

NEWSLETTER

DOUG BARRETT OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Douglas Barrett of Narellan has agreed to come back on to the Committee as President, after the urging of many of our members. Doug was CHS Secretary from 2006 to 2013, and did an outstanding job in keeping minutes, organising correspondence, making school and tour bookings, conducting visits, mailing newsletters and journals, regularly acting as treasurer, updating the computer and using technology for improving the management of the Museum. He painted, single-handedly, all the woodwork in the large cabinet in the Blattman Room ready for the Red Cross exhibition in 2014.

Doug had retired from a career in the NSW Government Work Cover organisation and so was experienced in occupational health and safety matters, all to the Museum's benefit. He was a very positive influence on the successful operation of the Society from 2006 to 2013, and we are glad to have him back.



Above: Doug Barrett being congratulated by outgoing President Dr Ian Willis OAM

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COMMITTEE 2019/20



Back row left to right: John Wrigley OAM Vice President, Rene Rem, Ian Ramsay, Fletcher Joss Treasurer, Doug Barrett President, Robert Wheeler

Front row left to right: Lee Stratton Secretary, Cheryl Rochford Volunteer Co-ordinator, Frances Warner and Julie Wrigley.

Absent: Warren Sims Vice President and Dawn Williams

Ordinary General Meetings 2019

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

All correspondence to Secretary: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au • Editor: Lee Stratton

President: Doug Barrett • Vice Presidents: Warren Sims & John Wrigley OAM • Treasurer: Fletcher Joss • Secretary: Lee Stratton 0247748005 • Immediate Past President: Dr Ian Willis OAM • General Committee: Rene Rem, Ian Ramsay, Frances Warner, Robert Wheeler, Dawn Williams, Julie Wrigley Webmaster: Warren Sims Facebook: Rene Rem

Editor's Notes

Upcoming speakers 2019

9 October - Rodna Siebels will talk on 'Archaeological Fieldwork in Egypt'

13 November - Wal Walker will talk on his book "Jane and D'Arcy" Jane Austen and D'Arcy Wentworth. Wentworth's association with the Macarthur Family.

11 December - Christmas Party for members and guests

Upcoming speakers 2020

12 February - Stephen McMahon will update members and guests on the development of Historic 'Maryland', Bringelly

11 March - Jacqui Kirkby will talk on her property: Varroville Homestead

8 April -

13 May - Heritage Festival (Sat 18 April to Tues 19 May)

VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM

Last 3 months: 1,951

YTD: 4,437

The SOCIETY'S FACEBOOK

We now have 2100 followers (Likes) on our page.

Recently placed on our Facebook are photos on Camden in the 1870's from our photo collection and items seen in the museum. Check it out and other great facts on the link.

www.facebook.com/CamdenMuseum

Volunteers Needed

The society is always on the lookout for those who would like to lend a hand. It does not matter how small the contribution, every little bit makes a difference.

If helping out at the Museum appeals to you see or call Cheryl Rochford on 0419682158.

VOLUNTEERS' NEWS

If you are on roster with school groups, it is a requirement for anyone who works or volunteers in child-related work in NSW to be registered.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN REGISTRATION WITH RMS NSW

Apply for your check or renew your WWC on this website:

<https://wwwcheck.cyp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/Application>

Fill out the form online with your proof of I.D. WWC number will be emailed to you.

Could you then give a copy to Cheryl for filing. Many thanks

AVAILABILITY OF MUSEUM VISITS AND WALKING TOURS

Are you a member of a social or service group that might be interested in a visit or outing to the Museum? Our volunteers are able to offer town walking tours, act as bus guides and provide guided tours of the Museum during and outside our normal opening hours. Contact the Secretary for details and bookings, reasonable charges apply. Email: secretary@camdenhistory.org.au

NEW VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR CHERYL ROCHFORD

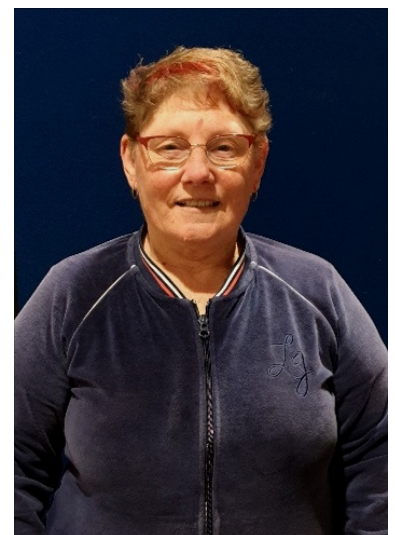
Cheryl recently retired after working for TAFE NSW for 32 years as a Co-ordinator servicing all colleges across the state.

