



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

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Margaret Bergomi

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Catherine Briggs

Phil Hull

Carisbrook Historic House

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www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au

www.carisbrookhouse.com

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Editor: Karen Aubrey

Noticeboard

April 2023

President's Message



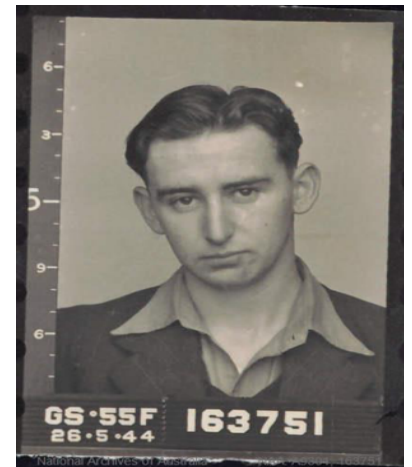
There will be no Speaker at the Podium in April this year because of Anzac Day. The Lane Cove Anzac Day ceremony on 25th April will be held in the Canopy this year, hosted by the local RSL and the Lane Cove Council, from 7.15 to 8.30 am.

The event is free, but it will be advisable to get there

early to ensure a seat. One old serviceman who will be honoured at this year's ceremony is Lane Cove resident Peter Comino, whose life story was recounted in the LCHS volume, *Senior Profiles of Lane Cove*, which appeared in late 2022. His enlistment photo is displayed here. Peter will be present at the ceremony and his contribution to the war will be remembered by his daughter, Kerry Corkhill. Peter will turn 97 on 29th April this year. Happy birthday, Peter!

At the meeting on 28th March we welcomed Dr Mark Ferson, who is both a Professor of

Medicine and the Foundation President of the New Australian Bookplate Society. A bookplate, or an *ex libris*, is a label giving the name of the owner of a book, and it is pasted in the front of the book. Bookplates have a very old history, having been invented in Germany in the 15th century, and they were designed by distinguished artists such as Albert Durer, who engraved at least six copper plates from which the bookplates were made. Interest in bookplates spread



Focus on a Member

Phil Hull

Phil has lived in Lane Cove for over 8 years. During this time, he has been an active member of the Lane Cove Historical Society. He has a B Ed in Education from Reading University and a Diploma in Town Planning from Oxford University. He has worked as a Town Planner for over 40 years in both the Public and Private Sectors and now works part time as a Planning Consultant. He has had to undertake numerous Heritage Impact Studies and takes a particular interest in Planning and Heritage. He is a committee member of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies and is active in several local organisations. He is a member of LaVoce Lane Cove choir, and a member of the Lane Cove Labor Party. He is also a keen bush walker and member of the WEA Ramblers. He enjoys travel especially when it involves the opportunity to visit historic locations.



throughout Europe and in time they came to England, where the wealthy classes enjoyed them. It became common to seek stylish bookplates to present as gifts to valued family members and friends. Bookplates were brought to Australia in the 19th century and they became quite popular, though apparently interest in bookplates reached its height in the period between the two World Wars. Numbers of well-known Australian artists, such as Norman and Percy Lindsay or Pixie O'Harris, created distinctive bookplates. Members of the Bookplate Society actively promote the study and collection of bookplates. Readers will find more information about the New Australian Bookplate Society at their website: www.bookplatesociety.org.au

We display here a bookplate that Mark Ferson designed some years ago for his father, Alex, who had many interests, which Mark sought to capture. The bookplate was made with a lino cut. Anyone wanting to get a bookplate designed may find an artist at:

<http://www.bookplatesociety.org.au/index.php/artists>



Frances Christie
President

One member of the audience wrote:

“Congratulations on a wonderful night last night. You should be very proud. Such a delightful variety of poetry was shared. I enjoyed trying Pernod after such a long time and the wine and cheese was fab. The ambience in the courtyard was perfect! And how lucky with the weather!”

So successful was the event that we are planning another evening at Carisbrook Historic House, this time with the Tenella Jazz group on Sunday 30th April. You can come and listen to the jazz while also enjoying wine and cheese. You will find more details below of how to register to attend. I hope to see you there.



Some of the yummy food that was served.

