



NEWSLETTER

MURRANDAH'S AXE-HEADS

This year's landmark event for the Society is the extended loan of the two iron axe-heads from the grave of Aboriginal Leader Murrandah (c. 1788 - 1849)

This loan has been granted by the Burra Burra Aboriginal Corporation to the Camden Museum.

The axe-heads were unearthed from Murrandah's grave in 1913 and later donated to the South Australian Museum mistakenly thinking they were from the Burra District in that State.

Life Member John Wrigley OAM acted as host on the occasion and in the formal part of the proceedings accepted the axe-heads on our behalf.

We were pleased to welcome special guests:

- Graham Maranda - Secretary and Co-Director of Burra Burra Aboriginal Corporation

- Anna Russo - Director of Aboriginal Repatriation South Australian Museum who transported the axe-heads to Sydney

- Taylor Clarke who gave the Welcome to Country

To assist in celebrating the occasion we were delighted to have present dignitaries such as:

State Member for Camden Peter Sidgreaves MP, Mayor of Camden Theresa Fedeli, Councillors, together with members of the Indigenous Community

We extend to the Burra Burra Community our appreciation for the honour they bestow on allowing us to be custodian of their treasured artefact.

** For further details see Julie Wrigley's comprehensive report in the latest journal on the repatriation of Murrandah's two grave objects.

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General Meetings 2022

- 9 February
- 9 March
- 13 April
- 11 May
- 8 June
- 13 July
- 10 August & AGM
- 14 September
- 12 October
- 9 November
- 14 December

Meetings are held on the
2nd Wednesday of the
month at 7.30 pm

40 John St, Camden.
All welcome

Ph: (02) 4655 3400



Above: John Wrigley OAM, Graham Maranda and Anna Russo signing official documents

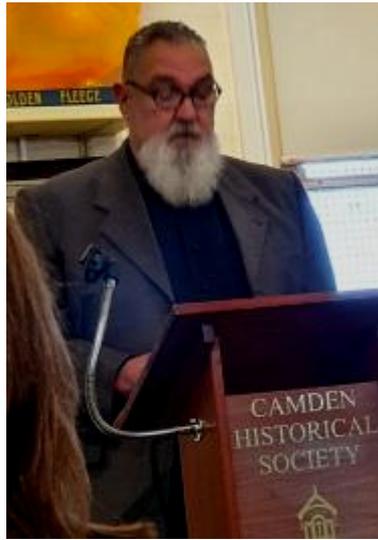


Above: Iron Axe-heads in our Aboriginal cabinet in museum

All correspondence to: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au • Editor: Lee Stratton • President: Ian Ramsay • Vice Presidents: Jo O'Brien & John Wrigley OAM • Treasurer Fletcher Joss • Secretary: Lee Stratton • Immediate Past President Doug Barrett • General Committee: Rene Rem, Warren Sims, Frances Warner, Robert Wheeler, Dawn Williams, Ian Willis OAM, Julie Wrigley • Volunteer Co-Ord: Rene Rem • *Webmaster* : Warren Sims *Facebook*: Rene Rem



Anne Russo



Graham Maranda



Taylor Clarke



Anne McIntosh with
Councillor Eva Campbell



Graham Maranda with daughter
Courtney & granddaughter Aniyah

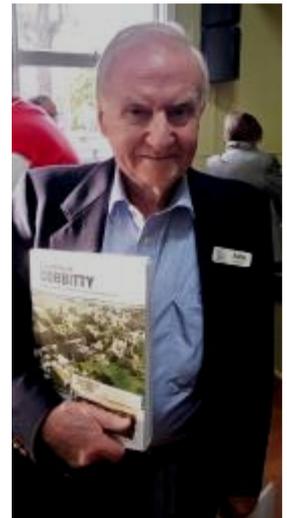
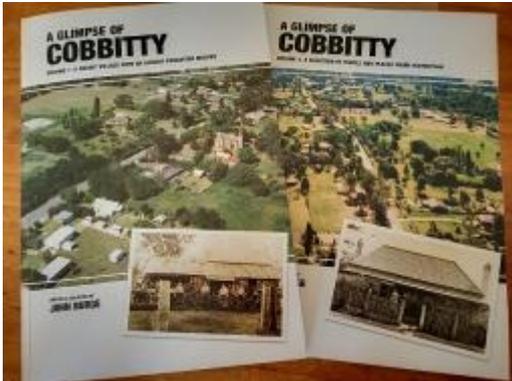


