



NEWSLETTER

Australia Day Parade 2009

One of the popular parts of the Camden Australia Day parade was the Camden Historical Society entry. This was in the form of a vintage car, which has been supplied by Vic Boardman for many years. The driver and passengers dressed up in period costume and add colour to the parade.

The parade formed up in the Camden Showground. There was

much colour and activity while the entrants waited for their turn in the parade. The parade was made up of many local organisations who had spent many hours on floats.

The parade made its way up Argyle Street past hundreds of happy faces of locals waving national flags.

At the John Street roundabout the 'town crier' announced each entrant in enthusiastic tones. He waxed in lyrical tones that the museum was open for inspection and what

it had to offer.

Many people wandered down from Argyle Street after the parade and took in the displays at the museum.

The volunteers at the museum ushered the visitors around the displays offering tip-bits of interesting information about the past. Sometimes they whispered some of the secrets of the Camden story that you only find at the Camden Museum.

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Christmas Singing Spectacular

The December meeting proved to be a spectacle for all who attended. The activities were based on the ABC television show *'Spicks and Specks'*. It involved everyone guessing Christmas carols and singing.

The first activity involved one person singing a carol using the words from a book from the museum library. It proved to be great fun and not all that difficult once the tune was in the singer's mind.

After naming the carol everyone sang along. Another person then sang a carol to the words of a history book.

Initially CD's of the carols provided the backing. After a while everyone sang along with such enthusiasm that the CDs were not needed.

For the next activity people had to guess a carol from sketch someone drew. The person with the correct answer then sketched the next carol. This activity was very popular. Some people wanted to have many turns at sketching. Nola Tegel's sketch attracted great attention.

After the carol guessing, Karen led a lively few rounds of 'Heads and Tails' and all of this

was followed supper.

The supper was a feast with a great variety of sweet and savoury delicacies. And the night continued on a musical theme with Christmas carols and songs played in the background.

Thank you to Roslyn and Karen for their support and encouragement and thank you to everyone for their participation and enthusiasm making the activities such a success. And thank you to all for their delicious supper.

Sandra Dodds

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
 - 11 February 09
 - 11 March 09
 - 8 April 09
 - 13 May 09
 - 10 June 09
 - 8 July 09
 - 12 August 09
 - 9 September 09
 - 14 October 09
 - 19 November 09
 - 9 December 09
- Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the museum, 40 John St, Camden.
All welcome

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400

President: Cathey Shepherd 4655 9963 • Vice presidents: John Wrigley OAM 4655 9210; Bob Lester 4655 9044 • Treasurer: Ray Herbert 9606 6075 • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Immediate Past President Dr Ian Willis, General Committee: Peter Hayward OAM, Julie Wrigley, Len English, Roslyn Tildsley, Dr Karen Farmer, Jenny Akers, Sharon Green Newsletter Editor: Dr Ian Willis. Webmaster: Steve Robinson



Editor's Shorts

Upcoming speakers

February: Allen Powell, Mt Annan Botanic Gardens, The Wollemi Pine

March: Kathryn Baget and Virginia Ghezzi, Camden Library Services, Heritage Week.

April: A Few of My Favourite Things

May: Peter Cuneo, Manager, Natural Heritage, Mt Annan Bot Gardens, African Olive

June: Sister Mary, Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Wivenhoe.

July: Andrew Markerink, Master Clockmaker.

August: AGM

September: Liz Stephenson, Gemmissima, Individually designed beadware.

Any member who has suggestions for speakers see **Pauline Downing** 4655 3622

Events

Our speaker in November was **Ian Richard-Evans** who gave a very interesting address on the RSL Walkway and the Camden Town Farm. He brought everyone up to date on the latest developments with both valuable community facilities. Ian is a relatively newcomer to the area and is passionate about these important projects.

The **archive room** continues to attract attention from researchers and visitors. We ask people using the archives to fill in an information form. Research has fallen into a number of categories: family history (families - Clifton, Tildsley, Boxell, McLeod,

Brown), historic buildings (Oran Park, Raby), and military (RAF at Camden aerodrome).

Visitor numbers to the museum during October 2008 totalled 426.

During November, 12 society members attended the **seminar Working People of Camden** conducted by the Camden Area Family History Society. The one day seminar on 15 November covered a host of local issues.

There will be a **volunteer training day** on Saturday 22 February 2009 at the museum.

The **first 2009 committee meeting** will be on Sat 7 February, 1.30pm, museum.

Two members of the society (Julie Wrigley, Cathey Shepherd) attended a **three**

day training course at Macquarie Fields TAFE College on 20-22 January 2009. It was concerned with Mosaic Plus a software package for managing museum collections. The course included data entry, querying, data retrieval, reporting and exporting and administration. The course was organised by Campbelltown and Airds Historical Society.

Doug Barrett continues to do a sterling job hosting **school groups** around the museum. In November 2008 Camden Public School attended with 90 pupils.

The society received a **grant** from the Federal Government for a digital projector.

