



NEWSLETTER

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The Camden Historical Society has had a number of events in conjunction with the Camden Library Services and the Camden Area Family History Society as part of their partnership during History Week.

They were:

Walking Tour of Inter-war Camden.

A structured walk around central Camden was led by Dr Ian Willis. The highlights included the buildings that make up Camden's inter-war heritage. People's imagination was placed in the 1930s dairy town on the Hume Highway when the town had a population of 2500. The walk included the bank buildings, Presbyterian Church, Dunk House and flats in Elizabeth Street.

Faces of the Street of Camden.

This was a photographic

exhibition mounted in the family history rooms of people who have streets named after them in the local area.

Camden Faces Photographic Exhibition.

A photographic exhibition of the faces of Camden's past and present was conducted by members of the Camden community.

Camden Voices Website Launch.

This is a website that contains extracts from oral history interviews conducted as part of the Camden Voices Oral History Project. These interviews have been conducted by volunteers over recent months.

Faces of St John's Anglican Camden Cemetery Walking Tour.

A walk around St John's cemetery was led by historical society

member Janice Johnson. She told many stories of notable people buried in the cemetery that are detailed in her recent publication on the cemetery. Janice has been undertaking these tours on a regular basis.

Faces of Early Camden.

This was a number of short talks by notable Camden identities at the meeting of the historical society. They presented a short profile of their lives detailing some interesting events that they had experienced in the past. They were David Napier, Frances Warner, Rene Rem, Joy Aitkin, Trish Clark, Nikki Hayward. Comments afterwards indicated that this was very well received and people found it very interesting. These type of evenings will be held again. Perhaps you can tell your story.

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
13 October 2010
10 November 2010
8 December 2010
9 February 2011
9 March 2011
13 April 2011
11 May 2011
8 June 2011
13 July 2011
- Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the museum, 40 John St, Camden.
All welcome

Volunteering is good for your mental and physical health

Author Elle Housman states in her book *The Art of Happiness, A Handbook for Living (2010)* that volunteering has a positive effect on a person's emotional and physical health. She cites a study at Harvard University that feelings of compassion are accompanied by 'an increase in immunoglobulin-A, an antibody that can help fight respiratory infections'. In another study at the University of Michigan Research Centre found that 'doing

regular volunteering work... dramatically increased life expectancy and probably overall vitality as well'.

Another study that she cites was a several thousand person large study of regular volunteers showed that 90% of them described a volunteers 'high', characterized by 'a feeling of warmth, more energy, and a kind of euphoria. They also had a distinct feeling of calmness

and enhanced self worth following the activity'.

In the field of psychology this is called the 'feel good, and do good phenomena'. Professor of Psychology, DG Myers, at Michigan's Hope College states, that when we are happy we are more willing to help others.

Read more @ <http://ezinearticles.com/?Volunteering-is-Good-for-Your-Mental-and-Physical-Health&id=308982>

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Green, Robert Wheeler • Newsletter Editor: Dr Ian Willis. • Webmaster: Steve Robinson



Editor's Shorts

Bits and Pieces

There will be **Volunteers Training Day** on Saturday 25 September 2010. It will start at 1.30pm and will be led by Bob Lester. Afternoon tea will be provided. All volunteers are welcome.

At a recent meeting Peter Hayward explained the significance of a new acquisition to the museum's collection. It was a **stick barometer** from the estate of the Thompson sisters at **Maryland**. It was made by precision scientific instrument makers Negretti and Zambra of the United Kingdom. It is dated around 1870, has an oak case and is a 'fisherman's barometer'. Thanks to John Wrigley, Peter Hayward and Doug Barrett who organised the pick up from Maryland and setting up at the museum.

The society was introduced to **Camden Council's new Senior Project Officer in charge of Heritage and Place Co-ordination**, Lisa Howard, at a recent Library Partnership meeting. She is responsible for three areas: European heritage, Aboriginal heritage and Visual Assessment. Ms Howard has previously worked for Camden Council and has a background in planning. Her last position was with Shellharbour Council.

The society recently lodged a submission with Camden Council on the development application for **66 Macarthur Road Elderslie**. Unfortunately council approved demolition of the residence in July.

The society sent a letter of thanks to **Angela Pasqua** thanking her for her assistance whilst working as Cultural

Development Officer on Camden Council. She has taken up a position as manager of United Cinemas at Narellan.

The society has been hosting a cake that illustrated the history of the local area. The cake was on loan from the **Cake Decorators Guild**. The cake showed many aspects of the Cowpastures and was on display at the Camden Show.

