



NEWSLETTER

ALL IN THE LOCK UP

Outing to Camden Police Station

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At our April meeting we were offered the opportunity to inspect Camden Police Station. Detective Inspector Paul Albury, Crime Manager, Camden Local Area Command gave an informative tour of the station. Many of our members have never been through the station and found it quite an educational experience. The station, known as the Police Barracks was built in 1878. It is located in

Camden historic precinct opposite the museum.

Inspector Albury showed the members the location of the original station in the northern wing of the building. Just one small room. The remainder of the building was for the accommodation of the officer and their family. The old building seems to be coping well given the demands of modern policing.

One society member recalled how she spent many nights sleeping over at the station in

her youth when it was a police residence.

The tour covered the front desk, interview room, the cells, the computer room, the old cells, meal room and the 'old' rooms used by police in earlier years. We were shown the latest in technology, which was located in less than ideal conditions.

Members were also shown the latest mobile command centre and its technology - quite impressive.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Saturday 26th July 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Special points of interest:

- Ordinary General Meetings:
Wednesday, 7.30pm, Camden Museum, 40 John St, Camden.
11 June 2008,
9 July 2008,
13 August 2008,
10 September 2008,
8 October 2008,
12 November 2008 ,
10 December 2008
11 February 2009
11 March 2009
8 April 2009
13 May 2009
10 June 2009

An afternoon has been organised for museum volunteers to come together as a group; to bring them up to-date with what is new, what has changed, and what is planned for the Museum.

It is an opportunity for volunteers to meet other people who give their valuable time to enable the Museum to be open to the public while in-

creasing their skills and awareness of how a local Museum operates.

Any one interested in becoming a volunteer with the Museum is very welcome to attend the training to gain first hand knowledge and see what is involved.

You will learn: (1)What's new at the Museum; (2) Accessing the Museum Computers and the Society's Web Site; (3) Best

way for visitors to use the Research Room; (4)How all Museum items are being catalogued.

There will be time to ask questions about our current procedures and systems. We welcome any suggestions you have on how they can be improved and the afternoon is an opportunity to canvas them with other volunteers.

Tea and coffee provided, bring a small plate for afternoon tea.

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 OAM 4655 9210; Peter Hayward OAM 4651 2253; Bob Lester 4655 9044 • Treasurer: Ray Herbert 9606 6075 • Secretary: Doug Barrett 4647 0597 • Julie Wrigley, Len English, Colin Mills, Milton Ray, Cathey Shepherd, Ros Tildsley, Sandra Dodds, Dr Karen Farmer, Werner Wolinski, Peter Mylrea. *Newsletter Editor:* Dr Ian Willis. *Webmaster:* Steve Robinson

President's Shorts

Upcoming speakers

June Pam Browne
WRARG

July Camden Collectors
Night

August AGM

October Dr Gabrielle
Gwyther UWS Bankstown

November Janice Johnston,
History of St John's Ceme-
tery

Events

In **Heritage Week** on 12
April the society held a joint
workshop with Camden Li-
brary called *Just Keep Dig-
ging: An Introductory Work-*

*shop Examining Sources in
Local History.* Dr Ian Willis
gave the presentation. The
workshop presentation has
been put on the society web-
site for easy access.

The **Research and Writing
Group** continues to meet to
write entries for the Diction-
ary of Sydney. The group has
had 12 entries finalised and
accepted by the Dictionary's
editorial committee. The Cam-
den entry has been accepted
by the *Sydney Journal*. The
group is now starting to move
onto other research projects
including Burnham Grove,
and a number of local identi-
ties.

The **society/library/family
history partnership** meeting
was held on 13 May 2008.

Everyone seems happy with
all issues raised for discussion.

On 4 March 2008 the society,
represented by John and Julie
Wrigley, had the **Macarthur
Lions Club** visit the museum
after their dinner meeting.

John and Julie Wrigley repre-
sented the society at the '**Toys
of Yesterday**' held at Camp-
belltown Library. They
brought back an interesting
DVD for volunteers to view.

Dr Ian Willis represented the
society at the presentation of
the finalists for the **Narellan**

History Prize on 29 March
2008. The society was presented
with a copy of the prize winner,
Jeanne Stacey's *Thomas Her-
bert's World and Herberts Hill
Narellan*. The \$1000 history
prize was organised by
WRARG.

The society mounted a success-
ful stall at the **Camden Show**
on 7-8 March 2008. Many
members volunteered to staff
the society table in the show
hall. The society is most appre-
ciative of being allocated this
high profile position at the
show.

