



2013 Annual Report

**FRIENDS
OF THE
LAPEROUSE
MUSEUM
INC**



17/11/2013



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the 'Friends of the Laperouse Museum Inc.' will be held at the Laperouse Museum and Visitors Centre, on

Sunday, 17th November, 2013 at 11.00 am
(Registration and Morning Tea from 10.30 am)

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies / Proxies**
3. **Confirmation of Minutes of the previous AGM of 18th November, 2012**
4. **Business arising from the minutes of the previous AGM**
5. **President's Report**
6. **Treasurer's Report / Adoption of the Financial Statements**
7. **Secretary's Report**
8. **Election of the Committee**
9. **General Business**
10. **Date of next Committee Meeting**
11. **Close of Meeting**
12. **Address by the Hon. Don Harwin MLC,
President of the NSW Legislative Council**

Following the meeting –you are invited to stay for a light lunch and refreshments



FRIENDS OF THE LAPEROUSE MUSEUM INC.

2013 Annual Report

It is our pleasure to present this Annual Report of the Friends of the Laperouse Museum Inc. on behalf of the Committee;

Patrons

This past year the Friends were fortunate to have the active support of our Patrons:

- The Hon Don Harwin MLC; President of the New South Wales Legislative Council
- The Hon Michael Daley MP; Member for the State Seat of Maroubra
- Senator the Hon Bob Carr;
- The Mayor of the City of Randwick; His Worship Councillor Tony Bowen
- The Consul-General of France; Mr Eric Berti

We are also pleased that the newly elected member for the federal seat of Kingsford-Smith, Mr Matt Thistlethwaite, has accepted our invitation to become a Patron of the Friends.

The Executive Committee

The last Annual General Meeting, held on the 18th November 2012 elected the following persons, to the Executive Committee:

President: Dr William Land AM

Vice-President: Mr Charles Abela

Hon. Secretary: Mr Tony Gentile

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Greg bond

Committee Members: Prof. Margaret Sankey; Mrs Carole Roussel; Mrs Lucy Clothier; Mrs Lily Bond; Ms Lynda Newnam; Ms Nicole Forrest Green; Ms Colette Levy-Perignon; Dr Peter Orlovich; Mr Theo Arfaras; Mr Doug Smith; Mr Cam Dezarnaulds.

The Committee met for a total of ten times in the past year.

Communications

Given the all volunteers nature of The Friends, the primary communication with members and the community has been through the untiring effort of our Committee Member, Lynda Newman, in managing and continually updating our website. Also, Lynda together with our Secretary Tony Gentile, have worked assiduously at developing and promoting with no cost our FaceBook page.

Occasionally we have also been successful in having our activities reported in the local media, SBS radio & TV as well as specialised French newsletter "*Le Petit Journal*".

Events

We are proud to report that the Friends have either organised or participated in the following events:

- Père Receveur Commemoration Mass



Section of attendees at the 2013 Mass

The annual Mass hosted by the Malabar Parish was held on Sunday 17 February. As in past years, The Friends provided official support to Randwick City Council for the event, provided the PA system and refreshments, as well as staffing an information table. The Mass was well attended by over 200 people.

- Ambassador Romatet's Visit to Museum

A reception was held at The Museum for The Ambassador of France, His Excellency Mr Stéphane Romatet on 29th of February.

The Consul-General kindly sponsored the event and the French North African Veterans Association provided the catering.

- **Lapérouse Day – 22nd March**

Randwick City Council sponsored this year's Lapérouse Day on the 22nd March. This function also marked the 25th anniversary of the Museum.

- **Heritage Week**

The Annual Heritage Festival Walk and Morning Tea were held from 10am -12noon on the 21st April.

- **Visit by Mr Bernard Jimenez**

The Committee hosted to lunch, Mr Bernard Jimenez, Asst. Secretary of the Lapérouse Association of Albi and Mrs. Francoise Jimenez on May 8. The function was also attended by the French Consul General Mr Eric Berti and Mrs. Berti.

