



NEWSLETTER

The Chapter at the Museum

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On 21 June the society hosted a meeting of the **Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter of Museums Australia**. Delegates came from Lady Denman Heritage Complex at Huskisson, Berrima Museum, Port Kembla Breakwater Battery, Wollondilly Heritage Centre, Tongarra Museum, Illawarra Museum at Wollongong, Berry Museum, with representatives of the Australian Aviation Museum at Bankstown.

They were welcomed in the morning with a smile and morning tea on their arrival.

The business session of the day got underway with a welcome by Chapter President Ben Lyons from The Oaks Historical Society.

Reports dealt with a range of matters including reports by the treasurer and the museum development officer. Each museum delegate then gave an interesting and informative account of the activities and exhibitions that their museum

has undertaken in the last 3 months.

As hosts Camden Historical Society provided lunch for the delegates.

After lunch there was a forum on Convergence Collaboration (Co-operative partnership arrangements between museums, galleries and libraries). Forum participants were Maisy Stapleton, M&G, Ian Willis, Camden Museum, Jo Oliver, Camden Library, Melissa Schreiber, Picton Library and Ben Lyon, Wollondilly Heritage Centre.

Maisy Stapleton outlined the major issues facing museums, libraries, archives and galleries. These institutions are coming under increasing pressure by government to co-operate with each other to extend the funding that is available to them. Increasingly government is expecting this type of co-operation.

Dr Ian Willis outlined the successful partnership between the Camden Museum, Camden

Council Library and the Family History Society.

Jo Oliver, Camden Local Studies Librarian, outlined her role and the collection, access and preservation of material at Camden library.

Melissa Schreiber, Wollondilly Local Studies Librarian outlined the activities at the library.

Ben Lyon, President Wollondilly Heritage Centre, outlined the challenges facing their society and the possible way for co-operative arrangements.

Maisy Stapleton summed up, followed by questions and discussion. All positive constructive comments and suggestions.

The next chapter meeting will be hosted by Gerringong Museum in October. All museums are welcome to send delegates.

Special points of interest:

- **Ordinary General Meetings**
9 September 09
14 October 09
11 November 09
9 December 09
10 February 2010
10 March 2010
14 April 2010
12 May 2010
9 June 2010
- **Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the museum, 40 John St, Camden. All welcome**

Museum Attendances

The museum continues to attract significant number of visitors both from the local area and outside it.

In the last seven months to July the museum has attracted 3,164 visitors. The busiest month was May with 580 visitors.

Group visits are important and include schools and tours. In June Kiama Historical Society paid us a visit with 20 folk. St Pauls Primary

School arrived on 2 July with 78 Year 2 pupils. Doug Barrett does a sterling job looking after school groups.

The museum is one of the most important tourist attractions within the Macarthur area. Its importance to the region should not be under estimated by local decision makers or the community.

The museum would not function without the volunteers who sit at the front desk and help in many other ways. They are the face of the society.

To be a volunteer you do not need to be an expert on local history. You only need to be a friendly face and be able to say hello to museum visitors. If you would like to help contact Bob Lester on 46559044

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

9 September 2009

Liz Stephenson,
Gemmissima, Beadware.

14 October 2009

Doug Barrett
Family History

11 November 2009

Ray Herbert
Camden Remembers

9 December 2009

Christmas Party
Members' photos as children

2010

10 February 2010

Ian Lean
Cattle Nutritionist

10 March 2010

Olev Muska
Restoring Old Photographs

14 April 2010

Colin Mills
Camden Park Colonial Garden
Restoration

12 May 2010

Liz Stephenson
Protestant cemetery in Rome

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

Events

The society has appointed a
new **honorary auditor**, Jim
Hunter. The society has had
the services of Russell
Dawson for many years. The
society is grateful for this and
expresses the members' appreciation.

The pioneering **Cowper
family** celebrated the 200th
anniversary of the arrival of
their family in the colony at
their old family home at
Wivenhoe (now Mater Dei

school) on Sunday 23rd
August. The Society provided
a stall at the reunion. Thanks
to the volunteers who helped
out.

Ian Willis delivered a paper at
**2009 Australian Historical
Association Conference**,
Constructing the Past, at the
University of the Sunshine
Coast on 1 July 2009. The
paper concerned the activities
of rural Red Cross branches in
NSW.

