



Newsletter

Australia Day Record

The 2015 Australia Day opening of the museum with a record of 569 visitors. This was up from 340 visitors to the museum on the 2014 Australia Day. It was a very successful day with lots of interest from new families to the area. They took an opportunity to learn about Camden's local history. It was reported that the museum displays brought back many memories.

The Australia Day parade MC gave the museum a good promotion when John Wrigley drove Max Boardman's 1953 FJ Holden utility. For the purist car pendant it is the original light green colour.

The parade MC was able to explain to the assembled masses watching the parade where the museum was located, that it was



John Wrigley and Max Boardman's 1953 FJ Holden Utility

open all day and most importantly that museum entry was free.

It was reported that there were so many coming through the door Margaret Wheeler, who was the official counter, was having

trouble keeping up with the tally. She also welcomed the crowds at the door with a warm welcome and looked after the paperwork. Security concerns were looked after upstairs by willing helpers on the day Rene, Stephanie, Jo, and Joy. A big thanks must go to all volunteers on the day.

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FM Onslow Uniform

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
- 13 May
- 10 June
- 8 July
- 12 August
- 9 September
- Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the museum, 40 John St, Camden. All welcome

The unusual blue military uniform on a mannequin has been standing in the Camden museum without much attention for as long as most members can remember. In 2011 Janice Johnson took some photographs of the uniform and established that the wearer was Francis Montgomery Onslow His brother, Arthur Onslow, married the heiress of "Camden Park", Elizabeth Macarthur (granddaughter of pioneers John and Elizabeth Macarthur). Francis was born in India and served as a British Army officer with the Madras Cavalry.

In December 2014 Margaret Wheeler became fascinated by the uniform, and after some on-line research, contacted by email Charles Griffin, an authority on uniforms of the British Empire. He sent us a copy of the dress regulations for the Madras Cavalry and answered

questions about the uniform. Julie Wrigley found out from John that at Camden Park there is a medal inscribed 'Francis Montgomery Onslow', for the battle of 'Ali Musjid' in Afghanistan, 1878-1879-1880. A visitor to the museum from England, Dr Chris Flaherty, turned out to be an authority on uniforms and he stated that the uniform is of great significance in the history of Madras uniforms. Janice, Margaret and Julie have worked together using the internet for research and reached the conclusion that the Onslow uniform dates from 1882 after Francis had been promoted to Major, and about the time Francis was married in London. It is not known when the uniform came to Camden Park. There is a gap in the provenance. We know that the uniform was donated to the Society

by Quentin Macarthur-Stanham of Camden Park, a descendant of the Onslow family, when the museum opened in 1970.

Margaret contacted the University of California digital library to access a book published in 1885 outlining the career of Francis Onslow's father in the Madras Civil Service. Janice used Ancestry to find out more about Francis Onslow's service as a Lieutenant in the Abyssinian War of 1867 to 1868. In January 2015 Janice, Margaret and Julie met at the museum and made various drafts of their Assessment of Significance, which is an ongoing process, finding out about the uniform and the officer who wore it.

JW

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, Stephanie Trenfield • Newsletter Editor: Dr Ian Willis. Webmaster: Steve Robinson

Editor's Notes

Upcoming speakers

13 May - Nick Sherwood on Onslow Thompson.

10 June - Vince Taranto on the Great Southern Road /Old Hume Highway

8 July - (not definite)

12 August - A.G.M. and a film on early Camden

9 September- 'My family and war' Show-and-tell by members

14 October - (not definite)

11 November - Camden School of Arts

9 December - Christmas Party

Events

A Good Team

A number of society members volunteered for the RSL Memorabilia Weekend roster. They included Iris Britten, Leonie Jackson, Janice Johnson, Rene Rem, Frances Warner, Harry Warner, John Wrigley and Julie Wrigley. Thank you to those who helped.

Thanks also to those who helped with the Camden Show roster, who included Joy Aitken, Michael Barry, Jo

Booth. Trish Clark, Janice Johnson, Bob Lester, Olive McAleer, Rene Rem, Anthea Russo, Bettie Small, Lurline Tanner., Roslyn Tildsley, Dawn Williams, Ian Willis, John Wrigley and Julie Wrigley.

