

CAMDEN HISTORY

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CAMDEN HISTORY

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Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month except in January. They are held in the Museum. Visitors are always welcome.

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The Museum is located at 40 John Street, Camden, phone 4655 3400. It is open Thursday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., except at Christmas. Visits by schools and groups are encouraged. Please contact the Museum to make arrangements. Entry is free.

Camden History, Journal of the Camden Historical Society Inc

The Journal is published in March and September each year. The Editor would be pleased to receive articles broadly covering the history of the Camden district. Correspondence can be sent to the Society's postal address. The views expressed by authors in journal articles are solely those of the authors and not necessarily endorsed by the Camden Historical Society.

Donations

Donations made to the Society are tax deductible. The accredited value of objects donated to the Society are eligible for tax deduction.

Front Cover

Sidman-Sharpe Wedding, Camden Methodist Church, 24 January 1946. Left to right: Fred Sharpe, Ralph Sidman, Mavis Sharpe and Doreen Sharpe (K Cordina)

Rear Cover

Front cover of Ian Willis & Julie Wrigley (eds), *Camden Chinese Market Gardeners, 1899-1993* (Camden, Camden Historical Society, 2024) launched on April 6.

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Camden Bags Store: An Intriguing and Enigmatic Past

Dianne Matterson

By the time Walter Furner purchased Lot 6 (now including the shops from Camden Valley Meats to Medispecs: 152-160 Argyle Street) for a total of £380/10/- in 1893, the allotment was already occupied by two weatherboard shops, one of which was then used by Mr Furner as an office for his timber yard, and the other was the premises of Mr Marshall, a bootmaker and repairer.¹

In November 1902, Walter Furner began construction of a new brick building on the eastern end of Lot 6 that included two shops (152-154 Argyle Street) now occupied by Camden Valley Meats and Sarita's A Collective Emporium. Adjacent to the western wall of this building were several feet of vacant ground, then a two-storey shop and residence at 158 Argyle Street, which may have been the earlier location of Mr Marshall's boot making business, while a laneway on the western extremity of Lot 6 gave access to the rear of the allotment.²

On the other side of the lane was Lot 7, which was occupied by Thomas Stevens' saddlery. By the mid-late 1930s, the two-storey structure had been replaced by two shops – at 156 and 158 Argyle Street – of which only the former remains today. The shop at 158 was demolished in approximately the late 1960s and this land, and that of the adjacent unnamed laneway, was used to construct the building that is now occupied by Medispecs (158-160 Argyle Street).



Photo 1: Wrenches Shoes, Bulk Health Foods, Notley Travel Centre, c.1964-1965 (Courtesy Peter Riordan)

1929 Valuer General's Assessment: Prior to boundary realignment				
Furner's Lane: Pt. Lot 5 (Owner: W. Furner)	81' (24.5m)		Lot 7: T. Stevens-dillery	
	Formerly part of Lot 5 V/General: 15'6" x 175'	V/General: 40'6" x 330', 65'6" x 313'		V/General: 25' x 17'
	1929: Two shops occupied by Agnes/Elizabeth Cahill & John Wilson (152-154 Argyle Street). Built on 15' of frontage formerly part of Lot 5 plus approx. 27' 6" of Lot 6.	1929: Vacant land		1929: Argyle Street 1929: G. Armour (158) 1929: Laneway
Argyle Street				
Pe- des- tri- an lane- way	2024: Camden Valley Meats, Sarita's: Collective Emporium, office suites on the 1 st Floor		2024: Camden Bags Store	
		2024: Medispecs & former beauty salon	C'wth. Bank, Home Qtrs.	
Diagram 1. N.B. Not to scale. Source of information: 1929 Valuer General's Assessment Book; NSW Government Mapping Service (maps.six.nsw.gov.au). Diagram: D. Matterson				

Photo 1, which was taken in the mid-1960s, shows that the building occupied today by Camden Bags Store (156 Argyle Street) has only half the width it had at least until 1964/1965. The distinctive brick parapet identifies the building easily, while the portion remaining today is a subtle reminder of the former structure.

But what is the story behind the photograph? What riddles or events are waiting behind the image to be uncovered and explained? Will this building give up its secrets easily, or will it always remain an enigmatic part of the Argyle Street environs? There are many unanswered questions regarding the construction and ultimate partial demolition of the building at 156-158 Argyle Street prior to the appearance of the Medispecs' building, however, there is information available from which can be extracted a reasonable theory, a possibility, that takes into account what is known. As time moves forward, it is hoped that all the 'unknowns' will reveal themselves and either add weight to the theory or disprove it altogether. For now, the information currently available is as follows:

- Between 1902 and 1929, the 81' frontage of Lot 6 was subdivided into three separate lots as shown in Diagram 1. The internal boundaries between these allotments would become significant in the future.
- At some stage during Mr Armour's tenancy here, the two-storey shop and residence was demolished. This may have occurred in 1918, when the Armour family moved their home from the first-floor residence above the shop to a house in John Street.³ While confirmation of this date of demolition remains elusive, the former weatherboard building's single-storey brick replacement was, in all likelihood, part of the streetscape before the late 1930s.
- A photograph held by Camden Museum shows the laneway separating Thomas Stevens' building and the premises at 158 Argyle Street. The photograph's earliest date would be 1937 as, by this stage, the Stevens' former large and distinctive balcony had already been significantly modified in compliance with Camden Council's 1936 balcony ordinance. At this stage, 158 Argyle Street was occupied by a hairdresser, Morton Stone [1934-1938], but fellow hairdressers, George Armour [1906-1933] and Arthur Lysaght [1933-1934] had been previous tenants.⁴
- In response to the Council's balcony removal ordinance, in 1937 Walter Furner successfully applied for permission to build a new brick front with cantilevered awnings in place of the existing verandah on the shops occupied by Agnes and Elizabeth Cahill [152 Argyle Street], Nurse Atfield and the temporary premises of the Bank of NSW [154 Argyle Street] and Mort Stone [158 Argyle Street]. No tenant who

1947 Valuer General's Assessment: After boundary realignment					
Furner's Lane	V/General: 15'6" x 175'	V/General: 27' 6" x 330'	V/General: 38' x 330'		Lot 7
	152-154 Argyle Street		156-158 Argyle Street		
	1938: Fred Betts and Nurse Atfield 1947: Fred Betts, Wimpeys Hamburgers. Also, Camden Tobacco Supply & Floral Specialist (1949)		1938: R. Amor 1947: W. Driscoll	1938: M. Stone 1947: A. Baker	
Argyle Street					
Diagram 2. N.B. Not to scale. Source of information: 1947 Valuer General's Assessment Books; NSW Government Mapping Service (maps.six.nsw.gov.au). Diagram: D. Matterson					

could have occupied 156 Argyle Street is mentioned in the Council's balcony notice to Walter Furner. The new brick façade was in compliance with the 1934 Camden Council ordinance that required all new external walls fronting Argyle Street to be constructed from brick, stone or concrete.⁵

- There are no records of any tenants in a shop at 156 Argyle Street until January 1938 when Robert Amor [1938], a bootmaker and repairer, advertised his business as being 'opposite [the] Empire Theatre' and 'next to Mort Stone' who occupied 158 Argyle Street. This marks the first documented mention of a building at 156 Argyle Street.⁶ The bootmakers, Richmond (known as Ephraim) Buttenshaw [1938-1939], followed Robert Amor and then came William (Bill) Driscoll [1939-1948] and Keith Hamer [1948-1954⁺]. During these years, the hairdressers, Norman Lee [1939] and Albert Baker [1939-1953] were tenants of 158 Argyle Street.⁷
- The 1947 Valuer General's Assessment Book records the realignment of the boundary between the 40' allotment and that of its neighbour that had a frontage of 25' (compare Diagrams 1 and 2). This record shows that 13' were transferred from the 40' allotment to its 25' neighbour between 1929 and 1947.⁸

Considering the totality of the above information, one possible interpretation is that the original building on this site was at 158 Argyle Street and was of a size very similar to the current Camden Bags Store building; it was possibly built around 1918 after the demolition of the former two-storey building occupied by George Armour.

On the eastern side of the Armour shop were several feet of vacant ground,

while along its western wall the unnamed laneway gave access to the rear of the property. It is thought that the second shop (at 156 Argyle Street) – the other ‘half’ of the building – was constructed on the vacant ground between 154 Argyle Street and the eastern wall of 158 Argyle Street either just before, or as part of, the June 1937 application by Walter Furner to build a new brick façade and cantilevered awnings across the front of his shops on Lot 6.

The current building occupied by Camden Bags Store has a frontage measuring approximately 13’, so if the building was duplicated in 1937 its total façade would have measured about 26’ and would have straddled the boundary between the 40’ allotment and the neighbouring 25’ one as shown in Diagram 1. It is thought that, to overcome this situation, Walter Furner moved the boundary so that it now sat along the eastern wall of the building at 156 Argyle Street (see Diagram 2). This allowed the whole building at 156-158 Argyle Street to occupy one allotment without impacting the unnamed laneway on the western boundary adjacent to Thomas Stevens’ property.

