



NEWSLETTER

Making Progress Camden Museum



John St View of Museum and Library

ground floor and upstairs for the lift has been cut out. There will also be the replacement of the carpet throughout the museum.

Due to the disruption caused by the project for the society all our meetings are held at the Presbyterian Church Hall.

The old fire station will become the new local studies centre. It is anticipated that the Camden Family Area History Society will move into the renovated premises on completion of the project. The society is currently located at Narellan Library.

For those interested the council provides a monthly update of the project in a bulletin. It can be obtained from the council offices.

New Web Site

The society has established a new internet website. The address is <www.camdenhistory.org.au>. The webmaster is Steve Robinson. The site contains the material, information and links that were hosted by Steve and Christine Robinson on the family website.

The society shares the site with the Camden Family History Society.

The site is still under development and there will be changes in the future.

Hopefully items will be added to the site as they become available.

The aim of the site is promote the society, its interests and the history of Camden in general.

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The library re-adaptation project progresses on schedule, according to the council.

In recent weeks the slab has been laid between the fire-station and the old library building. A new toilet has appeared at the rear of the building on Larkin Place. There has been much renovation work on the inside of the old library and part of the roof has been removed to allow access to strengthen the roof structure.

In the museum the hole in the

Special points of interest:

* Meetings 11 October 2006, 8 November 2006. Presbyterian Hall, John St, Camden @ 7.30pm. All welcome.

* Christmas Meeting. 13 December 2006. St Johns Church Hall, Camden @ 7.30pm. Bring a plate and enjoy a social evening.

Meetings and Outings

The August meeting of the society was the annual general meeting. All office-holders were re-elected with the addition of Sandra Dodds to the committee. An excellent supper was provided by our supper volunteers. The supper was a treat to behold and greatly appreciated by those attending the meeting.

In September a number of members walked around the colonial gardens at Camden Park between the showers. They inspected the new Stove and nursery beds. The Edmund Burke is garden is making spectacular progress. On 8 October the society held a picnic at Macarthur Park to celebrate its 100 years.

The park was given to the town by the Macarthur Onslow family. Ros Tildsley has kindly organised these events

The December meeting is our Christmas meeting. It is held at the St Johns Church Hall. Bring a plate for the supper. We will have something special for you.

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., Sandra Dodds. *Newsletter Editor*: Dr Ian Willis.

President's Message

Welcome again to another newsletter. This newsheet is proving to be ever more popular. It is now distributed to over 120 members, historical societies, libraries and other places.

The aim of the newsletter is to keep members informed of society activities. The editor can be reached on email at Iwillis@aol.com. Ordinary post is OK as well. If you have an item send it to the society secretary and make sure you clearly mark it as an item for

the newsletter. It will be included as space permits.

Some important issues related to the heritage of the Camden area have come up recently. Our vice-president, John Wrigley, has taken a very public position on a number of issues. His public advocacy is greatly appreciated. John also continues to raise issues through the *Back Then* page on the *District Reporter*.

Doug Barrett and Ray Herbert have appeared in the local press in recent weeks. They

both looked very handsome.

Doug was expressing his concern about the NAB Bank redevelopment proposal currently before council. It includes a 2 storey retail addition at the rear.

In July two members of the society, Sandra Dodds and I, presented academic papers at the Australian Historical Association Conference held at the Australian National University, Canberra. Colin Mills has recently had a paper published in the *Australian Garden History* magazine.

Camden's Highest Floods

Camden's highest recorded flood occurred in 1873, while the next was in 1898. The shape of the town is determined by past floods on the Nepean River Floodplain. Photographs of past floods can be viewed on History Pix.

The Role of the Camden Historical Society

The role of society according to the constitution is 'to study and promote and preserve interest in the history of the Camden district in particular and Australia in general'.

The society tries to put these aims into action through a variety of objects. These include compiling records, collecting items and books, conducting a museum, arranging speakers, publishing a journal, conduct excursions and being affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society.

