

Hawkesbury Historical Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Historical Society Inc.

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Address: The Secretary PO Box 293, Windsor NSW 2756

T: 02 4578 2443 E: secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

Aim: Hawkesbury Historical Society aims to encourage & preserve the history of the Hawkesbury

Meetings: 4th Thursday, alternate months, 7:30pm-10pm

Hugh Williams Room at the Museum in Baker Street, Windsor

Open to: People interested in the preservation of the history of the Hawkesbury, new members welcome.

Patron: Ted Books

Office Bearers 2018/2019:

President: Ian Jack

Snr Vice President: Ted Brill Jnr Vice President: Jan Barkley-Jack

Secretary: Neville Dehn Treasurer: Heather Gillard

Public Officer: Neville Dehn Social Co-ordinator: [Vacant]

Publicity Officer: [Vacant]

Hon Curator HHS Collection: Carol Carruthers/ Rebecca Turnbull

Newsletter Editor: Jan Readford

Web Administrator: Dick Gillard

Bookshop Manager: Heather Gillard

Hon Auditor: [Vacant]

Committee members: Sean Flavin, Ellen Jordan, Rebecca Turnbull

HHS Collection Committee: Carol Carruthers, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Director – Kath von Witt, Hawkesbury Regional Museum Curator – Rebecca Turnbull

Publications Committee: Jan Barkley-Jack, Jan Readford and Ellen Jordan

MEETINGS

Thursday, 28 February 2019 – 7:30pm
Saturday, 22 June 2019 – 2:00pm
Saturday, 24 August 2019 – 2:00pm
Thursday, 24 October 2019 - 7:30pm **AGM**

Hugh Williams Room
HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM
Baker Street, Windsor

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General Meeting

Thursday, 28 February 2019 – 7:30pm

Hugh Williams Room, Hawkesbury Regional Museum,
Baker Street, Windsor

Guest speaker:

Michelle Nichols -
Local History Librarian of
Hawkesbury Library Service



Subject:

‘Mary Stewart’



Mary Stewart

Mary was the only daughter of Dr William Farquharson Stewart and Elizabeth Durham, and grew up in a social and cultural atmosphere where there were always activities and gatherings.

Michelle will provide a presentation about some of the people featured in the fascinating photograph albums of Mary Anne Amelia Stewart (1846-1931).

Featured in the 19th century Albums are members of the

Rouse, Cape, McQuade, Gordon, Durham and Town families. Mary married George Scarvell from Clare House, and after she was widowed later married John Valentine Stuart Blomfield.

EVERYONE WELCOME

DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

Saturday, 6 April 2019

Book Launch: **“In for the Long Haul”**
See over for flyer

Saturday, 27 April 2019

Richmond Heritage Day

It has been decided to take part in Richmond Heritage Day, an event falling on the same day, instead of holding the April General Meeting.

The Society will have a book stall set up within the old CBC Bank building (along with other groups). There will also be guided tours of some of Richmond’s heritage buildings and St Peters Cemetery.

Members are encouraged to come and enjoy the day in Richmond. More details to follow.

Friday, 3 May 2019

**National Trust Heritage Festival 2019
Event**

‘A Peek Into the Past’ Party

Hosted by Hawkesbury Historical Society
*See details over – extracted from current
National Trust Heritage Festival application*

Saturday, 22 June 2019

HHS General Meeting
Speaker: Wal Walker
Topic: D’Arcy Wentworth

Saturday, 24 August 2019

HHS General Meeting
Speaker: Kath von Witt

Thursday, 24 October 2019

HHS Annual General Meeting
Speaker: Alex Pugh

**National Trust Heritage Festival 2019
event at Windsor**

INVITATION

A ‘Peek Into the Past’ Party

hosted by Hawkesbury Historical Society

Friday, 3 May 2019 -

5.30pm until 7.30pm



Entry – Howe House

Come and join us in Windsor with a 1820s splash for a **‘Peek Into the Past’** Party. Glimpse the fascinating past of the house of the colonial couple: Jane and John Howe, who were friends of the Macquaries: walk the old rooms, cellars and attics and hear the ghost stories and short talks by historians Dr Ian Jack and Jan Barkley-Jack, and Museum curator, Rebecca Turnbull.

