



NEWSLETTER

Dictionary of Sydney Project Writing Entries

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The Camden Historical Society, the Camden Library Service and the Dictionary of Sydney are sponsoring a series of writing workshops at the museum.

The purpose of the workshop is to write entries on localities in our district for the dictionary's website.

Volunteer writers take a locality, research it and then write a short history. It is then submitted to the dictionary's editorial committee for appraisal. The author then makes any necessary alterations.

There are currently five voluntary writers who meet on Saturday mornings on a regular basis at the Camden Museum at 9.30am.



Localities that are currently being worked on include Camden, Cawdor, Cobbitty, Elderslie, Ellis Lane, Grasmere, Mount Annan and a host of others. Some have

been submitted already. Some will be sent off in the near future.

The dictionary will represent Sydney's story online as one of the windows into the permanent historical digital repository that is being built. The Dictionary website is the forum for this process.

The dictionary will have essays, stories, images, oral histories, art, documents, artefacts, sound and other things.

The website is <http://www.dictionaryofsydney.org>

Why Become a Volunteer?

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings:
Wednesday,
12 March 2008,
9 April 2008,
14 May 2008,
11 June 2008,
9 July 2008,
13 August 2008,
10 September 2008,
8 October 2008,
12 November 2008,
10 December 2008
7.30pm,
Camden Museum,
40 John St,
Camden.

There are benefits in becoming a volunteer.

Build Self-confidence. It can provide challenges that can be overcome and help increase self-esteem and confidence.

Decision Making. It helps people of all ages decide what type of work they might pursue.

Making Friends. Volunteering brings like-minded people

together in a common setting where they can work towards a common goal. They are likely to share your values and you are likely to forge new friendships.

Networking. Volunteering allows you to network with others who might be able to help you.

CV Improvement. Employers recognise the value of voluntary work to use exist-

ing skills.

Making a Difference. People can derive great satisfaction from being able to help others and receive gratitude that is shown.

There are even Health Benefits. Volunteering can give you an increased sense of well-being, improve your immune system, speed recovery, help anxiety.

Source: Voluntaryworker (UK)

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 OAM 4655 9210; Peter Hayward OAM 4651 2253; Bob Lester 4655 9044 • Treasurer: Ray Herbert 9606 6075 • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Julie Wrigley, Len English, Colin Mills, Milton Ray, Cathey Shepherd, Ros Tildsley, Sandra Dodds, Dr Karen Farmer, Werner Wolinski, Peter Mylrea. *Newsletter Editor:* Dr Ian Willis. *Webmaster:* Steve Robinson

President's Shorts

A highly successful **volunteers training afternoon** was organised by Bob Lester on 27 October. Volunteers were re-acquainted with museums procedures, including OH&S. These procedures have all been updated in the volunteers manual, a copy of which is always on the front desk. Keep an eye open for any new pages that have been updated. You need to add them to your own manual.

Organisations which have visited the museum have included Camden Probus, Camden Quota Club, Camden Rotary Club, Camden Public School, Wollondilly Senior Friendship Group, Dural Dis-

trict Historical Society, Blaxland and Glenbrook Probus Club.

Considering the closure in 2007, the **museum visitors** numbers throughout the year have been very pleasing. The total number of visitors for the year have been over 6000. The peak month for visitor numbers was April with 922, followed by March with 845, then May with 718. The monthly average was 545. Keep up the good work in welcoming visitors.

On 27 November Bob Lester and Doug Barrett attended the Powerhouse **Museum Regional Services Movable Heritage Seminar**, called *Local Collections: Global Audiences* at the

Powerhouse Discovery Centre at Castle Hill. Their attendance and lessons learnt will be put into practice in the development of museum management and practice. Any member of the society is encouraged to participate in such activities. It is only by taking part in these types of training courses that the society will keep up with developments in museum management and practice. We can always learn from the large professional organisations.

Bob Lester successfully organised a grant from Camden Council through their **Financial Assistance Scheme** for a mobile display screen, display cases and associated material

for \$2500.

In October Werner Wollinski was given an award for the **Order of Macarthur for 2007**.

