



# NEWSLETTER

## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS FOR FIRE STATION AT CAMDEN ON 4 June 2016



Commissioner Mullins (left) with two retired Camden Fire Brigade officers Peter Watson and Keith Sinclair at the celebration

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On a rainy Saturday morning representing the community was the State Member, Chris Patterson and Deputy Mayor Peter Sidgreaves. Also present were members from the Police, Salvation Army, SES and a Welcome to Country delivered by Denise Ezzy, Elder of Tharawal Aboriginal Council. The National Anthem was sung by students (all girls) from Camden Public School and later assisted Chris Patterson in the unveiling of the plaque commemorating a century of service to the community of Camden. The Commissioner spoke about changes over the years from a truck only to fight fires to a high technology vehicle which liaises with all rescue services ie, SES, RFS, Ambulance and Police. Also the camaraderie of fire fighters supporting each other in the line of duty and retired members. Attending the ceremony from the Society were President Bob Lester, Vice President Rene Rem, Past President John Wrigley OAM, Secretary Lee Stratton and her husband Brian Stratton OAM.

Below is the Camden Fire and Rescue station members receiving their new Mercedes-Benz truck.



Above are Camden Public School unveiling the plaque with State Minister Chris Patterson, Commissioner and Captain and Deputy Captain of the Fire and Rescue Service.

### Ordinary General Meetings 2016

- 8 June
- 13 July
- 10 August
- 14 September
- 12 October
- 9 November
- 14 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

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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 2016

- June - Membership fees now due
- 13 July - Chinese Market Gardens in Camden district
- 10 August - AGM & Stephen McMahon will talk on the Maryland property
- 14 September - History Week: Show & Tell - Neighbours
- 12 October - Oran Park/Catherine Park House restoration
- 9 November - Lost Buildings with Andrew Allen's blog
- 14 December - Christmas Party - Please bring a plate
- \*\* the above speakers/topics are subject to change

**RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE for June 2016 to June 2017.**  
**Membership fees will remain the same as last year;**  
**Single \$15.00 Family \$20.00 and the form is attached**  
**to this newsletter.**

### NEW VOLUNTEER AND MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members Ms Anne McIntosh of Elderslie and Janet & Geoff Howe of Ellis Lane.

At present Rene has two persons per roster of two hours and his goal is to have three persons per roster in the future.

Welcome to our new volunteer Ms Carol Carmagnola.

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.

### DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

The Society has recently made objections to two DA's within the township of Camden that the Society's committee considered were inappropriate within the heritage conservation area of the town. Oxley St car park has been the centre of much discussion by many local community members but unfortunately has been approved by Council. Work has been scheduled to commence in early 2017 so there is still some hope that the newly elected Council in September may overturn this decision. The Old Milk Depot in Argyle St is proposed to be developed into restaurants and a function centre. The design and scale of proposed work presented in the DA is considered inappropriate and greatly demonises the historical value of the existing heritage listed building. Others in the community have also objected to the DA and it is hoped that Council on this occasion listens to these objections and refuses the application. A date for the DA to be considered by Council is unknown at present but the Society will continue to have a strong and loud voice in this important issue.

### VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM IN 2016

The total for the year is 2,977 to end of May. This includes: Camden South PS, St Paul's Camden, Mt Hunter PS, Home School Group & Macarthur Anglican.

### MACARTHUR GRAPEVINE

There is a new tourism initiative called the Macarthur Grapevine. It is designed to encourage and inspire our local community to explore and discover their own region. Check it out on the following link:

[www.macarthurgrapevine.com.au](http://www.macarthurgrapevine.com.au)

### The SOCIETY'S FACE BOOK

We have recently placed on Facebook photos and information of 'Sirius' and Anzac memorabilia. Check it out and other great facts on the following link.

[www.facebook.com/CamdenMuseum](http://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.*



Camden Vale Milk Factory

## CAMDEN SHOW 11 –12 MARCH 2016

Once again we had an information table at the show. We had a great response from visitors and school groups on both days. We wish to thank all of the volunteers who helped promote our Society at the show. The next show will be Friday 31st March and Saturday 1st April 2017.



**Left:** Val Finch with Ian Willis on our table

**Right:** Society member Neville Clissold and Member of the Show Committee, standing behind his book 'History of the Camden Show'



As Camden will no longer be in the Macarthur electorate we must say farewell to Russell Matheson MP, who has been a great supporter of the Society. Now that we will be in the electorate of Hume after the Federal election, July 2, 2016, we took the opportunity of introducing Society members to Angus Taylor MP, Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, who is the sitting member for Hume and had a stand at the show.



**Left:** Angus Taylor MP with Dr Ian Willis, Lee Stratton and Luke

**Right:** Dr Ian Willis talking to Angus Taylor MP about his book 'Pictorial History Camden & District'



## NSW & ACT ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES STATE CONFERENCE 9 – 11 September 2016

Camden Area Family History Inc and Picton & District Historical & Family History Society Inc are hosting this year's state conference. It will be held at the Civic Centre Camden.

- Camden Historical Society is a sponsor at the conference for the three days promoting the museum's historical publications.

