



# COWPER 200 NEWSLETTER

1809 - 2009 - The Cowper Family in Australia

November 2007

## Hello and welcome to the November 2007 newsletter!

**As we had a steering committee meeting on 17 November, I thought it best to put my fingers to the keyboard and report progress. With less than two years to go now ... our plans are currently really starting to take shape in our collective mind**

First, however, I want to extend a big thank you to those family members (and others) who are coming forward to offer help and encouragement for the task ahead. We were under no illusions when we started to talk together about the potential of a family commemoration that the task would be a big one; and we were right. However, the assistance and support we are receiving – this far out – is really amazing and to all those helping, thank you so very much.

There is, as you can imagine still a great deal to be done – and with your help success can be assured.

### What's been happening?

Since I last reported progress has been made on a number of fronts - and as time progresses hopefully the efforts we are putting in now, looking after the little things, will pay off during August 2009.

### The mailing list

The **mailing list** continues to grow thanks to the great work of **Jill Auld** and **Mick Cowper**.

Jill is painstakingly working through the 1984 edition of the family tree filling in the gaps where she can and locating key family members' and their addresses.

We aim to write to this list in March 2008 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

Which brings me to the topic of the **family tree** and its first major revision in a quarter of a century.

The 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 (what a quaint notion!); so the new tree will recognise that fact!

This is just as well as 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 Eliza had thirty-three grandchildren. Now for the first time the tree will carry this branch.

It will also recognise the fact that Henry (William's eldest) married and had a child.

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

Almost every day a new 'link' is established and the family grows as a result. So, we suggest you start brushing up on your antecedents now.

In the March mailing we will be asking for your contributions – and to help us fill in the gaps.

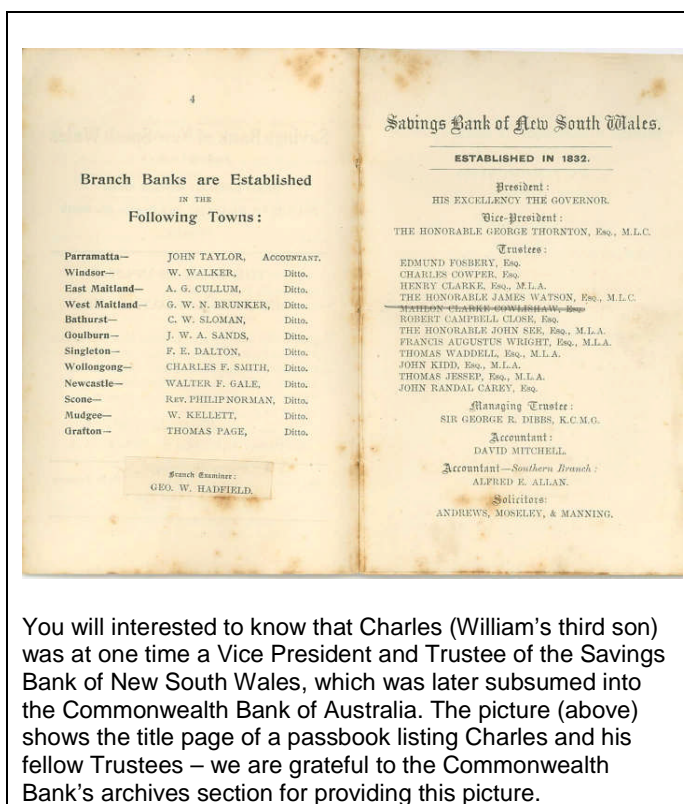
*Secretary: Liz Pawsey,  
24 Roselands Avenue,  
Frenchs Forest 2086.*

*Phone: 02 9451 0330 ~ Fax: 02 9975 7538  
Email: [hastings.pawsey@bigpond.com](mailto:hastings.pawsey@bigpond.com)*

## We have a treasurer

You will remember that when I last wrote we were looking for a **treasurer** for our enterprise. Well I am happy to report that we now have one and we are very grateful to have secured the services of **Michael Moore** who has indicated his willingness to bring a note of common sense and wise financial counsel to our midst.

