



NEWSLETTER

Camden Museum To Remain Open From January 2006

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The Camden Museum is to remain open from January 2006. This was the decision taken at the December meeting of the Camden Historical Society. After discussion the meeting overwhelmingly endorsed a motion to keep the museum open until such time that any contract for the re-adaptation of the library/museum precinct is signed by Camden Council. A report on the progress of the project was given to the meeting by Peter Hayward.

Volunteers voiced their frustration at the indecision by Camden Council. They expressed the desire for some certainty on the work and the need to plan their volunteering around their other activities.

The indecision by Camden Council is causing some problems for the volunteer roster. Bob Lester, the roster coordinator stated that he would keep all volunteers informed of these matters.

Camden Council will be meeting early in the 2006 to discuss these matters. There will also be articles in the local press on further developments. Any decision by the society to close the museum will only be taken after Camden Council has made a firm decision on the project.

This will provide some certainty for those on the volunteer roster. A degree of frustration is quite understandable by members and volunteers alike. The committee asks for

patience by all concerned because these matters are completely outside the control of the Camden Historical Society. Any further questions should be directed to Peter Hayward and John Wrigley



John St View of Museum and Library

who are representing the interests of the society on the joint working group which is coordinating the project. Hopefully we should know more on the state of the project in early 2006.

Special points of interest:

- **February Ordinary Meeting: 8/2/06, 7.30pm, Museum, John St, Camden.**
- **Committee Meeting 1 2006, 4/2/06, 63 Bowman Ave, Camden South, 1.30pm.**
- **Australia Day Parade, Thursday, 26/1/06, Assemblage 11.00am, Showground, Vic to provide his cars.**

February Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on 8 February 2006 at the Museum, John St Camden at 7.30pm. There will be a short business meeting followed by our invited speaker Mark Peters.

Mark Peters, is according to his promotional material, a

living historian specialising in colonial medicine. Mark presents re-enactments of surgery and other medical aspects related to medicine from 1750 to 1840. He uses medical reproductions, replicas and actual medical antiques to re-act surgery and surgical proce-

dures. Presentations may cover the 'how' part of painful surgery' as well as covering aspects of medical history.

Supper Roster: Nikki Hayward, Shirley Rorke. Volunteers needed for March Meeting.

All correspondence to Secretary, Camden Historical Society, PO Box 566, Camden. 2570 • Museum 4655 3400
 President: Dr Ian Willis 4658 0193 • Vice presidents: John Wrigley 4655 9210; Peter Hayward 4651 2253 • Treasurer: Ray Herbert 9606 6075 • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Committee: Julie Wrigley, Len English, Bob Lester, Colin Mills, Milton Ray, Cathey Shepherd, Ros Tildsley, Dick Nixon. □

President's Message

This is my second newsletter. I did not expect to be writing another one quite so soon. But the ongoing saga of the library/museum re-adaptation continues. The circumstances surrounding this story are outside our control. So we request that you have some patience and keep an eye on this newsletter.

The committee will endeavour to make sure that members are kept informed of the latest developments, whatever they might be.

The society will be part of the Australian Day Parade on 26 January 2006 in Camden. Vic Boardman has kindly offered his cars again and a number of volunteers have offered to dress up for the occasion. The assembly point for the parade is the showground around 11.00am. The parade is always a colourful event and our volunteers add to the occasion. The museum will be open on Australia Day and volunteers may be needed to provide extra help if necessary to cope

with the anticipated large number of visitors who are in Camden for the parade. Any help would be appreciated.

Meanwhile our volunteers will continue to answer letters and handle other enquires and the museum will function as normal.

For any enquiries contact us by email (the address is on back on this newsletter) or contact the appropriate member of the committee.

Ian Willis



Pet hate. Computers that do not work.

Museum Volunteers

The museum roster that Bob has drawn up for 2006 will start in January. We need all the support of our museum volunteers to keep the museum open for as long as practical. The committee thanks all volunteers for your co-operation, patience and understanding.

The museum will be shut be-

tween Christmas Day to New Years weekend. That is from the 25 December to 2 January 2006.

If you like talking to people about Camden then volunteering for the museum roster is definitely for you. You will meet some fascinating characters who will talk to you all day. Only available once-in-a-

while. No worries.

Not an expert on Camden history. No worries. Write down any tricky questions for the committee to attend to.

If you are interested see Bob Lester about joining the roster. Bob can be contacted on 4648 1593 (W) or 4655 9044 (H). Or see him at the meetings.

Volunteering is good for you.

Volunteering is good for you. Research has shown that volunteers gain from a sense of well being through positive social interaction with others and from the physical interaction that their volunteering may entail. Volunteering can enable people to use their skills and knowledge to bene-

fit the community. Volunteers may also gain new skills and experiences for personal benefit and development.

Benefits may include a rise in self esteem, feeling connected to people, feeling part of the local community and having an increased ease in communicating. You may enjoy a

heightened sense of well being, better sleep, a stronger immune system, speedier recovery from any illness and perhaps longer life expectancy.

So get involved!

Source: WA Health; Randwick Community Centre.

Wanted! Museum volunteers. We need your body!

Become a volunteer and gain from the personal experience of others. You may even enjoy it!



Review by Ian Willis

From Estonia to Thirlmere, Stories from a Unique Community.

Edited by Doreen Lyon, The Oaks Historical Society Inc., 117pp, 2005, \$25.

The town of Thirlmere is the home of many Estonian immigrants who came to Australia. They are part of the story of the development of the post-war era in this country. Lyons outlines how the Estonian community at Thirlmere became an important part of the foundation of the poultry industry in New South Wales.

