



NEWSLETTER

Heritage Week April 2010

Exhibition: *Camden, The Inter-war Heritage of the Country Town*

An exhibition highlighting the buildings of the Inter-war period in Camden and the architectural style that is represented by this period. The Inter-war period was one of growth and progress for the town based on the prosperity of the local dairy industry. As a result there was the construction of a number of important public and private buildings in the town. The exhibition highlights some of these buildings. 9-24 April 2010. Camden Museum, 40 John St, Camden. Thursday – Sunday 11am-4pm. Free. Enquiries 4655 3400

Website Launch *Camden Remembers*

The launch of the Camden Remembers website, a record of the servicemen and women from the Camden area. 16 April, Camden Museum. 5.30pm. Bookings 9606 6075. Limited numbers only.

Guided Walking Tour St John's Anglican Church Camden and cemetery.

Historical society member Janice Johnson will conduct a guided walking tour of St John's

Anglican Church and cemetery focusing on the building and its builders. 15 & 17 April, 11am-12 noon. Gold coin donation. Bookings essential 4654 7951. Meeting at Lych Gate, St John's Anglican Church, Menangle Road, Camden.

Heritage Walking Tour of Camden

A walking tour of heritage buildings in the town of Camden followed by an Australian morning tea at Camden Library. 12 April, 10am. Free. Meet Camden Museum/Library, 40 John Street, Camden. Bookings essential 4654 7951

A Night at the Museum

Camden Museum will be specifically open to children and adults between 6.30pm-7.30pm followed by a screening of the movie of 'A Night At the Museum'. 14 April, 6.30pm Museum, 7.30pm Movie, Library. Cost \$5 Each/\$12 Family. Bookings essential 4654 7951. Camden Museum/Library, 40 John Street, Camden.

Maps from Macquarie to Millennium

A view of maps held by the Camden Museum and Camden Council Library Service from Macquarie's original land grants

to future plans for the area. 20 April, 2pm, Free. Bookings essential 9654 7951. Camden Museum/Library, 40 John Street, Camden.

Military Records in Family History

Using military records to research your family history. 19 April, 2pm. Narellan Library, Queen & Elyard Sts. Free. Bookings essential 9606 6075

A Diggers best friend A-Z of Animals in Wartime

An exhibition of animals in wartime on loan from Australian War Memorial. Disabled access. Parking available. 9-24 April, 9am-3pm. Free Enquiries 4654 7951

Indigenous Story Telling

A story telling session for children and families. Celebrating indigenous contributions to Our Nation. 12 April, Narellan Library. 10.30am. Cost \$3. Bookings essential 0464 755 039

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Special points of interest:

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

Volunteers Needed

Want to do something useful for the museum and yourself. Do you like to talk to people. Do you have some spare time. We need you.

The museum needs volunteers to staff the front desk.

Duties involve welcoming visitors and generally keeping an eye on the museum.

No special skills necessary.

You do not need to be a local history expert. All that is required is just a desire to help

We provide training for those interested. Contact Bob on 4655 9044.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400
President: Cathy 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 2010

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

Events

Visitors to the museum in January totalled 267, which was made up of 225 adults and 42 children.

John and Julie Wrigley attended the February meeting of the **Southern**

Highlands and Illawarra Chapter of Museums Australia. The meeting was held at the recently opened Jumballa Aboriginal Discovery Centre, located on the Princes Highway at Bulli Tops (next door to the Illawarra Tourist Information Office). The chapter meeting dealt with the AGM and other business. After lunch Francis Bodkin spoke on the Dharawal history and language. This was followed by a tour of the Discovery Centre. The chapter's newsletter *Chapter Chat* gave a detailed list of society activities including the November launch of *The McAleer Story*, and the upcoming events to be held in Heritage Week (detailed on front page).

The **research room** continues to attract visitors who want to use the museum archives.

Research topics included Mt Hunter creamery, Lavercombe family, Henry Gumbleton, Ralph Barrow, 30 Kundabung Street at The Oaks, John Hourn, Carinya Cottage, Dr Matthew Anderson, Samuel Arnold, John Cuthel, Indigenous history, and Pooles Garage. Volunteers are requested to remind visitors who use the archive room to fill out the Research Room Usage Form. These are located on the table in the archive room. These research requests will be used to guide Janice Johnson and her program of digitising of the society's archive files. Past Research Room Usage Forms will be filed in the society's administration filing cabinet.