Join us for free drinks and nibbles at Howe House, Windsor and investigate Hawkesbury history for yourself. See the land John Howe received from Governor Macquarie in 1811 in Thompson Square, the only eighteenth-century civic square remaining in Australia. Explore the house, which had its beginnings around the 1820s and was extensively rebuilt in the late 1830s, now exuding colonial atmosphere. It is steeped in the times in which John Howe lived as a successful district farmer from 1803, and survivor of the cultural violence on the NSW frontier. Also the Chief Constable, Howe was a favoured contractor of Governor Lachlan Macquarie in the upper Hawkesbury valley and an executor of Macquarie’s Will. Jane was a relative of explorer Hamilton Hume, and John led similarly successful expeditions as Hume to the Hunter River. The talks and tours will entertain, and introduce you to querulous Dr Bell, a one-time lessee, and also to the resident Hawkesbury ‘Australian’ newspaper. In its recent past archaeological excavations, added artefacts are on display, since Howe House is now part of the Hawkesbury Regional Museum.

Bookings to determine catering numbers for this FREE event:

HHS Secretary:

secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com or (02) 4578 2443

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

INVITE YOU TO

AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK LAUNCH

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 2019 2PM

HAWKESBURY REGIONAL MUSEUM - 8 BAKER ST, WINDSOR

Hawkesbury Historical Society

Free Event

RSVP's preferred by
19th March 2019

HHS Secretary

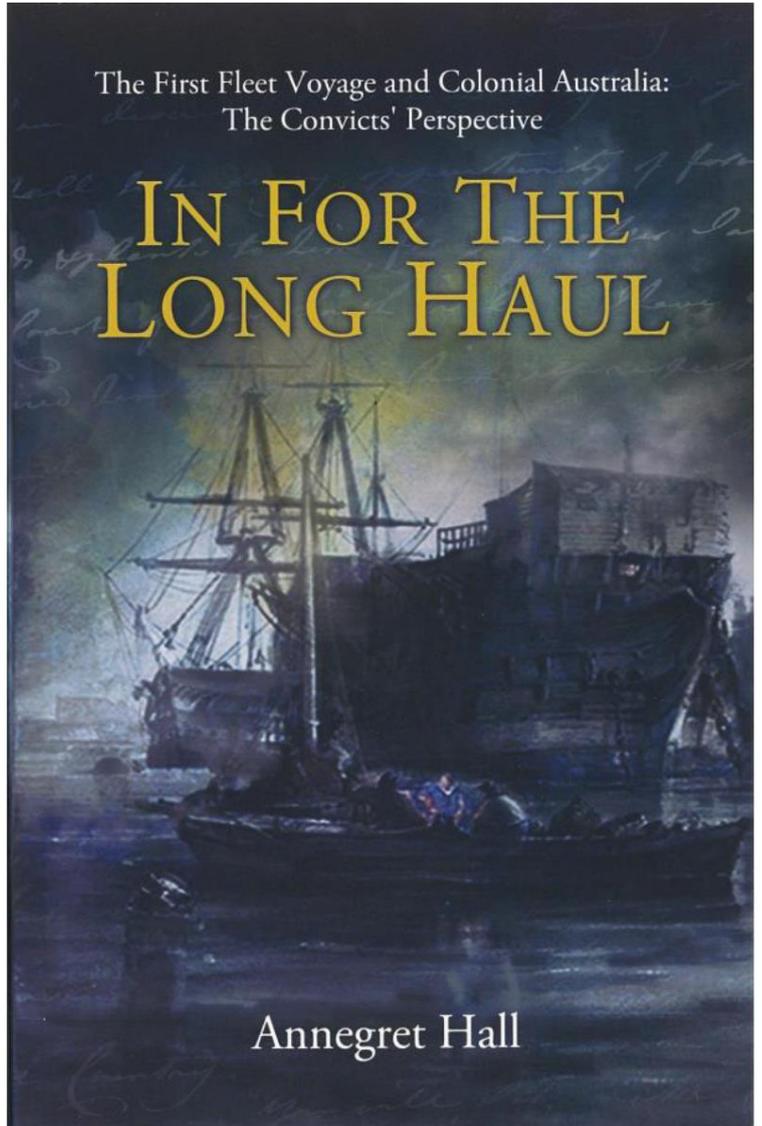
secretaryhawkesburyhistory@gmail.com

Or (02) 4578 2443

- 1.45pm: Meet at Museum
- 2.00pm: Welcome & author talk
- 2.50pm: Questions & answers
- 3.00pm: Book signing &
afternoon tea
- 3.30pm: Finish

The First Fleet Voyage and Colonial Australia:
The Convicts' Perspective

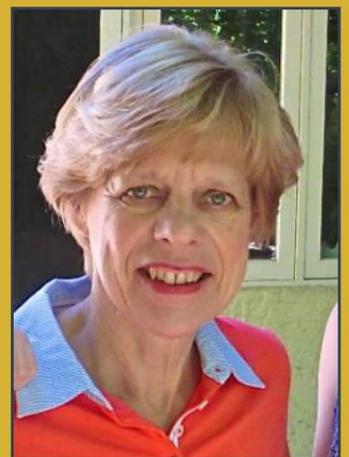
IN FOR THE LONG HAUL



Annegret Hall

Born in Germany, Annegret Hall married an Australian in 1992 and moved to Perth, where she worked in materials science at the University of WA, and as a quality assurance manager for a nanotechnology firm. She has co-authored a number of papers in scientific journals, including Nature.

