



THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

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The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.

P.O. Box 679. Camden. NSW. 2570

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Picnics

As the weather warms, we start to look for places to enjoy a picnic with friends and family. Camden Images has a number of pictures of picnics – beside the Nepean River, in the Burragorang Valley, in Macarthur Park, at Camden Showgrounds and locations unidentified.

This picture dated 1910s shows members of the Adams Family in the Burragorang Valley. The image is overexposed in the corners (digitally trimmed) suggesting it was taken by a hobbyist, perhaps a family member.



From the Editor

We honour and mourn Barbara Sulley who passed away on Thursday 22 August.

Congratulations to the new committee – there are many familiar names, but some changes in positions. See page 4.

It has been a pleasure to fill in while editor, Warren Sims, has been interstate, mastering his new role as grandfather. He will return, rejuvenated and inspired, to prepare the October edition. Warren, you've been missed!

Next weekend, Unlock Camden will enable the community to learn about and join local organisations. Encourage friends and neighbours to attend and get involved.

Happy Birthday to the following members for September 2019

Andrea Herbert 9th

Bob Lester 11th

Andrea Russo 26th

We age not by years, but by stories.
Remember to pass them on.



Camden Area Family History Society Inc.

**Research Room, Library/Museum Complex,
John St. Camden**

Research room OPENS
**Thursday & Friday 10:00am to
3:00pm**

Saturday 9:30am to 12:00 noon
All other times by appointment only.

**\$10.00 per session for non-members to
use our resources.**

A volunteer is on duty whenever the research room is open to assist with inquiries.

If you would like to assist in the research room please contact Janet Howe 0497 473 840 or Tony Jackson on 0437 651 124 letting them know when you are available.

MEETINGS

Held on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30pm in the Museum at the Library/Museum Complex, John St. Camden.

To help cover the cost of supper we ask for a gold coin donation.

Visitors most welcome.

MEMBERSHIP

2019/20

Normal
Single \$30
Couple \$35

Pensioners/Concession
Single \$25
Couple \$30



Monthly Meeting, Tuesday 3 September

The speaker is Dr Eddie Lim, well known retired local surgeon who not only takes wonderful pictures of the area around Camden, but also portraits.

You may know him from an exhibition at Narellan Library last year, or his activity with the Facebook site, "You know you're from Camden if.....". Eddie will tell us about his fascinating hobby, and MAYBE his family background (...if we ask).

For Your Diary

CAFHS UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

Hold up (rather than holed up!) at the Library. It's highway robbery. And the ransom? – one gold coin per attendee. Learn more about five legendary **bushrangers of NSW** on Saturday **14 September** from 12.30 till 3.00pm. Presented by NSW State Archives.

Unlock Camden (organised by the Camden Council Heritage Advisory Committee for History Week) on Saturday **7 September**. CAFHS will showcase our organisation and its history alongside many others. In addition to the Family History Room, CAFHS will have a table outside Macaria on John St. We'll be seeking volunteers to help on this day. Invite any newer residents to learn more about the many community groups in our area, and encourage them to introduce themselves to the Family History team.

Bunnings BBQ will be on Saturday **9 November**. This is an important fundraiser and your assistance will be appreciated. Please note it in your diaries – a roster will be prepared in coming months.

Christmas Dinner – The TARE Restaurant has been booked for Wednesday **27 November**. Cost will be \$40.

Remembering Barbara Sulley

Barbara was Treasurer of CAFHS for 16 years, and an enthusiastic and helpful friend to many members.

She passed away after a short illness on Thursday 22 August. Friends from the Society attended her funeral in Leppington on Friday 30th. Barbara made a huge contribution to CAFHS and will be sorely missed. A full obituary will appear in the next Camden

Calling



CAFHS Committee 2019-20

Congratulations to our office bearers for the year ahead. Your service is appreciated.

Thankyou to Eva Campbell, Patron, who chaired August's AGM.

