



NEWSLETTER

COMPLETION OF BEQUEATH - JANICE JOHNSON

The late Janice Johnson, a former secretary of the Camden Historical Society, left money for the Society to place cast bronze plaques on six gravesites in the cemetery of the St John's Anglican Church, Camden, and on one grave at St Mark's Picton. Janice was a local historian, well known for her tours of the St John's Cemetery. Janice saw these graves as significant and wanted their inscriptions preserved and known.



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The plaque was installed at St Mark's, and at St John's in February 2021, by Peter Raksts, Heritage Monumental Mason. One plaque on St Mark's, Picton was on the grave of Ernest Royer.

The six graves at St John's were Sophia Gumbleton who died in 1844, aged 29, Victor L B Haigh M.C. died 1924, aged 41, Hannah Lakeman who died in 1845 aged 4. Her father, John Lakeman, drowned in 1869, aged 58. Maxamillian von Zglincki who died in 1898, aged 71. Perhaps the most interesting inscription is on James Stewart's headstone:

Son of James Stewart Esq. of Rollands Plains who was struck down by the hand of a maniac at Camden Park on 5th January 1872, aged 25 years. He was a dearly loved and loving son and brother and was greatly respected. His many friends have raised this tribute to his memory.

Since Janice's death in 2017, the Society has now printed 5 books by Janice:

Camden Through a Poet's Eyes (2019)
Camden Soldiers of King and Queen 1788 to 1913 (2020)
Camden Stories of Service in World War Two (2021)
If Gravestones Could Talk (Second Edition, 2022)
Place Names of the Camden Area (2022)

At the General meeting of the Society on 12 April John Wrigley moved that the Society accept the recommendation of the Management Committee and ratify the decision that the Society has fully completed the requirements of Janice Johnson's will and the bequests have been fully discharged.

The motion was moved by John Wrigley, seconded by Peter Hayward, and passed unanimously. The Society acknowledges the work of Fletcher Joss (photo above with the books) in taking Janice's unfinished manuscripts through to publication, as Janice wished.

Julie Wrigley

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

General Meetings 2023

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

HERITAGE WEEK WITH MINI DISCOVERERS GROUPS



TALK - JAMES WARRAND - 8 FEBRUARY

James Warrand who spoke about the earthquake in Napier New Zealand in 1931

James' father was an officer of the Royal Navy on the HMS Veronica which was docked in Napier when the earthquake occurred. Lieutenant Warrand played a major role organising rescue efforts and provided shelter on the ship for survivors. The death toll for this tragic event was 256 with 593 local citizens sustaining serious injuries and 5000 people evacuated. With roads and communication systems being badly affected by the earthquake the HMS Veronica provided a national and international communication linking service during the emergency operations.



TALK - FRANCES WARNER - 8 MARCH

Frances Warner presented a very entertaining and informative talk about commercial aspects of Camden Park House where she and her family lived and worked for many years.

Films that were made there include the Smiley movies, My Brilliant Career, and The Daughter.

The stables have been used in filming "A Place to Call Home" and other short films. Camden Park was used for television productions such as the Batchelor, Australia This is Us, Bill Grainger Cookbook, Dynasties (ABC), Burkes Backyard, A Country Practice and Dirtwater Dynasties.

Advertisements which aired on TV which were filmed at Camden Park include Just Jeans, Heinze Soup, Disprin, Chicken Biscuits, Violet Crumble, Winfield cigarettes, David Jones, VW and the Woolworths Christmas advertisement.

Frances provided an amusing reflection of these experiences.

Also in the audience listening were current workers from Camden Park (group photo with Frances)



TALK - 'SHARED STORIES' - 12 APRIL

The Speakers for this meeting were members speaking about their Shared Stories for the National Trust Australian Heritage Festival Event.

Frances Warner spoke about making Red poppies at Camden RSL for ANZAC Day. Also shared stories and memories gathered by her in a special decoupage book, which was made for her. She related many amusing stories about her grandchildren, and reminded us all of the importance of writing these stories down.

