



NEWSLETTER

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015 - 2016



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Back Row: Sharon Greene -Minute Secretary, Julie Wrigley-Assistant Secretary, John Wrigley OAM-Past President, Robert Wheeler-Membership Administrator, Rene Rem-Vice President & Volunteer Coordinator and Dr Ian Willis-Vice President

Front Row: Lee Stratton-Hon. Secretary, Bob Lester-President and Dawn Williams-Treasurer.

Absent Committee Members are Cathey Shepherd, Roslyn Tildsley and Stephanie Trenfield.

The membership of the Committee is the same as the previous year however the position of the President is of a temporary nature.

As dictated by the Constitution President Bob Lester should have relinquished his position as he had served his prescribed three year term.

At the moment we have not had a member prepared to undertake on our behalf this important community role. In the interim Bob has agreed to continue in this post for a further twelve months whilst we look for a suitable candidate.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE

Membership of the Camden Historical Society is now due for the year 2015/2016. All members are requested to complete the membership form and return it with your fee to the Society.

New members are always welcome and upon joining will receive the Society's Journal twice a year, 4 newsletters a year and invitation to join us at our monthly meetings.

Membership of the Society is a great way to become part of the community in the Camden area, learn about your local history and play a part in preserving our rich history for the future.

Ordinary General Meetings 2015

- 9 September
- 14 October
- 11 November
- 9 December

Each meeting is held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Museum,

40 John St, Camden.
All welcome

Ph: (02) 4655 3400

All correspondence to Secretary, secretary@camdenhistory.org.au

Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum (02) 4655 3400

President: Bob Lester • Vice Presidents: Rene Rem ; Dr Ian Willis • Treasurer Dawn Williams • Secretary: Lee Stratton 47748005 • Immediate Past President John Wrigley OAM, General Committee: Cathey Shepherd, Robert Wheeler, Julie Wrigley, Roslyn Tildsley, Sharon Greene, Stephanie Trenfield Webmaster: Steve Robinson Facebook: Brett Atkins

Editor's Notes

Upcoming speakers

9 September - 'My Family and War' Show & Tell by members

14 October - Robert Wheeler on explorer Major Thomas Mitchell

11 November - History of the Camden School of Arts

9 December - Christmas Party - Please bring a plate

Photocopier now easier than ever to use.

No need for a password or account name. Just turn it on and start copying. - Please remember to change it to black before you do so to save the toner.

RETIRING AND NEW VOLUNTEERS

The Society wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service from the following retiring volunteers:

Olive McAleer, Ashlea Fisher-Sharpe, Maggie Cole and Elizabeth Small.

We welcome the new volunteers who will continue our aims of bringing to the community the proud history of Camden: Dawn Williams, Linda Jackson, Marisa Vecchio, Warren Sims, Wendy Hyndman, Virginia Ghezzi, Kat Cousins and Frances Warner.

If any volunteer needs to contact Rene please ring him on 0424847492 or leave a message in the Volunteers' Coordinators tray in the Research Room.

ROB FISHER-SHARPE

It is with sad farewell to one of our most loved volunteers Rob on his passing 14 July 2015 with a service at Little Sisters Chapel at Theresa Park on 2 August 2015. We will miss him. You will always be in our thoughts Ashlea.

SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR 2016

If you would like to recommend someone to speak at our monthly general meetings please contact Lee on 47748005 or secretary@camdenhistory.org.au.

All suggestions appreciated....

PHOTO SCANNER

Shortly we will have a new scanner which should greatly improve the quality of photos and documents that researchers may wish to copy. As an added advantage it is portable and able to be used off site.

The Society's Facebook

We have recently put on Facebook photos of a group from Rooty Hill RSL Travel Group who visited the Museum 23 August as part of a mystery tour. Check it out and other great facts on the following link.

www.facebook.com/CamdenMuseum

Volunteers Needed

The society is always on the lookout 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 or call Rene on 0424847492. He will be able to fit you into the Society's programme.