Bob Lester, the society's volunteer co-ordinator, has recently commenced a **Certificate IV in Museum Practice** conducted by TAFE

NSW. We wish Bob well in his studies.

Ian Willis attended a course in January on **Cultural Heritage Management** at the University of Canberra.

The society continues to be an **advocate for local heritage**. It has lodged concerns about the demolition of Carinya cottage at Harrington Park, and 66 Macarthur Road, Elderslie.

Janice Johnson has nearly finalised her upcoming **publication *If Gravestones Could Talk***. Janice will self-publish the work.

Julie Wrigley is currently working with Donald Howard on a forthcoming **publication**. The title is *Cobbitty's Finest Hour*. Julie has been assisting the editing of Donald's wonderful childhood memories of Cobbitty in the mid-20th century.

Society members visit Campbelltown HS

Three members of Camden Historical Society made a visit to Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society on 8 September. The members who attended were Janice Johnson, Cathey Shepherd and Julie Wrigley. We were invited to make the visit after the Campbelltown

Society had visited Camden Museum earlier this year for a behind-the-scenes look at Camden's procedures and practices. On our visit we saw how the Campbelltown President and curator, Jackie Green, integrates photos in the database Mosaic, and enjoyed seeing through the

historic home Glenalvon which houses the Campbelltown Society.

Glenalvon is a sandstone two-storey home built about 1840. Behind the building are the Glenalvon Stables which is now a small museum.

JuW

HistoryPix

HistoryPix continues to be a big hit with researchers and the general public. For 2009 there were 26,711 sessions (those logged on and searched) and 30,583 searches. There are 2,300 images.

Library Partnership

The partnership between the library, the society and the family history society goes from strength to strength. The latest partnership meeting was held on Tuesday 23 February 2010. There was a report from each organisation. The topics covered heritage festival, school tours, local studies room, history week 2010,

HistoryPix, oral history project, digitizing society archive files, heritage reports, publications, and other activities.

The National Trust heritage festival illustrates the degree of co-operation and goodwill between each of the organisations. All these activities have been co-

ordinated with each other. Each organisation conducts their own functions while at the same time being aware of what all other organisations are doing. This has created one of the biggest programs of activities for heritage week in the state. All up there are 10 different events.

Well done to all involved.

Lecture

Peter Mylrea, Janice Johnson, Cathey Shephard and Ian Willis attended at lecture at Mt Annan Botanic Gardens on Sunday 21 February. It was presented by Elizabeth Ellis and titled 'Sydney People and Places, The Cumberland Plain in the 19th century'. John and Julie had attended the same lecture when she presented it at the State Library in September 2009.

Book Launch, *The McAleer Story*

In November 2009 the Camden Historical Society launched its latest publication, *The McAleer Story, A History of a Camden Family*, written by Ian Willis.

It is a short biography of the Geoff and Olive McAleer who owned one of Camden's largest businesses in the 1960s and 1970s, the McAleer Ford dealership.

The launch was celebrated by 130 interested family, friends and society members with drinks and nibbles.

The gathered assembly heard from Gary Ireland, former president of Camden Rotary and former principal of Camden High School, who launched the

book. He noted at the launch that this was not the first time that an address was given by someone 'to those who knew the most, by someone who knew the least'.

Gary Ireland outlined the development of history writing in historical societies and the recent use of 'professional and skilled amateur historians'. He noted that as a 'latecomer' to Camden Rotary he was unaware of Geoff's professional activity and was puzzled by Rotary fines for both the motor trade and real estate. Gary related stories from others about Geoff and Olive, particularly one from Geoff Eagles as a former employee of Geoff's business. Eagles was initially terrified of

Geoff, which over time grew to respectful fear of him and his personal contact on the shop floor. We also learnt of Olive's fundraising for cord blood.

Geoff McAleer provided a vote of thanks to the author and the historical society.

A reply was given by the author Ian Willis. He appealed for other local families to tell their story. He said that they are all part of the Camden story.

These words were followed by a short address from Camden deputy mayor David Funnell.

Finally some words of encouragement were provided by the local Member of Parliament, Geoff Corrigan.

RESEARCH AND WRITING GROUP

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

Each member of the group works on their own project. They pursue their own project at their own pace.

Eight keen researchers attended the February meeting. They outlined the various projects that they are individually pursuing.

