

# NOTICEBOARD

April 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:** Mayor Andrew Zbic

### Office Bearers & Committee 2021-2022

**President:** E. Prof Frances Christie

**VP:** Dr Kay Leiper

**VP, Secretary & Public Officer:**

Patricia Madson

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**Treasurer:** Ajaya Jayarao

**Convener- Friends of Carisbrook:**

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Bill McLaughlin

Denis Smith

Clio Wallace

Karen Aubrey

### Carisbrook Historic House

334 Burns Bay Road

Lane Cove 2066

Mob: 0434 757 300

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

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

**Caretaker:** Terry Eakin

**Editor:** Karen Aubrey



At our last general meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the Speaker at the Podium was Dr John Walsh, who has an interest in the history of the Australian financial system, with a particular interest in the variety of bank notes that we have produced over the years, all of which feature notable past people. One such notable person was Mary Reiby, (née Haydoc), whose face appears on the present \$20 bank note. Convicted of theft at age 13, she was transported to NSW in 1792. She eventually married an Irishman she met on the ship, Thomas Reiby, and went on to bear seven children, all of whom lived in a period when many women lost at least some of their children. Moreover, she became a successful business woman, dying a very wealthy woman. She was by any standards a remarkable woman, and worthy of being remembered.

One entertaining aspect of the evening, by the way, was that a young school boy who was sitting in the library, told Margaret Miller, a member of the LCHS, that he was descended from Mary Reiby. Margaret invited him to attend the meeting but he declined on the grounds that he had an essay to write.

Does anyone reading this Noticeboard know the descendants of Mary Reiby living in Lane Cove? We would love to know who they are and where they live in Lane Cove. Please let us know if you can.

The April meeting, advertised elsewhere in this Noticeboard, will be well worth coming to hear. Please encourage your friends to come.

**Local historians, don't forget the History Prize:** calls are now being made through the libraries and other places. Anyone who has an idea for a possible entry to the Prize is welcome to contact me for advice, using my personal email address: [fchr3976@bigpond.net.au](mailto:fchr3976@bigpond.net.au)

Until next time  
Frances Christie  
President

You could win \$1,000!

**Submissions may be**

- ★ a video doco of 7-15 minutes
- ★ an essay 5,000-7,000 words
- ★ an oral history of 30-45 minutes on video or audio recording, plus written transcription and short written rationale and summary



The Lane Cove Historical Society

LANE COVE HISTORY PRIZE

**Entries close 31 August**

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



### **Focus on a Member: Denis Smith, OAM**

Denis Smith is a former President of the LCHS (August 2007-August 2012). An electrical engineer by training, he has frequently given skilled professional advice on aspects of the maintenance of Carisbrook House. He has an extensive interest in local history and often identifies appropriate speakers to appear at the Podium.

Please Note that we have a new contact phone number:

**0434 757 300**

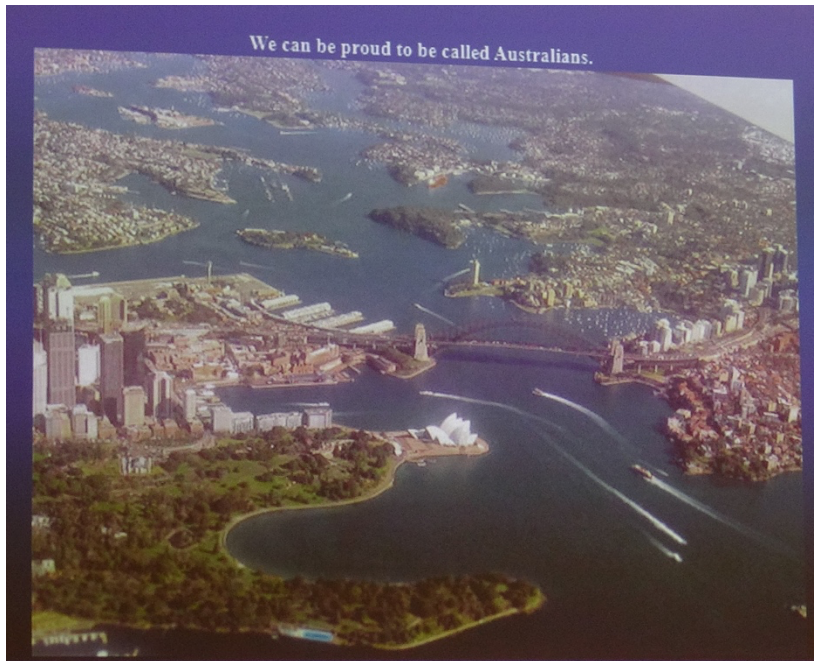
We are not using the PO Box anymore, so all hard correspondence should be addressed to:

**The Lane Cove Historical Society  
334 Burns Bay Rd  
Lane Cove NSW 2066**

### March at the Podium

What a fascinating speaker John Walsh was and what a remarkable young lady Mary Reiby was! The life of a convict wasn't easy, so to accomplish so much in her lifetime is nothing short of inspirational. Way to go Mary!! Don't miss the next meeting:

[www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au/at-the-podium](http://www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au/at-the-podium)





Devonshire Tea Open Weekends  
Third weekend of every month  
10AM - 4PM



## Around the Ground – what’s new at Carisbrook? Blink and you miss them!

Have you seen the Firewheel Tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*) at Carisbrook Historic House? It’s originally from the rain forests of Australia and has been identified as part of the Protea family. Thankfully the birds decided to plant one right here in our very own backyard. It’s in full bloom right now and the flowers are spectacular. Take a stroll through the garden to find the Firewheel Tree (also known as the New Zealand Firewheel Tree) and enjoy!



Guess what we found growing on a rock at Carisbrook? Lots of little baby staghorns!! They were probably propagated by spores produced on the underside of fertile fronds transported there by the whim of the wind or by some other clever way that mother nature intended.



*One day they'll grow up to be this big!*



## Who invented honeymoons?

By Frances Christie

One of the pleasant social events that resumed after the relaxation of Covid restrictions in this state was the wedding. Of course, weddings had been held during the Covid lockdown, but only under considerable constraints in terms of numbers of people able to attend. However, weddings have now resumed with no constraints in numbers attending,

or numbers dancing, and they are once again held in churches, outdoors, or wherever takes the bridal couple's fancy. Moreover, most young couples depart their weddings and take a honeymoon.

So where does the name "honeymoon" come from? The word derives from an old Scandinavian practice by which mead or fermented honey was given to a young couple for the first month (measured by a moon cycle) after marriage in order to improve their chances of conception. Mead was believed to have aphrodisiac properties. In Old English it became *hony moone*. The term grew in time to suggest the sweetness that was felt by the newly-weds, so in love were they.

The custom of taking a honeymoon – or "bridal tour"- after the wedding dates from the 19th century, and it developed in Great Britain and some other affluent western countries, such as France. In some parts of England, the trip involved the newly-weds calling on those people who had been unable to attend the wedding. But in time the bridal tour involved wider travel and it was available only to the wealthy who could afford to travel about.

Some authorities suggest that the honeymoon trip derived from the ancient practice in the far past, by which young men snatched their brides from neighbouring families or tribes, and carried them off to avoid reprisals for at least one month, by which time it was hoped they would be pregnant.

The custom of taking a honeymoon is not found in all cultures, and today there are still no doubt many countries where such customs are unknown. However, apparently most couples in Australia do take honeymoons, often for just seven days.


### Sources used:

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/travel/a38889/history-of-honeymoons> Accessed 27th March 2022

<https://www.brides.com/story/the-gloomy-history-behind-honeymoons> Accessed 27th March 2022

<https://honeymoongoals.com/honeymoon-stats-and-facts> Accessed 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022.


# Upcoming Events



**VOLUNTEER NOW**  
**Carisbrook  
Historic House**


An interesting way to make a difference

[www.carisbrookhouse.com/society](http://www.carisbrookhouse.com/society)  
[www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au)  
0434 757 300



**CARISBROOK HISTORIC HOUSE  
DEVONSHIRE TEA WEEKEND  
APRIL 16TH & 17TH  
10AM - 4PM**

**JOSEPH CONRAD'S EASTERN VOYAGES**  
*Tales of Singapore & East Borneo*



**At the Podium  
Ian Burnet**

7pm Tuesday, April 26  
Lane Cove Library  
Enquiries: 0418 276 365

