

FRIENDS OF THE LAPEROUSE MUSEUM INC



The original entry to the Lapérouse Museum 1988

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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*

Saturday, 21st November, 2015 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**
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. **The Second Annual Pierre Roussel Memorial Lecture**
"France and Australia in the 21st Century"
By His Excellency Ambassador Christophe Le Courtier.

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



FRIENDS OF THE LAPEROUSE MUSEUM INC.

2015 Annual Report

It is the Committee's pleasure to present this Annual Report of the Friends of the Laperouse Museum Inc.

President's Report

I have the honour to present this, my last report as President of the "Friends of the Laperouse Museum Inc.". I have enjoyed my time as President but, after six years, I think it is time to move on.

This has been again a momentous year for the 'Friends', one that has seen a number of important events, but which has also left some unfinished business, notably the transfer of the management of the Museum to Randwick City Council.

We are most fortunate to have been given a reproduction of one of the key pieces leading to the resolution of the puzzle of the Lap erouse Expedition. You will remember it was the finding of a sword hilt at Tikopia, one of the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomons group, by the Irish sea-captain Peter Dillon, which eventually led to the finding of the wrecks of Lap erouse's ships on the neighbouring island of Vanikoro. Our close and friendly relations with the Association Lap erouse of Albi, who had a reproduction of the sword hilt made for display in the Lap erouse Museum in Albi, led to an offer – gratefully accepted! – of an extra specimen being made for us.

This sword hilt (a civilian type, probably belonging to one of the scientists because, being made of silver, it was expensive) was produced in maillechort, a type of nickel-silver alloy, which is tarnish-resistant. This is a material that is commonly used to reproduce maritime objects made of silver, darkening less in air, by a foundry in the Brest region which is used to reproducing naval objects. The two parts, which belong to the same sword, can be shown together (a joining screw was provided) or separately, as is the case in the Musée de la Marine. Following an ageing treatment, it is difficult to distinguish the reproduction from the original, which is in the Musée de la Marine in Brest, without a chemical testing.

Our relations with the French diplomatic establishment continue to be warm and mutually productive. Monsieur Éric Berti has moved to Hong Kong, an important promotion. While not a true embassy, the Hong Kong post is one of three 'super' Consulates-General – the others are Quebec and Jerusalem – whose incumbents attend the annual ambassadorial conference in Paris. I have had several email exchanges with Éric who is finding Hong Kong exciting, busy – he also looks after Macau – and very interesting. Madeleine has just joined him.

The new Consul Général de France is Monsieur Nicolas Croizer. Nicolas's first diplomatic appointment was to Brazil, and he has also served in Vancouver and London. He is house-hunting at the moment. He is an extremely pleasant young – he is younger than my son! – and I am sure will do very well in Sydney.

The Ambassadeur de France en Australie, Monsieur Christophe Lecourtier, continues to lend considerable support to the endeavours of the 'Friends'. Christophe is particularly interested in Franco-Australian relations, not only commercial, but also cultural. He is involved in the current Legacy 'Pozières

2016' project, whereby 100 young Australians are to be sent to France to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Pozières in which over 5,500 Australians lost their lives.

In closing, I wish to thank most sincerely the members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication. I would particularly like to thank Tony Gentile, our Secretary, for his constant hard work, deep thought, and dedication; being Secretary is often a thankless job, but Tony's enthusiasm has not faltered.

Finally, I wish my replacement as President 'all the best' and I intend to remain on the Committee to help in the transition.

(Dr) William LAND AM

Patrons

This past financial 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 Matt Thistlethwaite MP; Member for Kingsford-Smith*
- *The Hon Michael Daley MP; Member for Maroubra*
- *The Mayor of the City of Randwick; Councillor Scott Nash (to 30/9/14) Councillor Ted Seng (from 1/10/14). We welcome new Mayor Councillor Noel D'Souza.*
- *The Consul-General of France; Mr Eric Berti. We welcome new Consul General Mr Nicolas Croizer*
- *The Hon Bob Carr*

The Executive Committee

The last Annual General Meeting, held on the 29th November 2014 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: Mrs Carol Abela; Mrs Lily Bond; Ms Priscilla Bonham-Carter; Mr Cam Dezarnaulds; Ms Nicole Forrest Green; Mr Ted Hayes; Ms Lynda Newnam; Dr Peter Orlovich; Prof Margaret Sankey; Mrs Carole Roussel; Mr Doug Smith.

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

Communications

The primary communication with members and the community has been through the untiring effort of our Committee Member, Lynda Newnam, who manages and continually updates both our website and Facebook page.