President... Tony Jackson
Vice President... Fred Gibson
Secretary... Jo O'Brien
Treasurer... Rosemary Gibson
Library Coordinator... Janet Howe
Research Officer... Dawn Williams
Membership Officer... Beverley Booth
Editor... Warren Sims
Public Officer... Rex Dowle
Committee ... Naomi Davies

Camden Park Open Weekend: your annual opportunity to explore the Georgian house in South Camden, where descendants of John and Elizabeth Macarthur live. A look around the extensive gardens and/or house is a great way to share the history of Camden with your own family. CAFHS will not be formally represented, however you are likely to bump into members who have ties to the Friends of Camden Park or the CHS. **21-22 September.** Tickets limited - nominate the time of your house tour when you **book online:** <https://www.camdenparkhouse.com.au/> House + Garden Adults \$22. Concession \$16. Garden only tickets available on the day \$10.

Belgenny Farm History Showcase

Tony Jackson
Jo O'Brien
Cathey Shepherd
Anne McIntosh
With assistance from:
Dawn Williams

Thankyou to the following who volunteered at the CAFHS stand at the Belgenny Farm History Showcase on 18 August. Visitors were made aware of our existence range and activities, some interesting inquiries were received, and money was raised through book sales.

CONFERENCE

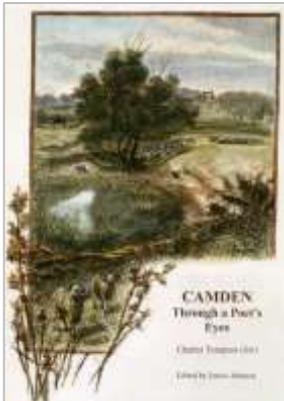
Ku-ring-gai Historical Society is hosting the **2019 Conference** for the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies at Knox Grammar School **11-13 October 2019.**

Cathey Shepherd, Tony Jackson, Jo O'Brien and others will be there. Book online before 6 Sept: \$100 for Saturday and \$70 for Sunday. <http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au>



CAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Meeting

Wednesday 11 Sept @ 7.30pm



Book Launch: 'Camden – Through a Poet's Eyes'.

This is the late Janice Johnson's collation of Charles Tompson's regular submissions to the *Sydney Morning Herald* between 1847 and 1854. His level of education and love of language is notable – he was the son of a convict and educated at Rev Henry Fulton's school at Castlereagh near Penrith.

The book will serve as a unique primary source, documenting challenges and changes for the rural village at this time. Content includes the building of St John's Church, the Gold Rush, agricultural production, roads and transport, and more. Well indexed - you can selectively gain insights without reading the entire text sequentially. Available for purchase at the Museum: \$15.

Charles Tompson promoted Camden as an idyllic paradise: *There is no part of the country that lays greater claim to picturesque beauty than the district called the Cowpastures. ... The surface of the country is undulating, and the river meanders with a serpentine course marked by umbrageous shrubs and trees, through cleared plains of the greatest fertility, ..., while hills wooded or clear, broken or continuous, now approaching the river, now retiring from it into misty distance until they form a noble horizon, coquet beautifully in all the freakishness of redundant nature.*

50 years of GFS at St John's Church

GFS (Girls Friendly Society) members at St John's Church, will celebrate 50 years with a Thanksgiving Service on Saturday evening, **7 September**.

Phone Neidra Hill on 4646 1495 for more information. (Neidra has been a GFS leader at St John's for more than 40 years - but was not there when the group was founded!)

Locate graves in Rookwood Cemetery

<https://rookwoodcemetery.discovereverafter.com/> CAFHS will be setting up a library log-in as you need to be a registered user to access the site. We encourage members to have their own account in order to store records of interest.

This information was covered in more detail in the July edition of the Valley Voice.



William Cox

There's more to this builder than a road over the mountains

National Trust Driving Tour - Sunday 22 September (Book soon. Limit: 40 people). NT Members \$90. Non-members \$100. (Includes lunch by Church Ladies Guild at St Matthew's Church Hall, accompanied by historian, Jan Buckley's talk about Cox's surprising life on the Hawkesbury) NB. Booking form **must** be completed and returned to NT Hawkesbury before acceptance can be guaranteed. **Contact: Jan 4359 2453.**

Including: Clarendon Park c1806-7, St Matthew's Anglican Church c 1817, its precinct including the Rectory and Stables c 1822-1826, Windsor Court House c 1822 and the grand colonial Georgian homestead, Hobartville c 1828. Tour led by conservation architect, Graham Edds and heritage consultant, Carol Edds.

A uni qualification in Family History

Online diploma from Uni of Tasmania – 8 units to be completed over 1-3 years.