While not contributing to the untangling of the puzzle surrounding 156 and 158 Argyle Street, the following snippets are still part of the building’s history nonetheless. When the 2nd floor was added to the building currently occupied by Camden Valley Meats and Sarita’s: Collective Emporium in 1905, stairs at the rear of the structure gave access to the residences above the two shops. However, today a doorway giving access to the 1st Floor stairs is located between Sarita’s: Collective Emporium and Camden Bags Store. Joy Riley (née Dunk) recalls these stairs being in this location from the days when her family owned the fruit and vegetable shop at 152 Argyle Street [1949-1960]. These stairs are a structural component of the Camden Bags Store building and give access to the 1st Floor of 152-154 Argyle Street via a doorway in the western wall above Sarita’s: Collective Emporium; as such this stairway has been part of the building since it was constructed. The earlier steps at the rear of 152-154 Argyle Street, while still in evidence at the back of the building, do not appear to be well used, if at all.⁹

After the departure of Albert Baker and Keith Hamer, other tenants of 156 Argyle Street were Premier Boot Repairs [1958], Camden Bulk Health Foods [1964-1976], Norman (known as Col) Shepard [1970-1990], Peppertree Bulk Health Foods [1977-1983], Doreen Shephard’s gift shop [1985-], Camden Disc [1988-1994], Camden Bags Store [1995-2024] and Camden Shoe Repairs [2001-2024].¹⁰

Percy Furner, who had been a Trustee of his father’s Estate since 1939, purchased Lot 6 after the death of his mother in 1951, at which time, under the terms of his father’s Will, the Estate’s Trust was allowed to cease. Percy bought both Lots 5 and 6 for £8,200 before selling Lot 6 to Camden Free-



Photo 2: Camden Bag Store 2022 (D Matterson)

holds P/L for £17,750 in 1961.¹¹

It is likely that by the very late 1960s, the shop at 158 Argyle Street that had formerly been occupied by five hairdressers, the Antinopoulos Café [1954-] and the Notley Travel Centre [1964-1968], had been demolished and, in addition to the land formerly occupied by the unnamed laneway, now made way for the Medispecs' building, and is now identified by the 158-160 Argyle Street address. This left the 'other half' of the building remaining at 156 Argyle Street as a singular reminder of the earlier streetscape.

Since the late 1960s and the demolition of the shop at 158 Argyle Street, few significant changes have occurred to the exterior of the remaining building at 156 Argyle Street. However, when the parapet above the awning is examined closely, in addition to some brickwork damage in the central section, telling evidence of the removal of the shop's 'twin' at 158 Argyle Street can be seen on the right-hand side where the original brickwork has been disturbed and patched. This has left behind a tangible reminder of the lost shop that now only exists in photographs. This small, unpretentious building does not draw attention to itself in the streetscape, but sits quietly, hiding away an

intriguing and enigmatic past. Perhaps, one day, all will be revealed.

Notes

1. NSW Land Registry Services: Book 814 #695 [General Register of Deeds – Old System Deeds]. *Camden News*, 19 December 1895; 25 June 1896; 16 July 1896. Camden Museum Archives: Address by Percy Furner to CHS, 13th November 1963; History of Furner Bros. P/L, Percy Furner, 1968
2. *Camden News*, 27 November 1902. *Walking Camden's Main Street: Argyle Street – Southern Side*, Peter Watson, 2006. Camden Images: CHS1197 and 3260 – photos taken between 1905 and 1911
3. *Camden News*, 8 August 1918
4. *Camden News*, 28 June 1906; 8 January 1931; 17 August 1933; 22 February 1934
5. *Camden News*, 13 September 1934; 15 October 1936; 17 June 1937
6. *Camden News*, 13 January 1938; 27 January 1938; 10 February 1938
7. *Camden News*, 18 August 1938; 25 August 1938; 1 September 1938; 12 January 1939; 23 March 1939; 2 November 1939
8. 1929 and 1947 Valuer General's Assessment Books. *Camden News*, 15 October 1936; 17 June 1937
9. Interview with Joy Riley [née Dunk], 2023
10. 1964-1965 photo: Peter Riordan. Phone books. Interviews with Joy Riley née Dunk, 2023 and 2024. Campbelltown, Camden, Picton telephone books. Camden Museum Archives: 1988 photo of 154-172 Argyle Street
11. NSW Land Registry Services: Books 2192 #920 and 2561 #157 [General Register of Deeds – Old System Deeds]

Honouring Brian Stratton

Lee Stratton

Fifty years ago, as a teacher of art and later a senior head teacher and deputy principal of Liverpool TAFE, prominent artist Brian Stratton became a resident of the Camden Local Government Area.

As Brian's stature as an artist continued to rise, he was the recipient of numerous prizes and awards, including being honoured as a member of the Order of Australia for his contributions to the arts.

Internationally, Brian has been recognised as a Watercolour Master by his award-winning works in Asia and Europe. He is also a Signature Member of the National Watercolour Society in America



Brian and his award winning painting with Denis Napthine, Premier of Victoria, Portland 2014 (L Stratton)

Locally, Brian has been a prolific winner of the Camden Art Prize, and the acquisitive community collection is privileged to hold more of his works than any other artist.

Brian has also contributed to this annual award by serving as a judge on five occasions. He was selected as the judge for the Art Exhibition held by the Australian Cultural Committee, which was run in conjunction with the Country Women's Association Centenary of Foundation Conference, held in Randwick in May 2022.

The Annual Camden Art Prize Inc. Exhibition, which will open on Friday, May 10th, this year, will feature a retrospective exhibition of Brian's works in the foyer of the Civic Centre as a tribute to his talent, 50 years of local residency, and community contributions.

The Civic Centre, scheduled for a major refurbishment over the following 12 months, will close for the work to commence following the Art Prize.

Brian and I are both long-standing involved members of the Camden Historical Society.



**Brian with his winning painting at the 2023 Camden Art Show
(L Stratton)**

Building the Cowpastures: The Legacy of Convicts in the Cowpastures

Max Walker

With the establishment of new British territory in the Cowpastures, so came the hallmarks of English settlement – one of which was convict labour. The Cowpastures, like many regions across Australia, were home to a contingent of convicts who were served their sentences in numerous ways — from engaging in construction projects, to labouring in the fields that would feed the growing colony. These men and women leave few records of their individual lives, though evidence for their time in the region can be seen in many of the projects that connected these rural pastures to the Sydney settlement.

In 1803, Governor Philip Gidley King authorized land grants in the region, and over time the Cowpastures saw the rise of wealthy landowners who had accumulated large estates and often had convict labourers and assigned servants working on their properties (Willis, 2017). Convicts were subject to the ‘ticket-of-leave’ system, which was standard at the time. Upon arriving in Sydney, the convicts could progress through a number of stages- towards a ticket-of-leave and eventual freedom with a conditional or absolute pardon. Should a convict not meet the conditions to advance toward freedom, he or she would face chain gangs, penal colonies, floggings, and possibly the gallows (Villy, 2011).

A majority of the convicts who would go on to labour in the Cowpastures were tried at Stonequarry Court of Petty Sessions or Cawdor Courthouse. Upon sentencing, the prisoner would be walked down to the gaol, where he was flogged the requisite number of times by the scourger. At this time, the gaol was little more than a four-roomed slab building near the bridge crossing Stonequarry Creek (Villy, 2011). The ethnic origin of the men was mainly English, with some Welsh and Scottish prisoners as well. In the 1830s, significantly more Irish prisoners were sent to Australia, and so court records indicate that, at least on the Razorback Road, the ratio of Englishmen to Irish was roughly 50:50 (Villy, 2011).

Generally, it seems that most prisoners who worked in the Razorback gangs were successful in gaining their ticket of leave. Roughly only 1 per cent of convicts would not gain their freedom, though multiple leave records of violent behaviour

and escape attempts, prolonging their time in their work gangs. Because of this, those who did not cause excessive trouble or were a party to bad behaviour leave almost no record in the bench books. If they did leave a trace to be followed, it is usually due to them receiving their ticket of leave or a pardon, and then almost never are their names recorded again.

Women would primarily serve their masters as domestic servants, while men were responsible for breaking new ground, removing trees and underbrush, and preparing the soil for agriculture, as well as tending to livestock (Villy, 2011). Convicts also engaged in construction projects, such as building infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and buildings, including homesteads for the landowners. One notable endeavour that showcases the work of convict labour was the establishment of Belgenny Farm. The farm, founded by John and Elizabeth Macarthur, pioneers of the Australian wool industry, relied heavily on convict work. Convicts undertook tasks ranging from constructing the homestead and outbuildings that still stand today, to tending to livestock and crops (Willis, 2017). Convicts were also responsible for the construction of the Cowpastures Bridge, connecting the Macarthur Home Farm at Belgenny and the Hassall farm at Macquarie Grove. The construction took place between 1824 and 1826, supervised by a fellow convict, Samuel Cartwright (Willis, 2017). Another major project was the construction of the Great South Road. Elizabeth Villy, in her book, *The Old Razorback Road*, notes that while only 250 convicts can be confirmed as to be assigned to the bridge project based on consultation with the Stonequarry bench books, it is likely that the real number is closer to 400 (Villy, 2011).

Convicts in the Cowpastures region typically lived in rudimentary accommodations. Many were housed in basic huts or barracks on the estates of landowners that were often cramped and lacking amenities. As a result, sanitary conditions were poor, with limited access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Subsistence was found in basic and monotonous meals, consisting of rations that included salted meat, bread, and sometimes vegetables (Villy, 2011). As a result, malnutrition and dietary deficiencies were common among convicts, contributing to health problems. The living conditions, hard labour, and limited access to healthcare took a toll on the health of convicts. They faced a higher risk of diseases, injuries, and physical ailments. Medical care was often rudimentary, and convicts had limited access to treatment (Lewis, 2014).

Convicts were subject to strict discipline, with harsh punishments for disobedience or misconduct. Common forms of punishment included lashings, solitary confinement, and additional labour. Of the more than 250 men who can be confirmed as working on the Great South Road, there are two recorded executions - Charles Smithwick and Patrick Cuffe (Villy, 2011). Historian John Hirst conducted a survey of the Cawdor and Stonequarry bench books and found that common crimes such as insolence, drunkenness, absconding and neglect of work were generally treated with a whipping. These whippings often consisted of 25 or 50 lashes, depending on the frequency and severity of their misdemeanours. The court was authorized to administer up to 100 lashes for a second offence, though roughly two-thirds of convicts who worked on the Great South Road received one or no lashes while serving their time (Hirst, 1983). In 1833, magistrates were required to write a report detailing the effectiveness of corporal punishments such as lashings on prisoners. Major Antill, the local magistrate, wrote in his report that the “skin was hardly broken” or that there was “no blood flowing” (Villy, 2011).