A number of society members volunteered as house guardians for the **National Trust Camden Town and Country Day**. It was held on 19 October 2008.

A Pleasant Morning Tea at Camden Valley Inn

At the September meeting of the Historical Society museum volunteers were invited to join with other volunteers from the Tourist Centre at a morning tea and information session at the Camden Valley Inn. Louise Furlong, the Business Development Manager for the Camden Valley Inn and Country Lodge, issued the invitation and hosted the morning. On Friday 26th September fourteen museum volunteers enjoyed a Devonshire morning

tea, followed by a talk on the proposed extensions by Paul Brown, Project Manager, and a walk through the Lodge motel facilities and the landscaped gardens of Camden Valley Inn. Paul Brown is the son of Ray and Sandra Brown who bought the Inn in 1993 and later added 40 accommodation rooms, siting the units to take advantage of the rural views to Razorback. Paul said the new owners, Drinx, are keen to extend the Inn in a way sympathetic with its history. The extensions have

been lodged with Wollondilly Council. They include a marquee for weddings and other functions and improved kitchen facilities to cater for larger numbers. Louise said she hoped museum volunteers would have a better idea of what Camden Valley Inn can offer visitors to the district. If you have any queries for Louise, her contact details are: Email: louise@dg.com.au and Web : www.camdenvalleyinn.com

Local News 1898

The concert under the auspices of the Philharmonic Society has been postponed owing to the flood [1898].

Many of our district correspondents [for the newspaper] are unable to send in their news owing to the flood.

Camden News 17 Feb 1898

RESEARCH AND WRITING GROUP

The RAWG continues to do great things. The Dictionary of Sydney Project entries are nearly all finished. There have been a total of 19 entries on localities in the area submitted to the project.

Members of the group continue to work on their personal projects. These include Wivenhoe, Camden Honor Rolls, Geoff and Olive McAleer, Serafino

Pacchiarotta, Rideout store and sawmill and RC Bentley.

The next meeting of RAWG is on Sat 21 February 2009 at 9.30am at the museum.

Anyone who is interested in sharing their research and ideas come along. Get together are casual. Each person pursues their own research at their own pace. It can be helpful and inspiring.

WEBSITE

Camdenhistory.org.au

It is pleasing to report that the website is going well. Between January and December in 2008 there was a total of 138,445 hits. This amounted to 15,401 individual visitors to the site. The year started out with 8,800 hits in January, by June this had risen to 14,000. Between July and Dec it averaged around 11,600 hits a month. The busiest links came from Camden Council web pages.

Camden Council 1898

Shortly after business hours had commenced it became known that many of the poorer people of the township were great losers by the flood, having in many instances abandoned their homes and belongings for safety. Of course, all were accommodated with home and shelter by willing residents. Several offers of assistance were made for shelter, notably the Church of England and Wesleyan bodies offering their school rooms and the Sons of Temperance their hall, the offers were accepted with gratitude by the aldermen.

Camden News 17 Feb 1898



Significance Assessment of the Collection Camden Museum

Prepared by John and Julie Wrigley, in consultation with Dr Ian Willis.

The society has recently completed a report which assessed the significance of the museum collection.

The collection has been assessed in terms of its significance in terms of local, state and national themes identified by the Australian Heritage Commission and the Heritage Council of New South Wales.

The collection includes objects that are of considerable historical, aesthetic, scientific, or social importance. The individual objects and the complete collection add to the

community's understanding of the past and the present.

The local significance of the collection relates to the telling of the Camden story. The collection details the local social fabric and cultural traditions of the area through the indigenous collection, community commemoration and celebrations, local archives, and other aspects of the district's moveable heritage.

The document has been based on a comprehensive examination of the collection including the resources and operation of the museum, including community

partnerships

The museum collection has a number of objects, artefacts and archives which are of state significance. These include the personal papers of Dr Liz Kernohan, and a number of individual objects.

The Atkinson collection is an archive of national significance and includes research papers, files and indexes for his landmark publication, *Camden—Farm and Village Life in Early New South Wales*.

The document will assist the society to secure grant funding to better preserve, conserve and present the museum collection.

Excursion to Rouse Hill House and Dight's Farm

During November Roslyn Tildsely organised an excursion to Rouse Hill House and Dight's Farm, Windsor. It proved very popular with 26 members and friends attending the day out.

Construction of Rouse Hill House was started in 1813 by Richard Rouse. The Georgian house was located on a grant of 450 acres. Rouse, his wife Elizabeth and family moved into the

house by 1825. Rouse had originally arrived in the colony in 1801 as a free settler. Edwin Rouse, his son, inherited the house in 1852 and undertook renovations: added canopied verandah and 2-story service wing. The Historic Houses Trust took possession of the property and opened it to the public in 1999.

After a picnic lunch we moved on Dight's Farm at

Richmond.

Free settler John Dight arrived in the colony in 1801. He received a grant of 155 acres at Mulgrave Place (Richmond) known as *Durham Bowes* (adjacent to the Hawkesbury River floodplain). Flooding caused Dight to abandon his original cottage on the lowland.