Occasionally we have also been successful in having our activities reported in the local media, as well as French community newsletter “Le Petit Journal”.

Website and Facebook.

Laperousemuseum.org – continues to attract visitors. There are now 72 pages up from 54 and 86 posts up from 76.

Over the past year there have been over 5,500 visitors viewing over 13,000 pages. Since 2007 there have been a total of 35,742 page views.

Inquiries which come via the Contact page are answered promptly. Facebook page [www.laperousemuseum.org] has a following of 185, 30 up since last year.

Facebook Growth in views since 2007:



Stats for 2015

Posts & Pages

Title	Views
Home page / Archives	3,517
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky	240
Museum Collection	237
Contact	224
Receveur Mass 2015	214
La Glorieuse	214
Reece Discombe	208
1787 Massacre at Tutuila	196
Laperouse's last documents	169
Lapérouse Day celebrated with la:	164

[View All](#)

Countries



Country	Views
Australia	5,520
France	1,312
United States	994
Brazil	173

Months and Years

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2007										112	61	2	175
2008	5	0	18	3	0	78	18	20	7	6	24	24	203
2009	8	13	15	12	42	35	8	5	25	28	0	4	195
2010	3	36	9	12	2	3	58	5	23	14	14	12	191
2011	24	130	134	120	36	60	66	100	58	51	45	51	875
2012	59	158	191	312	169	127	558	886	428	458	536	397	4,279
2013	364	662	528	508	632	427	1,032	634	481	1,264	564	623	7,719
2014	876	982	1,698	908	1,264	1,174	1,215	864	737	1,149	721	922	12,510
2015	990	1,802	1,397	925	1,081	928	1,381	970	120				9,594

Events

2014 Annual General Meeting

The 2014 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 29th November was addressed by Mr Matt Thistlethwaite MP; Federal Member for the seat of Kingsford-Smith and Patron of the Friends.



Mr Thistlethwaite delivered the Inaugural Pierre Roussel Memorial Lecture 'France and Australia- the La Perouse Legacy' a copy of the lecture is available on the Friends website: www.laperousemuseum.org.

The Committee hosted a light lunch with refreshments following the address.

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

Visit of “La Glorieuse”

The Friends with the assistance of the Consul-General Mr Eric Berti were pleased to welcome the Captain and crew of “La Glorieuse” on Saturday 14 February.

A ceremony was held at the Laperouse memorial followed by a complimentary reception for members and crew in the Museum.



2015 Père Receveur Commemoration Mass



The annual Mass hosted by the Malabar Parish was held on Sunday 15 February and was attended by over 200 worshippers.

The Mass commemorates the death at La Perouse of Pere Receveur, it also reminds us of the historical importance of the first Catholic Mass celebrated on the Australian mainland and the first Catholic burial ceremony following Pere Receveur's death. As in past years, The Friends provided official support to Randwick City Council for the event, use of the PA system provision of refreshments, as well as staffing an information table.

Our thanks to Carol Abela, Ted Hayes, Gail Tring and Betty de la Torre for their assistance on the day.

RAHS Visit to the Lap rouse Museum

On March 11 The Friends hosted a visit and tour of the Lap rouse Museum and Headland by the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS). The tour was led by our Hon. Treasurer Greg Bond, an experienced tour guide with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the Museum, the history of Lap rouse’s visit to Botany Bay and of the local history.

Appropriately titled “One small place – One huge History” the visit proved a great success and helped cement the good relation between the Friends and the RAHS.



RAHS members on the Headland being addressed by Greg Bond

Lapérouse Day – 13th March

Randwick City Council's La Perouse Museum & Headland Trust and the Friends jointly hosted this year's Lapérouse Day on Friday March 13th. The function was fully sponsored by the Trust. All financial members of The Friends were invited as guests of the Council with over 100 persons attending. The function was addressed by His Worship Councillor Ted Seng, Mayor of Randwick.

The Hon Stephen Loosely, Director of French company Thalès and a former Senator, launched the booklet sponsored by his company and titled "Lapérouse Sailing through the Enlightenment". The publication of the booklet was originally published by the Lapérouse Association of Albi France who kindly made it available to the Friends for printing in Australia.

Visit to Noumea

In May, Hon Treasurer Greg Bond visited the Musee Maritime de Nouvelle Calédonie where he met with Valerie Vattier, Director of the Museum. The visit enabled a review the museum's Laperouse Expedition and the many hundreds of objects recovered from the Laperouse Wrecks at Vanikoro. The visit further strengthened the friendship and relations between our two museums.



