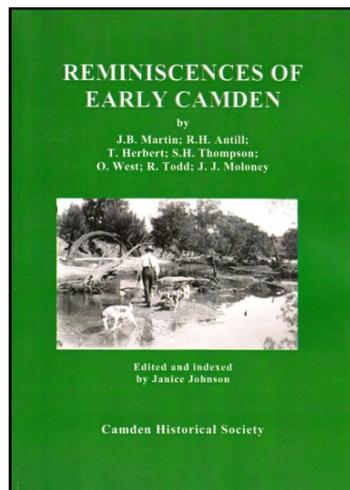


NEWSLETTER

Reminiscences of Early Camden

A New Publication for 2012



Janice states that she came across John Benson Martin's 'Reminiscences' while compiling her work on St John's Anglican church cemetery. She came across a host of out-of-print articles in the Camden News of the late 1800s.

The collection of articles are from Camden characters who recorded their lived experiences. They are a first hand account of the history of Camden as it happened. When viewed as a complete collection they provide a valuable perspective of voices from the past.

The collection is drawn from a number of sources including the Camden News, and the Town & Country Journal. The authors include: JB Martin, RH Antill, Thomas Herbert, Obed West, Richard Todd, and JJ Moloney.

While the majority of articles are about Camden, there are also contributions on Cawdor and Menangle. Each set of articles is accompanied by a useful genealogy of the author. There is also a bibliography and an extensive index. This is an excellent addition to the local studies of the Camden area.

Inside this issue:

New publication	1
Editor's Shorts	2
Researching Land Records	2
National Volunteers Week	3
Maps and more	3
Groups visiting museum	3
'Vic'	3

Society member Janice Johnson has put together for the first time a collection of hard-to-get and out-of-print articles on Camden. These manuscript sources cover a date range from 1883 to 1909, and cover topics from the Camden School of Arts to the examination of 'the Burratoranger'.

'Back Then'

The District Reporter 1998-2012

The District Reporter has provided space on the back page for a regular history feature since June 1998. It is the most popular section of the newspaper according to the editor and readers alike.

The Camden Historical Society and its members have been a regular contributor since its introduction by the owners of the newspaper. The first historical feature was titled, 'District founder exiled four years for duelling' and had images of John Macarthur and Camden Park.

Some people in Camden are known to clip and collect each historical feature. Fans sometimes have trouble locating a copy of the newspaper as they disappear quickly after delivery.

The regular history feature confirms this situation that local studies is one of the most popular forms of history in Australia.

Society contributors for the society have included John Wrigley, Julie Wrigley, Robert Wheeler, Ian Willis, Peter Mylrea, Janice Johnson and others. John has even published a collection of his articles from over ten years of writing. Don't miss the next issue.

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
- 13 June 2012
- 11 July 2012
- 8 August 2012
- 12 September 2012
- 10 October 2012
- 14 November 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 activities

June 2012

Volunteer Training Day
(TBA) Organiser Bob Lester

August 2012

Meeting: AGM

September 2012

Meeting: 'Threads'

History Week

October 2012

Meeting: Robert Wheeler
speaks on John Oxley.

November 2012

Meeting: Doug Barrett
speaks on Pansy

Events reports

In May society members Cathey Shepherd organised a **visit to the farm** of Camden identity **Vic Boardman**. Around 25 members were entranced by a walk tour through Vic's sheds and the stories about his cars from his son Max. Comments on the visit included: 'fantastic', 'the best bit was the butcher's shop', it was 'just like a museum'. A great afternoon was had by all, finished off with afternoon tea. The society expresses thanks for the opportunity to visit Vic's place.

Society **guest speaker at the April meeting was Lu Papi** who spoke on the difference between innovation and

invention. He gave an interesting presentation on examples of inventions that have been made in Australia and have gone onto worldwide success. He outlined some of his design work and detailed the difficulties of obtaining finance for further work on projects.

Bob Lester stated that the **museum had 703 visitors** in April. The museum was open on Anzac Day and welcomed 44 visitors.

The museum has received donation of a **wooden sign** from the Cowpasture Bridge from around 1970. It will undergo restoration work.

Doug Barrett has successfully trialed **electronic funds transfer** for book sales for the first time for the society.

Brendan O'Farrell has donated a lithograph copy of an image of **Lord Camden** in the robes. He has put an original signature with the image and had both placed in a handsome frame. The society thanks Brendan for his continued generosity towards the society.

In March a deputation from the society had a meeting with the Planning Department and Heritage Officer of **Camden Council**. The society was represented by John Wrigley and Doug Barrett and was informed of the latest updates to NSW planning regulations.

The society **Research and Writing Group** held a meeting in February and May. Those attending reported on their latest

research efforts and updates to future publications.

