



Newsletter

Photography Workshop at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre

The Wollondilly Heritage Centre and the Camden Museum have recently completed a series of workshops on the Assessment of Significance. Using selected items from their collections, members were able to prepare Statements of Significance under the guidance of museums consultant Kylie Winkworth.

As the final component of the project, two specialists from the Powerhouse Museum, textile conservator Kate Chidlow and conservation photographer Nitsa Yioupros, conducted a one-day workshop at The Oaks on Tuesday 27 May on

photography of museum items. The eleven participants were guided through such topics as 'Simple Conservation Photography' and 'Documentation and Taking Good Photographs with Available Light and Space'.

Objects from both museums were used as examples of a range of shapes and sizes with challenges for the photographer. Members were encouraged to take their cameras off the automatic setting and to experiment with varying the settings to get the best results from their efforts. Suitable accessories to

make good use of available light were demonstrated. These included tripods, ladders, backing sheets, reflector boards and light boxes.

Every participant gained new insights about photography from the workshop and expressed their appreciation to Kate and Nitsa for such an interesting day. The Assessment of Significance project was a good example of the volunteers from two museums working cooperatively to gain skills and knowledge.

JW

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Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
- **13 August 2014**
- **10 September 2014**
- **8 October 2014**
- **12 November 2014**
- **10 December 2014**
- Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the museum, 40 John St, Camden. All welcome

Back Then Writers Workshop

The society Writers Group and The District Reporter combined resources to offer a free workshop on writing local history for the Back Then page of the newspaper. The very popular page is a 'micro snapshot of the people, places and times that

helped shape areas such as Camden and Wollondilly', according to editor Lee Abrahams.

Ms Abrahams stated that 'for many people the Back Then offers an insight of how life was and how people lived from the time of European settlement up

to the mid 1940s'.

Lee Abrahams outlined how to write a short history piece for publication and the type of subjects that can be tackled by budding authors. Topics might include local identities, events, jobs, and how people lived in industries, farms or celebrations.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400
 President: Bob Lester • Vice presidents: Dr Ian Willis 4658 0193; Rene Rem 0424 847 492 • Treasurer: Dawn Williams.
 Secretary: Lee Stratton 4655 3400 • Minutes Secretary: Sharon Greene • Immediate Past President John Wrigley OAM 4655 9210 • General Committee: Cathey Shepherd, Robert Wheeler, Julie Wrigley, Roslyn Tildsley, Sharon Greene, Janice Johnson. Newsletter Editor: Dr Ian Willis. Webmaster: Steve Robinson

Editor's Notes

Upcoming speakers

13 August 2014 AGM
Vic Boardman and the
Camden Show

10 September 2014
Ian Willis The Great War

8 October 2014
Sister Mary Smith Wivenhoe

12 November 2014
Emma Campbell Gallipoli

10 December 2014
Christmas meeting

Events

Unfortunately Janice Johnson has recently resigned from the position of secretary due to ill health. Janice has done a sterling job, at one point covering both the secretary and treasurer

positions. The new secretary until the AGM is Lee Stratton. Janice will continue her research interests. Robert Wheeler will act as membership coordinator, while Rene Rem is looking after tours and school visits.

The society has been offered additional storage space by Camden Council. The society will fit out the space with shelving for bulky items from the museum.

The society has accepted an offer from Kingsclear Books to publish an illustrated history of the Camden LGA. The society will give the publisher access to the Camden Images collection of

photographs. The text will be written by Ian Willis. The project should be completed by the end of 2015. The project will be financed by the publisher.

The society is organizing corporate style shirts for volunteers. The shirts will be embroidered by the society logo and lettering. The embroidery is currently being setup by the supplier. Samples will be available for size fitting at an upcoming meeting. Shirts will be paid for by members and have to be paid for in advance. The shirts will be completely optional for members and volunteers, who will be encouraged to wear them at official functions or

while on museum duty. Volunteers and members who would like a corporate shirt with an embroidered logo should let Sharon Greene or Ian Willis know of their interest.

The society will launch the Red Cross book, Ministering Angels, the Camden District Red Cross, 1914-1945, at an afternoon tea on Saturday 30 August 2014 at 2.00pm. It will be catered for by the CWA. An extension of this is an oral history project interviewing the remaining members of the Camden Red Cross. Member Leonie Jackson will conduct the interviews later in the year in conjunction with Camden Library.

A Hit at the Camden Show

On Friday 4 and Saturday 5 April, Camden Historical Society volunteers sold books and DVDs at the Camden Show. It was our best year to date in terms of the wider team of volunteers who helped on the stall renewing memberships, promoting the museum, and raising funds. The R.S.L. had a display about Camden World War I participants, in conjunction with the Historical Society,

coordinated by Ray Herbert. The hard-working volunteers on Friday were Janice Johnson, Lee Stratton, Warren Sims, Anthea Russo, Olive McAleer, Bettie Small, Dawn Williams, René Rem, Cathy Shepherd, and Betty Yewen. On Saturday the volunteers were Ian Willis, Bob Lester, Joy Aitken, Jo Booth, René Rem and John Wrigley. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave of

their time for the Society. Special mention to John for arranging the roster and supply of books; and to René for working all day on Saturday at the museum and then the Show. Thanks also to the Show Society for once again allowing us to set up our stall – originally arranged for the Society by Miss Llewella Davies in the 1970s. JW

Museum visitors

Rene Rem reports that the museum continues to be a strong magnet for visitors to Camden. For the period January to May there have been 2866 visitors which is down on the 2974 visitors for the same period in 2013, and up from 2475 for 2012.

