



NEWSLETTER

President's Report 2011

Cathey Shepherd Outgoing President Comments

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The Camden Historical Society continues to "study, promote and preserve interest in the history of the Camden district in particular and Australia in general". The society addresses these objectives, by providing a museum and organising a number of activities during the year.

Some of this work involves: The collection, which continues to grow and improve by donations, purchases and maintenance. Some donations this year have included a barometer from the estate of Annie Thomson and memorabilia from the estate of Barry Feld. The coin collection has been cleaned, but is only a small part of the ongoing maintenance program, that is carried out on the collection.

Grant Applications are constantly being sought and applied for. When the Society is successful, it means that the museum can upgrade equipment and purchase items to improve and maintain the Society's collection and services.

Volunteers are the mainstay of the Society. They work as museum attendants, so the museum can be open four days a week, and behind the scenes, cataloguing the collection, research, displays, tour groups and school groups. Without their work, the Historical Society could not run the museum as well as it does. The volunteers do a great job and I thank you all for your wonderful work. Bob Lester

(Volunteers Co-ordinator) ran a successful training day on 25th September, 2011, and he continues to keep the volunteers informed about all things that affect them. The society is always looking for more volunteers.

The displays are important because they show off the collection, but also make the museum more interesting to the public. This year the Liz Kernohan display was taken over by a display of Camden Show memorabilia, and a wedding display was organised that used the wedding dresses of people in the Camden community. Thank you for all those people who lent their wedding memorabilia to the museum. The wedding display has proved a great success, by bringing in a number of people who would not normally visit the museum.

A working bee was held in November (2010) and January (2011), where society members renumbered and sorted through the clothing collection. It was from this working bee that the idea for a wedding display began.

The wedding dress worn by Maud Huthnance at her marriage to Ben Hodge, was put into the Dress Register of the Powerhouse museum. This item, with all its history, is now able to be accessed from the Powerhouse museum site from all over the world. A particular thank you to Julie Wrigley and Janice Johnson for their work on this project.

The society has made a number of proposals to development

applications, put to Council over this year. Some of our proposals have been taken note of, others have failed to change the outcome. The society welcomes being given the opportunity to address and comment on heritage matters that may arise in the many development and planning applications the Camden Council receives.

The newsletter and journal continue to be wonderful communication tools for the Society. A particular thank you to Ian Willis, on producing such an interesting and professional journal. The writers' group also continues to provide articles of historic interest.

The speaker program has continued to entertain and inform over the last 12 months. This program has included a book launch (Laidlaw-Gardener's Gamble), a local newspaper editor, Camden Park - both living there and the birdlife at Camden Park, Camden Show Society, Wollondilly Heritage Centre and many others. In particular, as part of History Week 'Faces in the Street', a number of members spoke about their lives. All the speakers were most interesting and entertaining. In April, as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, the members continued to tell stories for 'show and tell'. (cont p3)

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
- 12 October 2011
- 9 November 2011
- 14 December 2011
- 8 February 2012
- 14 March 2012
- 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: John Wrigley OAM 4655 9210 • Vice presidents: Bob Lester 4655 9044 Dr Ian Willis 4658 0193 • Treasurer: Ray Herbert 9606 6075 • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Immediate Past President Cathey Shepherd • General Committee: Peter Hayward OAM, Julie Wrigley, Janice Johnson, Rene Rem, Dr Karen Farmer, Sharon Greene, Robert Wheeler • Newsletter Editor • Dr Ian Willis 4658 0193 • Webmaster: Steve Robinson



Editor's Shorts

Upcoming speakers

12 October 2011

Colin Mills - Camden Park Nursery Group

9 November 2011

Events

The society is hosting a **photograph exhibition 'Camden - Paradise Lost?'** The exhibition runs from 6 - 16 October, with prize giving Saturday 8 October 2011. offer a chance to submit two photographs. Each photograph must be from the

Camden LGA. The themes are: (1) Camden landscape, rural vistas, rural land, wooded hills, rural paddocks; (2) devastation of the Cumberland Plain Woodland. The judges are Councillor Eva Campbell and Dr Larry Vogelnest. Prize money is: Adult section, 1st prize, \$200, Runner up, \$50; Secondary School Pupil, \$75; Primary School Pupil, \$75. Both amateur and professional photographers are welcome to submit images. All enquiries should be directed to Keryn & John Hutchinson. Phone 4651

2304.

