



Peninsula Historian

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FROM THE EDITOR

.A couple of months ago I was contacted by a friend who was dealing with an elderly cousin who had quite a lot of papers (and, as it emerged, very vivid memories) relating to the history of her family. The friend told me that some of the information had a Manly connection. I suggested that his cousin contact NB Council's Local Studies Unit which she did and they had an interest in some aspects of her history.

While grateful for this, the rest of the papers continued to prey on the cousin's mind and so I agreed to go and see both her and them. As a result I was introduced to a fascinating piece of the history of both Sydney and Manly.

The family involved are the Popes and their main connection to Manly began in 1901 when they built a harbourside mansion, *White End*, at Fairlight. I will further research and tell something of their story in future issues but an article by John MacRitchie, the ex Manly Local Studies Librarian, on one of the Pope family is in this issue, together with one of the photos of *White End* that I was given during my visit.

Richard Michell

DIARY

Meetings at the Curl Curl Community Centre, cnr. Griffin and Abbott Roads

13 April, 2019 2.00 pm

Wal Walker *D'Arcy Wentworth and Jane Austen*

D'Arcy - father of the well-known William Charles and a significant landowner on the Northern Beaches in the first half of the 19th Century - and his relationship with a young Jane Austen (yes that Jane Austen!).

11 May, 2019 2.00 pm

Richard Michell *Lady Wakehurst*

The NSW Governor's wife - not the Sydney harbour ferry.

Please note - this May meeting will be held at The Tramshed, Narrabeen.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

While it is important that our Society have interesting talks and activities, it is also important that it conducts research on our local history, and records and preserves that history. So it has been a great pleasure that the speakers at our last two meetings were members, and to see that they had done some wonderful and original local research. It was also great to see the very positive audience responses.

Speaking of member responses, thank you to Hazel Durkin who was able to answer the query in the last issue on the reception centre at Fairlight (see p.2) and to the various members who came along to the Working Bee at Cromer.

Further on member's contributions to the activities of the Society, we still need more assistance with administrative tasks. In particular we need a Treasurer. If anyone feels that they can help with this activity in any way please contact me.

Finally, another activity where we need help is with the details of those items in our archives which currently are recorded only in handwritten ledgers. We wish to enter them into an Excel spreadsheet. It is a simple but rather repetitive task and many hands would certainly lighten the load. If you have access to a computer with Microsoft Excel and could spare a few hours please contact me.

Richard Michell

NEWS AND VIEWS

NEXT MEETING, Saturday 13 April, 2019

D'Arcy Wentworth and Jane Austen

Wal Walker will talk about his two-volume book *Jane & D'Arcy: Jane Austen & D'Arcy Wentworth* (see p.5).

D'Arcy Wentworth, an Irish surgeon, came to Australia on the Second Fleet in 1790. He served under the first seven governors of New South Wales, building up a large land holding, including here on the Northern Beaches. One of his children was William Charles Wentworth and, according to Wal, one of his early loves was a young Jane Austen.

Wal Walker is a grandson of a great grandson of D'Arcy Wentworth.

The History of sailing on Narrabeen Lake

A very large audience was treated to a very interesting and deeply researched talk by Ian Milton, one of our members. Sailing and boating on Narrabeen Lake/Lagoon proved to be such a full topic that, in the time available, Ian dealt mainly with the boatsheds that have served the public and the various sailing clubs over the years. Probably all attendees were surprised to learn just how many of them there have been on the shores of the lake historically. It was also interesting to hear that some of the boatsheds and/or their proprietors played, or went on to play, significant roles in the history of Australian boat building.

POT POURRI

Enquiry in last issue

Last issue I asked for assistance with the following somewhat cryptic query:

We are trying to find out the name of the reception centre which was located at Fairlight on a triangulah block ..a structure with stone surrounds leading to the main hall...only single storey I think. Our 137 bus used to pass it. Thanks!

Peter Carruth in Port Macquarie

One of our members, Hazel Durkin, had the answer. It was *The Crescent* and Hazel had held both her 21st birthday and her wedding reception there in 1950/51. Thanks Hazel.



Sixteen footers racing on Narrabeen Lagoon 1946

More on those Norfolk Island Pines

Although the mistaken planting of Cook Pines as Norfolk Island Pines has apparently ceased on the Northern Beaches, my inexpert observations still give me some cause for concern. On my recent visit to Norfolk Island I was struck (and in fact reminded from my youth) as to just how “stark” the young pine trees are. Characteristically, the branches of the Norfolk Island Pines occur in rings at discrete levels. I had forgotten how much space or separation there was between each level when the trees are young. Once they reach initial maturity, after about 20 years, this space tends to be in-filled by additional fronds growing vertically off the horizontal branches. On return I looked at young trees here. While I found some with this open spacing, others were fully foliated. The photos (next page) show two young trees at the Dee Why Beach car park. One is similar to those I saw on Norfolk Island but the other bears almost no resemblance. Do we have some other fresh contamination problem?



