



THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

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The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.

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

F'book: [Camden Area Family History Society](https://www.facebook.com/camdenareafamilyhistory) Web: www.cafhs.org.au

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Plaque on John Verge's gravesite at Port Macquarie

Following the opening last weekend of Camden Park House, I was looking through our collection and came across this photo and thought yet again of the beautiful home that is Camden Park House and of John Verge as the architect.

From the Editor

Hello all, I am back from the west and while I have had a great time visiting places I have only read or heard about before, I have been a bit slow getting started on the Valley Voice Newsletter for this month.

Hope you find this months Valley Voice informative and interesting.

Please remember that we publish our journal Camden Calling next in November so if you have any articles for either The Valley Voice or Camden Calling, you can contact me directly at any time on my mobile **0438 012 013** or email: w.sims53@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday to the following members for October 2019

Janet Howe 10th Oct
Cheryl Waterford 20th Oct
Del Clinton 21st Oct
Beverly Booth 23rd Oct
Julie Wrigley 26th Oct

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	Pensioners/Concession
Single \$30	Single \$25
Couple \$35	Couple \$30

Monthly Meeting Tuesday 1st October 2019

Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Michelle Nichols, the Local Studies Librarian for the Hawkesbury Library Service, speaking about the Richmond / Windsor area, which will be particularly interesting for those with ancestors from that area in the early days of the colony. Michelle is also involved with the Australian Historical Society (AHS) and the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG).

For Your Diary

CAFHS UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

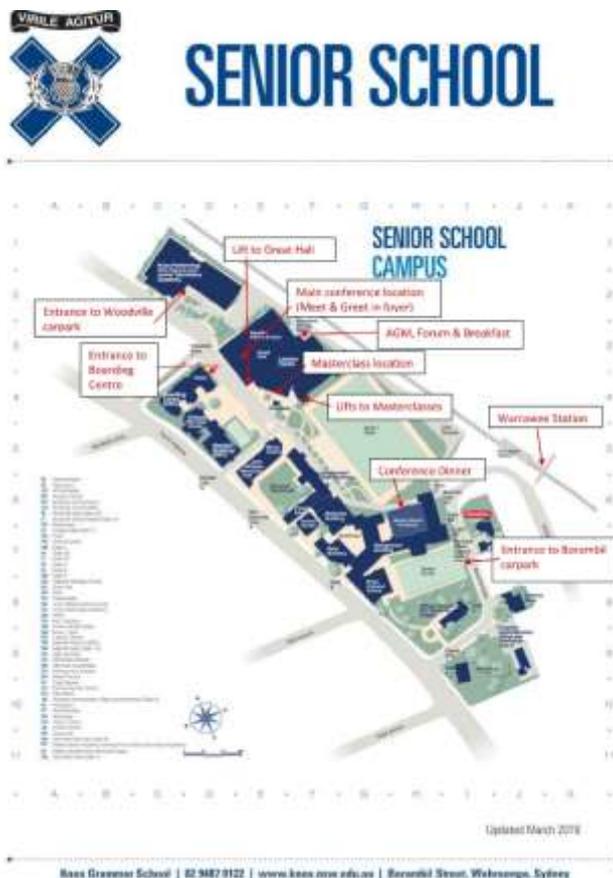
Bunnings BBQ will be on Saturday **9 November**. This is an important fundraiser and your assistance will be appreciated. Please note it in your diaries – a roster will be prepared in coming months.

Christmas Dinner – The TARE Restaurant has been booked for Wednesday **27 November**. Cost will be \$40. All Money should be given to Rosemary Gibson by our November meeting at the latest.

2019 NSW&ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual CONFERENCE



For those members attending Ku-ring-gai HS have distributed the following Campus Map to illustrate where the various events are being held on the Senior School Campus.



For any other queries please check with the 2019 Conference website.
<http://exploringthepast.khs.org.au>

IT'S A RIOT!

