



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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Noticeboard

May 2023

President's Message



April ended with a bang when we hosted a jazz concert at Carisbrook House in the early evening of 30th April. The threat of rain had been with us for most of the previous week, but when the day arrived, the sun emerged, and all was clear. The Tenella Jazz Band, a group of local

Lane Cove musicians led by Ron Wilson, entertained us all with a range of jazz items, while their singer, Rosemarie Zionzee, enlivened the evening with her singing. Thank you in particular to Kay Leiper who organised the event, and thanks to her many helpers who arranged and served the food that circulated freely, while David and Pat Madson ran the bar. A special thanks also to Phil Hull, Denis Smith and Terry Eakin who put up the canopies for the night. Like the recent Parisian Open Mic event, the concert brought to Carisbrook a number of people who had not visited before, and it is always good to welcome newcomers to the House. Several people passed on their comments, here a few....

"We really enjoyed the wine, cheese and music in the courtyard setting", "It was all terrific...", "No need for improvement..", "The atmosphere was wonderful", "What a fabulous cheeseboard!", "Very friendly people".

Some good news in the month of May is that **Trove** has been saved, at least for the immediate future. LCHS members will recall that in our March Noticeboard we noted that letters had been sent to our local Member, Kylea Tink, Tony Burke, the Minister for the Arts and the Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, urging that steps be taken in the Budget to ensure the continued life of Trove, which is an online portal allowing access to all the library and other print collections held in museums, galleries, media, government and community organizations throughout Australia. In the event, we received

Focus on a Member

Margaret Miller

Margaret has been a resident of Lane Cove since birth and a member of LCHS since 2004. Her ancestor, Obadiah Ikin, was the original grant holder of 30 acres in Lane Cove shopping centre including land on which The Canopy sits. In 1986 she co-authored Obadiah's life story and in 2016 published "A Publican's Life in Early Sydney; Charles James Bullivant, Ensign 46th Regiment". Margaret has also contributed articles to the society's journal and assists with catering at meetings. In 2020 she received a Citizenship award for Bushcare and in 2021 Life membership of Lane Cove Creative Photography. Margaret attended St Michael's School and was organist at St Michael's Church for over 30 years.



supportive acknowledgement from our Member, Kylea Tink. Though the relevant Minister, Tony Burke, didn't respond to our letter, it is clear that he was responsive to all calls for the retention of Trove, which is managed by the National Library. Well before Budget night, he had declared that significant funds would be put aside for the National Library and the National Gallery of Australia. An amount of \$146m is to be provided over four years for the National Library and its management of Trove. I note that Susan Ingham, one of our members, also wrote to the Minister about the importance of retaining Trove. Such actions by our members are always helpful. Looking to the future, I hope that many LCHS members may find Trove a useful source of information.

This month's **Speaker at the Podium, Professor Paula Hamilton**, is already known to many members because she has served as Judge for the History Prize for several years now. She is a specialist in Australian history, with particular expertise in conducting oral history. She has undertaken a major study of women in domestic service in Australia throughout the 20th century, and her talk will draw from this research. This offers an interesting perspective on women's history, when in practice women's lives have often been not well documented. (See the advertisement below) I hope to see members at the meeting.

Frances Christie

President



At the Podium
**PROF. PAULA
HAMILTON**



7pm Tues May 23
Lane Cove Library

Footprints across history
Domestic servants
in 20th century Australia

Enquiries: 0418 276 365
www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au



Some of the audience enjoying the jazz.

Photos from the Tenella Jazz Event



Tenella Jazz Band performing at Carisbrook.



Anne-Marie Johnstone the lucky winner of the raffle with Kay Leiper



The courtyard at Carisbrook.

The Postal service. Frances Christie

Members may have noticed that the LCHS recently gave up its post office box at the Lane Cove Post Office and now receives all its mail delivered to the post box outside Carisbrook Historic House at 344 Burns Bay Road. Much of the mail received now in any case comes via the email, so that it is not surprising that we dispensed with the post office box. In fact, it is possible that regular delivery of mail will disappear altogether in the near future. Nonetheless, it is worth reflecting for a moment on the significance of the postal service and its role in the lives of people over many centuries in the past. It is said that the “best-documented” claim to invention of the first mail service was the Persian King, Cyrus the Great (550 BCE), who required that every province in his kingdom should have a mail delivery service. The Roman Emperor, Augustus Caesar (27 BC to AD 14) also created a postal service, and the correspondence was carried by fast horses pulling lightly built carriages. It was essentially a courier service, open only to government officials.



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In the English-speaking tradition, it was Henry VIII who created the Royal Mail and he appointed Sir Brian Tuke the first Master of the Posts in 1516. Like the Roman service, the Royal Mail was intended only for the king and others at the court. Although it was originally only accessible to the king and the royal court, Charles I opened the postal service to the public in 1635. Under his son, Charles II, the Post Office Act opened up the postal service further in 1660. Increasing numbers of people had become literate over the years and by the late 17th century and 18th century, there was a growing interest in having a postal service.