Steps are being taken to open a bank account with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. We hope to indicate how much the family subscription will be early in 2008 – at the time of the March mailing. As a matter of financial prudence we will be preparing a budget for each event on the schedule.



You will interested to know that Charles (William's third son) was at one time a Vice President and Trustee of the Savings Bank of New South Wales, which was later subsumed into the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The picture (above) shows the title page of a passbook listing Charles and his fellow Trustees – we are grateful to the Commonwealth Bank's archives section for providing this picture.

## Contacting Cowper 'connections'

A major undertaking has been the task of writing to organisations with which William, his children, and the family generally has had some association over the past two hundred years. William was of course prolific, both as Colonial Chaplain and Rector of St Philip's Sydney, in commencing, or being part of those that instigated a number of organisations that still do 'good works' today. The Benevolent Society, The Bible Society, The Bethel Union, are but a handful of those with whom he had more than a passing interest. His work of course was complemented by the relationships forged by his sons and daughters.

Early response to our letter writing campaign has been positive, with one definite 'event' being arranged as a result. Other suitable activities are being considered.

As well as the letter writing ... we continue to talk to other organisations about a plans and aspirations for August 2009.

And the response to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

## The program takes shape

Planning the events schedule continues ...

## The St Philip's Connection

Arrangements have now been confirmed 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. Members of the steering committee will meet with Reverend David Mansfield shortly to start planning these services

## The Wivenhoe Connection

Similarly, 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; we are grateful to David Cowper for agreeing to take responsibility for this activity.

## 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. Final dates will be set shortly.

## The Parliamentary Connection

Mike Baird, MLA for Manly has taken up our cause and will approach the Speaker of the Legislative Council with a view to the Parliament conducting a suitable function to celebrate not only William's arrival but the contributions of Charles, father and son.

## The Hunter Connection

Plans are well in hand with the friends of St John the Evangelist, Stroud, Tahlee Ministries and the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle for a weekend in the Hunter at which the work of William and William Macquarie will be recognised. Roger Goldfinch has agreed to take responsibility for this series of activities. This has been pencilled in for the first weekend of August 2009.

## **The Railways Connection**

Discussions have been 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. The resultant decisions may involve transport to and from Newcastle for the previously reported activity.

## **“Cowper Places”**

Janet Hay (Charles Branch) is 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 March mailing.

## **Other activities**

Other plans 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**). No doubt other opportunities will become apparent as time proceeds - and offers are made to assist the committee and members of the family.

And as a footnote we are searching for some **Sedgwick** 'connections' as well.

## **The book**

Your committee still continues to consider the best form for the presentation of a celebratory book or memoir. At this stage we are talking to an author/researcher and obtaining several quotations for a possible publication commemorating William's life and his contribution to life in Sydney, New South Wales and Australia. Hopefully our discussions will be concluded shortly and an announcement of some kind can be made in the New Year.

## **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**

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**

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.

So, out with the photograph albums – 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**

And finally, who is 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!

**FEEL FREE TO DISTRIBUTE THIS COPY OF OUR NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY**

## Cowper200 and the internet

### Our website

Since I last reported 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](http://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](http://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.

9 February 2008, 2.00pm

Hasting and Liz Pawsey's  
24 Roselands Avenue  
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

### Your committee

John Cowper – Chairman  
Liz Pawsey - Secretary  
Michael Moore - Treasurer  
Michael Cowper – 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



### Finally

On behalf of the Steering Committee may I wish all our readers, far and wide, a Happy Christmas and a successful 2008?

Best wishes and I look forward to working with you all over the months ahead.

**John Cowper**

### Address for correspondence:

Liz Pawsey  
Hon Secretary  
Cowper200  
24 Roselands Avenue  
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086  
Telephone: 02 9451 0330  
Facsimile: 02 9975 7538  
Email: [cowper200@onaustralia.com.au](mailto:cowper200@onaustralia.com.au)

### 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.