



NEWSLETTER

Camden Museum

To Close From Monday 20 March 2006 for Re-adaptation Project.

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The Camden Museum will close from Monday 20 March 2006.

This was the decision taken at the March meeting of the Camden Historical Society. Peter Hayward gave a report on the progress of the library re-adaptation project, and then moved a motion to close the museum. After discussion and questions those present at the meeting supported the motion.

This decision is in line with the action of Camden Library to close the library on 18 March 2006.

The library re-adaptation project was originally approved by Council on 13 February, but Cr Patterson moved a rescission motion to replace the glass roof with a metal roof.

The rescission motion was discussed at the Council meeting on 27 February and defeated.

The glazed roof was recommended by the architect in the original concept drawings. Peter Haywood explained in his report that a glazed roof is standard architectural practice for joining historic buildings of differing ages. The Historical Society lobbied the councillors in support of the glazed roof option.

It is envisaged that the re-adaptation project will be complete by November 2006. The preferred contractor for the project, Barker Constructions, will take possession of the site in early April.

The security of the museum

collection remains the highest priority for the Society during the project. The concerns are petty theft and dust.

The storage issue is currently being reviewed by council in



John St View of Museum and Library

their evaluation of the project.

Any questions about the project should be directed to Peter Hayward or John Wrigley who are the society's representatives on the joint working party for the project.

Special points of interest:

* **April Ordinary Meeting: 12/4/06, 7.30pm, Presbyterian Church Hall, John St, Camden.**

* **Speaker April Meeting: Peter Hayward**

* **Museum Volunteers Afternoon Tea, Sunday 19/4/06 at 2.30pm at museum. Bring a plate.**

* **New publication: Place Names of the Camden Area. Review p3.**

April Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on 12 April 2006 at the Presbyterian Church Hall, John St Camden at 7.30pm. There will be a short business meeting followed by our speaker Peter Hayward.

Peter will be talking on industrial heritage in the Cam-

den area. Industrial heritage is the theme of the National Trust's Heritage Week celebrations. Other Heritage Week events for Camden can be found on the Heritage Week website and catalogue.

Annette Macarthur Onslow provided a very interesting

talk at our March meeting explaining the origins of the *Camden Vale* labels that were used on fruit boxes. Fruit was packed under this label for *Camden Park*.

Supper Roster: Volunteers for April Meeting. Jos and Len.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400

President: Dr Ian Willis 4658 0193 • Vice presidents: John Wrigley 4655 9210; Peter Hayward 4651 2253 • Treasurer: Ray Herbert 9606 6075 • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Committee: Julie Wrigley, Len English, Bob Lester, Colin Mills, Milton Ray, Cathey Shepherd, Ros Tildsley, Dick Nixon. *Newsletter Editor*: Dr Ian Willis.

President's Message

I would like to thank the hard work of Peter Hayward and John Wrigley in representing the interests of the society in the library re-adaptation project. There have been a few stressful moments, especially in recent weeks. Peter Hayward lobbied all councillors before the last council meeting to explain the society's position and state our concerns about the project. This seems to have been an effective strategy as the rescission motion was defeated.

Peter reported at the March meeting that the councillors and staff appear to have an appreciation of the society's position.

The Camden Show (31/3/06-1/4/06) comes around again and we will have a table in the agricultural hall. A number of people have volunteered their valuable time to man the table in the agricultural hall. Any person who can spare some time especially on Friday, see John about volunteering.

Although access is restricted to the museum during the re-adaptation process, letters and other enquiries will be dealt with as best we as we can given the circumstances.

If you have any concerns raise matters at our ordinary meetings, contact the appropriate committee member or contact the society by email (given in this newsletter).

Ian Willis



The newsletter editor.

Museum Volunteers and Afternoon Tea

The museum roster will stop on the closure of the museum. It will resume after the work in complete later in the year.

A thank you afternoon tea for museum volunteers will be held at the museum on Sunday 19 March 2006 at 2.30pm. Bring a plate.

All museum volunteers have done a wonderful job giving

up their valuable time supporting the work of the society.

There will be a refresher course organised for volunteers before the re-opening of the museum. This will cover any new things that have come along because of the building project.

If you think you might like to volunteer after the building

project has finished, and you are not on the 2006 roster. No worries.

If you are interested see Bob Lester about joining the roster. Bob can be contacted on 4648 1593 (W) or 4655 9044 (H). Or see him at the ordinary meetings.

Wanted!

Museum volunteers after the building project has finished!

Give your name to Bob.

Camden Park Propagation Group

The garden at Camden Park House, commenced around 1830, is recognised as one of the best preserved examples of an early colonial garden and its founder, John and Elizabeth Macarthur's youngest son William, is recognised as a pioneer Australian horticulturalist. His achievements were prodigious and particularly remarkable when it is remembered that William was a partner, with his brother James, in perhaps the largest and most successful agricultural enterprise in Australia at this time, the vast and widespread Macarthur estates.

From about 1820 to 1860 William Macarthur grew over

3000 different plants in his garden. Some were probably quite short-lived but many are still there, an important component of the gardens and integral to its history. But the diversity of plants has declined over the years, particularly in the 20th century. For many years a small number of volunteers have helped with the maintenance and restoration of the gardens but this effort is about to be considerably enhanced. Propagation facilities are being built or modified and a group of volunteers being formed to help with this task. This group has four main roles: propagating plants for garden refurbishment and for sale; assisting

with maintenance of the gardens to a structured plan; assisting with garden open days (about four a year are planned); assisting with plant sales. Our expectations are that plant sales and income from garden open days will be sufficient to help materially with on-going maintenance of the gardens.

