



# NEWSLETTER

## 2014 Heritage Festival at Camden

This year the **National Trust 2014 Heritage Festival is being held between 12 April and 26 May**. The theme pays tribute to Journeys and includes individual stories of migration, walkabout, exploration, travel and community celebration of heritage and culture. The yearly festival is celebrated nation-wide and is in its 34th year.

On Friday 11 April 2014 the society is launching a new book by member Janice Johnson called **Camden's World War One Diggers 1914-1918**. The book will be officially launched by Hon Russell Matheson MP. The cocktail party function will take place in the Camden Library/Museum Galleria, 5.30-7.30pm. Financial assistance for the publication of the book was provided by the Australian

Government's Your Community Heritage Programme. This is a free event. Booking required.

During the National Trust's Heritage Festival there will be a display in the galleria called **Travelling Through Camden**. It will feature items related to journeys through the Camden district including maps, timetables and travel accessories from the museum collections. This is a free event and the display will be in the Camden Library/Museum Galleria.

On Wednesday 14 May at 7.30pm there will be **How Did We Come Here: The Journeys of Local Families to the Camden Area**. Society members are encouraged to talk about what brought their family to the Camden area. When they came, how they came and how they settled into the district. This is a free event

and will be conducted as part of the ordinary monthly meeting of the society.

On Tuesday 20 May 2014 at 11.00am there will be a **Mini-Discoverers event called Dressed to Travel**. It will be conducted by Library staff in place of the normal story time session for pre-schoolers. The youngsters and their carers will be visiting the Camden Museum. Children will be able to view, touch and try on clothing including hats, gloves and capes that people from an earlier age wore when travelling. While this is a free event held in the Camden Library/Museum Galleria bookings are required.

For more information on any of these events contact the Camden Museum on 02 4655 3400 or Camden Library on 02 4654 7951.

### Inside this issue:

Heritage Festival	1
Editor's Shorts	2
Red Cross Exhibition	2
Museum Chapter	2
Volunteering is good for you, really!	3
Museum visitors	3
Burraborang News 1899	4

### Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
- 12 March 2014
- 9 April 2014
- 14 May 2014
- 11 June 2014
- 9 July 2014
- 13 August 2014
- Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the museum, 40 John St, Camden. All welcome

## Camdenhistory.org.au

The society website continues to be busy and used by a variety of interested web-users.

In January 2014 there were 1,141 web-visitors to the site, who viewed 2,847 pages. While in February there were 1,118, who viewed 2,775 pages. In January there were 21,580 hits on site, while in February there were 20,806.

An analysis of 2013 reveals some interesting points about the website viewing. The busiest month of the

year was May with over 2,300 visitors who viewed over 4,600 pages. This was closely followed by April, then March. There was a total of 15,800 visitors to the website. The busiest day of the week was Sunday, followed by Tuesday. The top word searches were in order Oran Park, Studley Park, CAFS, and Camden.

The top pages searches in order were historic places, Camden

Bibliography, CAFS then History of Camden.

The busiest external links to the website were from Camden Council web-pages, followed by Camden Library web-pages. Amongst other external links to the website included were Wikipedia, Camden Park, Campbelltown Family History, Dictionary of Sydney, Heritage Tourism and Federation houses. The website continues to provide excellent promotion of the society.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400  
 President: Bob Lester 0400 026 564 • Vice presidents: Dr Ian Willis 4658 0193; Rene Rem 0424 847 492 • Treasurer Dawn Williams 4655 3400 • Secretary: Janice Johnson 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, Lee Stratton *Newsletter Editor*: Dr Ian Willis. *Webmaster*: Steve Robinson



## Editor's Shorts

### Upcoming speakers 2014

#### March

Joy Thorn - Cobbitty

#### April

Ray Herbert - Camden Remembers

#### May

Journeys - Society members

#### June

Michael Starr - Floods

#### July

Centenary of Scouting

#### August

#### AGM

Vick Boardman - Camden Show

#### September

Iris Britten

#### October

Sister Mary Smith - Wivenhoe

#### November

Emma Campbell - Gallipoli

#### December

Christmas Meeting

### Events

The society has recently installed a television in the main downstairs display area. The project was co-ordinated by Roslyn, Rene and Rob. The television will be used by guest presenters at society meetings. Its location will allow better viewing by visitors at society meetings.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the society and Camden Council was recently renewed. The society was pleased with the continued success of the agreement.

The Red Cross exhibition continues to receive favourable comments in the visitors book. The exhibition

has a table cloth on loan from the Narellan Red Cross. Over 360 names were sewn into the cloth after the donors gave the branch a donation. All the names are listed in the folder adjacent to the cloth.

