NSW Dickens Society.
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Household Words

Issue 71 (August, 2018)
PO Box 3024, West Lindfield NSW 2070, Australia
Patron: Miriam Margolyes OBE
President: Louise Owens
NSW Dickens Society 2018 Book of the Year; *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* (1842 – 1844)

Letter from the President

You will have received an email regarding the passing of NSW Dickens Society member, Joan Brandon. We were terribly saddened to hear this news. Joan was a long-term and much-loved member of the society and her happy face and contributions to conversation will be greatly missed. Joan and I had many enlightening talks both in Sydney and at the Aberdeen conference in 2016. I'm sure many other members have wonderful memories of Joan too. May she rest in peace.

A very warm welcome to the newest members: **Robert Connor, Jacquie Eccles, Rita Felton and Vanessa Thomas.** What a great time to be a member of the NSW Dickens Society; we have a lot of great events and publications for you to look forward to.

Do you have any Dickensian memorabilia that you would like to present at a NSW Dickens Society Saturday meeting? Maybe you have an unusual Dickens-related book, stamp, china or other piece that you could show and speak about for about 5 – 10 minutes at a meeting? We'd love to hear from you. Please email me at; louiseo@bigpond.net.au Or maybe you are a baker? We'd love to hear from 3 cooks who would be happy to bake 24 cupcakes each for our Christmas function. Please email me at the above email address.

We are thrilled to have another sponsor for our wonderful 112th International Dickens Fellowship Conference; Lindfield Bookshop who will have a pop-up bookshop selling books about Dickens, the Victorian era and also books by Australian authors and many of our speakers.

We have had such a wonderful and exciting response to the International conference that we will be closing ticket sales on 1st September, 2018. Please go to the website to buy your tickets to avoid missing out; www.bozinoz.com

It is with much excitement that I let you know that the NSW Dickens Society will be holding a weekend away conference next year. The conference will be on a Saturday and Sunday with options to attend on the Saturday or Sunday or both. Accommodation close to Sydney will be available for those who would like to stay on the Saturday night. We are organising wonderful talks and treats for

this event. More information will be available soon, so please keep a look out for more details of this wonderful weekend away. We are going to have lots of fun!

Another exciting event in 2019 will be a trip to Italy! I have been asked to be tour guide for a bespoke tour; 'Italy in the Footsteps of Dickens'. We will be retracing Dickens' travels from Venice (the setting for many of the scenes in ***Little Dorrit***), through Genoa where we will visit the churches which inspired ***The Chimes***, Florence, including the prison of the Palazzo Vecchio which fired the author's convictions about social reform, the Appian Way in Rome and then ascend Mt Vesuvius. Along the way, we will enjoy readings from Dickens' works. Sounds fun? I'd love you to join me! To register your interest, please go to this website; http://renaissancetours.com.au/tours/literary/italy-footsteps-of-dickens/

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you at our next wonderful talk on Saturday, 4th August in the Sydney Room at the City Tattersalls Club in Sydney, where Matthew Gain and Ilse Scheepers from Audible Australia (who offer the world's largest selection of audio books) will give their talk; *Audible Dickens.* We will hear all about Dickens' works being read as talking books, what makes them popular for today's audience, what and who makes a successful reading of Dickens' works, as well as the general growth and interest in listening to books read aloud. Gary Corkill will also be showing us some fascinating pieces of his Dickens memorabilia and Geoffrey Usher will be reading from our book of the year, *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit*. I look forward to seeing you there!

By Louise Owens

Vale Joan Brandon

Joan Brandon (18 June 1941 - 26 May 2018) NSW Dickens Society members were saddened to hear of the death of their loyal member Joan Brandon.

Born in Sydney and growing up in Ballarat, Victoria, her love of Dickens began as a child when her father read Dickens' novels aloud to her.

Joan studied medicine at Sydney University; on graduation she practiced at Mona Vale Hospital, at Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory, and later worked in Family Planning in Sydney.

A supportive mother of three who became a much loved grandmother of six, Joan was also a mad keen follower of the Swans. Once retired, Joan took up overseas travel adventures and was planning another trip when it was discovered that she had cancer.

Joan became a founding member of the newly established NSW Dickens Society in 2002. Later she joined Sandra Faulkner's Committee helping to resurrect the Sydney branch from near closure, taking over responsibilities of the Membership Secretary, a position she held for nine years during the Presidencies of Sandra Faulkner, Catherine Barker and Michelle Cavanagh's first year.

She was a proud delegate at the 2004 International Dickens Fellowship Conference in Melbourne where the NSW Dickens Society was awarded its charter becoming the 199th branch. Joan also attended the Eastbourne Conference in 2010 and the Aberdeen Conference in 2016.

But most of all Joan was a good friend with a great sense of humour who entered into Society activities with spirit – no one who witnessed the dramatisation of scenes from *The Old Curiosity Shop* will forget her performance as Little Nell!

In bidding Joan farewell we thank her for enriching us all. Those NSW Dickens Society members who knew Joan have many fond memories of her and can, no doubt, still see her smiling face and feel her warm, gentle personality. We are also grateful that she felt part of the Society and found enjoyment amongst us.

