



COWPER200 NEWSLETTER

1809 - 2009 - The Cowper Family in Australia

July 2009

It's not too late to book!

What a wonderful response we're getting to the planning and booking pack we sent everybody on the first of June. Within a couple of days of posting we started to receive your bookings for the events to which you will be coming during August. By the end of June we were receiving a steady stream of correspondence. Now, as we enter July and the celebrations lie ahead of us in terms of days, not months or weeks, we can report that we are thrilled with the replies and messages of goodwill that we're receiving. Thank you one and all for the response. We look forward to seeing you all!

However, it's not too late to let us know if you're coming – if you have been away, or you're just a little slower than

normal getting the information together (after all it is tax time) we understand. But, please let us know as soon as you can, preferably by return mail, fax or email, so we can finalise the arrangements on your behalf.

If you've mislaid your forms, don't forget the website - www.cowper200.com.au - and then browse to the Cowper200 Celebrations page where you will find information, planning and booking sheets all ready for you to download and complete. Remember, too, that you can transfer your remittances directly into our account.

If you have already booked...
you will soon receive an
acknowledgement either by e-mail
or postal mail confirming your
booking details

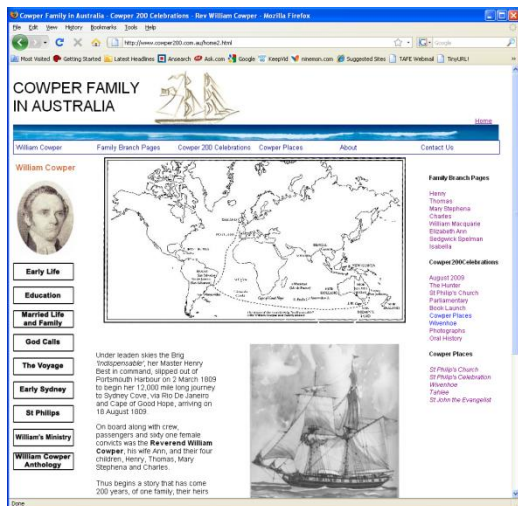
If you've not yet booked - we're looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Our program for August

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| 1st | Visit Buchanan Stroud, <i>Tahlee</i> , Hunter Valley |
| 2nd | Commemoration Service – 11.30 am Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle |
| 16th | Commemoration service – 10.00 am St Philip's Church |
| 16th | Family Lunch – 1.00 pm – Foyer No 1 York Street |
| 17th | St Philip's open for inspection for family members and their friends |
| 17th | Book Launch – 5.30 pm for 6.00 pm - State Library of New South Wales |
| 18th | Lectures and morning tea – 9.00 am St Philip's Church |
| 18th | Thanksgiving Service – Noon St Philip's Church |
| 18th | NSW Parliament – launch function – 3.00 pm Speaker's Garden |
| 19th | Cowper Places Tours – 9.15am from St Philip's Church Hill |
| 20th | Cowper Places Tour – reserve date – dependent upon bookings |
| 23rd | Commemoration Service – 9.00 am St Paul's Cobbitty |
| 23rd | Family picnic and reunion - 10.30am <i>Wivenhoe</i> |

Website launched

During June we were pleased to be able to announce the launch of the new family website www.cowper200.com.au. Largely the work of **David Kenny** (Thomas Branch) and **Sarah Cowper** (William Macquarie Branch) and designed by family friend **Harry Young** the site features an animated 'Flash' introduction, a homepage describing the life and work of William and subsequent pages describing the life and works of his children.



The new website's homepage

The site also features details of the forthcoming commemorations.

Once the celebrations are over the site will feature stories and photographs gathered during August so those unable to be with us will be able to share the occasions, the fun and the reminiscences with us all. The plans are that as time passes and in years to come the site will be expanded to cover family 'notables' (past and present), recording their goals and ambitions; and their achievements.

The first of these will be Norman Cowper – later Sir Norman (1896-1987) a noted member of the Charles Branch, who excelled in law during most of the twentieth century.

Public Relations Campaign starts

During July Cowper200 will be given a boost when our public relations campaign kicks off. Your committee is indebted to our very own publicist **Jane Corbett-Jones** (Charles Branch) for devising and spearheading our approaches to the media as we tell of the vision, mission and good works, of William Cowper – the Indispensable Parson.

NSW Governor heavily involved

Since our latest newsletter we were delighted to hear that the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Marie Bashir, AC CVO will be launching the special Edition of *William Cowper – the Indispensable Parson* on 17 August at the State Library of New South Wales. Her Excellency will also be attending the Public Thanksgiving Service at 12 noon on 18 August.



It is, we believe as a mark of respect for William that we will be honoured with her presence in this way.

Coach filling fast for Cowper Places Tour

We are happy to report that one of the more popular of our activities during August will be the *Cowper Places* coach tour – organised by **Janet Hay** (Charles Branch) and **Peter Cowper** (William Macquarie Branch) this tour takes in many of the locations around the city of Sydney associated with William and his family.

The highlight for some, in particular the descendants of Charles Junior (William's grandson) will be a trip to Cockatoo Island. This was home to Charles, his wife Mary Lethbridge, and their family, during the years that Charles was Water Magistrate and Sheriff of New South Wales. The picture shows *Biloela*, their home on the Island, during his tenure.



Biloela – on Cockatoo Island

Family tree update

Work continues apace on the family tree, and the committee would like to record our thanks to all those who have taken the trouble to record and then forward family details for us to work from. For those with a head for figures some interesting statistics are emerging!

As of Saturday 4 July 2009, we believe William to have had 1054 descendants – of which 480 married.

And for all those who have asked, which of William's children have the most descendants? We can now report, that, in order the resultant descendants have the following "ranking"

1. William Macquarie
2. Thomas
3. Charles
4. Mary Stephena
5. Sedgwick
6. Elizabeth Ann

Henry and Eliza had no children and sadly little Isabella died at only 9 days old.

The committee's history group is currently developing the best way to present our family tree information back to the family during August. But a word or warning from the family genealogists among us – a family tree is 'living' document so they ask that you understand if you find missing names or connections, please pass along the information so, in turn, it can be verified and included.

The hunt for memorabilia

Thanks, too, to family members (and to some non-family members as well) who hold family memorabilia for making contact with us. Slowly but surely we are building up a picture of where much of the family memorabilia resides. And it's amazing how far from home it's wandered over the years.



The candelabrum – on display at the Powerhouse Museum

For example, we now know the candelabrum (pictured), which was presented to Charles upon the completion of the Sydney Railway together with a 'companion' tray now resides at the Powerhouse Museum – and the tray with the New South Wales Parliamentary Archive. (Both will be on display in August at New South Wales Parliament House).

Imagine our surprise then, to learn in May that a Sydney member of our family still holds the companion candelabrum; then out of the blue in June we learn that still more of the gift - the matching tea kettle - is still in family hands; with a family member in Queensland. Needless to say we're still searching for the rest of this magnificent gift given to Charles on 26 September 1855.



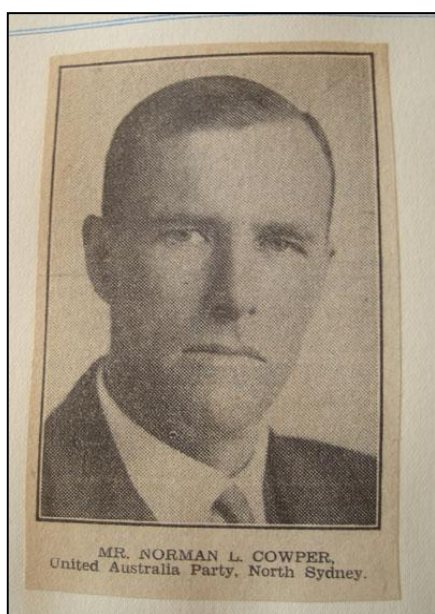
The companion tea kettle – lives in Queensland

More from the family album!

We thought it might be a good idea to share some of the material that has come our way since appealing for photographs and press clippings about the family over the last twelve months – so here is a sample of some material that our readers may find of interest.

A “taster” for some of the items we will present during August

Norman stands for Federal Parliament in 1933 and 1940



Andrew (King) Cowper is awarded the Military Cross in 1918



Captain Cowper, who received the Military Cross, leaving Buckingham Palace with his sister.—(Daily Mirror.)

Furniture quest

And whilst on the topic of memorabilia, family members will be interested to see two items of furniture that have surfaced – William Macquarie’s chair and a table which we believe once belonged to Charles.

Somehow it’s comforting to see the simple familiarity of it all!



William Macquarie’s chair – Michael Pain



Table that once belonged to Charles and his family at Wivenhoe – John Cowper (via the Robison branch)

Do you have a piece of furniture that dates back to William and his family – if so send us a digital picture and we’ll publish it either in the newsletter or on the website

cowpermemoires@onaustralia.com.au

Who's doing what?

As in previous newsletters, we thought it was appropriate at this point to give you an idea of the 'key people' looking after each event on the calendar.

Whilst the steering committee has overall responsibility for the commemoration we are fortunate to have family members who have stepped up to plan and organise each individual activity and to take responsibility for its progress. And for this we are most grateful!

The key 'event management' people are (in order of appearance!):

The Hunter Connection: Roger Goldfinch, Rod Hirst

St Philip's activities: Jill Auld, John Kerrigan

Family Lunch: Mick Cowper, Charles Cowper

Book Launch: Jill Auld

Cowper Places tour: Janet Hay, Peter Cowper

Parliamentary Connection: John Cowper

Family Reunion (Wivenhoe): David Cowper

Event co-ordinator: Chris Cowper

In addition the following have volunteered to look after specific activities:

History sub-committee: Warren and David Kenny, Sarah Cowper, Bill Brooks, Angela Lind, John Cowper

Family tree review and publication: Warren Kenny and Angela Lind

Oral history project: Angela Lind

Photography, historic photos, event photos: Michelle Pain, Corinne Cowper

Book project: Jill Auld, Charles Cowper

Publicity sub-committee: Jane Corbett-Jones, Roger Goldfinch, John Cowper

Website development: Sarah Cowper, David Kenny, John Cowper (design by Harry Young)

UK Ambassador at large: Stephen Kenny

COWPER200

Keep in touch online:

Visit our website:
www.cowper200.com.au

Visit our blog:
www.cowper200.bigblog.com.au

Your steering committee

Chairman – John Cowper

Secretary – Liz Pawsey

Treasurer – Michael Moore

Database/Asst Treasurer – Mick Cowper

Committee Representative – Jill Auld

Function Co-ordinator – Chris Cowper

Publicity – Jane Corbett-Jones

Warren Kenny

Bill Brooks

Sibella Lee

Louise Cowper

Roger Goldfinch

Janet Hay

Peter Cowper

Sarah Cowper

Lisa Calder

Charles Cowper

David Cowper

Rod Hirst

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Hon Secretary

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Privacy Notice

Database and family tree

The organising committee (the committee) for the Cowper200 celebration is seeking to collect a range of personal information from descendants of William Cowper, and his children. The information will be held in a database managed by a member of the committee and will be used to:

- send family members information and updates about the events for the Cowper200 celebration; and
- include information about you and your family on a family tree.

The information to be included on the family tree will be name, dates of birth, marital or defacto details and children's names and dates of birth. The committee proposes to make a copy of the family tree available to family members and it may be published in some form. No contact details or personal information, other than that listed above, will be included in the family tree or will otherwise be disclosed by the committee without your consent. The information on the database will be retained by the committee indefinitely and will be used solely for the purpose of contacting people about Cowper family functions. If you wish to see the personal information about you held by the committee, please contact the Secretary, Cowper200.

Web log (blog) and website

In the lead up to the celebrations, the committee is running a blog and will publish a website which will include information about the organising process, including committee meetings and celebration events and may include stories and photos. If you provide information to the committee, please let the committee know.