



COWPER 200 NEWSLETTER

1809 - 2009 - *The Cowper Family in Australia*

3 August 2007

Hello everyone

748 days to go!

I thought it was time to get in touch to give you an idea of some of the planning that is taking place for our celebrations in 2009. The steering committee now has August 2009 firmly in sight and the shape of the bicentennial celebrations are really starting to take shape.

To report on some of the preliminary planning that is taking place.

The St Philip's Connection

Arrangements have been made with St Philip's for services to be held on Sunday 16th August 2009 and Tuesday 18th August 2009 - the latter a thanksgiving service on the actual anniversary of the family's arrival, and the day William took up his appointment as Rector of the Parish of St Philip, Church Hill. Our thanks to David Mansfield and the Parish Council of St Philip's for these long range commitments (and involvement in the planning process).

The Wivenhoe Connection

Similarly, we have made arrangements for a major event on Sunday 23rd August at Wivenhoe - at this stage simply called a 'family gathering'. Time will reveal the program for the day and the activities that will be taking place. (Similarly, our thanks to Sr Mary and the staff at Mater Dei/Wivenhoe for their co-operation and excited involvement)

The State Library of NSW

Arrangements have been made, and confirmed, with the Library for an exhibition commemorating the family's contribution to life in New South Wales during August 2009. (We owe a debt of gratitude to Liz Ellis from the Library for her encouragement for this event)

The Railways Connection

Early discussions have been held with the President of the NSW Rail Transport Museum about some sort of joint event to celebrate Charles' - William's son - involvement with the promotion, development and early management of Railways in New South Wales. These discussions in time will, hopefully, involve officers and staff of the Rail Heritage Office within RailCorp and the Department of Transport.

The Parliamentary Connection

Discussions have been held with the Black Rod of the Parliament in connection with the Parliament of New South Wales becoming involved in the celebrations. Names and contacts have been supplied together with the procedural steps that will need to be taken to arrange a suitable function - or functions.

Other activities

Other plans being considered include celebrating the family's connections with the Diocese of Sydney, Stroud parish and the Australian Agricultural Company (to honour **William Macquarie's** contribution), our connections with Health and Medicine (**Henry**), Education (**Thomas**) and the Law (**Norman**). No doubt other opportunities will become apparent as time proceeds - and offers are made to assist the committee and members of the family.

A book, CD or DVD?

The committee continues to explore the best format for recording both the family heritage and the events of 2009. All suggestions are welcome; we need ideas about an author and the best way to publish the item.

Our mailing list and database

Behind the scenes work is being done on the development of our mailing list, database and family tree and the best form for these to take.

In this regard we are working through the family tree with a view to updating it in time for the celebrations - bearing in mind that it is 25 years since it was last brought fully up to date this is taking some time and effort. So if you receive a call, or a letter, or an e-mail from a member of the family please assist by providing as many details as you can! The process we are following involves splitting the family into branches, sub-branches and generations - time consuming and detailed work (thank you Jill Auld for taking on this task). You will hear more about this as time proceeds.

Whilst on the subject of lists, if you have a rel who you think ought to get a copy of this occasional newsletter please let us know (cowper200@onaustralia.com.au) and we will add them to our growing e-mail list as well!

Blogs and a website

We have a tentative step into the field of web-publishing and a blog has been established at <http://cowper200.bigblog.com.au/index.do> - early days yet but look in from time to time to catch up on late breaking news and views. Whilst I seem to have inherited the job of editing the item I look forward to contributions from family members (particularly those interstate and overseas) from time to time!

Similarly we are looking forward to establishing a more permanent website - I wonder if we have budding web designer on the family tree?

If so please let us know on cowper200@onaustralia.com.au

The committee

I am happy to report that the steering committee is really starting to taking shape.

Liz Pawsey is doing a great job as our secretary, **Mick Cowper** is invaluable with his computer knowledge, **Chris Cowper** has agreed to be our functions co-ordinator and is really making a contribution with her business planning acumen and **Jill Auld** is helping with her organisational skills and knowledge of the family tree - (ably assisted by **Angela Lind**, not a family member but afforded honorary status by the committee as a whole).

These folk together with regulars like Bill Brooks, Charles and David Cowper, Sibella Lee, Sarah and Louise Cowper, Warren Kenny and Lisa Lambert (the latter two by by e-mail) and others are now regularly meeting to pull this whole enterprise together. If you wish to join the crew please come to our next meeting - no questions asked, we will need all the help we can get over the next 700 or so days!

We need a treasurer!

Now I have a special request; it is that you give your urgent attention to our family committee finding an honorary treasurer to help guide us through the next two years of activity. Your steering committee has over the last few months approached several family members asking if they would be willing to assist in this way, but time; and their work/family commitments have mitigated against us and we have not been successful in our appeals.

So I must turn to the wider steering committee for assistance.

The lack of treasurer for our committee is becoming a real problem that needs to be solved as soon as possible; and I would like to think that everybody will seriously endeavour to find a treasurer before our next meeting. The job description is as follows!

1. Time commitment: Sept. 2007 to Sept. 2009.
2. Form a Finance sub-committee comprising of treasurer and 2 others from the Steering Committee.
3. Open a bank account with approved signatures.
4. Prepare and supervise a budget for each event, and later progressively monitor such events.
5. Decide on subscription amount [should not be under \$20.00
6. Banking subscriptions and other income.
7. Making payments and issuing receipts.
8. Presenting bank reconciliation, balance sheet and any other monetary matters to committee meetings.
9. Assist in the preparation of grant applications.
10. Any other monetary issues that may arise from time to time.

Can you help? Please get in touch either Liz Pawsey (pawsey@dot.net.au) or me (johncowper@onaustralia.com.au) if you believe you can be of assistance

Next meeting

Finally a reminder about our next meeting:

2.00 PM - Saturday 26th August 2007

Liz and Hastings Pawsey's place
24 Roselands Avenue
Frenchs Forest

We'd love to see you if you can attend ... but if you do intend to come along ... please let Liz and Hastings know so we can have enough cups on the table and cream buns on order!

Cheers for now!