The Stonequarry Court would also punish convicts by assigning them to the treadmill at Carter’s Barracks in Sydney. The treadmill consisted of ten to twelve men grasping rails and walking forward until the wheel began to turn, which would then grind the wheat into flour. The flour would then be issued to poorer families who would receive roughly sixteen pounds of flour per week. One convict, Patrick Lynch, would be sent to the treadmill for two months on account of his insolence. While there he would be observed to determine his weight loss. Upon his leaving he had lost two kilos.

While evidence of the lives of the many convicts who worked in the Cowpastures is scant, some details of their lives are documented in the Cawdor and Stonequarry bench books. John Evans is one man, who was sent to Australia to serve a seven-year sentence. He worked on the Razorback prior to being assigned to John Wild’s Estate at the Oaks. Patrick McCusker stole sheep; James Tomlinson stole cattle; Daniel Shaw stole clothes from a fellow inmate and proceeded to break into the store for a frock, shirt, trousers, and a handkerchief. Thomas Day was found with a round of cheese belonging to Major Antill in his possession. Will Fitzsimmons was found on the road to Cawdor with a sack of flour undoubtedly stolen from the Macarthur farms, though he insisted that it was “given to him by an old shipmate”. For this he received fourteen days in solitary confinement, only to once again be found with a sack of flour and the same story three weeks later. His punishment was 25 lashes and 28 days of solitary confinement (Villy, 2011). In September 1833, Samuel

Crowder and Richard Fox broke away from the gang to later return with a tinder box found under Crowder's coat during a search. For this Crowder got 50 lashes, and Fox was sent to Liverpool to see a doctor, as a note written in the margin of the court proceedings note that he 'exhibits strong symptoms of insanity'. Thomas Ryan, a boy of only fourteen, was drafted into the militia and quickly deserted to return to his life on the farm. For this, the young boy received a sentence of fourteen years and would later be sent to Norfolk Island after a tumultuous time in the gangs (Villy, 2011).

Life as a convict in the Cowpastures region was rife with challenges. Harsh living conditions, gruelling labour, and limited freedoms marked their existence. Prior to 1830, much of the Razorback was unpatrolled, and there was minimal supervision over the convicts. Unsurprisingly, absconding was a common practice, as detailed by multiple entries for the misdemeanour in the bench books (Villy, 2011). Escaping was the easy part, and while a few convicts may have survived for a short time by robbing travelers, many were hunted down by the mounted police. Those who were forced to wear irons also managed to escape their bounds, often using the tools they were assigned for various construction projects to break the locks. Gang 41 at Razorback had some of their men in iron, Anthony Murphy being one of them. A search of prisoner's huts in March 1832 found a set of tools for removing irons. (Villy, 2011).

Even if the evidence left behind is often scant, the history of convict labour in the Cowpastures region allows us to paint a vivid picture of the challenges, hardships, and contributions of these individuals to the early English settlement in Australia. While the individual lives of these convicts are not well-documented, snippets of their stories can be found in historical records, revealing a diverse range of offences and punishments. The strict discipline imposed on convicts led to frequent corporal punishments, including lashings and the use of the treadmill as a form of hard labour, and those who caused trouble or were involved in bad behaviour faced harsh punishments, including floggings and solitary confinement. However, most convicts who laboured in the Cowpastures gained their freedom through good behaviour and diligent work. These convicts were also involved in various significant projects, like the construction of Belgenny Farm, Cowpastures Bridge, and the Great South Road, which remain testaments to their labour.

In sum, the history of convict labour in the Cowpastures region is a testament to the resilience and contributions of these individuals, who played a vital role in the early

development of the area despite the challenges and hardships they faced. Their legacy is still visible in the structures and infrastructure they helped build, serving as a lasting reminder of their labour and the enduring impact of their work on the region's history.

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Max Walker was a CHS public history intern in 2023 from Macquarie University.

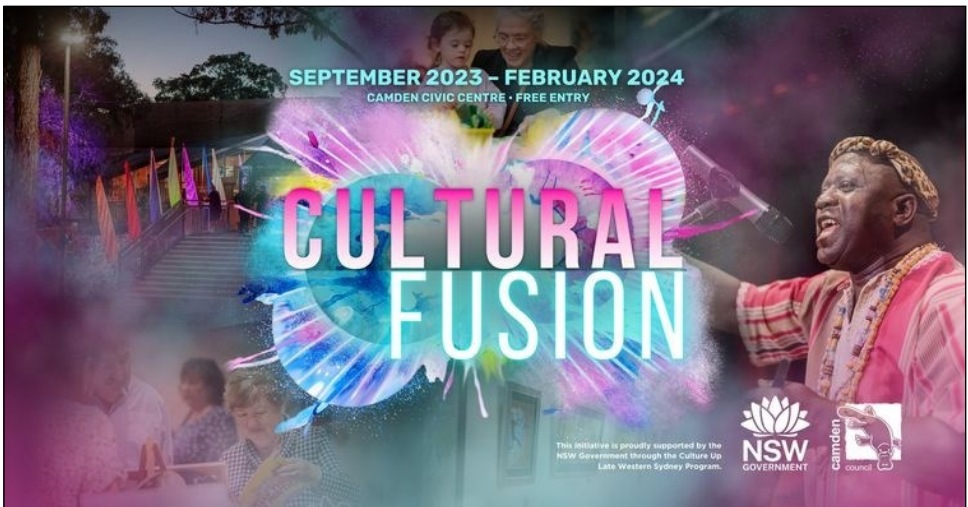
Camden's Cultural Fusion Festival 2023-2024

Ian Willis (editor)

At the end of 2023, Camden Council ran the Cultural Fusion Festival on three monthly dates, each with a separate theme, starting in September and continuing through October, November, and December. The festival then continued into 2024 with dates in January and February.

The festival's theme revolved around a 'multi-faceted cultural extravaganza' which combined live performance, inspiring art, bustling markets and soul-stirring music'. (Camden Cultural Fusion Webpage)

Each monthly event featured different performances, including market stalls, art displays, art installations, interactive art workshops, circus performers, children's performances, food trucks, and casual musical performances. Funding was made available through the State Government's [Culture Up Late Western Sydney Program](#).



Craft Artist Stall (September 2023)

In September artist Patricia Johnston had a stall highlighting the artwork of her mother, Mary Burt. In this short article Patricia tells her story.

Mary Burt, Weaver and couturier (1895-1988)

Patricia Johnston (nee Burt)

In 1988, Mary Burt died peacefully in Camden Hospital in September. She was just a month short of her 93rd birthday but leaving a legacy of her beautiful weaving as treasured family heirlooms.

Born in London in 1895, the eldest of nine children, Mary (Prosser) Burt arrived in Australia on the *Demosthenes* in 1922. She met and married my father, Arthur William Gilliver Burt ex-Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy in 1924, and settled in Ashfield, Sydney.

The aftermath of World War Two brought years of austerity to Australia that is hard to imagine in our present days of plenty. As manufacturers struggled to re-establish production, food and clothing were rationed, and coupons were necessary to purchase them. Clothing was the first to be rationed in 1942 and continued until 1950, with 112 coupons issued annually. A man's suit was 38 coupons, and families struggled to clothe their families.



Table Display at Cultural Fusion Camden Civic Centre 2023 with Patricia Johnston (I Willis)

My mother showed great enterprise and determination when faced with clothing shortages by making them herself, weaving and spinning fine fabrics, which she fashioned into beautiful garments.

Previously, in 1930-32, she had studied dressmaking and tailoring at the East Sydney Technical College, now the National Art School, and could draft and design patterns as a skilled couturier.

In 1947 she enrolled again to study weaving with tutor Mrs. M. Cleaves when Phyllis Shillito was acting head of Women's Handicrafts at East Sydney Technical College and, later that year transferred to the newly established School of Textiles at Strathfield because it was a more convenient location to travel there from her Ashfield home.

My father used his engineering skills to build a 36-inch (91.5 cm) loom from the 24-inch blueprint my mother brought home, so the great enterprise began. Her first experiments in weaving were studying the intricate peddling patterns of some traditional Swedish weaving produced in cotton, linen and wool, table mats, surf towels, napkins and even small rugs.

In 1947, she visited the first exhibition of the newly established Weavers and Spinners Guild with Professor Priestley as its president, and she promptly joined the society, becoming involved with its buying committee in 1964 to purchase commercial yarns cheaply for handweavers. With this 19-cut thread, she was able to produce fine tweed weaving, often using 24 threads to the inch (2 1/2 cm).

My duties as a young teenager were to hold the 862 threads at an even tension as my mother rolled the extensive yardage warp onto the loom roller. Then came the intricate process of threading up the loom so that a shed was formed through which the shuttle carrying the weft thread could be thrown and beaten down with a large comb. Any mistakes in the threading process would appear as flaws throughout the fabric, so this demanded great patience and accuracy. Meticulous records were kept noting the weight of the yarn before weaving, the length and breadth of the cloth before and after the scouring or washing and the beginning and finishing times of the actual weaving process.

In 1964, after a week's course to learn spinning at 'Allambie' Royal National Park, her interest in spinning grew, and she was asked to demonstrate this new skill at the Royal Easter Show, Sydney on a new Ashford wheel. Her weaving now included handspun warps and wefts in fine weaving as well as course plaid rugs in the natural fleece colours of grey, brown, and white. She



made one of these for each family member to remember her in her last years.

In 1970, the Weavers and Spinners Guild made her an honorary member.

But this was not the end of her weaving enterprises, for in 1976, she was inspired to spend a fortnight in Southern France weaving with M. Drouin at Venasque, Provence. He had trained in the famous Gobelin tapestry factory, which was founded by King Louis XIV in 1662 to produce handwoven tapestries for his various palaces and still

produces tapestries today. M. Drouin was a designer for the factory specialising in high warp tapestry weaving, and he taught his skills in his studio in the beautiful village of Venasque.

It was a memorable stay with a rigorous six-hour weaving routine each day, broken only by delicious cuisine lunches of 6 or 7 courses produced by Mme. Drouin. She shopped each day for the cheese, bread, fresh vegetables, and meat that the group consumed, and my mother noted that they ate six loaves of bread and four pitchers of wine every day.

