

Lane Cove Historical Society Inc.

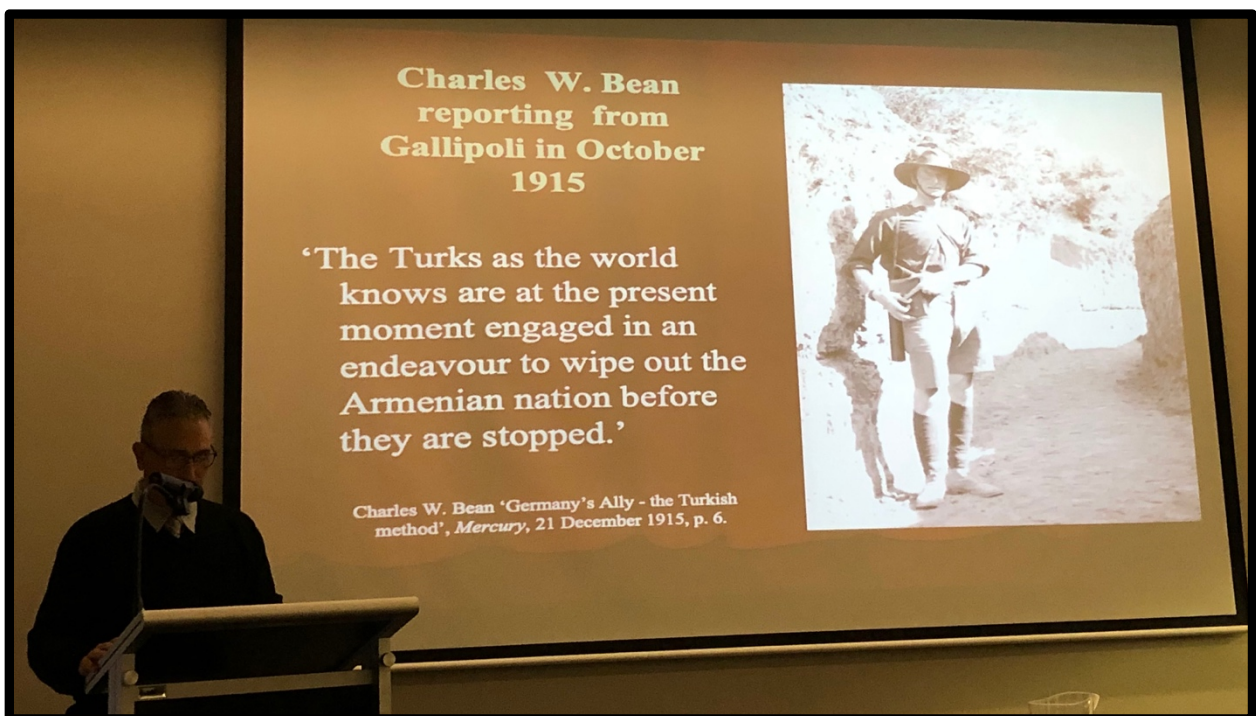
NOTICEBOARD

JULY 2021

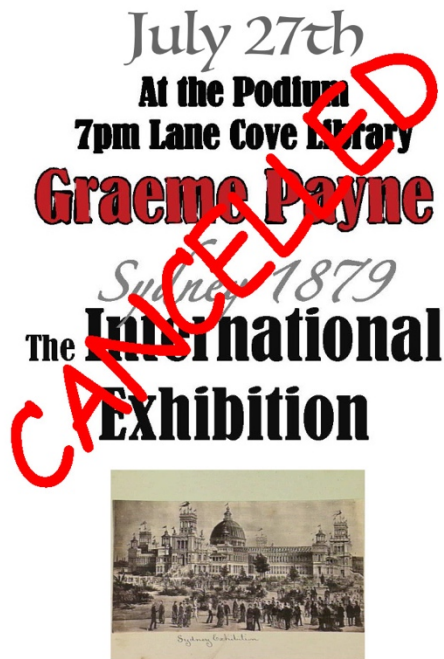


On Tuesday 23rd June Vicken Babkenian spoke about the history of “Armenia, Australia and the Great War”, drawing on the book of that name which he co-authored with Professor Peter Stanley. He noted Armenia had been absorbed into the Ottoman Empire long before the First World War and its people were

savagely persecuted by the Turks during the war. The ANZAC forces became involved with Armenians because of their time fighting at Gallipoli and related areas. When news of their persecution reached Australia, many people created relief funds to support the Armenian people. Vicken noted that the link between Armenians and the Australian forces in the First World War has not always been properly acknowledged.



On Tuesday 27th July Graeme Payne, former president to the LCHS, was going to talk on The World Fair in Sydney in 1879. There were 23 nations represented at the Exhibition and the colonial government of NSW wanted to use the exhibition to promote trade and commerce. This very informative talk will be rescheduled.



Article by Dr Kay Leiper ~ published in TWT 22nd April 2021

MURDER MYSTERIES AND FORGOTTEN HISTORIES

The land surrounding Carisbrook Historic House

Carisbrook Historic House on Burns Bay is open every third weekend in the month for house tours and a delicious assortment of Devonshire tea and coffee and cakes served in the courtyard. Burns Bay is a lively area these days, but when the Brooks family-owned Linley Point it was a backwater with a dark past. It even had the menacing name of 'Murdering Bay' and, to this day, no one knows why.

It was already called that when woodcutter, Terence Byrne, lived on the Point with Annie Davis. Terence, 'free by servitude' and 'of unblemished character' was also known to harbour the odd escaped convict. He petitioned to buy the land he had squatted on since 1827, but those with authority objected to 'his class' owning land on the North Shore (probably including William Henry, who was in line to be granted a 1,000-acre lease which included Byrne's squat, or the Nicols family who also claimed ownership). Governor Darling eventually saw differently, and the petition was granted in 1833. Terence could finally buy the land at the September 17 auction. Problem was, on August 12, he had been hung for the murder of Annie. Terence protested innocence to the end, claiming Annie had fallen from a cliff.