John W.

Volunteers Social Afternoon

There is a **Volunteers Social Afternoon** on Sunday 17 May at 2 p.m. All volunteers are invited to share afternoon tea, to meet other members, and to learn a little more about the

Museum. For further information contact Rene Rem.

National Trust Heritage Festival

The society is taking part in the 2015 NT Heritage Festival between 11 April and 26 May. The theme is 'Conflict and Compassion'. On 5 May the museum and library will host the ever popular mini-discoverers event for pre-schoolers between 11.00am and 12.00 noon. It is held at the museum and is a free event. The meeting speaker on 13 May is part of the program.

First World War Display

In one of the cabinets in the foyer there is a display of World War I memorabilia, on loan from a private collector. The display will be there for most of 2015, as part of commemorating Gallipoli and remembering the war years.

On the top shelf there are fifteen pieces of commemorative ware, including fine English bone china. On the second shelf there are assorted fundraising buttons and WWI medals; a pottery whisky flask commemorating HMAS Sydney; a Memorial Plaque also called the 'Dead Man's Penny'; and material remembering the British

recruitment officer Lord Kitchener, ("Kitchener wants YOU!")

On the third shelf there are two copies of books by the war correspondent Charles Bean; a cribbage board commemorating Monash; pieces of gold and silver jewellery which were given by soldiers to loved ones; four Victory medals; a French-made silk handkerchief with a kangaroo; and two Princess Mary decorative brass gift tins. One is displayed closed and one is open, to show the original intact contents of the tins, which were sent by Princess Mary to members of the British, Colonial and Indian Armed

Forces for Christmas 1914.

On the fourth shelf there are five pieces of porcelain Parian ware, including a tank and an ambulance; a stereoscope with three slides; postcards from WWI; and three pieces of brass Trench art made by soldiers from spent gun-shells.

On the bottom shelf there are three bayonets; a swagger stick; and two trench maps. All the pieces tell the story of how the war touched the lives of the soldiers and nurses who fought in the Great War, and the family members who wanted to remember them.

JW

Volunteers Needed

The society is always on the look out for those who would like to lend a hand. It does not matter how small the contribution every little bit makes a difference. If helping out at the museum appeals to you then see Rene. He will be able to fit you into the society's programme to suit your interests.

Mayoral Volunteer Thank You Reception

As a tribute to those people who freely gave their time for the benefit of the community, Camden Mayor Lara Symkowiak honoured them with a reception at the Civic Centre. Officials present were five Councillors and local Member Chris Patterson. This is the second reception of its kind and it is anticipated it will not be the last.

There were about 180 people from 46 different groups from the Camden area in attendance. Representing Camden Historical Society were Ian Willis, Lee and Brian

Stratton, Dawn Williams and Roslyn Tildsley.

The official part of the reception began with the 'Welcome to Country'. Representing the Aboriginal Community was Glenda Chalker who spoke on behalf of her ancestors. She was followed by the Mayor who thanked everyone for their contribution to the community.

The projector screens were on with a PowerPoint show of all different volunteer groups at local functions and one photo had John Wrigley in a Vic

Boardman vintage car in a parade with the Camden Historical Society insignia on the car door.

There was live entertainment from a singer with a guitar who sang a range of songs including Christmas Carols and of course she was very good. Dawn and Roslyn sang along to the carols which the singer appreciated. The food and drinks were very enjoyable as were the people we met on the night.

At the end of the night there were seven raffles donated for the occasion from local

businesses. Ian won one and Dawn was one number off a hamper. In addition everyone was given a goodie bag with a stainless steel mug with the Camden Council logo, filled with blue and white jelly beans together with a note of appreciation.

An extra bag was taken for the collection of the Museum. The reception was from 5-7pm, time went quickly and a good night was had by all.

LS



It's the uniform that gets 'em'



Conservator Lindie Ward

The Madras Cavalry uniform which has been on a plaster model has recently been moved to a museum-approved wire mannequin and into the Research Room glass cabinet. The uniform was donated to the museum by Quentin Macarthur-Stanham in 1970 to celebrate the opening of the museum and placed on the model where it has been for 45 years.

