



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

**Office Bearers & Committee 2021-2022**

**President:** E. Prof Frances Christie

**VP:** Dr Kay Leiper  
Margaret Bergomi

**Secretary & Public Officer:**

Patricia Madson

**Treasurer:** Ajaya Jayarao

**Convener- Friends of Carisbrook:**

Kay Leiper

**Committee**

Bill McLaughlin

Denis Smith OAM

Clio Wallace

Karen Aubrey

Jenny Quirke

Catherine Briggs

**Carisbrook Historic House**

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Lane Cove 2066

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

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

**Caretaker:** Terry Eakin

**Editor:** Karen Aubrey

# Noticeboard

## March 2023

### President's Message



We held our first general meeting with a Speaker at the Podium on 28<sup>th</sup> February, when Bill McLaughlin, a former President, spoke of the book he has created, called *The Black Dog Inn*, drawing on the lives of his own ancestors and those of his late wife, Elaine. Bill had discovered that he and his late wife, Elaine, both had convicts in their past ancestries. It is interesting to reflect that once people were ashamed of

convict ancestors, though today possession of convict ancestors is a matter of pride! Their history is always worth exploring.

Some LCHS members have asked whether we support Trove. Indeed we do! For those not familiar with it, Trove is an online portal that allows access to all the library and other print collections held in museums, galleries, media, government and community organizations throughout Australia. The National Library of Australia in Canberra manages Trove and it is a truly remarkable resource, open to all members of the public, as well as many historians and others. It is a treasure trove (hence its name!) for Australia to be proud of. But it is under threat and the National Library has declared it is too costly to maintain. In the lead up to the next Budget, many people have written to our federal politicians, strongly arguing for funds to support the continuation of Trove. We have written in support of Trove and its maintenance to our Local Member, The Honorable Kylea Tink, the Federal Treasurer, the Honorable Jim Chalmers, and the Minister for the Arts, the Honorable Tony Burke. It's a case of watch this space. Trove is an important resource for many local historians, of the kind the LCHS seeks to encourage.

On quite another matter, The LCHS Committee has recently become involved in discussion of the fate of the Lucretia baths on Woodford Bay, which are in disrepair. The LC Council had sought advice about the future of the baths: they could be restored or demolished, while it was open to the public to suggest other options. Margaret Bergomi, a heritage architect and a Vice President

## *Focus on a Member*

### *Jenny Harper*

Jenny Harper has been volunteering at Carisbrook in various roles for many years. She was for a time Convenor of the Friends of Carisbrook. She is a retired early childhood teacher who is fascinated with getting to know the people of history. She holds a B.Ed and a post graduate Diploma in Family History. She is an enthusiastic family historian and a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists. She has in particular researched the history of Rachel Brooks.



of the LCHS, wrote a submission to Council arguing the heritage importance of the baths and proposing they should be restored. Another committee member, Catherine Briggs, attended the Council meeting on 23rd February and spoke in support of the submission. No decision was made at that Council meeting, as more consultations are envisaged.

Plans are well in hand for our first big event at Carisbrook House this year, when Catherine Briggs and others host our Open Mic evening, a Parisian evening when all are invited to come and read poems, tell stories or even sing. The date is 25<sup>th</sup> March, the date of the election, so come along. You can either drink to the success of your candidate or drown your sorrow if the candidate has lost! This is a new, exciting venture for Carisbrook House, so please come and make it a happy occasion. Further details are provided by Catherine Briggs below.

Our March Speaker at the Podium on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm will be Dr Mark Ferson, who is a public health physician and paediatrician (and Lane Cove resident). He holds honorary appointments as Professor of medicine at the University of NSW and Notre Dame University, Sydney. Mark began collecting, studying, writing about and designing (linocut) bookplates in 1985, and was awarded a Master of Art Theory from the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, for a thesis on bookplate collecting in Australia. He is the founding president of the New Australian Bookplate Society, [www.bookplatesociety.org.au](http://www.bookplatesociety.org.au) and edits its quarterly Newsletter. The year 2023 marks a century of bookplate collecting in Australia, from the foundation in Sydney in August 1923 of the Australian Ex Libris Society to the current activities of the New Australian Bookplate Society. This talk will start with a brief history of bookplates - labels used to mark ownership of books since 1500, and go on to describe in more detail key features of bookplate art/design, use and collecting over the past 100 years.

