

NEWSLETTER

Camden Museum and Library Re-adaptation

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The Museum and Camden Library Re-adaptation is an ongoing saga. After consulting Camden Council the museum **will not** re-open in January 2006. Originally the museum was to close in June 2005. The museum should re-open later in 2006 after all work is finished.

Peter Hayward, John Wrigley and Doug Barrett are representing the interests of the society on the joint working group which is co-ordinating the project.

For the the museum there are three stages to the project. Firstly an external door will be installed at the rear of the museum onto Larkin Place. Secondly the renovation of the library may create dust within

the museum and the builders may want access to the common wall between the museum and the library. Thirdly there will be the installation of a lift in the museum by the builders to enable disabled access to the upper level. The integrity and security of the collection is paramount to the Society at all times.

In 2005 the society entered a partnership with the Camden Council Library to make shared use of the Camden Library/former Fire Station site.

According to the site will emerge as a social centre of Camden. It will conserve the important elements of this cultural and heritage precinct.



John St View of Museum and Library

Special points of interest:

- **Christmas Meeting:** 14/12/05 at St Johns Anglican Church Hall, Broughton St, Camden. 7.30pm. Bring a plate.
- **Museum close down from January 2006 until re-adaptation work is finished**
- **February Ordinary Meeting: 8/2/06, 7.30pm, Presbyterian Church Hall, John St, Camden.**

December Christmas Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on 14 December 2005 at the St Johns Anglican Hall, Broughton St, Camden., at 7.30pm.

It is our Christmas meeting and you are asked to bring a plate.

There will be a short business meeting followed by a special event.

By special request there will be a repeat of a highly successful slide show from earlier in 2005. John Wrigley will show slides of Camden taken by Dr Liz Kernohan in the

1960s and 1970s. There are many familiar faces and some that are not so familiar. Come along and see if you recognise yourself in one of the photos.

There are also photos of floods and other local happenings.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400
 President: Ian Willis 4658 0193 • Vice presidents: John Wrigley 4655 9210; Peter Hayward 4651 2253 • Treasurer: Ray Herbert • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Committee: Julie Wrigley, Len English, Bob Lester, Colin Mills, Milton Ray,

President's Message

I would like to welcome members to this newsletter. Its purpose is to keep members informed of our activities. We understand that some of our members may simply want to support the aims of the society. Whatever members motivation we want to ensure that you all feel that we are looking after your membership interests.

If any of you have not visited the museum in recent times, now is an opportune time. See the exhibits before the mu-

seum is closed down from January 2006 for the library re-adaptation. Check it out. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised by what you find.

The society will continue to be functioning normally during the museum close down period. Meetings will be held in the Presbyterian Hall next door to the museum. We will continue to answer letters and other enquires. Contact us by email. The museum will be regarded as a building site and access will be restricted. Any

questions on these matters should be directed to Peter Hayward or John Wrigley.

The society will have a range of activities planned during the close down period.

I would like to thank all those who have given me support and encouragement as the new president. There is still much to learn and the president is only the leader of a loyal and hard working team of volunteers.

Ian Willis



Writing this newsletter and the joys of computers.

Membership

Our members and volunteers are the most important people in the society. They are the society and without them the society would not function. All members need to be informed about society activities and this newsletter is a way of communication with you. Many members attend our meetings, but some cannot. Some of our members are

remote from Camden while others may only want to receive our Journal or support the Society's aims. This newsletter is for you.

Many of our members are volunteers at the museum. They are the lifeblood of the museum. If you are interested in chatting to museum visitors see Bob Lester about joining

the roster. Bob can be contacted on 4648 1593 (W) or 4655 9044 (H)

Bob has drawn up the roster for 2006 and it is available at the museum desk. The roster is effective until the museum close down for the Library Re-adaptation. This roster will then be re-started after the close down period.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the museum.

Speakers

Our co-ordinator of speakers, Werner Wollinski, attempts to bring new and interesting speakers to our meetings.

Last meeting one of our members, Bob Grey, spoke about his experiences while managing the piggery at Menangle in the 1980s and 1990s. Under Bob's management the pig-

gery was used by research students from the University of Sydney. Bob was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the University of Sydney in 1995 for his services to the University. The piggery was closed and sold off in 2004.

The October meeting saw Karen Farmer, a member and

local medical practitioner, give an informative talk on the family of John Macarthur. She outlined how through a reading of the existing publications she could tell a lot about the health of his family, particularly Elizabeth and her children. It showed the main ailments of the time.



Speakers are always needed for meetings.

Publications and History Pix

Our publications continue with the development of two new books by John Wrigley. One has the working title of *Place Names of the Camden Area* and is likely to be published in the new year when the museum re-opens. John also has in mind a collation of the best of the *Back Then* pages from the *District Reporter*. John has written well over 100 of these informative stories and the book will have around 80 of them.

If you are a budding author

put a short proposal together and submit it to the Society's management committee for consideration. Or give it to the editor of our Journal, *Camden History*, Peter Mylrea.

After many successful editions of *Camden History* Peter has decided the next will be his last. The new editor will be Cathy Shepherd, ably assisted by Colin Mills.

