

NEWSLETTER

Museum Maintenance

The maintenance of the Camden Museum is of continuing concern for the society.

It is planned by Camden Council contractor to dismantle and remove the lift from the lift well in December. This will not require the museum to be closed and will start early December.

The society is yet to be informed how the installation of the new lift will be progressed in 2025.

There are a number of other maintenance issues. The leaking roof in the Nixon Room and over the Sirius display, which requires displays to be protected from water penetration.

There is rising damp in the wall behind the photocopier. This could be quite serious and needs further investigation.

These matters will require the museum to be closed. The committee has not been given a time line for these schedule of works.

The council will take advice from

Museums & Galleries of NSW on how to handle the packing up of the displays in the rooms affected by these works.

Society members and volunteers will be kept informed of progress on these issues and associated schedule of works.

Camden Museum Lease

The society is in continuing discussions with the council over matters related to a lease for the Camden Museum.

The museum does not currently have a lease with council for the use of the building.

The society took legal advice from a local firm of solicitors on this matter and a provisional lease was drawn up.

This was then forwarded to council for their response.

To date there has been no response and the society will keep members and volunteers informed of any developments.

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General Meetings

- 11 December 2024
- 12 February 2025
- 12 March 2025
- 9 April 2025
- 14 May 2025
- 11 June 2025

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm

40 John St,
Camden.

All welcome

Ph: (02) 4655 3400

Christmas Closures

The Camden Museum will be closed over the Christmas period from 15 December 2024 to 9 January 2025.

The Camden Area Family History Research Room is closed 14 December to 30 January 2025.

The Camden Library is closed from 2pm 24 December 2024 to 2 January 2025.

We wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and we will see you in the New Year.

Volunteering at Museum

Are you interested in Camden's history? Would you like to know more? Come and join our team and volunteer at the Camden Museum. No need for any experience, training is provided. All you need is a smile and an ability to share your passion for Camden with visitors. Volunteer with a friend. Make new friends. Contact 4655 3400 or secretary@camdenhistory.org.au or 40 John St, Camden.

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

Editor's Notes

Upcoming Talks in 2025

Feb 2025 Diane Smith - 'Growing up at Nattai'

Mar 2025 Andrew Allen - TBA

Google Business Profile

- For the month of November there were 135 interactions on the search engine.
- Around 2955 people viewed the museum internet profile.

Secretary's Notes

There are new volunteers : Corrado Peluso, Rob Camlin, Marg Grierson, Christine Richardson, Ros Birch.

Many thanks to Geoff Chegwyn who has resigned after 10 years of volunteering. Also Nikki and Peter Hayward after 35 years of service.

We are still looking for new volunteers, only 2 1/2 hours each month, if possible, bring a friend. Enjoy some time sharing your love of Camden history and enjoy meeting new people as well as having a cup of tea/coffee, a bikkie or two and enjoyable conversation.

Volunteers Report

Volunteer Coordinator Rene Rem reports:

The total number of visitors this year to date is just over 6400 made up of just over 5400 adults and around 1000 children.

Our monthly visitor numbers have been for November 450, October 440, September

840, August 560, and July 530.

These figure are similar to previous years if averages are used. With estimates for December added yearly totals should be around 7000. All numbers are rounded.

The Museum always needs volunteers. You will enjoy it. Contact Rene at the Camden Museum.

Vice President's update

The Studley Park DA, for 'Construction of a hotel and residential flat buildings', will be decided by the Sydney Western City Planning Panel on December 2nd. We lodged an objection to this DA, and I will speak on behalf of the Society against council's recommendation to approve this development. More details and the result available here: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/planning-panel/construction-hotel-and-residential-flat-buildings>.

On Friday, 22nd November I attended an online session for the Regional Stakeholder Forum held at the Powerhouse Castle Hill, including inspiring presentations on Cultural Tourism, restoration and adaptive reuse in Coolamon, innovative story telling at the Murrook Cultural Centre, festival collaborations at Kandos, and community collections at Fairfield Museum.

We have written a short letter in support of the name Barker for the new suburb at Maryland, after the naming was deferred at the last Camden Council meeting.

Spirit of Camden held a successful launch event at Camden Hotel on November 19th, with Ian Willis as one of the speakers. There was much enthusiasm for promoting "Camden Village", and the positive energy from Melissa and the team was infectious!

Camden Christmas Festival was held on Saturday 23rd of November, and there was an opportunity to

visit Dr Crookston's House and enjoy pizza and bubbly in the garden. Shane and Rhiannon, from Soirees at Staytime hosted this very enjoyable event.

If you would like more information on any of these items, please let me know.

Jo O'Brien



Christmas at Dr Crookston's House 2024
P. O'Brien

Talk: The memory landscape of the Cowpastures

Society president Ian Willis presented a talk at the Camden Library as part of Talk Write Out West Festival on Saturday 30 November. The title of the talk was 'The memory landscape of the Cowpastures'. Willis maintained that many memorials and monuments across the Cowpastures landscape commemorate its history and sense of place, with a recent nostalgic turn focusing on the pioneers and European settlement.

