



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 of Lane Cove

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Immed Past President: Bill McLaughlin

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Margaret Bergomi

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**Treasurer:** Ajaya Jayarao

**Convener- Friends of Carisbrook:**

Kay Leiper

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Clio Wallace

Jenny Quirke

Catherine Briggs

Mark Vilo

**Carisbrook Historic House**

334 Burns Bay Road

Lane Cove 2066

Mob: 0434 757 300

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

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

**Editor:** Karen Aubrey

# Noticeboard

## FEB 2024

### President's Message



Greetings to all members for the year of 2024! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable festive season and that we all started the new year in good spirits and in good health. It was really gratifying to learn, in the closing months of 2023, that the Australian Liveability Census had ranked Lane Cove first in NSW, while it was

second in Australia. The city of Subiaco in Perth was the only centre nationwide that was ranked higher in Australia, though Hunters Hill also ranked well. According to the Oxford Dictionary liveability is "generally measured by factors that provide quality of life, such as access to fresh water, food, housing, transport, health care, education and a safe and stable environment." These factors are important to Lane Cove, and I would want to add that the lifestyle available to us in Lane Cove is always lively and interesting, while there is a good sense of community. We are fortunate to live here.

For the Lane Cove Historical Society, the year 2023 ended in November with the last open weekend at Carisbrook House, while during December we again awarded prize certificates and book vouchers to two students for their work in history at Lane Cove West Public School. It is always pleasing to see young local students studying history and enjoying it.

The first open weekend at Carisbrook House for this year occurred in January. Margaret Bergomi and Karen Aubrey report below on developments at Carisbrook so far this year.



Lane Cove West History Prize  
Presentation Day



Our first Speaker at the Podium this year, on 27<sup>th</sup> February, will be Jim Haynes OAM, who will speak on his most recent book, *Heroes, Rebels and Radicals of Convict Australia* (Allen and Unwin, 2023), Jim Haynes was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2016. He is a notable writer, entertainer,



Jim Haynes OAM

broadcaster, humorist, songwriter and historian. Educated in Sydney he trained as a high school teacher, also playing in bands even in his student days. He formed a band in the 1970s and eventually left teaching to take up a full-time career singing with his band. He started recording his music and moved into ABC Radio with a show called *Australia All Over*. He has widely recorded his music and is well known as a humorist. He has written a number of books about Australian history. In *Heroes, Rebels and Radicals of Convict Australia*, Jim Haynes has brought together an interesting collection of characters from the early years of white settlement, all of whom contributed to the building of the nation. You will see the advertisement below about this event. Make sure you come along and hear Jim!

### The Lane Cove History Prize

As of 2025 the Lane Cove History Prize will become biennial. We hope that all local historians thinking of preparing an entry will continue to do so. You now have until 2025 to undertake the necessary research on your chosen topic. We look forward to welcoming all entries next year.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many members on 27<sup>th</sup> February to hear our first Speaker at the Podium.

### Frances Christie





*The 3D Image in Progress*



*English Antique plate racks from around 1880*



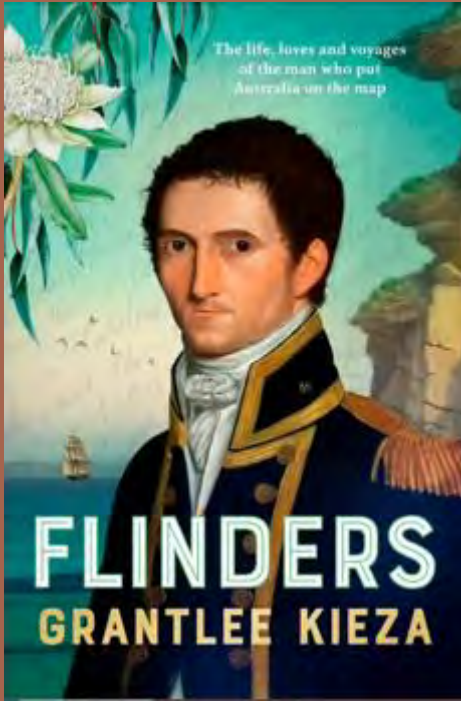
### **Leaving nothing to chance!**

Our most recent project, the reconstruction of the Scullery, is almost complete. The Lane Cove Community Men's Shed (LCCMS) is helping us by making a wall mounted dish (or plate) rack traditional detail. Peter Stidston (LCCMS President) was carefully measuring it up in place at Carisbrook on Monday 29 January, to ensure that the details and positioning are right before completing it.