You'll need to undertake four out of these five foundation units:

- Introduction to family history;
- Writing family history;
- Place, image, object;
- Convict ancestors;
- The photo essay – an introduction,

before advancing to the more advanced units.

Learn more about eligibility, costs and how to apply at:

<https://www.utas.edu.au/courses/cale/courses/r2h-diploma-of-family-history>

Visit COMBEWOOD – a rare opportunity

This Queen Anne style house in Penrith will be open on **15 September, 10am-12 noon.**

It was built around 1890 for Francis Henry Woodriff, possibly to a Sulman design.

There are historic associations with Captain Daniel Woodriff, the naval officer on whose 1000 ac grant from 1804, most of Penrith now stands. The Woodriff family retained ties to the house until the 1960s.

Combewood house and surrounds demonstrate how families of high social standing lived in the early 20th century.

Tour of house, garden and outbuildings will be guided by the owner, Margaritte Scott, and the Nepean Archeology Society will explain the museum and extensive historical collection located in the former stables.

Cost \$45. Limited places remain: <https://hhaoa.wildapricot.org/event-3453995> .



Australian Joint Copying Project

Making Trove even better

The Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) is a collection of unique historical material relating to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific dating from 1560 to 1984.

Documents include select material from UK Government Departments such as the Admiralty, Home Office, Colonial Office, the Dominions Office held by The National Archives of the UK and County Record Offices, as well as personal archives and manuscripts of leading politicians, explorers, scientists, religious and missionary societies, convicts and businesses, that are held by private organisations or individuals.

The project to digitise the AJCP microfilm will be completed by 30 June 2020. Content is released monthly and summarised on the project news page.

<https://www.nla.gov.au/australian-joint-copying-project/news>

Detailed descriptions and digitised images of all records filmed by the AJCP are available through online 'finding aids'. Specific searches on collections, personal, family and organisational names and subjects can be undertaken through Trove.

Some new search tools were recently added specifically for the AJCP, and you can learn about them and access the links from this website:

<https://www.nla.gov.au/content/australian-joint-copying-project>

What's the story with SAG?

You'll often hear our enthusiastic members talking about SAG, which sounds like something that happens to ageing wood or poorly fitting clothing. Tony Jackson is a regular volunteer who can explain their work and answer any questions.

For more than 80 years, the **Society of Australian Genealogists** (SAG) has been promoting family history research, as well as holding and cataloguing manuscripts and images that people have collected about their families and their history.

The SAG office in Kent Street is worth investigating by anyone working on their family history in Australia and the World, or seeking to ensure that their own research is stored and made available beyond their immediate family. Learn more:

<https://www.sag.org.au/>

Knowing your family medical history...

... can help you and your children to manage health risks through early detection. Learn the information to seek when putting together a useful medical history for your doctor.

This site is American, but the information can be interpreted within an Australian context: <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/primer/inheritance/familyhistory>



SMART GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

By Anne McIntosh

The software is so clever,
that it knows what can't be right.
It alerts you to the problem
with bold text that flashes bright.

But it does not know the answer,
It leaves that up to you.
Blind Freddie knows Jack's uncle
can't be his brother too!

Or that Jane could have no baby
when she was four years old.
But my software doesn't tell me,
what mistake I must resolve.

Great uncle flashes brightly -
Another error is proposed,
So I call and ask his daughter,
but her mind's too tired to know!

The computer is an asset.
But it frightens and frustrates,
'cos with every bit of info,
there's more ties that must relate.

The things that make us human
– we emote and memorise –
are the very things that fail us
... so we decide to digitise.

The programming is detailed -
it looks forward and looks back.
Each date mistyped or place misspelt
add more errors to my stack.

I print the list of errors -
meant to help, it devastates.
The fix seems insurmountable
in a maze of corrupt dates.

Each error causes problems,
up and down, and left and right.
Focus only on one issue
to avert a sense of fright.

Can I tell you all a secret,
I've discovered as I work?
As you fix each problem number,
it impacts the close network.

Careful checking isn't easy.
But persist and don't despair
'cos with every date corrected,
several flashings disappear.

Not only one, it's sometimes more,
depending on connections.
But be prepared, for as you work,
there'll be new data for corrections.

Review new info carefully,
through tragedy and glory.
Explore the places and the times
to reveal the hidden story.

The dates are just the scaffold;
The computer's just a tool.
Ancestors in old photos,
with more info, become 'cool'.