The month of March will be an interesting time for us. I look forward to seeing you at the Open Mic event and the meeting with Dr.Ferson.

Frances Christie

President



## *From the Garden*

Walking down Burns Bay Road you must stop and admire the Blue Ginger out the front of Carisbrook, which is in full bloom at the moment. This plant, a native of Brazil, likes shady areas and it loves its current location. It comes back year after year bigger and better than the year before with its striking royal blue and purple colouring. Make sure you stop next time you are passing by Carisbrook and see for yourself.

## *Open Mic: Poetry night at Carisbrook*

### *Poetry & Pernod: Parisian Style*

*25<sup>th</sup> March 2023*

*By Catherine Briggs*

Paris is the city of light, love, and joie de vivre – come dressed in French style if you desire.

Regard the night as a session where everyone is welcome to perform poetry, tell a story, sing. It's about enjoyment of the spoken word and engaging and entertaining an audience. Look on it as a time when family, friends and like-minded people gather to swap poetry and stories, written, spoken, or sung. It is a great connection to community where you will learn and be inspired.

There will be a dedicated performance area in the Carisbrook courtyard so performers can be seen and heard by the audience as they sip Pernod and wine whilst enjoying olives, cheese and baguettes Parisian style.

Open Mic is an avenue where amateurs may perform without an audition.

Mic is the shortened form of microphone. If inspired on the night put your name down!

Performers: Be confident: just tell your name and what you are going to perform.

Engage in eye contact with your audience. Use gestures.

3-5 minutes is maximum time for Open Mic so practise your poetry, story or song and time yourself beforehand if possible. We have an experienced MC of Open Mic Daragh Byrne who is very encouraging and a diplomatic timekeeper.

Purchase your tickets [HERE](#) for \$35pp ~ Adults only.

## *A remarkable Woman*

*By Alex Mattea*



*Kathleen Muriel Butler*

July 2022 was the 50th anniversary of the passing of Kathleen Muriel Butler. She mostly remains unknown, even to people seriously interested in Sydney's modern history.

In times when women's achievement was more a curiosity than an expectation, she was described as the "Godmother of the Sydney Harbour Bridge". In fact, she carried out an exceptional amount of the technical and administrative work that was required over many years to bring this huge project to reality. She was widely recognized for it at the time, above all by John Bradfield himself, her boss, who completely trusted her with managing the project, including in his absence. Most remarkably, she competently dealt with complex engineering issues despite her absence of any formal training.

There will apparently be a "blue" historical plaque placed at North Sydney station this year, commemorating her and the turning of the first sod at that location for the North Railway Approach to the bridge. The tunnel boring machine for one of the new trans-harbour tunnels is named Kathleen in Kathleen Butler's honour.

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen\\_M.\\_Butler](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_M._Butler)

<https://vimeo.com/754620962>



*Opening of tenders for the Sydney Harbour Bridge*



*From the Collection at  
Carisbrook House*

*An Oak Long Case Clock  
made by George Parker*

In 2009 a member of the Historical Society, the late Margaret James, was looking for a house for her daughter. She went to a house inspection in Longueville and noticed that there was a grandfather clock amongst the contents. Knowing that the family selling the deceased estate of Anne Buchanan lived in Melbourne, she raised the possibility with the real estate agent that, if they did not wish to have the clock transported to Melbourne, the family could donate it to the collection at Carisbrook House. Amazingly Anne's daughter Lyn agreed to her request and we received the clock.