Annegret has always been interested in early Australian history, and particularly in the stories of transported convicts. She believes their lives have not been properly portrayed thus far, and that First Fleet female behavior has been misrepresented. In writing her detailed and accurate account of the voyage and settlement, she draws only upon original source documents.



In Memoriam

Obituary for
Robert (Robbie, Bob) Lamb

Extracts from Bob's Eulogy,
written by Sharon Lamb, Craig Lamb and Michelle
Nealon, edited by Jan Barkley-Jack



Robert James Lamb was born on 30 October 1948 at Kogarah Hospital. The family lived at Mortdale and Bob became skilled in Fitting and Machining, working at Duly and Hansford Toolmakers, Marrickville and received his Mechanical Engineering Certificate in the early seventies. Bob loved working on anything that was mechanical and cars were his favourite. Bob married Sharon on 9 January 1970 and their marriage lasted almost 49 years, and despite both he and Sharon battling illness, initially the problems didn't stop the family packing up and travelling to remote gold fossicking

areas for just a couple of days, as one of Bob's loves was prospecting.

In 1985 diagnosis of the rare disease Hydrocephalus changed everything for the rest of Bob's life as he had to face seven more major brain surgeries up until 2016. From being a well-known and respected Design Engineer designing large sugar, coal and food conveyors and coal loaders, Bob lost the ability to visualise what he was drawing and could not function as he had. So his next job was with Blacktown Workers Club. As doorman he would have everyone around him happy and laughing. He was determined to make something positive out of something so negative.

In 2007, DNA genetic tests confirmed Bob's illness of Oculopharyngeal Muscular Dystrophy. To the family's knowledge Bob was the first person in Australia to be diagnosed with this illness, that took away his ability to eat, drink, talk and breathe without difficulty. When he lost his voice, Sharon became very good at lip reading. Bob and Sharon had fallen in love with the Hawkesbury area, particularly its peaceful and picturesque qualities along with the history of the area. Sharon was super-supportive and wonderful carer, and it didn't take long before, together, they had joined three historical societies and started the Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