Member for Camden, Peter
Sidgreaves MP with John
Wrigley OAM



L to R: Mayor Theresa
Fedeli, Graham Maranda,
Toni Schouten, Courtney
Jacques, Karen Lebsanft,
Colleen Maranda, Louise
Schouten, Taylor Clarke
and Councillor Usha
Dommaraju

LAUNCH of 'A GLIMPSE OF COBBITTY' By JOHN BURGE



John Burge with John Wrigley

Newly appointed Vice President Jo O'Brien reported that on Sunday 26th June, a book launch was held at St Paul's Church for this impressive two volume set titled "A Glimpse of Cobbitty", a compilation of Cobbitty's history and people, which has been written and collected by John Burge. It is the culmination of 40 years of collecting, meticulous research, local knowledge, and interviews. The books are a chronological history of Cobbitty up to the 1980s, with valuable information and many stories on local families and places. After the formal proceedings, a wonderful country afternoon tea was held in the hall, thanks to the efforts of the Church Guild ladies, and featuring John Burge's lovely ANZAC biscuits and pumpkin scones. Also in attendance were Julie and John Wrigley OAM, Ian Willis OAM and Rene Rem. The two-volume set is available for \$70 on email: johnsw44@gmail.com

'BEN HODGE' 1877 - 1979

Philip Benjamin Hodge settled in Camden NSW in 1897 at the age of 19. He established a successful jeweller business on Argyle Street for 35 years.

He married a local lady and lived a very busy life and was instrumental in creating the Camden we know and love today.

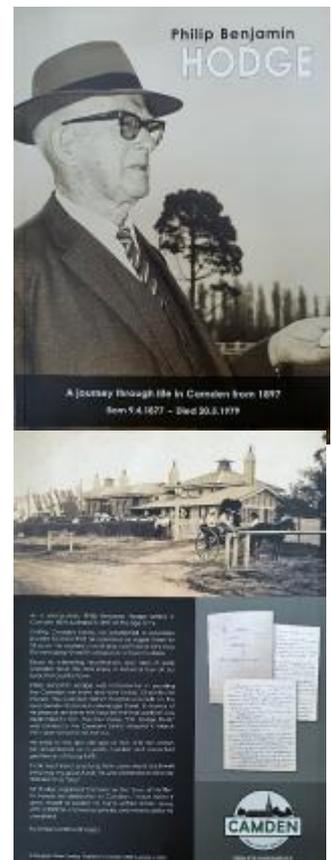
Of particular interest, the Camden District Hospital was built on the land beside his home in Menangle Street.

In honour of his years of service to the hospital, the final addition was dedicated to him. The four storey 'P. B. Hodge Block' was added to the Camden District Hospital in March 1971.

He lived to 102 and will always be remembered as a polite, humble and respected gentleman of strong faith. His best friend and long time carer Mavis Southwell (who was my great aunt) was cherished and fondly referred to as 'Boss'.

By Kellee Cordina (Sharpe) who wrote this book to honour Ben's dedication to Camden

**** Kellee will be our guest speaker in the September general meeting. Her book on Ben Hodge is on sale now in the museum for \$30.00**



10 AUGUST - TAYLOR CLARKE



Left: Ian Ramsay, John Wrigley, Taylor Clarke and Julie Wrigley

Right: Taylor next to the Aboriginal cabinet in the museum



Taylor commenced with 'acknowledging the traditional owners of these lands and pay my respects to the intersecting nations of the Tharawal and Gundungurra. Their custodianship has nurtured this country since the dreaming.'

Taylor is a proud Gundungurra woman, her people are the Bidjwong people of the Burragorang Valley. They are the custodians of lands spanning approx. 11,000kms bordering Tharawal, Darug, Wiradjuri and Ngunawal nations. Her nan was the last one in her family to be born and live in this valley, they were forced to leave in the 1950's to make way for the construction of the Warragamba Dam. Her great grandfather gained employment on this construction as a crane chaser.