Joan's family organised a Wake in her honour which was held on 10 June; it was a joyous occasion with many stories celebrating the life Joan lived. Together with family and friends, attendees from NSW Dickens Society were Helen and Ron Yardley, Suzanne Antaw, Brigitte Lucey and Michelle Cavanagh with apologies, due to other commitments, from Mary Champion, Catherine Barker and Louise Owens.

Vale Joan. You will be greatly missed by your fellow Dickensians.

Written by Michelle Cavanagh with input from Sandra Faulkner, Catherine Barker, Brigitte Lucey and Mary Champion

Report on Walter Mason's Talk; NSWDS June Meeting

On 2nd June 2018, the NSW Dickens Society had the great delight of hearing Vice-President Walter Mason give a superb overview of the Society's 2018 Book of the Year: *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit.* With élan and wit, Walter outlined the fascinating and storied history of one of Dickens' least well-known (and discussed) novels. Originally published in serialised form between 1842 to 1844, *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* is best remembered for the title character's journey through the United States—a peculiar detour from the novel's original plot, devised by Dickens in mid-instalment, in response to the book's initial poor sales and audience reception.

As Walter described in his talk, the American sections of *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* were conceived by Dickens' own travels to the continent in 1842, and ensuing travelogue, *American Notes for General Circulation*. While the novel's extreme change of setting was an unprecedented effort on Dickens' part to satisfy audience tastes and improve the tepid early sales of the book, the resulting novel would be a gamble that would ultimately prove unsuccessful. Both *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* and *American Notes for General Circulation* would face censure from American readers, who found Dickens' descriptions of their homeland grotesque and unflattering. Despite the novel's American interlude—or perhaps because of it—*The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* would remain a commercial failure, notwithstanding Dickens' best efforts, and his own belief that the book was among the best of his work. Yet—even while charting the novel's ill-fated publishing history—Walter also crisply delineated why *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* is one of his favourites among Dickens' novels, and worthy of NSW Dickens members' attention. For—as Walter describes—central to the pleasures of the book are the appearances of two of Dickens' most unforgettable characters: Seth Pecksniff and Mrs Gamp. In the describing the ineluctable charms of a hypocritical fop and a boozy midwife, Walter made a most convincing argument that *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* is more than just an odd foray into transcultural relations between the United States and Britain in the mid-19th century, but – in inspired moments - a palpable example of Dickens' at his most trenchant and scintillating.

By Claudette Palomares

Limerick for Walter Mason

Was Chuzzlewit's Life and Adventures
One of Dickens' best ventures?
He did not get thanks
From disgruntled Yanks;
But Walter deserves no such censure.

By Geoffrey R Usher

Member Interview with Dr. Rachel Franks

Which is one of your favourite Dickens' novels? *Bleak House* (1853). This novel might not be Dickens' most popular work but the emphasis on the detective makes this book very important to the history of crime fiction. I like the complexity of the plot and all of the legal squabbling over a will. Also, while it is not the happiest of outcomes for young Esther Summerson, I value her storytelling efforts and the fact that she is the only woman to narrate a Dickens novel.

Who is one of your favourite Dickens' characters? Inspector Bucket. Just one of many characters in *Bleak House*, Bucket is a highly-competent detective and a man of integrity who occupies a special place as the first police detective to appear within a major work of fiction. It has been suggested that Dickens based Bucket on one of the legendary detectives of the early days of Scotland Yard, with Charles Frederick Field or Jack Whicher the most likely men to have inspired Dickens' determined Inspector.

Which Dickens' novel would you most like to live in? *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870). I would like to know what happens in Dickens' last, but incomplete, novel. With only six of the planned twelve instalments published there is so much within this work that remains unresolved. Did John Jasper, the Choirmaster, commit murder? Does Rosa Bud, the young orphan, find happiness? Living within the text is the only way to find out.

What would you most like to ask Dickens? Why did you turn part of your cat Bob into the handle of a letter opener (engraving the blade: "C.D. In Memory of Bob 1862")? Was it really just to keep him with you on your desk? Did you actually use the letter opener, clutching at little Bob's paw as you sliced open correspondence?

What would you buy Charles Dickens for Christmas? A new letter opener.

How did you become interested in Dickens and his writing about crime? I stumbled across some of Dickens' articles about crime in *Household Words* a few years ago. I have found that these pieces, together with his letters about judicial execution, are vital contributions to debates around crime, punishment and modern-day policing. I now regularly draw on these works in my research around crime writing and why these narratives are important tools in helping people, across society, to have conversations around crime and crime control.

Can you tell us about your career to date? My career has been a bit of a crooked path to becoming a researcher (as a librarian and as an academic). I've worked in retail, administration, health, the performing arts and education. I even did a few years in the Australian Army Reserve. Today, I work as a Coordinator at the State Library of New South Wales and as a Conjoint Fellow at the University of Newcastle.

Your career highlights (so far)? As a librarian and as an academic, some of my most important career moments have been when I have introduced someone to an author or a book or to a different way of thinking about literature. It is always exciting to open up a doorway to a new type, or a new way, of reading for somebody. A more public highlight was when I interviewed Barry Maitland in 2015: he is a wonderful crime fiction writer and a true gentleman.

What are you reading at the moment? I am reading Judith Flanders' outstanding work: *The Invention of Murder: how the Victorians revelled in death and detection and created modern crime* (2011).