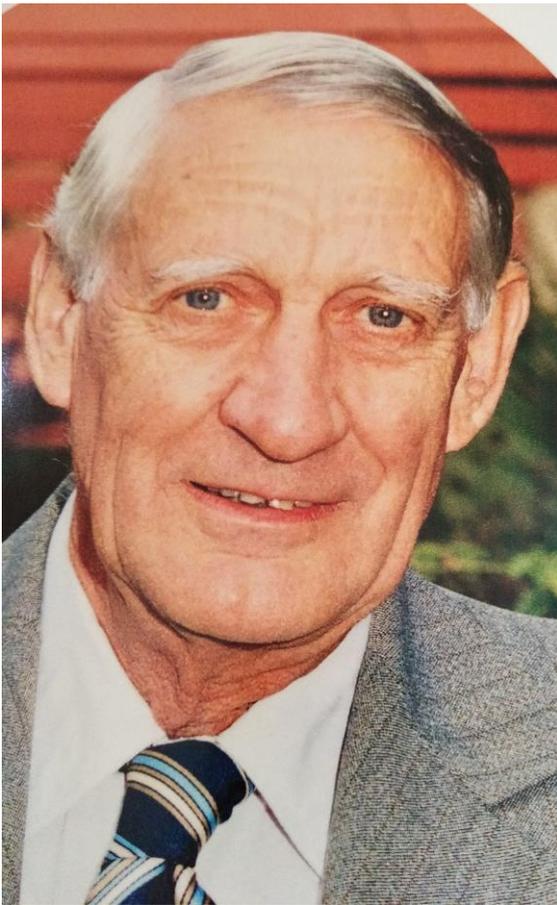
Bob kept his courage, strength, perseverance and bravery despite his condition worsening significantly, with Sharon's continued help and inclusion in all activities. The family says that Bob was a very happy go lucky type of gentleman; he loved telling jokes and he could remember them so well. He would make everyone laugh. Bob definitely made a mark in people's hearts.

We remember and thank Bob for his interest and support of all Hawkesbury Historical Society activities despite his profound illness. ■

In Memoriam

Obituary for **Ronald (Ron) Rozzoli**

by Jan Barkley-Jack
(with thanks to Frank Holland)



The recent death of Ron Rozzoli of Kurrajong, touched a great many in Hawkesbury, both personally and from his long association and deep involvement with district organisations including Richmond School of Arts and several historical societies, including our own.

The Rozzoli family moved to the district in 1940 and Ron became a skilled watchmaker and gemmologist. As the eldest of two brothers, he took over the family jewellery business in 1975, retiring in 1995. Ron Rozzoli was the Honorary Secretary of the Richmond School of Arts for 43 years from 1960 until 2003, and archivist of the group, holding membership of the Society for over 50 years. An early member of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society, Ron with his wife, Margaret, evinced a

deep interest in history, and Ron meticulously researched and wrote historical articles.

In 2010, Ron was a member of the Regional Historical Society group which worked diligently in reviewing a series of articles put together by the joint Societies for history and heritage in the district to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the start of Lachlan Macquarie's governorship of NSW. The local groups worked together to mark the occasion with weekly historical articles in the *Hawkesbury Gazette*, relating Macquarie's influence in this district over eleven years, co-ordinated by Hawkesbury Historical Society. Ron contributed four of the articles himself, describing the beginning of St Matthew's Anglican Church, Windsor in 1816, the establishment of the Bank of New South Wales, the first use of the word 'Australia' in our land and one entitled 'Trees, Prayers and Places of Worship' all relating to 1817.

One of the people who knew Ron well was Frank Holland, also a member of Kurrajong-Commleroy Historical Society. We thank Frank for allowing part of his Eulogy to be published below as a further tribute to Ron Rozzoli:

'My name is Frank Holland and it is a great honour for me to speak in memory of my friend and mentor Ron Rozzoli.

We met through our mutual involvement in the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society. My wife Valerie and I experienced a close friendship with Ron and Margaret over a period of 18 years.

Ron and Margaret were foundation members of the Historical Society not only in the historical activities but also in the effectiveness of the management of the Society. In this regard he brought his long experience as Secretary of the School of Arts. I recall my first meeting with Ron, it was at a time when the Historical Society was at an early crossroad and it looked as if it might fold. Ron's common sense approach and comments helped overcome that crisis. At that time my wife Valerie became the Secretary of the Society and Ron helped her adjust to a role in which she had had no experience. A year or

Tales of days gone by...

Compiled by Michelle Nichols

so later as President of the Society, Ron would share his wisdom and experience with me, so he helped both the President and the Secretary develop in their roles.