Visitors to the museum in 2008
have been January 438, Febru-
ary 399, March 572.

Rheingau Reunion *26 April 2008*

The society, under the guid-
ance of Dough Barrett, hosted
part of the recent Rheingau
Reunion. It attracted more
than 300 descendants of six
families who came to Camden
Park in the 1830s from Ger-
many to tend grapevines. The
German vinedressers were
Johann Justus, Casper Flick,
Georg Gerhard, Friedrich
Sickold, Johann Stein and
Johann Wenz. Visitors came
from Germany, New Zealand,
Cairns and parts of Victoria.

The museum was presented
with a plaque, which was
initially unveiled at Camden
Park by Dr Gunther Gruber,
Sydney's German Consul.
The plaque details these
events. It will be permanently
mounted in the museum for
all to see. The plaque states
'They gave all and came that
we might enjoy what they had
only dreamt about'.

The descendants (over 300)
visited Camden Park on Sat-

urday morning. Around 180
then proceeded on to afternoon
tea provided by the society in
the library function room. They
inspected the museum, searched
for information in the museum
archives and purchased a number
of books. The whole event was
financially beneficial for the
museum.

On Sunday there was a visit to
Belgenney and service at St
Johns attended by 120 visitors.

A very successful event.

Advocacy of local history and heritage

One of the aims of the society
in its constitution is the advoca-
cy of local history and herita-
ge.

The society has commented
on a development proposal
for **Camden Acres** cottage
at Elderslie.

The society presented a peti-
tion to council on the Draft
Camden Camden Town Cen-

tre Strategy and provided
commentary on the pro-
posed strategy guidelines.

Earlier in the year the soci-
ety commented on a pro-
posed shopping mall at the
northern entry to Camden
town area.

The society commented on
developments at Macquarie
House, Ferguson Lane,
Camden.

The society expressed a number
of concerns about a proposed
subdivision at Sharman Close,
Harrington Park and the associ-
ated development of Carinya
and the need for statements of
heritage impact.

The society advocated for the
retention of open space adjacent
to the old St Thomas church at
Narellan.

Want to learn how to use the internet?

Camden Library has
offered to provide train-
ing for volunteers in
accessing the Internet.
Please let Doug Barrett
know if you are inter-
ested in this so he can
arrange the training to
suit most people.

Celebrate the Museum

Cocktail Party

Friday

20 June 2008

5.30 - 7.30 pm

Members and friends are invited to
celebrate a number of important
recent acquisitions

Admission: Free

Members are requested to
bring a plate of savoury
nibbles

'Blasts from the Past',

Joint Society Partnership to Transfer Sound Tapes to CD

The society is involved in a partnership project that will result in the society's sound tapes changed to CD format.

This partnership involves the Camden Historical Society, Camden Council's Camden Creative Solutions (at Narellan Library) and MTC Work Solutions.

It is a Work for the Dole program that aims to teach the participants a number of skills. They include creative and social skills, as well as problem solving.

The first stage of the project has been successfully completed. There was a presentation of the

participants projects in April, using Llewella Davies as the subject, under the heading: 'Blasts from the Past'. Angela Pasqua spoke to the society at the April meeting about progress. The project has now moved into phase two.

Over the years the society has accumulated a collection of sound tapes on cassette that are currently stored in a cupboard. They are an oral history collection of the history of the town and community. They were put together by a variety of people including Dick Nixon and Milton Ray. There are interviews, stories, meeting speakers, and others.

In their current format there is a danger that they will deteriorate. They need to be transferred to a more stable format for long term storage and safety.

Changing the format to CD also allows other people to borrow them, copy them, listen to them, placement on the society's website and in Camden library. The CD format allows easy accessibility, easy organisation and practical and efficient ways to listen and access the information. The CD format allows indexing and transcribing so that researchers can gain easy access to the information on the

Group Visits to Museum

Doug Barrett has been looking after these visits to the museum. All the tours also had a introduction to the Library by Virginia or a senior librarian.

Schools

Recent schools visits have included **Magdalene College** Narellan, which brought 180 Year 7 students. They were studying local history and the community. They also did a town tour. **Broughton Anglican College** brought 15 Year 11-12 students. They exam-

ined early appliances and how they have affected today's lifestyles. **Camden South Primary School** brought around 120 students to the museum. They were studying 'Your local community and history'. **Macarthur Anglican School** brought 25 Year 7 students. They were studying 'What history can tell us'. **St Paul's Primary School** brought 70 students and were concerned with 'Artifacts and their stories'. All school groups enjoyed their visit and wanted to return to the museum.