At the December 2013 meeting John Wrigley spoke about a small rattan chair which belonged to Llewella Davies. The object was the first typist chair at the Commercial Banking Company. The chair had then been used in Miss Davies kitchen for many years.

At the December 2013 meeting the society conferred life membership on Annette Macarthur Onslow. She has been a continual supporter of the society for over 20 years. She lives in Hassall Cottage on the original Macquarie Grove land grant.

A number of storyboards on the district Red Cross have

been placed on the society website. Some have previously been published on the Back Then page of The District Reporter.

The society has a new book for sale called My Dearest Ellen by Pacita Alexander. It is the story of the Moore family at Ellensville at Mt Hunter.

Society donor Brendan O'Farrell continues to find tourist souvenirs of Camden and surrounding areas. Brendan has been a generous and continuing supporter of the society. He has donated numerous objects for the museum collection.

Society member Anthea Russo found some interesting photographs from the 1930s about local Red Cross activities from the Fairfax archives. They will be added to Ian Willis's upcoming book.

## Society member's history blog

Society member Ian Willis has created a blog called Camden History Notes. The blog is a mix of interesting bits and pieces about Camden local history from all perspectives. He has put up a number of items that will be of interest to society members.

One highlights the Camden Museum. He posted an item about the souvenir teacup and its significance. The Shelley

teacup pictured St John's church and was English porcelain. It was sold at Whiteman's General Store. Souvenir nick nacks often included ashtrays, plates and butter plates. They had images of the Nepean River, the war memorial and other points of interest.

The blog has a number of other interesting items from the Camden Park Garden, to a

number of endangered species from the local area. One post looks at Camden Modernism, while another tackles a topic called Camden dreamtime. Others include Camden community garden, bushfires, Little Sandy, local festivals and Camden airfield. Read more @ [http:// camdenhistorynotes.blogspot.com.au/](http://camdenhistorynotes.blogspot.com.au/) . See also Facebook and Pinterest.

## Red Cross Exhibition

**The Red Cross exhibition** is still on show, with one highlight being the spinning wheel made in 1917 to spin wool to knit socks and jumpers for the soldiers overseas, with photos of the Sidman family and Brunero family using the spinning wheels in World War I; and the grey socks knitted in 2013

for the exhibition using a WW1 pattern. Another highlight is the collage of photos in the Research Room telling the story of the Camden Red Cross in war and peace, including Red Cross street stalls, Camden soldiers and nurses, and Red Cross volunteers. JW

## Museum Chapter

The Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter of Museum Australia held the last meeting for 2013 at Shellharbour Village Exhibition Space at Shellharbour Village. There were reports from individual societies who are part of the chapter, including the Camden Historical Society.

The meeting speaker was photographer Bernie Fisher who has photographed objects at the Tongarra Museum at Shellharbour.

### Red Cross Book

The book produced by Ian Willis *Ministering Angels, the Camden district Red Cross 1914-1945* will be launched on Saturday 9 August 2014. This will celebrate the centenary of the foundation of the Camden Red Cross in August 1914. Other local branches were established over the following months at Menangle, Narellan and The Oaks. The Bringelly branch was established during the Second World War.

### Oxley Anchor

The continual saga of the Oxley anchor and its possible relocation has been put on hold for a number of months. It is currently located at Kirkham adjacent to Kirkham Lane. It is unsafe to park and inspect the anchor in its current location.

Robert Wheeler is handling the issue for the society. He reported in November 2013 that the council informed the society that the land owners agreed to leave the anchor in its present location for another 12 months. Negotiations are continuing.

# Volunteering is Good For You, Really!

Studies have found that you can help yourself while helping others. Volunteering is good for your mental and physical health. There are four main benefits to volunteering.

1. Volunteering connects you with others. It is a great way for you to make new friends and improve your social skills. Volunteering allows you to connect with your community and make it a better place. Volunteers are often the unpaid glue that keeps a community together. They strengthen the ties in the community.

2. Volunteering is good for your mind and body. Doing this type of activity can increase self-confidence, self-esteem and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others while providing yourself with

a sense of accomplishment. It can give you a sense of pride and identity. The better you feel about yourself the happier your outlook on life.

Medical authorities stated that volunteering can lower the risk of depression - the black dog. A risk factor in depression is social isolation and volunteering keeps you in contact with others.

Studies have shown that volunteering can lesson the symptoms of stress and lower the mortality rate for those who volunteer.

The Harvard health report *Simple Changes, Big Rewards: A Practical, Easy Guide for Healthy, Happy Living* states that volunteering has a happiness effect.

3. Volunteering can advance

your career. Passion and positivity are the only requirements. Volunteering provides an opportunity to gain new skills.

