



# NEWSLETTER

## Street Names' Mysteries

Do you know the origins of street names in the Camden Local Government Area? If you do we need you.

Robert Wheeler is co-ordinating a project to find the derivation of all street names in the Camden LGA.

The project is building on earlier publications of the society, John Wrigley's *Pioneers of Camden including street names* (1988) and Brian Burnett, Richard Nixon and John Wrigley's *Place Names of the Camden Area* (2005).

Robert has been interested in this project for some time. As senior town planner for Camden Council from 1989 he was in-charge of allocating streets in new estates. He worked with Dick Nixon and others.

The street names followed a number of themes, for example, local historic events, families, sheep breeds and the tramway,

Robert is ably assisted by a number of keen volunteers. But he needs some help.

He has found many street names that have no sources. Examples include:

ALMA Road, Leppington; ANDERSON Road, Smeaton Grange; ANTHONY Road, Leppington; AUBERT Street, Narellan; AXAM Way, Narellan Vale; BACKS Place, Narellan Vale; BARRY Avenue, Catherine Field; BARRY Avenue, Rossmore; BELMORE Road, Bringelly; BIRRAWA Circuit, Mount Annan; BLACKMORE Road, Smeaton Grange; BLUETT Drive, Smeaton Grange; BONNIE FIELD Close, Catherine Fields; BYRNE Place, Camden; BYRON Road, Leppington; CARRINGTON Road, Bringelly; CENTURY Place, Catherine Fields; CHARLESWORTH Close, Catherine Fields; CHEVIOT Drive, Cobbitty;

COLBEE Place, Narellan; CURTIS Lane, Catherine Field; DICKSON Road, Leppington; DOBROYD Avenue, Camden; EARLE Street, Narellan; EASTLEWOOD Street, Narellan; FOSTERS Lane, Bickley Vale; FRANCES Street, Narellan; FROST Avenue, Narellan; GEORGE Road, Leppington; GRAHAM Road, Leppington; HADDIN Place, Kirkham; HAMILTON Place, Narellan; HEATHERFIELD Close, Catherine Field; HEATH Road, Leppington; HULL Road, Leppington; JAMAICA PARK Road, Ellis Lane; JERSEY Road, Bringelly. And more....

Do you have any information on any of these street names. Contact Robert @

[r.m.wheeler@bigpond.com](mailto:r.m.wheeler@bigpond.com),

### Inside this issue:

Editor's Shorts	2
Research and Writers Group	2
Camden Remembers	2
Linwood Visit	2
Cobbitty's Finest	3
Website Details	3
Research Room	3

### Special points of interest:

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

## Library Partnership

The major event of the partnership in the last 3 months has been National Trust Heritage Week in April. There was a record number of events conducted by the historical society, family history society and the library.

The Camden Remembers website launch attracted 50, the heritage walking tour group was around 50, indigenous story telling was listened to by 60, the night at the museum had 45 participants, Janice had 40 to her Thursday guided tour of St

Johns Church and cemetery and 12 on the Saturday, while searching military history had 4 participants and Maps from Macquarie to Millennium had 15. There were two exhibitions, 'A Diggers Best Friend' and 'Interwar Camden' which have been viewed by an estimated 300.

Later in 2010 there will be the History Council's History Week. This will held between 4-12 September at a number of

venues. The CAFHS and the library will mount the 'Faces of the Street' exhibition, the library will launch the Camden Voices oral history website, and the society will hold 'Faces of the street' talk. Janice will run her ever popular St John's cemetery tour and there will be a guided walk looking at the architecture of Interwar Camden.

A number of other events are in early stages of consideration. Keep an eye on the History Week website.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400  
President: Cathey Shepherd 4655 9963 • Vice presidents: John Wrigley OAM 4655 9210; Bob Lester 4655 9044 •  
Treasurer: Ray Herbert 9606 6075 • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Immediate Past President Dr Ian Willis, General  
Committee: Peter Hayward OAM, Julie Wrigley, Len English, Roslyn Tildsley, Dr Karen Farmer, Jenny Akers, Sharon  
Green *Newsletter Editor*: Dr Ian Willis. *Webmaster*: Steve Robinson



## Editor's Shorts

### Upcoming speakers 2010

**9 June** 'Show and Tell', members of the society,  
**14 July** 'Items from the Collection', John Wrigley,  
**11 August** AGM,  
**8 September** 'Faces of early Camden'.

### Bits and Pieces

**Visitors to the museum** in January totalled 288, February 346 and March 385. A total of 1071.

The society will purchase a **portable PA system** for guided walks. The walk leader will be able to wear a small amplifier. This will be particularly useful with larger groups that have been attracted to our ever popular walks during Heritage and

History Week. John's group of 50 people stretched his vocal chords during Heritage Week.

Society volunteers manned a stall in the show hall at the 2010 Camden Show. There was a table selling books and resulted in \$430 in sales.