Enclosed are her contact details for all volunteers on a business card to keep in your purse/wallet or fridge.

Cheryl is looking forward to meeting and working with you.

Mobile: 0419682158 Email: cherylrochford@live.com

All volunteers who are rostered on for Sunday afternoons please ensure that the bins are emptied before leaving.



10 JULY - KYLIE WARNER

Kylie spoke about her life as a nurse in the Justice Health System where she works at Berrima Correctional Centre for Women, a minimum security gaol.

Began her nursing career at Long Bay gaol, then Silverwater gaol and finally at Berrima gaol, where Penny her life partner, is a Correctional Officer.

The inmates are called patients and their crime is not shown in their medical file. Therefore they are easy to treat. Kylie also told us that everyone deserves good nursing care and all her patients are treated equally.

Kylie loves her job and for her future would like to be an educator.

This year Kylie was a recipient of an award on International Nurses Day for doing above and beyond her duties. Congratulations Kylie from the members of the Society and best wishes in your future career.



14 AUGUST - Dr IAN WILLIS OAM

Ian spoke about an academic paper he has written based on Shirley Rorke's travels to London from her trip books and letters.

Titled: 'Tourist or Traveller; An Australian Country Girl to London'. In the 1950's it was common for girls in their 20's to travel overseas from the Camden area either with a girlfriend or on their own. And it was a big deal as they took part in huge going away parties which were written up in the local papers. Some stayed away for months and worked while there and others travelled around to different countries.

It was expensive travelling by ship; £95, which was nearly 6 months wages and took 4 weeks to arrive in Tilbury Dock London. And more expensive travelling on the Lockheed Constellation Plane which cost £580 return to London in 10 days.

Shirley was earning 30 shillings/week, at Clinton's Electrical Store in Camden, so it took her a while to save.



Dr Ian Willis OAM



Ian with Shirley Rorke

BOOK LAUNCH - JAMES WHITFIELD

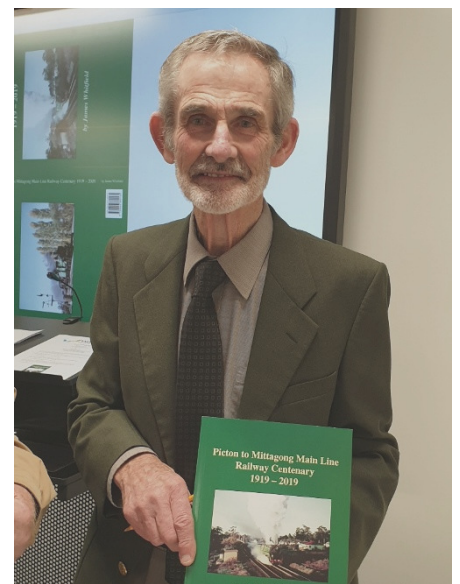
On 27 June 2019 at Wollondilly Library Picton, Jim presented his latest publication called:

'Picton to Mittagong Main Line Railway Centenary 1919 - 2019'

It was a wonderful late afternoon reception for him at the library with so many familiar and new faces. That he sold a lot of books is testament to his dedication to a lifelong love of trains.

He has been a passionate train enthusiast for most of his life in the Tahmoor area. Jim has a keen interest in NSW Railways, especially in the Wollondilly area and has produced an excellent resource for future generations.

The museum has copies of this book for \$30.00



6 JULY - VOLUNTEERS' AFTERNOON TEA



Above:
Penny-Anne Warner

The museum was closed from 1.30pm on Saturday for our Volunteers' Afternoon Tea.

The purpose of this meeting was to inform volunteers of new procedures required for the smooth management of the museum.

The meeting was conducted by Bob Lester, Past President and at that time Volunteer Co-ordinator.