On 25 March 2015 Lindie Ward, former fabric curator of the Powerhouse Museum, visited Camden Museum and brought with her one of her wire mannequins, which the Society purchased.

At the workshop Lindie separated the 5 pieces of the uniform, searching for labels, and assisting in compiling an entry for the Australian Dress Register. Society members who were present for all or part of the day were Janice Johnson, Cathey Shepherd, John Wrigley, Julie Wrigley, Rene Rem, Bob Lester, Robert Wheeler, and Margaret Wheeler, who took photographs of the proceedings throughout the day. Robyn Gill from The Oaks Historical Society took detailed photographs of the uniform for the Australian Dress Register. Dr Chris Flaherty, an expert on

military uniforms, also attended.

The exploration of the uniform succeeded in finding that the uniform dates from 1882 and confirmed that it belonged to an officer of the Second Madras Cavalry, Major Francis Montgomery Onslow, who served in the Anglo-Afghan War of 1878-79-80.

At the museum there is an Object File with an interesting Assessment of the Significance of the Madras Uniform for members to read.

Miss Annette Macarthur-Onslow recalled that a Camden News article on

Wednesday June 24, 1970 had the catchy heading "It's the uniform that gets 'em'". It showed a photo of her looking at the uniform with the caption "Miss Annette Macarthur-Onslow inspects the colourful uniform of the Madras Cavalry displayed at the Camden Historical Society's museum which was opened last Saturday by her uncle, Sir Denzil Macarthur-Onslow. The uniform, once the property of the Onslow family of Camden Park, was donated to the museum by the Macarthur-Stanham family, the present owners of Camden Park."

Julie W



Volunteers assisting with the uniform preservation

RAHS

Society member Ian Willis has written an article about the Red Cross for the RAHS History Magazine March edition. The article is called 'Doing their bit', the Red Cross on the New South Wales home front during the First World War.

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

1915 Camden branch Belgium Relief Fund

Monthly Contributions and Donations.
Amount previously acknowledged £231 11s 9d.
Cawdor, collected by Miss B. Doust:— Mrs. F. Dengate 1s, — Hefterman 5s, Mrs. W. Clemson £1 1s, Mrs E M. Doust and family 4s, C. Smart 4s, G. New. 1s, F. Dowle 1s, Mrs. New 1s, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Yeates 4s, D. Campbell 4s, Miss Veness 1s, Mr. Sharpe 1s, Mr and Mrs. Dawson 2s, Mrs. C. Mulley 1s, G. F. Wright 4s, Miss D. Dengate, 1s, Mrs. Doust 2s, Mrs. Martin 2s 6d, Miss Louisa Rogers 2s, F. Dengate 4s. G. Dunk 2s. — Total £3 8s 6d.
Camden, collected, by Miss Furner.— E.H. Street 5s, Mrs. E. H. Street 5s, C. A. Thompson 1s, Miss Peck 1s, Miss Wagner 1s, Miss Healey 1s, Dr. West £1, D Curry 1s, T Caffee 1s, Miss K. West 1s, G. Bell 1s, Sergt Schwarer 2s 6d' Miss Schwarer 2s, Miss Martin 2s, Miss E Martin 2s, Miss Sluman 1s, Mrs Sluman 1s, Miss Dennis 1s, L. Amour 2s, John McGregor 4s, Wilkinson 1s, Miss Nesbitt 1s, Mrs. Potts 1s, J. P. Ryan 1s, Mrs. Taplin 2s 6d, Mrs. McGeoch 1s, Mrs. O. Doust 1s, Mrs. Bartley 1s, A. E. Dunk 4s, Miss Mead 1s, Mrs. Mead 1s, R. Sidman 2s, J. Keane 2s 6d, Mrs. Harry Doust 1s, Mr. Fardner 6d, Miss Close 1s, S. Hird 4s, A. Weatherill 4s, W. W. Warden 2s 6d.— Total £4 16s

