



NEWSLETTER

Red Cross Exhibition Launch

The society hosted the launch of the exhibition 'The story of the Camden district Red Cross in war and peace' on Friday evening 13 August 2013. An enthusiastic crowd of over 125 people who enjoyed the evening.

The Red Cross was the most important organisation that was created on the Camden homefront during the First World War. It was also one of the most important voluntary organisations in the Camden district.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is the group of lithographs that were used as advertising and recruitment posters during the Second World War. These striking images are held at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The exhibition curator Julie Wrigley has worked hard, ably assisted by an enthusiastic band of volunteers. She says that the exhibition is 'drawing communities together and remembering the

community involvement in the past'.

The exhibition is funded through the Australian Government's *Your Community Heritage* program. Other parts of the project include a book (in preparation), a public lecture and online material.

Former Camden Junior Red Cross patron Penny Love Lipinski organised a display of children's material.

The different uniforms are represented by the display in the archive room with a backdrop of Red Cross images taken from society archives and Camden Images.

Red Cross ephemera is on display in the glass cabinets as you enter the museum, with the highlight being the prize winning mug for Baby Day 1943.

Curator Julie Wrigley has organised the story of the Red Cross on a series of story boards on display around the museum entry.

The St John's Mothers'

Union was influential on the foundation on the Camden Red Cross in 1914.

A number of local women from the Voluntary Aid Detachment saw active service as part of AAMWS during the Second World War.

The MC for the launch was John Wrigley and Chris Paterson MP, and Lara Symkowiak, Camden mayor, spoke briefly.

A number society members deserve special thanks for helping out with the exhibition. They include: Doug Barrett, John & Julie Wrigley, Janice Johnson, René Rem, Cathey Shepherd, Lee Stratton, Derrick Thorn, Eda Woodward, Margaret Wheeler, Joy Aitken, Jo Booth, Michael Booth, Peter Hayward, Brendan O'Farrell.

For more use this QR link



We Need You!

The society is in urgent need of volunteers, particularly to man the front desk of the museum. There are gaps in the volunteer roster due to the recent passing away of some of our members and the ill-health of others.

The museum also needs

volunteers to assist with displays especially in upcoming months with a number of anniversaries and celebrations.

Do you know anyone with an interest in the history of the local area? Volunteers

have to give only 2 1/2 hours of their time per month. Please contact the museum leaving your name and phone number. Rene will contact you back.

Rene Rem, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Phone: 4655 3400

Inside this issue:

Red Cross exhibition	1
Editor's Notes	2
The saga of the Oxley anchor	2
Retiring committee members	2
New history blog	3
New e-book	3
Charles Cowell	3

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings
- 11 September 2013
- 9 October 2013
- 13 November 2013
- 11 December 2013
- 12 February 2014
- Each meeting is held at 7.30pm at the museum, 40 John St, Camden. All welcome

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400
 President: Bob Lester 4655 9044 • Vice presidents: Dr Ian Willis 4658 0193; Rene Rem 0424 847 492 •
 Treasurer/Secretary: Janice Johnson 4655 3400 • Minutes Secretary: Sharon Greene • Immediate Past President John Wrigley OAM 4655 9210 •, General Committee: Cathey Shepherd, Robert Wheeler, Julie Wrigley, Roslyn Tildsley, Sharon Greene, Lee Stratton *Newsletter Editor*: Dr Ian Willis. *Webmaster*: Steve Robinson



Editor's Notes

Upcoming speakers

October 2013

Ian Willis – Red Cross in the Camden district 1914-1945

November 2013

Members Show and Tell – Old Family Photos

December 2013

Christmas function

For further details contact Janice Johnson 4655 3400

Events

The History Council of NSW **History Week 2013** is being held during September. The theme of 'Picture This' is being used for an active program of activities by the Camden Council Library Service, Camden Historical Society and the Camden

Area Family History Society. There is the online exhibition called 'How do you see ourselves?' drawn from Camden Images at <http://www.library.camden.nsw.gov.au>.

There is an exhibition of Jeff Carter's photographs called 'Beach, bush and battlers' at Camden Library between 26 August and 27 September.

There is a program of three joint events. There is a 'Mini Discoverers ...Pictures' which is a hands on event for pre-schoolers and their carers. It is on at Camden Library on Tuesday 10 September between 11.00 and 12.00noon.

Also on Tuesday 10 September is 'Bring in your own photos and make digital copies' at Camden Library. You need to book one of the 15 minute session slots between 10.00 and 12 noon,

2.00pm and 4.00pm, and a third session between 5.00pm and 7.30pm. The cost is \$5 and includes a USB to store photos.