4. Volunteering can bring fun and fulfilment to your life so experts say. Volunteering is an easy way to explore your interests and passions. It can be an interesting and meaningful way to energising your routine. Escape from the hum-drum of the daily routine. Volunteering can provide creativity, motivation and vision into your everyday life.

See Rene, help out the society and help yourself.

[http://www.helpguide.org/life/volunteer\\_opportunities\\_benefits\\_volunteering.htm#most](http://www.helpguide.org/life/volunteer_opportunities_benefits_volunteering.htm#most)

## Museum visitors

The Camden Museum continues to attract a significant number of visitors.

In 2013 over 6,900 people visited the museum, with the peak month being August with over 900 visitors.

In 2012 the museum attracted just over 6,000 visitors. The highest month for attendance

was March with just over 700. In 2011 the museum attracted just over 5,700, which was an increase on 2010 which had a little over 5,000.

In January 2014 596 visitors attended the museum, which compares with 437 in January 2013, and 362 in January 2012 and 354 in 2011. Between 2011 and 2013 March continues to be

the month with the highest visitation.

These continual increases are a testament to the strength of the program of activities at the museum. The museum is an important institution in the Camden township area which supports jobs and local tourism growth. Thanks to Rene for compiling these statistics.

## Significance Workshops

On 18 January 2014 nineteen people gathered in the Multi-purpose room of the Camden Library for a workshop conducted by museums consultant, Kylie Winkworth, on assessing the significance of objects.

Members of the Camden Historical Society joined members of The Oaks Historical Society to be

guided through completing an Object File on a particular item in the Museum collection and using that to work out how and why the object is significant.

It was a very hot day, but luckily the Multi-purpose room is air conditioned and members found the afternoon stimulating. The

next workshop was held on 15 February at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre, and the last workshop is at Camden on 15 March.

When completed the Object Files will be available for members to read at the museum.

JW

## Penrith History Conference

Society members Jenny Akers, Ian Willis and Cathey Shepherd went to the 13th annual Penrith History Conference. It was held at the Joan Sutherland Centre at Penrith and attended by around 100 delegates. The theme of the 2014 conference was Building a Nation - From Cox to Campaign. The main speaker was Ann-Maree Whitaker who spoke on William Cox. Carol Liston spoke about the history of road making in NSW.

## Menangle

Maurice Blackwood spoke to the society in February over the proposed Menangle Heritage Precinct. He stated that Wollondilly Shire Council was seeking views about the proposed listing. He appealed to those interested to write to Wollondilly Council about the proposal. Menangle village is an important settlement in the history of Camden Park and later the Rotolactor.

## Table Cloth 1902

The society has in its collection another smaller cloth for the New South Wales patriotic fund and the St John's Mother's Union dated 1902.

The cloth had been in the possession of Llewella Davies and was a Boer War fundraising project. Donors paid the wartime charity 3d or 6d to sign the cloth, which was later embroidered.

Patriotic fundraisers were quite common in wartime Camden during the First and Second World Wars.



## 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](mailto:secretary@camdenhistory.org.au)

ABN 84 182 869 026

### MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$10

Family \$15

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

### *Burraborang News 1899*

The correspondent in the Burraborang Valley reported:  
'The weather during the last week was showery and also cold for this time of the year. The crops and pastures have benefited considerably thereby.

'Our local maintenance man Mr E Gorman has been sent to supervise the construction of a new road near The Peaks which started on Monday. It is to be hoped that another man will be put on in his place, as it is impossible that one man can do all the work that is required.

The social gatherings of the

fertile valley of Burraborang have always been successes, but the dance given by Mrs and Mrs T McMahon of 'Strathmore' Cox's River last week, to commemorate their second son's, Mr Oswald, 21st birthday was an exceptionally enjoyable one, a gathering that will be long looked back upon with pleasure. 50 guests assembled, many of whom came long distances, Sydney, Oberon, Camden and Picton, to partake of the hospitality and good cheer at 'Strathmore'. The ball room was tastefully decorated with garlands of

flowers and foliage harmonising with the pretty dresses of the ladies. The gardens were lit up with chinese lanterns and what with the Cox's River in the background with moon beams dancing on its waters the whole was indeed a fairy scene. The musical portion of the evening was ably contributed by Miss Carlon, piano, Mr C Fitzpatrick, piano, Mr T Fitzpatrick, violin. Many songs and recitations also added pleasure to the evenings enjoyment. The supper provided by Mrs McMahon was heartily enjoyed.

*The Camden News 2 Nov 1899.*

*The Camden Historical Society would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Hon Russell Matheson MP in the printing of this newsletter.*