



# NEWSLETTER

## VALE JOY THORN OAM ( 1923 - 2018 ) LIFE MEMBER (2013)



For service to the community, Mrs Joyce Marjorie Thorn, nee Bradford, received the Order of Australia Medal in January 2005.

Joyce arrived in Cobbitty in 1948 with her husband Keith to run the general store, which they ran for over 20 years. Joy was kept busy running the store, which served as a focal point in the community, and being a mother of four she found time to join one or two groups. Her involvement in the community increased after she and Keith left the business in 1971.

In 1976 her beloved husband Keith died and in 2004 experienced another tragedy in that of the death of her son, James. Joy is survived by her three daughters, Maree, Dianne and Christine and their partners, many grandchildren and a great grandchild. Over the years Joy has been involved with the St Paul's Anglican Church Cobbitty as Treasurer and Warden, St Paul's Women's Guild as Secretary and written a booklet on the history of St Paul's Church in conjunction with the Rev, Franklyn Pain. Joy has been a member of the Camden Branch of Red Cross for more than 40 years and with Meals on Wheels since the 1970's and in 1995 established the Cobbitty Community Craft Group for women who have been through major illness. Joy was an active member of the Camden Historical Society and has donated over 30 items to the museum. Joy had been chronicling news items for Cobbitty and keeping the graveyard records for St Paul's Cemetery at Cobbitty, which she co-produced a book with John Burges and the late Janice Johnson. Her funeral service at St Paul's was attended by many and the family members reminisced on her life as well other groups of which she was a member. It was a beautiful day to farewell one of Cobbitty's finest resident.



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### Ordinary General Meetings 2018

- 14 February
- 14 March
- 11 April
- 9 May
- 13 June
- 11 July
- 8 August & AGM
- 12 September
- 10 October
- 14 November
- 12 December

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Museum,

40 John St, Camden.  
All welcome

Ph: (02) 4655 3400



### Right

Medals and commendations for her volunteering and dedication to the Cobbitty Community



### Left

Joy with her book on St Paul's Church Cemetery

All correspondence to Secretary, secretary@camdenhistory.org.au • Editors: Lee Stratton & Bob Lester  
President: Dr Ian Willis • Vice Presidents: Cathey Shepherd ; John Wrigley OAM • Treasurer Kathy Lester • Secretary: Lee Stratton 47748005 • Immediate Past President Bob Lester, General Committee: Sharon Greene, Rene Rem, Robert Wheeler, Julie Wrigley, Frances Warner, Warren Sim Webmaster: Steve Robinson Facebook: Rene Rem

## Editor's Notes

### Upcoming speakers 2018/19

10 October - President Dr Ian Willis and Vice President Cathey Shepherd will demonstrate how to access and use Trove as a research tool

14 November - Terry Gordon, a long serving Inglis Real Estate Agent in Camden and has seen many changes to the district in his 53 years in business

12 December - Christmas Party for members and guests

13 February **2019** - Dr Cameron Archer AM is the Chair of the Belgenny Farm Trust and he will talk on the topic of 'Developments at Belgenny Farm'.

\*\* The above speakers/topics are subject to change

**The Committee is seeking speakers for 2019.  
We welcome all suggestions.**

### VOLUNTEER UPDATES

One volunteer needed for Thursday afternoon and two on Saturdays. Please contact Rene if you can help.  
Contact Mobile: 0424847492

### VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

In September we had 643 visitors and the year to date is 5,126 compared to the same time last year of 4,430.

### The SOCIETY'S FACEBOOK

Over 1650 likes reaching an average of 5 & 6 thousand each week.

We have recently placed on Facebook photos on Camden in the 1870's from our photo collection and items seen in the museum. 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.*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE SOCIETY ARE NOW DUE**

## NEW CABINETS IN THE NIXON ROOM

Many thanks to Rene Rem and Doug Barrett who replaced the old wooden cabinets with new aluminium cabinets with lights enclosed to showcase and protect the contents.

The money came from a successful grant from the Camden Council.

We are slowly updating the museum with new furniture to prevent further damage to our exhibits.



## JULY 11 2018 - JEFF MCGILL

Many thanks to Jeff, who came to our meeting at the last minute and talked about his latest book 'Campbelltown & District'.

He told us that it was hard to choose what to leave in or out and that there was enough information to write two volumes.

Through the years as a journalist for the Campbelltown Macarthur Advertiser, Jeff, with his son, over weekends and school holidays would gather information from local long standing families. This ensured that local history was not lost from one generation to another. The book is available from our museum for \$25.00

At present he is writing his own family history.