On Wednesday 11 September there is public lecture at the Camden Museum by Charles Cowell called 'Photography and preserving old photographs'. It is on at 7.30pm and free.

The society was represented at the **June meeting of the Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter Museums Australia (NSW)**. The meeting was held at Mount Kembla Public School. After official business and lunch, the afternoon session was made up three parts. Tamara presented a demonstration of the Shellharbour Local History Blog, Historypin, Shellharbour Images, the museum website and the

library facebook page. The Berrima museum has put up a innovative fundraising page on Maitune. The website is being used to raise funds for a museum extension. The URL is a database @ <http://www.sh1200.org>. The Mount Kembla Heritage Centre is working with Dendrobium Mine to develop and promote community projects.

The society has launched a 4th edition of **The Worked at Camden Park**. The authors, Brian Burnett, Janice Johnson, Richard Nixon and John Wrigley have provided an expanded list of those involved with the estate. The new publication has a timeline of important estate events. This edition has 1999 entries which is up from the 1993 edition with only 800 entries. Entries have had been standardised and extra information added. The book is for sale at the Camden Museum for \$20.

The saga of Oxley's Anchor

The saga of the Oxley anchor continues as it has done for over the last 80 years.

Society members has been liaising with Camden Council about the re-location of the anchor. Many people are not familiar with its current location adjacent to Kirkham Lane.

Camden Council is currently examining the most efficient way to deal with a move of the anchor.

One possible site for the re-location is Curry Reserve next

to John Oxley Cottage, the local tourist information office.

The council wants to avoid any double handling of the anchor. A report needs to be prepared by council officers for approval by councilors. Council will need to approve any action and associated costs.

The anchor was given to the Camden community by the British Admiralty in 1929 as one of three across NSW. The other two were given to Wellington and Harrington NSW. They were sent to NSW

to commemorate the anniversary of the death of John Oxley in 1828. The Camden anchor was located in the council yard for many years. One of the first projects of the newly formed Camden Historical Society in 1957 was the erection of the anchor in Kirkham Lane.

A generous benefactor, Gordon Rowe, a descendant of John Oxley has given the society a donation which will be used to partially pay for the anchor move.

Street Names

Camden Council has been putting together a pool of street names for new subdivisions in the LGA. One suggestion was for new housing estates to reflect colonial land grants in the particular area.

Retiring Committee Members

The society needs to thank two long term retiring committee members, secretary Doug Barrett and treasurer Ray Herbert.

Doug held the position of secretary for 8 years and did a sterling job to keep control of correspondence, grant records,

members lists and a host of other duties. Ray became treasurer in 2000 and has done a great job keeping a tight rein of society finances and looking after the records in order during that time.

Their services will be sorely missed and their big shoes will be hard to fill.

Groups visiting museum

June - Cobbitty Retirement Village 25

June Macquarie Fields HS

June Austin Motor Club 40

July Antique & Classic Motor Club 20

July Nth Ryde Seniors Club 40

August St Pauls PS Yr 2 90

August Caringbah Baptist Church 20

August South Camden PS 30

August Macarthur Anglican Yr 8 30

October Bus Tour 40

October Hurstville Ladies Probud 20

New History Blog

www.camdenhistorynotes.blogspot.com.au

Author: Dr Ian Willis

Society vice-president Dr Ian Willis has launched a new history blog. The site provides a number of short stories on the Camden district.

A blog is an online site similar to a diary and provides the opportunity to add short and interesting stories about the local area.

The blog provides images to support the stories and serve to illustrate aspects of the stories.

The blog site is searchable by key word and phrase. There is also a summary list of posted

history stories.

The site is searchable by smart phone and provides an image and short statement of the blog entry. The user can then open an item of interest.

Most blog entries are on topical issues related to local history and heritage issues.

Recent blog posts include 'Picton hits the right note' and details a visit by the Picton District Brass Band at the opening of the Paramount Theatre in 1933.

There is an item on Kirkham which is the site location on the

hit TV show 'A Place to Call Home'.

The author has also tackled natural heritage issues and has posts on the critically endangered Elderslie Banksia Scrub.

Another item called 'Camden Park springs into bloom' details the September Open Day and the work of the Camden Park Nursery Group.

There is also an entry called 'Lost ranch-style houses' which details the demolition of a ranch-style house at 64 Macarthur Road Elderslie.

