

# NOTICEBOARD

February 2022



**Lane Cove Historical Society Inc**

*(Affiliated with the Royal Australian Historical Society)*

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of Lane Cove the Cammeraygal and show respect to Elders past and present.

**PATRON:** The Mayor of Lane Cove

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2020-2021**

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**Convener- Friends of Carisbrook:**

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**Committee**

Bill McLaughlin

Denis Smith

Clio Wallace

Karen Aubrey

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**Carisbrook Historic House**

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[www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au)

[www.carisbrookhouse.com](http://www.carisbrookhouse.com)

**Caretaker:** Terry Eakin

**Editor:** Karen Aubrey



## Happy New Year!

I hope that all members had an enjoyable and rewarding time over Christmas and the New Year, in many instances catching up with family and friends we hadn't seen for a long time. In my case there were

some I hadn't seen in close to two years! There was a lot to talk about and a great deal of fun in catching up and learning about each other's news. Sadly, the pleasure of the Christmas/New Year period was for some of us rather dampened by the arrival of the latest version of the Covid virus, and its impact continues to be felt in Lane Cove as elsewhere.

The year of 2021 at Carisbrook ended on a very positive note, when we organised a plant sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The focus of the day was on clivias, all of them cultivated at Carisbrook by Terry Eakin, who proved the star attraction of the day. Many people clamoured for advice from Terry, news of whose expert reputation had travelled in all directions. It was in all a very good day.

## Two Important Meetings in February

Despite the ongoing Covid-related problems we are already planning to kick off the year 2022 with two meetings in February, and we urge you to attend both.

On **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February** we are calling an **adjourned Annual General Meeting at Carisbrook House**, starting at 3.30pm. This meeting is to review and endorse the

financial statements for the LCHS for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21. The meeting is to be held because we were unable to hold the usual Annual General Meetings in August 2020 or 2021, at which the financial statements would have been reviewed and endorsed. We will make this event a festive affair, with wine and cheese and opportunity for a chat in good company. The business of the meeting, starting at about 4.00pm, will not take long to accomplish and we urge you to come along and enjoy this open-air event in the grounds at Carisbrook. Let's make it a happy day for all.

Pat Madson, Secretary of the LCHS, will circulate the agenda and other papers to all members in advance of the meeting.

On **Tuesday 23rd February** we will hold our first **General Meeting** for the year in the Lane Cove library, starting at 7.00pm.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Dr Ian Hoskins, whose talk is based on his new book, *The Other Shore: An Illustrated History of North Sydney*. Dr Hoskins is the North Sydney Historian, and he argues that the lower north shore of Sydney is often omitted from histories of Sydney. Yet appreciating the development of the north side of the harbour is important for understanding the wider story of the harbour city. This talk focuses on present-day North Sydney, considering the significance of the harbour, transport, architectural styles, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and the development of heritage consciousness in the area. This should be an interesting meeting and I look forward to seeing you there.

**Frances Christie**  
**President**



### **Focus on a Member: Clio Wallace**

Clio Wallace is Convenor of the Care and Presentation Committee, looking after the general care of Carisbrook, while also organizing catering at functions at Carisbrook. Before her retirement she was an occupational therapist. She has two married daughters, three grandchildren and one great grandson. She is a valued member of the team at Carisbrook.

### **Chocolates are a part of Christmas**

Most of us expect to eat well on Christmas Day and one of the treats we normally enjoy is chocolate. But where did the custom of eating chocolate come from?

Originally chocolate came from what is now modern Mexico, where the first cacao plants were found. The Olmec, an ancient people who lived in South America, are thought to have first drunk hot chocolate,

both for medicinal and ritual purposes.

With the opening of the New World, chocolate was brought to Europe and it has been very popular ever since. It arrived in England in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and it was at first used for drinking. In fact, by the 18<sup>th</sup> century drinking houses selling hot



chocolate and coffee (also from the New World) were common in London. It was fashionable for ladies to drink chocolate at home. It was not till the early 19<sup>th</sup> century that solid chocolate was

introduced in England, first by J.S. Fry of Bristol, a Quaker, and a little later by John Cadbury, of Birmingham. Cadbury was also a Quaker who wanted to provide an attractive non-alcoholic drink which he adapted and mixed himself. In time he also created block chocolate and his two sons, who inherited the business, expanded it further. By the first World War, so popular had block chocolate become that it was freely issued to troops preparing to fight in France.