Jeff has a weekly editorial in the Advertiser called 'From the Sidelines' on local history. And if you have a story to tell contact him at: [mcgilljeff01@gmail.com](mailto:mcgilljeff01@gmail.com)



Jeff with his book. Photo from Simon Bennett

## AUGUST 8 2018 - PRESIDENT DR IAN WILLIS WORKING ON HIS THREE ACADEMIC PROJECTS IN 2018

1. 'A local cultural icon challenges for forces of neo-liberalism on Sydney's fringe'. A presentation that explained how the Menangle Rotolactor has been in the middle of a range of urban development issues over the past 15 years in the Menangle village.

2. 'A different story, country newspapers and the First World War'. A talk that explained how local country newspapers recorded the First World War in a recognizably different fashion to large metropolitan city papers using the Camden News and Picton Post.

3. 'The local rag: parochialism, localism and regional newspapers'. This is a history of local country newspapers in the Macarthur region from the 1880s to the present for a UK academic journal Media History.

Keep up to date with Ian on:

History Blog: Camden History <<http://camdenhistorynotes.blogspot.com.au/>>

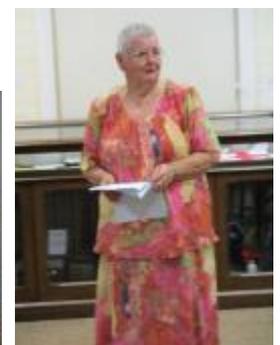


## SEPTEMBER 12 2018 - HISTORY WEEK

Theme on the night was **'Life and Death'** and the impact on families. There were very interesting stories from our members on weddings and funerals in their families.

A dvd on Vic Boardman by Kira Alia Leon with photos on the slideshow from Vic was shown. Then Joy Aitken told the audience that she taught Vic to dance as Joy had a local studio with her husband.

Members reminiscing on the night were: Bob Lester, Laura-Jane Aulsebrook Joy Aitken and Frances Warner.



From L to R: Bob Lester in front of audience, Laura-Jane Aulsebrook, Frances Warner in her going away ensemble and Joy Aitken

**VALE**  
**JOAN SCOTT ( 1935 - 2018 )**

It was a rainy day for Joan's funeral service at the Old St Thomas Chapel, also the Chapel where she was married. It was a full church as Joan was involved and volunteered in most of the Camden area groups such as Girl Guides, CWA, Quilters Group, Mt Annan Botanic Gardens, Camden area Family History, Camden Historical Society and the Tourism Centre. Joan was also a regular visitor to Camden Council meetings.

She is survived by her three siblings, three children and their partners, grandchildren and great grandchildren. First and foremost her family was her greatest love. Joan was also gathering information on her family tree.

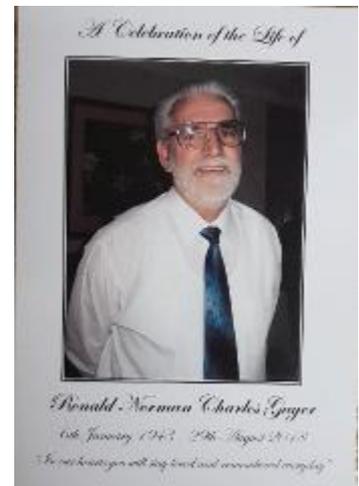
Her laughter and common sense will be greatly missed.



**VALE**  
**RON GUYER (1943 - 2018)**

Ron was a past member of the Society. Long time friend of the family and current member, Trish Clark reminisces on his life:

'Ron and Carol have lived in the Narellan and Camden areas all their lives attending Camden High School and were married at St Thomas's Narellan. Not long after they were married Ron was involved in a car accident and sustained serious injuries which changed his path in life. With the loving support of Carol and his son and daughter Michael and Cheryl and their families he has met all the challenges he encountered with great positivity and enthusiasm and was a much loved and admired member of our community.'



**VALE**  
**BRUCE CUNNINGHAM (1936 - 2018)**

It was a beautiful day for his service at St Paul's Cobbitty. It was a full church with the Who's Who of Camden present. It was a lovely service with his three sons enlightening the audience with funny stories and life with their dad. Bruce even wrote his own eulogy some years ago, which the eldest son read.

Bruce joined Camden Council in 1962 as Deputy Town Clerk. He was in that role for 17 years and promoted to Town Clerk in 1979. He spent his final years as Council's General Manager until his retirement in 1993. One of his highlights was the construction of Camden Civic Centre during the 1980's.

Whilst as General Manager he was instrumental in the museum's extensions, hence his office in the Nixon Room

Bruce and his wife, Ellie remained active in the community with Meals on Wheels and Bruce was passionate and involved in Camden Town Farm Project. He is remembered as a great bloke, a great storyteller and environmentalist.