It is disappointing to learn that the Council has decided not to renew Jo Oliver's term as Lo-

cal History Librarian. The position will disappear at the end of November. Jo has done a sterling job of lifting the profile of local history in the Camden Library.

Peter Mylrea and Jo Oliver have working in partnership in putting the collection of photographs from the Library and the Society on HistoryPix. These photographs can be accessed on the internet on the Camden Library website at <www.library.camden.nsw.gov.au>



Pansy on HistoryPix

Report on Management Committee Meeting

The Society's management committee meeting was held on 12 November 2005 at the Museum.

The major item on the agenda was the close down of the museum. This is reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

John reported that he has been asked to write an article for *Wivenhoe*.

We will have an entry in the

National Trust Heritage Festival Programme for 2006. The theme is 'Industrial Heritage'. The festival runs across the state between 1-16 April 2006.

We will again support Camden High School Presentation Night with a donation.

Concern was raised about maintaining contact with our membership. This newsletter has resulted from those discus-

sion. Renewal notices will be sent out with the March Journal.

Concern was raised that the Society should have a similar fee structure to the Family History Society for use of our archives. Fees are given on the back page of newsletter.

Committee Meetings in 2006 are: 1st Sat Feb; 1st Sat May; 1st Sat Aug.



If you have any concerns raise them with the appropriate member of the committee or raise them at an ordinary meeting. The Society belongs to the members.

Report on Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter of Museums Australia

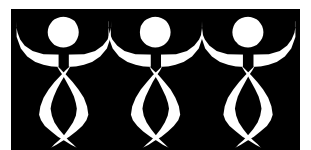
The last meeting of the Chapter met was hosted by the Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society. Our Society was represented by Peter Hayward and Ian Willis.

Desmond Kennard mentioned increasing concern in the USA over the long term viability of CDs and DVDs for storage in

of information. He said there is no guarantee that material digitised today can be accessed in 5 years time.

Museum reports were presented by Berrima, Wollongong, Campbelltown, Berry, The Oaks, Port Kembla, Camden, Tongarra, Gerringong, Bradman Museum.

The speaker was Peter Scrivener, Director Museum Development, Museums and Galleries, NSW, talking on the Minimum Standards Program. Peter Hayward reported that as a member of the program our society has an increased emphasis on strategic planning and identifying key issues.





CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 566
Camden NSW 2570

Camden Museum

40 John St, Camden.
General Admission Free
Opening Times
Thursday– Sunday 11.00am – 4.00 pm
Phone: Museum 02 4655 3400
<http://www.zipworld.com.au/~scrob/historical.html>
Email: camdenmuseum@yahoo.com

ABN 84 182 869 026

The Camden Historical Society was founded in 1957. Its aim was to tell the story of Camden. It did this by establishing a museum in 1970. The museum continues to do this by providing an entertaining display of information panels, objects, images and documents. The downstairs galleries lead the visitor through a history of the district starting with the original indigenous Australians, and the through the stages of European settlement. The galleries upstairs tell the story of the social history of Camden, with a particular focus on Camden's rural heritage.

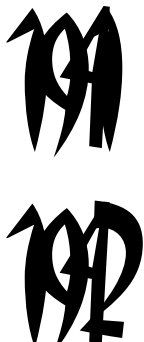
The museum is located in a two storey building adjacent to Camden Library. It is in the centre of Camden's historic precinct and provides an ideal start for a walking tour of the town.

The museum is conducted entirely by volunteers. It also receives substantial and continuing assistance from Camden Council.

General admission to the museum is free, although visitors are encouraged to leave a donation. 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.

CAMDEN RETROSPECTIVE

Comforts from Home



During the Second World War Camden servicemen on the frontline were sent letters and parcels from local people at home. The letters were sent by lonely sweethearts, wives, girlfriends, relatives and well wishers.

Letters contained sentiments of love, family news, local events of the town, and chit chat of Camden.

Letters would bring a moment of joy to the lonely soldier, airmen or naval rating.

Letters were often treasured by the receiver and carried for weeks or even months in the isolation of a distant land.

At the front the mails were infrequent and irregular and any news was an eagerly sought after item, especially from home.

Local people also sent their servicemen parcels of comforts, especially around Christmas time.

A number of groups would also organise parcels including the Camden Women's Voluntary Services.

In August 1941 it was reported in the local press that the Camden branch of the WVS had sent over 100 parcels to local men and women serving overseas.

The WVS ladies received many letters of thanks and appreciation from service personnel who were serving in many places including Tobruk, Syria and Malaya.

In 1942 a typical comfort parcel contained : 1 tin peaches, 1 tin strawberry jam, 1 tin full cream milk, 1 tin Arnotts plum pudding, 1 packet cigarettes, 1 packet Aspros, 1 packet Minties, 2 packets PK chewing gum, 1 tin vegetable soup, 1 tin coffee and milk, 1 tin Nestles cream, 1 tin red feather cheese, 1 tin veal and tongue paste.

Ian Willis, 2005.

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow, and make everyday count.
Albert Einstein