There will be many roles for volunteers to fulfil, including administrative functions, so, if you are interested in this project, or know anyone who may be, contact me on:

telephone 02 4655 3644;

email colin-mills@bigpond.com.

Colin Mills

Become a volunteer and gain from the personal experience of others. You may even enjoy it!

Review by Ian Willis**Place Names of The Camden Area.**

By Brian Burnett, Richard Nixon, John Wrigley, *The Camden Historical Society and the Camden Area Family History Society*, 42pp, 2005, \$15.

The Camden area has many placenames with colourful associations with the past. Some obscure, some common.

The authors of this book have listed 440 of them. They vary from those that are no longer in common usage and only known by a handful of people to the well known.

Localities that have fallen out of use like Hoare Town, Idaville, Varoko, Scirpus Mere have been brought the readers attention.

There are useful references to Parish Maps and general locations for rural properties.

Explanations of placenames vary from the concise to short histories, such as *Camelot* (p11). The text is supported by numerous illustrations and the placenames are easy to find in alphabetical order.

Although, it is disappointing that there is no overview of the context of placenames in Camden's local history, and no geographic boundary for

the area covered by the terms.

Family historians will find the list of placenames a valuable reference for specific and general enquiries.

The thorough work by these researchers provides a sound basis on which others may build in the future.

The book is an essential reference for any person interested in Camden's local history.

Bolton Farm

In 1884 owned by George William Cooper. (p7)

Spectacle Pond

A small body of water on Camden Park, south-east of Thurn's Weir. (p35)

Shankamore

Grant of 1550 acres to James Thomas Campbell. Portion 12, Parish of Cook. (p34)

How To Use *HistoryPix*

Camden Historical Society Photo Collection on the Internet

Get onto Internet.

Go to Google and type in Camden Council Library.

Click Pages From Australia.

Click Search

This will bring up a screen.

Click

www.library.camden.nsw.gov.au which is at the top of the screen.

In Quick Links in the right hand column click HistoryPix

This will bring up a search screen.

In the Keyword Search box type the topic wanted e.g John Street, Heber Chapel etc.

Click Search. This will give a list of all images for that subject.

In the column to left click Half Size. This will bring up the first image and descriptive text for the chosen topic. To go to the next image click the Next button at the bottom of the left

hand column or if you want to go back to a previous image click Previous.

IN CHOSING A SEARCH SUBJECT BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE OTHERWISE YOU WILL BE SWAMPED E.G. IF YOU TYPE IN CAMDEN YOU WILL GET OVER 1300 IMAGES LISTED.

Peter Mylrea

The Society's collection consists of approximately 2000 photos dating from about 1870 up to the present time. These are stored in the Museum under good archival conditions.

Southern Highlands & Illawarra Chapter Museums Australia February Meeting

The February meeting of the Chapter was held on Sunday 19 February at the University of Wollongong, in the Faculty of Creative Arts. The Camden Historical Society was represented by John Wrigley and Ian Willis.

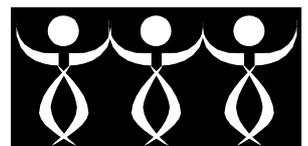
The meeting raised particular concerns about the future of

the Chapter, copyright, local heritage and heritage tourism.

The guest speaker was Elizabeth Brown who is the Regional Arts Development Officer for the Southern Tablelands. She spoke on the opportunities for co-operative projects between museums and arts bodies. She discussed a

number of case studies, how cultural tourism might be developed in your local area, and the benefits of joint community projects.

In the afternoon Glenn Barkley, the curator of the University of Wollongong art collection, provided a tour of university art displays.



The current art exhibition at the University is whattawewant.



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

The museum will be closed for the library re-adaptation project from 20/3/06.

ABN 84 182 869 026

MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$10

Family \$15

For Year Ending 30 June

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 then 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

Camouflage Netting

During the Second World War there was a need for camouflage nets. A number of groups volunteered to fill the demand. One of the largest in New South Wales was the National Defence League. It had branches all over Sydney and other parts of the state.

In the early days of the war a group in Camden made a small number of nets for the NDL. The nets were sent to Great Britain.

In 1940 two other netting groups were established, one with the Women's Voluntary Services and the other by the Country Women's Association.

Sibella Macarthur Onslow encouraged women from the WVS to set up their own netting group in

early 1940.

Rita Tucker the president of the Camden CWA went to the 1940 State Conference of the CWA and learnt how to make nets. She set a group at the Camden CWA Rooms in Murray St.

In December 1941 the emergency prompted Camden women to combine the two netting groups at the CWA centre. Women volunteered when they could and made many nets that were sent to CWA headquarters in Sydney.

The CWA newsletter *The Countrywoman* provide step-by-step instructions on how to tie the knots to make nets,

supported by photographs. The nets came in three sizes and were made on a wooden frame. The frames were permanently set up at the CWA rooms. Mrs Swan co-ordinated the netting activity for the Camden CWA.

The New South Wales CWA provided thousands of nets to Australian troops in New Guinea and elsewhere in the Pacific. They claimed that it saved the Australian Government thousands of pounds.

The netting activity stopped in Camden and across the state in 1943.

Ian Willis, 2006.

The man who is swimming against the stream knows the strength of it.

W Wilson