With all instructions given in French, Mary produced a lovely tapestry in two weeks. She had been practising French for several years to prepare herself for this adventure, which was quite a triumph for an 81-year-old.

Sadly, as her health and eyesight faded, she came to live in Camden in 1978 for the last ten years of her life but continued to produce her little plaid knee

rugs and won several prizes when exhibiting her weaving in the Camden Show Arts and Crafts Section.

Dance and Music Groups

Las Flamenksa

In October 2023 a Flamenco dance group called ‘Las Falemkas’ performed a set of lively dances that provided captivating entertainment in their colourful costumes. The group is choreographed by the highly acclaimed dance artist Pepa Molina who provides a contemporary interpretation of Flamenco in turns, footwork and artistry ‘combining traditional and contemporary influences’. (www.pepamolina.com)

Flamenco, also known as ‘Spanish Dance,’ is from the south of Spain and derives influences from a range of cultures around the world. The contemporary dance group's colourful and vibrant performance in the Camden Civic Centre entranced all who saw it.



Las Flamenkas Dance Company (Fernando_Gaggero)

World's Collide Band

The World's Collide Band provided interesting and vibrant musical performances across several festival dates in 2023. The Cultural Fusion promotional website says:

A concert by Worlds Collide, an ARIA-nominated band fusing seven cultures, hip hop rhymes, melodic hooks, African percussion, Latin drums, Silk Road melodies and rock guitars.

The band boasts a mixed collection of cultures with members coming from the Uyghur culture, Ghana, Uruguay, Philippines, and Indonesia with their key message of 'inclusivity, cultural pride, social justice and a whole lot of fun'. Their music allows audiences to dance and participate in call-and-response chants 'that elevate the mind'. (<https://www.worldscollidemusic.com.au/>) The band tours extensively across rural and regional, and city Australia.



World's Collide Band (Camden Council)



Pink Lotus Vietnamese Dance Group Cultural Fusion 2023 (I Willis)

Pink Lotus Vietnamese Traditional Dance Group

Camden-based Vietnamese dance group Pink Lotus performed at the November 2023 Fusion night at the Camden Civic Centre as part of the Viet Bamboo's showcase of Vietnamese instruments, dance and traditional dress.

Pink Lotus performs traditional Vietnamese dance under the direction of Minh Ha Dinh, a Vietnamese musician who plays a variety of traditional Vietnamese instruments. The group was formed in early 2023 and consists of six people ages 20 to 60.

The dance group's mission is to promote Vietnamese culture in Australia. We appreciate having a home here and want to contribute to building a vibrant, multicultural community. Pink Lotus has performed a variety of events in the Camden area and Western Sydney suburbs. (<https://www.facebook.com/pinklotusdancegroup>)



The Honey Sippers in performance (Honeysippers)

The Honey Sippers

The Honey Sippers, an acoustic duo, are familiar faces around their home town Camden. They regularly perform at markets, festivals, community events and other local and surrounding music venues. Mark, with finger-picking guitar, and Trish, with unique and versatile vocals, perform music that appeals to audiences of all ages. They have an extensive and surprising repertoire – with a mixture of styles – blues, folk, soft rock and jazz. Audiences enjoy hearing songs they know and love and experiencing new music, including Honey Sipper originals.

Trish and Mark provide a welcoming atmosphere with an easy style suitable to any venue and special event. The most frequent feedback they receive, and the comment they most cherish, is “I could listen to you all day” (<https://www.macarthurentertainment.com.au/artists/the-honey-sippers>)

Childrens Activities

The December, January and February Cultural Fusion events had a particular children focus. Activities for children included artworks shops, Selfies with Santa, and a host of other items. They were the most success Fusion nights.

There was a petting zoo with sheep, goats, bunnies and other animals, Paw Patrol Jumping Castle, Concrete Riders’ Skate Demo, Face Painting, Photo-



booth – capture memories with your loved ones and Vintage Garden Games.

History and Heritage

Volunteers from the Camden Historical Society led a walk around the John Street heritage precinct and conducted ‘A Night at the Museum’ with a sneak peek behind the scenes at the Camden Museum in February 2024. This was a first for the Camden Historical Society and was well received by around 18 visitors on the tour.

Camden Area Family History Society members conducted an introductory session into family history.

These were new events for both societies and were very successful.

Historical Walking Tour led by Ian Willis in John Street outside Police Barracks Camden 2024 (J O’Brien)





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CAMDEN MUSEUM

Explore

AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY
GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC JOHN STREET
SNEAK PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE MUSEUM

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY 5.30-8PM

Book Now



This initiative is proudly supported by the NSW Government through the Culture Up Late Western Sydney Program.



Cruising Camden

Ian Ramsay

There are currently two means to cruise Camden. One is to own or know someone who owns a mean street machine or vintage car and participate in Camden Under The Stars, which involves a slow and steady street crawl along Argyle Street on a designated night.

However, there is a much better alternative, and that is to enjoy the sights of Camden aboard an On Course Tours & Travel bus tour.

I once again had the pleasure of taking 30 members of the Roseville Probuss Club on a tour of Camden on 28 February 2024.

Whilst we could not conduct the tour in a street-legal hot rod, we did the tour in the comfort of one of the company coaches with our very capable driver, Hans.

This particular tour was slightly different as the number of ladies hopelessly outnumbered the males, but nonetheless, it still made for a great tour.

One factor that I found interesting was the number of questions that I was asked by the group about the Rotolactor at Menangle. There was disappointment when I advised the group that we would not be visiting the area. Perhaps this is something that we could consider for future tours.

Following our one-hour tour, which started at the front of the Museum and took us through Grasmere and past the Sydney Uni Vet Campus, we proceeded to Cobbitty and then conducted a round trip that brought us back to the Museum.

From this point, the tour group then undertook a visit to the Museum, which they greatly enjoyed and appreciated, and it was interesting to note that one lady commented on the excellent layout and presentation of the Museum.

The success of these tours is based on recommendations, and it is obvious that people appreciate our efforts and the time that we invest in them. So, we must maintain this service, which is proving to be a real asset not just to the Museum but also to Camden, as these tours inject a considerable amount of money into the local economy.



This is the bus tour from the Ku-ring-gai Council organised tour which consisted of 20 seniors who participated in this Council organised visit to Camden Museum on 14 March 2024. Ian Ramsay reports that they thoroughly enjoyed their visit. (Ian Ramsay)

Mavis Sidman celebrates her 100th birthday

Kellee Cordina

On the 10th March 2024, Mavis Sidman of Camden, celebrated the remarkable milestone of her 100th birthday. A century of memories growing up in Camden.

Mavis Martha Sharpe was born on the 10th March 1924 at Nurse Taplin's home in Oxley Street, Camden, daughter of Cecil Havelock Sharpe and Ivy 'Millie' Mildred Sharpe (nee Kelloway). Mavis was the eldest of three children including; younger brother Frederick and a younger sister Doreen (deceased).

Cecil, Millie, Mavis, Frederick and Doreen, lived on a dairy farm on the outskirts of Camden, at the time referred to as Mt Hunter. Cecil purchased the property in the early 1920s. Originally it had been built by the



**Mavis Martha Sharpe -
1924 (K Cordina)**



The Sharpe family farm at Oaks Road, Mt Hunter (K Cordina)

Macarthur family. At the time Cecil considered a number of nearby properties, however, decided on this home overlooking Camden, which so happened to be next door to the home of Millie's parents, Stephen and Prudence Kelloway. The Sharpe children have fond memories of growing up next door to their Kelloway relatives. Never short of visitors, with so many Uncles, Aunties and Cousins nearby.

Mavis Martha Sharpe was baptised at the Camden Methodist Church by Rev AH Johnstone on 22nd April 1924. With the family's Wesleyan heritage, Mavis and her siblings attended Sunday School at Cawdor Methodist Church. Along with their Kelloway cousins, they would walk the 2-miles each week, regardless of the weather.

Mavis commenced school at 5 years of age, attending Mt Hunter Primary School. Her brother Fred being only 14 months younger, was tasked with walking Mavis the one and half miles from home to the school each day. Fred would sit there with Mavis until school had finished, then walk her back home. Mavis recalls the school having two teachers at the time, one female and one male. The lady teacher would take them across to the room in the cottage for sewing classes. She found the male teacher to be a bit strict and grumpy, but on all accounts enjoyed her school years.

On completion of her primary school years at Mt Hunter, Mavis attended high school at Camden Public School. In those days, Camden Public School being the only school in the District offering high school education. Mavis recalls the long ride to and from Camden on her bicycle, in rain, hail or shine! Riding along Druitts Lane to Cawdor Road, then into Camden. Given the condition of the local roads those days, that was no mean feat, with the hard-peddling back home up Campbell's hill, as it was known in those days.

Upon leaving school, Mavis's father secured her a job at Whiteman's store on Argyle Street, Camden. Mavis would wake in the morning and make the porridge breakfast, before riding her bicycle into Camden to work. In addition to her work duties in the office, Mavis would help load the horse and cart, or later the truck, with allocated items that would be delivered to the folks around the Camden District. Mavis remained working at Whiteman's until she married.

Mavis's Uncle, Arthur Henry Kelloway, married in 1913 and settled with his family in Pomona, Queensland. It was through the connection of Uncle Arthur, that Mavis first heard of Ralph Leonard Sidman. Ralph lived on a property at Pomona near Arthur Kelloway and he was five years older than Mavis, having been born on 24th November 1918 at Gympie, Queensland. Mavis was very familiar with the Sidman name, with the Sidmans having a rich his-

tory in Camden. Ralph's grandfather, William Sidman, had purchased the Camden Times from Mr A J Doust around 1894. Renaming it the 'Camden News', William made a name for himself around the Camden District in the print and publishing industry.

