



COWPER200 NEWSLETTER

1809 - 2009 - The Cowper Family in Australia

March /April 2008

New South Wales Parliament comes to the party!

As we move into 2008 our discussions and planning are starting to pay dividends thanks to the hard work of our family members and friends on the steering committee and the interest and involvement of many others interested in our venture.

We continue to be surprised at the level of support we are receiving from those, both relatives and friends, who would like to see the bicentennial of the arrival of William Cowper and his family celebrated in a meaningful manner.

Parliamentary Speaker to host Cowper family functions

We were thrilled to hear from Mike Baird, MLA, during March that his representations on our behalf have resulted in the Speaker of the Parliament agreeing to host an exhibition and function in Parliament House in August 2009 ...
"recognising the contribution of the Cowper family in New South Wales and in particular Sir Charles Cowper as premier ..."

I know members of the family will join me in thanking the Speaker and Mr Baird for taking up our cause in this way – we are grateful for their kindness.

The functions will be held under the auspices of the Clerk of the House and the Parliamentary Archives Officer and planning will commence early in 2009 in conjunction with the Cowper200 Committee.

Book appeal launched for "William Cowper – the anthology"

When the Committee started work on this commemoration it realised that, whilst the lives and achievements of William's sons Charles and William Macquarie have been relatively well documented, very little has been published exclusively on William himself. We considered that the 200th Anniversary would be an ideal time to put this right; and to this end it is planned to publish an A4-sized illustrated biography about William. The book will be in full colour and have approximately 64 pages.

The aim of this commemorative book is not only for the enjoyment of, and interest to, present generations, but also to ensure that future generations of the descendants of William Cowper will have tangible and truthful evidence of their religious and historic heritage.

Secretary: Liz Pawsey,
24 Roselands Avenue,
Frenchs Forest 2086.

Phone: 02 9451 0330 ~ Fax: 02 9975 7538
Email: hastings.pawsey@bigpond.com

A willing author

Your Committee has found a willing author, Dr Peter Bolt, who is also an ordained Anglican minister, a lecturer at Moore Theological College and a publisher of books and lectures. Dr Bolt has already commenced preliminary research for the illustrated biography.

Financial arrangements

It is very fortunate for the Cowper family that Dr. Peter Bolt, who had already planned and begun to write a series of books about life in the colonial days of New South Wales, will not be charging us for researching and writing this book. In effect, this is a saving of about \$80,000. Rather, he requires only that the family fund the out of pocket expenses covering the imaging, permissions, finished artwork and the printing of this biography. He is willing to publish and distribute the book in exchange for any profit on the sales. It is not expected that there will be any material profit.

Therefore, we need to raise the sum of \$35,000

The Committee has thoughtfully deliberated as to how this amount could be raised. There are various grants available from State and Federal Governments, but there is no guarantee an application would be successful nor would it be available in time for Dr. Bolt to be sure of payment.

We, therefore, decided that a family the size of William's should have sufficient interest and pride in its history to raise this money from our own resources.

Already, one family member has pledged \$3,000.00, several others \$1,000 each and others lesser, although no less significant, amounts to start the appeal rolling.

For this project to proceed the Committee require sufficient funds to be pledged by 15 April 2008 to give us the ability to confirm Dr Bolt's commission.

Can you help?

If you wish to pledge an amount, please complete and return the attached form reproduced below. We do not anticipate that the pledge will be 'called in' until early 2009.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact John Cowper (02 9949 5280) or Liz Pawsey (02 9451 0330). We look forward to your support



Pledge of Financial Support

**TO: Hon Secretary, Cowper200,
24 Roselands Ave,
Frenchs Forest, 2086**

I, the person/family named below hereby pledge to provide the Hon Treasurer, Cowper200 Committee, a cheque for \$, upon being contacted not earlier than 1 March 2009, as a contribution towards expenses for William Cowper commemorative publication.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Telephone: (home) (mobile)

Email:@..... (please print)

Our program continues to evolve and take shape

Progress continues to be made on a number of fronts – and so we can all begin to share the excitement as August 2009 approaches; this newsletter sets out the latest news of the development of our program

Planning the events schedule continues ...

The St Philip's Connection

Members of the steering committee have now met with Reverend David Mansfield, Rector of St Philip's, to commence planning the two services to be held on Sunday **16th August 2009** and Tuesday **18th August 2009**. We can confirm that the former will commence at 10.00am which will allow family members to mix and mingle afterwards over lunch. And a venue is currently being sought so we can all do just that

The Thanksgiving Service, to be held on 18th August 2009, on the actual anniversary of William and his family's arrival, will be attended, we trust, by representatives of many of the organisations associated with William and his family.

The Wivenhoe Connection

We have made arrangements for a major event on Sunday **23rd August 2009** 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; however, early planning would see the involvement of the Friends of St Paul's Cobbitty and the Camden Historical Society.

