

# NEWSLETTER

## GUEST SPEAKER - SUE WILLIAMS 9 JUNE 2021

This was the highlight of any year, with 45 members braving the cold to hear Sue talking about her best selling book *'Elizabeth & Elizabeth'* on these two heroines of Colonial NSW.

The book is based on the lives of Elizabeth Macquarie, the wife of NSW Governor Lachlan Macquarie, and Elizabeth Macarthur, the wife of a prosperous colonial woolgrower John Macarthur. Sue Williams blends fact with fiction to present an interesting story of adversity, courage, love, and friendship in Elizabeth & Elizabeth.

Sue's thoughts of the evening are expressed in the following email:

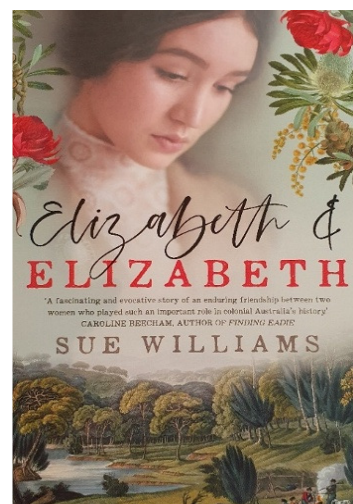
Hi Lee,

It was fabulous to have the opportunity to give a talk on the 2 Elizabeths last night at your meeting.

Really enjoyed meeting you and Ian and so many of your lovely members. A bit nerve-racking talking to so many historians - and Edwina - but people were very, very generous towards me.

So I just wanted to say thanks so much for the evening, and for the certificate and for the beautiful plant now sitting on my desk.

Many thanks, and enjoy the rest of the week! Best wishes, Sue x



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### General Meetings 2021

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



Sue with Edwina Macarthur-Stanham



President Ian Ramsay presenting Sue with gift

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

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - IAN RAMSAY

Since commencing our monthly meetings in April at the Undercroft in the Camden Civic Centre, we have enjoyed good attendances which indicate that we are in good shape.

### Volunteers

Unfortunately Cheryl Rochford resigned as Volunteer Co-ordinator and so I have taken on this role. Bear with me as I learn the ropes.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Cheryl for her hard work and dedication.

I have a request to all volunteers, could you please ensure that when you arrive and check the float that you always ensure there are two people to confirm the float at the start and end of the day.

I am sure that this procedure is being adhered to but I want to remind everyone of the protocols required.

### Maintenance program

Margaret Wheeler has initiated a cleaning regime for the museum space, display and storage areas and individual objects. This will determine when to clean objects and the best methods for cleaning.

Margaret has undertaken extensive research into the subject of maintenance and caring of museum collections and she now has a small group of dedicated members with what will be a mammoth undertaking. The group meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month.

### Partnership Meeting

The Partnership Meetings between the Museum and Library have re-commenced following their cancellation due to Covid-19.

This meeting was held in May and the main area of concern for us was the change in security procedures instituted by Council.

It is now intended to hold these meetings every three months and I will update you of any matters of concern.

### Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and you the members for your huge support and assistance and I look forward to continuing to work for the Society.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE - MEMBERSHIP FORM  
ENCLOSED**

**NAIDOC WEEK - 4 - 11 July 2021**

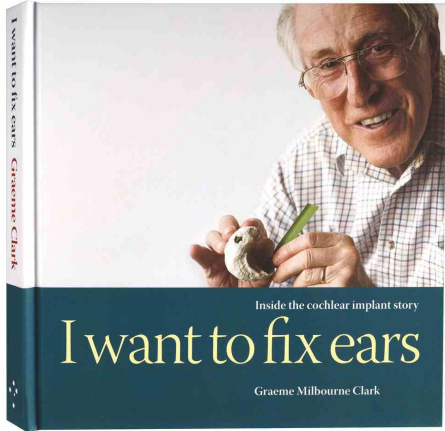
Camden Council will celebrate NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) with a Flag Raising Ceremony on Tuesday July 6, 2021. This year's theme is "Heal Country, heal our nation".



## GRAEME CLARK AC



L-R: Kathryn Taylor (Graeme’s niece), Lisa Schaper (volunteer), Ian Ramsay & Robin Simpson (Graeme’s sister)



We were honoured when Graeme Clark’s sister, Robin Simpson and niece Kathryn Taylor of Melbourne visited the museum to present a copy of his recent publication ‘I want to fix ears’.

Professor Clark AC, who was born in Camden, is one of the most honoured Australians since the latter half of the 20th Century.

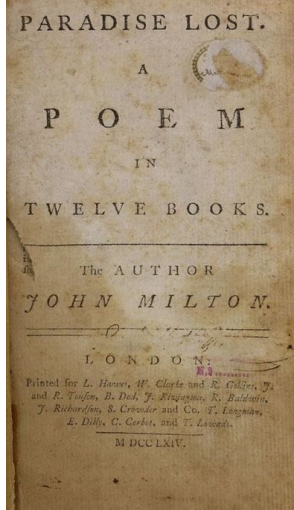
He is a Professor of Otolaryngology at the University of Melbourne. He invented multiple channel cochlear implant - Bionic Ear, which worldwide has helped countless people with deafness.

The museum has a small display devoted to Professor Clark, but it is anticipated that we will be devoting more space to this renowned son of Camden.