The library is appealing to society members to donate intact old wooden toys to create a **'Museum in a Box'**. They will be used in storytime by the children's librarian. The Museum Box will have a number of themes including 'My Toys', 'My Library', 'My Family', 'My House', 'My Clothes', and others.

Ian Willis has been made a **Visiting Fellow** in the School of History and Politics at the University of Wollongong. The appointment is for 12 months and he will work on collaborative research projects at the university. His two

principal research works concern the Red Cross and one called 'On the fringe'.

The society has successfully obtained a grant of \$2300 to purchase a laptop and software. This is part of the **2010 Volunteers Grant** from the Australian Government's Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

The replacement of **museum lighting** is proceeding under the supervision of Peter Haywood. The project will cost around \$10,000 of society funds. A number of donations have been received and will partly offset the cost. Unfortunately the society's grant application for the project was not successful. Peter is currently investigating the best type of fitting for the museum's needs. Once that is decided the installation will be

carried out by Funnells Electrical. The lighting units are coming from Wandalite. This should solve the poor lighting that has been an ongoing problem for some time.

Society member Ian Willis spoke at the April meeting of Camden Council against the demolition of **Carinya cottage** at Harrington Park. The simple federation cottage is on the site of a proposed sub-division. The council decided 5 votes to 4 approve the demolition. Ian wrote an article that was published by Fairfax media. It can be viewed at <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/heritage-a-dismal-state-of-affairs-20100416-sjij.html>.

Vic Boardman received his second **President's Award** from the Camden Show society for his effort with the drover's camp.

## Research and Writers Group

In May Julie Wrigley gave an informative demonstration of the society's Mosaic software. This is the museum collection management software that the society purchased to look after cataloguing the items in the museum collection. Julie and president Cathey are the software experts. If you want to help in management of our collection see Julie or Cathey. The current project is to photograph all items in the collection. This is led by Janice Johnson.

Other members of the writers group continue to work on their individual projects. Amongst a host of projects

Robert Wheeler is working on John Oxley and his grant of 'Ellerslie', Ian Willis wrote an article on Carinya which appeared in the Fairfax media, Janice Johnson is working on 'Martin's Reminiscences' (1884)', Kadrienne Ireland is conducting research for a Boardman family reunion, Julie Wrigley helped edit Donald Howard's book, John Wrigley prepared an article on the USAF and Camden Airfield, Jenny Akers has an interest in Pansy, Rita Oliveri is working on Camden Temperance, and Steve Robinson continues to add details to the Camden

Remembers website.

New members of the group include Tess Madeley from Camden High School who is completing her Duke of Edinburgh Award. She is the second school student to take advantage of the group and its expertise in this way. In April Neil McIntosh explained his progress on a history of St Paul's Catholic Church in Camden.

Come along and tell others about your favourite local history project. The group meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month. All welcome. Next meeting 19 June, 9.30am, Camden Museum.

## Active Retirement Expo

The Camden Seniors Program Committee, under the leadership of Bruce Bunn, presented the **2010 Camden Active Retirement Expo** on Thursday 27 May at the Camden Civic Centre.

Thirty-four stall holders gathered from 9 am to 2 pm to provide an exhibition of organisations of interest to seniors. Camden Historical Society was represented by Doug Barrett, assisted by Julie

Wrigley. Doug did an excellent job of setting up an interesting display of books, photos, brochures and a laptop playing the DVD about Pansy, the Camden tram. JW

### Camden Remembers

Steve and Chris Robinson and Ray Herbert continue to work on the website. It can be found at <http://www.camdenremembers.com.au>. An added feature has been soldiers' stories.

### Linwood Visit

Roslyn Tildsley and Karen Farmer organised a successful visit to the historic house of Linwood at Guildford on the Open Day in March. It was attended by 12 members. There were a variety of stalls and afternoon teas. Entertainment was provided by a local band. On the way home there was a stopover at Fairfield City Museum to view their collection. A great day was had by all.

## Cobbitty's Finest Hour

by *Donald Howard* Camden Historical Society 56pp

On Friday 4 June 2010 at 6 p.m. the book *Cobbitty's Finest Hour* written by Donald Howard will be launched at the Camden Museum, 40 John Street, Camden. The book is Donald's reminiscences of his boyhood in the quiet village of Cobbitty during the Second World War, including some humorous memories of the 'Battle for Cobbitty'.

The book will be launched by Mrs Doreen Wilkinson OAM who grew up with Donald, and

when she was a girl rode her bike from Cobbitty to Camden during the same years as Donald. The book will remind many people of the pleasure of living in a picturesque village when the pace of life was slower.

Donald commenced theological studies at Moore College in 1962, entering parish ministry in 1966. Donald was minister at St. James', Menangle for seven years and acting rector at St. John's, Camden, for twelve

months. He is an occasional preacher, chaplain to the Camden RSL sub-branch, and the author and editor of several books, including *The Hub of Camden: F.C. Whiteman and Sons 1941-1942* about his experience of working at Whitemans' Department Store.