An **exhibition working bee** will be held on Monday 14 November 2011 for anyone interested. The aim is to examine the museum textile collection for ideas for a new exhibit. Possible themes for a new exhibition will be around christening dresses and children's toys. There is a keen group of volunteers who will work on the planned new exhibit. For more information contact Julie Wrigley.

The society has initiated the **Camden Historical Society Fellowship 2011** to encourage historical research on the

Camden area. The fellowship is in the form of a bursary and will be used to support public speaking, research, conferences, lectures, and other activities that encourage dissemination of general history on the Camden area. The inaugural fellow is Dr Ian Willis who has been awarded a grant of \$500 to go towards expenses for presenting a conference paper called 'Townies, ex-urbanites and aesthetics, issues of identity on Sydney's rural-urban fringe' at the 11th Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference 2012 at the University of Western Australia in Perth in February.

History over High Tea



Tasties and niceties at the Library High Tea in September 2011 History Week (Photo J Wrigley)



The assembled audience at the High Tea enjoy a presentation by Lorraine Iddon. (Photo J Wrigley)

As part of History Week a very successful High Tea was held on Saturday 3 September 2011. The event - called 'History over High Tea' - was organized by Camden Library, and held in the community room of the library. Thirty women and one brave man gathered to hear Lorraine Iddon give a highly entertaining talk on the history of tea and the tea ceremony. After the talk a special afternoon tea was served by Local Studies Librarian Jo Oliver and Librarian Debi Annabel, using three-tiered cake stands and fine bone-china cups, saucers and plates. Those attending were then invited to tell their own experiences of networking with others, and sharing life stories over cups of tea. The event was so enjoyable that there have been requests for more High Teas.

Julie Wrigley

Camden Airport Community Consultative Committee

Ray Herbert is representing the interests of the society on the committee. He reported that an airport ombudsman has been appointed to assist residents. He stated that if residents have any issue with aircraft noise and any other matter of concern about the airport they should contact the ombudsman on 1800 802 584.

History Week Show and Tell

As part of History Week four very interesting speakers presented their stories on the theme 'Camden Cooking of Yesteryear'. Vic Boardman spoke on using a camp oven and making damper at the Camden Show. Eva Campbell spoke on the valuing of cooking and outlined the importance of the CWA Commonsense Cookbook which was published in 1937 and has never been out of print. Frances Warner, dressed in costume, spoke on the kitchens at Camden Park House. Her talk will be in an upcoming Camden History. Rosaline Faddy spoke on her grandfather's cooking.



Goodies and Treats - Eat History

History Week 3-11 September 2011

History week 2011 had an active program of events in the Camden - Narellan area. History Week is a regular part of the local history landscape in Camden.

The theme for 2011 was 'Eat History' and the program of events was full of lots of goodies and treats.

The beginning of September kicked off with a photographic exhibition **Camden Eats** at Camden library.

The **Farmers of the Burratorang Valley Cemetery Tour** of the Camden Catholic Cemetery was led by Janice Johnson. The cemetery is located in Cawdor Road on land that was originally part of a grant to John Macarthur. Janice led two tours one on Saturday 3 September which attracted around 20 people. Vic Boardman assisted by telling stories and singing rendition

of a favorite song. This was followed up with a tour the following Thursday which attracted 12 keen folk, again ably assisted by Vic.

On Tuesday 6 September 2011 Camden Area Family History Society presented **Secret Family Recipes** at Camden Library. Supper was provided.

The Camden Historical Society mounted a display **Camden Cooks** between 1 and 22 September at the Camden Museum and Camden Library.

A special afternoon tea **History Over High Tea** was presented with a talk about the history of china, lace and tea. It was held in Camden Library. This was very popular and is the subject of a story on p. 2.

A **Mini Discoverers Tour, Food for Preschoolers and Carers** was held at the

Camden Museum on Tuesday 6 September.

The ever popular Show and Tell session was held at the regular monthly meeting of the Camden Historical Society. The theme for September was **Camden Cooking of Yesteryear** where local identities showed off their cooking and told a story about it.

The local History Week program was a joint series of events that is part of the partnership between Camden Library, Camden Historical Society and Camden Area Family History Society. The joint initiatives have been undertaken over several years and have been highly successful.