The book illustrates the successful story of the co-operation between a small community museum and larger institutions and the mu-

seum exhibition that it supports .

Lyons has compiled a collection of stories that illustrate the diversity of characters in a small community, with names like Mikker, Vaha, Maidla, Rampe, Eber and many others.

The book is divided into those who came before the Second War and those who came after. Each story recounts the memories of those who lived them. Each story is a personal diary of a life and contains

their view of the world. From the heartache and frustration of leaving their homeland to re-establishing a new life.

The text is supported by numerous illustrations and easy to use index and references. Although it is disappointing that little attempt was made to weave a narrative or set the local experience against the wider immigration story. Despite these shortcomings the book is a valuable addition to the local history of the area.

*It was not an easy matter to bring a seven member family to a strange country with an unfamiliar language— even the sun travels the 'wrong way'. (p17).
The Bathurst camp was rainy and muddy. I tried to find work but was rejected as a housemaid in Bathurst because I could not speak English. (p60).*

Review by Ian Willis

Valley of Wealth, A Burratorang Coal Story.

By Ian Federick Welsh, Self-published, 252pp., 2005, \$35.

The story of coalmining in the Burratorang Valley is rich with colour and character.

Welsh has captured the essence of the story of coal and its important influence on the development of the local area.

For the truck enthusiast there is a plethora of facts and figures. There are supporting photographs of Ford Hercules, Sentinel, Mack and dog trailers. For those who are looking

for the history of the companies involved in mining there is immense detail. Similarly the family historians will find enough detail to keep them happy as well.

Disappointingly the detail sometimes gets in the way of the real story of the people in the Valley and how coalmining influenced their lives.

Despite this the book has many valuable illustrations,

maps, documents and well supported by an extensive index and referencing. The book treats the story through the main players: Clintons, Foxes, Clutha and Dunbiers. It also looks at the infrastructure needed for the industry.

The book would be a valuable addition to the library of any reader who has an interest in the Burratorang Valley or the local coal industry.



**Only 2 1979 MAN
8V92TA GM 430HP
were built in Australia
by MAN Australia. A
Fruehauf 32'x5' trailer
(1982). (Caption Back
Cover)**

Service and Localism: Dr Liz Kernohan.

A portrait of Dr Liz Kernohan has been painted in an article in the political science journal *AQ* by Dr Ian Willis (Jan-Feb 2005). The paper attempts to unravel the reasons for the considerable support that Kernohan enjoyed in the local area.

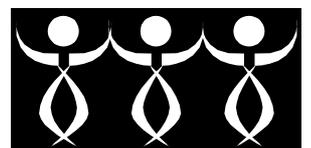
Willis shows that Kernohan's

considerable service and commitment to the Camden community was not unique. She was not Camden's first woman to qualify as a local identity.

Kernohan practised localist politics and had a no-nonsense approach to politics. Unlike some contemporaries she un-

derstood local affairs and pragmatically used local issues to increase her support base in the electorate.

She engaged Camden's aspirational voters before the word became trendy. She illustrated that local politics needs to be practised with skill and finesse.





CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

PO Box 566
Camden NSW 2570

Camden Museum

40 John St, Camden.
General Admission Free
Opening Times
Thursday– Sunday 11.00am – 4.00 pm
Phone: Museum 02 4655 3400
<http://www.zipworld.com.au/~scrob/historical.html>
Email: camdenmuseum@yahoo.com

ABN 84 182 869 026

The Camden Historical Society was founded in 1957. Its aim was to tell the story of Camden. It did this by establishing a museum in 1970. The museum continues to do this by providing an entertaining display of information panels, objects, images and documents. The downstairs galleries lead the visitor through a history of the district starting with the original indigenous Australians, and then through the stages of European settlement. The galleries upstairs tell the story of the social history of Camden, with a particular focus on Camden's rural heritage.

The museum is located in a two storey building adjacent to Camden Library. It is in the centre of Camden's historic precinct and provides an ideal start for a walking tour of the town.

The museum is conducted entirely by volunteers. It also receives substantial and continuing assistance from Camden Council.

General admission to the museum is free, although visitors are encouraged to leave a donation. 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.

CAMDEN RETROSPECTIVE

Wartime Volunteering

Wartime volunteering in Camden started during the Boer War. Sibella Macarthur Onslow organised comforts to be sent to the Camden men in South Africa. Camden also had a local branch of the New South Wales Patriotic Fund.

Volunteering during the First World War followed on from the experience of the Boer War. A branch of the British Red Cross was established in Camden in September 1914, similar to many other country towns across Australia. The Camden Red Cross held weekly sewing workshops which made comforts for hospitals and this was supported by fundraising. Local people also supported many patriotic funds, such

as the Belgian Relief Fund.

During the Second World War the town's voluntary effort continued as it had done during the First World War. The Red Cross re-established its sewing workshops on Tuesdays in the Camden Town Hall. The Women's Voluntary Services made comforts and sent them to local service men. Young women joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment and volunteered at Camden Hospital. There was a camouflage netting centre at the CWA Rooms, which sent nets off to CWA headquarters in Sydney. A Civilian Aid Service was established in case of air raids

or if the local population had to be evacuated. There was the Air Observation Centre in Macarthur Park. There were the civilian defence arrangements with local wardens in each street. Air raid precautions meant that there were air raid practices. There were decontamination squads and local men joined the Volunteer Defence Corps and practised weekly drills at the showground. There was a service canteen conducted by the Australian Comforts Fund and the YMCA of Sydney. There was considerable local support for patriotic loans, for which Camden won a pennant.

Ian Willis, 2005.

Try to learn something about everything and everything about something.

TH Huxley