Poetry & Pernod

A remarkable Evening

~ a vision of Catherine Briggs

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, a new event was ventured at Carisbrook Historic House on the evening of 25th March, when Catherine Briggs, Kay Leiper and helpers collaborated in a Parisian Style Poetry & Pernod Open Mic event. It was a night of joie de vivre as seven poets from the Lane Cove Poets in Residence group entertained over 60 guests by reading or singing their poems and stories. The audience warmed to the ambience and contributed in the Open Mic part of proceedings ably assisted by MC Daragh Byrne from Poetry Lounge in Glebe. A selection of baguettes and wine and a generous cheese platter set the standard of hospitality for the night from Carisbrook Historic House. The balmy evening in the courtyard was enjoyed by all and rounded off by Paul Bennett's music which had people tapping their toes and dancing. There have been many emails and texts from guests, local and international, expressing their appreciation.



Pictured above: The Lane Cove Poets in Residence

Ode to a stapler

bills and
teetering piles
of paper
strewn on a
tabletop
await

structure from
a small
smooth
sleek
object which
folds
to a shape
I can press.

Inside:
metallic machinery
gleams
before the forked fangs
dig
into
unresisting sheets.

Substantial,
weighty,
It uses
power
to impress.

Constant feeding is essential.

It's futile without
the food
of steely spikes
perhaps

to draw blood on pale flesh.

Missing the point

perhaps

to draw blood on pale flesh.

Missing the point

Once again.

~ Catherine Briggs 2022



Catherine Briggs welcoming Amy Malcolm

Carisbrook

Historic House

TENELLA JAZZ



SUNDAY APRIL 30TH

WINE, CHEESE AND JAZZ!

Details: www.carisbrookhouse.com

Tix: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGMDN>

Enquiries: 0418 276 365

If it wasn't for our volunteers, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. Consider lending a hand yourself and become a friend of Carisbrook Historic House ~ we can all make a difference in preserving the history of Lane Cove, make friends and maybe find a new interest. There are so many ways to help. The Friends meet at Carisbrook House on the first Wednesday of each month.

Call - 0434 757 300 for more information.

Pictured on the right are some of the Friends who were at the April meeting. From left to right are Terry, Denis, Kay, Pat, Margaret, Anne and Bronwyn.

Sunset Jazz, Wine and Cheese at Carisbrook ~ April 30 at 5.30pm

Please don't leave it too late to purchase a ticket to this event. Tickets are \$40 pp BUT if you purchase a table for 6 it is only \$210 ~ you do the math! Grab some friends and don't regret not seeing Tenella Jazz perform at Carisbrook Historic House. The wine will be flowing with lots of cheese and water to make the evening truly memorable.



The Tenella Jazz Band

Purchase your tickets here:

www.trybooking.com/CGMDN



From our Collection

The Ostrich Feather Boa

By Pat Madson



Harry Styles and his feather boa

The recent tour of pop singer Harry Styles has seen feather boas sell out in cities around the world. His use of the boa as a fashion accessory means his fans also must have them when they go to the concerts. These days most boas are made of a synthetic material, but during history they have been made from a variety of bird feathers, including ostrich, turkey, duck and swan. They became a stylish accessory during the 17th century and became extremely popular during the late Victorian and early Edwardian Eras. The feathers were cut from the animal, cleaned, possibly dyed and then stitched or glued into lengths called 'ply'.

Ostrich feathers were seen as exemplifying luxury and extravagance, and were used in boas, fans and as hat accessories. Black feathers were very common at funerals, not only on the hats of ladies but also adorning the carriage and horses which pulled the hearse. In our collection we have an ostrich feather boa in its original box, which came from an ostrich farm at Watson's Bay in Sydney. In 1986 it was donated to the Society by Mrs Bee, who at the time lived in Longueville. The boa had been purchased by Mr Cunnyngame, Mrs Bee's father, in 1915 as a wedding present for his wife on the occasion of their marriage.



*Mr and Mrs J Barracluff with ostriches ~
thanks to a Waverly Library Fact Sheet*

In 1889 Joseph Barracluff and his wife Jane established an ostrich farm in what was at the time an isolated area of Sydney at Watson's Bay, now Dover Heights. Previous to this he had been selling feathers from a shop in Sydney opposite Central Station. Ostriches were imported from Morocco and Egypt, and by 1902 there were 100 animals on the farm.



We have
Lost Two New
Members:

Daniel Bolger

§

Beverley Jones

They joined us early this year, but their addresses and other details were lost.