On 27 May Doug Barrett and Julie Wrigley manned a stall at the **Lifestyle Expo** at the Camden Civic Centre. They sold a number of books.

The **archive room** continues to attract a steady stream of researchers. The topics that researchers were interested in finding more information about included a number of local families: Wood; Seckhold; Dingle; Wellings; Moore; Channel; Paling;

Forland; Dowle. Localities and the colonial estages are always a regular part of researchers interests and they included: Glenmore; Camelot; Brownlow Hill. Other topics were: Camden in the 1950s; Ice factory at South Camden; Camden floods.

A new **research files information sheet** has been developed. It is located on the table in the research room. Volunteers are requested to ensure that all researchers complete a form. The purpose of the form is keep track of who is using the society files and to see what are the most popular areas of research. Volunteers are requested to leave the form in the tray on the desk in the research room. A member of the committee will collate the forms and file them. Your co-operation in this matter is very much appreciated and is a vital part of the museum's ongoing feedback.

Show and Tell

The society had a 'Show and Tell' at the June meeting. It gave a number of members the opportunity to tell a story about a favorite item or an item with an interesting story.

There were six presenters who gave interesting accounts of a number of items.

Kadrienne Ireland spoke about a book from her grandfather. It contained a number of interesting verses.

Trish Clark told a story about a number of letters. A 1929 letter from a woman from

Bega, as well as a 1908 autograph book.

Bob Lester showed a coin cabinet with some interesting coins. He showed a number of replicas of coins in circulation that were issued by the Perth Mint.

Peter Hayward showed a geologists assay box which was rescued in a family clean out. It had many interesting sections that were part of the assayers equipment. It was also a fine piece of joinery.

Steve Robinson spoke of the memorial at St Matthews at The Oaks. He told the story of 'Our Jack' memorial at the church cemetery as part of the Camden Remembers Project. Jack is still a mystery.

Olive McAleer displayed a painting owned by Rita Bloomfield that was left to Olive in a will. Rita was a friend for 20 years and painted with Olive at the Royal Art Society in Sydney. The painting was by Alan Hanson.

Dr Peter Mylrea OAM

Member **Dr Peter Mylrea** (BVetSc 1952 PhD 1966, USyd) was recently invested at Government House with an **Order of Australia** in the 2010 Queen's Honors List. Peter received the OAM for service to the community, particularly the Camden Historical Society.

Peter initiated the society's

journal, *Camden History* and regularly contributes articles to the journal on a range of local history topics.

He was instrumental in founding History Pix which is a collection of Camden images. This has a joint project with the Camden Library Service. The database has currently over 3000 images.

Peter has been the society's archivist and has looked after the maps and other valuable documents. He has ensured that they were protected in mylar.

Peter's citation also acknowledged his work in the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Australian Veterinary History Society.

Camden Images

The very popular website developed by Peter Mylrea and Camden Council Library Services has recently changed its name to Camden Images and has been redesigned for easier use. The site has over 3000 images. It can be accessed through the website of Camden Library or Camden Historical Society

Donald Howard Book Launch

On 4 June 2010 there was the launch of Donald Howard's *Cobbitty's Finest Hour*. There were about 120 people present for the launch and nearly 100 books were sold, leaving about 50 to sell, for \$15 each. Thanks to all those who generously helped provide the excellent nibbles for such a large group. Donald Howard urged visitors to join the Society and a number of visitors took up his offer. Julie Wrigley spent many hours helping Donald with editing the book.



Hortus Camdenensis

Website @ <http://hortuscamden.com/>

Hortus Camdenensis is a database website which aims to correctly identify, describe, illustrate and provide a brief history of all plants grown at Camden Park between 1820 and 1861. It is an illustrated catalogue of plants grown by Sir William Macarthur at Camden Park.

The website was launched by Dr Tim Entwisle, the executive director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Trust, in August. He said that Sir William Macarthur 'made an incredible impact on gardening, horticulture and viticulture in colonial Australia'. Dr Entwisle maintained that the website brought the early life of the garden back to life.

Many of the plants listed on the hortus were listed in the catalogues of plants published by Sir William between 1843 and 1857. A large number of additional plants were identified from correspondence, gardening notebooks and other archival sources.

The website was the work of society member Colin Mills and website designer Nick Caldwell. The site lists over 3200 plants grown on the property. It is a work in progress and vegetables are yet to be added.