As we reported in the last issue we are grateful to David Cowper for agreeing to take responsibility for this activity. *David will, of course, need help so if you're willing to assist please get in touch with any member of the committee.*

The Parliamentary Connection

As reported at the beginning of this edition the Speaker of the NSW Parliament has asked the Parliamentary Archivist to arrange a suitable exhibition and function during August 2009.

The Speaker has also asked members of the committee to join with the Archivist to discuss the exhibition and the function.

We have conveyed on behalf of the family our thanks and appreciation for his kind and timely gesture.

The Hunter Connection

Saturday and Sunday **1st and 2nd August 2009** will see members of the family visit St John the Evangelist, Stroud, Tahlee Ministries and Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle for a weekend in the Hunter at which the work of William and William Macquarie will be recognised.

Roger Goldfinch continues to liaise with the Friends of St John, Tahlee Ministries, and the Dean of Christ Church on behalf of the committee. More details will be to hand soon.

State Library of NSW

Arrangements have been made, and confirmed, with the State Library for an exhibition commemorating the family's contribution to life in New South Wales during August 2009.

Final dates will be announced shortly.

NSW Rail Transport Museum

Discussions continue to be held with the President of the NSW Rail Transport Museum about some sort of joint event to celebrate Charles' involvement with the promotion, development and early management of Railways in New South Wales. As reported in our last newsletter, final decisions may involve some form of transport to and from Newcastle for the previously reported activity.

“Cowper Places”

Janet Hay and Jill Auld are busy organising, with colleagues from the National Trust a half-day tour of Cowper Places around Sydney. We plan to top that off with a trip to Cockatoo Island and a meal. The date will be advised in the major mailing a little later this year.

Other activities

Other plans still being actively considered include celebrating the family's connections with the Diocese of Sydney and the Australian Agricultural Company (to honour **William Macquarie's** contribution), our connections with Health and Medicine (**Henry**), Education (**Thomas**) and the Law (**Norman**).

(As we reported last time we were searching for some **Sedgwick** 'connections' as well; some have been found but nothing yet has been finalised)

The mailing list

The **mailing list** continues to grow thanks to the great work of **Jill Auld** and **Mick Cowper** and a team of helpers from all Australian branches of the family. As at the time of writing we have nearly three hundred 'primary' family members on the list – at this stage we are looking for a first contact name – from whom we hope information will about the commemoration will spread.

As reported in our last newsletter Jill has painstakingly worked through the 1984 edition of the family tree filling in the gaps where she can and locating key family members' and their addresses. To date all branches, except Sedgwick's (who reside, we believe, mainly in the UK) have now been augmented in this way.

We aim to write to this list in shortly outlining our plans, gauging support for the final program and requesting help to finalise the tree. Mick has developed a database into which this key information is being entered.

The family tree

Similarly work continues on the **family tree** and its first major revision in a quarter of a century.

As reported in the last newsletter this job is complicated by the fact that since 1984 the 'rules' have changed. Then, the tree recorded the male lineage only, which meant that if you were female, and got married, somehow you became subsumed into your spouse's family.

Now, of course, the world recognises that women are descendants too; so the new tree will recognise that fact! Thomas, William's second son only had daughters! (And for the record his two eldest, Henrietta and Mary Eliza Matilda both had thirteen children – ie twenty-six in all!), in all Thomas and his wife, Eliza had thirty-three grandchildren.

Now for the first time the tree will carry this branch. Similarly the tree will carry details of the descendants of George Brookes and Mary Stepheana; and it will also recognise the fact that Henry (William's eldest son) married.

Even so we are still looking for more details of descendants associated with the **Brookes, Robison, Hough, Powell, Ford, Callaghan, White, Swaine (UK) and Field (UK)** families.

But thanks to the assiduous work of **Warren Kenny** and **Angela Lind** the work proceeds!

In the major mailing we will be asking for your assistance with the task – and to help us fill in the gaps.

William's advice to a young man

On 7 December 1839 William penned a letter to Richard Jones Jnr offering advice for his future vocation – Richard then compiled a scrap album which included William's letter... it reads...

To Mr Richard Jones Jnr

I have been requested to write a line in your album, - this I will do, if I may write in a grave style: -

You are now going from Home, with a hope of enjoying greater facilities in the acquisition of knowledge than in N.S. Wales, in order that, if The Lord will, you may be qualified for the most important office which a human creature can ever hold in this world. Be diligent in your studies; be respectful to your Tutors; observe the Rules of College. Beware of men, especially of those who lie in wait to deceive or mislead. Hold no fellowship, nor friendship with any persons of irreligious, or immoral habits or principles: choose for your associates those only who fear God, who love and steadfastly follow Christ our Saviour. Walk humbly and prayerfully with God; live by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, as having loved you and given himself for you. Often think of the solemn account which at the last day you must give of yourself to the Judge of the Quick and Dead and of the torment to be avoided and of the joys to be obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.

Behold as in a glass, the excellency and glory of Him, until you are changed into the same image by the Holy Spirit; then, you will be satisfied and blessed forever.

Sydney, 7 December 1839.