Greg bond and Valerie Vatter

Eric & Madeleine Berti Farewell

The Friends officially farewelled Consul-General Eric Berti and his wife Madeleine at a function held at Danny's Seafood Restaurant at La Perouse on Monday 22 June. The function was attended by over 30 members as well as the Mayor of Randwick City Councillor Ted Seng.

Entertainment on the evening was provided by the beautiful Rebecca Hart who sang "Plaisir D'Amour" a favourite of Madeleine Berti. Farewell gifts were presented to Eric and Madeleine by Friends' President Dr Land; Mayor Ted Seng and Charles Abela on behalf of the La Perouse Precinct Committee.

Bastille Day – 14 July



Ceremony at the Monument

Bastille Day this year was hosted by Randwick Council's La Perouse Museum & Headland Trust in conjunction with The Friends. All financial members of the Friends were invited to attend the function.

Over 250 persons attended the ceremony at the Laperouse Monument where the Coast Seniors Centre Choir gave splendid renditions of both the French and Australian national anthems.

The function was addressed by his Worship the Mayor of Randwick Councillor Ted Seng and Mr Eric Berti Consul-General of France.

We were also delightfully entertained by Ms Rebecca Hart.



La Brigade Française

Lecture by the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP



The Honourable Mark Speakman, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, delivered a lecture on the 29th July titled: “The wisdom of Lapérouse – a navigator of exception”.

The lecture was organised free of charge by the Committee who also provided refreshments after the event.

It was attended by just over 100 persons filling the Instrument Room of the Museum to capacity.

*The lecture can be downloaded from the Friends website
<https://laperousemuseum.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/mark-speakman-speech-29-july-2015-la-perouse.docx>*

Lapérouse Day in Canberra

On Saturday August 1, Canberra's Alliance Française organised a commemorative celebration of Lapérouse's Expedition departure from Brest France on this date in 1785. A group of Friends travelled to Canberra to support and participate in this event.

Committee member Carole Roussel and Hon. Treasurer Greg Bond both spoke. The event also featured the reading by Ian Baillieu and students of his poem titled "Enigma Variations". Carole gave a brief history of the Museum, its genesis, aims and realisation. Greg spoke about the Lapérouse Expedition story, its voyage through the Pacific and its many achievements.



Carole Roussel, Greg Bond, Ian Baillieu with other speakers and students at Canberra's Alliance Française.

The La Perouse Museum & Headland Trust

The La Perouse Museum & Headland Trust was formed in December 2013 to provide advice to Randwick City Council for the management of the Museum and the La Perouse headland.

Tony Gentile represents The Friends. Other members of the Trust are:

- *The Mayor of Randwick City Council*
- *Three Randwick City Councillors*
- *Ms Marcia Ella-Duncan representing the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council*
- *Mr Peter Hay representing National Parks and Wildlife Service*
- *The French Consul-General (with Ms Nicole Forrest Green as his alternative) and*
- *Mrs Petula Samios as the Community Representative with heritage expertise.*

This last position is appointed by Council and is the sole remunerated representative.

Aside from the sponsoring of functions at the Museum, the bureaucratic progress continuous to be slow as the legal process necessary to sign over a lease of the Museum and the headland to Randwick Council have not as yet been finalised. This is promised to occur in the second half of 2015.

Exhibits

The Friends were extremely appreciative of the gift from the Lapérouse Society in Albi, of the exact replica of the Sword Hilt that led to the finding of the wrecks in Vanikoro.

The gift has been valued at approximately \$1000.00 and will be displayed as soon as suitable arrangements can be made.

More information can be found on our website at <http://laperousemuseum.org/museum/treasures-of-the-collection/robert-de-lamanons-sword-hilt/>

Dr William Land AM



The Patrons, the Committee and all members of the Friends wish to express our thanks for six years of unequalled service by Dr Land as President of The Friends of the Lapérouse Museum Inc.