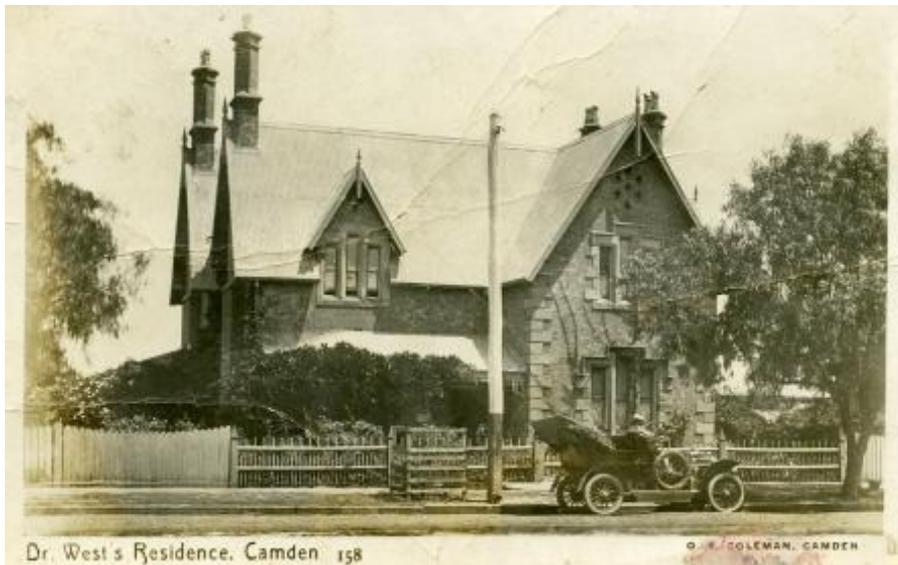
Left is Bruce's office area in the museum and Above is his Order of Service

# A gothic picturesque style gentleman's country town residence

## Dr West's Residence

### 37 John Street, Camden NSW 2570

Originally built by merchant Henry Thompson in 1860. He purchased the land off Sarah Tiffin in 1854. The house reflected Thompson's social and economic status and authority in the small market town of Camden.



*Camden's town residence of Dr West in John Street Camden. This postcard is one in a series of the Camden area sold by general merchant OV Coleman in Camden. This one of Macaria is No. 158 in a series of over 100. It dates from around 1905. The impressive gentleman's town house was originally built by Camden merchant Henry Thompson in 1859-1860. The building is now an art gallery housing the Alan Baker Art Collection. (OV Coleman/Camden Images)*

Henry Thompson lived in Macaria until 1870 with his large family of 16 children. Henry Thompson built "Macaria" in 1859-60 for the purpose of a school for teacher William Gordon, who was under his patronage, Thompson having several school-age sons.

The school did not eventuate, Gordon moving instead from Camden to "Macquarie Grove".

Henry Thompson and his brother Samuel came to Camden as independent investors, setting up a general store and steam flour mill next to one another. They prospered being the middlemen for the local farmers.

The next two owners of "Macaria" were the Milfords, father then daughter. It later became Camden Grammar School and eventually was bought by Camden Council and was used as offices for the Mayor and Town Clerk.

The house was occupied by a series of doctors including Dr West. Macaria has gabled windows, high chimneys, and stone trims with wooden porch and verandah.

Sydney architect Clive Lucas maintains that Macaria is one of the finest picturesque Gothic town houses in Australia.

For more information: <https://australianhistoryinahurry.wordpress.com/>

# 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

## 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.

### MEMBERSHIP 2018 –19

Individual \$15, Family \$20

**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 SHOW SOCIETY



Photo: Doug Barrett

On Friday 28th September Vice President, Brett Hayter presented Dr Ian Willis with a \$500 cheque on behalf of the Camden Show Committee.

It is the generosity of citizens and organisations such as theirs that allows us to continue our important work of preserving and promoting the history of the Camden Community.

**Next Camden Show dates are  
Friday 5th and Saturday 6th April 2019.**

## WELFARE OFFICER REPORT

Well August / September was a very busy time!

- A card was sent to Joy Thorn's family after her passing in August
- A card was sent to Bruce Cunningham, who was ill late August. Sadly he passed away in September so a card was sent to his wife Ellie.
- Virginia Ghezzi was sent a card as her mother passed away.
- Shirley Rorke and Alan Robinson were both sent cards as they weren't well.
- Gordon Bird broke his leg and hope he is on the mend now
- Sadly our member Joan Scott passed away suddenly, so a card was sent to her family.

Keep well everyone!  
Sue Cross  
Welfare Officer

If you know of a member who needs extra help please contact Sue on her mobile:

**0414360076**