New E-Book

John Wrigley's 'The Best of Back Then' Camden Historical Society 2013

The historical society has published a new e-book version of John Wrigley's highly successful 'The Best of Back Then'.

First published in 2007 the latest edition published as an e-book has a number of advantages. It is completely searchable by keyword which allows a much easier way to get around the publication than the printed version. You enter the keyword in the search box and the computer will search all documents in

the publication for that word. The computer will search for each time the keyword in mentioned in the whole document. Alternatively you can search by chapter heading.

The publication is a series of Back Then pages from the District Reporter. They are placed in date order from September 1999 to 2006 and has a total of 78 articles.

The e-book covers a range of topics from local events like Camden floods, social events including weddings, colonial

properties including 'Brownlow Hill', 'Camden Park', 'Maryland', 'Talimba', 'Smeaton Grange', 'Oran Park', 'Wivenhoe' and 'Orielson', a number of articles about the Camden Show, Camden identities including Llewella Davies, Sibella Macarthur Onslow, Charles Tompson, Sir William Macarthur, Hugh McCrae, local churches including St John's Camden, St Paul's Cobbitty, and a number of localities in the district including Yerranderie and a host of other topics.

Public Lecture

Charles Cowell, Photographer

Topic: 'Photography and preserving old photographs', Camden Museum, 11 September 2013, 7.30pm.

Camden photographer Charles Cowell gave an interesting and illuminating presentation about preserving old photographs.

He demonstrated how an old photograph of the Camden Show with cracks and battered edges, once scanned, could be 're-imaged' with the help of Photoshop. This is a software program for graphics editing. There are all sorts of tools, plug-ins and other capabilities that

can enhance images of all sorts. Charles showed how spots, cracks and blemished on an old photograph can be removed to enhance its quality.

Charles explained how he reproduced a smaller image of Camelot for society purposes by taking 3 separate images then merging them.

He showed how he made a compilation aerial map of the

showground for the Show Society. He took several images then merged them.

Charles runs training courses for Photoshop for those who are interested.

Charles showed images of the family farm at Theresa Park from the 1930s and how he has enhanced it from the original.

Museum Visitors

The museum continues to attract a good number of visitors through the door. From January to July the number of visitors totalled 4,324. This is up on the 3345 visitors for the same period in 2012 and the 3676 visitors for the same period in 2011. This is a 29% increase in visitor numbers between 2012 and 2013 for the same period.

Camden Park Open Day

A number of society members volunteered recently at the open day for Camden Park in September.

They were located throughout the house and gardens helping visitors and answering their questions. Visitors could visit both the garden and house and many did both. Camden Park is one of Australia's most important Georgian houses and gardens.

Yearly Museum Numbers

The total number of visitors to the museum is maintaining a steady number. In 2009 the total yearly visitation was 5,327, in 2010, 5057, 2011 it was 5,735 and in 2012 there were 6,086 visitors.



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

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

Red Cross POW Appeal 1942

During the Second World War the *Camden News* reported in October 1942 that the following women had been appointed as collectors for the Prisoner of War Adoption Scheme. These women conducted weekly collections from their allocated area for the scheme.

Alpha Road and View Street - Mrs N Bates and Mrs H Southwell.

Argyle Street - Mrs D Bowman, Mrs KG Chapman, Mrs J Stibbard Mrs LF de Saxe.

John St - Miss M Whiteman

Menangle Road - Mrs FK Whiteman, Miss Townsend

Chellaston St - Mrs S King, Mrs

G Oxford

Hill St - Mrs Fussell, Miss GM Sidman

Broughton St South - Mrs L Huthnance, Miss E Gillespie,

Boughton St & Park St - Mrs CA Poole

Murray St - Mrs R McMinn

Barsden and Little Sts - Mrs N Lee

Oxley, Mitchell, Exeter and Elizabeth Sts - Miss D Burnell,

Edward St - Miss M Miller

Elderslie - Miss P Gracie, Mrs R Hughes

Camden Park - Miss E Hawkey

Spring Creek - Miss L Dunn

Mt Hunter - Mrs T Windred

Cobbitty - Mrs Harrison, Miss T McIntosh

The press reported that the Camden Red Cross was co-ordinating the POW collection aimed to raise £52 per year. Local residents could expect to be visited weekly by the nominated collector for the duration of the scheme.

The fundraising effort was assisted by the Camden Business Girls' POW Comforts Fund. The fund held dances, stalls and a number of fundraising functions during the appeal under president Miss B Stuckey.

Ian Willis 2013

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