

NOTICEBOARD

NOVEMBER 2021



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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Editor: Karen Aubrey



This Noticeboard is the last for 2021. It has been a strange year, marked by a long period of Lockdown (a new word we have all added to our vocabulary this year!). The period of coming out of it is not quite over even yet. Normal life has largely resumed in Lane Cove and most of us no longer need to meet via Zoom, though I am told in a few places, Zoom meetings still apply.

As we have emerged from the Lockdown, I have two developments to mention for the rest of this year. The first is that the new edition of the LCHS Journal will be out in November, so look for that when it reaches your post box some time during the month. Looking to December, we plan a plant sale at Carisbrook on 4th December, details of which will be found elsewhere in this Noticeboard.

Turning to the new year, we are planning to resume our monthly meetings in the Lane Cove library. The first meeting will be on 22nd February 2022, so please make a note in your diary now. Other speakers are already being identified in order to build up an interesting collection of speakers for the year. Plans are already under way for other events, including regular open days at Carisbrook, while we also plan some concerts and another Spring Garden seminar in September 2022.

I wish all members a merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

Frances Christie
President





Focus on a Member: Karen Aubrey

Karen has been a member of the Lane Cove Historical Society and a Friend of Carisbrook since moving to Lane Cove six years ago. She is a retired primary school teacher with a post grad diploma of counselling. Karen says it is lovely to be living so close to Carisbrook.

Christmas Time by Frances Christie



How and why did the custom of giving gifts develop?

Gift-giving was originally part of European pagan practice in the past, but with the advent of Christianity, its significance changed. Some authorities say that gift-giving was commenced by St Nicholas, who was a Christian Bishop born in the first century CE. He was generous to the poor and needy, and after his death the custom

of gift giving in his name started. St Nicholas Day was for some centuries celebrated on 6th December. As the years passed, the legend of his gift-giving changed, and St Nicholas was transformed into Santa Claus.

It was in the 4th century CE that 25th December became established as the date of the birth of Jesus and after that, the practice of giving gifts tended to be associated with the story of the Magi in the Bible, bringing gifts to the infant Jesus.

By the 19th century gift-giving had become very popular, at least among the wealthier people in England and the USA. The poem, *'Twas the Night before Christmas* appeared in the USA in 1823, and it is said to be one of the most popular poems ever published. Charles Dickens' novella *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, was apparently very well received as well, and it is said that its success tended to encourage gift-giving.

Boxing Day



Boxing Day is 26th December- the traditional day once preserved for giving presents. It is also preserved in this country for the start of the Sydney to Hobart Race. No-one quite knows quite how it developed but it is thought that in England it became the day for giving gifts to servants (in boxes). The servants needed to work on Christmas Day because they were feeding the well-off families who could afford

servants. So, they got their turn at gifts the day after.



When did people start sending greeting cards?

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in 19th century England. A man called Henry Cole, later Sir Henry Cole, realised that the postal service might be used to send relatively cheap greetings to people. He approached an artist with a view

to creating attractive cards that might be sent off to numbers of people. People could write simple messages on them without the need to write long statements.

The first card attracted some controversy because it depicted a family at their Christmas dinner, some of whom were drinking alcohol. Still, in time the custom of sending Christmas cards became quite commonplace and it survives to this day.



Who popularised the Christmas tree?

In the 19th century, Prince Albert, Consort of Queen Victoria introduced the indoor Christmas tree. It was a custom he brought from his native Germany, and relevant in a very cold country: you couldn't spend much time in the open among trees, so you brought a tree inside! Despite the fact that we typically have a hot Christmas, many Australians keep up the custom of having an indoor Christmas tree. Like many other Christmas traditions – like eating turkey and plum pudding, and leaving a stocking out for Santa Claus, this one prevails

References:

Prince Albert and Christmas trees

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=prince+albert+and+christmas+trees&source=h>

St Nicholas

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=St+Nicholas&source=hp&ei=Fwp7YcCRO8GG4-EP8>

Boxing Day

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=Boxing+Day&source=hp&ei=bwp7Ya->

Christmas cards

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=Who+invented+Christmas+cards&source>

Twas The Night before Christmas

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=twas+the+night+before+christmas&source>



Save the Date 

Did you Know?

There is a new sign in the courtyard at Carisbrook? I only saw it the other day and I was impressed!

Carisbrook Cistern

BACKGROUND PICTURE CARISBROOK BACK YARD IN c.1925 SHOWING ALFRED CARRUTHERS (SEATED FIGURE) IN FRONT OF THE CISTERN

Restoration
Lane Cove Council has restored the cistern by removing a garden bed which had been built over it, repairing the stone vault, reinstating the water supply from the downpipes of the house and installing steel viewing platforms.

The Water
The water is used to irrigate the courtyard garden via an electric pump.

