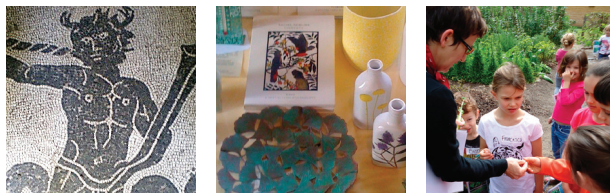


vaucluse house news

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUCLUSE HOUSE, CENTENARY EDITION | Spring 2011

In this issue: centenary celebrations | object in focus | retail
upcoming events | tearooms



Vaucluse House is a property of the
HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST



SPECIAL EVENT

**CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS,
SUNDAY 21 AUGUST 2011**

Today we expect the foreshores of Sydney Harbour to be publicly owned and accessible to all. However, in the early 1900s much of the south side of the harbour was in private hands, having been granted to individual citizens in the colony's early days. As the result of a decade of intense lobbying by the Sydney Harbor [sic] Foreshores Vigilance Committee for the return of the foreshores to the public, the New South Wales Government acquired Vaucluse House and dedicated the remnant estate (9.264 ha) and beachfront as public parkland on 21 August 1911. The creation of Vaucluse Park and nearby Nielsen Park and beach was linked to the subdivision of the former Wentworth estate to become one of Sydney's great 'Federation' suburbs.

The anniversary of the government's acquisition of Vaucluse House has resonance for Sydney today, given contemporary debate about how we manage the Sydney Harbour foreshores and public access; the proposed development at Barangaroo is a case in point.

Join us as we open Vaucluse House free of charge and offer free talks and an exhibition of past Edwardian views of the property. The soft-furnishings group will be at work in the colonial kitchen. Show your support for the Smith Family by enjoying the centenary sausage sizzle. You can also visit the Wentworth Mausoleum on Chapel Rd, Vaucluse (see right), open in honour of the centenary event.

Please note: The Vaucluse House Centenary breakfast on the lone pine lawn is sold out.

OBJECT OF THE SEASON

MOSAIC IN THE VAUCLUSE MAUSOLEUM

For many years the 'faux' mosaic tiles throughout Vaucluse House have been poetically described as 'Pompeian', but in fact there is actually a Roman mosaic nearby. It forms the threshold of the Wentworth family mausoleum (built 1873–4).

The mosaic is in black and white tesserae, a style popular in Italy throughout the 1st to 3rd centuries during Roman times. It depicts the mythological Greek god Triton, with twin fishtails in place of legs, blowing his shell trumpet to calm the oceans. The scene, popular in Roman baths such as at Herculaneum, seems to have been cut from a larger panel.

But why is Triton in the mausoleum? Triton was the son of the Greek god Poseidon (Neptune to the Romans), the classical god of the sea. 'Neptune' was also the name of the Second Fleet ship that brought William Charles Wentworth's father D'Arcy to the colony, and on board which he met Catherine Crowley. The presence of Triton seems then to be a reference to Wentworth's birth. The mosaic was possibly acquired by the family during their Grand Tour (1853–60), or it may even be a rather good copy produced for the discerning tourist! You can see it through the grille of the Wentworth mausoleum on Chapel Rd, Vaucluse.

The Mausoleum, Chapel Rd, Vaucluse, will be open for viewing from 10am–3pm on Sunday 21 August for the centenary event.



THE TRITON MOSAIC (DETAIL), PHOTOGRAPH SCOTT HILL © HHT

WHAT'S ON AT VAUCLUSE HOUSE

COLONIAL GASTRONOMY SERIES An Antipodean dinner

Join us for a unique colonial gastronomy experience, drawing from an 1846 gentlemen's dinner party that celebrated indigenous foods such as wonga pigeon and kangaroo venison. A pre-dinner tour of the estate will be followed by a five-course dinner in the Vaucluse House Tearooms.

Thursday 8 September | 5pm bushwalk, spaces limited, dinner 6.30pm–9.30pm | General \$120, Conc/Members \$110 | See website for menu and details | Bookings essential

JAZZ IN THE GARDENS

This year James Morrison and his band will head up *Jazz in the gardens* in the beautiful surroundings of the Vaucluse Estate. Pack your picnic rug, round up your friends and family and enjoy a spring evening of smooth jazz. Delicious morsels and cool drinks will be available from our stalls. No BYO or glass, please.

