



NEWSLETTER

VALE VIC BOARDMAN 1922 - 2015

Sadly Mr. Vic Boardman passed away on Sunday 14 June 2015. Vic, a retired dairy farmer, has been a 'local living legend' famous in the Camden district to thousands of people for his long-standing commitment to community activities and events in the area.

Vic has stated that he has been attending the annual Camden Show every year since he was born 93 years ago. He began as an exhibitor at the Show in 1933 and was a prominent prize-winner in the records of the 1936 Show. He exhibited successfully with honey, corn, pumpkins, cereal crops and cattle.

Since 1986 he has conducted the very popular 'Drover's Camp' at the Show, cooking damper and serving billy tea with 'Cocky's Joy', homespun wisdom and musical entertainment, helped by his family and friends.

He was a Life Member of the Show Society and was by far the longest-serving member of the Show Society Committee, having been appointed in 1956.

In 2006 he was presented with the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Award for his contribution to the Camden Show Society over fifty years.

Vic's support for local charities and tourism has been maintained for decades. Many a school fete or church bazaar has benefited from his exhibiting a selection of his beloved Chevrolet cars, all personally restored and maintained by him.

Vic was a member of the Camden Historical Society for over 40 years and was made a Life Member in 2014. He was a frequent visitor to the Museum and generously made his vintage motor cars available for various events, particularly the annual Australia Day Procession, to promote the work of the Society and its historical Museum.

Vic will be sadly missed. Members of the Camden Historical Society send their condolences to the Boardman family.

A true Camden character!



Vic at home - Photo by Brett Atkins



Vic's car in the Camden Parade- Photo by Brett Atkins

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- Ordinary General Meetings 2015
- 8 July
- 12 August AGM
- 9 September
- 14 October
- 11 November
- 9 December
- Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the Museum, 40 John St, Camden. All welcome

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE

Membership of the Camden Historical Society is now due for the year 2015/2016. All current members are requested to complete the attached 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, 3 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.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 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 Atkin

Editor's Notes

Upcoming speakers

- 8 July - Dr Chris Flaherty on military uniforms
- 12 August - AGM and a short DVD on Camden in the 60's
- 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

Photocopier now easier than ever to use.

No more 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.

A new copier will need to be purchased in the near future as the cartridges for the current one are no longer available.

The new **PA system** is making it easier at our monthly meetings for everyone to hear. It will take a while for us to get used to it and for our guest speakers to use it.

Unfortunately the Museum was subject to break **and enter** recently with a small number of items taken. With the assistance of Council volunteers were able to quickly handle the situation, inform the police and take action to get the museum open for the next day.

Special thanks to Margaret and Robert Wheeler for their prompt action. Steps are being taken to upgrade our security to deter people from doing this again.

VOLUNTEERS AFTERNOON TEA

Over 30 volunteers took the opportunity last month to come together at the Museum to share some time together, learn what is new at the Museum, clarify a few important operational procedures, and ask questions on things they have encountered.

It was great to see some of our former volunteers along including Ruth and Jos Ferguson to enjoy the refreshments provided and appreciate the effect of the newly installed air conditioning.

The new volunteers were able to meet others that they may not have met before and hear of their experiences.

Suggestions about the lights, receiving membership renewals and donations will be followed up by the committee.

A new Volunteers' Manual has been developed to update the old one with our new procedures. If any volunteer would like a copy please leave a message in the Volunteers' Coordinators tray in the Research Room.

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 Stephanie on 0435558119. She will be able to fit you into the Society's programme to suit your interest.

AIR CONDITIONING

Many thanks to Camden Council for the installation of six units in our Museum: three on the ground floor and the other three upstairs. On the ground floor they are located in the Research room, on the back wall to the right of the Golden Fleece sign and on the wall above the Macarthur Exhibition. Upstairs they are located above the War Exhibition, on the right side of the Dick Nixon room and the last one is above the store room door near the Dr West Exhibition.

The volunteers are already enjoying the benefits that they bring to the Museum. They are really warming up our rooms and there is no need for the big old heater on meeting nights.