The society had a successful stall at the **Camden Show** in the AH&I Hall. Many books and DVDs were sold, which have been added to the general revenue of the society. Thanks to those who minded the table.

Society member Ian Willis published an article on **The Conversation** website in April called: 'Academic snobbery. Local Historians need more support'.

The **National Trust Heritage Festival** was held in April and the society ran a number of events. The theme for the festival was 'Amazing stories: innovation and invention'. Society activities included a guest speaker for innovation and invention at the April meeting, a display, the Mini-discoverers tour for youngsters and a town walking tour. All events were well supported.

The society has successfully received a **grant** from the Australian Government's Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for **Sharing Community Heritage Stories**. The successful project is called: '**The story of the Camden Red Cross in war and peace**'. The project has 4 parts: an exhibition, a printed history, a public lecture and publication of material on the society website. The value of the grant is \$20,450 and was put together by Ian Willis. The Camden Red Cross was founded in 1914 on

the outbreak of the First World War, as it was in Australia (Melbourne 1914). In Camden there were also Red Cross auxiliary organisations: Voluntary Aid Detachments, and the Junior Red Cross. The project will draw it inspiration from Willis's MA(Hons) thesis which is located in the society library.

A very interesting address was given by **Elizabeth Villy on the Razorback Road** at the May society meeting. Elizabeth is the author of 'The Old Razorback Road, Life on the Great South Road between Camden and Picton 1830-1930'. She outlined some of the convict goings on the Road in the 1820s on the work gangs. The audience were kept captivated by the an examination of: chain gangs, convict diets on work gangs, convict privileges, working conditions of convict gangs, the first Cowpasture Bridge, convict floggings or the lack of them, the Picton Police District and a host of related matters.

The **society website <Camdenhistory.org.au>** continues to be busy. It has averaged around 11,000 hits per month, peaking in March with 19,600 hits. The top pages downloaded were Camden Bibliography, Mt Annan and the Journal, Camden, Oran Park, Museum Files, and Studley Park. The busiest days are between Friday and Sunday. The top keyword searches are Camden, history and historical. There are regular links to the site from library and council webpages.

Researching Land Records: From Documents to Digital Sources

Presenter: Carol Liston, Royal Australian Historical Society. Saturday ,19 May 2012.

The RAHS sponsored a workshop presented by historian Associate Professor Carol Liston at the Camden Historical Society in the function room. Around 30 members took advantage of an extremely informative event organised by Cathey Shepherd.

Carol outlined Land Ownership Records in New South Wales, then detailed Free Crown Grants between 1791-1831. She gave an overview of Old System Records and Land Grants and how these work within the Limits of Settlement and Beyond the Limits of Settlement. The talk explained the importance of the Robertson Lands Acts in 1861 and how they unlocked land outside the boundary of the 19 Counties. The talk then moved onto Torrens Title, the registers, the conversion from Old System to Torrens Title, and the Torrens Title Indexes from

1863.

Carol gave a demonstration of the website of Land and Property @ www.lpi.nsw.gov.au and the capabilities of searching for digital records on the site. She gave an insight into PIXEL, SIX, SIX Lite and DP searches. For the persistent researcher a significant amount of information can be gained for free, while \$11.60 can get you a lot more.

While the records have not been created for historians, they are an opportunity not to pass up when searching land title records in New South Wales. Great for local historians all.

The presentation was topped off with a tasty afternoon tea. A deal of thanks is owed to the organiser for this wonderfully informative presentation.

National Volunteers Week

14-20 May 2012

National volunteers week is a celebration of volunteerism across Australia.

The Camden Museum could not survive without volunteers. Neither could a host of other local voluntary organizations.

Volunteers have been an essential part of the local scene from the foundation of Camden in 1840. They help create a sense of place and contribute to community identity.

Around 6 million people volunteer for a variety of community organizations in Australia. This adds up to about 700 million hours a year that volunteers contribute to community service. In 2007 the value of voluntary effort was calculated at \$14.6 billion per year (ABS). The average time volunteered by individuals was 1.1 hours per week.

The National Volunteers website is found @ <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/News-and-Events/-National-Volunteer-Week.asp> and provides a host of useful links, suggestions and help for anyone who wants to volunteer.

The website gives a formal statement on what constitutes volunteering in Australia. A volunteer is a person freely giving their time for no payment in the service of the community.

Volunteers are to be treated with dignity, have rights and do not replace paid workers.

The website provides some interesting statistics: 40% of volunteers are women, and 37% men; most volunteers are aged between 45-54 years of age; a greater proportion of country people volunteer than city folk; and the 4 most common types of volunteering are for - sport & recreation, education and training, community & welfare, and religious groups.

Volunteers stated that they contributed their time because of the difference the volunteer made to the community and the sense of purpose it provided to the volunteer. (Volunteering Australia, 2011)

Volunteering at the Camden Museum can make a positive contribution to your life. Think about the interesting people you meet. You do not have to be a history expert. Just a person interested in making a contribution to the Camden community. Without our volunteers the society would collapse.