Sunday 20 November | 5pm–8pm | Book early for General \$35, Conc/Members \$30 | or on the day General \$40, Conc/Members \$35

Book online at www.hht.net.au or T 8239 2211

WHAT'S ON AT ELIZABETH BAY HOUSE

7 Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay

HOUSE

The HHT's forthcoming publication *House* is the result of a four-year collaboration between contemporary photographer Robyn Stacey and HHT curators. Stacey's sumptuous images in the still-life tradition draw on the collections of Elizabeth Bay House, Vaucluse House, Rouse Hill House & Farm and the Caroline Simpson Library & Research Collection. Please visit the HHT website to find out about the accompanying exhibition, opening 15 October at the Museum of Sydney, and associated events planned at Elizabeth Bay House and other properties throughout November.



IMAGES: (FROM TOP) PREPARATIONS FOR DINNER. PHOTOGRAPH SCOTT HILL © HHT; EXAMINING FRESH PRODUCE IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN. PHOTOGRAPH JEMMA DONALDSON © HHT; VAUCLUSE HOUSE TEAROOMS SHOP. PHOTOGRAPH PETER BARNES © HHT



SPECIAL EVENT: BY DAY AS BY NIGHT

Experience the beauty of Elizabeth Bay House by candlelight. For one weekend the house will be shuttered during the daytime as guides lead you through the house by candlelight.

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 October | 10am–4pm (optional tours on the hour – last tour departs 3pm) | Free with museum entry | Bookings not required

ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN

KIDS IN THE (COLONIAL) KITCHEN Vaucluse House

To coincide with *Crave: Sydney international food festival*, the Historic Houses Trust is once again offering this very popular program. Join us in the Vaucluse House kitchen garden to discover the delights of home-grown produce, then head into the house's colonial kitchen where you'll bake damper and make butter and your own lemonade.

Ages 5–12 years

**Wednesdays 28 September & 5 October 10.30am | Thursdays 29 September & 6 October, 10.30am | Fridays 30 September & 7 October, 10.30am & 2pm | Sundays 2, 9, 16, 23 October, 10am & 2pm
General \$20 per child plus one adult**

See our website for details



RETAIL AT VAUCLUSE

Discover our exciting new gift shop at the Vaucluse House Tearooms. Browse among the selection of giftware – unique home wares, beautiful garden-inspired items, stationery, old-fashioned toys and a range of design, history and pictorial books – while enjoying the beautiful surroundings and sampling the delectable offerings of the Vaucluse House Tearooms. You can also buy delicious food items made exclusively by the Tearooms.

WHAT'S ON AT THE TEAROOMS

SUNDAY LIVE MUSIC

The Tearooms offers free live jazz from 12–4pm each Sunday. There's a special 'Jazz' lunch menu between 12pm and 2pm, so you can enjoy a two-course lunch while listening to the music. Book early, as it's popular. For the centenary event on August 21 there will be a special all-day menu.

FATHER'S DAY – SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Book your table for Father's Day! The brunch menu is served from 10am, and lunch and Sunday jazz begins at 12 noon.

For more information on these events or to make a function booking call 8399 3055. Call the Tearooms direct on 9388 8188. Free parking on site.

FUNCTIONS AT THE TEAROOMS

The Tearooms can be hired for private events – birthdays, anniversaries, christenings and other special occasions. Contact us for information about our function packages.

And for the children ... the Vaucluse House Tearooms also offers all-inclusive packages for kids' garden parties. Select a theme and an actor will take your children on an imagination-packed adventure.

E info@vauclusehousetearooms.com.au

W www.vauclusehousetearooms.com.au

Function enquiries: 02 8399 3055

OPENING HOURS

Vaucluse House

Friday to Sunday, NSW school holidays and public holidays, 9.30am–4pm. Available daily for education and group bookings.

T 02 9388 7922 | **E** info@hht.net.au

W www.hht.net.au/museums/vaucluse_house

Vaucluse House Tearooms

Wednesday to Sunday, 10am–4.30pm

NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Vaucluse House newsletter is now online: www.hht.net.au/museums/vaucluse_house

VENUES

Vaucluse House and its gardens make an ideal venue for weddings, intimate dinners, cocktail parties, special corporate events and location shoots. For further information contact HHT Venues.

W www.hht.net.au/venues

T 02 8239 2288 | **E** venues@hht.net.au

MEMBERSHIP

As an HHT Member you will be part of a vibrant organisation dedicated to caring for some of Australia's most important properties.

To join, visit us at the Vaucluse House shop or **T** 02 8239 2266 | **E** members@hht.net.au

Vaucluse House is a property of the
HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST

