



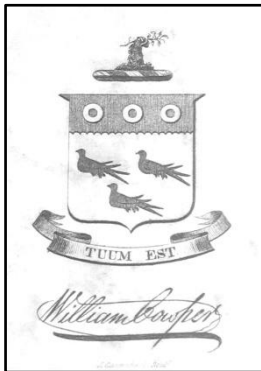
# COWPER 200 NEWSLETTER

1809 - 2009 - The Cowper Family in Australia

November 2008

## Progress!

Well! What an exciting couple of months your committee has had, first developing the publicity material and mailing package that you will all have received by now, and then reviewing the response from fellow family members as you commence indicating your interest and support for the events of August 2009. We have all been quite touched by your support and expressions of goodwill for our enterprise.



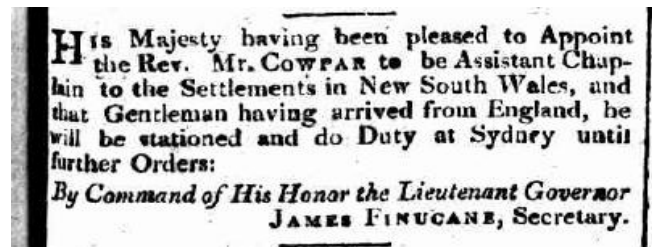
Additionally, we have had some additional support from some rather unexpected places; an e-mail from a long lost cousin in the United Kingdom who has already started share to some amazing memorabilia and photographs with us; some wonderful financial support from family members and we now have finalised the nature of the majority of the events of the commemorative schedule.

And, we are happy to report that the key people on the steering committee are now in place ready for the task of organising the events of 2009.

**Thank you for making our task that much easier and satisfying with your expressions of support and encouragement!**

## How it all started!

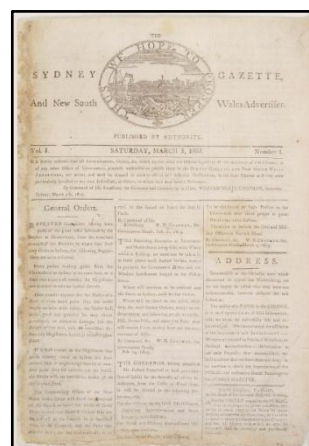
This is how the SYDNEY GAZETTE AND NSW REGISTER announced the appointment and arrival of William and his family in August 1809.



Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser - 27 August 1810

The interesting thing about this announcement in the press, apart from the interesting spelling of 'Cowper', is that although the Colony was still under the administration of a 'rebel' government (Macquarie had not yet arrived and was not to take up his official duties until 1 January 1810) the 'business' of government continued – with official proclamations such as these regularly appearing in the press.

What's more the proclamation was still made in the King's name!



## Mailing to family members

As reported above a mailing to family members was conducted as close as we could manage to the 199th anniversary of William's arrival in New South Wales on 24 August. We must place on record our thanks to family friends Harry Young (layout artist), Chris Burns (typographer and finished artist), the State Library of New South Wales (artworks and scanning) and Moderne Art Printing who combined, together with a group of committee members to write and produce the material.



The front cover of our mailing to family members

Response to the mailing has been immediate and, we believe most satisfactory for a series of events still twelve months in the future. We have to place on record, too, how generous our 'early subscribers' have been, contributing over \$5,000 already. Response has been steady and we now starting to get a good idea of the proposed attendance patterns for the events on the schedule.

## Mint announced as luncheon venue



Sydney Mint, originally the dispensary of Sydney Hospital where William's eldest son, Henry trained under Surgeon General William Redfern

We are pleased to announce that the Sydney Mint has been confirmed as the venue for the family luncheon for to be held immediately following the Commemoration Service at St Philip's on 16 August 2009.

## Our program - August 2009

- 1st Visit Stroud, Tahlee, 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 – Sydney Mint
- 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
- 19th Cowper Places' Tours – times to be confirmed
- 23rd Commemoration Service – 9.00 am St Paul's Cobbitty
- 23rd Family picnic and reunion - 10.30am Wivenhoe

*Dates and times yet to be confirmed:*

Parliamentary launch function and exhibition  
Railway trip

## Volunteers Required

A reminder to all that as 2009 approaches we will be looking for volunteers to assist with the events program. We have, as a result of the mailing, a number of family members who have already indicated their willingness to help in various ways.

## Oral history project

We are happy to report that Angela Lind has volunteered to look after this important part of our task, thanks Angela. We look forward to hearing from Angela as to the way in which we can assist.

## History committee and memorabilia

You will also be pleased to hear that a history committee has been convened to develop the best way of presenting the family tree and other historic items to family members, and "interested others" during the commemorative period. Comprising Warren Kenny, Angela Lind, William Brooks, Michael Kenny and John Cowper, the committee will soon start meeting to coordinate this task.

**If you feel you can assist with any of these tasks please get in touch with the committee.**

## Our English cousins

**We're thrilled to report that a member of the Cowper family from the UK has commenced corresponding with the committee in relation to the forthcoming commemorations.**

Keith Cowper, from Buckinghamshire has recently started to research members of his family who came to Australia about the time of the First World War. In so doing has discovered an uncle, George Henry Cowper, who died in Doonside (NSW) in 1972, aged 82; George was his father's half brother.

Imagine our surprise when in his first e-mail he casually mentions that he has in his possession a tin box containing "*letters from William, daguerreotype photos of him, and letters from Lachlan Macquarie which go back a long way*"

This item apparently came to him via the Mountford family. (By way of explanation Frederick George Mountford married *Edith Isabelle Cowper - William's great granddaughter*).

He learnt of our forthcoming family activities from our webpage and communicated with the committee immediately. He also has a wealth of information about *Sedgwick* and *Elizabeth Ann* (both of whom eventually settled back in England with their respective families) and he is now sharing it with us.



Wivenhoe, Down-Park, Herne Bay, Kent

Subsequent e-mails have revealed that Keith also has invaluable information about members of the Field family (*descendants of William's second daughter, Elizabeth Ann*) and of their family home *Wivenhoe* in Herne Bay, Kent!

Keith was apparently great friends with *Elizabeth Eugenie Cowper-Field* (they retained the Cowper in their name in subsequent generations!).



Elizabeth Eugenie Cowper-Field, William's Great Granddaughter

He also has pictures of the "Goldfinch family wedding" when Philip Goldfinch married Mary Medora! (*William's great, great granddaughter*)

Keith has also told us in a recent e-mail that he thinks he has pictures of (or letters written by) *Sedgwick*, William's fifth son. Pictures and correspondence that has eluded the Australian family for years!

Naturally the author of William's biography, Peter Bolt, is fascinated by the prospect of getting his hands on the William Cowper and Lachlan Macquarie correspondence and is wondering what else may turn up!

Needless to say, now that Keith knows the importance of all this wonderful material to this generation of Aussie Cowpers he is searching furiously through his attic so we can have as much of his material as possible on record. Both for the celebration, and the book!

What's more - Keith and Angela are thinking about joining us in Australia for the celebrations in August 2009.

All of which goes to show that you never know what you have in the attic.

## “The Indispensible Parson”

Author, Peter Bolt, regularly reports to the steering committee on progress with both the commemorative and hardback editions of William’s Biography. Research is proceeding apace and the name and contents of the books have been announced and discussed with the committee. As announced in the mailing it is our intention to launch both books at the State Library of New South Wales on Monday 17 August 2009.

It is appropriate therefore to thank all members of the family that made pledges for the underwriting of the commemorative edition, for without you the project could not have been undertaken.

### Start getting your pledges in!

We are happy to report as well that, notwithstanding the global financial crisis, we have already started to receive income honouring pledges made. The committee therefore is happy to announce that should you be in a position to honour your pledge at this stage, we’d love to hear from you!

We will; however, be writing early in 2009 to all those who have made formal pledges with a further progress report, letting you know the formalities for the honouring of your pledge.

## Family photographs!



The time has come to start dusting off the old family photo albums! At the last committee meeting it was agreed that in this digital age that perhaps the best procedure would be to scan those pictures that you think worthy of distribution and send them to the committee for collation and possible circulation either electronically or via the web.

We are most fortunate that Michelle

Pain is happy to take on this important role, and will happily help sort everyone’s digital photos.

In the first instance send your photographs to:  
[cowper200@onaustralia.com.au](mailto:cowper200@onaustralia.com.au)  
for transmission to Michelle for sorting and filing.

## Who’s doing what?

As reported above plans are have now been finalised for the events program arranged for August 2009. We thought it was therefore 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

**St Philip’s activities:** Jill Auld, John Kerrigan

**Family Lunch:** Mick Cowper

**Book Launch:** Jill Auld

**Cowper Places tour:** Janet Hay, Peter Cowper

**Family Reunion (Wivenhoe):** David Cowper

**Parliamentary Connection:** John Cowper

**Railway Trip:** Jim White and John Cowper

**Event co-ordinator:** Chris Cowper

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

**History sub-committee:** Warren and David Kenny, 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

**Book project:** Jill Auld, Charles Cowper

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

**Website development:** Sarah Cowper, David Kenny, John Cowper

**UK Ambassador at large:** Stephen Kenny

No doubt other family members will emerge to take on responsibilities as 2009 rolls on – we will keep you informed through the pages of your newsletter

## A timely reminder

Just a reminder for you to let us know your intentions during the forthcoming period of celebration and commemoration - please take the time and trouble to complete the ‘paperwork’ that accompanied the recent mailing; the paperwork covered details about the family subscription, your intention to attend various functions, a pre-order form for the commemorative book and a family group sheet.

## 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!

### Our website

Don't forget we have gone 'live' with a website – albeit only a single page affair at the moment – and as previously announced we have plans to develop this as soon as we can as a link for both family members and others as well. Hopefully once the history group meets and our photographs start to flow.

The URL: [www.cowper200.com.au](http://www.cowper200.com.au)

### 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 about our enterprise.



### Next meeting

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

**Saturday, 31 January 2009  
2.00 PM**

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

**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	Peter Cowper
Bill Brooks	Sarah Cowper
Sibella Lee	Lisa Lambert
Louise Cowper	Charles Cowper
Roger Goldfinch	David Cowper
Janet Hay	Jim White

### 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 web.