Construction
The cistern is an underground water storage tank of approximately 28,000 litres capacity, carved into the sandstone bedrock under the ground. It was called a 'well' by the inhabitants, but a well is fed by groundwater. Instead, the cistern is fed by rainwater harvested from the roof of the house via underground pipes. It was covered over with a barrel vault of sandstone blocks.

RIGHT DIAGRAM - CROSS SECTION SHOWING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CISTERN

LEFT PICTURE TAKEN INSIDE THE CISTERN WHEN DRAINED DURING WORK.

LEGEND

- ① VAULT
- ② CISTERN HATCH
- ③ CISTERN HOLE COVERED BY A PLANK AND TWO SANDSTONE BLOCKS
- ④ CISTERN STONE WALLS
- ⑤ GROUND
- ⑥ PIPES
- ⑦ WATER LEVELS
- ⑧ BASE OF CISTERN

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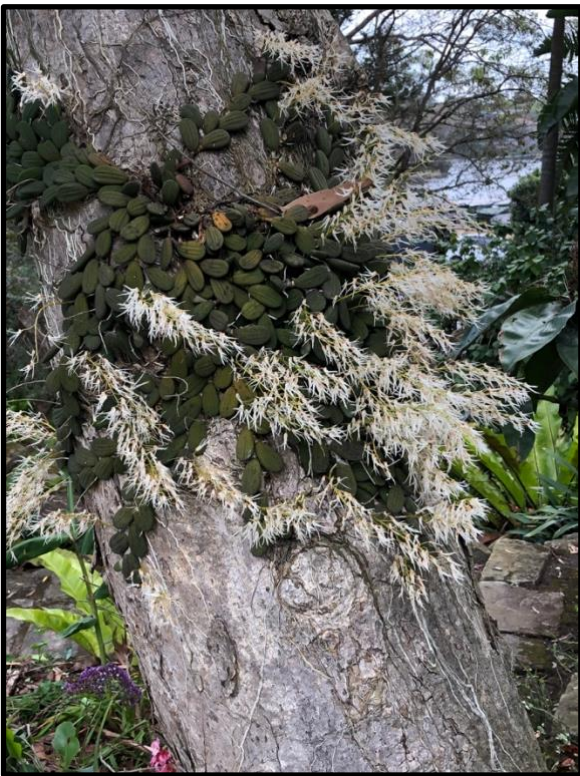
NSW GOVERNMENT

LANE COVE COUNCIL



This is the latest reincarnation of the cistern in the courtyard of Carisbrook, thanks to lots of hard work by many. This huge underground sandstone-lined storage tank holds over 28,000 litres of crystal-clear pure water. Unlike other cisterns this water is collected from roof run off and then naturally filtered through the sandstone.

The *Dendrobium linguiforme* at Carisbrook



The *Dendrobium linguiforme*'s common name is Dockrillia and it is a member of the orchid family. You may also have heard it referred to as a thumbnail orchid, tick orchid or tongue orchid. The genus was created by Brieger in 1981 and the name Dockrillia commemorates Aleck Dockrill an eminent Australian orchidologist and author. It is an epiphyte, which means it is growing on the surface of this tree getting its moisture and nutrients from the air around it. It has fleshy leaves

and spikes of up to twenty white to cream-coloured flowers which appear in early spring, usually September or October. It is not a parasite, it only uses the tree for support, so it's not harming the tree. If you look closely you can see the roots meandering up and down the tree trunk. They are often found in the hollows of trees or on rocks, but this one is right out in the open where you can easily see it in the front lawn of Carisbrook. I wonder if you'll be able to spot this one the next time you're wandering through the garden at Carisbrook.



Cross Stitch by Robyn Ward

Robyn Ward was busy during lockdown stitching a Christmas stocking for Clara who was born during lockdown. Robyn did the cross stitch, sewed on the charms and then had it made up by the expert lady at Crewel Gobelin. Clara, who is Robyn's great niece, was born 6 months ago, and cuddles were very limited! This stocking is in the same series as those she stitched for Clara's sister & brother. Over the years Robyn has stitched stockings for all the nieces, nephews and the greats on both sides of the family. She says, "It's lovely when I get pictures of the 40 somethings and their stockings that have been visited by Santa..... next to those of their children's stocking ~ my nephew Hugh has given his to his nephew Hugh". What a wonderful tradition ~ Thank you for sharing!



Carisbrook Christmas Clivia Sale!

**Saturday December 4
From 10.00am**

- All colours
- Rare specimens
- Other exotic plants



Carisbrook Historic House
334 Burns Bay Road
Carpark via Waterview Drive
www.carisbrookhouse.com

See you at the Plant Sale Saturday
December 4th
10am - 4pm

A little birdy told me there might be other things like yummy jam for sale as well ☺

It opens at 10am so be there early before things run out!

Until next time, stay safe, keep calm and love every minute – Karen ☺