



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.

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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

# Noticeboard JUNE 2023

## President's Message



We experienced good autumn weather in Sydney in May, with cool nights and fine mild days. It proved to be a busy month at Carisbrook Historic House, when LCHS members hosted a number of visitors who came in various parties to enjoy lunch and visit.

Well done to the various

people who worked to greet the visitors, prepare the food and offer advice and information about the house. We had one disappointment in the month of May, when our Speaker at the Podium, Professor Paula Hamilton, was forced to withdraw because she had caught Covid. It was a timely reminder that Covid has not gone yet. We wish Paula Hamilton a speedy recovery.

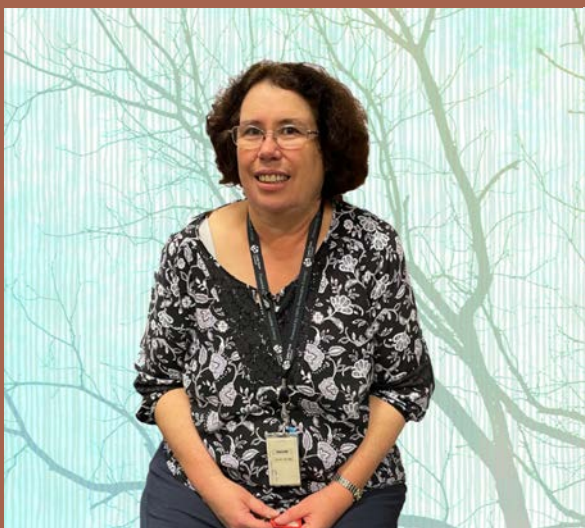
LCHS members of my generation will remember when we travelled round many parts of Sydney on trams. I regularly travelled on trams to secondary school and later to university, and I rather liked them. In 1961 the NSW government of the day stopped the trams in Sydney, leaving later generations to regret the streets crowded with buses.

It has been only in recent times that trams have reappeared, at least in limited areas. Trams have had an interesting history in Sydney and the Speaker at the Podium this month, Ronald Besdanský, has studied them. He became interested in trams as a boy of 15 and will share his life's passion for trams when he joins us on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. I urge all members to come and hear Ronald.

*Focus on a  
Good Friend  
Naomi Bassford*

*by Frances Christie*

Naomi Bassford works for the Lane Cove library, where she is in charge of the Local Studies and Archives section, dealing with Australian history, and, more specifically, with Lane Cove and its environs. She trained as a librarian at the Australian Catholic University. Naomi is well known to many members of the LCHS, for many of us have consulted her for advice in researching aspects of local history. Almost all past winners of the Lane Cove History Prize have consulted her and have acknowledged her assistance. Naomi is a great asset to Lane Cove and we appreciate her support in many ways.



*Photo courtesy of the Tramway Museum*

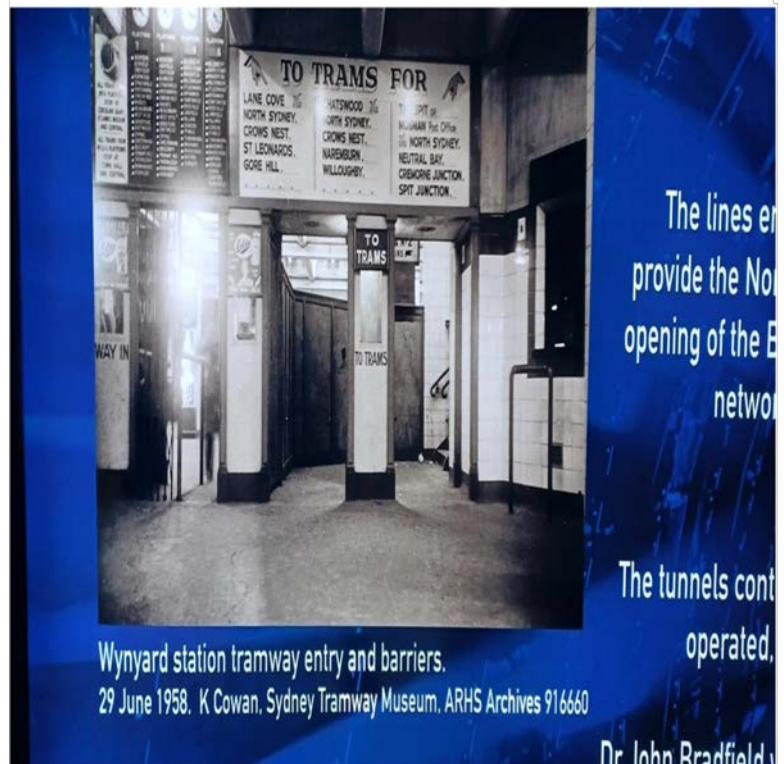
Members are reminded there is still time to prepare and submit an entry to the Lane Cove History Prize, the closing date for which is 31<sup>st</sup> August. One entry has already been received, though we expect to receive others.