His input did not end there. Ron was always available to members of the Society who were working on various projects concerning the Hawkesbury area. I cannot recall any instance where he was not able to add meaningful dates, events, people interactions etc. that would enhance understanding. He was a treasure trove of information and had a prodigious memory. On the rare occasion his memory faltered he would turn to Margaret who would provide the missing piece of information. I think Margaret has absorbed a good deal of the knowledge that Ron carried with him.

Early in our relationship I became aware of the quality of Ron's handwriting. Being something of a scribbler myself I was left in awe of its beauty. It is a skill that has largely been forgotten. I am sure anyone who has seen his hand writing would remember it and be impressed. I think it was an example of his desire for perfection. Recently he showed me some of the hand drawn covers of early performances that he prepared for the Richmond Players, they are works of art. His love of his steam train and track was another example of his attention to detail and desire for perfection.

Ron had a keen sense of history, people and places and could keep you entertained for hours. He wrote articles for the Society newsletter and contributed others to the Gazette – one in print just a week or two ago. When Vera Bentveltzen wrote her book "Digger's Hill" the four of us took on the role of proof readers. However it was the keen eye of Ron and his personal knowledge of events and people that was able to identify most errors.

In 2010 Ron, with Margaret's help, wrote the script for a play based on the Diary of Lachlan Macquarie that was performed by the Richmond Players at the 200 year celebration dinner of the Governor's journey through the Kurrajong in 1810. Ron was also the producer and director. It was a wonderful night with NSW Governor Marie Bashir as the guest speaker.

In days gone by it was commonplace for people to record recollections on paper, sometimes in a letter, journal or diary. On occasions these reminiscences have found their way into an archive or repository, whilst others have been published in either newspapers or in a book. Reminiscences is the term used to describe remembering. Newspapers also frequently recorded memories of the past. In the Hawkesbury local newspapers published columns such as "Ups & Downs of an Old Richmondite" by Alfred Smith plus "When we were boys together" by J. C. L. Fitzpatrick. Keeping an account of daily activities is still done today, however not so often with pen and paper, but using new technology like PCs, making use of blogs and social networking sites or recording memories orally [recordings] or visually [photographs or video]. In the hectic pace and pressure of our modern world the majority of us do not record the personal views of sights and sounds around us, and not with future generations in mind.

Historical evidence can be useful to historians investigating the nature of life. A researcher will often have access to facts but not always the personal views. Locating a personal account allows the reader to step inside the history making it more realistic, and a true to life chronicle helps to put a story into perspective. A selection of some of these accounts follows.

During an extensive tour of the colony in 1810, Governor Macquarie kept a journal (which was published). He recorded he wanted to tour the Hawkesbury River to Portland Head. He set off Tuesday morning on 4th December 1810 between 5-6am with his wife, Mr & Mrs Cartwright, William Cox & others by boat. He wrote:

"We stopt [sic] at Govr. Bligh's Farm of Blighton, about six miles below the Green Hills on the Right Bank of the River, a very beautiful situation; and after walking about the grounds there for half an hour we proceeded on our Voyage down the River. ---At 8 o'clock we stopped at the New School-House recently erected by Subscription, on the left Bank of the River, a little below Caddy-Creek, but on the opposite side, where we had determined to Breakfast, which was accordingly prepared with all convenient haste within the New School-House, which is prettily situated on the Bank of the River. ---Here Doctor Arndell came to pay us a visit from his Farm on Caddy Creek on the opposite side of the River, and Breakfasted with us. ---After Breakfast we embarked again and prosecuted our voyage down the River, the Banks of which begin here to be very high and Rocky in most places. ---The Farms on both Banks, especially those on the Left Bank, are rich and well cultivated, and make a pretty appearance from the water, being generally

Our condolences and love we give to Margaret and family.' ■

interspersed with extensive Orchards of Peaches and other Fruits."¹

Robert Coffi, an American seaman, kept a record of his adventures in the mid 1850s. He arrived in Sydney in 1855 and took a position with settler Charles Ivory who lived on the Colo. His observations of the Colo Valley are included in the book which was published in 1941.