One of the most important plants on the website is the waratah camellia or *camellia japonica anemoneae flora*. It

is believed to be from a cutting of a plant in China dating back 1000 years.

The website includes botanical names, common names and botanical and horticultural history. It also includes interesting facts about Camden Park house and gardens.

Camden Park gardens are one of the most important and best preserved surviving colonial gardens in Australia, according to Dr Entwisle.

The website is highly commended to those interested in Camden's local history and anyone interested in Australian gardening history.

They Worked At Camden Park, 3rd Edition

A third edition of the society's book *They Worked At Camden Park* has been published to coincide with the Camden Park House and Garden Open Day.

The new edition has an additional 231 names added to the list of workers and their families. A new introduction has been written by John Stanham which outlines the early history of the property. This is complemented by a number of interesting photographs.

It is on sale at the Camden Museum for \$15.

MUSEUM VISITORS

The Camden Museum continues to attract a steady stream of groups and parties.

Amongst recent group visits there has been Camden Public School on 13 May with 90 students. On 20 May there were 90 pupils from St Pauls Primary School.

On 4 June there were 20 visitors from the Mt Druitt Senior Citizens, while on the

25 June Northbridge Probus Club brought 35.

Groups continued to call in and on 2 July there a visit by Mt Annan Senior Citizens. On 22 July there were 60 from Rose Bay Probus Club, followed by a group from Campbelltown Visitors Centre.

On 24 September there were 16 from Woonona Bulli

Legacy Ladies Club. St Pauls Primary School brought along 100 pupils on 9 September to have a look at the museum's Aboriginal collection.

On the front desk volunteers will find a diary to enter any group bookings that might be taken by telephone. The society secretary, Doug Barrett, will follow up group bookings.

Camden Park Open Day 2010

A number of society members volunteered to help out at the Camden Park Open Day on 18 & 19 September.

The weather was kind with Saturday being a fine sunny day, while Sunday a little overcast. There was a large crowd on both days.

A number of volunteers were involved in the house and staffed the rooms as visitors wandered through.

Quite a number volunteered to wander around the garden as part of the Camden Park Nursery Group. Sales of plants from the nursery proceeded well to aid the restoration of the garden.

A new edition of the book 'They Worked At Camden Park' was for sale on the day.

The open day has been a regular event on the Camden calendar for many years.

Camden Museum Visitors

The number of visitors to the museum in 2010 has averaged over 420 per month. For the eight months since January 2010 there have been 3,381 visitors. For the same period in 2009 there were 3,552 and in 2008 4,509 visitors. One week of the visitors book tells that these visitors come from the local area (Harrington Park, Camden, Cobbitty, Mt Annan) as well further a field (Canberra, Wollongong, Balmain).

Janice Johnson's new publication

Society member Janice Johnson has recently launched her self-published book, *If Gravestones Could Talk, Stories from the Churchyard of St John's Camden*.

All profits from the sale of the book go to the repair of the Cemetery Restoration Fund which is administered by a number of society members. It is for sale from Janice or the Camden Museum.



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>

email: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au

ABN 84 182 869 026

MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$10

Family \$15

Corporate/Assocn \$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 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.

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

Sunday Sport in Wartime Camden

A group of concerned Camden residents ran into concerted opposition in July 1943 to a proposal for Sunday sport for servicemen in the local area at Onslow Park. Servicemen in the Camden area were stationed at four military bases during the Second World War (Narellan Military Camp, the Eastern Command Training School at Studley Park, RAAF bases at Camden Airfield and Menangle).

Sunday sport had been banned at Onslow Park in Camden from 1925 after the council gained control in February of that year.

It promptly banned all organised games.

Even in 1941 Reverend Putland, the Methodist minister, had objected in a letter to the *Camden News* to cricket being played at Onslow Park on a Sunday against council by-laws.

In 1943 Albert Baker formed a soccer club and organised matches at Onslow Park on Sundays. There were objections and council called for a report. Council aldermen decided to resolve the issue with a referendum.

There was a flow of letters to the editor and editorials in the local press. Supporters of Sunday sport included AG Gibson, editor of the *Camden Advertiser* and St John's Church. Opponents included a letter from 'Wowser' to the *Camden News*. After this George Sidman, editor of the *News*, refused to publish further letters on the matter. Leaflets were handed out on the corner of John Street by opponents

In the end commonsense prevailed and Sunday sport was supported by the community 393 votes to 197, with 2 informal.

Ian Willis 2010

If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday ~ Pearl Buck