



**Fact Sheet**  
**Friday 27 May 2005**

## **Australian Studies**

### **Historic Lochend House, Campbelltown, South Australia**

#### **Beginnings**

Charles James Fox Campbell came to South Australia in 1838, droving the first herd of cattle overland from NSW. In those days, sheep and cattle grazed on the broad and fertile River Torrens flats. But the Torrens provided permanent water and, with the rich soil, the area was soon settled by market gardeners and fruit growers. From the 1850s through to the 1960s, Campbelltown was Adelaide's major fruit and vegetable growing district. In the 1960s, the market gardens and orchards gave way to housing and life in Campbelltown changed forever. Now there are only a few market gardens left.

#### **Some History of a Grand House**

*Lochend* was built by Campbelltown's founding father, Charles James Fox Campbell, in about 1844. In 1842, he bought land on the banks of the Torrens and shortly after he built this house. Campbell owned pastoral properties in country South Australia, and *Lochend* was his "town house". Around the house, he planted four acres of vegetable and fruit gardens, and used the remaining 156 acres for grazing or growing crops. In 1850, Charles Campbell married Martha Levi, the daughter of a pastoralist family. Between May 1851 and June 1857, they had four sons. At that time, living at *Lochend* was like living in the bush. Campbell kept a pack of staghounds at *Lochend* for hunting wild dogs and kangaroos in the nearby hills.



*Lochend House, in Campbelltown SA, in the early stages of restoration. Note that one of the two front rooms had been completely demolished.*

In 1852, Campbell leased the house to James Scott. By this time, the house had six rooms. Scott later bought the house and lived there till 1875. The Scott family enlarged the house to eleven rooms, a stable, coach house and cottage, all surrounded by vegetable and fruit gardens and 58 acres of crop growing land.

The next owner, retired sheep farmer David Mundy, built the two storey house *Lochiel Park*, on a rise just to the south of *Lochend*. From 1898 to 1957, *Lochend* and *Lochiel Park* were owned or lived in by members of the Hobbs family. The Hobbs sold both houses to the SA Government in 1947, and *Lochiel Park* became a Reformatory for Boys.

#### **Restoring Lochend**

In the early 1980s, ownership of *Lochend* was transferred to Campbelltown Council. Empty, partly demolished and isolated, *Lochend* had deteriorated and was in a dangerous condition. But enough of the grandeur of old *Lochend* remained. And so in 1998, Campbelltown Council began efforts to save the building.



*Lochend* is important as one of Campbelltown's earliest remaining buildings, built before the market gardens came to Campbelltown. *Lochend* has seen all of the changes to the Campbelltown area. Because of this, *Lochend* is included on South Australia's Heritage List.



*A more recent photograph of Lochend House, the home of Charles Campbell, the father of Campbelltown SA, showing the detailed restoration work done on the building. Note that one of the two front rooms, completely missing in the first photograph, has been totally rebuilt, and is shown on the right of this photograph, although taken from the rear of the building.*

*(Photographs courtesy of the City of Campbelltown, SA)*

The person most closely involved in the project to stabilise, conserve and restore the house, *Campbelltown Councillor Michael Boyle* is interviewed about the history and restoration of *Lochend*. The interview on the restoration of *Lochend* is available in full through the *Take Time* website on [www.pbafm.org.au](http://www.pbafm.org.au)

*Lochend* is usually open to the public on the first Sunday of every second month (the odd months) from 2pm to 4pm. For further information, contact the City of Campbelltown on (08) 8366 9222, or check their website on [www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au](http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au)

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