"The inhabitants of Colo Valley had their produce carried off and their wants supplied by old Ned Shaw, who navigated a little sloop down the Colo River, Broken Bay, and around into Port Jackson. Ivory [sic] lived in a slab hut with a stone fireplace. He set at work and built a hut for me, and then I did my own cooking, he finding the materials. I did the plowing, but it was like learning over again. The plow was wrought steel point, and with very long handles set low so that the least turn threw the plow out of the ground; besides I was a long distance from my team. But I soon got used to it. The tool that bothered me most was the long narrow-bitted English axe, but I found that the exceedingly hard wood growing here needs a narrow bit."

The isolation of the Colo in the 1850s is obvious when he relates about how a settler was fatally injured.

*"A settler in the Curry Jung came into our valley to hunt wallabies with a neighbour. They were out on a ledge of rocks on top of the range, looking down at their dogs coursing the lower ledge, their gun butts resting on the ledge and holding by the muzzle. The visitor's gun slipped through his hand the hammer struck the rock, exploding the charge, driving pieces of his thick coat, its lining, his trousers, the wads, and sixty shot into his thigh, just above the femur. It was forty-eight hours before the doctor reached him, and in that hot climate gangrene sets in rapidly, and in that time and place antiseptics were unknown...he wanted to be carried on a stretcher by hand twelve miles over the mountains, that he could die in his own home."*²

In 1867, the Hawkesbury district was overwhelmed with the greatest flood on record. Rev. J. Watkins was concerned after reading about families being swept away particularly as his children resided in Windsor. On Saturday 29th June he travelled with great difficulty, to Windsor. He recorded:

"The damage done is great, and if the flood had continued to increase it would have covered Windsor completely in a few hours; the loss of life has not been so great as perhaps was expected but all is not known yet. Found the people more cheerful than I expected. There is widespread movement to relieve the destitution. Too much food sent up ... but better than too little! Our daughter's house was an asylum, our son's was inundated by the meeting waters, and he, his young wife, and their infant child had to flee in the night, and

*there were scores of like cases. Many were in great peril, and some of them for many hours. Many houses were swept away; at least, they did duty for houses; people lived in them or herded in them. Poor people. Some of them are not much ... perhaps by losing all they had; but it was their all...*³

Joseph Harpur wrote several perceptive memorandums in Windsor's, St. Matthews Church of England registers. One of these relates to the depositing of a coin under the foundation stone of the church on Saturday the 11th October 1817.

*"A little after sunset...the Corner stone of St Matthews Church was laid, by Governor Macquarie and after depositing the Rim of a Spanish Dollar...His Excellency in a very impressive tone of voice said, 'God prosper St Matthews Church' gently struck the stone three times with a Masons mallet; the same ceremony was performed severally by the whole of the Gentlemen which accompanied His Excellency from the Government house to the Spot - through - In disposition, owing it was said, to the unusual heat of the Weather at this time of year, the Resident Chaplain Rev'd Robt Cartwright was not present."*⁴

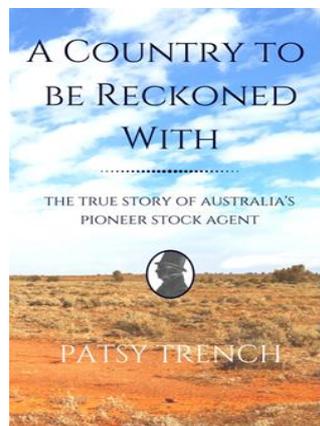
Additional information followed about the stone being moved and the stolen money being replaced.

One wonders what these 19th century writers would think about their accounts being used to illustrate the Hawkesbury's local history in the 21st century.

Have you left any historical evidence which may be useful to historians investigating life in the 20th and 21st centuries and placed it in an appropriate repository for safekeeping?



Feedback from the Society's Book Launch held Saturday 24th November 2018



Patsy Trench travelled from London to launch her new book, the second book in the series on the Pitt Family.