Harry Stait-Gardner spoke about his father's service in a Scottish regiment, in Burma and South America. His family left England when he was a child, arriving on the Orontes in 1949, and he remembered the brightness of the sun in Australia. In 1962 he met Janet...

Janet Stait-Gardner then spoke about how they married and lived in Somerset, and had two children there, but eventually Harry wanted to come back to Australia. So they packed up their home and said goodbye to family, which was a sad moment. When she saw St John's Church in 1987, she felt she could live here, and as such made Camden their home.



CAMDEN COUNCIL NEW GENERAL MANAGER VISIT THURSDAY 20 APRIL

A few of the Committee and Betty Yewen gave Andrew Carfield a museum tour.

He came by himself, was very pleasant and easy to talk to. Seemed very impressed with the Museum, and with Camden generally.

We were able to talk about a number of issues including space, items in the display, and John Street. He was impressed with the use of space. He said he would bring his family back to see the Museum.

Andrew is also taking up Jo O'Brien's offer of a Camden Walking Tour to familiarise himself in the area as he lives in Wollongong.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

On Friday 19 May Camden Council hosted a dinner for volunteers in the Camden district celebrating National Volunteer Week.

Congratulations to our new Mayor, Ashleigh Cagney who officially welcomed those attending the reception.

Dinner was a hot roast with beef, chicken and pork with vegetables and cake, coffee and tea.

All volunteers received a certificate with a badge and mini chocolates in a little bag. Also had a choice of a young plant from the Bush Care Group



CAMDEN PARK HOUSE OPEN WEEKEND

Camden Park House open weekend is on 16th&17th September

Ticket sales for the strictly limited number of Guided House Tours are available on this website

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/camden-park-house-47597485333>

A reminder that this "Guided House Tour" ticket also gives you access to the Camden Park Garden. The Camden Park House tours are small group guided tours departing on the hour, from 10am - 3pm on each day on the weekend. Price for this ticket is \$60.00 and \$55.00 for Seniors and children under 16. Pay by credit card, Paypal or Googlepay.

Look forward to welcoming everyone to the annual Spring Open Weekend in September.

Event enquires here: camdenparkinfo@gmail.com



PROFESSOR GRAEME CLARK AC

The work on this important addition to the museum, the story of Professor Graeme Clark's Cochlear Implant is coming to a conclusion. The display case is now positioned near the front door. The Society had contracted the Narellan Men's Shed for the display cabinet and Rhett Deighton to video local people for their stories with the Clark family.

The Society is also looking at mounting more touch screens on the wall next to the cabinet for more videos and information on his life.

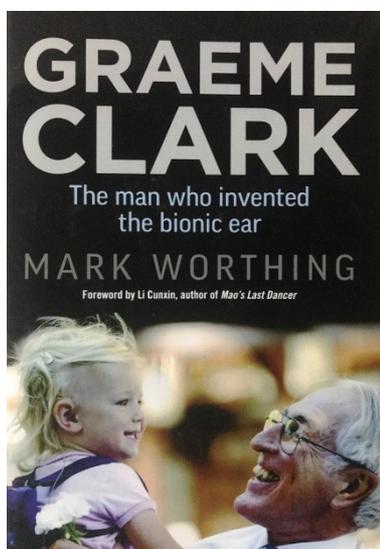
As part of the display Professor Clark is donating the following:

'I am very pleased to be part of the effort and am happy to donate 10 items that are related to the role Camden played in my developing the multi-channel cochlear implant (bionic ear).

