



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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Patricia Madson

Treasurer: Ajaya Jayarao

Convener- Friends of Carisbrook:

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Denis Smith OAM

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Catherine Briggs

Carisbrook Historic House

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Lane Cove 2066

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www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au

www.carisbrookhouse.com

Caretaker: Terry Eakin

Editor: Karen Aubrey

Noticeboard

AUGUST 2023

President's Message



The Open Days at Carisbrook on the weekend of 16th-17th July proved very successful, as goodly numbers of people came along to enjoy coffee or tea with delicious scones and cakes, all prepared by Kay Leiper and her colleagues. It was very pleasing to see so many people enjoying Carisbrook

and its grounds. Thanks to Kay and all her helpers.

A jazz concert is planned for Carisbrook on September 10, and more details will be found below.

Our Speaker at the Podium in July was Trevor McAlister, a retired Industrial Arts teacher, who gave us a "virtual walk" through many historic sites of Sydney's CBD and parts of Parramatta. Trevor has developed an account of these sites and has created a book "Exploring Hidden Sydney", which is beautifully illustrated. He used a large number of the photos in his talk, serving to reveal, even to those of us who think we know Sydney well, that there are places, buildings and images that we don't always know, or that we take for granted, paying little attention to them and their significance. For example, Trevor revealed aspects of the façade of the old GPO building in Martin Place that many of us rarely take time to look at closely. It is a truly remarkable building, and rightly Heritage listed. Trevor sold several copies of his book to members at the meeting, and the profits from the sales go to Rotary International. Trevor McAlister's talk was well attended, and we were pleased to see several people whom we had not welcomed for a while.

*Focus on a
Member
Prue Carey*



I have lived in Lane Cove for 34 years in part of an old house built in 1906. I've seen many changes in the Lane Cove Village over these years. My daughter lives in London so I travel often. I love antiques, movies and catching up with friends. I work three days a week for an Orthopaedic Surgeon - I love it.

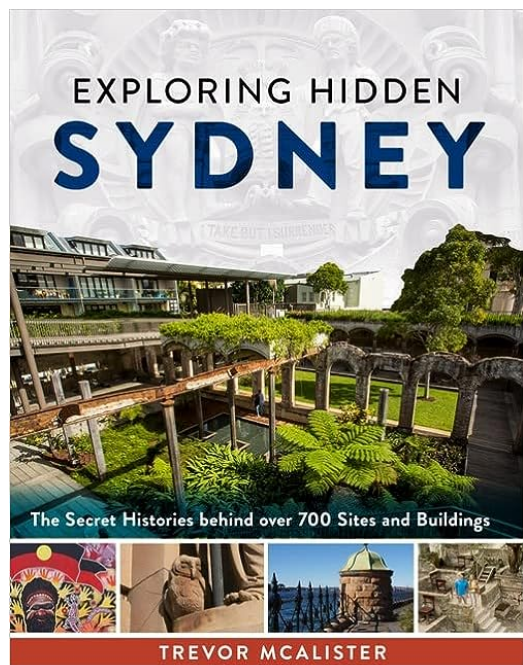
I was born in Mudgee and spent my childhood and school years there. The country is close to my soul, and I still call Mudgee 'home' in my heart.

I am enjoying my volunteer work and the opportunity to give back to the community and meet new friends.



<https://www.gettyimages.com.au/photos/gpo-sydney> Accessed 02/08/023

[Click HERE](#) to hear an introduction by Trevor



7pm Tuesday 22 August
Lane Cove Library



At the Podium
Cllr. BRIDGET KENNEDY

Rubbish

It's not what you think it is

Enquiries 0418 276 365
www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au

August is an important month for the LCHS as we hold our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22nd August, starting at 7.00pm. We would like to see as many members as possible come to this occasion, when, among other matters, we will elect the committee for the coming year. Councillor David Roenfeldt will conduct the election of the new office bearers. After the business meeting our Speaker at the Podium will be Councillor Bridget Kennedy, Deputy Mayor of Lane Cove. Bridget was declared the *2018 Lane Cove Citizen of the Year*, and she has many interests and strengths. Her talk will be on "Rubbish, it's not what you think it is", for she describes herself as passionate about zero-waste and the share economy. She sees waste as a resource that can be used as a conduit to reconnect and build resilient communities. Hers should be a lively and interesting talk. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at our AGM.