## OLDEST BOOK IN THE MUSEUM

Roslyn Tildsley has been doing a good job of cataloguing the books in the Research Library in the Museum. John Wrigley is cataloguing the special books collection in the glass cabinet of the Reference Room. The oldest book in that collection so far is “Paradise Lost” dated 1764. It belonged to Edmund King from Oxfordshire who inscribed his name in the book. He arrived in New South Wales in 1845 and settled in Macquarie Fields and Campbelltown. He dated another of his leather-bound books printed in 1780, and inscribed by Edmund King on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1879. This was a very important day for Sydney, being the date of the unveiling of the Captain Cook statue in Hyde Park, opposite the Australian Museum. It is remarkable that these two books have stayed together for hundreds of years and been in the Museum since the 1970s.

*Julie Wrigley*



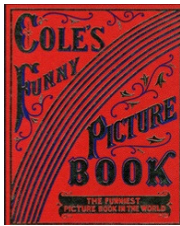
## Improving the Museum Collection

Camden Museum has limited space for both display and storage. However specific donations which highlight life in Camden through their links to local people and places are welcome. All donated items should be accompanied by a donor’s form explaining their provenance. (Inclusion in the collection or display is at the curator’s discretion.)

Here are a few items that I would like to promote for donation:

- Bone jacks (made out of sheep knucklebones)
- Agate marbles (we already have glass marbles)
- A string shopping bag
- Cole’s funny picture book with original binding

By Anne McIntosh (collection photographer)



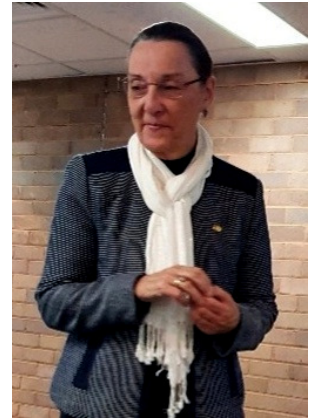
## 14 APRIL - DIANNE MATTERSON

At our April meeting, Dianne presented the culmination of her research into the history of shops in Argyle Street, Camden with an in depth and fascinating power point presentation.

It is a tribute to Dianne, given the amount of dedication and research that she has invested into the project.

As a result, Dianne has also prepared several folders which contains a great deal of information on the history of Argyle Street. This information is freely available for Society members and the general public.

Her contribution to this project will be a vital asset, not just to the Society, but for future historians as they delve into Camden's past.



## 12 MAY - SHOW AND TELL

Thank you to the speakers as part of the Heritage Festival theme 'Our heritage for the future'.

**Leonie Jackson** showed a collection of informative books of cards which she had collected as a girl, managing to complete each set.

**Peter McCall** found his grandmother's spirit burner from 1927 in a cupboard when he moved.

**Jo O'Brien** showed a wooden jewellery box carved for her grandmother and the wedding photo of her grandparents. Also showing some of her grandmother's jewellery.

**John Wrigley OAM** spoke on some of the treasures from the museum including a cigar humidor, a silver sugar bowl from 'Narellan House', and a teaspoon from the Rotolactor, Menangle.

**Katie Humphries** spoke about her grandmother's wedding dress from 1903 and a debutante dress that went to Buckingham Palace.

*By Julie Wrigley*



Left: Jo O'Brien  
Right: Katie Humphries



Far Left: John Wrigley  
Left: Peter McCall  
Right: Leonie Jackson



## Editor's Notes

### Upcoming Talks 2021

**14 July** - Phillip Simpson will talk on his book 'Historic Towns of NSW'

**11 August** - AGM with a talk from Ian Ramsay on his recent trip to Norfolk Island

**8 September** - Talks from members giving interesting insights into an ancestor

**13 October** - Clem Davis will give a talk on being a volunteer at the Australian War Memorial

**10 November** - Taylor Clarke, a Gundungurra woman whose people are of Burratorang Valley

**8 December** - Members and guests Christmas Party

### **The SOCIETY'S FACEBOOK**

We now have over 3,000 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](http://www.facebook.com/CamdenMuseum)

### **Volunteers Needed**

***The society is always on the lookout for those who would like to lend a hand. If helping out at the Museum appeals to you see or call:***

***Ian Ramsay on 0407657207***

## **VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR REPORT**

**For April** we had a total of 274 come through the Museum which was a little down compared to this time the year before last. Groups for the month are:

6 April: Carrington – 15 people

23 April: Whalan Community Activities Group - 12 people

**For May** the tally on attendance, a total of 588 came through the Museum. Groups for the month are:

4 & 5 May – Leppington Public School – 140 people

19 May – Young At Heart Group – 40 people

22 May – Druitt Family Reunion – 11 people

## **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 Ian at the museum and he 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.cyp.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 Ian for filing. Many thanks

## **NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM**

After the Covid-19 lockdown, the Museum will accept payments using credit and debit cards (except Diners Club).

We have acquired a Tyro EFTPOS terminal and will train our volunteers during their regular museum rosters.

But, you will need to pay at the terminal, as we cannot take payments over the phone.



# 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 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.**

## ELIZABETH (BETSEY) MACQUARIE

In Mawson Park (117 Queen St, Campbelltown), close to St Peters Church and the RSL carpark, stands this isolated statue of Elizabeth Macquarie. She has been there since 2006. The garden beds around the statue are seasonally planted with irises.

Macquarie visited settlers in the new areas south-west of Sydney (including the Cowpastures), while Governor. However Campbell Town feels a special allegiance to his wife. It was named by Macquarie; Campbell was Elizabeth's maiden name and Airds was her family estate.

When accompanying her husband on official visits, Elizabeth Macquarie is said to have given corms of flag lilies (irises) as gifts for the settlers.



## WELFARE OFFICER REPORT



Hope everyone is keeping safe and well during these trying times.

I have sent a get well a card to our Hon. Secretary:

Lee Stratton

My Contact details are:

Email: [janetsg@bigpond.com](mailto:janetsg@bigpond.com)

Mobile: 0490 146 533