*Commemorate the life & times of the Parramatta Female Factory Women.
Celebrate the day the women struck for their rights 192 years ago!*



WHAT: RIOT DAY AT THE FACTORY

**WHEN: SATURDAY 26 October 2019
9.30am - 3:00pm**

**WHERE: Cumberland Hospital,
5 Fleet Street North Parramatta
street parking only - see over for directions to site**

ENTRY: GOLD COIN - BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL FOR TALKS and TOURS*

EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/its-a-riot-2019-tickets-71482828063>

***Follow links at Eventbrite site for talks and tours bookings**

EVENTS SCHEDULE

- *REGISTRATION 9.30am WELCOME - Honouring the Factory women 10:00am**
- *KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 10:15am Babette Smith OAM**
- *GUEST SPEAKER: 11:30am Cate Whittaker**
- *TRADE TABLES ALL DAY *HERSTORY DISPLAY ALL DAY**
- *LUNCH: 12:00pm - bring a picnic *TOURS: 12:30pm**
- *DESCENDANTS' TALKS AT THE COMMEMORATIVE WALL: 2pm**
- *Tea/coffee available all day**

parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

[web: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au](http://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au)

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.

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/>

Saturday afternoon discussion group

Our first Saturday afternoon discussion group was held last Saturday 28th September, with eight members attending. We enjoyed sharing our family history experiences, with a wide range of topics raised. It was interesting to find out why members started their research, and to find out how long ago they started (from less than a year to many decades!). Experienced members were able to suggest ways to tackle brick walls and find additional information, we shared some tips from our experiences of DNA testing, and we talked about interesting ancestors and discoveries.

It was decided that a theme for each meeting would be a good idea. Some ideas were:

- Brick walls – ideas for tracing an elusive ancestor
- How members organise their research
- Software packages and handling of digital records
- Ways to preserve and store original records and paperwork
- Writing stories for Camden Calling
- Focus groups on locations such as England, Scotland, Ireland, or on topics such as convicts or immigration

There was also interest in setting up a separate group to discuss DNA testing, covering how to interpret and analyse your results.

Our next Saturday discussion group will be the 26th October from 1-3pm at the family history room. Suggestions for a topic for this group will be discussed in the general meeting on 1st October. Any questions please contact me.

Jo O'Brien



DNA Down Under conference - August 2019

I recently attended the DNA Down Under conference, 1 day in Canberra as well as 2 of the 3 days in Sydney. Both events were well attended, with over 100 in Canberra and about 400 in Sydney. There was a great atmosphere, exhibitor stalls to browse, and lots of information to absorb.

Keynote speaker was Blaine T. Bettinger, who gave a wide range of presentations covering topics from technical aspects and how-to-guides to ethics and moving personal stories. His ability to convey difficult concepts in an entertaining and understandable way was impressive. A copy of the new edition of Blaine's book "The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy" was a perfect souvenir.

Other speakers included Louise Coakley, Fiona Brooker, Kerry Farmer, Helen Smith, Michelle Patient and speakers from Ancestry. Michelle is my fourth cousin discovered through Ancestry DNA, and over the several days we spent together I learnt even more tips. For example, I now know about "clustering" my matches using the Leeds method to help organise your matches.

DNA testing has revolutionised genealogy, providing vital clues to working out where we came from. It is a tool we can add to our research, a complement to traditional methods. There are certainly aspects to be careful with, many people get surprises, and adoptees are using DNA to identify birth families, which can be both a positive experience, and a shock to other families. One of the key pieces of advice was informed consent – be sure you know the implications before your test yourself or someone else.

The joy of finding new "cousins", sharing our family history, and confirming relationships has been a great experience for me, and attending DNA Down Under has provided some great insights and ideas to take my research further.

Jo O'Brien

On Saturday 14th September CAFHS put on a talk by John Cann from State Archives on Bushrangers organised by member Sharon Greene. The talk was well attended with approx 46 people attending for a fun and informative session with John. I suspect he could have spoken for quite some considerable time on the subject, he certainly knows his topic and made the afternoon very enjoyable for all.

A very enjoyable afternoon tea was provided with much discussion ensuing during the informal afternoon tea. Thank you Sharon for organising this delightful afternoon



Genealogist's Psalm

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray.
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried tombstones.
It leadeth me into still courthouses.
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.
It leadeth me in paths of census records, ship's passenger lists for my surname's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the shadows of research libraries, and microfilm readers,
I shall fear no discouragement.
For a strong urge is within me; the curiosity and motivation they comforteth me.
It demandeth preparation of storage space for the acquisition of countless documents.
It annointeth my head with burning midnight oil;
my family group sheets runneth over.
Surely birth, marriage, and death dates shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of a family-history seeker forever.

By Wildamae Brestal