A plausible story as there were many sandstone outcrops on Linley Point. They had been shelter for the Cammeraygals for millennia and many an escaped convict evaded the military guards under cover of the Point's wild foreshores.

In 1870 one of these outcrops on Burns Bay was reported as the home of Joe Haslam, who worked for Tom Smith, another woodcutter across the river in Ryde near Buffalo Creek. Another employee was John Coy, who lived immediately across the river with Eliza Perry. Mr. Smith was 'found dead in the water' and Haslam, Coy and Perry were indicted for his murder. Only Coy and Perry stood trial. Eliza claimed Tom Smith drowned himself and, without hard evidence, she and Coy walked free. I wonder how long they lived there constantly looking over their shoulders.

The ghosts of the past did not worry Charles Brooks in 1884 when he tried to sell his land as a gentrified subdivision in which 'marine villas' could be built on waterfront blocks. Nothing nasty here! At least not until 1913, when poor Myrtle Caldwell was shot by her fiance, William Wright. He left her body in a shed near Figtree Bridge. William was sentenced to death but was reprieved to life-in-prison on account of 'unstableness of mentality'.

Now, there is a story of supposed ghostly happenings experienced by owners of Carisbrook in the 1940s and 50s—and who knows? Maybe there *are* a few restless spirits around Linley Point, frustrated that they suffered injustice.

There are many local histories to be told. The LCHS Lane Cove History Prize is again open for submissions. Any aspect of local history is eligible in the form of a written piece, an oral history, or a video work.

Check out the details on

<https://www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au/lane-cove-history-prize>

When the Lockdown is Over ~ by Frances Christie



LCHS members may be looking for places of historical interest to take them out and about within a reasonable radius of Sydney. One really interesting place to visit is the Quarantine Station at North Head. Long before the arrival of white settlers the area was well known to the local Aborigines. Not much is known of the local people, though they included the *Gayimai*, and the land was significant as a site for ceremonial purposes.

Not long after the arrival of white settlers, the colonial leaders needed to find a place to quarantine people who arrived off ships carrying diseases such as smallpox. Throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century the quarantine station was run at North Head and though it no longer serves

that function the site remains a fascinating place to visit for a day's excursion. Alternatively, the more adventurous may like to stay in the Quarantine Station Hotel that occupies the heritage listed buildings. You can take rooms in what were once the dormitories kept for inmates, or you can take one of the several cottages which were originally occupied by staff at the Quarantine Station. Lovely scenic walks are available in all directions, including the areas of the North Head that lie outside the Quarantine Station itself. There you can find some old cemeteries where numbers of the

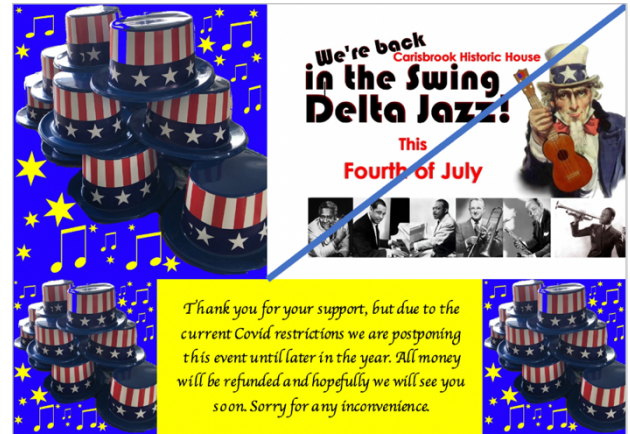


original quarantine inmates were buried, and though their graves are rather overgrown, they tend to be surrounded by wonderful Australian wildflowers especially in springtime. It's all well worth a visit.



Perhaps some of our readers can suggest other rewarding places to go?

Many thanks to all our members and friends who purchased tickets to the July 4th Jazz event at Carisbrook. It was with a heavy heart that we were forced to cancel due to the Covid 19 lockdown. Hopefully it won't be long before we can reschedule.



Save the Date
Spring Garden Seminar
Sunday 26th September 2021
Starting at 10am

Celebrate Springtime with us at our Garden Seminar in September. Whether you have a balcony of potted plants or a landscaped garden, join us for an enjoyable and informative Sunday garden seminar. Carisbrook's gardens are at their best and we have a lineup of guest garden experts with special green-finger tips on the what-to, when-to, and how-to get stuff to grow.

COVID-Safe procedures are in place and the registration cost of \$45 includes lunch and access to the house. Tickets may be purchased at

<https://www.trybooking.com/764806>

SPRINGTIME GARDEN SEMINAR & PLANT SALE
AT CARISBROOK HISTORIC HOUSE

STARTING AT 10AM *SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER*

GARDENING TIPS *\$45*

GUEST SPEAKERS *BOXED LUNCH*

PLANTS FOR SALE

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/764806](https://www.trybooking.com/764806)

Please join us for a delicious Devonshire Tea for only \$10, but if that's not your cup of tea we have other delicious goodies to tempt you. If you haven't been to Carisbrook Historic House for a while you will be pleasantly surprised. The gardens are always a delight and the serene surroundings will wrap you in a blanket of bliss. Audio tours of the house will be available if you want to stroll through and see what life was like way back then, but you might want a second cup of tea instead! The tour is free for members, so come and enjoy this August.



*CARISBROOK HISTORIC HOUSE
DEVONSHIRE TEA OPEN WEEKEND
AUGUST 21 & 22
10AM ~ 4PM*