

NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Camden Historical Society Members

I would like to update you all on the challenges that we, as a Volunteer Organisation face in this Pandemic. Although we operate and are autonomous to Camden Council control, we are being challenged by Camden Councils' idea that we are under their jurisdiction. We have joined the Camden Area Family History Society so that our combined voices can be a force in dealing with Camden Council on the reopening issue and to achieve a greater presence in our own planning and operation.



We have had 5 Risk Assessments and Safety Audits and were able to enter our museum for short periods of time as per Library requirements, as was the CAFHS. We are now locked out and unable to enter the Museum. Discussions are continuing with Managers from Council.

The Management Committee have been in contact with each other and have been able to continue our administration requirements with excellent management, especially by Fletcher Joss, our Treasurer and John and Julie Wrigley with inquiries, all coordinated by our Secretary Lee Stratton. I would like to thank, not just the executive, but the whole committee in the way they have carried out their duties during this time. It indicates that we can and will continue to expand and give the district a truly great organisation and magnificent Museum.

The Management Committee has discussed the arrangement of not having our Annual General Meeting in August this year, and we are in contact with the Office of Fair Trading to comply with our legal responsibilities through our Public Officer.

We have some significant plans for the Society this year. We have secured software and iCloud storage from Microsoft to enable us now to place our most precious and important documents into safe storage as well as our photographs that cover a period in time, so that visitors can view and research information that we have secured and maintained over the years. This will assist many children in class rooms to gain the correct information on our districts rich and important history. It will also be an advantage for people living in the district to see what we have in our files, but also encourage them to visit our Museum and join our Historical Society.

We will soon be in contact with members to advise you all of our discussions with Camden Council and look forward to having our members visit our Museum and having our monthly meetings. Visit our web site for more up to date information and when we will be opening to the public. Until then, stay safe.

Doug Barrett | President | Camden Historical Society | Mobile: 0402 324 540

All correspondence to Secretary: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au • Editor: Lee Stratton • President: Doug Barrett
Vice Presidents: Warren Sims & John Wrigley OAM • Treasurer Fletcher Joss • Secretary: Lee Stratton • Immediate Past President Ian Willis OAM • General Committee: Ian Ramsay, Rene Rem, Frances Warner, Robert Wheeler, Dawn Williams, Julie Wrigley • Volunteer Co-Ord: Cheryl Rochford • *Webmaster* : Warren Sims *Facebook*: Rene Rem



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Ordinary General Meetings 2020

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

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm

40 John St, Camden.
All welcome

Ph: (02) 4655 3400

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMDEN MUSEUM

The historical museum was established by The Rotary Club of Camden and The Camden Historical Society and officially opened on 20 June 1970 by Major General Sir Denzil Macarthur Onslow CBE, DSO, ED, who was an Australian Army Officer, businessman and grazier. Plaque (below) is on the wall just inside the museum on the right.

This important milestone was celebrated on 20 June 2020. Most of the Committee were authorised, for two hours to have a meeting and small celebration.

Below photo of Committee present are: Back Row L-R: John Wrigley OAM, Dawn Williams, Robert Wheeler, Frances Warner, Fletcher Joss and Warren Sims. Front Row L-R: Cheryl Rochford, Rene Rem, Julie Wrigley and Lee Stratton. Also on this page are of some of the stages of the building of the museum.



MAY 1996



Above: President John Wrigley with David Ryland



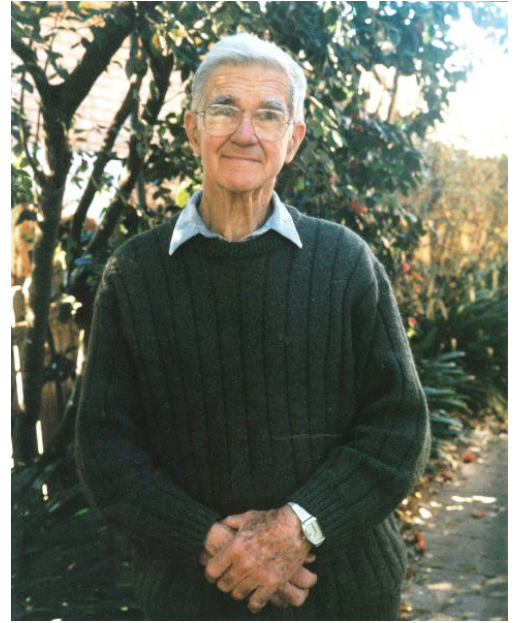
1998 - Peter Hayward - Project Director



MAY 2017

Right: Victoria Macarthur-Stanham with Geoff Corrigan laying the 1998 brick in the wall on 6 June 1998



LIFE MEMBER**RICHARD STRINGER****1928 - 2020****Death of a Kind and Generous Architect**

Richard Yeomanson 'Dick' Stringer worked for many years in Campbelltown for the Macarthur Development Board. He was made a Life Member of the Camden Historical Society in 1999 in appreciation of his outstanding work as the Honorary Architect of the Camden Museum extensions.