Mothers Group

This month we have the first Five Year Program For Young Mothers who will do a tour town and then visit the museum. Their visit involves an introduction to 'Their community and history'. These are working mums who have left work to have children. The program informs them about the activities that are available in their local community. This is federally funded program.

VOLUNTEERS ARE HAPPIER

Its true!

People who volunteer and help others even in small ways are likely to be happier and live more fulfilled lives.

So says Stephen Post, a professor of bioethics and philosophy at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

Post was addressing a Sydney conference on happiness yes-

terday.

Professor Post is the head of the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love at the university's medical school. He said that contemporary research has shown a profound connection between giving, altruism and happiness.

Martin Seligman, the 'father of positive psychology' at the

University of Pennsylvania.

Seligman said happiness involved pleasure as well as, living an engaged and meaningful life in which a person used their strengths and virtues to serve 'something bigger' than themselves.

SMH 10-11 May 2008, p.3.

Foresters' Hall, Camden

Wednesday June 23, 1915

Red Cross Grand Entertainment and Living Pictures

Tableaux Vivants

The Cobbitty Friends of the Red Cross is having a programme of events in aid of Australia Day For Australian Wounded Soldiers. The programme includes songs, recitations, tableaux and other performances by local people. The opening song is 'Cheer, Lads, Cheer for Dear Australia' performed by Miss Ruth Sidman. Cobbitty Friends will sing 'When the Empire Calls', followed by Cobbitty children singing 'Belgium National Anthem'.

Floods at Camden

On June 18 1949 Camden had the third highest flood in its history to that point. At one point the Nepean River was 14 feet about the Hume Highway at Camden bridge. Flood waters entered 40 homes and businesses premises. On June 18 1950 Camden had its third flood in 12 weeks. The flood reached a peak at 9.30 pm on Friday night. The road was re-opened to traffic on Saturday at 7.50 pm. Train services were not resumed until Sunday afternoon. The flood suspended transport of milk, vegetables, fruit, eggs and coal to Sydney. Landslides temporarily closed the Hume Highway on Razorback. Two Camden families had to vacate their homes on Friday night, while other were ready to evacuate. Accommodation was organised for Chinese market gardeners. (CA 6/50)

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

Sat 26 July 2008
2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
At Museum
Tea and Coffee provided
Please bring a plate



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
Thurs– Sunday 11.00am – 4.00 pm
Phone: Museum 02 4655 3400
<http://www.camdenhistory.org.au>
E: info@camdenhistory.org.au

ABN 84 182 869 026

MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$10
Family \$15
Corporate/Assoen \$75
For Year Ending 30 June

The Camden Historical Society

The society was founded in 1957. Its aim is to promote the local history and heritage of Camden. It primarily does this through managing the Camden Museum which opened in 1970. General admission to the museum is free, although visitors are encouraged to leave a donation. The museum is conducted entirely by volunteers. It also receives substantial and continuing assistance from Camden Council.

Historic Precinct

The museum is located in Camden's historic precinct. It is part of the Camden Library and Museum Complex. It provides an ideal start for a walking tour of the town area. The visitor can take in the charm of the many 19th and early 20th century buildings.

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 *'Lost Places'*

Places that have long since disappeared have a special spot in people's memory. They nostalgically recall these places with fond memories. There are a number of such places in our local area.

The Burratorang Valley is one those 'lost place'. Its grandeur and majesty is recalled by many. Its loss was one of the triggers for the foundation of this society, as people tried to gather memorabilia and memories from those places. The Camden Rotary Mural has been constructed from the stone of a valley church. The teamster me-

morial celebrates the Valley's horse teams which brought silver ore to Camden railway station.

The station and others on the way to Campbelltown on the Camden tramway are another group of lost places. There are many stories linked to stations that have long disappeared from the scene. Apart from Camden they included Elderslie, Kirkham, Graham's Hill, Narellan, Curran's Hill, Kenny Hill and Maryland. The locomotive that chugged its way between the stations was affectionately known as 'Pansy'.

Stations like Kirkham were just a wooden platform with a sign, probably no more than 3 metres long.

Another more recent 'lost place' is the Gayline Drive-In Movie Theatre. It was an icon of local baby-boomers that was owned and run by the Frazer family. Many local families had many wonderful nights in the cars at the drive-in. The drive-in is representative of the mass consumerism of the 20th century and its two symbols of the car and movies. The Gayline provided movies most nights and in most weather.

Ian Willis 2008

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