Ralph and Mavis formed a close bond, before Ralph enlisted to serve in WWII. Ralph was deployed to Papua New Guinea, where he served with The Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RAEME), a technical corps group tasked with the maintenance of the Army's modern hardware and equipment. The young couple kept in touch with letters, whilst Ralph served abroad.

Ralph was discharged in December 1945. On his return from Papua New Guinea, Ralph and Mavis were married on 24th January 1946 at the Camden Methodist Church. An article in the Camden News on 7 February 1946 reads: 'A wedding was solemnised at the Camden Methodist Church on 24th January, by Rev. V. Smith, the contracting parties being Mavis, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Sharpe, of Camden, to Ralph Leonard, only son of Mr and Mrs W. L. Sidman, of Pomona, Q'land. The bride, who entered the church



Whiteman's Store Camden - 1923 (K Cordina)

with her father who subsequently gave her away, wore a simple frock of slipper satin, the skirt being full flared and formed a small train. The veil was lent by Mrs R. Butchers. Her bouquet was of frangipani. Miss Doreen Sharpe, sister of the bride, was daintily attired in blue; net over taffeta, and Mr Fred Sharpe acted as best man. The church was beautifully decorated by girl friends of the bride. Mr. F. Whiteman presided at the organ. At the conclusion of the ceremony the guests were entertained at the C.W.A. rooms where the reception was held. The usual toasts were honoured, and many telegrams of congratulations were received. The bride's mother received the guests, wearing a frock of navy silk with beaded trimmings. The bridegroom's mother chose a frock of blue satin crepe with white accessories. The happy couple later left for Wollongong and North Coast where the honeymoon is being spent. Prior to the wedding the bride was tendered a kitchen tea by her friends at Mt. Hunter.'

Mavis and Ralph built their first home at 29 Chellaston Street Camden, where they welcomed three children. Daryl born in 1948, followed by Kevin in 1951 and Narelle born in 1954. After 13 years of living at Chellaston Street, in 1959 Mavis and Ralph moved to their second family home at 29 Hawkey Crescent, Camden.



**Ralph Sidman - Corporal
RAEME (K Cordina)**



Ralph and Mavis (K Cordina)



**Sidman-Sharpe Wedding, Camden Methodist Church, 24 January 1946.
Left to right: Fred Sharpe, Ralph Sidman, Mavis Sharpe and Doreen
Sharpe (K Cordina)**

With Ralph's keen interest in machinery and vehicles, he worked at a number of businesses in Camden. Throughout the years, Ralph's roles included employment as a truck motor mechanic at Souters, a general car and light truck mechanic at Babbage Motors before starting his own taxi business. With his

own vehicle, Ralph worked fulltime for a period as a taxi driver around Camden. Ralph was also well known and respected for his years as a car salesman, selling vehicles at Clintons Motors in Camden.

As the children grew and left home to marry, Mavis utilised her extra time and hobby of knitting, to serve the local community. Mavis joined the Camden Hospital Auxiliary, knitting baby booties, hats and cardigans to sell at the Camden Hospital and as gifts to the new mothers in the maternity ward. Mavis also knitted trauma teddies for the Red Cross to present to sick children. It is worth noting that between 2002 and February 2022, Mavis had made and donated over 1200 trauma teddies.

Although less active these days, Mavis still maintains a certain level of independence. The Camden Nursing Home has been her home since March 2006. Sadly, Ralph passed away 15 years ago in September 2008 at the age of 89. Mavis's health remains considerably well for reaching 100 years of age, despite the odd ailment which is to be expected at such an age.

The momentous occasion of Mavis's 100th birthday, was celebrated on Sunday 10th March 2024 at the Camden Nursing Home, with an intimate gathering of her family. Mavis's family has grown over the years to include six



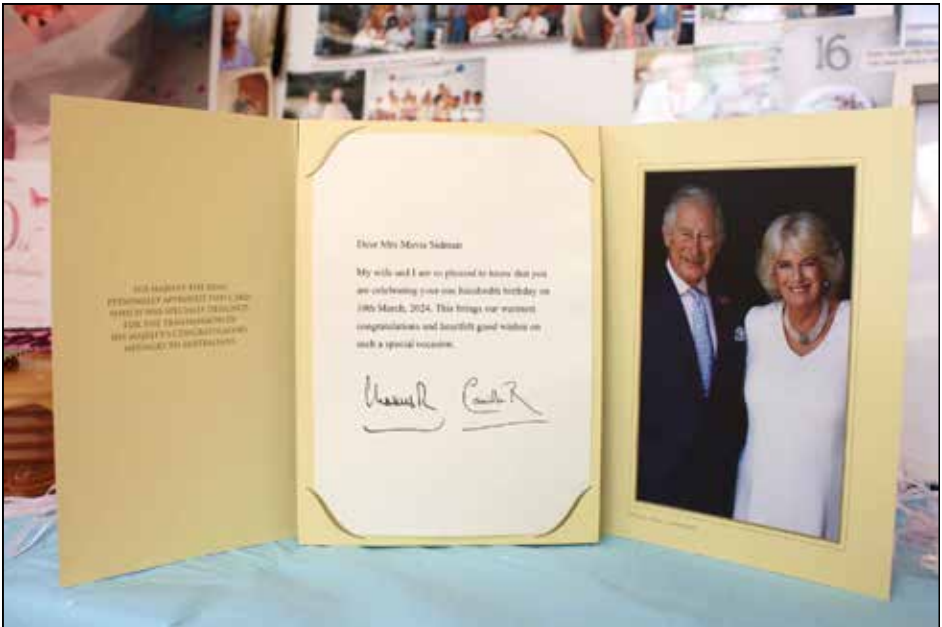
29 Hawkey Crescent, Camden (K Cordina)

grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Making the celebration of this milestone extra special, was the fact that Mavis's father Cecil Sharpe, celebrated his 100th birthday in the same nursing home in 1992.

Among the well wishes received by Mavis included letters and cards from King Charles III and Queen Camilla, Prime Minister of Australia the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Premier of New South Wales the Hon. Chris Minns MP, Member for Camden Sally Quinnell MP, Member for Lake Macquarie The Hon. Greg Piper MP, Department of Veteran Affairs and the Australian Red Cross organisation.



Mavis and family celebrating her 100th birthday (K Cordina)



100th birthday card received from His Majesty The King (K Cordina)

Voices from the Past

Heritage Week 2023

Camden Museum, 13 September 2023

During the 2023 Heritage Week festivities a number of members of the Camden Historical Society gave interesting talks at a general meeting.

What follows is a selection of these talks.

Emmaville Dance Cards

Leonie Jackson

During the Covid lockdown, I began interviewing my 91-year-old father, John Griffiths, to learn more about our family history and what life was like in the past.

My father's family were graziers, with a property just outside Emmaville, a small town between Glen Innes and Tenterfield in the Northern Tablelands of NSW.

Among his family treasures were two small cardboard dance cards that caught my eye. The first was the Programme for the Loyal Empress of India, Oddfellows Ball on 24 May 24 1894.

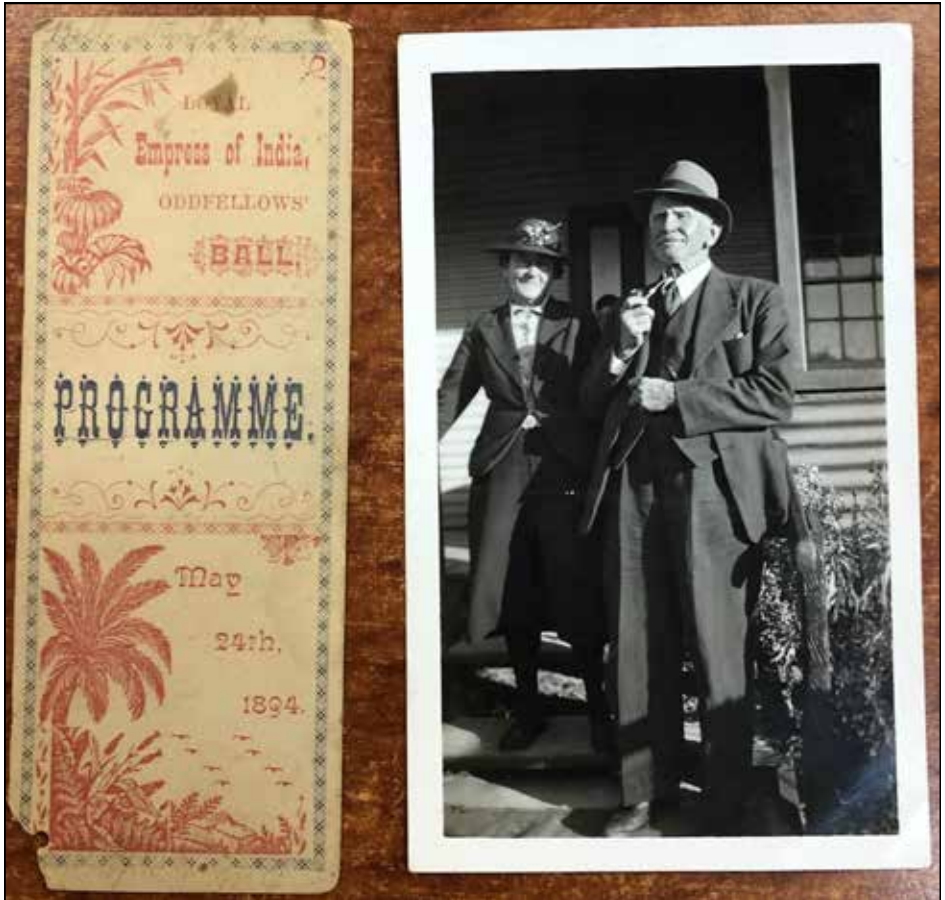
It has the name Belle Stanford written on the top of it in pencil. Isobelle Stanford went on to marry my great-grandfather, William James Griffiths, and so became my great-grandmother.

This is William and Isobelle, an elderly couple, still looking very happy together. Both lived into their nineties.