The museum has put in a
grant application for new
lighting throughout the
museum. We will keep our
fingers crossed.

Peter Mylrea will assist
Belgenny Farm in producing
a time line for the property.

Six members from the
**Campbelltown and Airds
Historical Society** paid a visit
to the museum to see how

things were done on 14 July
2009. They were shown our
hospitality with a tour of the
museum followed by a cup of
tea.

**Research enquiries in the
archive room** have included
one about the Singh family, and
in particular Mehange Singh
who lived at 23 Argyle Street in
1936. There was an enquiry
about a brick cottage and dairy
at 85 Camden Valley Way,
Elderslie. Volunteers are
requested to ask members of the
public to complete a **research
enquiry form** located on the
table in the research room. This
is the only way that the society
is able to know what are the
type of questions that people
have of us. This way we are
better able to assist those who
come into the museum and ask
questions.

History Week

History week in 2009 is from
5-13 September.

Following this theme the
society and the library will
jointly present a talk by
Marion Starr and the launch of
the Camden Area History
Writing Prize.

Join the society members for a
talk by Marion about her book
*Murder, Mayhem &
Misdemeanors: Early Settlers*

*at the Cowpasture River, NSW
1810-1820.* The talk is on 5
September at 2.00-3.30pm at the
Camden Museum and Library,
40 John St, Camden. Free.
Booking essential. 4654 7951

Society member, Janice Johnson
is giving a cemetery tour of St
John's Camden. She will
highlight the stories of scandal,
crime and corruption of some of
its residents. The tours are on 10

and 12 September at 11.00-
12.00pm. Wear walking shoes
and meet at St John's lychgate
Menangle Road, Camden. Gold
coin donation (for cemetery
restoration). Booking essential.
4654 7951.

The Camden Area Family
History Society is presenting a
workshop about finding convict
ancestors on 12 September at
1.00pm at Camden Library.

5-13 September 2009

Camden Area Family History Society

*The historical society would
like to congratulate the new
executive of the Family
History Society. The new
president is Ray Herbert, Vice
president Sharon Greene,
Secretary Cathey Shepherd,
Minutes Secretary Clare
Jackson, Treasurer Barbara
Sully.*

'Marvellous Museum' Cocktail Party

The party was held at the
Camden Museum on Friday
26th June 2009 with 85 people
attending the function.

Members and friends were
invited to drop in between
5.30 and 7.30 pm to view a
number of interesting recent
donations to the Camden
Museum and catch up with
friends.

Visitors gathered and enjoyed JW

drinks and tasty nibbles.

New museum items on
display included a large Alan
Baker landscape painting
called 'Razorback Mountain',
donated by Max and Nola
Tegel; the medical instruments
of Dr Francis West, used in
Camden between 1901 and
1932; and the war medals of
Bruce Ferguson OAM.

CAMDEN ANTIQUE FAIR

The society had a table at the
Camden Antique Fair that was
organized by Camden Quota.
The fair took place from 31
July-2 August, 2009.
According to the Camden
Advertiser over 2000 people
attended the fair. The society
sold books and provided
answers to historical questions.
The society thanks all the
volunteers who represented the
society.

New Display

Some members of the
society are re-vamping
the display area in the
archive room. They
include Cathey
Shepherd, Shirley Rorke,
Karen Farmer and
Roslyn Tildsley. They are
displaying a number of
women's clothes and
accessories that are part
of the society's
collection. Their effort to
date is impressive. Keep
an eye on the display as
it evolves.

2009 President's Report

Camden Historical Society Inc.

Cathey Shepherd

Preamble

My first year as President has been a most rewarding and interesting learning experience. I have only touched the surface as far as a better understanding of the way the museum is organised and the relationship with Camden Council. There are many people who have helped me during this last year and I am grateful for their advice. I love the enthusiasm of the membership and working with people who have a similar love of history as myself. This annual report outlines the activities of the society during the last 12 months. The promotion of Camden's history has continued to be the main activity of the society.

Membership

In the past year the membership of the Camden Historical Society numbered 120 persons which included 5 current life members, 5 corporate members, 2 honorary members, honorary solicitor Mr Ken Macauley and honorary auditor Mr Jim Hunter.