The society also undertakes a public education role by informing the local community about local history and heritage matters. It does this through members writing articles in the local press, writing letters to the editor of local newspapers, members taking a public advocacy role on local heritage issues, attending council meetings, and generally raising awareness of important matters related to Camden's history and heritage.

In recent months the society has taken a community leadership role on a number of issues related to Camden's history and heritage. As the urban sprawl of Sydney gradually encroaches into the local area this role is likely to become more important. Support the position of the society by writing letters to the newspaper, telling councillors what you think about local heritage issues and talk to your friends. It all helps protect the history of our town and district.

Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute

The Institute opened in 1990 on the old Camden Park Estate. It replaced the Glenfield Research Station. It has a number of laboratories.

Peter Commander Hayward OAM

The vice-president of the society Peter Hayward was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honors list in June 2006.

The citation states that Peter was awarded the OAM for service to the community of Camden through a range of church, historical and business organizations.

Peter graduated from the University of Sydney with a BSc (1953) and BE(Mech & Elec)

(1955).

Amongst his church duties he has been a parish councillor for the St John's Anglican Parish between 1976-2006, a representative on the Diocesan Synod, a lay reader, heritage conservation leader and a member of the bishop's council for the Wollongong Anglican region.

He is chairman of Macarthur Group Training Ltd and Macarthur Group Apprentices Ltd, and founding director of the

organization.

He has been a member of the Historical Society for 20 years, president between 2000-2002, and project director of the museum extensions 1997-1999 and 2005-2006.

He has been a member of the Industrial Heritage Committee of the National Trust of Australia (NSW), since 1995.

Peter believes in giving back to the community and was honored and surprised by the award.

Cowpastures

Governor John Hunter named the local area Cowpastures in 1796, after he revisited the area. The boundary of the area is vague and varies according to the historical source consulted.

Review by Ian Willis**The Towns, Villages and Suburbs of Macarthur, A Special Magazine to Mark the 200 Years of the Macarthur Region**

By Jeff McGill, Special Insert in the *Camden Advertiser*, *Wollondilly Advertiser*, *Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser*, 19 April 2006, 24pp. Free

Jeff McGill has long had an interest in local history. This publication reflects that position. He has rightly judged that there is a large interest in local history in the Macarthur area.

This publication is an excellent summary of local place names across the Macarthur area. It would keep the general reader interested for many hours.

Its wide distribution and free nature ensures that it is available to all users of local history

from the school child to the ordinary reader. This is the type of information that should be included in the new online Dictionary of Sydney, which includes the Macarthur area.

The magazine starts with an excellent map showing the 'patchwork' of localities in the region. It gives credit to the local sources that were used to put the publication together.

There is a short account of the

derivation of the name Macarthur. It follows this with a list of 88 localities and their origins. They are short and pithy, and cover the essential points. There are also a number of supporting photographs. It is disappointing that there is no index or cross-referencing.

This magazine deserves its wide circulation and should be an addition to the library of anyone who has an interest in the local history of the Macarthur region.

Review by Ian Willis**Autumn in Macarthur**, Issue 6, Number 4

By David Everett, *South West Graphics*, Minto, 112pp, 2006, Free.

Tourism is one of the growth industries in the Camden area and one of the largest industries in Australia. It is responsible for many visitors to the Camden region and this publication greatly assists that role.

David Everett, the publisher of the *Autumn in Macarthur* has revamped the magazine. He is pleased by the response to the makeover.

The magazine is a quality publication that gives a sampling of local history and what's going on around the local area.

The historical article is given prominence in the magazine as the lead article.

The magazine gives a comprehensive listing of all local restaurants under Cuisine. It provides a short newsy chat about each local eatery.

The glossy high quality of the photographs and the general presentation of the publication is a compliment to its founder.

It is pleasing to see the advertorials are clearly marked. This differentiates this publication

from those who try and portray advertising as news. It is a credit to the editorial policy of the magazine and it to be commended.