Douglas' boatshed c.1930, etching print by Molly O'Shea

Norfolk Island Pines are also planted on private property. Meriton has just planted two quite advanced youngsters in very prominent positions as part of the landscaping of its recent large development in Dee Why. I am pleased to report that they both appear to be unambiguous descendants of the genuine Norfolk Islanders.

Richard Michell



Two young Norfolk Island Pines, Dee Why Beach carpark. Is the one on the right "genuine"?



Norfolk Island Pine, Meriton Lighthouse development, Dee Why

And more on the Atkin's cottage

Again with thanks to John Morcombe (and the Manly Daily) here is a wonderful photo of Mrs. Atkins in the backyard of her Seaforth cottage, at the time the family was battling a combination of the DMR and Manly Council.

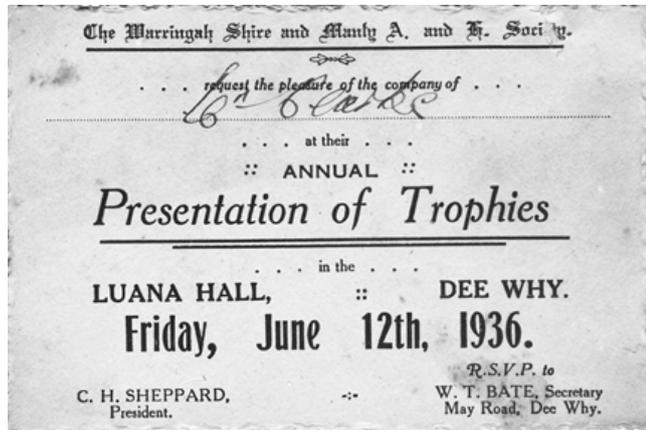
Something from our Archives

Members who attend the Dee Why RSL Club may be aware that one of their function areas is called the Luana Room. It derives its name from a hall that used to stand on part of the present site. Among some papers in our Archives we recently discovered an invitation to a Mr. Clarke to attend a function in the hall. The date was Friday 12 June 1936 and the invitation was from the Warringah Shire and Manly Agricultural and Horticultural Society.



Mrs. Atkins outside her cottage, Seaforth, courtesy John Morcombe and Manly Daily

The event was the annual presentation of trophies. Given the month (June) it was probably to present the prizes for the exhibits at that year's Brookvale Show which would have been held in March. The annual show had been started by the Society in 1921 and had sections for agriculture, horticulture, poultry, pigeons, livestock and domestic sciences. There were also ring events, bicycle races and a procession. From other papers associated with Mr. Clarke he may have exhibited in the poultry section.



WS&M A&H Society invitation to prize giving 1936

ARTICLE

DR. NORMAN POPE

The following is from the Manly Library Local Studies web site:

“On a recent behind-the-scenes tour of Newcastle Central Library, I was very pleased to examine some of the treasures in their Rare Books Collection. There are many gems, including a set of Gould’s *Birds of Australia*. These, and around 4000 other volumes, were donated to the City of Newcastle by Dr Roland Pope in 1945, together with his art collection, and his collection of sporting memorabilia.

Roland James Pope, MD FRCSE (1864-1952) was a long-time resident of Manly, living in the Pope family’s harbourfront mansion, *White End*. He and his brother Norman were the founders of Manly Golf Club, into which they pumped thousands of pounds. Their father, John Pope, was a partner in Farmer and Co, the large Sydney department store.

Roland was brought up in Hobart, and later studied medicine at Sydney University and at Glasgow and Edinburgh. On return to Australia in 1893 he set up in ophthalmic practice in Elizabeth Street, Sydney. He was consulting ophthalmic surgeon with Sydney Hospital, and carried out many pioneering cataract operations. During WWI, he served as an eye specialist for the AIF in Egypt.

