pm: **Len Murray**: "Why all the fuss about Burns?"

2.30 pm - 3.30 pm: **Fiona Ross**: "Ae fond kiss.... Robert Burns on women in his poetry, songs and relationships".

Details of the speakers on following page.

DAIRY DISPLAY

Gardiner Dairy Foundation was established in partnership with Victorian farmer, processor and manufacturer groups and the Victorian Government, to increase the international competitiveness of the Victorian dairy industry. It offers support to the small rural and regional communities that make up the Victorian dairy regions.

As part of the Foundation's Small Grants Program, your Society was awarded \$1,900 to establish a permanent display of The History of the Dairy Industry in the Camperdown Region.



This is now well on the way and members are working hard to have it ready for an official opening ceremony before the end of July this year. Signage still has to be designed, printed and delivered and some more display equipment purchased. A date will be decided closer to the time and we will be letting members know by email, newspapers and Facebook. An event well worth celebrating.



ABOUT THE LECTURERS

Dr Iain Buckland - *"More than Haggis – Scottish cuisine in the time of Robert Burns"*.



Even as a newly graduated engineer working in power stations in country N.S.W. in the 1970s, he was drawn to the food of some of his work colleagues who had recently come from Fiji, India, Singapore and Cambodia. This initiated a life-long interest in the origins of cuisines and the history of national dishes.

Iain has an academic interest in the historical evolution of food cultures and the topic for this research project was the development of a comprehensive culinary history of *Beleura*, an Italianate mansion in Mornington built from 1863. Iain and his sculptor wife Julie Edgar both come from families with Scottish connections. This has inspired Iain to ongoing academic and practical interest in the unique culinary traditions of Scotland.

Martin Maloney - *"The life & works of John Greenshields, who created our Robert Burns statue"*.



Martin is the great, great grandson of Scottish immigrant George Patterson Greenshields who came to Australia in 1852 from Dumfries and Galloway. George established the Glenaroua Merino Stud near Seymour which is still in the Greenshields family.

It was while researching the life of his paternal grandmother, herself a Greenshields, that he became aware of the works of John Greenshields the sculptor and in particular Camperdown's Burns Statue. Further research confirmed that he was indeed an ancestor of Martin's and that he had produced other notable works such as the Rob Roy Statue at Sir Walter Scott's home Abbotsford in Melrose and the famous Glenfinnan Monument at Loch Shiel. Martin's interest in John Greenshields life and work continued to grow and in 2015

he visited Scotland to view as many of his sculptures as possible.

Martin is looking forward to sharing his findings at Camperdown's 2017 Robert Burns Scottish Festival.

Gordon Ashley - *"Strange Bedfellows: Robert Burns and Andrew Carnegie"*.



Gordon Ashley was raised on a soldier-settlement dairy farm in South Gippsland, where, during his teenage years, the daily routines of his life were not too dissimilar from those Robert Burns endured during his youth.

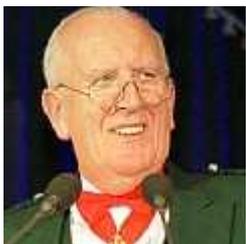
In the early 1980s, Gordon set up a personnel consulting business to assist both Australian residents and settlers from overseas to find good jobs principally in Melbourne and regional Victoria. He continued in this work until elected to the Victorian Parliament as Liberal member for Bayswater in 1992.

Following the end of his parliamentary life, Gordon turned his attention to writing and research – a switch that was to lead his discovering the particular significance of the Robert

Burns statue in Camperdown.

Largely through the efforts of Gordon, the significance of the statue and the outstanding contribution of Scots to the settlement and progress of Camperdown and district has been brought to international attention.

Len Murray - *"Why all the fuss about Burns?"*



We are again honoured to have Len Murray from Scotland as our international guest.

Len Murray, Justice of the Peace (retired), Bachelor of Law, Solicitor to the Supreme Courts of Scotland, Knight Commander of Justice of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, was born in Glasgow a long time ago, he says, certainly long before Traffic Wardens were ever invented.

He is now equally well known as one of Scotland's top after-dinner speakers and was Scottish Wit of the Year in 2012 and again in 2015, the only speaker to win that award twice. He is also a former winner of the prestigious Wag of the Year award.

Len is also regarded as one of Scotland's foremost speakers on Robert Burns and his

"Immortal Memory" address has been described as "legendary" and by a President of the Burns Federation as the best she has ever heard.

Fiona Ross - *"Ae fond kiss...Robert Burns on women in his poetry, songs and relationships"*.



Fiona was born and brought up in Glasgow, the youngest of a busy household of five children. It was from her dad that Fiona inherited a love of Scottish song, and singing these songs was part of her home life from an early age. It wasn't until living in Edinburgh in the '90s though, that Fiona really became immersed in the folk scene – regularly attending folk clubs and taking part in the many vibrant sessions of the time.

Respected in Scotland as a fine interpreter of Scots song, Fiona's singing style represents the essence of the Scots tradition. Fiona's Scots language repertoire ranges from songs of everyday life, love and work to the 'muckle sangs' - the big ballads. She has performed at traditional music festivals throughout Scotland and internationally.

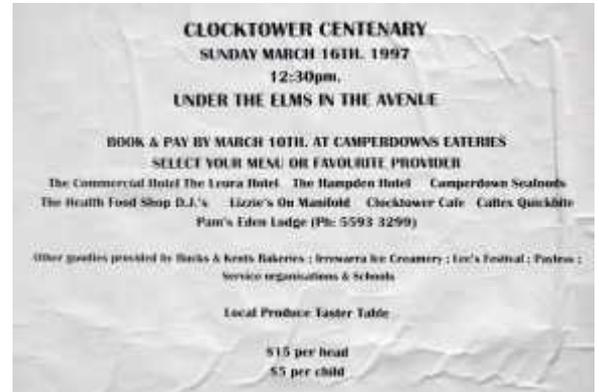
600 PEOPLE CAME TO LUNCH!

Thursday, 16th March this year was the Camperdown Clocktower's 120th anniversary and, apart from a Facebook entry from the Historical Society, the milestone passed by almost unnoticed. However, in 1997, the hundredth anniversary was celebrated in style!

A LONG LUNCH IN THE AVENUE:

Historical Society volunteer, Sue Cole, was a member of the Centenary Committee which organised a marathon effort to mark the occasion. Her stories of the trials and tribulations of such an undertaking are very entertaining – in retrospect!

The aim was to organise a long line of tables, extending down the centre of Manifold Street under the elms, which would be catered for by all the food outlets in the town. The advertisement advised that you could “select your menu or favourite provider” and book and pay at the selected eatery.



Spirits were high as good food, good weather and a good atmosphere flowed at the clocktower's 100th birthday.

When asked if she would consider organising it again, Sue's face paled!

The fact that it was such a huge success is a credit to those who organised it: Centenary Committee Chair, Pat Robinson, Jo McArthur, Sue and many others who dealt with all the myriad details such an undertaking involved. Apparently arranging to have the traffic re-routed so that the waiters could cross the road without being run over was a major battle! Perhaps this quote for the Camperdown Chronicle of 18th March 1997 gives the best picture of the event:

"Almost 600 people joined in the Long Lunch in Camperdown on Sunday in a celebration of the clocktower's 100th birthday.

Trestle tables were arranged in a single line along the length of the Avenue under the shade of the Elms with the weather providing an ideal atmosphere for the event.

Wine and beer flowed as attendants kept guests' glasses topped up and Camperdown College students delivered the meals and waited on the extra long table.

And since the event was sold out by Saturday, many chose to set up their own picnic tables with their own meals to join in the celebrations."