*Cobbitty's Finest Hour* can be purchased at Camden Museum and costs \$15. Proceeds from the sales go to the Camden Historical Society which has published the book.

### Website Details

The website continues to be busy. It has attracted over 11,800 hits on average each month between January-April 2010. April was the busiest month with over 14,000 hits. This amounted to over 30,000 individual pages that have been looked at. The key search phrases are 'Camden history' 4%, 'Camden historical society' 3.3% and 'Studley Park house' 3.2%. The top key word was 'Camden' with 14.8%. The busiest links were with Camden Council library service and the Camden Council website. The favourite pages on the society website were the 'links page', 'Camden bibliography' and 'files index'.

## IN SEARCH OF JOHN OXLEY

Robert Wheeler reports on his adventures in his search for the story of John Oxley. Robert's research on one of Camden's significant residents has progressed a bit. Initially he obtained a photograph of his home at Kirkham. The house was demolished in the early 1880's to be replaced with 'Camelot'.

Robert reports that Oxley also had a town house in Macquarie Street, Sydney. Its location was a bit of a mystery. He looked up a book that he had bought on

sale forty years ago for \$2.50 – Frank Clunes 'Serenade to Sydney'. There was 'St James' Parsonage' and a portrait of John Oxley. The caption noted that the Parsonage, was 'originally John Oxley's house... at the corner of King and Macquarie streets.' The site is now the Law Courts.

Robert recently ventured into the Land Titles Office (down in the basement) to obtain John Oxley's land grants. He was worried this task might be a little difficult, however within ten minutes he had found six documents and had

ordered copies.

Oxley's last and largest land grant was 2,400 acres in 1823 at Bowral. He died in 1828 aged only 46. In 1855 his family received a gift of 5,000 acres adjacent to the original grant, in recognition of Oxley's services. They built the first dwelling in Bowral, a bark cottage.

If any member has any information on John Oxley and his family, please let me at [r.m.wheeler@bigpond.com](mailto:r.m.wheeler@bigpond.com)

RW

### Research Room

Researchers are using the room and its files for a variety of purposes from school and university assignments to family history. Camelot, Studley Park, St Paul's Catholic Church, Glenmore, Camden Pharmacy and floods were popular. Along with local families including Moores, Wellings, Dingle, Seckold and Wood. When on duty volunteers are asked to encourage researchers to fill out the research forms. We will then know what topics are popular.

## Camden Heritage Walking Tour

A guided heritage walking tour was held on Monday 12 April, as one of the events of the National Trust Heritage Festival. Camden Library arranged bookings for the one-hour walk which started in Camden Museum.

John Wrigley from the historical society led a group of fifty people along John Street

and Mitchell Street. John explained interesting features of the Museum Galleria, Camden Bank buildings, Larkin Cottage, Macaria (including ghost tales), Police Station, Court House, John Street Memorial Park, houses in Mitchell Street, and St Paul's Catholic Church.

After the walk Camden Library

provided a delicious morning tea of scones, jam and cream. It was a fine autumn morning and everyone enjoyed the walking tour.

The event was a good example of the partnership between the Historical Society and Camden Library.

JW

### Macarthur Textile Expo

A number of members attended the opening of the inaugural Expo on Saturday 29 May held at the Camden Civic Centre. It was opened by Prudence Mapstone, an international author and knitter/crocheter. They witnessed a variety of stalls which were a mixture of local craft groups and craft suppliers. Members took part in a number of workshops including spinning, knitting and crocheting.



## 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](mailto: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

### *Outbreak of the First World War in Camden*

The **Camden News** reported on 13 August 1914:

#### **'Grant Us Peace Oh God'**

*'A United Service of Intercession for the Cessation of War'*

'On Sunday afternoon (August 9, 1914) this vastly important gathering of Citizens was held in Macarthur Park, Camden.

The Rev. H.A.C. Rowsell, the acting Rector of St. John's Church, primary conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. Canon. Allnut, Rural Dean, (Cobbitty), and the Rev. J. Gerald Martin, of the Methodist

Church. A most beautiful ceremony indeed. Perfect in concord'.

'The Union Jack, the insignia of our Imperial Nation Great Britain, floated gaily over the pavilion or kiosk at Macarthur Park. Every hat of man was taken off. A reverence deeply appreciated by the many old Englishmen, that, by age are out of service to His Majesty King George VII. It was a pleasing night of sympathy and reverence to the Flag of all Nations.

'After the beautiful prayer to God Almighty being read, the

first hymn was 'O God our help in ages past'.

'The Rev. Mr Martin then read from Psalm XLVI. 'God is our hope and strength.'

'The addresses by the Reverend gentlemen followed. [with a full transcript] Every word was listened to with deep thought and reverence; and reverently many a tear was shed. The sympathy was of one heart...'

'It is indeed pleasing to state that the Camden Town Band conducted the music to the voices of those present, a fitting tribute to our worthy musicians'.

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