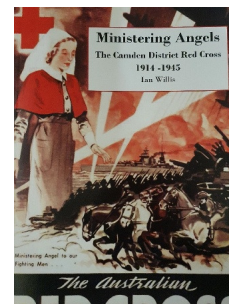


NEWSLETTER

CAMDEN RED CROSS SEWING CIRCLES

A submission was made on behalf of the Camden Red Cross sewing circles by our Past President and Life Member Dr Ian Willis OAM. This was one of the 17 selected from 750 applicants that Ian put forward as a nomination through the NSW State Member for Camden, Peter Sidgreaves. Ian's interest in this subject stems from his publication written in 2014 called 'Ministering Angels'.



Copies are still available in the museum for \$10.00, while stocks last.

The Camden Red Cross sewing circles were one of Camden women's most important voluntary patriotic activities during World War One and World War Two. The sewing circles started at the Camden School of Arts in 1914, and due to lack of space, moved to the Foresters' Hall in Argyle Street in 1918. At the outbreak of the Second World War, sewing circles reconvened in 1940 at the Camden Town Hall in John Street (the old School of Arts building - the same site as the First World War).

These patriotic voluntary activities by Camden women were part of the war at home and have received little recognition at a local, state or national level. There needs to be a public acknowledgement of the patriotic effort of these women.

The Blue Plaques program aims to inspire public interest and fascination in key personalities, historical events and places that are important to communities, regions and NSW. Each plaque will be linked to a digital story enabling people to learn more about the subject and place.

The blue plaque will be installed in the second half of 2022.

For more information:

www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/celebrate/love-your-local-heritage/blue-plaques-nsw/



Left:

Approved text on plaque

Right: Area where plaque will be placed on library front wall



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General Meetings 2022

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

All correspondence to: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au • Editor: Lee Stratton • President: Ian Ramsay • Vice Presidents: Ian Willis OAM & 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, Warren Sims • Julie Wrigley • Volunteer Co-Ord: Ian Ramsay • Webmaster: Warren Sims Facebook: Rene Rem

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



VISITORS

1. On Thursday 27 May I had the privilege of hosting a group from Willandra Bungalows who visited Camden from the far reaches of the Northern Beaches. I accompanied 35 residents on the coach tour of Camden before returning to the Museum. Positive comments were made by our visitors on the cleanliness, displays and overall layout of the Museum.

This is a huge credit to those who contribute to the Museum and I sincerely thank all for your outstanding efforts.

2. On Tuesday 31 May the Museum once again played host to a school visit of 89 students and 7 staff from St Pauls Catholic School, Camden.

The students were split into three groups and were rotated between the Museum, Art Gallery and a walking tour of Historical sites.

It proved to be an interesting and I believe a beneficial excursion for the students as they gained a valuable insight into our local history.

SUB-COMMITTEES

At the Committee Meeting held on 4th June it was decided to conduct an expression of interest from members to establish two sub-committees.

One would be to provide advice and guidance in support of the Professor Graeme Clark display. The second would be to investigate and provide information to the Committee and members of the acquisition of new display cases and the general updating of our assets with the view to providing updated facilities within the Museum. This will be discussed at future general meetings.

VOLUNTEERS

There is a requirement for us to have more volunteers to act as welcomers and if required to provide guidance to our visitors.

All that is needed is a maximum of 2.5 hours per shift. However if you feel that you can offer more time then you are most welcome.

We generally operate with two people per shift, however there are no objections to having a 3rd or even a 4th person on a shift.

Particularly when we have bookings which consist of a number of visitors, extra helpers would certainly be appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will celebrate NAIDOC week at our next general meeting with a talk from Taylor Clarke, a Gundungurra woman whose people are of the Burragarang Valley.

Also for the first time in three years Camden Park House and Garden will have an Open Weekend 17 - 18 September 2022. Tickets can be purchased on their website.

AGM 2022-23

A reminder that our AGM is on August 10. It is your Society and if you feel that you can contribute may I ask you to consider nominating for a position.

FAREWELL TO BETH

Rene Rem and Lee Stratton saw Beth Grace, a Librarian at Camden Library on her last working day. Beth was in charge of Camden Images on the Library website. She made sure all new photos approved by the Photo Committee were placed into Camden Images.

We will miss her and wish her all the best for her future.