The projects included St Pauls Church Camden, Cobbitty,

Camden Park House, Lachlan Macquarie, Interwar Camden, Belgenny, St Johns Cemetery, Camden Remembers website, and the digitising of the society's archive files.

Future meetings include a Mosaic workshop on 15 May, a basic IT workshop on 21 August.

The March meeting (20 March) has been cancelled as the society will have a stall at the Camden Show on the same day. So we will see you all at the show.

The next meeting of the group will be held on Saturday 17 April 2010 at the Camden Museum at 9.30am.

You are invited to come along and share your research and writing experience. Enjoy a relaxed chat with other members who doing the same thing. Find out what others are up to.

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

Milk From Moos - A Little History

Presentation at Camden Historical Society 10 February 2010 from Ian Lean

The speaker at the February meeting of the historical society was Adjunct Professor Ian Lean. He presented a very interesting talk on the history of milk production and its relation to nutrition.

He outlined the ancestors of the present dairy cattle started with Aurock cattle in England in the 17th century. This was a descendant from the Roman Celtic Ox.

He mentioned that veterinary studies started at Lyon after a plague decimated animals in France.

Early dairy industry in the Australian colony was quite small and based around milk, cream, butter and cheese. For instance in the Illawarra there were 155 dairy cows in 1836 and butter was traded in kegs. Steamers were used for shipping. In NSW in 1891 there

343,000 dairy cows and by 1920 this had increased to 757,000. In the 1940s there were 980,000.

There were changes in technology that changed the way the industry functioned. In 1970 the UK joined the Common Market and there was a drop in dairy exports.

Pigs were essential part of the farm. They ate the whey.

Oral History Workshop

The State Library had a master class on oral history workshop on Saturday 20 February 2010. The Camden Library sponsored six volunteers from the library oral history program (partnership program with society). Amongst the volunteers were Sharon Greene and Cathey Shepherd. The workshop was led by Rosie Block and Bill Bunbury. The workshop drew out the difference between 'raw' interview material (unedited) and edited interviews that flow better for listener. The 'raw' interview has all the nuances of a conversation. Participants reported that it was 'very worthwhile'.

Digitizing of Archive Files

Janice Johnson has started the process of digitising files from the archives of the society. She is using the library facilities to scan the file then placing the file on the society computer system. Janice has completed the Camden Tramway file and it is now available for viewing. The next file is Aborigines. Janice is consulting with local school to see what their needs would be for school projects. The priority list of files will depend on their response.

Museum Visitors

In 2010: 25 February, 40 seniors from St George National Seniors. 8 March, 180 Year 7 students from Magdalene College, Mt Annan. 24 March, 48 members from Randwick Ladies Probuss.

In 2009: 20 November, 25 students, Wollondilly Anglican College, Picton. 5 November, 90 students from Camden Public School. 6 November, 25 students from Cobbitty Public School. 2 October, 25 students from Mawarra Public School.



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

Bits and Pieces 1914

In 1914 the *Camden News* reported:

'The Camden Skating Ring members have been most fortunate in securing Miss Daphne Mawboy, Australia's champion lady skater, and Mr Dug Borthwick, who is at present second to the champion fancy skater of the world, to give an exhibition of fancy skating on Saturday night next in the local rink. The two famous skaters attract a crowded house wherever they appear. No doubt Camden will roll up in good force to see the fine exhibitions'

'A euchre party and dance takes place tonight in the Mount Hunter School of Arts in aid of that Institution. Mr Thos Wheeler is the hon secretary, and assures everyone a first rate evening'.

'The Camden Nigger Minstrels last Wednesday week, gave an entertainment at the Camden Carrington Hospital. The patients as well as the pursuing staff were very pleased with the Minstrels, and all had a good time. The Matron, Miss Rutter, entertained the troops to a grand supper'.

'Last Saturday the Camden

Nigger Minstrels and Dramatic Club journey to Picton, and in the evening gave a benefit entertainment in the aid of the Picton School of Arts. The attendance was good. After the concert the troupe was entertained to a supper given by a couple of prominent members of the School of Arts. During supper many short speeches were given by both the Niggers and Picton gentlemen'.

'Camden Methodist Services were held at Camden at 11 am, Rev. TF Rudd, FM. 7.30 pm Rev. JG Wheen, FM. Glenmore at 11 am, Rev JG Martin, FM'.

Camden News, 13 August 1914,

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