If YOU would like to VOLUNTEER at the Camden Museum contact Bob @ 4655 9044 or Doug @ 4647 0597 or leave a message at the Museum @ 4655 3400.

Groups visiting museum

The museum continues to attract groups in the recent past. On Saturday 19 May there were 40 visitors from Topp Tours and a number of Parramatta heritage groups. John ably conducted the tourists around the displays. Julie led a group of 12 folk from Carrington Retirement Complex on May 21. Most of the group were in wheelchairs and were quite interested in the museum.

Doug led a group of 8 youngsters around the museum for a Library Discovery tour in Heritage Week. In April Doug led a tour from St Justins School. Camden Seniors (18) took part in a walking tour of Camden on April 19. On April 30 there was a visit from 20 members of Baulkham Hills History Group. On 29 April there were 30 visitors from Mt Druitt Historical Society. May 10 saw 15 visitors from Wollondilly Support and Community Care. Camden Public School visited on May 17 led by Doug.

If you have a group that wants to visit the museum contact Doug @ 4655 3400

Maps and more

The Camden museum currently has a display called 'Development of Camden' put together by Bob Lester. It shows early maps and plans that tell the story of the growth of the Camden town area.

There are copies of early plans of the Camden village area dating from 1836 to the 1840s. They show that the central business district of Camden is, fortunately, still largely intact and retains its historical integrity.

There are a series of maps showing the subdivisions of different sections of the town. For example, in 1900 there was the release of land south of Broughton Street by Camden Park Estate.

Then there is the 1985 release of the Cawdor section of Camden Park Estate (Menangle) Pty Ltd. And more recently there are plans displayed for land releases at the Cascades at Mt Annan, the master plan for Gregory Hills and others new localities.

'Vic'

Society member and local identity **Vic Boardman** was the subject for local South Camden artist Bob Gurney in the recent 2012 **Camden Art Prize**.

The artwork titled 'Vic' shows a shaven Vic from a few years ago. Gurney has captured the essence of Vic's rustic charm and weather-beaten features. The painting tells a story of Vic's rural heritage, his larrikin character and that cheeky grin. Vic has a twinkle in his eye that still catches the notice of the ladies. His engaging personality still captures the attention of those who like a story from the 'old days'. Vic says that 'the girls didn't mind a boy that had a bit of spirit'. Vic certainly had plenty of that in his younger days when he got up to mischief of all sorts.

Vic is a true local institution and says that he has done 'lots of things in his time'. He comes into the museum for a chat on a Sunday afternoon. Or you will see him around town in an old Chev.

The artwork, titled 'Vic', is for sale at the Camden Museum.

Cawdor Land Release

In 1985 Camden Park Estate put up for tender 530 hectares. The promotional material hailed the intended growth in the Macarthur area. The land release said that Wollondilly Shire Council was considering the site for residential development. The site was 'the final opportunity' to buy part of the historical Camden Park Estate.

Alpha Road, 1911

The land release for the lots in Alpha Road took place in 1911. The subdivision was called the Warner Estate and had 22 blocks for sale. The terms of sale were £1 deposit with the balance in 10 half-yearly instalments @ 5% interest. The Warner Estate had their head office in Sydney.



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

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

Narellan Memories

Society member Joan Cross recalled her memories of the general store at Narellan owned by Jack Cross during the Second World War. She spoke at the society October meeting in 1993.

She recalls how she ran the Narellan general store with Jack Cross, his wife and sister. They did deliveries all around the district and the store was opposite the railway station. During the war the army fellows from the Narellan Military Camp [on the Northern Road] would come into the store for a drink before going onto the train for Sydney leave.

Towards the end of the war the store was visited by English

servicemen.

The Crosses delivered newspapers to the Eastern Command Training School at Studley Park, and the Narellan Military Camp. She recalls that they could not always get the newspapers and magazines they wanted. They ordered supplies and only received a portion. They delivered magazines and newspaper to the Fairfaxes at Harrington Park on weekends.

She recalled how the English troops liked the Daily Telegraph 'Jane' comic strip.

Jack Cross had a hire car licence during the war as he was located near the Narellan station. He would get a few jobs from the

military in the area.

Joan told the audience that her family had holidays in Wollongong.

The family were glad when her father bought a new car in the 1930s. She said that it was a Whippet that cost about £100. Interestingly a good suit cost £5 in the 1940s.

Her father was Arthur Holdsworth. A number of the members of the family were in business in Camden and Sydney. One had a Camden hire car and a bike shop. Roy Holdsworth had a garage and hire car, a Hudson, which and often travelled to Burragarang Valley.

Joan Cross, CHS, October 1993.

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