Do you collect anything? I collect crime books and have amassed hundreds of crime fiction and true crime titles. Most of these works are by Australian authors but there are also books by American and British authors in amongst locally produced titles. I also collect glass birds by Finnish designer Oiva Toikka.

Dr. Rachel Franks:
Twitter: @cfwriter
Academia: https://rachelfranks.academia.edu

Dr. Rachel Franks will be speaking on *Dickens, crime and the rise of the police detective; changes in policing in England and Australia* at the 112th International Dickens Fellowship Conference in Sydney, 25 – 30/10/18; www.bozinoz.com

Coordinated by Louise Owens

Charles Dickens and *The School Magazine*

It is 1916. The world is at war. And the New South Wales Department of Education begins publishing *The School Magazine: A Magazine of Literature for our Boys and Girls*.

In those first pages, primary school children were told: 'A Magazine means a storehouse, it is a word we get from the Arabs.' The editors described a storehouse of treasures that 'will give you pleasure and perhaps a little wisdom too'. They went on to say 'Could we but travel down the road of yesterdays, and wander round this world, and back again, then it might be that we should understand our own small part in this great society' then explained that this type of travel is exactly what the magazine would give their readers. It has continued to offer a world of words to children ever since. And throughout the century and more since 1916, the writings of Charles Dickens have been read, enjoyed and celebrated in *The School Magazine*—more than one hundred times. These have mostly been excerpts from his novels: *Oliver Twist*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Dombey and Son*, *The Pickwick Papers* and others.

The first work by Dickens appeared in the second-ever edition of the magazine in March 1916: an excerpt from *David Copperfield* that the editors entitled 'Going to School'. It is the passage where David is crying so much that his pocket-handkerchief is absolutely sodden. It appears without introduction or explanation. This particular issue, aimed at 11- and 12-year-old students, was a rich storehouse of treasures indeed: an article about how myths arose; a retelling of a Greek myth; a poem called 'The Soldier's Dream', an article about The Dardanelles, excerpts about Gallipoli from the dispatches by the commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force ('The story is one which should make every boy and girl in Australia proud of the land and of the fine men it has sent forth to

fight in the cause of right and of justice'); part of the St Crispin's day speech from Shakespeare's *Henry V*; and the words and melody of 'Australian Marching Song' by HE Horne of Dunedoo. Through these works the editors of *The School Magazine* hoped to help our children to develop an understanding of the world around them.

In 1919, the war to end all wars had ended. The poem 'A World at Peace' by Dickens appeared in *The School Magazine*. It was originally published in *Household Words*, the magazine Dickens edited in the 1850s. The aims of *Household Words* were similar to those of *The School Magazine*, as was the content: fiction and nonfiction for the entertainment and enlightenment of readers.

The most recent inclusion in the magazine of work by Dickens was a 2011 review of and extract from *A Christmas Carol*, illustrated by PJ Lynch. As a literary man who campaigned for the rights and education of children, it seems apt indeed that Charles Dickens has always been a part of our own literary magazine for children.

By Sue Murray

Inspiring Young Visitors to the Charles Dickens Museum

Over the past year, we have introduced a new schools programme and now provide in-depth, curriculum-based workshops for all key stages, catering for ages 5 to 18 and covering a range of topics and approaches.

Curating Charles Dickens. In this workshop, pupils learn to handle, identify and understand objects from the past, using actual artefacts from the Museum's archive collection. Pupils investigate what these objects tell us about people's lives during the Victorian era, and about the life of Charles Dickens and his family when they lived at 48 Doughty Street – with clear links drawn between the objects handled in the workshop and those objects the pupils see and experience during a guided tour of Dickens' house.

Dickens' Social Conscience: Poverty in Victorian Britain. This is proving to be an extremely popular choice for upper primary and high school. The pupils explore excerpts from Charles Dickens' fiction as well as his lesser-known journalism, in order to explore poverty in the Victorian era and Dickens' life and work as a social reformer. The contemporary relevance of Dickens' writing shines through powerfully and is inspiring activism and engagement in social change.

Crime & Punishment: Exploring Victorian justice through Dickens' Eyes. In this session, pupils look at a variety of archival resources and ephemera from the Museum's collection to build up a picture of justice, crime and punishment in Victorian Britain through the eyes of someone passionately committed to social justice and reform.

Exploring 'A Christmas Carol' in the social context of Victorian Britain. Through a consideration of the text and the Museum's extensive archive, pupils develop their understanding of *A Christmas Carol* by considering how Dickens used the story's themes and characters to highlight what he saw as some of the most pressing social problems and issues in the Victorian Britain of his day. The pupils use this as a backdrop for considering contemporary social concerns.

Great Expectations: Miss Havisham revisited (KS 4). *Great Expectations* is one of Dickens' best loved and critically acclaimed works. Using the text, alongside objects and documents from the Museum's collection, pupils explore aspects of Dickens' own life and experiences that may have influenced this

work. In particular, they focus on one of Dickens' more notorious and memorable characters – Miss Havisham – looking again at whether the common perceptions about her are justified.

Creating Scrooge: Using facsimiles of original draft manuscripts, pupils look at how the ever popular Christmas story has secured such an enduring place across the world, with myriad adaptations on stage, screen and print. Pupils look at the story and its impact on the Victorian Christmas and undertake a detailed and focused study of the language Dickens used to create the most memorable character in the story - Scrooge himself. To round off the workshop, pupils channel their own inner Dickens, by either performing a dramatic presentation or by writing their own character creation.