TREASURERS REPORT

FRIENDS OF LAPEROUSE MUSEUM Inc.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2015

RECEIPTS

Membership Subscriptions:	\$ 2070.00
Interest on investment account:	\$ 642.47
French Government Funding:	\$ 7012.62
Event Receipts:	\$ 1400.00
Donations:	\$ 178.00
Sales:	\$ 227.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$ 11,530.09
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PAYMENTS

Event Expenses:	\$ 1465.93
Admin - Stationery Postage & Printing:	\$ 414.52
Rental - Post box:	\$ 115.00
Domain Name:	\$ 26.00
NSW Fair Trading:	\$ 53.00
Insurance: 2015 – 2016	\$ 467.50
Membership: RAHS	\$ 119.00
History Council	\$ 100.00
Wreaths – Bastille Day 2015	\$ 160.00
Tables, folding x 2:	\$ 75.60
Office Equipment: Laptop, Laminator.	\$ 533.94
FOLM Logo Panel (for lectern):	\$ 198.00
Presentation Gifts:	\$131.94

TOTAL PAYMENTS:	\$ 3860.43
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 7669.66

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2015

CASH ASSETS

NAB Community Fee Saver Account	\$ 2,789.39
NAB Investment Account	\$ 18,000.00
NAB Community Fee Saver - Education	\$ 7012.62
Total Cash Assets	\$ 27,802.01

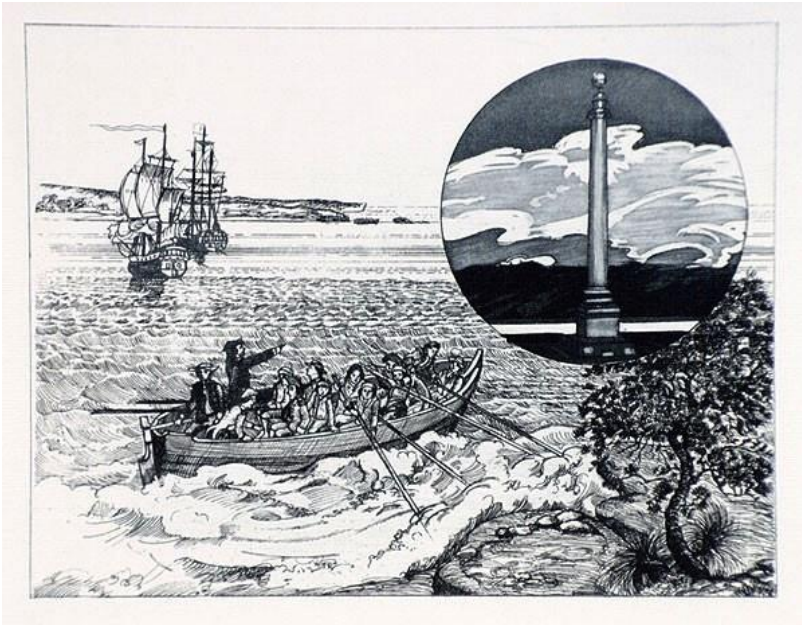
OTHER ASSETS

Pamela Griffith Prints, 100 small, @ \$120	\$ 12,000.00
46 large @ \$140	\$ 6,440.00
Audio System	\$ 300.00
Portable Sound System	\$ 128.00
Projector & screen set	\$ 300.00
Asus Pentium 4 Laptop & software	\$ 516.00
Lowell A4 Laminator	\$ 118.00
DVDs, "Laperouse" – 35 @ \$10	\$ 350.00
Books, "Where fate beckons Laperouse" - 1 @\$10	\$ 10.00
Key rings - 610 @ \$0.50	\$ 305.00
Objects:	
Altar Stone Replica	\$ 2,700.00
Tree Trunk Replica	\$ 7,200.00
Sword Hilt Replica	\$ 1000.00
Boussole Model	\$ 3,400.00
Cable Station Painting	\$ 800.00
Beautemp Engraving	\$ 775.00
Total other assets	\$ 36,342.00

TOTAL ALL ASSETS	\$64,144.01
LIABILITIES	\$ NIL
MEMBERS EQUITY	\$64,144.01

FOR SALE

LIMITED EDITION PRINTS OF ETCHINGS (numbered) by [Pamela Griffith](#)



Monument to French Navigators

Edition of 300 Platemark 28cm x 22cm one of three etchings commissioned by the Laperouse Association for the Australian Bicentenary to mark the opening on the Museum on 23rd February 1988.

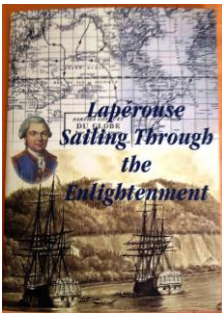
Unframed – members \$100 non-members \$150 framed: members \$250 non-members \$300



Botany Bay 1788

39.8 x 60.7 cm (plate-mark) Edition of 150 unframed: members \$175 non-members \$225; framed: members \$320 non-members \$ 375

Booklet



The publication of this brochure was made possible by

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FRENCH-AUSTRALIAN MARITIME HISTORY

Laperouse Sailing through the Enlightenment, by [Anne Pons](#),

Ed: Nicole Forrest Green. Members \$10 non-members \$15

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