The various papers for the AGM are being sent out. Please make sure you read them.

President

Frances Christie

LANE COVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER
BRIDGET KENNEDY

TUESDAY
AUGUST 22ND
LANE COVE LIBRARY
7PM

SEE YOU THERE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

LANA KUCZYNSKI (NEW GUIDE)
JACKSON HOOK (GARDENING TEAM)
MARK VILO (GARDENING TEAM)
TINA DE KLERK
ANN DARK & FAMILY
BO LUKICH
SYLVIA LESTAVEL
LOUISE & GERRY HEWSON
MICHELLE SHADLER

The Lane Cove Historical Society

From the Collection *THE ICE CHEST*

By Pat Madson

From 1857 manufactured ice was transported from Melbourne to Sydney, but in 1864 The Sydney Ice Company was established in West St, Darlinghurst.¹ James Harrison of Geelong Victoria had pioneered the manufacture of ice using an 1834 British design of vapour compression refrigeration. By the 1890's many areas of Sydney had local ice manufacturing companies, which meant ice chests became a common home appliance. Come and see the ice chest in the kitchen at Carisbrook.

The ice chest (or ice box) was a free standing wooden cabinet with hollow walls lined with galvanised iron. Inside the walls were insulated with charcoal, cork or other materials. A hinged door in the top compartment allowed entry for a large block of ice and a door below to a second compartment provided access into the ice chest where food could be stored on 2 shelves. Cold air from the ice circulated down and around the storage compartment. As the ice melted the cold water ran down the sides to a container or catch pan at the bottom of the unit where it would be collected and emptied. A small net bag of charcoal would keep the chest sweet smelling by absorbing odours.¹

Ice would be delivered by the 'iceman' several times a week. He carried a block of ice on his shoulder wearing a hessian sack over his head and shoulders to keep his clothes dry. Later this would be made of oiled waterproof material. The block of ice would be picked up using ice tongs, large pincer like tongs with sharp points which would dig into the block giving the iceman a firm grip on the heavy slippery block.

In early colonial times in Australia the preservation of food was a problem. Fresh meat, dairy and vegetables spoiled quickly in Australia's hot summer climate.¹ Salting, pickling and smoking were used to try to keep food available for longer and when out of season. The Coolgardie safe, with wet hessian walls using the idea of evaporating water to keep contents cool, was common in Australian homes.

Overseas, ice had been used for centuries to keep food for longer. In winter ice could be cut into blocks, packed in salt, wrapped in thick cloth and stored in specially constructed ice houses. In the early 1800's an American, Frederic Tudor, conceived the idea of transporting ice to the West Indies. The first attempt failed, but during the later 19th century ice became a major export for the United States.

In January 1839 the first shipment of ice arrived in Sydney from Boston in a heavily insulated sailing ship the 'Tartar'. Ships also brought with them the 'ice chest'. The idea of the ice chest had been first used by an American farmer and cabinet maker Thomas Moore in 1802, when he used a cedar tub with a tin container inside, insulated with rabbit fur. This allowed him to sell firm blocks of butter when he went to market compared to the soft tubs of his competitors.² During the 1850's ice trade from the USA was very common, however by the 1860's this overseas trade ice was replaced with the development of locally manufactured ice.



The ice chest at Carisbrook

(Continued from page 4)

The ice cart was usually a horse drawn cart, with the horse knowing the route to follow and the stops required.

The 1947 Sydney phone book gives phone numbers for the Lane Cove Longueville Ice Works at 15 Burns Bay Rd and Lane Cove & Artarmon Ice Works at 436 Pacific Highway. There were also ice works at North Sydney, Crows Nest, Chatswood, Willoughby, Naremburn, Hunters Hill, Gladesville and most other suburbs up and down the North Shore.¹

The development of domestic refrigeration was an important point for food storage, providing the housewife with a way or keeping food longer, with less chance of food poisoning and spoilage. The kerosene powered fridge was a boon for country areas followed by the electric refrigerator. However, these only became affordable and hence common in the 1950's.

¹ <https://australianfoodtimeline.com.au>ice-trade-sydney> accessed 8/7/2023

¹ Wikipedia - ice chest accessed 8/7/2023

¹ https://dictionaryofsydney.org>entry>sydney_s_first_ice accessed 8/7/2023

¹ <https://collections.maas.museum/object/67096> accessed 8/7/2023

¹ Trove - Sydney telephone directory November 1947



Have you noticed our sign has been changed!