6d. Mount Hunter, collected by Misses Dibden and Dawson: C. Rae 1s, R. Clemson 2s, A. Baxter 2s, EJ Rofe 1s, J. W. Butchers 1s, J. E. Butchers 1s, S. R. Jenkins 1s, C. Jenkins 1s, J. Hanger 1s 3d, Mrs. Butchers senr. 1s, J. T. Butchers 2s, Fred Rofe 3s, G. Baxter 2s, T. E. Dibden 5s, John Dawson 2s, J. Pulling 2s 6d, J. S. Rofe 2s 6d, Mrs. F. Shoemark 2s, Mrs. Evenden 1s, Mrs. J. Smith 2s, Miss Neal 2s, W. A. E. Biffin 2s 3d, A. D. Jenkins 1s, F. L. Cranfield 2s 6d, Mrs H. Dunn 2s 6d, G. L. Dunn 2s 6d, Jas. Wheeler 1s, W. Brooks 4s, G.T. Cranfield 1s, E. Lavercombe 1s, S. Rae 1s, F. Jenkins 2s, W. Mills 2s, J. Grundy 1s, J. Monk 2s, Miss Monk 1s, S. Kelloway 1s, Reuben White 1s, W. L. Dunn 1s, M. McNiven 1s. — Total £3 9s 3d.
Camden, collected by Mrs. Ashor: Sisters of St. Joseph 1s, Mrs. Bunker 1s, Mrs. Scott 1s, Mrs. Hemmens 2s, Mrs. E. A. Davies 4s, Miss Baker 5s, Mrs. Woods 1s, Mrs. Wellings 1s, Miss Chasse 1s, W. C. Dunk 2s. 6d, Miss A. Reay 6d, A. J. Salter 4s, F. P. Brigstocke 3s, B. C. Nesbit 2s, Mr. Smith 2s, Miss J. Hindesv 2s, C. Folkes 1s, N. A. Whiteman 1s, Frank Whiteman 1s, H. McDonald 2s 6d, J. Crawford 2s, Mrs. R. Rofe 2s, Mrs. Dowling 6d, Miss L. McEvoy 2s, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Asher 5s, Mrs. Woodhouse 2s, F. Bensley 2s, Mr. Butler 3s,

Mrs. Walter Vicery 2s, V. and A. Watson 1s, Mrs. Spratt 1s, Mrs. A. Clissold 1s, Mrs. Ottoway 2s 6d, Mrs. G. Tritton 1s, Horace Doust 2s, Mrs. Tritton 2s, Mrs. Russell 2s 6d, Mrs. McKervey 1s, Mrs. C. Rofe 1s 6d, J. Taylor 2s, Mrs. R. Cuthel 2s, O. O. Coleman 1s, Miss May Dunk 1s, Miss Gladys Coleman 1s, Master C. Coleman 1s, A. Ward 1s. — Total £4 7s 6d.
Camden, collected by Miss Schwarer: Miss Ferranti 2s, Mr. Tindall 2s, Mr. Douglas 2s, a friend 6d. A. J. Doust 2s, Mr. Parker 2s, Misses Phillips 2s, Melrie 6d, Mrs. Suttle 6d, Rev. J. G. Martin 4s, G. V. Sidman 4s, H. Stuckey 2s 6d, Mrs. H. Smart 1s, Mrs. J. E. Veness 2s, a friend 6d, a friend 6d, Mrs. Perrin 2s, Mr. Staunton 2s, Mr. Hickey 1s, StuckeyBros. 10s, Master J. Whiteman 2s, Mr. Clarke 1s, B. Hodge 2s 6d, Mrs. Collyer 1s, Mrs. G. V. Sidman 4s, Miss B. Sidman 1s, Mr. Hogg 5s, Mrs. Maxwell 1s, R. Jurd 2s, Mr. Smith 6d, Mrs. Cooper 1s 6d, Mr. Edgar 1s, F. R. King 4s, M. Young 1s, F. C. Whiteman 10s, Mrs. F. C. Whiteman 10s, Mrs. C. Derriman 1s, Mrs. Huthnance 1s, J. L. Moroney 1s, Mrs. Nixon 1s, Rev. A. J. Hogan 5s, Mr. Watson 1s, Miss Wilmot 1s, Misses Thurn 4s, Miss Ottaway 1s, Mrs. P. Hickey 6d, Mr. Tritton 1s, Mrs. Reeves 2s, Mr. R. A. Adams 5s. Total £5 17s. Grand total received £253 10s 6d.

Camden News 6 May 1915

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.