

vaucluse house news

THE NEWSLETTER OF VAUCLUSE HOUSE | WINTER 2009

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Vaucluse House is a property of the
HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST



OBJECT OF THE SEASON: MEDICINE BOX

Not usually on display at Vaucluse House is this compact medicine box, with its six bottles. One is labelled 'laudanum', an effective though highly addictive sedative made from brandy and opium. Boxes such as these contained a range of medicines and home remedies, frequently homeopathic in nature, and were a vital part of daily life. Doctors were expensive, and for many years were in short supply in New South Wales. Ironically, D'Arcy Wentworth, the father of William Charles Wentworth who owned Vaucluse House from 1827 to 1872, arrived in the colony as its principal surgeon. One of William's close associates was the emancipist Dr Redfern, who treated the Macquaries.

Although infant mortality was rife in the early 19th century, all of the Wentworths' ten children survived childhood. This was perhaps due to their access to clean water, fresh dairy and garden produce at the Vaucluse estate – children in the towns were rarely as fortunate. Eliza Wentworth suffered all her life from injuries sustained in a riding accident, while her sister Sarah would die from 'diseased lungs', aged 22. Their brother Willie died from 'nervous exhaustion' – for which laudanum was prescribed – whilst studying law in England.

Donated to the house in 1939, this box was originally owned by the Reverend John Waterhouse, the General Superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in Australia and Polynesia from 1839-1841. Waterhouse was the subject of a print by George Baxter depicting the highly idealised landing of Wesleyan missionaries in New Zealand. This was one of a number of published depictions of Polynesian missionary activity, which many colonial families actively supported.



MEDICINE BOX, 2009.
PHOTOGRAPH SCOTT HILL



VISITORS UNDER THE ORIGINAL NORFOLK PINE AT VAUCLUSE HOUSE, CA.1920 (DETAIL). UNKNOWN PHOTOGRAPHER. CAROLINE SIMPSON LIBRARY & RESEARCH COLLECTION.

PLANT OF THE SEASON: THE NORFOLK PINE

The stately Norfolk Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) is one of the signature trees of Australian gardens and beachfronts. It was discovered by Captain James Cook, who hoped its tall straight trunk would provide a source for ship's masts. Though they proved unsuitable, the Norfolk Pine rapidly found a place in gardens both in Australia and around the world.

The pines have a characteristic long 'scaly' leaf and an elegant tapering form. For an unknown reason, some Norfolk Pines also develop an unusual 'slouch'. Being salt tolerant, Norfolk Pines have long been used for coastal avenues such as the Manly and Bondi promenades. For many years these avenue pines suffered, as cooking oils disposed of in the city's sewage systems and ocean outfalls blew back onto them in the ocean spray, destroying the leaves' waxy surface and ultimately killed them. An extensive public education program in the 1990's to stop oils being 'poured down the kitchen sink' has had the happy result of allowing the pines to rejuvenate, and many have vigorously regrown.

At Vaucluse House we have several Norfolk Pines; the most prominent is the feature of the north-eastern lawn in the Pleasure Garden, re-planted according to the garden's original planting scheme.

WARM WELCOME

During Autumn, we have welcomed Steven Halliday to the garden team. Steven joined the team in May bringing with him a range of skills and experience in the landscaping aspects of horticulture.

We have also welcomed Gillian Redman Lloyd to the position of Manager for a six month period whilst Larissa Anstee takes up a position at the Museum of Sydney. Gillian returns to the Vaucluse House team after working in our Head Office as Sydney Open project manager.

VAUCLUSE HOUSE TEAROOMS

The Vaucluse House Tearooms are now open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am – 4.30pm for brunch, lunch and afternoon tea.

Now under new management, the menus and the staff at the Vaucluse House Tearooms have had a facelift. New Head Chef Mark Adler hails from some of the finest restaurants in London and his fresh menus have already been receiving amazing feedback.

It's time to make the Vaucluse House Tearooms your new local meeting point. Whether you come in for tea and scones, poached eggs for breakfast or risotto for lunch, Cafe Manager Tamer and the team will look after you.

Function bookings are available for birthdays, weddings, christenings and special occasions. Call Tamer to make a reservation or to receive more information about the new menus.



VAUCLUSE HOUSE TEAROOMS. PHOTOGRAPH TRACEY SIMOND

UPCOMING EVENTS AT VAUCLUSE HOUSE

DOMESTIC ARTS: HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT

Prolific 19th-century writers J C Loudon and Mrs Isabella Beeton advised on every aspect of domestic life such as furnishing rooms, what to eat and dealing with servants. This program illustrates the importance of these publications and delves into the fascinating lives of the authors.