We tried to find a suitable original dishrack of the Late-Victorian period to purchase for Carisbrook, but without success. So, LCHS members Kay Leiper and Margaret Bergomi carefully researched and analysed traditional examples from the same period to work up an accurate reinterpretation and provide a sketch design. Peter prepared 3-dimensional computer drawings to resolve the details.

We thank the LCCMS for helping us to turn our research into a reality. In the process of our continuing liaison, we are learning much about wood craftsmanship and the expert knowledge of traditional joinery displayed by the LCCMS.





## Book Review Flinders by Grantlee Kieza

Grantlee Kieza, (2023), *Flinders*. Harper Colins, Sydney. *Matthew Flinders (1803) Trim*. (Published by the State Library of NSW)

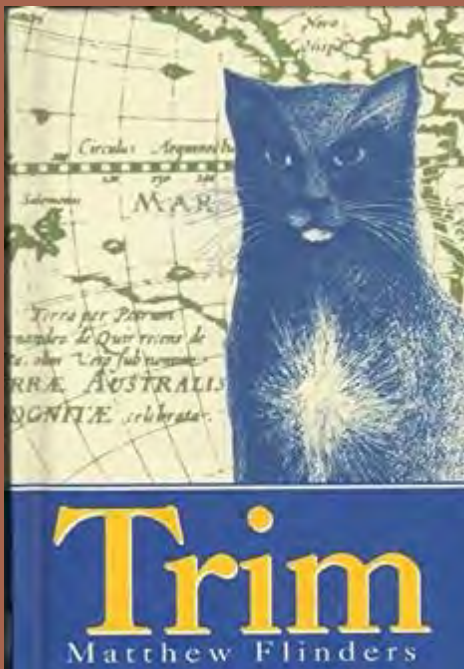
In recent years Grantlee Kieza has written a remarkable number of biographies of notable people who have played significant roles in the history of Australia. Most recently, he has produced what must be judged the most definitive account of the life of Matthew Flinders. A strength of Kieza's account is that, while he traces in detail the course of Flinders' activities as a sailor, navigator and cartographer, he also provides details of his personal life: his background, his wife, his cat, his passions, and his resilience in time of significant hardship. In these senses, the man himself emerges.

Born in 1774, Flinders was the son of a "surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife", who had served an apprenticeship at London Hospital. By the standards of the day, Flinders received a good education, his father intending that his son would follow him into medicine. However, very early in life, Matthew was intrigued by learning of the journeys of Captain Cook, while he particularly enjoyed reading Daniel Defoe's novel, *Robinson Crusoe* (published in 1719), which was very popular in 18<sup>th</sup> century England. Matthew resolved to go to sea, disappointing his father, though in later life Flinders Senior was proud of his achievements. By 1791, Matthew was launched into his career at sea, sailing for two years with Bligh; the two men didn't like each much, but Matthew learnt a lot from Bligh's leadership as a sailor.

On one of his early voyages, the ship's cat gave birth to some kittens, one of which became Flinders' companion which he named "Trim". The cat was to sail the seas with Flinders until it met an untimely death a few years later. Trim's statue, near that of Flinders, may be seen on a windowsill of the New South Wales library in Macquarie Street Sydney.