If anyone knows them, please ask them to contact us at

lchs@carisbrookhouse.com

In 1901 the farm was visited by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, later King George V and Queen Mary. This enabled the farm to advertise "Under Royal Patronage". They also advertised "By Special Appointment to His Excellency the Governor General and His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales".¹

Ostrich eggs were also carved and mounted on stands as household ornaments.

Joseph Barracluff died in 1918 and the farm ceased business soon after. Following the First World War the feathers were seen as an unnecessary frivolity. The movement for the prevention of animal cruelty was also beginning at this time.

¹ Waverley Council Local History Fact Sheet "Barracluff's Ostrich Farm"

Japanning and Its Origins

Frances Christie

Visitors to Carisbrook Historic House will observe the dark surface of the hall as they walk through the front door. Though the floor is currently a bit scratched, its surface is an interesting reminder of a once common practice of staining floors, known as "japanning". The term refers to a process of giving a semi, or sometimes high, gloss to timber, developed originally to imitate various styles of treating furniture found in Asian and South East Asian countries. Borrowed from India, China and Japan, japanning became very popular in Europe by the 17th century, when it was adapted to create a heavy gloss surface, using varnishes and resins; the colours could be red, green or blue, though black was used on floors. In time, japanning was taken up by the English middleclass families in their homes, and it was used in producing fine furniture, trays, ornamental boxes, occasional tables and various kinds of bric -a -brac, all of which could be very beautiful.

*A decorative piece of
japanned furniture*



By the mid to late 19th century, japanning had become popular in Australia, when the owners of houses such as Carisbrook sought to put it on the floors in their establishments. It added a sense of the decorative to a comfortable home. Into the 20th century, japanning continued to be used in houses in Greenwich, Lane Cove and other parts of Sydney, though its use declined as the century proceeded. The floor at Carisbrook House, built in the early 1880s, probably had a rich semi-gloss surface.

Today, the skills of japanning are not practised much, except by conservation specialists. The process of japanning a floor the size of the hall at Carisbrook is time-consuming and for that reason it is also quite expensive. The japanning on the Carisbrook Hall floor remains a useful reminder of a once widely practised craft.

Sources

<https://heritagecrafts.org.uk/japanning>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanning>

Lane Cove History Prize

\$1,000

*It's not too late to put your
story into words and enter
this year's history prize. Your
entry could take many forms.*

*For more information and
to download the entry forms
and the terms and conditions*

please go to:

www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au/lanecove-history-prize



Carisbrook Historic House

COFFEE AND CAKES
DEVONSHIRE TEAS

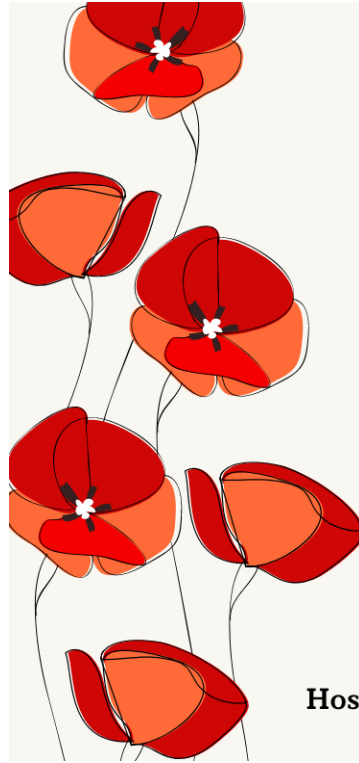
OPEN
APRIL

SATURDAY 15th
SUNDAY 16th
10am-4pm



www.carisbrookhouse.com
Enquiries 0418 276 365

Upcoming Events



ON APRIL 25

We remember Anzac Day.

We remember heroes and what
they gave for our tomorrow.

April 25th in the Canopy
7.15 to 8.30am

Hosted by the RSL & Lane Cove Council

Carisbrook Historic House TENELLA JAZZ

It's a big sound with a knockout repertoire



Sunday April 30th

WINE, CHEESE AND JAZZ!

5.30pm - 7.30pm

334 Burns Bay Road Lane Cove

www.carisbrookhouse.com

0418 276 365

Bookings:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CGMDN>



\$210 for a table of 6

CARISBROOK

TEA COFFEE CAKE

10AM - 4PM

Third Weekend of the Month

May 20th and 21st