KANGAROO MARCH 2015



KANGAROO
MARCH A CENTURY ON

On 5 September 2015 departing Wagga Wagga on a 36 day 520km Kangaroo Recruitment March to Campbelltown arriving 10 October.

The Committee is an all-volunteer group and their purpose in coming together is to re-enact the Kangaroo March a century on.

On the second last night on the road, arriving from Thirlmere and staying near Camden and departing slightly from the original route to minimise potential traffic disruption, and keeping safe. The march heads South East through Camden Park Estate, then across to Menangle Park.

For more information on their web site: www.kangaroomarch.org.au



Map of route from Camden to Menangle →

BOOK LAUNCH OF 'PICTORIAL HISTORY CAMDEN & DISTRICTS'

The Historical Society is planning a launch of the book 'Pictorial History - Camden & Districts' which will be held at the Camden Museum on **Friday 4 December 2015 from 5.30 - 7.30pm.**

Dr Ian Willis has written the story of the history of Camden and the publisher, Catherine Warne from Kingsclear Books has selected the images including some which are iconic photos of the history of Camden and its district and some are newly selected from the files in the Museum.

Members and friends are urged to keep the date for the launch, and bring along some savoury finger food for a fun evening.

The book is being produced in time for the Christmas sales and would make a great present and keepsake at a special price of \$25.00 per book.

CAMDEN AREA FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

As many of our members have a close relationship with Family History you could support them as they are having a sausage



sizzle on Sunday 20th September at Bunnings Narellan from 10am to 3pm or until sold out.

The money raised will go towards their State Conference which they are hosting on 9 - 11 September 2016 at the Civic Centre Camden involving NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies.

If you can support them please go along and grab a sausage sandwich and say hello to the hard working volunteers.

RESEARCH BY VISITORS

Many visitors come to the Museum for the purpose of researching their family or a place of interest to them. It may be a planned visit or a spur of the moment request after they have viewed the Museum collection.

The following are some of the areas people have used our Research Files to obtain information.

The Poole Family, Pearson Family, Family Tree of Doust/Dowle Family & Camden in the 60's.

The Society is also researching potential street names for Camden Council especially for the Gregory Hills area. Aboriginal, early settlers, people associated with the schools and names of ships that our local pioneers travelled out on are being researched.

UPDATE ON CHINESE MARKET GARDENERS IN CAMDEN

Chinese born Ms Wen Denaro is using a grant made to the Camden Historical Society from Camden Council to make a documentary film about the Chinese market gardeners who lived and worked in Camden in the years from about 1910 to 1960. Ms Denaro is the director of the film which should be completed about mid 2016.

Some Historical Society members have been helping her with the research for the project. In the website 'Births, Deaths and Marriages' there are names of twenty-three Chinese who died in Camden between the years of 1922 and 1966.

In writing about the market gardeners the late historian Dick Nixon mentions another twenty Chinese men, and there are another sixty names of local market gardeners recorded in the National Library site *Trove* mostly in the Camden News.

Anyone who has any memories or stories about the Chinese Market Gardeners please contact John Wrigley on 46559210

RELOCATION OF JOHN OXLEY'S ANCHOR

Robert Wheeler has been heavily involved in this project for a number of years and below is his report.

Following the celebration in 2012 at John Oxley Reserve of John Oxley's bicentenary of living in Australia, it was considered appropriate to relocate the anchor in Kirkham Lane that commemorates his death in 1828 at his home in Kirkham. The anchor is one of three that were presented by the British Admiralty to NSW in 1929 to commemorate the centenary of Oxley's death.