In 1795 Flinders travelled to Port Jackson with Governor Hunter, and he met and befriended George Bass. The two men explored the waters around Van Diemen's Land, and their trips, as well as one later led by Matthew, eventually established that Van Diemen's Land was an island. The strait that was now revealed became known as Bass Strait in honour of George, who later disappeared in other adventures in the Pacific. Flinders went on to explore the coast of Australia further before returning to England.

BY 1800 when Flinders had returned to England, he attracted the attention of Joseph Banks, and he was appointed to sail again for New Holland, as it was still called, to undertake further exploration. Flinders quickly married his long-time sweetheart, Ann Tyler, intending to take her with him. Banks was furious and demanded his wife be removed from the ship. The result was that poor Ann was humiliatingly disembarked from the ship, and she didn't see her husband again for seven years! Theirs was a protracted love affair, though the many



Where to take your family when  
they visit from Boston?

Carisbrook of course!

~ Karen Aubrey



*Saul & Eric Aubrey at Carisbrook. I wonder if they knew how to blow bubbles way back then?*



letters he left showed his devotion to his wife and hers to him.

Flinders proved a very successful navigator and cartographer. Over the years 1801-1802 and then 1802-1803, he circumnavigated Australia, and it was he who first used the name "Australia", later adopted by Governor Macquarie. Flinders suffered a great deal for his successes. By 1803, when he had returned to Sydney before making his way home to England, his ship was pronounced unsafe and he was forced to attempt to return to England in an inferior ship. It proved also unsafe and he was obliged to seek shelter in Mauritius, at a time when England and France were at war. The governor of Mauritius, who disliked Matthew, used the enmity between France and England as a justification for detaining Matthew in the island. It was not till 1810 that Matthew was released and returned to England, now in poor health. He died in 1814, having managed to prepare a book for publication, as well as leaving extensive charts, maps and other papers, copies of which are held in the Mitchell Library.

During his time in Mauritius, it seems that Trim was captured and probably eaten by some of the Mauritians. Flinders was so sad at his loss that he wrote, "A Biographical Tribute to Trim", which was found and restored in recent years. The cat, he wrote, "Being a favourite with everybody on board, both officer and seaman, he was well fed, and grew both in size and comeliness". He went on, "Trim grew to be one of the finest animals I ever saw". It is a charming little book, which, like his letters to his wife, reveals a man of warmth and affection. (The little book is now available in the State Library bookshop.)

Flinders was one of the world's great cartographers, up there in the class that included Captain Cook, one who will always be acknowledged as such. But he will also remain a man remembered for his affection for his cat.

### Frances Christie



*Statue of Trim at Macquarie Street, Mitchell Library, Sydney*

*2024 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January*



A fiercely hot day for our Sunday opening in January, did not deter this three-generation family visit. Conner and Gabriel enjoying Devonshire teas with grandmother Uyvonne and mum Tamara!



It was fun for the boys learning to pump water for the scullery copper as it was done in the 1880s!

**Out and About  
at Carisbrook**

**2024 Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January**



*Elizabeth Anderson & Janette Dive*



*Ursula Dubosarsky & Nurit Ophir  
enjoying their afternoon tea.*



We need your expertise and help one weekend a month to provide delicious scones for our Devonshire Tea weekends. Your baking skills will make a real difference. Please contact us via [carisbrookhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:carisbrookhouse@hotmail.com) or phone: 0418 276 365

# Carisbrook Historic House

COFFEE AND CAKES  
DEVONSHIRE TEAS

FEBRUARY 2024  
Sat 17 & Sun 18  
10am-4pm



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

# Upcoming Events



## JIM HAYNES OAM

*At the Podium*

7pm Tues Feb 27

Lane Cove Library

Enquiries: 0418 276 365

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



## Helping hand

As all members are aware we have regular Open Weekends at Carisbrook, and welcome visitors to the House, Lane Cove's only House Museum. We need volunteers to help with many tasks, including putting up and taking down the canopies we use on the lawns.

Please can anyone willing to help us contact us at:

[lchs@carisbrookhouse.com](mailto:lchs@carisbrookhouse.com) or call 0434 757 300.