The second dance card is a souvenir of the Loyal Empress of India Lodge No 70 Grand Annual Ball held in Fox's Hall Emmaville on Wednesday, 14 June 1922. This card has the name A W Griffiths written on it—Aubrey William Griffiths - my grandfather.

There are 20 dances listed on the back of the program with space to write the name of the person you had booked up to be your partner for that dance. I immediately thought of Pride and Prejudice.

Aubrey had partners for all 24 dances listed. My father told me that Aubrey was the local dance champion for the waltz, so it is not surprising that he was a much sought-after partner. I was familiar with some of the dances listed,



Dance Program 24 May 1894 (L Jackson)

such as the waltz, two-step, and fox trot, but some of the others I had to research. I discovered that the schottische is a slow dance with steps similar to a polka. The mazurka is a fast Polish dance for 4-8 couples. The valeta is in triple time and seems a bit like the pride of Erin. The lancers is a dance performed in a square by four couples. The hesitation dip is a waltz with a step that consists of a pause and a slide.

What was interesting to me was that 8 of the 20 dances were booked up with the same young lady, including the first and last dances. This name was Ruby Bindley. Aubrey and Ruby were married in 1924, and so she became my grandmother.

This photo is of Ruby Bindley, taken before her engagement with Aubrey.

lucky enough to return home. In these cases, the mayor would be invited to make a speech.

The music was provided by a band of the doctor and three other locals. They charged one fee until midnight and a higher fee until 2am. They then donated the money to the local hospital, Vegetable Creek Hospital. My grandfather, Aubrey, was usually the MC for the dances.

Dad said that there was no alcohol served at either the balls or the dances as it was believed inappropriate for men to drink in the presence of ladies. However, it was fairly common for men to hide a bottle outside under a bush and duck out occasionally for a nip! Drinks were mainly tea, gradually some coffee, and homemade lemonade and cordial.

The Ladies Committee supplied the food. Ladies usually brought along the items they were famous for, as shown by their prizes at the local show. My great-grandmother, Isobelle, was known for her sponges; others brought scones and other cakes. There were also plenty of roast lamb and roast beef sandwiches. Dad commented that as the war progressed, more food items were introduced from the USA. Soon, no one wanted the meat sandwiches as everyone wanted the new, delicious tinned baked beans!

How amazing that two small pieces of cardboard, in the form of dance cards, allowed the voices of my great-grandparents and grandparents to tell the story of their meeting and early courtship and provide an insight into entertainment in earlier times. And how lucky was I to have my father use his actual voice to share his memories and knowledge of our family and his early life

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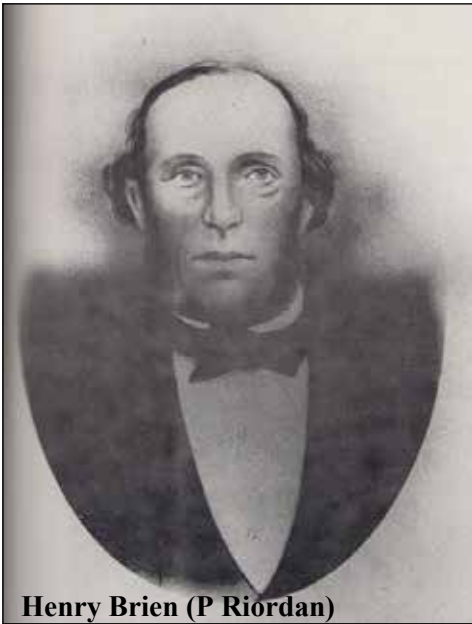
Frances (Fanny) Brien

Peter Riordan

Fanny Brien (nee Wilson) is Peter Riordan's great-great-grandmother.

Fanny arrived in Sydney on the *United Kingdom* as an assisted Irish immigrant in early 1844 under the protection of her brother as a literate farm servant. The ship left Liverpool in late 1843, called in at the Cape of Good Hope for six days and arrived in Sydney after 128 days sailing.

Suffering from hysteria on her arrival Fanny was confined to the Sydney General Hospital in Macquarie Street until mid-year. Fanny had found the voyage quite harrowing. She was initially put in charge of 72 young women



Henry Brien (P Riordan)

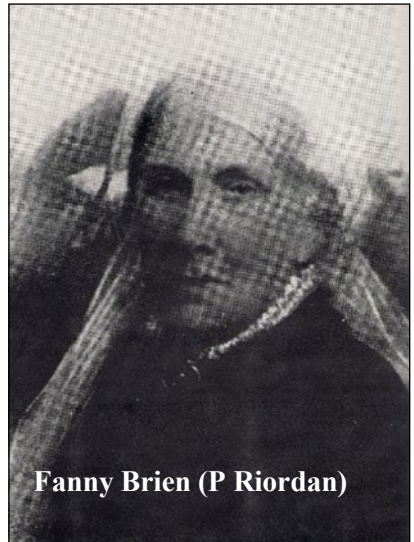


Grave headstone from Henry Brien and wife Frances. (P Riordan)

by the captain, then after leaving Table Bay at the Cape typhus and scarlet fever broke out on the ship. Fanny suffered from typhus and eventually recovered, but unfortunately, 27 women died and were buried at sea. Fanny was born in 1819 in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

After her arrival in New South Wales, she married Henry Brien at Macquarie Plains near Bathurst in 1853. Fanny was 33 years of age when she married Henry.

Henry was born in Ireland in 1813 and came to New South Wales in 1852 on the *Garland*. Henry was a literate farm labourer, and he moved to live near his sisters who lived in the Bathurst area. Fanny and Henry lived amongst a Protestant Northern Irish community at Fish River near Oberon on an 80-acre farming block. They practised mixed farming, lived in a slab cottage with a bark roof and had five children. By the mid-1870s the family had moved to Back Creek near Cowra and lived on a 200-acre farm where Henry built a 'slab walled homestead'.



Fanny Brien (P Riordan)

To the Editor, Cowra Free Press.

Sir,

I, Fanny Wilson from Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Ireland left my home in the latter part of the year 1844 and was in Liverpool, England, the last Sabbath of that year. I was appointed Matron over about 72 young women on board the immigrant ship United Kingdom commanded by Captain Tooland (sic Teulon). We left England on the 1st day of the New Year 1845. Finding ourselves getting short of water the Captain put in at Table Bay, K****land. After leaving Table Bay, sickness broke out, scarlet, brain and typhus fever raging from saloon to fore-castle. Dr. Hare [English], Dr. Harper [England] and Dr. Cous [Ireland] used their united skill to stay the havoc amongst those on board. 27 were buried in the deep. At this time I was one of the typhus patients. I gradually recovered, but with the loss of my hearing in the left ear.

Being very unwell lately, I placed myself under Dr. Smith's care and with God's blessing and the doctor's treatment, wonderful to say I have regained my hearing.

Dr. Bartlett has also been very kind to me. In conclusion, I must say we have two as skilled doctors, as there are in the colony. My dear husband died 1st December, 1875 and has gone to a better land.

Yours etc.

Fanny Brien

Wellwood Farm, Cowra.

December 11, 1885."

Frances (Fanny) was admitted to the Hospital for the Insane, Callan Park, on 21 November 1894. She was 75 years of age.

Her admission followed certification by two doctors, the first being Dr Felix Bartlett of Cowra who, after a personal examination, noted that he had observed the following facts indicating insanity: "That she constantly talks, irrelevant talk rambling from one subject to another. Have visited her at her home when she has been very restless and noisy. Have signed certificate of lunacy before when she was extremely noisy and maniacal."

Dr Bartlett also recorded the following facts indicating insanity communicated to him "by her son": "That she is occasionally very noisy at night, tears up the bed clothes and wearing apparel. That she has The last week escaped from her sons (sic) home and was found wandering in the bush and had to be carried back. Sleeps scarcely at all".

The *Lunacy Act 1878 (NSW)* defined an "insane person" as: "Any person



Fanny's younger son, Harry Brien, with Janet (nee Morrison) and their children (1925) (P Riordan)

who for the time being be idiotic lunatic or of unsound mind and incapable of managing himself or his affairs and whether found insane by inquisition or otherwise."

Frances (Fanny) did not die until 27 February 1907, when she was 88. She was institutionalised in Sydney for the last 12 years and three months of her life. At some stage, she was transferred to the Hospital for the Insane at Rydalmere.

Through their 5 children, Fanny and Henry had 51 grandchildren!

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Harry Warner, a life

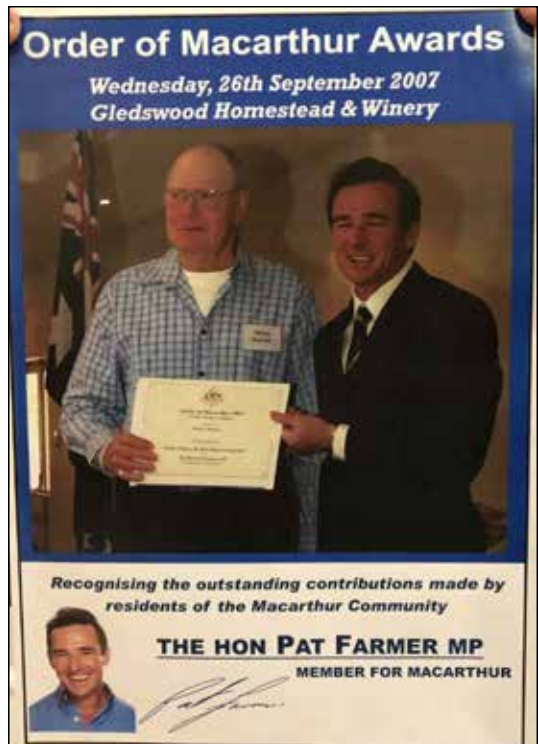
Frances Warner

Harry was born on 9 June 1944 to father Harry George Warner and mother Ethel Gunn. He has a sister Aylene Gale. In his early years, he lived at Biggenden in Queensland in a very large weatherboard Queenslander house. On his mother's side of the family, the Marshall family were dairy farmers, raised pigs and grew peanuts.

