



# THE CAMDEN VALLEY VOICE

## Volume 20 No. 9

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A Publication of  
The Camden Area Family History Society Inc.  
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### Welcome from the Editor

Last meeting the night started with a short video from the beginning of the DVD "Camden Anzacs", this DVD is available in our Research Room. Afterwards a number of members talking about there World War 1 ancestors, a number of very interesting stories from both Australian and British Ancestors..

Next Months meeting the guest speaker will be Tom Rofe his speech titled "Back to the Track" is about the road built to Darwin during the Second Wold War.

December's meeting will be our Christmas Meeting we will have a Family History Show & Tell with a Christmas Theme, so get thinking and looking.

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

The research room is 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 \$5.00 per session for non-members to use our resources.**  
There is a volunteer on duty whenever the research room is open. 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.**

**Welcome our new Volunteers for our Research Room.** I would like welcome Margaret & Robert Wheeler to our research room they are looking after Thursday afrternoons. We still need a volunteer for the Fourth Saturday of the month



**September 2014  
Happy Birthday!**



Neil Patterson 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Del Clinton 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Beverley Booth 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
Jennifer Meston 26<sup>th</sup> October  
Patricia Patterson 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Best wishes and a happy birthday to you all!**

**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.*

**MEMBERSHIP**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE**

<b>Normal</b>	<b>Pensioners/Concession</b>
Single \$25	Single \$20
Couple \$30	Couple \$25

**2014 State Conference NSW & ACT Association of Family  
History Societies**  
12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September

Cathey Shepherd and I attended the 2014 State Conference at Fairy Meadow over the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September. We had a Trade Table set up during the weekend and we raised \$723.50 from book sales some of these we for the Historical Society so some of the money will go to them. We purchased \$155.00 worth of book and CDs and these are already in our research room.

There were a number of excellent speakers including the NSW Registrar of Birth, Deaths and Marriages, she spoke about the problems with the new BDM website and how they have been listening to Family Historians but had to get the core business site fixed first. There are a number of changed being and have already happened to correct some of the problems with the site.

On Sunday we had Lambis Englezos, the man who was responsible for finding the grave at Fromelles, he gave a very interesting talk on the process and showed a number of photo taken during the exhumations.

On the Friday Camden was asked to consider the possibility of Hosting the 2016 State Conference. After discussions with some of the Committee it was decided that we would put in a bid to host the 2016 Conference.

At the AGM of the Association on Saturday afternoon I put a case forwards to the meeting for Camden to host the Conference and we were selected. We are therefore the Host for the 2016 State Conference. I will talk further on this matter during General Business.



## **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

**Our CHRISTMAS DINNER** Will be at Macarthur TAFE on **Tues 16th November 6.00pm for 6.30pm**, the cost is \$30.00 per head, that includes a free drink on arrival. All monies must be to Bruce by the November Meeting no monies or bookings will be accepted after then.

### **TONIGHT'S TALK**

1) CAFHS meeting. Tony Jackson will be talking about and showing Find My Past.

### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES: Program for 2014 :-**

- **4/11/2014** – “Back to the Track” Tom Rofe – WW2 Military History in the Northern Territory
  - **16/11/2014 Tuesday** – Christmas Dinner - @ TAFE Macarthur Restaurant. BYO appetite. Your investment is \$30 per person – and please pays by 4/11/2014. Not BYO.
  - **2/12/2014** – “**SHOW & TELL**” with a Christmas Theme
- 1) **Recording the Gravestones in the Macarthur area Cemeteries.** I would like to convene a meeting of the members working on the Graves to see where we are up to and to discuss a date to do Glenmore & Cawdor United Cemeteries as a group. The best time would be a Saturday afternoon in the meeting room.

## **WHATS ON**

- Luck of the Irish. 1.30-3.30pm on 11 October 2014 at SAG (02) 9247 3953 or [info@sag.org.au](mailto:info@sag.org.au)
- Researching and Understanding Convicts in NSW. 10.30-12.30 on 11 October 2014 at SAG (02) 9247 3953 or [info@sag.org.au](mailto:info@sag.org.au)
- What does it say? The art of deciphering handwritten documents from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. 15 October 2014 11am-1pm. History House. Royal Australian Historical Society. (02) 9247 8001 or [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)
- Starting Family History Research at the State Library. 17 October 2014. 10.30am – 12.30pm. (02) 9273 1788 or [learning@slnsw.gov.au](mailto:learning@slnsw.gov.au)
- Discover your National Library. November 1,8,15,22 and 29. 2.00-2.45pm at National Library of Australia
- Pandora's Box? Lifting the lid on the weird and wonderful in the State Archives (Gail Davis). 11.00am-1pm. 19 November 2014 . Royal Australian Historical Society. (02) 9247 8001 or [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)
- Mental Hospitals: how to access records for family history (Gail Davis). 10.00am-12.30pm. SAG. (02) 9247 3953.
- Lost in all your stuff! 1-2 November 10.00-4.00 (both days). Full program at [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au). Held at State Library of NSW. \$110 fee.



## Occasional Book Review – from the Assistant Editor's desk

### Southern Highlands Story

Author: John McColgan

ISBN: 0 646 26175 4

Publisher: John McColgan

Address: 49 Leopold Street, Mittagong, NSW, 2575

A comprehensive and easy to read history of the Southern Highlands of New South Wales from 1798 to 1980, it tells the story of early white exploration, settlement and the industry of the area. A reference for residents and visitors alike who wish to learn more of the Highlands.

The author is a fourth generation descendant of James McColgan who lived at Bong Bong Village (best known these days for its annual race meet) beside the Wingecarribee River during the 1840s, marrying Catherine Gannon in Berrima in 1850.

The work starts with a chronology of events from 1798 for easy reference.

"People and History" is an easy to read collection of short pieces that includes such stories as the explorer of the area, Barracks, known as the man who wasn't there, for the simple reason that he wasn't. Not only did the Barracks of the records not participate in the exploration of the area, he almost certainly never existed.

It covers the tragedies of the day from the arrest and hanging of mass murderer Jack Lynch in 1842, the Alpine Tunnel Disaster of 1917 when a roof fall in the tunnel excavation caused the death of three men, to the murder/suicide of the Woods family in 1936.

The irony of reformer Governor Sir Richard Bourke being the one to open Berrima Gaol is covered in the telling of the building of that notorious institution. Interestingly, it was its use as prisoner-of-war camp for German prisoners during World War I that led to the establishment of a cement works. One of the inmates, an industrial chemist, recognised that the shale at Berrima, the coal at Medway and limestone at Marulan made it an ideal location for such a venture. What started as Southern Portland Cement at the suggestion of a German prisoner-of-war is today the thriving Blue Circle Cement Works.

The expeditions of Hume and Hovell are detailed and the work covers the granting and purchasing and construction of significant properties in the area. It also details the decline and decimation of the Indigenous population.

The town of Joadja with its shale oil mining is covered and the book includes interesting histories of the significant businesses and industries in the area - shale mining, the iron works, the dairy industry, the Fresh Food and Ice Company, coal mining and the Box Vale Colliery and the cordial works.

These histories provide a fascinating insight into the people who established thriving enterprises often under extremely hard circumstances. The success of Thomas Mort in everything from dairying, to dry docks to refrigeration is legendary. His importance to the community is covered in the section detailing the history of his company The Fresh Food and Ice Co., and the beginning of the local dairy industry.

A fascinating and easy read for anyone interested in the history of the area or the history of New South Wales. *If you'd like to purchase a copy of the book please contact the publisher directly. Their address is just under the title's listing.*

The book review can be seen on <http://www.fastbooks.com.au/previews.html>