*Frances Christie*  
President

*Did you Know? by Alex Matte*

You can see the tram tunnels (that used to go/from the Wynyard station platforms 1 and 2) below the Cahill Expressway at the Rocks, to your left immediately after you start on the Harbour Bridge's pedestrian walkway, up the steps from Cumberland Street.

*Photo courtesy of Sylvia Lestavel 29/5/2023*



Wynyard station tramway entry and barriers.  
29 June 1958. K Cowan, Sydney Tramway Museum, ARHS Archives 916660

The lines en  
provide the No  
opening of the E  
network  
  
The tunnels cont  
operated,  
Dr. John Bradfield

## Visitors to Carisbrook



*Beginning with the July Devonshire Tea Weekend, the cost of a Devonshire Tea will increase to \$15.*



*The wood fire oven in the new scullery*



Pictured above are Owen and Cathy who were married in the courtyard of Carisbrook on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1995. Here they are enjoying their Devonshire Tea in May while reminiscing fondly about their wedding day. Following the ceremony, they and their many guests moved onto Laurelbank in Willoughby for the reception. *'It rained that morning'*, says Cathy, *'but thankfully it stopped in time!'*, she said with a smile of relief.



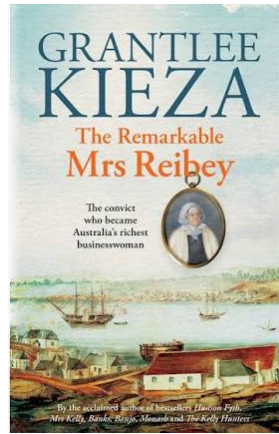
*A happy group of visitors from Oakhill & Dural Probus*

My favourite story about Mary, by the way, concerns an incident that occurred when she told one of her debtors, John Walker, that he should settle his account with her. He apparently refused, telling her she was “no lady”. Mary promptly responded by hitting him over the head with a man’s umbrella. Quite a girl, as they say!

Grantlee Kieza has written a lively account of the life of Mary Reibey, providing a well researched sense of the background to her activities, as the penal colony slowly became a free self-governing community. While many whites – convicts, emancipists and free settlers – often suffered in the harsh conditions of the early colony, Kieza is also careful to document the suffering of the many Aborigines. They often fought bitterly in defence of their land and many paid a heavy price as they were forced to retreat in the face of white settlement. Such is the nature of colonial history, and the historian’s task is to document events and experiences, acknowledging both hardship and gain.

Grantlee Kieza has written a number of other books about significant figures in NSW, including Henry Lawson, Banjo Paterson, Lachlan Macquarie, Joseph Banks (a particular favourite of mine) and Hudson Fysh, though there are others. *The Remarkable Mrs Reibey* is now available in the bookshops.