He contracted Lewis Jones, a builder, to construct a 2-storey dwelling on higher ground (later known as Dight's Hill).

HISTORYPIX UPDATES

HistoryPix continues to be a big hit and is part of the ongoing partnership with Camden Library.

Peter Mylrea does a great job continuing to add to collection of photographs on old and not-so-new Camden. Peter has been responsible of putting over 2500 photographs on HistoryPix. He is currently working on another 100 that

will be on in the near future.

For those who want to purchase quality images from HistoryPix they will need to contact Camden Library. The library is looking after the copying service. Images will be scanned at 800 dpi. Prints can be made at 100x150mm (postcard), 210x295mm (A4). Coloured copies can only be made from coloured originals. The library

advises to allow two weeks for processing your order. Black and white images \$10, colour images \$20.

Orders for photographs can be accessed on the HistoryPix website. Where possible collection should be made during Museum opening hours (on back page)

Payment for the photographs

LOCAL NEWS 1898

'There is a fine group picture of the guests attending the recently held 'at home' in honour of the marriage of Major and Mrs Macarthur-Onslow, of Camden Park, on exhibition at Mr S Proctor's premises in Argyle street, Camden. Copies can be purchased if desired.

'Owing to the floods there will be no sale in Camden by Mr R H Inglis on Tuesday.

Camden News 17 Feb 1898

Religious Services 1898

Church of England

Camden 730am Litany

Camden 11am Rev CJ King

Camden 2.45pm Children's Services

Camden 730pm Rev CJ King

Menangle, Westbrook, Theresa Park, Werombi.

Wesleyan

Camden 11am Rev R Caldwell

Camden 7.30pm Mr H Bevis

Glenmore, Westbrook, Picton, Campbelltown.

Primitive Church

Camden 11am CW Sherman

Camden 7.30pm WW Smart

Bob's Range, Menangle, Bringlyly.

[No Catholic services listed.]

Camden News, 17 Feb 1898.

1898 Flood

Elderslie

The residents of Elderslie had many of their houses submerged and there was 'great loss by the winegrowers' and other farmers in the area.

Camden News 17 Feb 1898.



CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 566
Camden NSW 2570

Camden Museum
Camden Library and Museum Complex
40 John St, Camden.

General Admission Free

Opening Times

Thursday– Sunday 11.00am – 4.00 pm

Phone: Museum 02 4655 3400

<http://www.camdenhistory.org.au>

email: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au

ABN 84 182 869 026

MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$10

Family \$15

Corporate/Assocn \$75

For Year Ending 30 June

The Camden Historical Society

The society was founded in 1957. Its aim is to promote the local history and heritage of Camden. It primarily does this through managing the Camden Museum which opened in 1970. General admission to the museum is free, although visitors are encouraged to leave a donation. The museum is conducted entirely by volunteers. It also receives substantial and continuing assistance from Camden Council.

Historic Precinct

The museum is located in Camden's historic precinct. It is part of the Camden Library and Museum Complex. It provides an ideal start for a walking tour of the town area. The visitor can take in the charm of the many 19th and early 20th century buildings.

Research

The Society's archives are open to the public. General enquiries are free. Specific research by our volunteers attracts a \$15 fee plus photocopying. Extensive use of the Society's records is by negotiation.

All donations to the Camden Historical Society Inc over \$2 are tax deductible
The accredited value of objects donated to the society are eligible for tax deduction

Camden Retrospective

1898 Flood

The Camden flood of February 1898 was one of the worst in the town's history. The following is taken from the *Campbelltown News* [Feb 1898].

'Late on Saturday night a heavy south-easterly sprang up... rain began to fall... all day Sunday.

No one in Camden had the slightest fear of a flood. During the early hours of Monday morning... residents were awakened by the heavy rush [of water]... to their amazement the [river] flats were being covered with flood waters... At 4am the danger became manifest, and

people on the outskirts of the township realised that serious conditions were imminent.

They began to take their belongings to higher ground... The water rose, not in inches, but foot by foot.

'Houses on fairly high ground simply show the tops of their roofs. The houses in Elderslie, across the river, are in a like predicament.

'The flood waters reach from Camden to Narellan, and the place is simply one vast sheet of water. The Nepean Railway Bridge [Cowpasture Bridge] is 20ft under the flood waters. At

the railway station, only portions of the verandah and roof are showing. The Camden A.H. and I. Society's pavilion shows only the bare roof and part of the grandstand, whilst at Mann's hotel, at the foot of Argyle Street, the water is rushing up to the bar. The New South Wales Mounted Rifles drill-hall has at least 6ft of water in the hall. The floodwaters reach to the paddock of the Camden Boy's Home and one conspicuous feature in the landscape is the R.C. Cemetery on a rising mound, which is surrounded by water. Cattle and houses are straying in all directions.

The Camden Historical Society would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Hon Pat Farmer MP in the printing of this newsletter.