Harry moved to Tenterfield on a sheep station and he recalls this period of his life as the best and happiest time of his life. There were lots of outdoor activities. He could go fishing for yellow belly, ride horses and go swimming. He did home-schooling.

On the sheep station, Harry and Aylene needed home schooling. Harry senior looked for a position near a school and his mother had a sister living in Camden, and her husband worked on Camden Park Estate. This was a big move for My Harry when he was seven years old. The family moved to Menangle.

**Harry Warner 2007 Senior
Citizen of the Year.
Presentation by the Hon Pat
Farmer Member for
Macarthur. (F Warner)**



Harry went to Camden Central School. Harry was not a fan of school and had to catch his grades after his home-schooling. There were too many children for his liking after living on the sheep station.

Harry Senior and Ethel moved to Camden Park Estate and did pastoral work. They then moved to Quentin Macarthur Stanham's farm. Harry Senior worked for Lady Stanham in the house garden. Harry was a cub and scout leader. He was in a band at St James Anglican Church at Menangle and at Gilbulla at Christmas.

My Harry was employed by Quentin Stanham when he was 15 years old and he worked for the Macarthur family for over 60 years. He worked in the Lower Garden, the Rose Garden and at 17 years of age was driving the Bentley for Lady Stanham. He drove her to Menangle Railway Station, Sydney and visiting the Fairfax family at Harrington Park homestead. Harry worked on the farm as a tractor driver looking after the pastures, growing potatoes for Smiths Crisps.

My Harry has a number of grandchildren. Harry received an award from Pat Farmer as the Senior Member of the Community. Harry worked on Camden in the rabbit shed where rabbits were raised for eating and hides for hats. The sheds had over 1000 rabbits. Harry worked on the chicken farm sheds for Red Lea where there were over 72,000 chickens in 1960s.

Harry and Frances married in 1966 after initially going on a blind date. Har-





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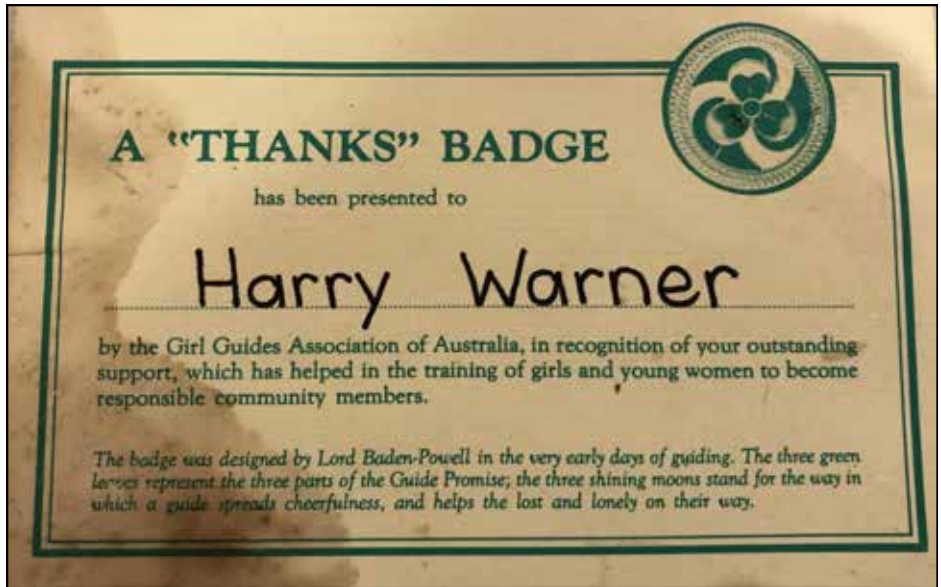
CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF AUSTRALIA

Al Bayly

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ry and Frances lived in the Stables cottage known as Smiley's House because they used the house in the movie Smiley. In 1970 Harry and Frances moved to Harry's cottage on the other side of the stable when Frances was pregnant. They then moved to the mansion house (north wing), then Blaxland Cottage, and back to the Big House (east wing).



Harry played for the Camden Rams Rugby League team. Harry did not get much of an education and he did not like school. He had trouble reading and writing and went to Campbelltown TAFE College to learn to read and write. Harry taught himself to play guitar and had his story 'Diary of a Tuggaboot'.

Harry became a cub leader at Camden South Scouts Group. Firstly as Barloo then Akela, then promoted to District Cub Leader, as Kookaburra. Harry was a member of the Menangle Rural Fire Brigade. Harry received recognition as Senior Member of the Year for community activities.

The family moved around Camden Park Estate: (1) No 9 Dairy at the foot of the Razorback (2) Boarding house at Camden Park run by Ruth Cornhill, (3) Old Kent Road under where the Macarthur Bridge (1973) is now located (4) Ponderosa Estate Camden South (dairy), (5) Belgenny Farm known as Home Farm.

Harry is now a resident at Paling Court, Carrington. He still has many good memories of Camden Park Estate and the Stanham family. Harry enjoys bingo and goes to two church services, the Anglican and Catholic. He talks about his father's painting that hangs in his room. He loves sweets and chocolates.

Harry has three children, Bradley, PennyAnne and Amy, and grandchildren, Arron, Bryce, and Aston. Harry has been interviewed a number of times about his memoirs by John Wrigley (CHS), Trish Cornhill (Camden Library)

and Therese Sweeney for the Camden Park Oral History project. Harry has appeared in a number of movies including *Smiley*, and *The Daughter* (Geoffrey Rush). He had breakfast with Maggie Beer, she was discussing her book on dementia at a conference in Canberra.

oOo

Patrick Barry, a voice from the past

Michael Barry

Towards the late 1800s in Middleton County, Cork, Ireland, two Barry brothers made the decision to leave the family farm and migrate to Australia.

Times had been difficult in rural Ireland, with many Irish immigrants leaving their home country. One of the brothers reneged when learning of the snakes and kangaroos (and blacks) in Australia, and brother Patrick replaced him (b.1857), who had started legal studies at that time. So William and Patrick Barry set sail to make their future in The Great South Land, arriving in Sydney in 1877. They disliked and turned away from the city life to go West, seeking work in the Trangie / Warren district digging wells and building wool sheds, pise, and rammed earth houses, one whilst working on Raby station Warren.

Making rammed earth involves compacting a damp mixture of subsoil with suitable proportions of sand, gravel, clay, silt, and stabilizer, if any, into a formwork, an externally supported frame, or mold. Historically, additives such as lime or animal blood were used to stabilize it. Soil mix is poured into the formwork to a depth of 10 to 25 cm (4 to 10 in) and then compacted to approximately 50% of its original volume. The soil is compacted iteratively, in batches or courses, so as to gradually erect the wall up to the top of the formwork. Tamping was historically manual with a long ramming pole by hand, but modern construction systems can employ pneumatically powered tampers.

Located in the highly regarded and tightly held Macquarie Valley district of Central Western NSW, just 15km from the township of Warren, ‘Raby Station’ is home to the famous ‘Raby’ Merino Stud, established in 1898. The Macquarie Valley has a strong focus on agriculture, particularly sheep and cattle breeding and grazing, as well as wheat and cotton growing.

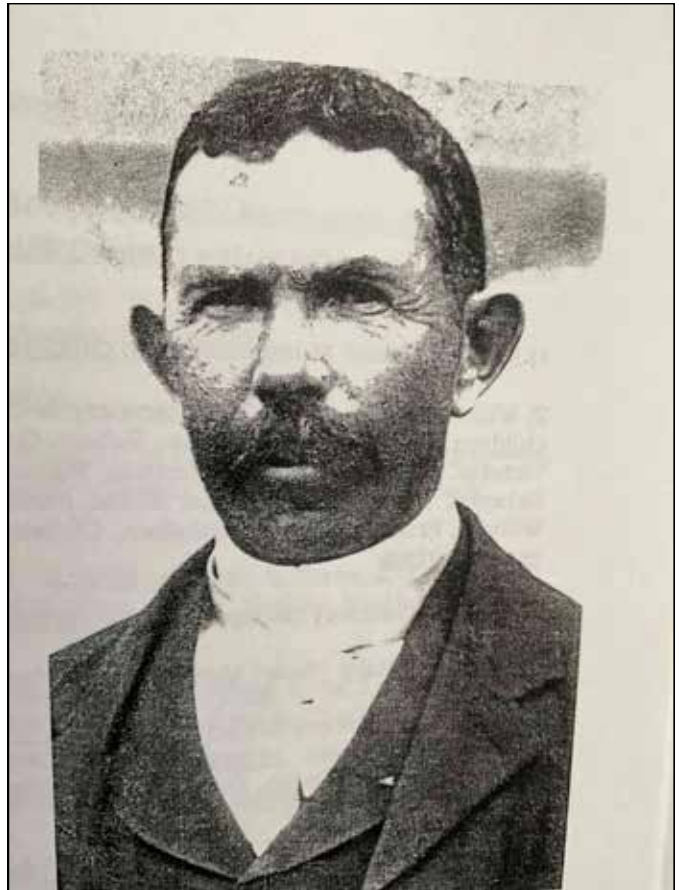
In the early 1890s, Patrick selected 2560 acres of land in the Trangie district—Rosebank and Iona. Following a dispute, Patrick represented himself in

the Land Court and proved he had every right to the land. He then built the brick homestead on Iona with bricks made on the property, the first brick homestead west of Dubbo.

Patrick Barry served on district Pasture Protection Boards and Land Boards, as president of the Farmers and Settlers Association, and unsuccessfully ran for Parliament in the early 1900s.

Mary Anne Perrottet, known to me as Mollie or Gran, and Patrick Barry were married in 1895 in St Carthage's Catholic Church in Trangie. Patrick made a return visit to Ireland in 1908. On his return to Trangie, he was presented with an Illuminated Address signed by all the citizens of the town. He was appointed to the Provisional Council. The State Government divided rural areas of the state of New South Wales into shires in 1906. Many country towns had already taken on local government.