WE NEED MENS AND BOYS CLOTHING!

If you have any of your grandfather's or uncle's old clothes that you would like to donate for future displays at Carisbrook Historic House we would love to take them off your hands

Very much against her wishes, Bligh connived to bring to the colony his daughter Mary, with her newly acquired husband, John Putland, she as his consort and he as his aide-de-camp. Mary was not consulted, and, as on other occasions in her life, she resented her father's highhandedness.

Sue Williams has created a historical novel, based on her extensive research into the life of Mary Bligh. Almost all the principal characters in the novel are real historical figures, though her maid, Meg Hill, is based on several maids Mary apparently had. The account is lively and engaging and one grows to like Mary as the novel progresses, just as, like Mary herself, one grows to recognise the strengths and capacities of her father. Mary emerges as a loving member of her family, devoted to both her husbands (John Putland died early of consumption), her children and her mother and sisters. Like her father, Mary proved to be a brave woman, evident for example, on the occasion that Major Johnston led the troops to Government House intending to arrest Bligh. Mary held them up at the front gate brandishing her white silk umbrella. Startled at her bravery, Johnston paused briefly at the gate, and then demanded she move. Mary didn't move but battered the troops with her umbrella as they stormed past her. Sue Williams recounts the story, much as Mary would have told it: "One of the men grabs me and yells to the others, 'That Bligh girl, I've got her!' but I wriggle out of their grip and then run after the rest of them towards the house. If this costs me my life, then so be it."

Book Review by Frances Christie

That Bligh Girl

Sue Williams (2023)

Allen and Unwin: Sydney



Most of us have heard some version of the story of the NSW Rum Rebellion: the NSW Corps, encouraged by John Macarthur (a retired member of the Corps) rebelled against Governor William Bligh in January 1808, and deposed him. The commanding officer of the Corps was Major George Johnston, who brazenly declared himself governor in Bligh's stead. It was declared at the time

that when soldiers went to arrest Bligh, he was discovered hiding under a bed out of fear. A picture soon emerged of this event, intended to belittle Bligh. Such an event was unlikely, however, because Bligh was already known as a brave man, having survived another mutiny in his past (the mutiny on the *Bounty* led by Christian Fletcher in 1789). Bligh actually said he had been in his room getting together some papers when he was arrested. Bligh had arrived in the colony in 1806, charged with responsibility to remove corrupt practices in NSW, including the trade in rum, in which the Corps was actively involved. Bligh was known as a disciplinarian, and it was probably inevitable that he would clash with the Corps and with Macarthur, as he pursued his responsibilities as governor. No-one foresaw the rebellion.

Both in his personal and professional life, Bligh was a hard, sometimes unkind, man, even though he always remained faithful to his principles as an upstanding officer of the Royal Navy.

Visitors to Carisbrook

Thornleigh Probus

A thank you note received by Pat Madson after the visit:

The group from St Ives Probus club thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Carisbrook House on Thursday 27 July. We were impressed by the film and video presentations and the inspection of the various rooms in the House. Please express our thanks to the guides, Terry and Denis, for their marvellous explanations of the history and memorabilia associated with Carisbrook.

Please also thank the volunteers, who served lunch to our group in the grounds of the House. The home cooking was greatly appreciated.

We were amazed to hear about the wonderful volunteers in the Lane Cove Historical Society, who have spent, and continue to spend countless hours, in the momentous projects of the initial restoration and now, the continuing maintenance of Carisbrook House, to preserve an enthralling memento of early Sydney.