Mr Jimenez gave the Museum a number of prints that are currently on exhibition at the Albi Museum as well as providing permission for the reprint of a booklet on Lapérouse.

- **Tree Stump**

On the 27th June we were proud to finally unveil the bronze replica of the Engraved Tree Stump that once marked the

grave of Père Receveur. The unveiling was performed by Randwick City Mayor Tony Bowen and blessed by Father Laurie of the Malabar Parish.

The Parish includes the suburb of La Perouse. In attendance was also the French Consul-General Mr Eric Berti as well as a number of other Councilors and local leaders.

The bronze replica of the Tree Stump was made in France with the sponsorship of Randwick City Council and shipped to Australia by the French Embassy at no cost to The Friends.

- **Bastille Day – 14 July**



This event organised and hosted by the French Consul-General Mr Eric Berti, with the sponsorship of Randwick City Council through the Friends, was no doubt the highlight of the year.

Military re-enactment specialists, wearing the uniforms of French soldiers of the Napoleonic era, complete with cannons and muskets, as well as a fine operatic singer who provided renditions of the 'Marseillaise' and 'Advance Australia Fair', were a highlight of the day. A wonderful reception on the grounds followed.

- History Week - Lecture by Prof. Richard White

A lecture by Professor Richard White on Explorers, Monuments & Tourists at the Museum –was held on Sunday 8th of September.

The talk was well attended and appreciated by the attendees who suggested a regular series of lectures would be welcomed.

- "Vendemiaire" Ceremony & Function



On October 7th, two events were held in conjunction with the visit to Sydney of the French frigate “*Vendémiaire*”.

The first, organised by the French Consul-General, was held at the monument where a wreath laying ceremony with a French naval detachment, French cadets from the Military Academy of Saint Cyr in full-dress uniforms and “Napoleonic” soldiers, again complete cannons & muskets all adding colour and drama to the occasion.

An opera singer gave splendid renditions of the ‘Marseillaise’ and ‘Advance Australia Fair’.

Following the ceremony the Friends hosted a reception within the Museum sponsored by the French Consul General.

We were pleased and honoured to be joined for both functions by the Deputy Mayor of Randwick, Councillor Anthony Andrews, the immediate past Deputy Mayor of Randwick Councillor, Noel D’Souza, and the newly elected member for the federal seat of Kingsford-Smith, the Hon Matt Thistlethwaite.

At the reception, The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite was invited to become a Patron of the Friends, an invitation he readily accepted. He was presented with a set of Museum cuff links and a Museum key ring.

Professor Ivan Barko mounted a fascinating display of plaques or tompions (French: *tapes de bouche*), presented by visiting French warships, from the Museum’s impressive collection. Professor Barko also produced a booklet on the items on show.

Randwick City Council

Negotiations between Randwick City Council (RCC) and the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) progressed with Council resolving to proceed with the leasing from NPWS of the area and buildings contained within the loop on the headland at La Perouse.

RCC has moved to establish a La Perouse Museum Trust which will manage the area. Members of the Trust, which will be chaired by The Mayor or his representative will include:

- A representative of the Friends of the Laperouse Museum Inc.
- Three Councillors
- A representative of the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council
- A representative of the National Parks and Wildlife Service
- A representative of the French Consul-General
- A Community representative with heritage expertise to be appointed and remunerated by Council.

Exhibits / Artefacts - Museum Items Record Keeping Project

The Friends have been keen participant in a project to catalogue all exhibits and artefacts in the Museum. The group has been led by Museum Curator Elizabeth Broomhead. Professor Margaret Sankey, Professor Ivan Barko, Mrs Carole Roussel, Mrs Gail Tring and Mr Charles Abela have all taken part in the project.

Dr William Land AM

President

The printing of this Annual Report of The Friends of the Laperouse Museum Inc. was kindly sponsored by PJG Solicitors, honorary legal advisers to The Friends.

PJG Solicitors

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