At the request of the Historical Society, Council resolved at its meeting 25 August 2015, to move the anchor to be adjacent to John Oxley Cottage in Curry Reserve, so that it would be more accessible to visiting tourists using Camden's Information Centre and also to the many locals using Curry Reserve. The new location is on Oxley's second land grant "Ellerslie" of 1816. Also to be added to Oxley's monument is the metal cut out from Oxley's metal profile erected in John Oxley Reserve in 2012, approximately 2m in height, which has been suggested to be located adjacent to the cottage to provide for a prominent display in recognising the significance of John Oxley to Camden's heritage. The Historical Society will also be providing a story board adjacent to the anchor detailing the John Oxley story.



DENBIGH OPEN DAY - SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 10am - 4pm



Denbigh Homestead



St Paul's Church

A BRIEF HISTORY ON 'DENBIGH'

Part of the Cobbitty 1,100 acre land grant to Thomas Hook 1812 to 1819. With convicts working the land 400 acres was cleared and sheep introduced. 60 acres was dedicated to growing the famous Camden Wheat until the 1860's when rust brought an end the industry.

Hook passed away in 1826 and the property was sold to Rev. Thomas Hassell the following year where he developed the property further by including a village with a blacksmith, carpenter, shoemaker, a school and schoolmaster. He also built St Paul's Church for the district.

Thomas Hassell died 1868 and his wife, Anne found a suitable lessee in Charles McIntosh who would own the property 18 years later when Anne passed away in 1886.

The first generation with Charles McIntosh saw the property develop from a crop based farm to one of breeding dairy cattle and draught horses.

Current residents Ian and Lesley McIntosh continue to farm and conserve the property for future generations.

INVITATION TO AN EXHIBITION AT THE OAKS

The Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum would like to invite the Camden Historical Society to participate in the opening of our exhibition "The Boys from Burratorang and Beyond in WWI". on **Sunday 8th November 2015 from 11am – 4pm**.at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre 43 Edward St. The Oaks.

This exhibition is a tribute the young men who lived in the Burratorang Valley and surrounding districts who enlisted in the Australian Defence Forces to fight overseas.

The Macarthur Light Horse is attending as well as other Historical Societies and organisations. It would be appreciated if the Camden Historical Society could attend and hopefully bring a display to add to the event.

If you wish to participate in the event please contact me on 4680 8358 or on my mobile 0408 6692 67 or on my email address.

I look forward to your reply and hope you will be available to attend.

Yours sincerely

Louisa Singleman

Display Co-ordinator, Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum

CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 566

Camden NSW 2570

Camden Museum & Camden Library

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>

<http://camdenhistory.org.au/cmindex.html>

email: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au

ABN 84 182 869 026

MEMBERSHIP 2015-16

Individual \$15, Family \$20

Now due for Year 1 July to 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 History Week - 7 - 11 September 2015

At the September General Meeting five members plus a visitor recalled members of their family during the First and Second World Wars. All the speakers had a fascinating tale to tell about their ancestors. It was an informative evening greatly enjoyed by those present.

The people who spoke were: Nikki Haywood, Leonie Jackson, Bob Lester, Graham Sandry, Cathey Shepherd and Brian Stratton. Below are two images of the speakers and an extract of their story.



Visitor Grahame Sandry (above), colleague of Sharon Greene gave a detailed report on the war records of his grandfather Clarence James SANDRY and his two brothers Arthur Henry Sandry and Thomas Stephen Sandry, who both perished. He also spoke of another great uncle John HALLINAN. They were ALL in the 54th battalion AIF. NB: Grahame recently purchased Thomas Stephen Sandry's 'dead man's penny' on EBay



Leonie Jackson speaking about her uncle Charles Curnow Scherf - He was a Squadron Leader & a Flying Ace in WWII. Saw service in Europe flying a de Havilland Mosquito with 418 Squadron. He was credited with 14½ kills and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross & Bar and Distinguished Service Order. He had trouble adjusting to life and sadly died in a motor accident at the age of 32.

Another aspect of History Week was Jo Oliver (right) from Camden Library showing the Mini Adventurers group how old phones worked.



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