The busiest month was May with 727 followed by April with 635 and January with 596. During the same period in 2013 the busiest month was March with 714 visitors, followed by April with 699 and then 565 in May.

Amongst the number of visitors for 2014 there were 557 children with the busiest month being May with 187 children visiting the museum. This number is made up with visits by school children.

Partnership Meeting

A partnership meeting between the Historical Society, Camden Family History Society and Camden Library was held on 13 May.

The partners reported on their activities concentrating on the recent success of Heritage Festival.

Camden Remembers

At the April society meeting Ray Herbert presented an interesting and informative talk on the Camden Remembers website. He outlined his involvement with the website and its development. Ray was one of the founders of the website with Steve and Chris Robertson.

Cocktail Party at the Museum

On the evening of Friday 11 April the Historical Society held a very successful party to launch the book, written by Janice Johnson, "Camden Diggers 1914-1918". John Wrigley was MC for the occasion and welcomed guests. The party was attended by 110 people who thoroughly enjoyed the event. Russell Matheson, Federal Member for Macarthur, launched the book and spoke warmly about the number of interesting personal stories in the book. At the end of his speech he announced that Janice Johnson had won a NSW Government Volunteer Award for 2014 as a 'Heritage Hero'.

Janice responded and explained that the book had taken over two years of

preparation. She thanked a number of people who had helped her, including those who contributed stories and photos, and the staff of Camden Library for digitising the local paper and providing her with many reference books.

The printing of Janice's book, in colour, was supported through funding from the Australian Government's *Your Community Heritage Program*, as well as the 10 pull-up banners displayed in the Galleria and Museum. The banners were designed by Janice, based on chapters in her book. The excellent catering for the evening was arranged by the Camden Civic Centre who prepared and served the hot and cold finger food.

The party was attended by Chris Patterson MP, Clr Penny Fischer, Clr Debby Dewbery, and Clr Eva Campbell, Virginia Ghezzi from Camden Library, representatives from the RSL Branches from Camden, Wollondilly, and Campbelltown, Camden War Widows, Camden Red Cross, The Oaks Historical Society, and many local schools. The Camden RSL Branch had provided red poppies for guests to wear to remember those who lost their lives in war. At 6 o'clock The Ode was recited by Iain Richard-Evan, President of the Camden RSL Sub-Branch. Members and friends of the Historical Society enjoyed the sense of community which the book celebrates. JW



April School Visit

In April around 40 children, and their parents, from the Academy of Chinese Culture at Kogarah visited the Camden Museum. They were accompanied by their teacher Dr Lin.

Dr Lin wrote to the society and stated ' We had a good time in Camden

Museum on April 26. Thank you for introducing everything in the museum for our students and parents. We enjoyed this visit and learned a lot about Camden history, especially from your collection about the Chinese in Camden. This collection is amazing!'

The museum has a strong school programme and a number of schools from the local area are regular visitors.

Website Stats

The website continues to attract visitors looking at different pages. So far this year there have been just over 9,000 unique visitors to the site who have looked at 19,900 individual pages. The number hits on the website this so far have tallied to 177,000. The busiest month this year has been May with 2323 unique visitors.

The busiest day of the week for the website are Sundays.

For example on 15 June there were 122 visits who viewed 182 pages and had 2489 hits on the site. This compares with 8 June with 155 visits, 202 pages and 3355 hits.

The quietest day of the week was Thursdays, followed by Saturday.

The most downloaded pages was 'Studley Park', followed by 'Museum Pages', then 'Oran Park' and 'Narellan'.

The pages with the largest number of hits were historic places, followed by suburbs and 'Camden Bibliography'.

The top keyphrase was 'Camelot Camden' followed by 'Camden History'. The top keyword searches were 'Camden', followed by 'Camelot'.

RAHS

John Wrigley successfully had his article 'Camden Historical Society and Museum Wollondilly Heritage Centre - Two Museums Explore Significance Together' published in the Royal Australian Historical Society June eNewsletter.



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 \$15
Family \$20

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 *Camden Floods*

Reports of Camden floods appeared in a variety of sources over the years.

In 1913 the *Goulburn Evening Penny Post* reported on a flood at Camden. It stated:

'A flood was reported at Camden on Monday night, and the Nepean River was rising, the water being 5ft over the bridge at Camden. The low lying land all round Camden was flooded. Carrington road being submerged. Up to 7pm 245 points had been registered at Camden, and 800 points at Robertson. During the day mails and passengers were carried over the flooded waters in boats. At Camden there was a complete blockage of railway

and mail communications. The railway authorities at Sydney notified that the flood waters were on the railway line and consequently traffic would be held up until further notice'.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 24 June 1913.

The Camden News reported after the 1900 floods a question in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. It stated:

'Replying to a question in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday last, the Minister for Works promised to an officer to report as to the feasibility of directing flood

waters from Goulburn and above Camden into the sea by way of George's River, with a view of preventing a repetition of the recent disastrous floods'.

The Camden News 26 July 1900

In 1890 the Sydney press reported that yet another flood. There were flood boats that came to the rescue yet again. It stated:

'The floods which have occurred in the vicinity of Camden have not interfered with the Camden tramway passenger traffic, as a boat or boats have been specifically provided to convey the passengers across the water'.

Evening News (Sydney) 4 February 1890.

The Camden Historical Society would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Russell Matheson MP, Federal Member for Macarthur, in the printing of this newsletter.