

NEWSLETTER**VALE****JANICE JOHNSON (1946 - 2017)**

Janice Johnson passed away in Palliative Care, Camden Hospital, on 9 October, after an illness with cancer. A Memorial Service was held at St John's Church on 17 October. Janice was born in 1946, grew up in Clovelly, and came to Camden in 2007 following a business career in Sydney. Since then she has been actively involved in the Camden Historical Society.

Over the years Janice was a prolific columnist in The District Reporter's 'Back Then' history page, contributing many articles with excellent original research.

In 2007 Janice started researching the history of the historic St John's Church cemetery. She compiled a comprehensive data base and her book *If These Gravestones Could Talk* (2010) has been consulted by many family history enthusiasts. She also published *Reflections on Old Sydney & Colonial Days* in 2012; and *Reminiscences of Early Camden* in 2013. She was a co-author of the fourth edition of *They Worked at Camden Park*. In April 2014 the Camden Historical Society launched her book *Camden World War I Diggers 1914 to 1918*. The book drew on published letters from Camden soldiers and nurses in World War I. In 2013 Janice was the Honorary Secretary of the Camden Historical Society. She regularly conducted guided tours for groups during History Week and the National Trust Heritage Week. After she resigned as Secretary in 2014 she continued to answer inquiries addressed to the Camden Museum. Since 2008 Janice has been a volunteer archivist at the historic Camden Park House. Janice will be missed by all her friends.

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VALE**DR PETER MYLREA OAM (1928 - 2018)**

Dr Peter James Mylrea (1928 - 2018) passed away at Camden Hospital on 3 January. Peter joined the Historical Society in 1994 and became its archivist in 1996. In retirement Peter developed his computer skills to greatly enhance the historical knowledge of the Camden district. He improved the museum computer catalogue and digitization of the photo collection. This computer cataloguing involved many months of work and continued for years. His particular interest was in the photograph collection and under his management over 2,600 photos were digitised and made available on the Internet for public research and use. He catalogued the Museum's Research Reference Library, and the Society's extensive historic map collection.

In 2001 Peter was the Foundation Editor of the *Journal of the Camden Historical Society* for its first five years and continued to be a major contributor. For the Society he wrote and published two books: *Belgenny Farm 1805-1835 Early Years of the Macarthurs at Camden* (first edition 2001, second edition 2007) and *Camden District to the 1840s* (2002). In 2006 Peter was made a Life Member of the Camden Historical Society in recognition of his substantial contribution to heritage conservation.

The Order of Australia Medal awarded to Peter in 2009 was in recognition of his extraordinary voluntary work within the community of Camden through the Camden Historical Society and for his services to the history of veterinary science in Australia. The Society extends sympathies to Margaret and their family.

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

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

Editor's Notes

Upcoming speakers 2018

14 February - David Funnell reminiscing on his life in Camden

14 March - Dr Harvey Broadbent speaking on his work and publications on Gallipoli from the Turkish point of view

11 April - Bradley Warner speaking on a New Fan Therapy

9 May - Australian Heritage Festival theme is My Culture: My Story

8 August - AGM

12 September - History Week

** The above speakers/topics are subject to change

**The Committee is seeking speakers for 2018.
We welcome all suggestions.**

VOLUNTEER UPDATES

WELCOME

To our new member and volunteer Laura Jane Aulsebrook.

The Love Token Story

In 2016, David Brown approached the Macarthur Chronicle from his home in Worthing, West Sussex, in England. He had discovered a 'token' while sorting boxes in his home. David subsequently undertook considerable research into the convict, identifying that the token was given by Charles Green to his wife, Sarah, before the 'Eleanor' sailed from Portsmouth, England for New South Wales in February 1831.

Using genealogical search techniques, David Brown in England, identified an Australian, Warren Read, as a potential direct descendant of Charles Green. The Macarthur Chronicle (14 Feb 2017) published an article about the love token and soon unearthed Warren living in Wollongong. Warren Read said, after speaking to David Brown in England, that when he received his great-great-grandfather's gift to his wife, he wished to give the love token to the Camden Museum. *"I'd hate for it to just be at the bottom of my drawer and forgotten about. I think this is something that should be appreciated by other descendants and everyone else in the community."*

On the 11 November 2017 the Love Token was exchanged in our museum between Warren and David and Vice President John Wrigley. Information on the token is on display in a glass cabinet near the elevator.

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

The total number of visitors for 2017 was 6,129.

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

The SOCIETY'S FACEBOOK

We have recently placed on Facebook photos from our collection on Burragorang Valley and items seen in the museum. 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.



Above: Warren accepting the token from David



Right: Warren giving the token to John for the museum



Left: the token and information in the glass cabinet.

SEPTEMBER 13 2017 WITH DR IAN WILLIS

A notable part of Camden modernism that has disappeared is the drive-in movie theatre. The Narellan Gayline Drive-in Movie Theatre was one of the notable attractions in the local area between the 1960s and 1980s located on Morshead Road, Narellan (now Narellan Vale).

Ted Frazer, the owner/operator, of the Gayline Drive-In was a picture show man. The high point of the drive-in's success was in the early 1970s. The Gayline showed a mixture of movies. When patrons rolled in they put the hook-on-window-speaker, and occasionally drove off with it still attached after the movie finished. In the 1970s when some were closing down the Gayline resisted the trend, but had to adjust to colour TV and daylight saving with later starts. It eventually closed in 1990.