These workshops will return after the summer holidays.
Meanwhile, as the school year closed, we launched a new summer programme for families, linked to the current special exhibition, Charles Dickens: Man of Science.

Imagine, Investigate, Invent! explores how Charles Dickens wasn't just an incredible teller of stories, but was also a committed follower of science.

Participants will:

- **Imagine** how people lived in Victorian homes through a guided tour of the Dickens' family home as it was in the late 1830s;
- **Investigate** the scientific inventions advertised in Charles Dickens' publications, which promised to make ordinary people's lives easier; and
- **Invent** their own labour-saving device for the home.

We look forward to seeing what new ideas and inventions might emerge over the summer.

By Cindy Sughrue, Director of the Charles Dickens Museum

***Martin Chuzzlewit* Quiz C; Volume II, Chapters XXVI-XXXVI**

1. What was the name of Mrs Gamp's landlord?
2. To what was his staircase sacred?
3. What could even rabbits and birds not remove from his right hand?
4. What was the name of the Secretary and resident Director of the Anglo-Bengalese Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company?
5. And what was the name of the Company's Porter, whose chief badge of office was his vast red waistcoat?
6. Because Mr John Jobling, the Medical Officer, talked on all occasions, whether he had anything to say or not, what was unanimously observed of him?
7. What was the weekly stipend of Mr Nadgett, the man who was kept by the Anglo-Bengalese Disinterested Loan and Life Assurance Company to make "inquiries"?
8. What was the first powerful reason for Jonas Chuzzlewit to be strongly prepossessed in favour of the Company's scheme?
9. What were the names of the two gentlemen whom Montague presented to Jonas at dinner?
10. What gave a new though temporary fillip to the entertainments of the evening, led to some noisy proceedings, and ended in the slumber of Jonas upon one of the sofas?
11. What form of refreshment arrived for Betsey Prig and Sarah Gamp, with a basin of beef-tea for the patient, Mr Lewsome?

12. What was the "choicest of blessings" which Mr Pecksniff had provided for his youngest daughter, Mercy?
13. When Mr Pecksniff described "the very sight of skittles" as "far from congenial to a delicate mind", what did old Martin Chuzzlewit call it?
14. What would Mary Graham have preferred, to the endearments of Mr Pecksniff?
15. What kind of face did Mr Pecksniff have, although he was a good man?
16. How was the simple little organ which Tom Pinch played provided with wind?
17. Whom did Mr Pecksniff overhear talking in the church?
18. Instead of diving through the floor of the pew of state, what did Mr Pecksniff do?
19. To Tom Pinch, what were tears and sobs from Mary Graham?
20. How did Mr Pecksniff leave the church when Tom Pinch had locked the door on his departure?
21. What was the name of Mr Pecksniff's serving-maid?
22. What did Tom Pinch return which Mr Pecksniff had left in the state pew?
23. What instrument had Tom Pinch tried to learn?
24. Where did Tom walk to, on the day he left Mr Pecksniff's?
25. What was the reported name of the old woman who succeeded Mr Bailey at Mrs Todgers'?
26. And what was the name of the youngest gentleman who, following Mercy Pecksniff's marriage, often informed Mrs Todgers that "the deadly Upas tree of Java had blighted him"?
27. What did Mark Tapley describe as "very like a partickler style of old gentleman about the throat; very bright-eyed, very cool, and very slippy"?
28. What was the name of Martin and Mark's visitor at Eden, who "spitting frequently, recorded his progress by a train of decomposed tobacco on the ground"?
29. In any less advanced community than Eden, what might he have been mistaken for?
30. How did he always introduce himself to strangers?
31. What was the name of the boat which appeared at Eden more than a week after Martin, with Mark's commendation, wrote to Mr Bevan?
32. What was in the letter which was handed to Mark from on board the boat which at last came panting up the ugly river?
33. On the boat from Eden, how did the Honourable Elijah Pogram shake hands with Martin?
34. What was the full name of Mr Bib?
35. Who went to work in earnest, to bring Mr Pogram out and make him show himself in all his brilliant colours?
36. What was the name of the ship on which Martin and Mark were able to secure their passage back to Britain?
37. How much time had passed between Martin and Mark's departure from Britain and their return?
38. What change had Mr Pecksniff made to Martin's design for the grammar-school?
39. What was written in the very whiskers of the guard on the coach which Tom Pinch took from Salisbury to London?
40. After arriving in London, and having a sleep at the inn, whom did Tom Pinch go to see at Furnival's Inn, High Holborn?