By the early 19th century, letters were being delivered throughout the UK, by horsemen or by special carriages. Postal rates were set according to weight, and in the 1840s the One Penny Black stamp, which featured the head of Queen Victoria, was in use on letters. The Royal Mail, as it continued to be called, was delivered by special horse-drawn coaches with Royal Mail livery. More and more people used the postal service throughout the 19th century. Black One Penny stamps became very common, and succeeding English monarchs appeared on the stamps.

King Charles III is even now appearing on English stamps and he will appear on Australian stamps as well.

And what of the colony of New South Wales? Many of the convicts and members of the New South Wales Army Corps were illiterate, though others were literate and they longed to receive letters from home. Indeed, when the Second Fleet arrived in 1790 there were many anxious people in Botany Bay, desperate for news from loved ones at home. A convict, Isaac Nichols, was appointed the first Postmaster and he ran the service from his home. In 1810 Governor Macquarie officially appointed Nichols the first Postmaster. Nichols even created a postmark that read "Sydney NSW".

Across the whole of the 19th century and well into the 20th, Australians looked to maintain regular correspondence with each other and with their friends and families on the other side of the world. The post was delivered on horseback in many parts of Australia, and later on in trucks to outback communities. In urban areas letters were delivered on foot, and indeed that sometimes happens today, though many postmen now drive small bikes.

A post office was established on Lane Cove Road in 1879, to serve the growing population in the Willoughby area, while a later one was built in 1897 at Chatswood in 1897. In all, the postal service has always been a very important part of people's lives for many years.

Sources on the history of postal services:

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=who+invented+thr+mail+serviuce&source=hp> Accessed 05/05/2023

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35225183> Accessed 06/05/2023

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=when+were+letters+first+hand+delivered+in+England&source=hp> Accessed 06/05/2023

<https://www.google.com.au/search?q=first+post+office+in+nsw&source=hp> Accessed 06/05/2023

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/first-post-office> Accessed 06/05/2023



Bruce Dennis, last horseback postman in Gundagai NSW, 1980 with his horse Lollie: Source: Australia Post.

From our Collection
Making Butter ~
THE BUTTER CHURN
By Pat Madson

Have you been watching the latest ABC series “Back in Time for the Corner Shop”? In the 1870/80’s version the ladies had to make butter to sell in the shop. Later the comment was made that the hardest thing they had to do during this time was to make butter!

In our collection we have a **‘butter churn’** which looks identical to the one they used on the show. It is an E Cherry wooden butter churn, made in Gisborne Victoria. Ted Cherry was a carpenter who established a joinery workshop in 1855. By 1875 he had improved & perfected The Wooden Butter Churn, which was made in all sizes & sold all over Australia & overseas. The company diversified into other areas including making the red Pay Telephone box & the Cherry Posthole Digger. It operated until 1973 with family involvement.

How do you make butter? First milk your cow! We forget that in the 1880’s Carisbrook would have been a house which had a farmyard attached. The ‘for sale’ advertisements say that there were out-houses & a man’s room. This area of Lane Cove was very isolated at this time so the residents would have had to be self-sufficient in many ways.

Milking the cow & turning the cream into butter would have been a common occurrence. In a cool spot milk was put into a wide mouthed container & the cream allowed to rise to the top. This was then scraped off into the churn, then muscle power was used to turn the external handle which turned the paddles inside.

These broke down the milk fat molecules which eventually would clump together to form butter! Sounds easy, but it was a tiring & time-consuming job, & was just one of many which was done by the lady of the house as part of her household duties.

Once the butter was made it was taken out of the churn & using **‘butter pats’** turned into squares or rectangles of butter. With out refrigeration these would need to be kept as cool as possible so they didn’t melt or turn rancid. Also in our collection we have a **‘butter cooler’**. This used the scientific principal that evaporating water would keep whatever was inside cool. The cooler is a unglazed ceramic basin which has a double wall which would be filled with water. As the water evaporated the butter inside would remain cool. So simple but so effective, and was the same principle used by the wet hession bag covering the **‘Coolgardie safe’** which also hangs in our historic kitchen.



The Butter Churn in our historic kitchen at Carisbrook.

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:

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



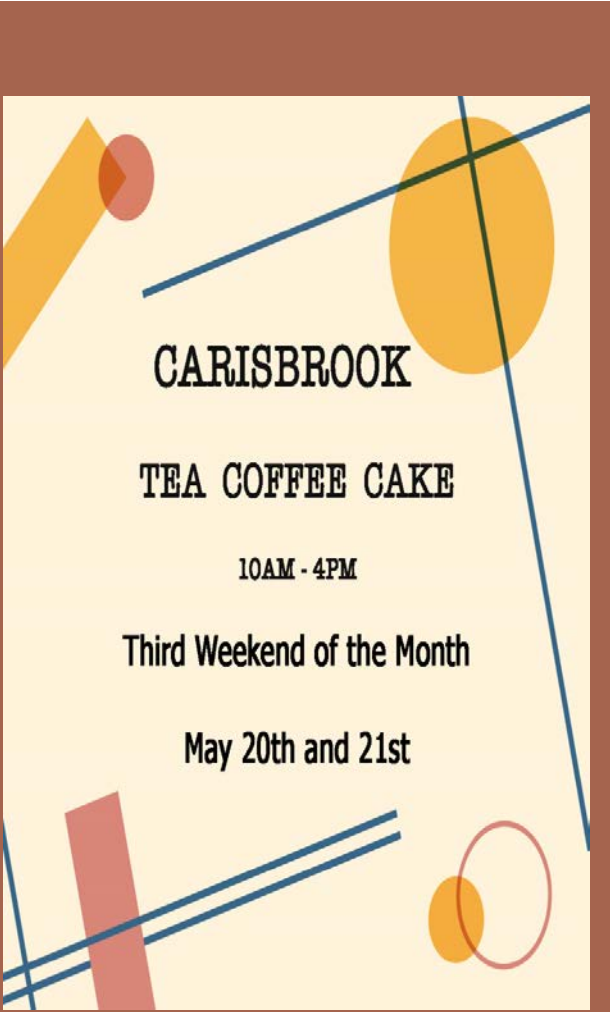
If anyone knows Beverley Jones who joined at the February Devonshire Tea can you please ask her to contact us at our email, lchs@carisbrookhouse.com

We seem to have mislaid her contact details.



Delicious cheese plate we served at Tenella Jazz.

Upcoming Events



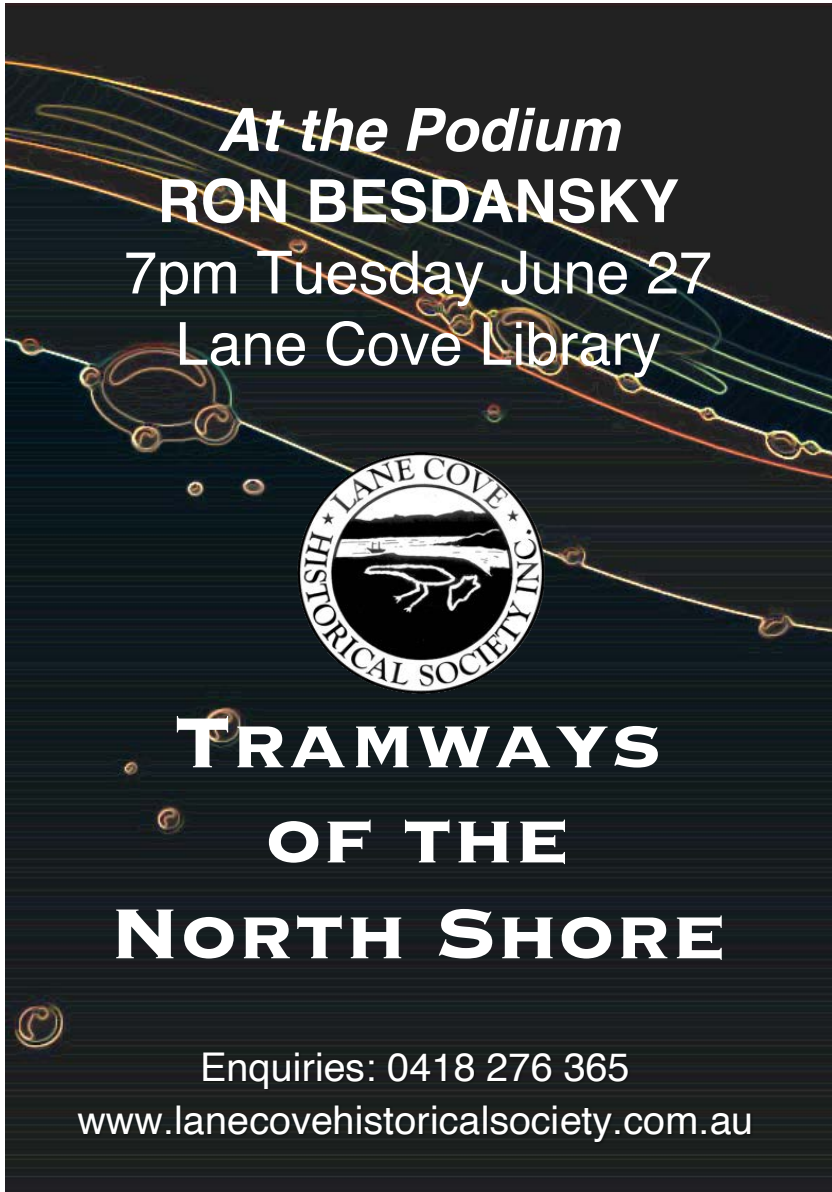
CARISBROOK

TEA COFFEE CAKE


10AM - 4PM

Third Weekend of the Month

May 20th and 21st



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

Carisbrook Historic House

COFFEE AND CAKES
 DEVONSHIRE TEAS

OPEN
 JUNE
 SATURDAY 17th
 SUNDAY 18th
 10am-4pm



www.carisbrookhouse.com
 Enquiries 0418 276 365
 NO BOOKINGS NECESSARY

Carisbrook Historic House

Volunteers needed



Join us!
 become a
 Friend of
 Carisbrook

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