Sunday 16 August | 1.30pm – 4.30pm
General \$35 Members/Concession \$30
Bookings essential T 8239 2211



THE WORKWOMAN'S GUIDE (1840) FRONTPIECE (DETAIL)
CAROLINE SIMPSON LIBRARY & RESEARCH COLLECTION

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Our annual *Jazz in the Garden* returns on Sunday 22 November 2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ELIZABETH BAY HOUSE

HIGHLAND FLING

Celebrate the heritage of the Macleay family with a traditional Scottish program of live music, dancing, games, poetry, storytelling and homely Scottish fare. Experience Elizabeth Bay House dressed in 19th-century Scottish splendour. Highlights Australia's premier Scottish music duo Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt, Epping Scottish Country Dancers, Argyll Highland Dancers, NSW Police Pipe Band, acoustic singers Southerly Gaels, dance lessons with Scots on The Rocks, a recital of Robert Burns' Address to a Haggis, Scotch whisky tastings and panel discussions.

Sunday 26 July | 10am – 4pm | General \$10
Members/Concession \$5 Family \$25



YOUNG HIGHLAND DANCERS IN THE SALOON AT ELIZABETH BAY HOUSE. 2008. PHOTOGRAPH © LEO ROCKER

VAUCLUSE HOUSE SHOP

Next time you venture to Vaucluse House make sure you visit the Vaucluse House Shop! You'll discover a treasure trove of unique and inspirational gift items! Current shop products include:



LEFT TO RIGHT: PLAYGROUND AND INDOOR GAMES FOR GIRLS AND BOYS, LOST GARDENS OF SYDNEY, BLUE WREN TEA TOWELS, THE EDUCATED MONKEY.

Playground and Indoor Games for Girls and Boys, by Winifred Wilson \$22.00

Containing 119 outdoor and indoor games, this book revives many of the almost forgotten children's games that were popular when it was first published around 1910. This book belongs to a fascinating range of re-printed vintage books, which are also available at Vaucluse House Shop, such as *'Manners for Women'* (first published in 1897) and *'The Natural History of the Flirt'* (first published in 1848).

Pack of two Blue Wren tea towels \$14.95

These Australian designed tea towels are made of 100% cotton. One towel features a delicately embroidered image of two small wrens, found along the eastern coast of Australia, and the other is striped. These towels belong to a vast range of beautiful linen and soaps available at Vaucluse House Shop.

The Educated Monkey \$16.95

This tin toy game was first patented in 1916 and is a novel way to do your multiplication tables. Simply slide his feet over the numbers printed at the base and the monkey will multiply the sum for you: showing the answer in his hands! It's fun for all ages!

Lost Gardens of Sydney, by Colleen Morris \$49.95

Discover the fascinating history of Sydney's lost gardens and garden styles, from the native bush and significant early colonial gardens to corporate rooftop gardens and threatened gardens of today. This award-winning HHT publication is lavishly illustrated with over 170 full-colour images and will charm anyone with an interest in Sydney history, gardens and the environment.

Vaucluse House Shop is open Friday to Sunday, 9.30am – 4pm. Shop purchases can be made on other week days by appointment; to arrange this please call 02 9388 7922.

DOGS AND THE BEACH PADDOCK

Leashed dogs are permitted within the Beach Paddock before 8.30am and after 6pm (daylight savings hours) and 4.30pm (non daylight savings hours). Dogs are not permitted in the Beach Paddock at other times. Please respect other users of the grounds and adhere to these times.

VENUES

The elegance of Vaucluse House and its beautiful surrounding gardens make an ideal venue for a range of functions including weddings, intimate dinners, cocktail parties, special corporate events and location shoots for either film or photography. For further information contact the Venues Unit.

www.hht.net.au/venues

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

MEMBERSHIP

As a Historic Houses Trust Member, you will be part of a vibrant organisation dedicated to caring for some of Australia's most important properties.

To join: W www.hht.net.au/join/membership
T 02 8239 2266 | E members@hht.net.au
Or visit us at the Vaucluse House shop

SCHOOL HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

Vaucluse House and the Vaucluse House Tearooms are now open daily during NSW school holidays, which for Winter are 13 July to 24 July, and the Queens Birthday public holiday on 8 June.

VAUCLUSE HOUSE TEAROOMS

Open: Wednesday to Sunday
10am – 4.30pm | daily in January, NSW school holidays and public holidays.

T 02 9388 8188

E vauclusetearooms@freshcatering.com.au

CONTACT US

Vaucluse House,
Wentworth Road, Vaucluse 2030
Open: Friday to Sunday, 9.30am – 4pm,
daily in January and NSW school holidays
and public holidays. Available for education
and group bookings daily.
Closed: Good Friday and Christmas Day.

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

Newsletter is also available online:
www.hht.net.au/museums/vaucluse_house

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