William Cowper

Henry, Charles and Queensland 150

The sesquicentenary of the founding of Queensland occurs in December 2009, shortly after our own celebrations. To this end your committee has been involved in discussions with both the Office of the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, and the Queensland Premier's Department about family representation at the celebrations.

Three of William's children could be said to be directly involved in Queensland during these early years.

Henry, who was the first Medical Superintendent at the Moreton Bay settlement, and after whom Coopers Plains was named; **Charles** who was Premier at the time Queensland became a Crown Colony (and was one of those who signed the original proclamation creating Queensland) and **Sedgwick** who with his wife, **Louisa**, and daughter **Wilhelmina**, lived in Rockhampton in the 1860s.

Sedgwick and the London Exhibition

Whilst on the subject of Sedgwick (William's fifth son) **Warren Kenny** has dug up some interesting information that indicates that Sedgwick was appointed Secretary of the International Exhibition, London on 14 December 1870, taking up duties in May 1871.

The Exhibition ran from 1871-1874 and shipping records show that Sedgwick returned to Australia in 1875. It is therefore surmised that he was in London at the time the death of his brother Charles also in 1875.

What a sad trip home it would have been; bearing the news to Eliza at Wivenhoe.

The Charles Cowper Medal

In October last year research by the archivist at Westpac Bank revealed the existence of a medal styled the Sir Charles Cowper Medal. Apparently it had been awarded to the manager at the Henty Branch of the Bank in 1901 when he fought off a band of bushrangers.

Subsequent enquiries with the Parliamentary librarian drew a blank – however researches by the Museum of Australia have now revealed that the medal, commissioned by Charles in 1870, was issued by the NSW Government between 1875 and 1901. Here is an extract from an article about the Award from the museum's magazine

“During the 1870s the New South Wales government awarded an uncertain number of gold and silver medals for bravery against bushrangers. Such medals had been promised since the 1860s, ordered in 1870 by Premier Sir Charles Cowper, but not produced until 1875. The 1870 decision appears to have been a response to the killing of bushranger Frederick Ward by Constable Alexander Walker at Uralla on 24 May 1870. At least seventeen medals are known to have been awarded between 1875 and 1901.”

The Museum of Australia in Canberra is believed hold two of the medals – and we will try to get a picture for subsequent editions of the Newsletter.

Memorabilia

Have you any Cowper memorabilia? As we get closer to August 2009 we hope to conduct some kind of audit of the material that we all have in our homes. At this stage we are looking at a two step operation when it comes to family memorabilia.

First step – collect William material

At this stage we are seeking historical documental evidence, or photographs that would be able to be loaned for reproduction in the book about William Cowper. In addition, any other items regarding William that could be lent to the Mitchell Library for the Mitchell Library Lobby Cases Exhibition that will run through the month of August 2009.

The family is either very short of, or does not seem to know where, such items regarding William may be.

So, if you have any information about memorabilia relating to William could you please let us know.

Second step – a family audit

As a second step and after we have exhausted all avenues for finding historical evidence relating to William, we shall commence the family audit in the hope that a register can be made of Cowper memorabilia from the subsequent generations.

Photographs

Similarly we will be looking for photographs, sketches and visual reminders of the family's past.

We have already started a section on the blog where we ask people to identify mystery relatives and that is available to all members of the family if you wish to avail yourself of it.

Hopefully, in time, we will identify many of those relatives that look familiar and have no name. Or, we can all admire anew those that have a name and have been languishing in a box in the linen cupboard.

Family anecdotes and oral history

We must not let the opportunity pass by either without trying to record some oral history of events and characters from the past. Maybe there is a member of the family who has had experience here ... if so please let us know if you would be willing to help out in this regard.

Oldest living descendant

Remember too we are trying to work out the name of William's oldest living descendant? The search is on! So, check those birth certificates and let us know!

Remember, we do have descendants living in the UK as well so this 'competition' may run for a little while!

Cowper200 and the internet

Our website

Don't forget we have gone 'live' with a website – albeit only a single page affair at the moment – and we have plans to develop this as soon as we can as a link for both family members and others as well.

The URL: www.cowper200.com.au

Do we have any web designers or web page builders in the family? If so we'd love to hear from you!

Cowper200 blog site

Whilst on the topic of the internet don't forget our blog

www.cowper200.bigblog.com.au

Here you will read news, views and jottings from yours truly about our enterprise.

Next meeting

A reminder that the next meeting of the steering committee will be held as follows.

2.30 pm Sunday
13 April 2008
Hasting and Liz Pawsey's
24 Roselands Avenue
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

All very welcome, but please remember to let Liz know if you're coming ... it helps with the catering

Your committee

John Cowper – Chairman
Liz Pawsey - Secretary
Michael Moore - Treasurer
Michael Cowper (Mick) – Database/Asst Treasurer
Jill Auld – Committee Representative
Chris Cowper - Functions
Jane Corbett-Jones – Publicity

Warren Kenny Bill Brooks
Sibella Lee Sarah Cowper
Louise Cowper Lisa Lambert
Roger Goldfinch Charles Cowper
David Cowper

Address for correspondence:

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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 if it can be published on the blog or on the website.