This informative get-together was well attended with a 'scrumptious' afternoon tea organised by Frances and Lee with assistance from Penny-Anne and Kylie Warner.

18 AUGUST - BELGENNY HISTORY DAY

It was held on a Sunday this year and very successful. The Society had a stand in the Community Hall with Dawn Williams and Lee Stratton on duty. Photo of Dawn Williams at our table.

This year they had a petting zoo, Menangle Lighthouse Troop, Women's Fashion with Laura Jane, Tours, Lacemaking, Leathermaking, Woolspinning, Kite Flying in the car park area and refreshments from the Belgenny Friends.



7 SEPTEMBER - UNLOCK CAMDEN

It was a very windy day and the Society had a stand outside of Macaria with new Committee member Ian Ramsay and Lee Stratton on duty. We had to use small rocks from around the building to keep the flyers and information from blowing away.

There were 84 visitors to the museum and we handed out just as many special edition Camden Heritage Walking Tour leaflets.

Both sides of the street outside of Macaria had vintage cars and bikes. The Camden Community Band played underneath the awning of Macaria, which everyone enjoyed and along the footpath were different Camden community groups e.g. Camden Family History Scouts, Girl Guides, CWA and others. It was a great opportunity to promote groups in the area.



BOOK LAUNCH - CHARLES TOMPSON JR

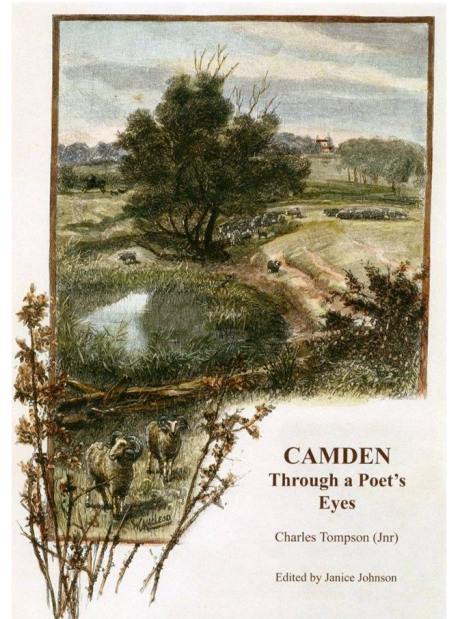
At the Society's general meeting on 11 September 2019 we had a special book launch. As part of Janice Johnson's bequest to the Society, the first of her five books was published; 'Camden Through a Poet's Eyes'.

It was lovely to see Janice's friends, Alison Tidbury and Joan Wardall at the meeting. The Society presented them with a copy of the book.

This book is available from the museum for \$15.00

Who was Charles Tompson? (1807-1883)

During the 1840s the Sydney Morning Herald relied on a number of local correspondents to provide News from the Interior. On 17 September 1847 regular reports "From our Correspondent – Camden" began to appear. Charles Tompson, Clerk of Petty Sessions for Camden from 13 March 1847 until 31 August 1852 was "Our Correspondent – Camden." He grew up in the Penrith area and was poet, public servant, and landowner.



STATEMENT

The book is an important record because Charles Tompson Jr reported in 'real time', making his collected contributions a 'primary source'. Content includes the impact of the Gold Rush, the vulnerability of farming to the weather and disease, the construction of St John's Church and the early schools in Camden, and the development of a criminal justice system. The poetic language can be overwhelming if read from cover to cover, so the book has been indexed in detail.

Painting by
H. G. Lloyd -
Camden 1857
Back cover of
book



Alison Tidbury and Joan Wardall



Charles Tompson Jnr (1807 - 1883)



Janice Johnson (1946 - 2017)



Julie Wrigley speaking on
Charles Tompson Jr

MISS LLEWELLA DAVIES PIONEER WALKWAY

The Miss Llewella Davies Pioneers Walkway, which covers riparian zones, pastoral, grazing and cropping paddocks, offers fantastic views of St Johns Church, the Chinese Washing Wells, the Nepean River and Macquarie House.

Miss Llewella Davies was an energetic member of the Camden community and this walkway is a key part of honoring her. It continues her legacy of community participation while maintaining its significant heritage value.