The reader of the magazine would be assisted if there was an index to the advertisers.

Everett notes that Camden has become 'a destination for foodies' and suggests that Council might support this idea. The council would do well to back this publication.

Partnership with the Camden Library Service

The society has been in partnership with the Camden Library Service for a number of years. This has a number of parts.

One part has involved the digitizing of the society's photographic collection by Peter Mylrea. These photographs are located on *History Pix* and

can be located on the library's website.

The society has lobbied for a Local Studies Librarian, and Jo Oliver has recently been appointed to this part-time position.

The library-readaptation project is also part of the partnership. This has involved the

redevelopment of the library, the fire-station and the museum. There have been progress reports in each newsletter. Each of these buildings will be physically linked. This will strengthen the role of the society within Camden's 'working country town' identity through the successful management of the museum.

**Oran Park**

Originally part of the large Harrington Park property, it was later broken off, and the spacious homestead was constructed in 1857. By 1871, Oran Park was owned by the Moore family, who later settled at Badgally. The property was later acquired by Robbins and Smith

**Glenlee**

The main house was built in 1823 for William Howe. The estate went on to be regarded as one of the best dairy farms in the Colony. In 1830, Glenlee's famous Sun and Thistle butter was the first to be exported to England. (p18)

Miss Llewella Davies OAM

Miss Davies died in 1999. She was one of Camden's colourful personalities and was usually accompanied by her dog. She was often seen in the town area dispensing advice of one sort or another.



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.camdenhistory.org.au>
Email: info@camdenhistory.org.au
The museum will be closed for the library re-adaptation project from March to December 2006.

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.

Historic Precinct

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 visitor can take in the charm and character of the buildings that are part of the late 19th and early 20th century Camden.

Volunteers

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

Research

During the close down period limited research is being done by our volunteer research officers as access to the museum permits. General enquiries are free. Specific research by our volunteers attracts a \$15 fee plus photocopying.

All donations to the Camden Historical Society Inc over \$2 are tax deductible

CAMDEN RETROSPECTIVE

Localism and Comforts

Localism or parochialism was part of the scene during the Second World War in Camden. It pleased some, like Camden's wartime charities. It was hated by others, especially the national wartime charities, like The Lord Mayor's War and Patriotic Fund.

Many wartime charities sent comforts to the soldiers. In New South Wales this was the responsibility of the Lord Mayor's Fund on behalf of the Australian Comforts Fund (the national body). The Lord Mayor's Fund conducted fundraising to send the comforts. For efficiency and fairness the Lord Mayor's Fund wanted the whole process centralised in Sydney. This cut down waste and duplication. This was ignored in Camden.

Camden wartime charities sent Camden men comforts parcels directly from the town. They refused to co-operate with the Fund. Local charities felt that centralisation was not what they wanted to be part of in the war. They wanted local fundraising to go to local servicemen on the frontline. And, according to Arthur Gibson of the *Camden Advertiser* in 1941, they did this very effectively. In Camden the main group that sent soldier parcels was the Women's Voluntary Services. They received hundreds of letters of thanks from local men and women at the front for their effort.

The Lord Mayor's Fund saw this type of activity as favouritism, where some soldiers would get more parcels than others. The Fund

complained bitterly about this type of local effort and called it selfish parochialism. In reality parcels received by soldiers at the front were shared amongst those present in the unit regardless of who sent them.

The Lord Mayor's Fund also directly appointed (without consultation) the shire president or mayor in each local government area as its representative. Most local council areas across the state accepted this position. Not Camden. Camden's mayor Stan Kelloway felt that the town did not need any outside interference in local affairs. He stated that the WVS were doing a great job and did not need any outside help or guidance. So he declined to represent the Lord Mayor's Fund in Camden.

Ian Willis, 2006.

The Camden Historical Society would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Hon Pat Farmer MP in the printing of this newsletter.