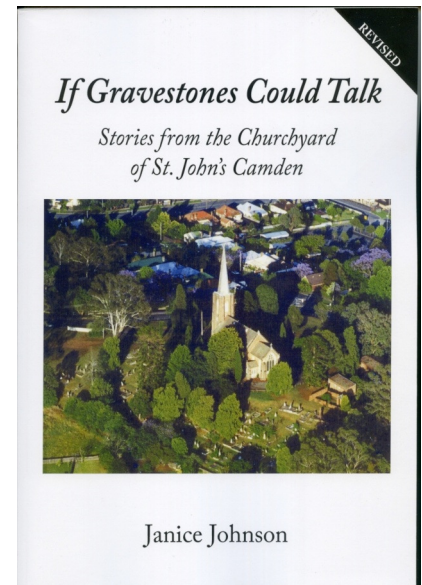
LAUNCH OF REVISED EDITION OF 'IF GRAVESTONES COULD TALK' by JANICE JOHNSON

The late Janice Johnson was a dedicated local historian and had a particular interest in the people and events that helped shape Camden. She wrote many books, including *If Gravestones Could Talk* which she published in 2010. It was based on her research into the graves at St John's Cemetery, Camden.

Janice's book was very popular with family history researchers and the book quickly went out of print. Before she died in 2017 Janice revised the book and left a copy of her work. She outlined the stories of many local families including Boyd, Cranfield, Rapley, Rideout, Taplin, and Wheeler. The members of the Camden Historical Society were keen to get the book available to the public.

The Society thanks Fletcher Joss from Egarag Pty Ltd for his great contribution in taking Janice's manuscript through to publication. Readers who wish to correct any information can let the Historical Society's Secretary know in writing for the Society's files (secretary@camdenhistory.org.au). Janice's book also includes information about St John's interactive version of the cemetery plan (<https://map.chronicle.rip/St-John-Camden-Anglican-Cemetery>).

The book costs \$30 and is available at the Museum

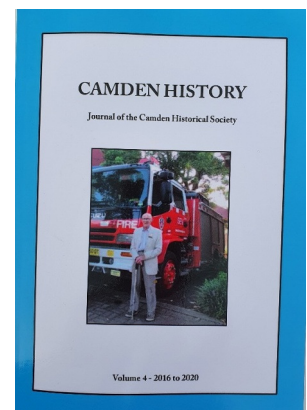
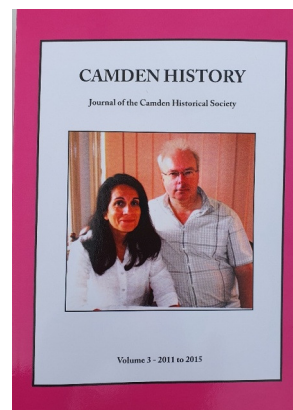


CHS JOURNAL SETS

The Society had the opportunity recently of printing compilations, with colour photos of our biannual journals.

Available in the museum are complete sets -
Journal of the Camden Historical Society
Volume 3 - \$30.00 and Volume 4 - \$35.00

"Hurry, while stocks last"

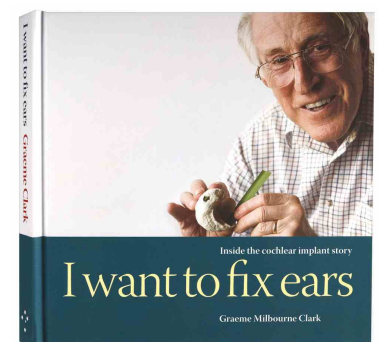


GRAEME CLARK AC

On ABC Iview you can watch Series 1 Episode 2 of 'Aussie Inventions that Changed the World' which has part of their program on Graeme Clark's bionic ear. Here is the link:

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/aussie-inventions-that-changed-the-world>

Graeme's book 'I want to fix ears' is available in the museum for \$50.00



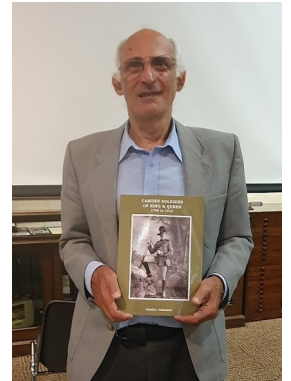
9 FEBRUARY - CLEM DAVIS

Clem Davis has been a volunteer at the Australian War Memorial for over 20 years, both as a guide and helping people trace family history from AWM and National Archives of Australia records in the online gallery .

In his talk he outlined what it takes to be a guide at the AWM including training and organisation of a tour.

Clem then provide a virtual tour of the AWM and told stories behind some of his most favourite people and relics on display in the AWM.

He also covered the commemorative area, roll of honour and hall of remembrance and the first and second world war galleries.