Upcoming speakers

March Julie Watt Rheingau Family Reunion

April Insp P Albury

May Camden Characters (Memories) Night

June Pam Brown WRARG

July Camden Collectors Night

August AGM

October Dr Gabrielle Gwyther UWS Bankstown

Camden Area Families Project

The Camden Area Families Project is a joint project between Camden Council Library Service, Camden Historical Society and the Camden Area Family History Society.

The project celebrates the history of families in the Camden Local Government area from indigenous Australians to the present.

The project was instigated by society member Shirley

Rorke.

The project was launched during History Week in September by Deputy Mayor David Funnell, who gave it his full support.

Families who have settled in the Camden area are invited to submit information about their family. Each family is asked to: describe the factors that brought the family to the area; supply a family tree; supply family photographs; provide

recollections and stories which capture aspects of family life.

Part of the project is the idea of a Family Paver. Pavers with a family name and the year the family came to the area may be purchased for \$20. The pavers will be located in the Camden and Narellan area.

For further information contact Camden Council Library Service on 4654 7951. Research assistance can be provided by supporting organisations.

Book Launch

On Saturday 29 March 2008 there will be a celebration of Jo Oliver's children's book *Pilgrim* at the Camden Library.

Historical Society Website

The society's website continues to attract attention from interested users. The latest statistics have recorded over 6300 hits for December 2007. While that is down from a peak in September 2007 of 9900 hits it is still maintaining a high level of interest. This averages out at 5600 hits per month. 2007 started out with 3000 hits. This rate of usage of

our site means that there are over 1300 individual hits on the site.

Recent additions to the website include a virtual tour of the museum. This has been developed by our Duke of Edinburgh student Samantha Pacchiarotta. It takes you around the museum in a slide show.

Dick Nixon OAM 1919-2008

The society mourns the loss of a local storyteller and former president. Dick would always delight in telling a story or two about some time in the past. He had a vast knowledge of local goings on. He wrote books, newspaper articles and went under the pseudonym of Historicus. Dick was born in Camden and served in an anti-aircraft unit during WWII.

THE VOGUE FOR TWEEDS

Smart Sportscraft Skirts in tailored styles from £5/5/-

Box Jacket Suits in tweed, fully lined from £12/12/-

Tailored Suits in cocoa tweed, velvet trim from £18/18/-

Warm Overcoats in new tweed, straight styles from £12/12/-

KELLY'S

142 Argyle Street Camden

Source: Camden News 7 March 1957



Review by Ian Willis

Historic Pubs Around Sydney

Written and Illustrated by Gary Bell, Ginninderra Press, Canberra. 167pp. 2007. RRP \$37.50

The history of 'grog' is an integral part of the history in New South Wales and the Camden area from colonial days. The history of hotels is a part of this story. Hotels played an important role in the development of the early settlement. They had social appeal and provided venues for public meetings and places to do business.

Gary Bell has produced a record of the early pubs around the fringe of the city in settlements that are within a day's drive of Sydney. This includes the pubs in Camden.

Camden hotels are included in a

section on the early settlements of Sydney. Bell has provided some romantic sketches of Camden's early hotels including the Crown, Tattersalls (Plough & Harrow Inn), Commercial, Royal and the Camden Valley Inn. These have been juxtaposed with contemporary photographs of their equivalent buildings.

Bell provides a historical background to the development of the hotels in Camden.

The publication has 114 sketches and 157 photographs. Interestingly the sketches show that many 'modern'

establishments are not as 'pretty' as their Victorian counterpart with the iron-lace enclosed verandahs. Bell also provides useful maps that locate the hotels and a bibliography.

Unfortunately Bell only provides a sketchy outline of the reasons for changes to hotels over the years. Some are directly related to changes to social attitudes, temperance and legislation.

Overall this is a great addition to those interested in a sorely neglected area of study in local history.

PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL

CAMDEN

W.H. Farne

Solicits the Patronage that has been extended to this well known hotel

Guaranteeing all Liquors absolutely highest quality and True to Label

First-class Table, good Accommodation

Excellent Stabling

Source: Camden News 6 August 1914

Camden Museum Archives and Library

The society has put an additional page on the society's website outlining the details of the archives and library.