Richard was very approachable and very generous with his time in handling the many issues to do with the extension. Some decorative touches in the building including the Juliet balcony, the 'blind' window on the laneway wall and the rooftop copper lantern are all elements of his distinctive and visually pleasing designs.

Richard was the architect responsible for the lovely extension to St Paul's Catholic Church in Camden in the 1980s and the sympathetic extension to 'Macaria' for Camden Council.

Richard and his wife Beth Stringer were both architects. They lived at 58 Macarthur Road for many years. He generously donated his architectural plans of the Museum to the Historical Society. Richard moved to Carrington Retirement Village in 2008 and retained his interest in community matters. After Beth's death he later moved to Bathurst to be near his daughter.

Richard Stringer was named Camden Citizen of the Year in 1999 showing how highly respected he was in the community. He was a great supporter of Mawarra School.

Camden was lucky to have Richard Stringer's architectural advice and expertise resulting in very sympathetic and interesting improvements to the town and its historic precinct.

The funeral service for Richard Stringer was held in St John's Church, Camden, on Tuesday 25th February.

John Wrigley OAM
Vice President Camden Historical Society
Mob. 0437 271 804

12 FEBRUARY - STEPHEN McMAHON

Stephen is General Manager of Macarthur Developments who is overseeing the refurbishment of the historic Maryland at Bringelly which was built between 1820 - 1850 by the Barker family.

The Precinct will ultimately be home to a population of approximately 20,000 people, with a diverse mix of low to medium density housing, a local centre, a combined primary and high school, and a community facility. About a third of the site will be green space comprising public parks, drainage, and conservation areas. This is a 20 year development project and the first home will be built on the site in 2022.

For more information on this development:

<https://www.lfa.com.au/project/lowes-creek-maryland/>



11 MARCH - JACQUI KIRKBY

Jacqui and her partner, Peter Gibbs own the Varro Ville Homestead, which is a heritage listed former farm and now a rural residence at 196 St Andrews Road, Varroville.

It was designed by Weaver and Kemp and built from 1810 - 1859.

Named after the farming estate of Robert Townson, a fine scholar and scientist. His home was originally known as Varro Ville, reputedly after the ancient Roman agriculturalist and author, Marcus Terentius Varro. Townson became a local magistrate, helped provide free medical attention to the poor and his library was the most extensive in the colony. Varro Ville was later the home of explorer Charles Sturt. In 1976 the name Varroville was officially approved as the suburb name.

There were four early owners of Varro Ville: Dr Robert Townson (1809 - 1827), Captain Charles Sturt (1836 - 1839), James Raymond (1839 - 1851) and Judge Alfred Cheeke (1859 - 1876).



OLIVE McALEER

30 September 1933 - 15 July 2020

Olive was a member of the Camden Historical Society for many years and volunteered her time on the front desk answering many questions and telling stories to visitors.

Olive was an active member of the Camden community groups including ADFAS, Inner Wheel, Catholic Women's League and an active member of the St Paul's community.

Olive excelled in art and craft at school and came back to her creativity later in life after having her children. She was part of the Alan Baker art group and then took classes at the Royal Art Society. She gained a diploma and later became an associate member.

Olive married Geoff and had eight daughters, with lots of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



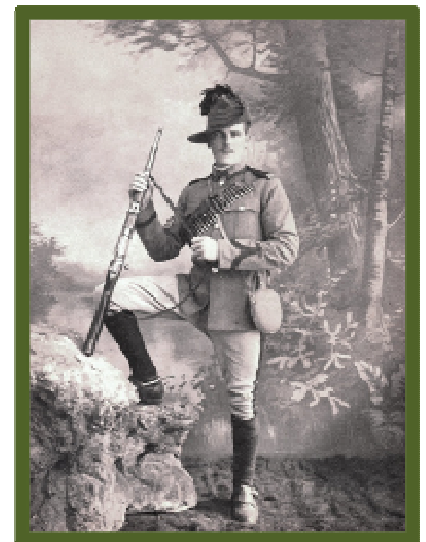
Daughter Maggie McNamara with her mother, Olive McAleer (Photo supplied)

JANICE JOHNSON BEQUESTS

The second book by Janice Johnson ***Camden Soldiers of King & Queen -1788 to 1913 (right)*** has been published. Unfortunately the Book Launch for this was not held because of COVID-19 restrictions, but the book is available for sale at the Museum for \$25.

For Janice Johnson's third book, ***Camden's WWII Servicemen & Women 1939 – 1946***, Camden Historical Society Committee considered 3 quotations and has accepted the quotation from Egarag (Fletcher Joss' company). The quotation is for the work required to take Janice's unfinished manuscript to publication with IngramSpark as a print book and an ebook.

One of Janice's requests for the placement of a plaque has been fulfilled at St Mark's Picton, and steps are proceeding to place the further six plaques at St John's Church Cemetery Camden.