The week is a yearly initiative of the History Council of New South Wales. More information can be found at <http://www.historyweek.com.au>.

President's Report 2011

(continued from page 1)

In May, members of the committee had a walk through the museum to review the displays, and look at OH&S matters that could impinge on the society's operation. Two very thorough documents, from this review have emerged and will be used to work through some of the matters. Thank you to Doug Barrett and members of the Society for this review.

The partnership between the library, family history and the historical society continues to grow. Our participation in history events and programs, can only increase our profile in the community. Jo Oliver, the local history librarian, does a sterling job in organising us.

The library's program always complements ours, and Jo is very professional.

Members attend Chapter meetings of the Southern and Highland Illawarra Chapter, Museums Australia. Meetings provide information on what other museums are doing and programs or grants that could be available for the society to access.

I would like to thank the many members of the committee, who have worked so hard during this year. Many people take on much more than their allotted position, and the work they do only makes the Society a better one. A love of history and particularly Camden history, is something we all share. Thank you!

The Society continues to plan for the future and maintenance of its collections and establish good working practices, to look after the needs of the Society and its members. I look forward to the next twelve months as a member of the Camden Historical Society, and being involved with some of this work.

Cathey Shepherd

Tours and Visitors

Camden Senior Citizens visited the museum on 27 July. The Able Tasman Retirement Village sent 12 visitors on 29 July. The Golden Oldies Group came over from Penrith on 4 August. Students from the Macarthur Home School Group(15) visited on 12 August. Macarthur Anglican School visited the museum on 25 August. Harrington Park Public School took a museum tour on 30 August. The Scott tour group visited on 11 September. U3A visited from Cronulla on 12 September. A Camden Town tour with a group of seniors on 22 September. Marrickville Heritage Society (30) visited museum on 24 September.

Maud Hodge Wedding Dress

Julie Wrigley reported that Maud Hodge's wedding dress has been taken to Conservation Services at Chatswood for a report and some restoration work. She reported that the conservator felt that the dress could be cleaned and some restoration could be undertaken on this valuable museum item.

Wedding Dress Exhibition

Last Chance

The highly successful wedding dress exhibition will be closed at the end of December 2011. This is the last chance to view the wedding dresses of local Camden women. Do not miss out and come along to see these wonderful exhibits. The exhibit has exceeded all expectations and has attracted hundreds of visitors to the museum.



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/Assoen \$75

For Year Ending 30 June

Camden Historical Society Inc

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 (1970). General admission to the museum is free, although visitors are encouraged to leave a donation. The museum is conducted entirely by volunteers and receives substantial and continuing assistance from Camden Council.

Camden Historic Precinct

The museum is located in Camden's historic precinct and 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.

Archives and 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

Billy Tea and Cocky's Joy at the Camden Show

A local identity and rascal, Vic Boardman, has been serving Billy Tea and Cocky's Joy at the drover's camp at the Camden Show with his friends since 1988. Vic originally wanted to show the current generation what a real drover's camp looked like.

Part of the drover's camp is a demonstration in the use of the trusty camp oven. Vic recommends a Murphy Camp Oven and 'the bigger the better because they hold the heat better,' he said. Vic categorically maintains that, 'there is nothing you can't cook

in a camp oven'. He ought to know. Vic said that in the old days damper was made with flour, water and a good pinch of salt. It was kneaded into a round and baked in the ashes of the camp fire. He reckons that he uses around 150 pounds of flour for his dampers at the show. Vic admits to using self-raising flour in his damper these days, and he cooks his in the camp oven. 'If you want the damper a little browner add beer to the flour,' he said.

In the early days of the camp he used to demonstrate swinging the billy before

pouring the tea, but safety issues stop that today. Vic and friends serve over 1000 cups of tea over the one and half days of the show.

The damper is served with Cocky's Joy which is Golden Syrup. In the old days the advantages of Golden Syrup in hard times for country folk were threefold: it stored and kept well in a can; it was cheaper than jam or sugar; it was a multi-purpose cooking, baking and sweetening agent.

Make sure you check out Vic and his friends at the drover's camp at the next Camden Show.

Ian Willis 2011

This is printed at Russell Matheson's office. The society gratefully acknowledges his assistance.