11 MAY - JEFF McGILL

Jeff spoke about his Scottish ancestors, Archibald and Barbara Peden, who settled in Camden in 1838, and first worked as labourers on Brownlow Hill estate, then became tenant farmers near Spring Creek, south of Mount Hunter village.

The Pedens' eldest daughter, Barbara Jr, married Frederick Seckold Jr, the son of one of the first vinedressers brought to Camden Park by the Macarthurs in the 1830s. The Pedens' second daughter, Catherine, married Alfred Cady, an Englishman with a mysterious past who had been a labourer at Camden Park.

Jeff explained the detective work involved in locating the exact cottage in Scotland that his ancestors had lived in before coming to Australia as part of the brutal 'Highland Clearances'.



Sharon Green above and Jo O'Brien right with Jeff McGill

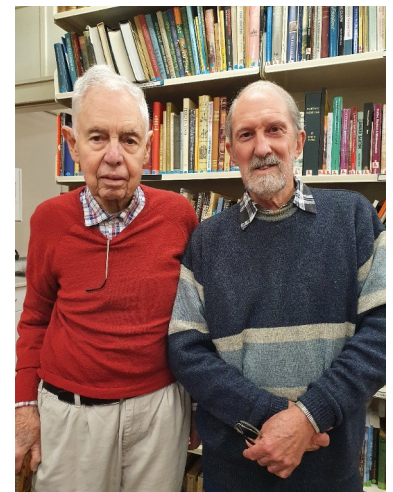
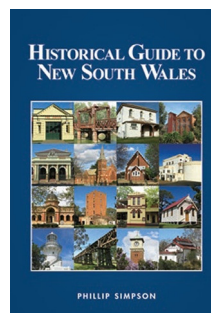


8 JUNE - PHILLIP SIMPSON

Our Past President and Life Member Peter Hayward OAM introduced his long time friend Phillip Simpson at our general meeting. They worked together 47 years ago on the National Trust (NSW) Industrial Archaeology. Peter described Phillip as being meticulous then as he is now with his new book 'Historic Towns of NSW'.

This landmark book attempts to collate the significant details of each town from 1788 to 2020. It gives details of many thousands of churches, industrial structures, public buildings, public works and utilities etc.

Right: Peter Hayward with Phillip Simpson and his book below



Editor's Notes

Upcoming Talks in 2022

8 June - Phillip Simpson will talk on his book 'Historic Towns of NSW'

13 July - Taylor Clarke, a Gundungurra woman whose people are of the Burratorang Valley - **NAIDOC WEEK**

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

14 September - History Week Theme is 'From the Ground Up' with member's talks

12 October - Bradley Warner on aged care health

9 November - Clem Davis with his WW2 talk

14 December - Members and guests Christmas Party

The SOCIETY'S FACEBOOK

We now have around 4,000 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

Volunteer Co-ordinator's Report

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 me.

**Please contact me if you are able to help.

Ian Ramsay: 0407 657 207

BUSY THREE MONTHS - March to May in the Museum

In between floods and COVID the museum has had a lot of group visits. They are:

* Every Monday from 1.30 - 2.30 pm U3A History classes are conducted in the museum by Michael Barry. If you would like to attend a class, it's free of charge until the end of Term 2 (27 June 2022).

Other groups are: Whalan Community Activity Group, Macarthur Anglican School, Canterbury-Bankstown Community Transport Tour, Carlingford-Nth Rocks Probus Tour, Turrumurra Probus Tour, Ku-ring-gai Probus Tour, Padstow Probus Tour, Forest-Belrose Probus Tour, Mini Discoverers with pre-schoolers from Camden Library and St Paul's School for museum, walking tour along with an art class with Roger Percy at the Alan Baker Art Gallery for 90 students.

** Many thanks to John & Julie Wrigley and Rene Rem for assisting with the Tours which includes a bus tour in the Camden District where John is the bus guide followed by a museum visit.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

WORKING WITH CHILDREN REGISTRATION WITH SERVICE 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 or Rene 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 or Rene for filing. Many thanks

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 2022 / 2023

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.

MINI DISCOVERERS VISIT

On Tuesday 17 and Thursday 19 May, the museum had the Mini Discoverers visit to see forgotten items for the Heritage Festival.

Below are some of the visitors listening to Rene show and tell. And below are more items for the little explorers to investigate.



WELFARE OFFICER REPORT



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

I have sent a get well card to:

Rhonda Ramsay - Hip replacement

My Contact details are:

Email:
janetsg@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0490 146 533