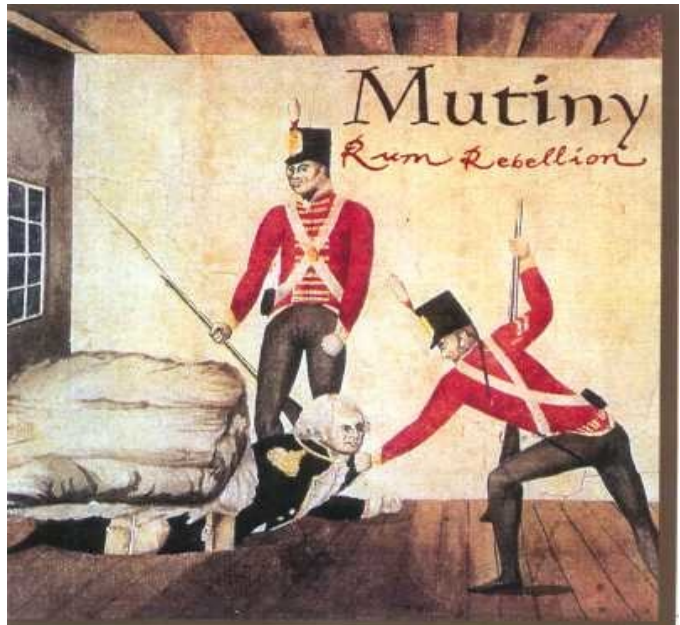
On behalf of St Ives Probus Club, please accept our deep gratitude to Terry and Denis, yourself and the other volunteers in the Lane Cove Historical Society.

Kind regards,

Ross King

(Continued from page 6)

This is an enjoyable novel, bringing to life one of the many women whose stories have remained hidden, eclipsed by the stories of the men they either assisted or served. Mary Bligh eventually lived a good life with her second husband, and her story deserves to be told.



<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/rum-rebellion>

Thornleigh Probus August 1st

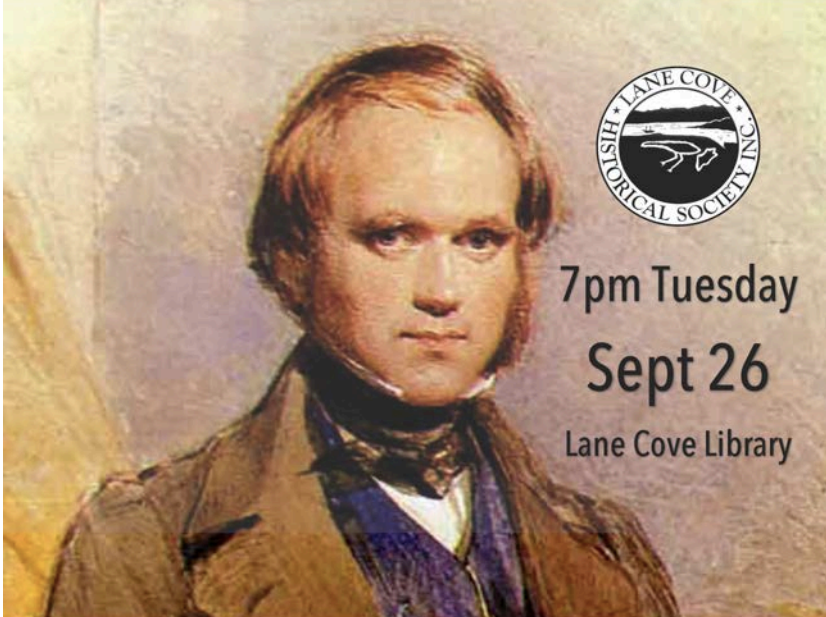



Upcoming Events

FRIENDS OF CARISBROOK
SEPTEMBER 4TH
10.30AM
 OPEN THE DOOR ON LANE COVE'S PAST
 JOIN US & MAKE NEW FRIENDS
 THERE'S LOTS TO DO



PHONE: 0434 757 300 WWW.CARISBROOKHOUSE.COM

7pm Tuesday
Sept 26
 Lane Cove Library

At the Podium
Ian Burnet
Darwin in Australia




RELAX AT CARISBROOK
DEVONSHIRE TEA \$12
AUGUST 19TH & 20TH
10AM - 4PM

WWW.CARISBROOKHOUSE.COM/EVENTS

LANE COVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

SINGLE \$35
FAMILY \$55

[DOWNLOAD THE MEMBERSHIP FORM HERE](#)



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. Children under 16 \$20 which also includes a children's snack.

Bookings:

www.trybooking.com/1073567

Carisbrook Historic House DELTA JAZZ

Classic New Orleans jazz in its original acoustic tradition



Celebrate

*The Lane Cove
Festival*

DEVONSHIRE TEA & BUBBLY AT

CARISBROOK HISTORIC HOUSE

Saturday 16 Sept & Sunday 17 Sept

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:

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

Carisbrook Historic House

DEVONSHIRE TEA & TOURS