Chocolates came to Australia quite early. Cadbury's products were first imported into Australia in 1853, when three cases of Cadbury's cocoa and chocolate were advertised for sale in Adelaide. The first chocolatier in Australia was an American, Ernest Hillier who founded his business in Sydney in 1914. The Hillier chocolate factory brand name survives today, though its ownership has changed. In 1922 the Cadbury Chocolate was opened at Claremont Tasmania, created by a consortium that included Cadbury and Fry. The Cadbury Chocolate Factory remains to this day in Tasmania, though the ownership has also changed.

#### Sources used

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 A *Lady Pouring Chocolate* by [Jean-Étienne Liotard](#) (1744)  
 This is from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_chocolate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_chocolate) Retrieved 10th January 2022

Darrell Lea chocolates were created by Harry Lea, who migrated to Australia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and started making confectionery in 1917 at the back of his fruit shop on the Manly Corso. He opened a combined milk bar and confectionery shop in 1927 in Sydney's Haymarket, while later still he opened a factory in York Street and a shop in 1935. Family members continued to run the chocolate business for many years, and today you can still buy Darrell Lea chocolates. Some of our older readers may remember Harry Lea's famous Bulgarian Rock, for which Darrell Lea was famous.

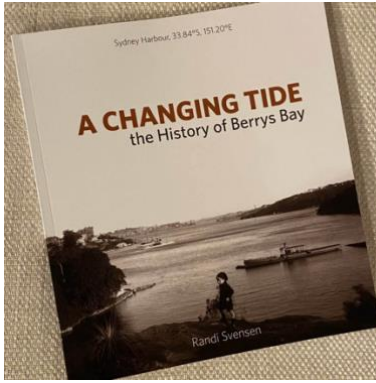
Today considerable quantities of chocolate are sold and eaten throughout the world, and there are many other brands apart from Cadbury's, though they remain influential. In the UK some confectioners now specialise in making chocolate sculptures, some of which have appeared in recent years in programs on SBS TV.

#### Who eats the most chocolate?

Well, it has been said that the Swiss consume more chocolate than any other people in the world: 9kg per capita each year. Australians and New Zealanders are estimated to consume about 5kg per year.

Next time you eat a chocolate, you might think about the many others around the world eating it as well!

By Frances Christie



*A Changing Tide – the History of Berrys Bay*, by Randi Svensen is now available for purchase at [www.stannard.com.au](http://www.stannard.com.au) for \$39.95. Impeccably researched and expertly written it is a must have for anybody specifically interested in Berrys Bay or generally interested in Sydney Harbour. The 120 pages are packed with historic photos, many of which are rarely glimpsed outside institutional collections. You can read a more comprehensive review [HERE](#) which was written by Chris Stannard for publication in *'Afloat Magazine'*. Coincidentally, the first chapter relays the story of 'Billy Blue' who was a convict, ferryman and chocolatier. Billy Blue was arrested in London

whilst trying to steal sugar to make his chocolate! After his conviction he spent five years on a prison hulk in London before being transported to Sydney in 1801 to serve out the remaining two years of his sentence.

## THE PLANT SALE SATURDAY DECEMBER 4

Thank you to all those who came along, and a huge thank you to all the volunteers who made it possible. We are thankful that the weather held out and it didn't rain! It was lots of fun, so if you missed out make sure you pop it in your diary for 2022 as soon as it's advertised. To all those who bought plants we wish you every success and hope that you will think of Carisbrook when you see them bloom.



# Upcoming Events



**Adjourned Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

**3.30pm**

**Carisbrook Historic House**

**334 Burns Bay Road**

Parking at the end of Waterview Drive

**AT THE PODIUM IN 2022**

February 22

**Dr. Ian Hoskins**

*The Other Shore:*

*an illustrated history of North Sydney*



7pm Lane Cove Library

Enquiries: 0418 276 365