While completing a law degree, Taylor has worked with members of Parliament and an NGO. She regularly meets with local and state government officials to discuss issues of Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Taylor was informed early in August that she was selected to attend the Normandy Chair for Peace Summer School at the University of Caen, France. This gives her the opportunity to meet with students from across the world to deal with a number of issues around international environment

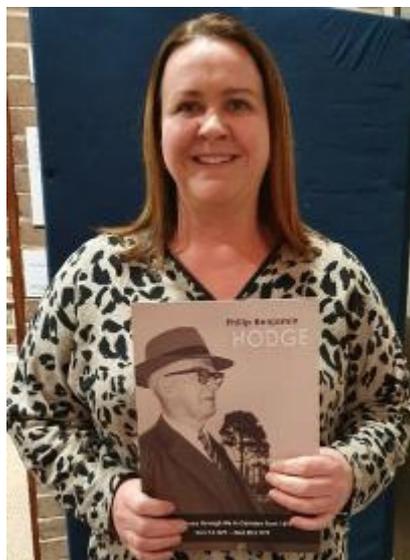
14 SEPTEMBER - KELLEE CORDINA

Kellee showed us a powerpoint presentation on Mr Ben Hodge's interesting and significant life in Camden.

Kellee also brought in some of his personal items that her family found in his house after he died.

It was a very interesting and informative night

* Far right is a change of display for Mr Ben Hodge with items from the Society's collection.



HISTORY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

ST JUSTIN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, ORAN PARK

Camden Historical Society was contacted early August from St Justin's School to conduct an alternative to an excursion to the museum. This was a first request from a school and as such liaised with the Year 2 teacher, Fiona Lusik to explore taking items from the museum to a classroom. The school also requested Working With Children details of the people attending, which were: Trish Clark, Frances Warner and Lee Stratton and the Society's Certificate of Currencies for Public & Personal Liabilities for the NSW Education Department.

A sub-committee of Julie Wrigley, Rene Rem, Trish Clark, Frances Warner and Lee Stratton discussed what could be taken to show the 120 students changes in technology. We took some of the items used for the Mini Discoverers. In addition Frances took some items from Camden Park House and Leonie Jackson lent us an old mobile phone.

They particularly loved to hear Frances's stories about how she worked at Camden Park House as a 'servant' and to hear about the changes to implements used in the kitchen and laundry such as the toaster, egg beater, washboard and iron. We talked about the changes to the way we write and communicate and their thoughtful questions about the slate, inkwell and pen, typewriter and old telephones were a big hit, and an indicator of their interest of how things have changed over time. With the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II and the proclamation of Charles III there was an opportunity to look at some old coins and talk about how the images of the reigning monarch changes and new coins are minted.

The children were well behaved and very interested in what was said and we came out of the classroom very happy that all went well.



Left: Trish Clark demonstrating the slate board

Right: Frances Warner demonstrating the egg beater



MINI DISCOVERERS TOUR

The museum hosts pre-schoolers with a hands-on interactive exhibit bi-annually.

Rene Rem and Lee Stratton liaise with Vicki Movizio, Camden Library's Local Studies Librarian to organise a few items from our collection for the children to play with.

At this event we had the most attendees of pre-schoolers since the beginning of Covid 2019.



BACK THEN ... LIVE TOUR IN CAMDEN

In conjunction with The District Reporter's Back Page the Camden Historical Society hosted walking tours through Camden on Saturday 27 August. The weather was fine until lunch when the third group encountered showers.

Three groups capped at 12 per group were fully booked between 10am - 12pm. Tour groups began and ended at the museum where everyone then went on with the rest of their day, hopefully with refreshments in the local cafes.

Four of our members; President Ian Ramsay, Vice President Jo O'Brien, and Robert Wheeler with Rene Rem were showing groups the various landmarks and stories around the rich history of the township. All had positive feedback after their walks.

There will be a repeat of these walking tours on Saturday 15 October with Camden Council for Unlock Camden. Look out for more information.

Centre: Ian Ramsay's group

Below: Robert Wheeler & Rene Rem's group



Above: Jo O'Brien's group

INFORMATION NEEDED

Anne McIntosh continues to seek information about local sportspeople.