By Geoffrey R Usher

Answers to the *Martin Chuzzlewit* Quiz B; Volume I, Chapters XII-XXV

1. 150th violin
2. Northkey
3. Ten-and-sixpence a head
4. The most consummate scoundrel on the face of the earth

5. The coachman, guard, and horses
6. A book
7. “Bachelor of Salamanca”
8. A half-sovereign
9. “I don’t want it, indeed. I should not know what to do with it, if I had it”
10. London
11. William – Bill – Simmons
12. A crown, and his silk handkerchief
13. Montague Tigg
14. Number fifteen hundred-and-forty-two, Park Lane
15. Martin’s watch
16. Three pounds
17. Half-a-crown
18. A Bank of England note for Twenty Pounds
19. Mark Tapley
20. He was taken with a violent fit of sneezing, and was obliged to turn his head another way
21. “The Screw”
22. The New York Rowdy Journal
23. Dollars
24. Mr Jefferson Brick
25. “Run a moist pen slick through everything, and start fresh”
26. Cicero
27. Norris
28. Hebrew
29. They had both travelled on “The Screw”
30. Sherry Cobbler
31. Kingsgate Street, High Holborn
32. Mutton-pie shop; cat’s meat warehouse
33. Mr Mould
34. Incompatibility of temper in their drink
35. Jonas Chuzzlewit
36. Tare and Tret
37. Real Old Brighton Tipper
38. Mr Tacker
39. A fortune of four thousand pounds
40. Scarecrows in England
41. A letter of introduction from Mr Bevan of Massachusetts
42. National Hotel
43. Zephaniah Scadder
44. Putnam Smif
45. The landlord, Captain Kedgick
46. Mrs Hominy
47. He is not a dealer in it, and it comes from the heart
48. He suffered tears of honesty to ooze out of his eyes
49. A bottle of Dutch Drops
50. As if a passing fairy had hiccoughed, and had previously been to a wine-vaults

By Geoffrey R Usher

Contributions to NSW DS Publications

We welcome submissions for consideration for our publications: *Household Words* (published six times per year) and *Boz in Oz* (published once per year).

For *Household Words,* please email articles maximum of one typed page to louiseo@bigpond.net.au Deadline for submissions for 2018 are: 21/9/18; 23/11/18.

For *Boz in Oz*, please email articles maximum of three typed pages (including photos) to; louiseo@bigpond.net.au Deadline for submissions for *Boz in Oz* is: 3/12/18.

Don't forget to follow NSW DS on our Social Media

Website:	https://dickenssydney.com/
Facebook page:	https://www.facebook.com/NSW.Dickens.Society/
Twitter:	https://twitter.com/NSWDS @NSWDS

Calendar of Dickens-Related Events

The NSW Dickens Society has some wonderful events celebrating the works, life and times of Charles Dickens. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Saturday 4th August: A talk by Matthew Gain and Ilse Scheepers; *Audible Dickens*
Matthew and Ilse are from Audible Australia (who offer the world's largest selection of audio books). They will talk about Dickens' works being read as talking books, what makes them popular for today's audience, what and who makes a successful reading of Dickens' works, as well as the general growth and interest in listening to books read aloud. 10.30am – 12noon in the Sydney Room, 2nd Floor, City Tattersalls Club, 194 – 204 Pitt Street (near the Market Street end), Sydney. No bookings required. $5 entry fee for NSW Dickens Society members. $10 for non-members.

Saturday 6th October: A talk by Jennifer Ide; *Charles Dickens at his 'Little Kentish Freehold'*
Jennifer is the Senior Tour Guide at Gad's Hill Place (Charles Dickens' home between 1856 – 1870 in Kent, England). She will be travelling from the UK to give us this talk. 'Divers birds sing here all day, and the nightingales all night. The place is lovely and in perfect order ...' Charles Dickens' last and favourite home was Gad's Hill Place, at Higham in Kent. The years he spent there were the most difficult and turbulent of his life, nonetheless they were full and productive, and he still had energy enough to enjoy a full and active social life with his family and friends and his neighbours of the village of Higham. Jennifer will also talk about the 'Charles Dickens' Rose. 10.30am – 12noon in the Sydney Room, 2nd Floor, City Tattersalls Club, 194 – 204 Pitt Street (near the Market Street end), Sydney. No bookings required. $5 entry fee for NSW Dickens Society members. $10 for non-members.

International Dickens Fellowship 112th Conference; 'Boz in Oz; Charles Dickens' Colonial Connections'.
25 – 30th October, 2018 Sydney, NSW, Australia.
Book here: www.bozinoz.com
For all enquiries please email: conference@bozinoz.com

The Pullman, Hyde Park:
Conveniently located in the city of Sydney and overlooking Hyde Park, The Pullman Hyde Park is a three minute walk from the train station, which is linked to both domestic and international airports. Most talks will be in the Ibis Room, which offers free Wi-Fi. Lunches and optional dinners will be held at the Pullman and accommodation is available at the hotel for those who require it, at a special conference price. The Pullman Hyde Park is within walking distance to other hotels at a range of prices, bus and train transport, and our coaches for our visits can pull up at the front door. We will have our own floor with areas for pop-up stores and merchandise to enhance the conference.

Speakers and topics:

1. Charles Dickens' sons in Australia
Tom Keneally AO
Two of the sons of Catherine and Charles Dickens migrated to Australia. Alfred D'Orsay Tennyson Dickens arrived here in 1856, followed by his brother Edward Bulwer Lytton Dickens three years later. Why did they decide to come so far from home or was the decision made by Dickens? How did they make their way in Australia? Booker Prize winner and prolific writer Tom Keneally AO is a Dickens lover and will explore the fate of Alfred and Edward in Australia.