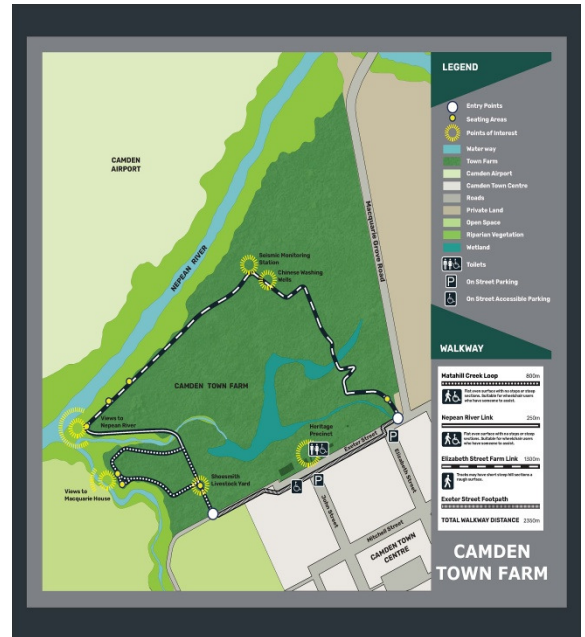
There are three walking tracks:

1. Nepean River Link, which is a 250 metres long flat surface. Suitable for wheelchair
2. Matahill Creek Loop, which is a 800 metre long flat surface. Suitable for wheelchair
3. Elizabeth Street Farm Link, which is 1.3 kms long with a short steep hill and rough surfaces

The walkway will allow visitors of historic cultural and natural interest within the Town Farm.

More information on Camden Council website:

www.camdentownfarm.com.au/community-access/walkway



The walkway, opened by Camden Mayor Theresa Fedeli on 17th August 2019, is approximately 2.4 kilometres of walking path throughout the Camden Town Farm.

CAMDEN PARK OPEN DAY 21 - 22 SEPTEMBER

Fifteen of our members took part in the two-day open weekend at Camden Park House.

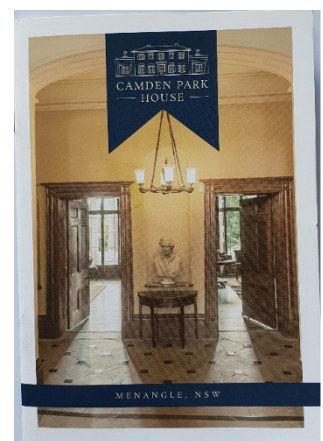
Members helped by conducting garden tours, selling plants, giving garden talks, and acting as guides inside the 80-room mansion. Some members, with the permission of John and Edwina Macarthur-Stanham, collected signatures for the petition to protect the precinct of the historic St Johns Anglican Church. Other members came through the house as visitors and were very impressed by the house and gardens.

The weather was perfect for wandering through the gardens or sitting on chairs on the lawns, enjoying Devonshire teas or barbeque lunches. The gardens had been refreshed by the recent rains and looked a picture. The attractive new booklet, "Camden Park House", available for sale at \$10 a copy, was a useful source of information for guides and visitors.

The on-line time booking system worked well and reduced the amount of queuing when visitors arrived at the house. Camden Park House is a very special historic home and the Society is happy to support the open weekend which happens only once a year.



Photos: Camden Park House and new booklet on sale at the weekend



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 2019 / 2020

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 IN FOYER CABINET



Items from Miss Jacqueline Crookston

Miss Jacqueline Crookston and her elder sister, Suzanne were the daughters of Dr Robert Crookson OBE, a prominent Camden doctor and former Mayor, who lived in the elegant two-storey house at 75 John Street.

As a young woman Jacqueline enjoyed horse riding and playing polo at Cobbitty. She loved animals all her life and left a considerable estate to Taronga Zoo.

Jacqueline's sister, Suzanne and Jacqueline's friend, Anthony Stuart both died young.

Below is a Sweetheart's Badge given to Jacqueline from RAAF Flight Lieutenant Anthony Stuart as a fiancé gift.

The badge has two wings, a crown with RAAF and decorated with diamantes



WELFARE OFFICER REPORT

If you know of a member who needs extra help please contact Sue on her mobile:

0414360076

Email:

suecross2570@gmail.com

