

Media Release



Monday 5 August 2019

Celebrate Camden's past and present during History Week

Residents have the unique opportunity to celebrate the Camden area's past and present, and see just how far our suburbs have come, with a number of activities scheduled to celebrate History Week.

These include:

- A Mini Discoverers Preschool Storytime on Tuesday 3 September, 11am. This session will be based on the book *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox, followed by a tour of Camden Museum;
- *What Once Was*, a photography exhibition in the fiction section of Camden Library, from Friday 30 August until Sunday 8 September. This exhibition will explore memories and compare photos of today's landscapes and locations with photos from the past;
- A display at Camden Library will have an accompanying list of books residents can get lost in; and
- A talk by NSW State Archives' Archivist Access and Engagement Officer, John Cann, at Camden Library on Saturday 14 September, 11.30am-4pm. This talk, hosted by the Camden Area Family History Society, will focus on bushrangers and will include afternoon tea.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said 2019 History Week, which runs from Saturday 31 August to Sunday 8 September, will explore the theme of 'Memory and Landscapes'.

"Camden is the fastest growing local government area in Australia, welcoming more than 100 residents every week – so this theme is just perfect for us," Cr Fedeli said.

"It's an opportunity to look at how the Camden landscape has changed in some ways and been preserved in others, celebrate stories of migration and new beginnings, raise awareness of our incredible natural environment and respect our Indigenous roots.

"Looking at how my own suburb has come to be what it is today is incredibly special. Mount Annan was part of Glenlee in the 1800s, which was owned by William Howe. It was acquired by James Fitzpatrick in the 1850s and run as a dairy farm until 1978, when it was designated for housing development and open space. The first land release for housing at Mount Annan was in the late 1980s and, in 1994, I moved to the area with my husband Frank and my two children.

"Even the more recent changes to the area, like the opening of Birriwa Reserve Outdoor Youth Space in 2016, is something I love reflecting on. It went from an idea for an empty block of land to a really special space that has something for every family in the Camden area."

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Residents can take advantage of Camden Council Libraries' regular heritage-specific offerings, including:

- The Local Studies room in Camden Library, which contains information relating to the people, the environment, the geography and the history of the Camden area;
- Regular events and exhibitions at the libraries, presented in partnership with Camden Historical Society and Camden Area Family History Society;
- Camden Images Past and Present, an online database of significant historic and recent images from the Camden area;
- The Changing Faces and Places of Camden NSW Flickr group, where Camden Library staff members add new historical images each week. People who join this group can also add images of their own;
- An interactive table at Oran Park Library which showcases a snapshot of our heritage in photos including exclusive Oran Park Raceway images;
- A Local Studies Librarian, who can assist with questions about the local area at Camden, Narellan and Oran Park Libraries; and
- Online researching guides, to help locate information in the library collection and beyond.

For more information on Council's History Week activities, and to register, visit camden.nsw.gov.au and search 'History Week'.

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