Changing face of Argyle Street



DVD on CHINESE MARKET GARDENERS IN CAMDEN

Camden Historical Society has been granted \$5000 for a project telling the story of the Chinese market gardeners who settled in Camden in the early twentieth century. The proposed project is to make a short documentary about the Chinese market gardeners who established vegetable gardens along the river in Camden and who supplied fresh product to the Macarthur and Sydney markets.

The project will involve research, archival material and interviews of local residents who will be invited to share their perceptions and memories of the Chinese market gardeners.

The documentary will explore the contribution of the Chinese to the social history of Camden. The making and presenting of this documentary will involve the participation of a number of community partners including local community residents and creative professionals to shape the story linking the past to the present.

John Wrigley, Immediate Past President of the Camden Historical Society, said, 'The Society has been interested in finding out more about the Chinese in Camden for some time. The Chinese market gardeners were an important part of early

Camden's development, but there has been very little documentation about them in Camden in the early twentieth century.

The grant makes it possible to undertake the project and will cover the expenses of the production team making the documentary. Filmmaker, Ms Wen Denaro, is already in discussion with the producer. There will also be a lot of volunteer time put into the project in addition to the grant. The Historical Society thanks Camden Council for the opportunity to make the documentary about the Chinese in Camden.'

Residents who have photos or memories are asked to contact John Wrigley on 46559210 or the Camden Museum on 46553400."

SOCIETY NOW ON FACEBOOK

Local photographer Brett Atkins has assisted the Society to establish its own Facebook page. This will enable the Society to reach a greater number of people who would be interested in the activities of the Society and the Museum.

The site will focus on the Museum and encourage people to pay it a visit. We have already received a number of 'likes and visits' so the awareness is spreading.

If you are on Facebook why not pay it a visit and let the Society know what you think.

Facebook/camdenmuseum

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.

Crookston family, old house opposite the Oxley Cottage, Furner family, Biffin family (visitors from WA), Rofe family, St Paul's church Cobbitty, Camelot, 32 Hill St owned by Mr Maloney 1918, 1st C of E school at Menangle, Professor Graeme Clark and family, floods of Camden, and the fern walk in MacArthur Park.

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.

CAMDEN TOWNSHIP REFURBISHMENT - SOCIETY'S ACTION

Many Society members have been involved with the current community action being taken surrounding the refurbishment and development of Argyle St by Council.

The Society made a submission to Council during the exhibition period which placed on record our dissatisfaction with the choice of the paver colour and the new street furniture style and colour. We also raised the need for a whole of Camden approach and sensitive development given that Camden is a Heritage Conservation Area under Council's own planning regulations.

This remains the Society's stance and we will continue to voice this to Councillors and Council staff. A letter has been sent to all Councillors stating this stance.

The Society will seek opportunities to work with Council on issues around heritage and the preservation of the historical nature of our wonderful town.

We will also work with other local community groups on these issues.

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 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 Retrospective OLD HUME HIGHWAY

Our June meeting was well attended and members and guests thoroughly enjoyed a most interesting and informative talk on the history and construction of the Hume Highway.

The guest speakers, both employed by the RMS, were Vince Taranto, Leader Road Network Analysis and Denis Gojak, Senior Heritage Specialist.

Denis spoke of the trailblazing efforts of the exploration team of Hume and Hovell who at the instigation of Governor Brisbane in 1824 left Appin to find new land for grazing in the South of the Colony of NSW. Later that year they would reach the coast of Victoria at what is now Geelong.

The tyranny of distance was now a thing of the past. Towns were established and the road began to wend its way south.

Vince continued the story with the construction of the road through its many manifestations from a dirt surface to a modern highway and added that by 2014 all towns from Sydney to Melbourne have been bypassed.

The talk was based on their publication 'The Old Hume Highway, History begins with a road' which provides information on routes, towns and turnoffs along the way. A few copies of this informative publication are still available costing \$10.00.



Publication front cover



Hamilton Hume

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