The items are:

1. My personal and scientific memoirs with illustrative thumbnails (nearing completion and available on UoM One Drive)
2. Books on or by me
3. Two books compiled by my father in 1933 on pharmaceutical remedies of relevance to the history of medicine
4. A cochlear implant display donated by Cochlear Corporation DVDs on my developing the cochlear implant
5. Cochlear implant artefacts (being couriered by daughter Merran and family on their trip to Kiama on 18th -19th December
6. My Curriculum Vitae (available to download from the UoM One Drive)
7. A list of personal scientific publications (available to download from the UoM One Drive)
8. High resolution photographs for the memoirs (available to download from the UoM One Drive)
9. VHS/ Video clips on addresses and interviews (available to download from the UoM One Drive)
10. A functioning model of the cochlear implant on a Perspex head could be constructed with a grant for electronic parts and time'

He is also donating to the display his Cubs Uniform



AGM AND COMMITTEE FOR 2023/24

AGM

MEETING WEDNESDAY 9th AUGUST AT 7.30PM in the MUSEUM
ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Positions of: President, 2 Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, plus seven other members

There will be a number of vacancies including that of President and Secretary.

For those members wishing to nominate for a position, please contact the Secretary for a nomination form.

After the meeting, our then immediate Past President Ian Ramsay will give a talk on his trip to Norfolk Island.



Outgoing Committee left - right: Ian Ramsay, Rene Rem, Robert Wheeler, Fletcher Joss, Warren Sims, Lee Stratton, Dawn Williams, Frances Warner, Jo O'Brien, Julie Wrigley and John Wrigley

HISTORY WEEK - 2 - 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Theme this year is 'Voices from the Past'

'History is often about giving a voice to people and events from the past, or about listening for voices in the historical record and amplifying the voices of storytellers. At the current moment, a Voice for First Nations peoples is front and centre for all Australians in a referendum.

The History Week theme for 2023, **Voices from the Past**, is an opportunity to engage with the histories of those who were often voiceless in the past such as women, migrants, workers, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Sometimes these voices were once heard but now sit forgotten in archives. At other times they have been ignored or all but erased.'

LATEST DONATION ITEM

Recently the museum was given a big banner with badges and plaques from the Lions/Lioness Clubs.

These have been collected over 40 years by the Lioness Club of Camden.

** Camden museum is always on the lookout for specific items to add to its collection. These items need to represent the history and story of the Camden district.



Editor's Notes

Upcoming Talks in 2023

14 June - Michelle Roffe along with a legal representative

12 July - Bruce Denison with his military stories

9 August - AGM and Ian Ramsay on his Norfolk Island trip

13 September - History Week 'Voices from the Past' with member's stories

11 October - Jeff McGill with his talk on 'The Light Horse' coinciding with October anniversary

8 November - Andy Conlan with a talk on 'Camden Freemasons'

13 December - Members' Christmas Party

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT

Due to Covid over the past three years, we have lost volunteers from 65 down to 46.

In the latest edition of the District Reporter an article 'Museum is on a Recruitment Drive' featured images of Committee members Rene Rem, Dawn Williams and Julie Wrigley. Dawn has been a volunteer for 10 years and quoted as saying 'It's giving back to the community, everyone should if they can'.

Please contact Rene Rem for more information

Over the past three months the museum has had an increase in attendances:

February: 412 - 322 Adults and 90 Children

March: 671 - 578 Adults and 93 Children

April: 591 - 428 Adults and 63 Children

* Membership to the Society has increased to 108 memberships

* The Society's Face book page has over 4,000 followers. Information is changed regularly, so check it out on **www.facebook.com/CamdenMuseum**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE NOW FOR 2023 - 2024
MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED**

Visits to the Museum in 2023

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 free classes are conducted in the museum by Michael Barry (CHS member) in school terms
- Leppington Primary School
- 3 Probus groups per month
- The Hassall Family had a reunion where 80 people attended to listen to presentations from Ian Willis OAM, John Wrigley OAM and John Burge

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

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 2023 / 2024

Individual \$20, Family \$25

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

Outside the library in the foyer is a new exhibit on King Charles III Coronation along with memorabilia from the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Many thanks to Julie and John Wrigley with Rene Rem for the design.

The Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla took place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May 2023. It was the first Coronation in nearly 70 years.

The new coin heads will be available later in 2023.

AUSTRALIAN COINS



WELFARE OFFICER



Take care this winter, as this year will be colder than previous ones.

I have sent a card to the following member:

Ray Herbert
Judith White

If you know of any member who is unwell my contact details are:

Email:
janetsg@bigpond.com