AVAILABILITY OF MUSEUM VISITS AND WALKING TOURS

Are you a member of a social or service group that might be interested in a visit or outing to the Museum? Our volunteers are able to offer town walking tours, act as bus guides and provide guided tours to the Museum during and outside our normal opening hours. Contact the Secretary for details and bookings, reasonable charges apply. **Email: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au**

BOOK LAUNCH JESSIE TRAIL - A BIOGRAPHY

Jo Oliver, a former Local Studies Librarian from Camden Library who had a long association with the two Societies, History and Family, has written a book on an Australian Artist Jesse Trail. A copy of this book maybe borrowed from our library.

Synopsis

This biography explores the remarkable life of Jessie Trail - artist, traveller, humanitarian and independent spirit. From the ten-year-old who first met Tom Roberts painting on the shores of Port Phillip Bay, to a student of Frederick McCubbin and etchers John Mather and Frank Brangwyn. She interrupted her career to work as a voluntary nurse in France during World War I, later raising funds for and revisiting war-torn Europe. She also became one of Australia's most outstanding etchers, working in a field uncommon for women of her time. Through diary extracts, descriptions of her world travels and personal letters we hear her voice and see through her eyes, beauty, humour and the joys of simple living.

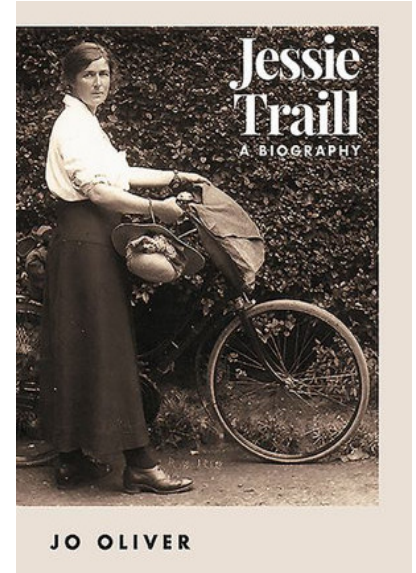


Photo from Julie and John Wrigley, who with attended the book launch

HISTORY WEEK • 5 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

'Back Then' - There will be a display in the Camden Museum Galleria of items from Peter Oxford's Pharmacy Camden from the mid-20th century; showing history helps us understand change.



CAMDEN NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS • 8 -15 November 2020

[NAIDOC](#) (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate and acknowledge the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Council will celebrate NAIDOC Week with a flag raising ceremony and community fun day to be held on Tuesday 10 November at 70 Central Avenue, Oran Park from 10.30am.

Editor's Notes

Upcoming Events 2020

9 September - History Week Theme: 'What is it good for?'

10 November - NAIDOC Week. Flag raising 10am at Oran Park Camden Council Chambers

10 December - Member's Christmas Party (?)

MEMBERS' NEWS

THE SOCIETY FOR YEAR ENDING 6 / 2020 HAS

9 Life Members

145 Members

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

January: 529 visitors which included 270 on Australia Day

February: 246 visitors

March: 339 visitors which included 135 from Elderslie Primary School

The SOCIETY'S FACEBOOK

We now have over 2400 followers on our page.

The latest images are changed regularly and show some of Camden and Districts history. Check it out and other great facts on this link.

www.facebook.com/CamdenMuseum

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE - RENEWAL FORM ENCLOSED

SUPPORT FOR OUR LOCAL PUBLISHER

If you value strong independent local journalism please contribute \$5 per month or \$50 per year

The District Reporter promises to hold local politicians and institutions to account without fear or favour. No one sets our agenda, no one tells the editor what to print.

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Please use your surname and postcode in the transaction description. *E.g. Jones 2570*

Email editor@tdr.com.au or call on **02 4655 1234** *Thank you to everyone who has contacted us and offered their support.*

WORKING WITH CHILDREN REGISTRATION WITH RMS NSW

If you are on the roster, it is a requirement for everyone who works or volunteers in child-related work in NSW to be registered. There is no charge involved. If you do not have an email or website, please organise a time with Cheryl at the museum and she will help you. Or visit the Service Centre at Gregory Hills and they will also assist you.

Apply for your check or renew your WWC on this website:

<https://wwccheck.cryp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/Application>

Fill out the form online with your proof of I.D. WWC number will be emailed to you.

Could you then give a copy to Cheryl for filing. Many thanks

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 see or call **Cheryl Rochford on 0419682158.***

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

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 2020 / 2021

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.

NEW GRANDPARENTS

Congratulations to two of our members. Immediate Past President Ian Willis OAM and wife Marilyn had their first grandchild, a granddaughter:

Anna Isabelle Grace Thomson was born on 24 February 2020 at 10.45am, with a weight of 3.7kg.

Both grandparents are doing well.

Photo: Marilyn Willis



WELFARE OFFICER REPORT



Hope you are all keeping safe and well during this difficult time in our history.

In the last few months I have sent out get well cards to the following members:

Nikki Hayward, John Wrigley, Andrea Herbert and Andrea Russo

Sympathy cards to:

Andrea Herbert (mother) and Leonie Jackson (father)

My Contact details are:

Email: janetsg@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0490 146 533