If you are interested in finding your ancestry there will be a free information day on Friday 9 September. There will be many experts to help you in your quest to trace your ancestors. Tea and coffee are provided with Rotary running a barbecue in the Civic Centre car park for lunch.

For more details on participating in the conference: Email: [nswact2016conference@gmail.com](mailto:nswact2016conference@gmail.com)

[www.cowpasturesandbeyond.com.au](http://www.cowpasturesandbeyond.com.au) and Conference Convenor is Tony Jackson, Mob: 0437651124

This will be a major boost for the Camden Area with many attendees coming into the area for the first time.

## 9th MARCH TALK ON BELGENNY FARM BY CAMERON ARCHER AM

At the general meeting we had Cameron Archer AM who is on the Belgenny Farm Trust and Chair of Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia. He told us about the restorations that are taking place at Belgenny Farm.

The historic Creamery at Belgenny Farm, Camden will be transformed into a state-of-the-art agricultural learning centre. The centre will be home to a range of new school initiatives to enable students and teachers to learn all about food and fibre production. Students of all ages will learn more about dairying and milk production.



## 13th APRIL 'AN ARTIST'S VIEW OF HISTORY BY BRIAN STRATTON OAM

At the general meeting Brian posed the question: 'What is the difference between something that is old and something that is historic?'

He showed 40 images of his paintings of ghost towns such as Eurelia South Australia, Gwalia Western Australia and Farina South Australia. Also spoke of restoration work now being undertaken to preserve Farina.

The talk concluded with aspects from Belgenny and Wivenhoe.



## 11th MAY 'HERITAGE SHOW & TELL'

It was a very popular and diverse event with member's show and tell at this general meeting. We had more people than time allowed for this segment. Here are some of the member's photos from the night.



Janet Stait-Gardner found this 1924 book 'Old Colonial By Ways' with a section on local Camden in a London second-hand bookshop.



Ashley King brought in beautiful menus from ships that his aunt collected over many years on her travels.



Noel Watson showed his bagpipes from a metal case he buried as a child.



Frances Warner brought in one doll wearing her daughter's christening gown and the other doll was on the front of her wedding car.



Janet Howe talking about her relative flying in a plane against the Japanese in the Pacific region in the Second World War.



Ray Herbert found a long lost certificate of the Rechabites, a temperance movement to promote total abstinence from alcohol that is still in existence today. His father was a member in the NSW branch.

## CORPORATE BLOUSES & SHIRTS



Ian and I are wearing the new tops with Camden Historical Society embroidery. If you would like to order one they are \$45.00 each and will take about 2 weeks for delivery. They are a silver grey very fine pin stripe and feel lovely. The material is 75% polyester and 25% cotton. The supplier is:

R Newman & Sons, Ph: (02) 4647 4944

Unit 3, 24 Anzac Ave, Smeaton Grange NSW 2567

You will have to visit them for size, then let me know and I will put the order in. Many thanks, Lee

## CONDOLENCES

We were sad to hear of the passing of Brendan O'Farrell's mother, Moya O'Farrell. Her funeral service was on Friday 29th April 2016 at St Paul's Camden. Rene Rem attended on the Society's behalf.

Brendan is a contributor and benefactor of the Society. He loaned us the WW1 artefacts in the glass cabinets and has donated a lot of historic memorabilia including the flying birds above the lift in the museum.

## CAMDEN HERITAGE WALKING TOUR & APP LAUNCH

On 17 May 2016 Camden Library launched a new smart phone app for a self guided tour around Camden. It shows present and historic photos of places in Camden.

Check it out on the library's web site.

## 'MARYLAND' 773 NORTHERN ROAD, BRINGELLY

On 3 May 2016 the owners invited representatives from the Historical Society to visit the property 'Maryland' on The Northern Road, Bringelly. John Wrigley, Bob Lester and Ian Willis inspected the property and heard the plans for its development as a housing estate and the conservation of the historic home, winery and outbuildings.

'Maryland' is an outstanding complex of early homestead and farm buildings, significant for its completeness as a group and the integration of the buildings, garden and magnificent setting. The property has been in continuous occupation by only two families for over 130 years. The main house was built by Thomas Barker in 1857. It was the home of Miss Elizabeth and Annette Thomson from 1940 until their deaths.

**Stephen McMahon has been invited to speak at the Historical Society meeting on 10 August about the plans for 'Maryland'.**



'Maryland' cc 1990

Maryland Farming Company.

Annie and Elizabeth Thomson took over the farm in 1952 after their father died. Their two brothers went into the family merchant business in Sydney.

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

ABN 84 182 869 026

## MEMBERSHIP 2016 –17

Individual \$15, Family \$20

Now due. See attached form.

## 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.**

## New baby in Library

Michelle in the library had a little girl Emelia Eve Monday 30th May at 2.25pm. Weighing 8lbs 7oz and 21.3 inches long. Both are doing well and home.

## NEW ITEMS IN MUSEUM CABINET

Recently John and Julie Wrigley have created a new and informative display on Accessories for Women from the early 20th Century in the glass cabinet outside the Library entrance.



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