Communication

The historical society continues to communicate with its members through a newsletter (published 3 times a year), a website, with Steve Robinson as the Web Manager and a journal "Camden History" (published twice a year). The editor of the newsletter and journal is Ian Willis, who produces some most interesting articles and information. Ian does a sterling job in promoting the society and communicating with members through these publications. The newsletter is printed free of charge by our local Federal member, Pat Farmer. Doug Barrett, does a great job organising a mailing list and mail out.

Strategic Plan

The strategic plan continues to be a working document. It was decided to review the strategic plan on an annual basis at our May committee meetings. This was carried out in May 2009 and the committee were able to identify areas that were working well and other areas that needed addressing.

Community Partnerships and Other Organisations

The society's partnership with the Camden Library Service continues to flourish. Society members attend regular meetings with library staff. They include Doug, Ian, Cathey and John. The society continues to participate in joint activities with both the library and Camden Area Family History Society such as History Week and Heritage Week. Most recently, society members are participating with Jo Oliver and Camden library on an oral history project which involves members both interviewing people and being interviewed. Peter Mylrea continues to do a sterling job with HistoryPix and works with Jo Oliver (Camden Library) on updates and improvements to this project. Peter is working on a number of projects dealing with matters historical and he has recently completed an index for volunteers, which gives them better access to the museum's collection.

The museum also has access to two display cabinets in the

galleria for museum displays. The Camden Remembers project, which has seen Steve Robinson and Ray Herbert working with Camden Council's IT department and the library, is another example of partnership.

The society continues to contribute to the Dictionary of Sydney through the Writers Group.

The society maintains its affiliation with the Royal Australian Historical Society.

We are a member of the Illawarra and South Coast Chapter of Museums, Australia.

Promotion of Local History

The members of the society have been involved with a number of activities over the past year:

- Articles have been written for the District Reporter's "Back Then" by a number of society members, including Ian Willis, Peter Mylrea, Julie and John Wrigley and Rita Oliveri. Ian Willis has had an article published in the Journal of The Royal Australian Historical in 2009, called "Stories and Things" on the role of three local historical societies (Campbelltown, Camden and The Oaks) and their impact on their local communities.
- A number of members appearing in newspaper articles that provide comment on issues related to local history.
- Providing comments on developments in the local area that are related to local history.
- Ian Willis's presentations at history conferences
- Presence at the Australia Day Parade in Vic Boardman's vintage cars.
- A presence at the Camden Show, The Antique Fair and Seniors Expo and selling lots of material and raising the profile of the society.

Meetings and Speakers

The meetings over the last twelve months continue to be well attended, with attendances ranging between 30 and 40 members and visitors. The many loyal supper providers continue to provide some lovely food. Thank you!

Pauline Downing has provided a most interesting array of speakers for the year, all of which were so organised that she produced a brochure on future speakers, so we knew who was speaking on the night. Julie Wrigley also let the community know each month about our meetings through the Community sections in the local papers.

Our speakers have included:

- September – Janice Johnson - St Johns Cemetery
- October – Dr Gabrielle Gwyther – Socio economic differentiation and the master planned community (Harrington Park)
- November – Iain Richard-Evan – President of the Camden RSL Sub Branch
- December – Christmas meeting – Spicks and Specks/Christmas carols/ Art/ Organised by Sandra Dodds.
- February – Mr Allen Powell – Mt Annan Botanic Gardens – The Wollemi Pine
- March – Kathryn Baget-Juleff – Camden Library Service
- April – A few of my favourite things
- May – Peter Cuneo – The threat of introduced plants into our region – Native Olive
- June – Sister Mary – Wivenhoe
- July – Andrew Markerink, Master Clockmaker

Camden Museum

Museum volunteers are the face of the society to the public. We have 54 volunteers who are ably co-ordinated by Bob Lester. Bob has also provided a training day for new and continuing volunteers in February 2009 and continually updates the manual as required.

The Society encourages both group visits and individual visits to the museum. During the last 12 months we have seen

- School groups, both primary and high school students who visit the museum to learn more about their local area. This programme is currently co-ordinated by Doug Barrett
- Many Community Organisations, both inside and outside the local area, visit the museum. One example is the Canada Bay Councillors and Volunteers (40 persons), who spent the morning of 3 March 2009 looking at the museum and discussing our partnerships with Council and Family History.

The museum has continued to attract a steady stream of visitors during the year. The total attendance for 2008 was 5973 visitors, with an average monthly attendance of 498. In 2009, the attendance for January to July is 3164.