¹ *Journal of a Tour of Governor Macquarie's first Inspection of the Interior of the Colony, Commencing on Tuesday, the 6th of Novr. 1810* from <http://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/journeys/1810/1810.html> [viewed 16.1.2010]

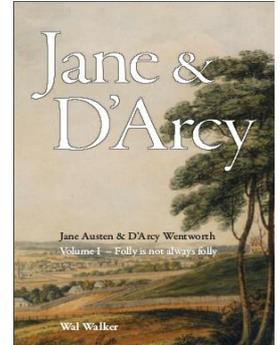
² *The last of the Logan: the true adventures of Robert Coffin, mariner, in the years 1854-1859* (NY: Cornell Uni. Press, 1941)

³ *Reverend J. Watkins Journal* p. 262 (Mitchell Library, Reel CY189)

⁴ St. Matthews Church of England registers Windsor

Jane & Darcy *Folly is not always Folly*

Jane & D'Arcy is the history of Jane Austen and D'Arcy Wentworth, a young Irish surgeon. *Folly is not always Folly* tells the story of their first meeting, family connections, their romance and adventures, and their separation, on the eve of D'Arcy's departure for New South Wales.



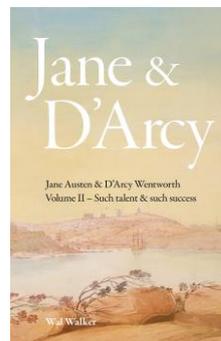
D'Arcy remained the love of Jane's life, the fixed star in her firmament.

Their romance, kept secret by her family, provided the inspiration for much of her writing.

Folly follows Jane from the Steventon Rectory to Bath, then Southampton, and D'Arcy from Ireland to London, then to Sydney and Norfolk Island.

Wal Walker, the author of *Jane & D'Arcy*, is a grandson of D'Arcy Wentworth's great grandson. He has written his family's untold story of D'Arcy and Jane Austen.

Such Talent & Such Success



The second volume of *Jane & D'Arcy*, takes up their story in 1806. Jane is in Southampton awaiting D'Arcy's return. D'Arcy is in New South Wales, confident the new governor William Bligh, will bring permission for him to return to England, to be reunited with Jane.

Such Talent tells the story of their rapidly changing fortunes which followed. In 1809, Jane returned to

Hampshire, and there, between 1810 and 1815, she completed six remarkable novels, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, the most beloved, most widely read and enduring of novels in English.

In 1810, D'Arcy became the *great assistant* to Lachlan Macquarie, Bligh's successor. He helped Macquarie to transform the Colony, and he championed the cause of the former convicts, the emancipists. D'Arcy led the campaign for their rights and recognition, though he did not live to see it come to fruition. He died in July 1827, ten years after Jane.

His eldest son, William Charles, continued the fight for the emancipists, and for more than thirty five years, for the right of New South Wales to govern itself and make its own laws independent of Britain. Known as the *Liberator*, he was the father of Australia's Constitution.

For more information about *Jane & D'Arcy*: janeanddarcy.com

HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OR THE AUTHENTICITY OF ARTICLES OR ANY STATEMENTS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER



"How I enjoyed this book launch and meeting the author! And what an interesting person is Patsy Trench. Her mother is an Australian who moved to England to further her acting career. Patsy did that in reverse. She was born in England and in her early twenties moved to Australia to further her acting career. Later Patsy returned to England where she had a varied life as an actress, scriptwriter, script editor, play scout and a teacher of theatre.

When Patsy found that she had an ancestor who dated back to the early days in the Hawkesbury she just had to do the research and write the book. At the book launch Patsy apologised for being a pom and writing about Australian history. But her research is extensive and her book is easy to read. When reading the book I especially enjoyed the way Patsy would suddenly break away from the narrative and talk to you, the reader." [Ted Brill]



Heather Gillard with Patsy Trench

It was a good day yesterday - we sold all Patsy's 1st book and 18 of her 2nd book, leaving only 2 in stock. Arthur Cooper said he counted 35. The room was full - only a few chairs at the front were vacant. Patsy was a very interesting lady who told a lot of stories and the audience participation was "super". Almost everyone had a relative that she spoke about. Q & A was a mighty long time as she took time to explain her response to all. [Heather Gillard]

