



THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

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The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.
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From the Editor

Christmas has come and gone yet again and I wish you all a very happy, prosperous and safe New Year.



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30 pm Krishneel Goundar from Service NSW at Gregory Hills will be our first guest speaker for the year. Krishneel will be giving us a presentation on the many services offered at the new Service NSW centre at Gregory Hills, not just Motor Registry and BDM.

Once again have a very merry and safe 2016.

Camden Area Family History Society Inc. Research Room, Library/Museum Complex, John St. Camden

The research room is currently open
Thursday 10:00am to 3:00pm
Friday 10:00am to 3:00pm
Saturday 9:30am to 12:00 noon

There is a charge of \$10.00 per session for non-members to use our resources,

Volunteers are on duty whenever the research room is open and they are only too happy to assist with any inquires.

If you would like to volunteer to assist in the research room please contact the Library Co-ordinator Tony Jackson on 4655 1098 letting him know when you are available.



*Happy Birthday
To the following members
for Jan/ Feb 2016*

**Helen Howlett Barrington Peck
Pamela Allison Geoff Eagles
Lorna Joy Riley Phillip Baxter**



MEETINGS

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30pm in the Meeting Room of the Library/Museum Complex, John St. Camden.

To help cover the cost of supper there is a gold coin donation.

Visitors most welcome.

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

NSW&ACT Association of Family History Societies 2016 State Conference 9th – 11th September 2016.

Planning is well underway for our conference in September, we have had a free standing Banner made up for advertising and it is positioned outside our resource room. We have also had a number of leaflets and A3 & A4 copies produced and we would like assistance in spreading them around the district, such as shops, nursing homes, clubs, etc. If you would like to help please see me at the meeting. We have sent preliminary letters to various people as speakers for the conference and as they are confirmed they will be included in later reports and have also started to send letters to some of the major Genealogy Company's etc looking for sponsorship. We have already received a grant from Camden Council, while Ancestry, Marilyn Rowen, Joy Murrin and Finders Cafe have all indicated they will be happy to sponsor us. We have received our first Table Booking and hopefully they will start coming in soon. We hope to be able to finalise the Cost of the conference before the 1st of March.

Tony Jackson -
Conference Convenor



The Cowpastures and Beyond....

(As taken from a 1965 brochure of Camden Park Estate and the Rotolactor)



MOUNT TAURUS

"This place I call'd the Cowpasture Plains, and the Hill from which we first discovered the cattle Mount Taurus. This part is really beautiful country." Governor Hunter to Sir Joseph Banks, December 1795.

The Historic Cowpastures

VISITORS to Camden Park Estate and the Rotolactor tread some of the most historical ground in Australia: *The Cowpasture Plains*.

This was the first land permanently grazed by cattle on this continent. On it, later, scientific woolgrowing and wool husbandry and large scale scientific farming were developed.

Here worked John and Elizabeth Macarthur, their sons James and William, and their later descendants. Here they founded the Australian wool industry.

The family is the only one in the Commonwealth that has held a great estate and given leadership in agriculture and animal husbandry continuously for 160 years. Its connection with this land, indeed, dates back even further — to within eight years of the foundation of the colony of New South Wales.

In May 1788, two bulls and four cows, the only ones on the Australian continent, escaped from the Government Farm on the modern site of the Sydney Botanical Gardens. They made their way over forty miles southward to the plains near Menangle. A convict hunter found them in 1795 when there had been no fresh beef to eat in the Colony for seven years.

On November 18, 1795, Governor Hunter climbed the low line of hills — which he named Mt. Taurus — about a mile south-west of the Rotolactor. From the summit he saw about 40 sleek black cows grazing knee-deep in grass and guarded by two huge bulls. One of these latter was killed and his flesh was the first Australian-bred beef eaten by white men.

On December 10, 1795, Hunter issued a Government order making it a crime punishable with "the severest penalties of the law" to kill any of the "wild cattle", or to fail to report killing by others to the Judge Advocate, or to Captain John Macarthur at Parramatta.

Thus the Macarthur family's connection with the "beautiful country" which Hunter named the Cowpasture Plains began 170 years ago.



For Your Diary

Central Coast Family History Society Inc Seminar

Seminar 2016 will be held on Saturday 5th March 2016 at the Gosford Lions Community Hall rear of our cottage 8 Russell Drysdale Street, East Gosford commencing at 9.15 am with the official opening.

Guest speakers will be Amanda Ianna—Registrar NSW BDMs - Joy & Allan Murrin - Transcription Agents - Topic Discoveries in Family History Resources - Some case studies that will unlock your research in BDM Index and online databases - Ben Mercer—Ancestry.com.au and Andrew Gildea— FindersCafe. More information visit their webpage <http://www.centralcoastfhs.org.au/>

Kiama Family, Local & Social History Expo

The Kiama Family History Centre will be holding a Family, Local & Social History Expo at the Kiama Pavilion, Bong Bong Street Kiama from 9.30am – 4.00pm on Saturday, 16th April, 2016. Entry to this event is free.

We have 5 guest speakers who always prove to be very popular.

Ray Thorburn – Assisted & Unassisted Immigration to Australia **Gail Davis** - Pandora's Box: Weird, wonderful & surprising records at the State Archives **Carole Riley** – Land records in NSW **Allan Murrin** – Using the Latter Day Saints Catalogue on Family Search: an Overlooked Source, **Ben Mercer** – Ancestry.com.au

Date: 16 April 2016 Time: 9.30am to 4.00pm

Place: Kiama Pavilion, Bong Bong Street, Kiama Cost: Free

More Details: 02 4233 1122 or fhc@kiama.nsw.gov.au

Campbelltown FHS – Beginners Workshop

Campbelltown FHS is holding a “Beginners Workshop” on Sunday 14th February 2016 between 11.am and 3.30 pm at a cost of \$10 per head at Campbelltown Library (Morning & Afternoon Tea provided – bring your own lunch)

See Sharon Greene for further details.