Promotion and Marketing

The society continues to be pro-active in promoting all aspects of the museum.

Doug Barrett has organised paper bags (with our logo attached) to give to people purchasing items from the museum and they act as a promotional item at external events. Professional banners have also been purchased to aid in displays and promotion.

The cocktail party held on the 26th June in the museum and galleria promotes the society to the wider community and is an avenue to thank people for their support of the society. Guests attending on the evening included Camden Councillors, Camden Council staff, state member of parliament Geoff Corrigan and members of the Macarthur family. A number of networking opportunities exist during this event. The party was also a special time for society members to get together and provide guests with a sumptuous feast of nibbles. A good time was had by all.

Grants

The society has benefited from a number of grants this year. The monies have been spent on a data projector/screen and various items purchased from a substantial administrative grant. The society continues to apply for funding for projects such as the lighting in the museum and the recording and identifying of items in the museums indigenous collection. The society has also benefited from a number of cash donations from individuals.

The Collection

Donations continue to be welcome at the museum and have included:

- Mrs Marion Marriott's silverware
- Alan Baker painting (donated by Max and Nola Tegel)
- Bruce Ferguson's War Medals
- Doctor West's medical instruments (donated by Virginia West, his grand daughter)
- Dick Nixon's Gold Watch for long service at Dairy Farmers
- World War One memorabilia (Family of Clarke)

These are only some of the items donated.

Mosaic Software was purchased to organise the museum's collection. Julie Wrigley and Cathey Shepherd attended training at Macquarie Fields TAFE in January 2009 for 3 days. The existing database was transposed into the Mosaic software. Julie Wrigley has continued to add new items that we received in 2009. The database will be made available to members and visitors to allow better access to the museums collection.

The Statement of Significance for the collection was finalised this year. John and Julie Wrigley have put a lot of time and energy to complete this statement. The statement was ratified by the membership and is an important document to use when applying for grants.

Have a Say or Advocacy for heritage protection

The society has voiced the members' opinions on a number of issues relating to Camden. The historical society welcomes the opportunity to comment on things historical in Camden. Some of these issues were:

- The Camden High School Site
- 64 John Street
- MacDonald's in Argyle Street
- Sale of the cemetery at Narellan
- Tree and church building at St Marks, Elderslie
- Proposal for shopping Centre and car park at the entrance to Camden
- Town Centre development and the Town Centre project

Social

- Members visited Rouse Hill and Dight's Farm on 1st November 2008
- Reception in the museum after the funeral service to Mr Bruce Ferguson on 29th November 2008
- Hosting the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Regional Chapter meeting on 21/06/09
- Cocktail party (mentioned before) on 26 June 09

Other Activities

- Research and Writing Group which meets at the museum and promotes Camden History by their work
- Blast from the Past – graduation of the students involved in the digitalising of the society's audio tapes on 17 March 09

The Camden Historical Society is run by an enthusiastic group of people. It is because of these people that the society is so well respected in the Camden community. I include the whole membership of the society in this group, but especially thank the committee members for all their dedication and hard work. It has been a great privilege to serve as the first woman president of the Camden Historical Society, which I believe is one of Camden's most important community organisations.

August 2009

Gallipoli: A Turkish View

Australian War Memorial Travelling Exhibition

Camden Library Museum Complex, 40 John Street, Camden.
6 October - 28 November 2009 Admission Free

As part of the community partnership between the society, the Camden Council Library Service and the Camden Area Family History Society we are supporting and participating in this exhibition.

The exhibition was organised by Kathryn Baget, manager, from the library. This is a great achievement for the library museum partnership. To our knowledge this is one of the few times that the Australian War Memorial has allowed one of its prestigious travelling exhibitions to be placed in an Australian library.

The exhibition is the Turkish view of the Gallipoli campaign. The battle was between the British Empire and France and, on the other, soldiers of the Ottoman Empire.

The Turkish defenders were victorious. After an eight-month-long campaign British Empire and French forces withdrew, having suffered 44,000 deaths. At least 85,000 Turkish soldiers died in the campaign.

Visitors to the exhibition will be able to view photographs from the Memorial's collection and a selection of Turkish relics. The

photographs are remarkable as they depict the heroism and horror of Turkey's part in the campaign defending their homeland.

The exhibition includes 50 metres of panels and display cabinets which will be placed in the galleria and multipurpose room.