**Patrick Barry
(M Barry)**



Patrick died in Sydney in 1913 following his seeking medical treatment. There was uncertainty as to the cause of death, and it was surmised as Cirrhosis of the Liver. Today, he was treated for hepatitis. Many years later, it was determined at the turn of the 20th century, many landholders were using a phosphorus poison called SAP (Serum Amyloid P component serum concentrate) to eradicate crows and rabbits. This poison gave off a white phosphorus smoke, and the thought is that Patrick may have inhaled more than the acceptable levels. This, although not proven, may have contributed towards his demise...Patrick was buried in the family grave in the Catholic section of the Trangie cemetery.

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Mary Anne, at age 36, was left to raise a family of two girls and five boys and manage close to 10,000 acres of pastoral and farming country. So, in summing up this tale relating to *Voices of the Past*... we see a 19-year-old southern Irish youth suddenly on the ship with his brother to colonial Australia. Then went west to Macquarie country and became a founding father and pioneer in that part of our country. He would have had strong pastoral links to the Merino wool industry, as well as being active in the pastoral welfare of the Macquarie rural area and loyal to his Irish Catholic upbringing.

He survived some very hard times in those rural areas, like The Federation drought (1895 to 1903), severe water shortages, dust storms, grasshopper and rabbit plagues, labouring with non-mechanical work tools, and long travel to larger, well-established areas. Indeed, a man of property gained by hard and constant toil, he may have died at age 56, possibly from contact with a rural eradication substance used at the time.

Welbourne Private Hospital

Trish Hill

After a recent discussion on childhood memories, I was keen to ‘shed some light’ on a cottage in Oxley Street Camden where my grandmother would visit friends, sometimes with me in tow. I discussed this further with friends and did some research with the following result.

The cottage was known as ‘Welbourne’ and located behind the Foresters Hall, which is today the premises of Lifeline and the ‘Welbourne’ site, part of the Council's carpark. It was a small, simple cottage close to the street with a front fence, gate, and a path up to the verandah and front door. The resident friends were Miss Keller and Percy Peters. It soon emerged the cot-



Pictured above is the Taplin Family at Welbourne c 1918-1919. Front - William Snr & wife Nurse Taplin & granddaughter Nita with back-sons William (Toby) & wife Elsie, Ted & wife Vera, Trevor & Victor. (Camden Images)

tage had been 'Welbourne Private Hospital' run by Nurse Taplin. It offered hospital care and was a birthing hospital for many local babies. Details on its history are scant, but it was offered for sale as part of the Estate of Dr West in 1946. Dr West operated out of 'Macaria', on John Street, behind the Welbourne location.

Over many years, Miss Keller featured prominently as a volunteer organiser in many of the fundraising events held in Camden for a variety of organisations, as did Nurse Taplin.

Percy was the son of W.F. Peters & Son, undertakers, monumental masons, and timber merchants in Camden, and he was also Miss Keller's brother-in-law.

On 21 June 1925, Ted Taplin and Harold Lowe rescued Percy Peters and George Thorn from flood waters when returning with the hearse from a funeral at Cobbitty. They were caught in flood waters on the Cowpastures bridge. The horses were cut free but perished after washing away, and the hearse overturned, eventually disappearing into the river.

The records show that both Miss Keller and Percy passed away in the 1970's.

Below is the birth certificate of Shirley Tickner (Carlton), born at Welbourne Private Hospital.

AUCTION SALE OF TOWN PROPERTY

Under instructions from the
PERMANENT TRUSTEE CO.
of N.S.W. as Trustees, in the Estate
of Dr. Francis William West (Dec'd).
The undermentioned valuable prop-
erty to be offered at Auction on the site

AT 3 P.M. ON

Saturday, 14th December,

1946.

IMPROVEMENTS include "Wel-
bourne," an attractive eight roomed
W.B. Cottage with roof of iron, situ-
ated handy to shopping centre and
standing on spacious grounds, situate
Oxley Street, Camden.

LAND. Frontage of about 67ft.
with depth of about 132ft.

TITLE. Old System Freehold.

Annual rentals £71/10/-.

INSPECTION by appointment
with the Auctioneer ONLY.

SOLICITORS. Messrs. R. A. C.
Adams and Higgs, Camden.


NOTE. The above property is
offered for sale subject to **EXIST-
ING** Tenancies.

KEITH C. SMART,

Licensed Auctioneer and Real Estate
Agent,

178-180 ARGYLE ST., CAMDEN,
Tel.: 63.

Camden News, 12 December 1946


BIRTH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

No.	Date and place of birth of child	Name and whether present or not	Sex	Father's name, occupation, age and birthplace	Date and place of mother's previous issue	Mother's name and maiden surname, age and birthplace
7566	1934 15 th February Wellbourne Parramatta Road Camden New South Wales	Shirley Vera	Female	Wilfred James Jackson (1) Carver (2) 50 years (3) Cook New South Wales	1933 (1) 20 Attitude Road (2) 10 Camden New South Wales In previous issue	Vera Helen (1) Hampden (2) 4 years Living Out (3) Camden New South Wales

I, BARBARA FLETT, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS REGISTER KEPT BY ME.



Wellbourne Cottage, Oxley Street, Camden at the rear of Downes General Store in the 1950s. (Camden Images)

Camden Women's Basketball (Netball) beginnings

Dianne Smith (nee Musgrave)

Coming from a two-teacher school at Nattai, I had never had any contact with basketball or team sports involving students my age. In 1959, my family moved to Camden, and I attended the mainstream Camden Primary School. There, I was introduced to girls' basketball.

We played 'sides' at recess. This is where anyone interested spontaneously broke into two groups. A basketball was meant to be kept to one side or another by being thrown from one team member to another. No goals, just the aim of stealing the ball from your opposition. I found the challenges exhilarating. The bell would ring for recess to end. Hot, sweaty, happy girls would join the line of 6A, ready to go into class. All are to be repeated in the following days.

What I developed was a love of teamwork, and I was honing my skills of anticipation.

Winter meant sports teams were chosen for inter-school sports competitions. I wanted in!! I was a great fit for a defence position. I needed a sports uniform. We were living with my grandparents in a small two-bedroom house in Chellaston Street. Four little girls, one a new baby, lived in a small caravan, totally constructed by my dad, in the backyard of my grandparents' modest home.

Although my Mum and Nan were excellent seamstresses, under the current living circumstances, I cycled over Little Sandy bridge early one morning to an address in Elderslie where I'd been given to enlist the services of a dress-maker for the much-anticipated sports uniform. It was a fruitless endeavour. Mum and Nan finally pooled their time and energy, and I had my uniform. I was in heaven when I jumped onto that bus on a Friday to travel to Warragamba to face my first encounter as a Camden Primary School senior basketball team representative. I'm sure, we won!

1960 meant Camden High. My girlfriends and I worked hard to be selected in the winter inter-school teams. By 1963, we were the reigning senior A-team. Sadly, I don't remember the name of the teacher who announced at an assembly one day an invitation for girls to come to a meeting on the following Saturday to be held in the boys' weather shed in the high school's main quad if you were interested in joining the newly created Camden's Women's Basketball Association.



The Blue Birds were essentially made up of high school students: Leonie Rushborne, top left (Goal Shooter), captain Pat Templeman, holding shield (Goal Attack), Marion Stillwell, top 2nd from right (Wing Defence), Denise Green, top 2nd from left (Centre), Judy Gardner, top right (Wing Attack), Kathy Tolfree, bottom right (Goal Defence), Dianne Musgrave, bottom left (Goalkeeper). (D Smith)

This same teacher, a tall woman, arrived in an impressive green blazer decorated with several pockets. I can only imagine this indicating she had been successfully playing herself at a high level. The association was formed, and competition began. The matches were to be played on Saturday afternoons on the Camden Primary School playground asphalt courts. Junior teams

played morning games in the main quad of the high school. Teams came from Camden and all outlying communities.

The girls from Camden High banded together to form a team we called 'Blue Birds'. This name came from Donald Campbell's land-speed record-holding vehicle, the 'Blue Bird'. It just happened to be on show at the time at the Ampol Garage at the southern end of Camden. Blue was also the colour of the CHS uniform. Our uniform was a simple knife-pleated light blue skirt, home-made, of course, with our white short-sleeve summer blouse.

The teams consisted of Blue Birds, CWA (Country Women's Association), CYO (1), CYO (11) (Catholic Youth Organisation) and others I wish I could remember as they were all such worthy opponents. There was a junior competition, and my two younger sisters, Marguerite and Debbie Musgrave, played for Camden South Public School against other local schools. Marguerite went on to be heavily involved in the hugely popular and ever-growing Camden Women's Netball Association organisation.

The Blue Birds were the winners of 'A Girls Senior' division for this first 1963 comp. We received a small gold medal. We were thrilled, but I do not remember any presentation ceremony or celebration. We just went home knowing we were the best.



1964 saw Blue Birds win the senior competition again after another exhilarating hard-fought season. Our uniform had changed this year to a royal blue sleeveless tunic with two inverted box pleats of white fabric and a white silk chord belt with tassels completed it. Oh, we were chic!!!

1965 saw the Blue Birds disband as the team members moved on to training for their future. It was a special part of my past. Working with those girls to win the first two years of the top division was a life-highlight.

The sport underwent a name change to netball. With the growth in the Macarthur Area, netball has had a magnificent following. The courts have moved from Camden Primary School hard courts to the grass courts at the show-ground, to the Elderslie courts on Hilder Street, and more recently to Narellan.

I wonder if those first women, the teacher I can't remember. I think she was in Home Economics, who had the love of the game and dedication to set up the CWBA ever envisaged how far it would have come in the years between 1963 to 2024. Thank you to them from all of us who have taken part in those Saturday comps.

Dianne Musgrave holding Camden Women's Basketball shield displaying the Blue Birds win in the A division 1964.

**It was the second year of this new competition, and the Blue Birds were successful in both years.
(D Smith)**



A History of Camden Chinese Market Gardeners

1899 to 1993



EDITED BY IAN WILLIS AND JULIE WRIGLEY