For more information: <https://camdenhistorynotes.wordpress.com/2015/06/22/narellan-gayline-drive-in-theatre/>



OCTOBER 11 2017 - THE HISTORY OF CRAG

Robert Wheeler stepped in for the President of CRAG as Glenda Davis was unable to attend. Their objectives are:

- To conserve the heritage of the Camden Town

- To ensure that any planning retains, maintains, enhances the heritage, surrounding rural lands, floodplain and open space.

- To protect the amenity of the heritage and environment of the Camden Municipality and beyond;

- To represent a community voice in government decision making;

- To monitor and evaluate development proposals.

For more information: www.crag.org.au



NOVEMBER 8 2017- 'THE PINES' MENANGLE

Peter Ryan and Michel Kolnar purchased 'The Pines' in 2007 and have been in restoration mode since then. It is a private dwelling.

A very good example of the late classical colonial stone house. The Pines has a symmetrical facade with French windows opening onto the front veranda, a slate roof and two rear service wings enclosing a small grassed courtyard.

It was built by Edward John Edrop about 1870, who was a magistrate in the area at this time. He resided there until his death in 1897 aged 57.

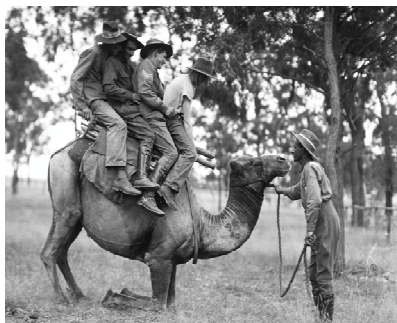
The building has architectural and aesthetic significance and it is a fine stone house with colonial tradition. It is classified as a heritage house although not on the Heritage State Listing.

1914-1918 some parts of the estate was occupied under licence by the Australian Military Forces for training of Light Horse and Camel Corps Troopers.

Right:

Peter Ryan, presenting his story on his home 'The Pines' below right.

Below is a camel training with the WW1 troops



VOLUNTEER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - 6 DECEMBER 2017

Many thanks to Camden Council and to the Civic Centre for celebrating the volunteers in the Camden precinct. Many organisations were present on the night.

We all had a great night with a plum pudding or a cactus plant to take home.

There was entertainment with a couple on stage singing well known songs as well as Christmas Carols.

Also on the night was an artist drawing caricatures and a photo booth with accessories to wear for a memorable event.

Plenty of finger food and drinks kept everyone happy.



Harry and Janet Stait-Gardener with Marilyn Willis showing their drawings



Above: Gordon Bird with Brian Stratton OAM



Roger Percy with our President Dr Ian Willis



Margaret and Robert Wheeler also showing their drawings

CAMDEN'S AUSTRALIA DAY STREET PARADE 2018

Friday 26 January was a hot day with high humidity for the annual street parade.

Many thanks to Max Boardman for the loan of the Holden Ute for another year, it was greatly appreciated.

A very excited Amber Swan, John and Julie's granddaughter couldn't wait to be a part of the festivities.

On the 3 February we received a letter from the Lion's Club thanking us once again for our support in making the Camden Street Parade a success.

The museum was opened from 9am to 4pm with 644 adults and children visiting us.



Left: Julie and John Wrigley with their granddaughter Amber Swan

Right: Our Holden Ute in the parade with Ronald McDonald following in a Mustang



THE THOMSON SISTERS OF MARYLAND BRINGELLY

To make way for suburban development, the historic property of Maryland will be vacated by the Thomson family at the end of February 2018.

Penny Thomson, niece of her late aunts Elizabeth and Annette, has donated to the Society a collection of valuable memorabilia relating to the history of this property. Such as their OAM medals, Royal Agricultural Society and other awards, some amazing rainfall records tracking back to the Barker days and hundreds of photos for our Camden Images collection.

SHORT HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Maryland was built at the end of the early colonial period by Thomas Barker and two generations lived there from 1823 to 1940 when Mr and Mrs N A Thomson bought the property.

Maryland was part of a grant to John Dickson in 1816 and Thomas Barker married his daughter, Joanna in 1823 and they were given this property. Joanna died childless and some years later Thomas remarried to a Miss Katharine Heath Gray. There was one son of this marriage, and on the death of his father inherited Maryland, and he lived there until his death at the age of 80 in 1940.

Elizabeth died 2006 and Annette died 2009 and both lived in the historic home until their death.

Maryland's property will become a new suburb in the Camden Municipality and will be known as 'BARKER'S MILL' in memory of the Barker Family.



Left: Elizabeth and Annette Thomson receiving their OAM medals from Governor Marie Bashir in 2004:

'For service to the agricultural show movement, to the dairy industry, particularly through the Holstein-Friesian Association of Australia, and to the community'.



Above: pins from various organisations



Above: Annette and Elizabeth on their Maryland dairy property with prize cows



Left: 2001 Show Legends awarded to Elizabeth and Annette from the Royal Agricultural Society

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>

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MEMBERSHIP 2017 –18

Individual \$15, Family \$20

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.



A new theme on 'Victory & Peace 1918' in our glass cabinet in the museum. Many thanks to a private collector for the loan of the contents and to John and Julie Wrigley for the display.

UPCOMING



The Camden Show 'Still a Country Show'

Friday 16th & Saturday 17th March 2018

Rene will have a sheet available on the front desk as we will soon need volunteers for our table at the show.

NEW WELFARE OFFICER FOR SOCIETY

Our newest member of the Committee, Sue Cross has an additional activity as our new Welfare Officer. If you know of a member who needs extra help please contact Sue on her mobile: **0414360076**



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