The society is looking for additional help during the exhibition. Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors.

If anyone can help out contact Doug on 4655 3400 or Bob 4655 9044.

Website

The society website continues to attract attention. The average number of hits per month has been around 12,700. The peak was May with over 13,000 hits. The number of unique visitors has been around 1,400 per month. The average number of visits per month has been over 1,800. Each visitor looks at over 5 pages on each visit. May was the busiest month in 2009. Have a look at

www.camdenhistory.org.au

RESEARCH AND WRITING GROUP

The Research and Writers' Group of the society continues to make an impact on the production of local history material.

Group members, Julie Wrigley, John Wrigley, Rita Oliveri, Janice Johnson, and Ian Willis have written articles for the 'Back Then' page of the *District Reporter*.

Some of these same members have contributed to the Spring edition of the *Camden History*, the journal of the society.

All up there are 49 local

history projects underway in some form by members of the group. Many are in early stages, while others are further advanced, and some are completed.

The group has helped facilitate the oral history project of Camden Library and a number of group members are active in interviewing local characters.

The Camden Remembers project and website is being put together by group members Steve and Chris Robinson, and Ray Herbert.

Sharon Green, a member, is helping the collection of the memories of past employees of Nepean River County Council. There is also an associated website that has many interesting stories.

Members of the group work on their own project. They pursue their own project at their own pace.

The group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the museum at 9.30am. All are welcome. Contact Jenny on jenjen802@hotmail.com

ANDREW MARKERINK

MASTER CLOCKMAKER

Andrew brought with him a fabulous collection of objects ranging over 300 years of mechanical timekeeping history. Timekeepers from the famous Australian maker Francis Abbott's Turret clock movement originally from Launceston Tasmania to a hand made original Tourbillon watch, a masterpiece set with diamonds.

One of his clocks, an 18th century musical bracket clock insisted on punctuating his presentation with tings, and bong and tinkles, almost seeming to insist that its presence be felt.

Andrew comes from a Dutch family that can trace clockmaking back to the 18th century. Andrew moved to Camden for a quiet place to

bring up his young family, but spends a lot of time travelling to attend to Public clocks from Tasmania to New Zealand.

Andrew restored the clock mechanism of St. Johns Anglican Church at the top of John Street. He detailed the weight and size of the machinery that keeps the time in our town clock.
PD

Guest Speaker, July 2009.

Studley Park House

The new owners of Studley Park have announced that the house will become the headquarters of the of the Royce Foundation. It will be their club house. There will be regular outing to the house by the Rolls Royce Owners Club. The society was represented at a recent outing at Studley Park by Peter Hayward.

Camden Remembers

The Camden Remembers project goes from strength to strength. The website is attracting around 4000 hits a month since it was launched. Currently a photograph gallery is being constructed and should be launched later in the year.

There will be an official presentation of the website after the Remembrance Day service on November 11 at the museum. All are welcome to attend.



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 Museum Complex. It provides an ideal start for a walking tour of the town area where the visitor can observe the charm and character of the town centre.

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

Junior Red Cross

The **Junior Red Cross Circles** were active in the Camden area from the early 20th century. Up to 1945 there were five Circles in the local area at Bringelly, Camden, Gilbulla (Menangle) Central Burragorang, Narellan and Rossmore.

The aim of the Junior Red Cross was to teach young people about the aims of the Red Cross Society. All were based in the public schools and their patrons were either from the local Red Cross branch, a school teacher or their wives. The role of the patron was to be a mentor and supervise the children's

activities.

The **Camden Junior Red Cross Circle** was established in 1918 at Camden Public School. The patrons were the teachers at the school and prominent local citizens. They were a role model, and provided leadership and organisational skills.

Fund raising was always high on their priority and was achieved through stalls, bazaars, dances, balls, concerts, competitions and tuckshops. The girls also sewed items for the Junior Red Cross Homes in NSW from

1919.

The Circle went into recess between 1922 and 1938. It was reformed under the sponsorship of Mrs JW (Enid) Macarthur Onslow of Camden Park. Over the many years the children were regularly invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Camden Red Cross Branch.

The Circle continued to function successfully until recently under its enthusiastic patron, Penny Love-Lipinski, (teacher, Camden Primary School). [RC HQ has closed the JRC statewide]

Ian Willis 2009

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