It states that visitors are welcome to use the society's small reference library for research in the museum

The page outlines the contents of the society's archive files. This includes newspaper clippings, letters, file notes, reminiscences, memorabilia, photographs, maps, oral histories

and ephemera. The files are listed alphabetically, although the contents are uncatalogued. There are over 620 files with key words to assist the researcher. Visitors are welcome to consult the archives and donations are encouraged.

The information states that a small photocopier is available and charges apply.

It is pointed out to those who consult the website that the society has limited resources to

undertake research. It advises researchers that if they are unable to visit the museum the society may be able to put them in touch with independent researchers and historians who may be able to undertake this type of work.

The website also informs the researcher that the Family History Society has holdings of local and Sydney newspapers, family records, shipping records, BDM and other records.

Appeal for Patriotic Fund

Sir - Now that there appears to be a likelihood of a long and bitter war, and as Australia is sending troops across the seas to help in upholding the honour and glory of the British Empire it seem acceptable to participate in the active work of the war may be able to do something to smooth the way for our sons and daughters who are leaving for the conflict. I would respectfully suggest that a concert be arranged to help any Fund started to provide comforts for the departing soldiers - if any practicable effort is arranged. I for one would be only too happy to helping organising an entertainment to take place at a very date. HJ Ashers, Camden.

Source: Camden News 13 August 1914

RHEINGAU REUNION IN CAMDEN

In October 1837 Edward Macarthur recruited six vinedressers from Mittelheim, Hattenheim and Erbach in the *Duchy of Nassau*. Casper Flick, Georg Gerhard and John Wenz with their families left Germany for London on 19 November accompanied by Edward Macarthur. On 10 December 1837 they left London arriving in Sydney on the *Kinnear* 23 April

1838. Edward, James and William Macarthur received a total bounty of £145 for the six families.

The families are celebrating 170 years since six German Vinedressers with their families arrived on the *Kinnear*.

The Original Six ~ Rheingau to Camden Park ~ 1838-2008 Reunion in Camden, NSW to be

held on 26-27 April 2008.

For enquiries contact Julie Watt by phone on 02 4683 3973 or email wattlebee@bigpond.com.

Register on the reunion webpage <http://www.twomeycontracting.com/reunion>.

The society is participating in the reunion.

PINKERTON AND FUCHS

*Special Value in Winter Suitings
A large assortment of Hats and Caps*

Two-toned & Austrian Velours, Hard Black Hats and Tango Boaters

PINKERTON & FUCHS

Opp Commercial Bank, Argyle St, Camden

Source: Camden News 20 August 1914



CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 566
Camden NSW 2570

Camden Museum Camden Library and Museum Complex

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>

ABN 84 182 869 026

MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$10
Family \$15
Corporate/Assoen \$75
For Year Ending 30 June

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 and Museum Complex. It provides an ideal start for a walking tour of the town area. The visitor can take in the charm of the many 19th and early 20th century buildings.

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.

**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**

Camden Retrospective

Baby Boomers - History in the Making

Camden, like the remainder of Australia, has its generation of Baby Boomers.

They are those born between the end of the Second World War and the early 1960s.

Arguably this group have had, and will continue to have the most impact of any social group in Australia history.

They have witnessed Camden grow from a small country town to an extension of suburbia.

Many of the members of the historical society are members of the Baby Boomers, including this writer.

They are a generation that is shaping Australia to their own attitudes and values.

The Baby Boomers arrived in the 1950s. They were a new market. There was the first vinyl LPs and the release of Bill Haley's *Rock Around the Clock* - rock and roll.

They are the generation of the Australian car, the Holden, and the forms of family entertainment is spawned, for example, the drive-in movie theatre.

The 1960s were starting to grow up and witnessed Beatlemania, the mini-skirt, the

Vietnam War and its moratorium marches, and 'flower-power'.

By the end of the 60s they came of voting age and their radical ideas called for a change. The Whitlam Government was elected after 23 years of conservative rule.

The radical streak amongst Baby Boomers was tamed and they enjoyed the wealth and comfort of their middle years in the 1980s.

Baby Boomers have continued to dominated Australian culture with their classic rock stations and conservative values: the 'Generation Me'.

Ian Willis 2007

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