Knowing Camden's rural competitiveness, I discovered the following item on **Trove**:

Camden News 19 Oct 1933

“Axemen's Club formed

A local axemen's club has been formed and the following officials have been elected pro tem:

President: Mr C Foster; Vice President: Mr C Ericson; Hon Secretary: Mr D Jones; Hon Treasurer: Mr C Noonan.”

A few weeks later in November, there was a debate about the judge's decision in a wood chopping event, so the Club got off to a controversial start. The winner of this close event was a Mr J Adams. Competitive wood chopping was new to many areas at this time, and in 1936 the wrong number of logs was provided so they had to amalgamate some of the events. In show society reports during the 1950s, rules for the wood chopping events were still being resolved.

- ** Does anyone know anything about the Camden or Burragarang Axemen's Clubs?
- ** Did Camden ever produce an axeman of state or national significance?
- ** Did anyone from Camden ever win a wood chopping event at the Sydney Royal Show?
- ** Were there any specialists in making or sharpening axes or swords in our local area?

If you can assist with any information, please contact Anne on: amc67497@bigpond.net.au

Editor's Notes

Upcoming Talks in 2022

12 October - Bradley Warner on aged care health

9 November - Clem Davis with his WW2 talk

14 December - Members' Christmas Party

The SOCIETY'S FACEBOOK

We now have around 4,000 followers on our page.

The latest images are changed regularly and show some of Camden and Districts history. Check it out and other great facts on this link.

www.facebook.com/CamdenMuseum

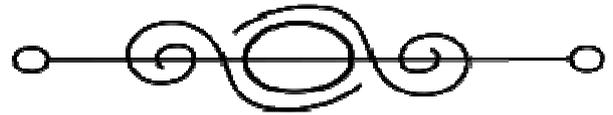


Vic Boardman would have turned 100 on 4 July 2022

Volunteer Co-ordinator's Report

The Society is always needing members who would like to participate in the functioning of the museum . If interested, please contact me.

Rene Rem: 0424 847 492



ANOTHER BUSY THREE MONTHS - June to August

As we are now living with COVID there are more groups and events happening in the museum.

* Every Monday from 1.30 - 2.30 pm U3A History classes are conducted in the museum by Michael Barry. If you would like to attend a class, Term 3 commenced on 18 July and it's free of charge.

Groups and events are: Meals on Wheels, Ingleburn View Club, Warrawee Probus Club, Barra Brui Probus Club, Forestville Probus Club, Western District Disabled Services Club, RSL Lifecare district tour, Revesby Wine Club, Girl Guides Blacktown, Mt Colah Probus Club, I.R.T. Campbelltown.

** Many thanks to John & Julie Wrigley and Rene Rem for assisting with the Tours which includes a bus and walking tours in the Camden District .

NEW MINI DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM

In honour of our late Monarch, Queen Elizabeth II John and Julie Wrigley have included a mini display in a cabinet with items from our collection; Coronation Medal, Jubilee Medal, coins, \$1 note and Leonie Jackson has contributed with a 1947 Engagement Plate.



CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC



PO Box 566
Camden NSW 2570

Camden Museum & Camden Library
40 John St, Camden.

General Admission Free

Opening Times

Thursday– Sunday 11.00am – 4.00 pm

Phone: Museum 02 4655 3400

<http://www.camdenhistory.org.au>

<http://camdenhistory.org.au/cmindex.html>

email: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au

ABN 84 182 869 026

The Camden Historical Society

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

Historic Precinct

The museum is located in Camden's historic precinct. It is part of the Camden Library Museum Complex. It provides an ideal start for a walking tour of the town area where the visitor can observe the charm and character of the town centre.

Research

The Society's archives are open to the public. General enquiries are free. Specific research by our volunteers attracts a \$15 fee plus photocopying. Extensive use of the Society's records is by negotiation.

MEMBERSHIP 2022 / 2023

Individual \$15, Family \$20

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.

NEW DISPLAY IN MUSEUM

Julie and John Wrigley OAM along with Dawn Williams and Rene Rem recently changed the display case in the museum from School items to historic games.

Also included is the modern Monopoly Camden Edition game



WELFARE OFFICER REPORT



Hope everyone is keeping safe and well during these trying times.

* No report this month

My Contact details are:

Email: janetsg@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0490 146 533