As a young man, he had played cricket to a high standard, and twice played for NSW against Victoria in 1884, playing for NSW on 20 occasions. In 1884-85, following a dispute over pay by some of the regular team members, he was an emergency call-up to play in the second Test against England, and thus qualifies as an Australian Test cricketer. In later life, independently wealthy, he indulged his fondness for sporting events to the full. He travelled with the Australian cricket team, and went with them on many overseas tours, including tours to England, and acted as the team’s doctor. On occasion, he would even be called upon to play in tour matches, when players were injured. He turned out against Cambridge, for example, and in 1886 against Middlesex, coming in as last man so effectively that Australia won by one wicket. Dr W G Grace referred to him as “The permanent emergency man for Australian XIs in England.” In *Never a Gentlemen’s Game*, Malcolm Knox notes that Dr Pope was called upon in 1890 for the match against Cambridge and “did everything, none of it well.” While at his studies in Edinburgh, he had appeared for the Scotland team in a match against Canada, thus making him an unusual dual international. He was popular with all the players right up to the Bradman era, and they all referred to him simply as “the Doc”.



Roland Pope c1945

Amusingly, he also undertook to educate the touring Australians in etiquette, a useful function, considering the social mine-field that was Edwardian England. (This role appears to have lapsed in recent years.)

Rowley Pope held several posts in Manly sporting organisations - he was a vice-president of Manly Swimming Club, and was Captain of Manly Golf Club. But his interests were diverse. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the Royal Society of Arts of London, and the Royal Empire Society. He combined an interest in ornithology with his taste in bibliophily to build up a superb collection of bird books. He was a generous philanthropist.

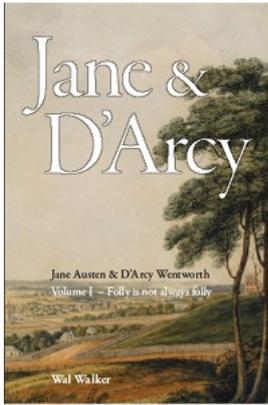
He married in 1927 in New York to Mrs Amy Keigwin, widow of a Manly businessman, but she died in London on their honeymoon and he did not remarry. He died in 1952, aged 88. The site of *White End* is now a large unit block.”

John MacRitchie

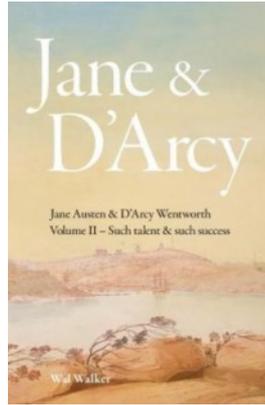


White End (located on the waterfront near Fairlight Pool)

Re upcoming monthly meeting 13 April 2019



Jane & D'Arcy: Volume 1:
Folly is Not Always Folly



Jane & D'Arcy: Volume 2:
Such Talent & Such Success

West Esplanade

NB Council has commenced community engagement for the Manly West Esplanade Heritage Activation Plan. They write:

The Manly West Esplanade Heritage Activation Plan aims to:

- highlight the history of the West Esplanade area (pre and post European settlement)
- define opportunities and initiatives for the public to appreciate the heritage of the area
- explore the nostalgia of West Esplanade including the art gallery façade and boardwalk

We invite your members to attend the local community group information session:

When: 6.00 -7.30pm Tuesday 2 April 2019

Where: Manly Art Gallery and Museum, West Esplanade, Manly

RSVP: Claire.CB@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au by Wednesday 27 March 2019

Annual membership is now overdue

Please see the form on the next page

Thank you to all those who have renewed



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Historical Society Inc.
Established 1924

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Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc.

Membership Renewal/Application Form - 2019

Title: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms (please circle)

Name:

Age group (please tick): 10 – 18 19 – 50 51 – 70 71 – 85 86 – 95

[Note: this information is required for insurance purposes; if two persons included in this application fall into different age bands please tick both boxes]

Address:

State

Postcode

Phone: (Home)

(Bus.)

(Mobile)

E-mail:

Signature:

Date:

MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$20 Single

\$25 Household (2 persons) or Organisation

FEE: \$.....

as above, includes emailed copy of the Peninsula Historian

\$12.00.....

only if you require Peninsula Historian by post

DONATION: \$.....

TOTAL: \$.....

Do you require a receipt? Yes/No

PAYMENT METHODS

- **By cheque or money order**

Please make payable to 'MWP Historical Society Inc' and mail with the completed Renewal Form to:

The Treasurer

Manly Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society Inc

PO Box 695

MANLY, NSW 1655

DO NOT MAIL CASH. If paying in person place cash, cheque or money order in an envelope together with the completed Renewal Form)

- **By Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

Account Details:

Commonwealth Bank, Manly

Account Name:

MWP Historical Society

BSB Number:

062-197

Account Number:

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