*By Frances Christie*



## *Book Review:* *The Remarkable Mrs.* *Reibey* *by Grantlee Kieza*

Most of us know that Mary Reibey appears on our \$20 bank note, and we know that she was a convict in early NSW, who made a good life, becoming a shrewd businesswoman. However, probably most of us know not a lot about her life. Grantlee Kieza has written a thoroughly engaging account of her life, establishing her importance in the history of NSW. Mary Haydock came from yeoman stock and had had a degree of education before she ran away as a child, stole a valuable horse which she tried to sell, was arrested and condemned to death. But by good fortune her death sentence was changed and she was condemned to be transported to NSW, arriving in Sydney in 1792, aged 15 years. In 1794 she married Thomas Reibey, a free man, who became a successful merchant and a businessman. They went on to form a strong partnership, producing seven children before poor Tom died young in 1811, said to have died from the effects of severe sunburn.

The story of how Mary Reibey went on to build a considerable fortune is extraordinary, not least because in the developing colony of NSW, a stigma often attached to those of convict background. Though people like Governor Lachlan Macquarie actively resisted the tendency to look down on emancipists, Mary faced some hardship because of her background, and without the support of her husband she was obliged to go on, expanding their business. Building on the business she and her husband had founded, she went on to acquire property in NSW and Van Diemen’s Land, to farm, run shops, own and manage ships and master trade in India and in other parts of eastern Asia. When the Bank of NSW was created in 1817, she provided a house in Macquarie Place, then the main town square in Sydney, where banking could begin. As a shrewd businesswoman, she demanded a good rental for the service! Mary died in 1855, a very wealthy woman, having lived to see the abolition of transportation and the establishment of self-government in NSW.

Five of her children had predeceased her, a source of grief to her, but through their efforts, they had done much to contribute to the society of NSW. Many of her descendants remain today in NSW, proud of her memory.





JOIN US FOR A LOVELY DEVONSHIRE TEA AT

**CARISBROOK  
HISTORIC HOUSE**  
THIRD WEEKEND OF EVERY MONTH

10AM - 4PM

334 BURNS BAY ROAD LANE COVE

0434 757 300

# Carisbrook Historic House

COFFEE AND CAKES  
DEVONSHIRE TEAS

OPEN  
JUNE

SATURDAY 17th

SUNDAY 18th

10am-4pm



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

Enquiries 0418 276 365

NO BOOKINGS NECESSARY

# Upcoming Events

*At the Podium*  
**RON BESDANSKY**  
7pm Tuesday June 27  
Lane Cove Library



## TRAMWAYS OF THE NORTH SHORE

Enquiries: 0418 276 365

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

7pm Tuesday July 25

Lane Cove Library



At the Podium  
**Trevor McAlister**



Enquiries: 0418 276 365  
[www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au)

**Carisbrook**  
**Historic House**  
**DELTA JAZZ**

Classic New Orleans jazz in its original acoustic tradition



**Wine, Cheese and Jazz!**  
**Featuring Delta Jazz**

Sunday September 10

3pm to 5pm

Delta Jazz delivers New Orleans and pop jazz in its original acoustic tradition in a perfect setting for a lovely Sunday afternoon at Carisbrook Historic House.

Settle back in the sunny courtyard with plenty of cheese and wine to enjoy and plenty of atmosphere. All inclusive price \$40 per person or \$210 for a table of six; \$280 a table of eight.

Bookings:

[www.trybooking.com/1073567](http://www.trybooking.com/1073567)



# Celebrate

*The Lane Cove Festival*

*this September*

*At Carisbrook!*

**DEVONSHIRE TEA AND BUBBLY**  
**AT CARISBROOK HISTORIC**  
**HOUSE**

Saturday 16 September and Sunday 17 September

Celebrate Lane Cove's own historic house museum with a scrumptious Devonshire tea at Carisbrook. If you prefer coffee and cakes are also served while you chill out in Carisbrook's springtime courtyard. To celebrate the Festival, enjoy a complimentary glass of bubbly.

Entry to the house includes a video and self-guided audio tour at any time between 10am and 4pm.

OR

You can book for special guided tours at 11am and 2pm. For a guided tour book now on:

**Carisbrook**  
**Historic House**  
**DEVONSHIRE TEA & TOURS**



<https://www.trybooking.com/1073576>