2. *Dickens in the colonies: Australian responses to the world's favourite writer*
Dr. Kylie Mirmohamadi and Professor Susan Martin
How was Dickens received in Australia? Did Australians queue on the docks to hear the fate of his characters, as they did in America? How did they interpret Dickens' stories in the context of Australian life? Which of Dickens' characters spoke to Australians most and why? Dr. Kylie Mirmohamadi and Professor Susan Martin are the authors of *Colonial Dickens; What Australians Made of the World's Favourite Writer*. From the streets of nineteenth-century Melbourne to crowded colonial theatres, they will trace the ways in which Dickens and his works were read, re-read and reinterpreted in distinctly Australian ways.

3. Was Fagin modeled on my great-great-great uncle, Ikey Solomon?
Scott Whitmont
Fagin is one of the most vivid characters in *Oliver Twist*, one of Dickens' most popular books. He is widely believed to be based on Ikey Solomon, a receiver and fencer of stolen goods, who was transported to Tasmania in 1831 and died in Hobart in 1850. Sydney bookseller and book collector Scott Whitmont is directly related to Solomon. He will talk about what made Ikey so fascinating to Dickens, drawing on the book, *The First Fagin: The True Story of Ikey Solomon* by Judith Sackville-O'Donnell.

4. *What shall we have for dinner*? *Advice from Mrs Charles Dickens*.
Jacqui Newling
In 1851, Catherine Dickens published a diminutive book of menus or 'Bills of Fare' under the pseudonym Lady Maria Clutterbuck. Several more editions followed, with recipes included. This kind of work fulfilled a need for a burgeoning middle class in the UK, but even more so in the Australian colonies, with readers hungry to learn how to dine and entertain in a manner expected of their newly acquired (or aspired) status. Sarah Wentworth, a 'currency lass', and wife of William Charles Wentworth of Vaucluse, is typical of many aspirational Australians who may have looked to Lady Clutterbuck for advice to impress highly judgmental colonial society.

5. Dickens in Australia through the Eyes of Trollope
Susannah Fullerton
Sadly, Charles Dickens never made a trip to Australia, although two of his sons lived here. However, in 1871 and in 1875 his contemporary Anthony Trollope visited Australia. What did he see and do

here? How did he come to meet one of Charles Dickens' sons? Would Dickens have agreed with Trollope's conclusions about this country, and how might he have responded to the Australian landscape and people? Susannah Fullerton, author of *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* discusses Trollope's antipodean journey through the eyes of Charles Dickens.

6. *The Gad's Hill Gazette*: an experiment in print culture by Dickens' sons.
Professor Christine Alexander.
Despite Dickens' imaginative involvement with children in his novels, there are few instances of bonding with his own children. However, father and sons were united in a creative enterprise in *The Gad's Hill Gazette* (c.1861–1866), a weekly family newspaper named after Dickens' family home in Kent. Professor Christine Alexander has traced down twenty-one of the few surviving issues of the *Gazette* in libraries in the United States and the UK. This illustrated talk will suggest that not only is the *Gazette* a valuable source of biographical material on Dickens himself, but that this family 'journal' was both a theatrical gesture and a determined effort by Dickens' sons to imitate the print culture of their father's publishing world.

7. The Charles Dickens Museum: literary shrine or cabinet of curiosities?
Dr Cindy Sughrue
The family home where Charles Dickens began married life, became established as a writer and rose rapidly to international fame, is now the Charles Dickens Museum, for the study, appreciation and enjoyment of the life and work of Dickens. A Grade I listed building, the Museum holds the world's most comprehensive collection of material relating to Charles Dickens – over 100,000 items including furniture, personal effects, paintings, prints, photographs, letters, manuscripts, and rare editions. Director Cindy Sughrue will talk about the Museum and its collection, including Dickens' links with Australia.

8. The Mesmerising Dickens: Madame de la Rue, animal magnetism and the 19th century colonisation of the mind
Walter Mason
Dickens was introduced to mesmerism by his friend, surgeon John Elliotson in the 1830s and rapidly became fascinated by it, to the extent that he learned mesmerism himself and practised it on friends and family. The English-Swiss actress Madame de la Rue, who suffered from anxiety-based ailments, was one of Dickens' most successful 'patients'. In this fascinating talk, Walter Mason will introduce us to an aspect of Dickens' activities which will be new to many Dickens readers, in the context of the 19th century interest in the workings of the mind.

9. Collecting Dickens Downunder
Professor Chris Browne
This talk from a book collector who acquired his first Charles Dickens first edition in 1973 will suggest different approaches to constructing a Dickens collection. It will be based on examples from his own Dickens collection of more than 200 volumes.
Professor Browne will show how to identify and evaluate a range of different editions of the works of Dickens, particularly first editions, illustrated editions and editions with an Australian connection. He will also discuss collecting bibliographies, commentaries, biographies, imitations and sequels to the works of Charles Dickens. He will focus on collecting Edwin Drood as an example of one particularly fertile direction.

10. Fallen Women
Dr. Olivia Murphy.
The fate of the 'fallen' woman is a preoccupation of eighteenth and nineteenth century literature. From Oliver's mother and Nancy in *Oliver Twist*, to Little Emily and Martha in *David Copperfield*,

there are many 'fallen' women in the works of Dickens, and Dickens himself worked to rehabilitate real-life fallen women with the aim of preparing them for life in the British colonies, including Australia, South Africa and Canada. This talk looks at how such women are represented in literature in order to explore the ideas Dickens inherited and those that he helped propagate.