War memorials are a ubiquitous form of memorialisation in the Macarthur region,

and public art, historical sites, and cultural heritage also play significant roles. These commemorations can be controversial, especially considering Australia's dark history, and evoke different memories for different people. Additionally, the landscape of the Cowpastures is interpreted in various ways, including as a colonial frontier, government reserve, and English-style landscape. Multiple memorials, artworks, and historic sites dot the region, contributing to its identity and history.

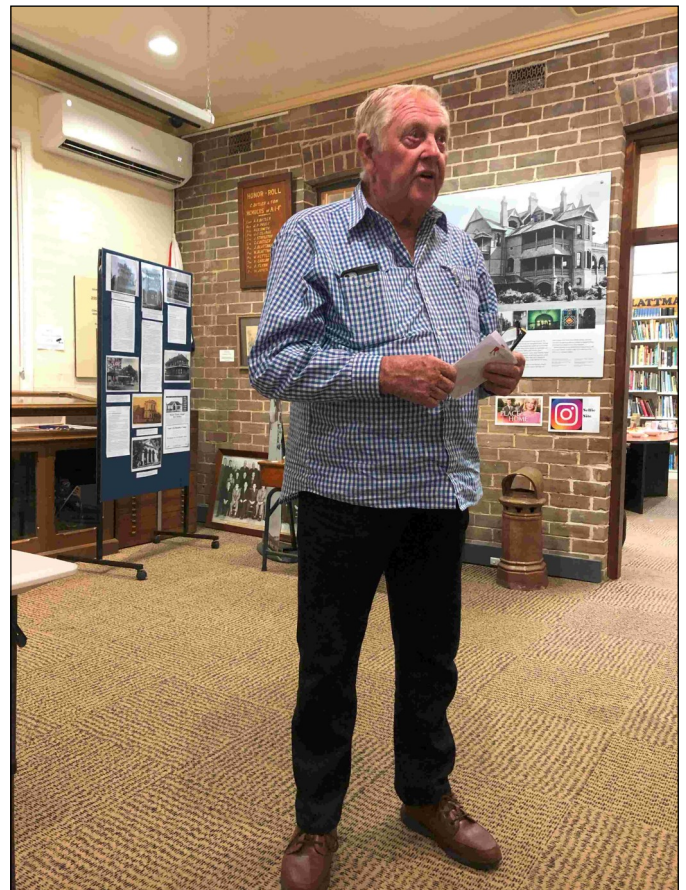
David Funnell Guest Speaker

The society's guest speaker at the November meeting was local icon and identity David Funnell.

David spoke on the history of the Camden Men's Shed. He outlined how it started in 2008 with an advert in the local newspaper. A small number of men responded and Camden Council offered use of a shed on the Bicentennial Equestrian Park.

By 2019 there were 30 members. In 2022 the council denied access to the shed after a series of ups and downs, and a number of challenges.

The Men's Shed was re-commenced in 2023 and was granted a lease on land at Carrington. With government support the Men's Shed was able to erect a new shed.



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 2024-2025

Individual \$20, Family \$25

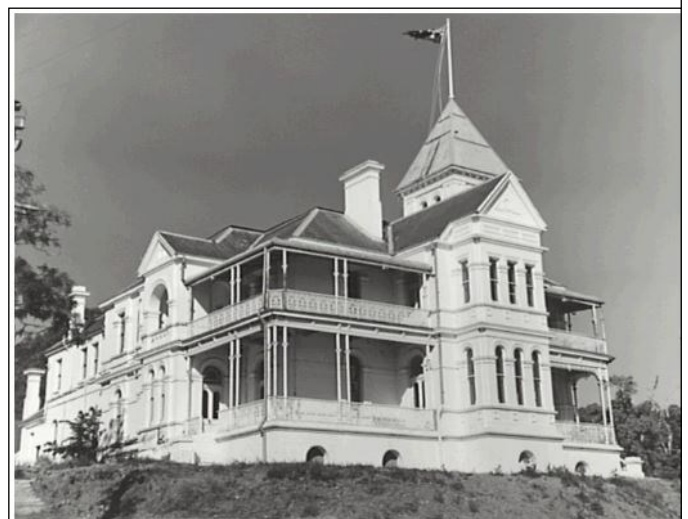
All donations to the Camden Historical Society Inc over \$2 are tax deductible. The accredited value of objects donated to the society are eligible for tax deduction.

Studley Park House

Studley Park House, located in Narellan, New South Wales, holds significant historical and architectural value. Built in the 1880s, it represents a fine example of Victorian-era design, showcasing the grandeur of the period through its elaborate architecture and landscaped gardens. The house was originally constructed as a residence for the prominent landowner, and it reflects the region's colonial history and the development of Narellan as a rural community.

Studley Park House is also important for its connection to local heritage, serving as a tangible link to the area's past. Over the years, it has hosted various cultural and community events, making it a focal point for local engagement. Its preservation is crucial for educating future generations about the historical significance of the area and the architectural styles of the 19th century,

ensuring that the rich history of Narellan is maintained and appreciated.



Narellan Studley Park 1998 JKooyman-Camden Images