In early 2010 after the clock arrived at Carisbrook it was found to be a Long Case Clock made by George Parker of Wisbech. The town of Wisbech is in Cambridgeshire, eastern England, and it is renowned for its elegant Georgian architecture and its skilled craftsmen, such as George Parker, about whom not much can be found. However, a glance at the antique clocks sales on the Internet makes clear that clocks by George Parker are highly prized. He clearly was a master craftsman.



The clock was in need of repair and quotes were received from Ben Stoner Antiques of Chippendale, and Parker Time of Hunters Hill. A grant of \$1,100 was received from the Lane Cove Council and the quote from Ben Stoner for \$2,860 was accepted.

Once the clock was at the restorers, it

was found that considerably more work was required for repairs than had originally been estimated. In fact, the clock appeared to have been patched with various pieces over its history. The finials, or decorative knobs on the top sides of the clock were found to actually be small doorknobs, the clock face had slipped down from its original position, and it needed to be repositioned, while the back of the base of the body was found to actually be part of an old English packing case which was labelled glass! We wondered just what had happened to the clock in its past: it seemed it had been mishandled and some of its parts were removed. Attending to all the extra repair work meant that Ben, who now charged for the work by the hour at a discounted rate, actually charged \$4,376-10 for the final restoration.

Excitingly, Margaret James who had found the clock, was also able to do some research and she found photos of the clock in its original home in the UK. The clock arrived in Australia in 1894 from Hamond Lodge, one of the grandest old houses in the village of Terrington, St Clement, Norfolk, UK. We feel privileged at Carisbrook Historic House to own such a clock with its remarkable history.



By Pat Madson



Welcome

New Members:

Prue Carey

Suellen Smith

We are looking forward to seeing you at one of our meetings or events during the year.

# Carisbrook Historic House

COFFEE AND CAKES  
DEVONSHIRE TEAS

OPEN  
MARCH  
SATURDAY 18th  
SUNDAY 19th  
10am-4pm



www.carisbrookhouse.com  
Enquiries 0418 276 365

## The Lane Cove History Prize for 2023 Calling all local historians!

Sponsored by the Lane Cove Historical Society, the competition is open to all with an interest in Lane Cove and its past. A successful entry must document aspects of the lives of people in Lane Cove and its environs, including beyond modern Lane Cove, which covered a broader area in the past. Research subjects can be individuals or families, early settlers or ethnic groups in the region, local roads and transport systems, private or public buildings, or the histories of community groups such as sporting teams, bush care groups or local churches.

A vibrant community like Lane Cove deserves to have its strengths and its achievements recognized and celebrated.

Research subjects can be individuals or families, early settlers or ethnic groups in the region, local roads and transport systems, private or public buildings, or the histories of community groups such as sporting teams, bush care groups or local churches.

Submissions can be written essays, oral histories or DVDs. Entries must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. Detailed information about terms and conditions and criteria for submissions can be obtained at the website.

[www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au/lane-cove-history-prize](http://www.lanecovehistoricalsociety.com.au/lane-cove-history-prize)



The Lane Cove Historical Society  
**LANE COVE HISTORY PRIZE**

# Upcoming Events

## Carisbrook Historic House


COFFEE AND CAKES  
DEVONSHIRE TEAS

OPEN  
APRIL  
SATURDAY 15th  
SUNDAY 16th  
10am-4pm



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

At the Podium  
**DR MARK FERSON**  
*The Bookplate  
in Australian Art  
& Culture*  
7pm Tues Mar 28  
Lane Cove Library



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

### Poetry & Pernod - Parisian Style



6.30pm  
Saturday  
25 March

Entertainment, wine,  
cheese (and a Pernod)  
\$35

Featuring  
The  
Lane  
Cove  
Poets  
Plus  
**OPEN  
MIC**

## Carisbrook Historic House

Bookings:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/1015498>

## Carisbrook Historic House TENELLA JAZZ



APRIL 30TH - WINE CHEESE AND JAZZ!

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

Enquiries: 0418 276 365

Purchase Tickets at:  
[www.trybooking.com/CGMDN](http://www.trybooking.com/CGMDN)