11. Australian writers talk about reading Dickens today
David Hunt and others to be confirmed
Why read Dickens today? A panel including prolific authors Kate Forsyth, David Hunt and David Dyer talk about their love of Dickens and why his writing remains both relevant and enjoyable in the 21st century.

12. Dickens, crime and the rise of police detective: Changes in policing in England and Australia
Dr Rachel Franks
Dickens greatly admired the men of the emerging detective force, as seen in several pieces in *Household Words* strongly supporting those who were making London's streets safer. What were the major changes in English policing in Dickens' time and why did he offer such open support when so many were resisting innovation? What was going on in policing in Australia at the time? In a question and answer session, Rachel Franks will discuss Dickens and the detective.

13. Dickens' Early Sketches
Dr Paul Schlicke
Dickens' early imaginative work, the sketches of 1833 – 1840 attracted much attention and launched his career. In this talk, Paul Schlicke will look at these early works as the single most important evidence available of Dickens' development as a writer, documented in exhaustive, meticulous detail in his revisions.

Events include
1. Lord Mayor's reception:
The Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney will host a reception at the Sydney Town Hall for the delegates of the International Dickens Fellowship Conference with canapés and drinks. Opened ten years after Dickens' death, the Town Hall is an impressive example of High Victorian architecture.

2. Annual General Meeting of the Dickens Fellowship.

3. State Library of New South Wales Opening of the Conference Charles Dickens display
The Librarians of the State Library of NSW have searched their collections and created a display of Dickens-related items for the Conference. These include the original manuscript of Dickens' *Emigration* (c. 1852) sent by Dickens to Miss Coutts, a letter (1865) from Dickens to Archibald Michie written from Gad's Hill Place, thanking him for his interest in his son Alfred and also for his invitation to visit Australia, a complete set of the pirated Launceston editions of *The Pickwick Papers* (August – December, 1838) and a copy of the dramatization of *Barnaby Rudge* by Charles Selby notated by the prompter of the production. An archivist will talk about these items after an address by Dr. John Vallance, NSW State Librarian.

4. Banquet evening:
Vaucluse House is a beautiful example of colonial gothic architecture, built in Charles Dickens' era. The estate is unusual in that it retains over ten hectares (29 acres) of its original land, extending right down to the harbour foreshore. Home to influential William Charles Wentworth and his family, colonials with an intriguing convict past, the house retains many original features, including bathrooms and 1830s kitchen, and furnishings owned by the Wentworth family.

The Conference has been granted special access to Vaucluse House. At twilight our guests will wander through the Vaucluse House pleasure garden and enjoy canapés and drinks on the verandah followed by a unique private viewing of the house, which will be lit by candlelight. An original copy of *Household Words* will be displayed in situ.
After viewing the house, guests will walk a few metres to the Vaucluse House Tearooms located on the estate, where Jacqui Newling, resident gastronomer at Sydney Living Museums (and speaker at another session at the conference), will discuss the relevance of the menu she has created, a modern twist on dishes taken from 'Bills of Fare' in Catherine Dickens' book *What Shall We Have for Dinner?* including roast saddle of lamb and Cabinet pudding. (There will be options for vegetarians.)
A souvenir menu annotated with tasting notes will be available for each guest.

Visits include:

1. The story of Sydney's statue of Charles Dickens: Sandra Faulkner

During the Conference's excursion to Centennial Parklands Sandra Faulkner will tell the story of Sydney's statue of Dickens. She will relate the statue's history, its disappearance and her subsequent discovery of its whereabouts. She will talk about the restoration work carried out on the statue prior to returning to its original home on Dickens Drive in the Parklands on 7th February 2011. One of only three known statues of Dickens in the world, the statue in Sydney is not only of great significance to Dickensians, but can also be enjoyed by all who visit the Parklands.

2. Eliza Donnithorne and her Dickens connection: Professor Margaret Harris

Miss Havisham in *Great Expectations* is one of Dickens' most memorable characters. The question of the extent to which she was a product of his imagination has been debated by literary critics, Dickens enthusiasts and local historians for a century and a half. This talk will examine the substance of the claims that Eliza Emily Donnithorne (1826-86), buried in St Stephen's Anglican churchyard, Newtown (an inner suburb of Sydney) was a model for Miss Havisham.

3. Writers' Walk: Circular Quay: A guided tour by Susannah Fullerton (two tours of one hour each)

By glorious Sydney harbour there is a Writers' Walk, with brass plaques set into the pavement commemorating writers' visits to the shores of Sydney harbour. Some came from other parts of Australia, but other writers made the arduous voyage from Britain, Europe or the United States in order to see Australia for themselves. Plaques include Trollope, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Conrad, Kipling, R.L. Stevenson, Mark Twain, D.H. Lawrence, and Umberto Eco, but also local authors Thomas Keneally AO, Patrick White, May Gibbs, Banjo Patterson and Henry Lawson. Susannah Fullerton will lead a guided walk along the Writers' Walk. Learn about the many fascinating writers who came to Sydney, discover which of their comments about this city were immortalised in quotes, and enjoy the stunning scenery near Sydney's Circular Quay.

4. Church service at St James' Church

A traditional service in Victorian style with music of the era and social gospels to mark the conference and celebrate the life and work of Dickens. St James' Church, with its Georgian town church exterior, was constructed between 1819 and 1824 and is the oldest church building in the City of Sydney. The church was an important element of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's town planning and was completely designed by Francis Greenaway and built by convict labour. Greenway was an English born architect who was transported to Australia as a convict for forgery. After arriving in Australia, he was responsible for design and construction of the Macquarie Lighthouse after which he was emancipated and made Acting Civil Architect for Governor Lachlan Macquarie.
Readings by NSW Dickens Society members, Reverend Robert Emery and Reverend Geoffrey R. Usher.

5. Hyde Park Barracks
A tour of the UNESCO Word Heritage Listed, Hyde Park Barracks. The Barracks are recognized for their global importance, along with 10 other convict sites around Australia, designed by the convict architect, Francis Greenway and hand-built by convicts between 1817-1819 for convicts to live in, the Hyde Park Barracks is unique. Between 1788 and 1868, approximately 166,000 people were forcibly migrated across the globe to the then Australian colonies. Operating as convict barracks for men between 1819 and 1848, the Hyde Park Barracks saw pick-pockets and pirates, confidence tricksters and conspirators, rebels and rascals within its walls. Our tour will focus on the convict era and take place in small groups of 20 – 25 people.

6. Tour of the Sydney Opera House followed by a harbour cruise with lunch
The Sydney Opera House is one of the world's most recognisable landmarks and this is your chance to truly get up close. You can run your hands over the world-famous shell tiles and marvel at the vaulted ceilings. The tour will cover the stories behind architect Jørn Utzon's revolutionary designs for this masterpiece and how he solved the engineering challenges. We will visit off-limit areas to the public and we will be able to capture photographs from rare vantage points. Explore theatres and foyers where more than 1600 concerts, operas, dramas and ballets take place each year, then look at the Opera House from the water and explore Sydney harbour over lunch.

7. Dickens Trivia Night
Do you know your Pumblechook from your Pecksniff? The State Library of NSW has created a light-hearted Dickens Trivia night to test our knowledge of Dickens, his life and times, at the State Library. We will be joined by other Dickens lovers from Sydney. Teams can be a maximum of eight members so start revising your Dickens trivia now.

8. Art Gallery of NSW
Steven Miller will show us one of the earliest gifts to the gallery, a portrait of Dickens by J. S. Bowman, as part of a talk on the Dickens-related material in their collection. He will also discuss the work of other Victorian painters in the collection like William Powell Frith, Frank Holl, Hubert von Herkomer and Luke Fildes, who were inspired by the social issues of their day, just as Dickens was. The talk will also highlight Australian artists inspired by Dickens, including Christopher Coveny, whose book 'Twenty scenes from the works of Dickens', was published in 1883.

Extra Bonuses include:
1. Film screening of *The First Fagin*
The First Fagin recreates the life of Ikey Solomon, the possible inspiration for Fagin in *Oliver Twist*. The film which is part narrative and part historical documentary is narrated by Miriam Margolyes OBE, our patron. This is an optional event at no charge.

2. The Old Curiosity Shop
The renowned NSW Dickens Society shop 'The Old Curiosity Shop', will have a range of Dickens and literary items for sale in the foyer outside the Ibis Room at The Pullman Hyde Park during the conference.

3. *Boz in Oz* miscellany
A small newsletter will be produced for each of the four days of the conference by members of the NSW Dickens Society Kim Hapgood and Dianne Christie. The broadsheet newspaper will highlight news items and advertisements from old colonial newspapers during Charles Dickens' lifetime relating to him and his works. Stories from *Household Words* about Australia – especially those written by Charles Dickens; newspaper articles and ads for colonial book stores, book sales and early

libraries, promoting, selling, stocking Dickens books; stories about quirky colonial connections to Dickens and his writings.

4. Dickens Timeline
A computer display of Charles Dickens' life and works in relation to world events at the time, created by Dr. Chris Browne and his colleagues will be on view to Conference guests.

5. Raffle
With prizes donated by our donors Audible, Bloomsbury Publishing, Harper Collins Publishing, Hay House, NewSouth Books, Pan Macmillan, Scribe Publishing and The Crow Emporium.

6. Regency Fair
The Jane Austen Society of Australia (JASA) will have a stall in the foyer of The Pullman Hyde Park for delegates to buy a range of Austen and Regency related books and items.

7. Juvenilia Press Stall
The Juvenilia Press will have a stall in the foyer of The Pullman Hyde Park for delegates to buy a range of books and items.

8. Delegates' Bags
Sponsors and donors are filling up our goodies bags with wonderful treats for all delegates to enjoy!

Christmas Lunch:
Saturday, 1st December at Cello's, The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. Please watch this space for more details in the next few months.
Separate cost.

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NSW Dickens Society Weekend Away; a weekend filled with wonderful talks. Saturday or Sunday or both day packages available. More information to follow in the next few months.

September: Italy in the Footsteps of Dickens trip to Italy;
http://renaissancetours.com.au/tours/literary/italy-footsteps-of-dickens/
Explore Italy in the footsteps of Charles Dickens, retracing his 19th century voyage from Venice in the north, through Genoa, Florence and Rome to Mt. Vesuvius in the south.

Please note that these details were correct at the time of printing and may be subject to change without notification.