NSW Dickens Society.
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Household Words

Issue 72 (October, 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

It's a very busy and exciting time at the NSW Dickens Society! We have a great talk on 6th October, the international conference, our Christmas Lunch and the 2019 programme of events to look forward to. What larks! I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest members: **Matthew Gain, Alan Hogan, Fiona Lynch** and **Ilse Scheepers**. We hope that you enjoy the talks, events and publications of the NSW Dickens Society as much as we all do!

It's that time of the year when we vote for which of Dickens' works we would like to have as our 2019 Book of the Year. Please find in this edition of *Household Words* a synopsis of the five works by Dickens that we have not studied recently. We will vote for our preferred book at the 6th October meeting and the results will be announced at the end of that meeting. If you cannot make it to the meeting and would like to vote, please email me with your vote on; louiseo@bigpond.net.au by 5th October. I look forward to the results of the vote.

As you know, the wonderful 112th International Dickens Fellowship Conference is being held in Sydney from 25th – 30th October 2018 and we have had amazing ticket sales. Speakers are preparing their talks, delegate bags are being packed and programmes are being printed. We look forward to seeing so many of you there as well as many who are travelling from near and far and enjoying this fantastic conference together!

A very big thank you to our sponsors and donors who have supported us in this event:
Gold Sponsors: Audible.com.au and the Dickens Fellowship Adelaide Branch
Silver Sponsor: Sydney Living Museums
Bronze Sponsor: Slightly Foxed
Sponsors: Juvenilia Press, Lindfield Bookshop and The Jane Austen Society of Australia
Donors: Bloomsbury, *Good Reading* magazine, Harper Collins Publishers, Hay House, Hip Hampers, Macmillan, NewSouth, Scribe, The Crow Emporium and *The Dickens Magazine*.

Our annual Christmas lunch will be held on Saturday 1st December. This is always a lovely event and a great finale to the year. Please look out for booking forms soon.

It's a fantastic time to be a member of the NSW Dickens Society! We are creating an exciting programme of events for 2019 including a fascinating range of talks for our Saturday meetings as well as our Weekend by the Seaside where the theme will be **'Dickens and the Family'**. The weekend will be held at Novotel, Manly on Saturday 18th May and Sunday 19th May 2019. Delegates can book in for either or both days, can attend during the day and return home at night or stay the weekend. Please watch out soon for the information and booking forms for this great event.

Meanwhile, our next wonderful meeting is on **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. 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. Anne Burns will also be giving a delightful talk about her Dickens Memorabilia and Walter Mason 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 Clive Woosnam

Clive Woosnam - A prominent participant in Sydney's literary world passed away on 27 July 2018

"I shall not rage as darkness closes in
For memories are strong of years well spent"

These are the opening lines of a poem by Clive Woosnam, written soon after he was diagnosed with a terminal illness. He was the long serving president of both the Sydney Welsh Choir and the Dylan Thomas Association of Australia.

Clive was born in the Rhondda Valley in 1939, the son of a Welsh coalminer. Encouraged by his father he developed a love of music, singing in a children's choir, and at Grammar School developed an interest in literature, particularly attracted to the writings of Dylan Thomas. This interest was to stay with him for the rest of his life.

At the age of 18 he enrolled in the London University College where he studied Geography, and later gained his teaching qualifications at Exeter University. At the age of 25 Clive had met and married his wife Helen, also a teacher, and began a career at Newington College, which was to last for 35 years. He became head of the Geography Department, head of the lower school, boarding house master and archivist. He was much respected and appreciated

by both students and staff, and in 2017 was honoured, together with his wife Helen, by the award of Life Membership of the Old Boys Union. It was an award rarely given. A very moving Memorial Service was conducted for Clive at Newington College Chapel with many of his ex-students and colleagues attesting with much fondness and gratitude to his role in their lives and his contribution to Newington College.

His love of music and literature was to be fulfilled by a long association with the Sydney Welsh Choir and the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia. It was evident that had he chosen he could have had a career as either a vocalist or an actor. His performances of Dylan Thomas's writing is legendary, close if not surpassing the talent of Richard Burton. Clive never read the words but spoke them from memory and always from the heart. In 2012, after much research, Clive wrote the drama "Goodnight Dylan", in which he argued that Dylan had died as a result of medical malpractice, and not as was commonly held, from the result of heavy drinking. In 2009, Clive received an Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to Education and the Arts.

At the passing of Clive Woosnam we can but rejoice in having had such a gift of a man. Clive died peacefully in Mona Vale Hospital on July 27th with his loving wife and family by his side. Tributes at his private funeral attested to the warmth, intellect, selflessness and boundless enthusiasm for life that Clive had exhibited.

By Jacqueline King

<u>Report on Ilse Scheepers' Talk; August 2018 Meeting</u>

On 4th August 2018, NSW Dickens members were treated to a highly enjoyable talk from Ilse Scheepers of Audible Australia (the world's largest selection of audio books). Ilse gave a witty and convincing argument that Charles Dickens was the very first podcaster—or at least, that the relationship between Dickens' oeuvre and the history of the audio form is an especially unique and closely intertwined one. In describing her role as Site Merchandiser for Audible Australia, Ilse spoke of all the special components that make a great audiobook: a first person narrative, a great plot and a brilliant narrator. Such elements, Ilse argues, are among the reasons why Charles Dickens and his works were so irresistible to readers in his lifetime, and why his work remains so palpable today. As Ilse describes, Dickens—as a prolific and legendary public performer of his own works—greatly understood the profound power of reading books aloud. Ilse's talk was also a wonderful opportunity for NSW Dickens Society members to preview one of Audible's newest and most exciting projects: *The Dickens Collection*: a series of new recordings of Dickens novels featuring new introductions. Together, the Society listened to excerpts of such delights as Matt Lucas reading from *Great Expectations* and Simon Callow narrating *A Tale of Two Cities.*

By Claudette Palomares

Limerick for Ilse Schepers and Matthew Gain

Dickens is eminently readable;
His books now can also be Audible.
Ilse; Matthew: your leadership
Has expanded his readership.
Your work and today's talk are laudable.

By Geoffrey R Usher

NSW DS Member Interview: Dr John Vallance

Which is the first Dickens' novel you read?
I read Oliver Twist in my second year at North Sydney Boys' High School. I still associate it with feeling hungry when I forgot my lunch money.

What are your first memories of Dickens?
My father used to called himself "Aged P" even before he was aged. It was years before I understood the reference.

Which is one of your favourite Dickens novels?
Great Expectations, closely followed by *A Tale of Two Cities. Great Expectations* because (to be honest) of the Australian connection and the image of Miss Havisham's dark room closed off from the world. *A Tale of Two Cities* not least because of that marvellous first sentence.

Who is one of your favourite Dickens characters?
Magwitch. (My least favourite is Estella.)

Which Dickens' novel would you most like to live in?
None at all. I am deeply fortunate to be alive today.

What would you most like to ask Dickens?
I would ask him about his taste in art. What I know of his taste in music is rather sentimental, and it would be interesting to see if this is matched by the pictures he loved.

If Dickens could visit today's world, what do you think he would be most surprised by?
The internet – and he would quickly make loads of money out of subscriptions to his blogs.

If you were setting up a personal library for someone, which Dickens novels would you include?
If it's to be a proper library, it would have to have them all.

Your career highlights so far?
There are things I'm proud of, but pride is a vice (dissected by Dickens) so I won't say.

Do you collect anything?
Yes, lots of things. Tractors, machines, music, art, experiences … and books.

Coordinated by Louise Owens

2019 NSW Dickens Society's Book of the Year

Each year members of the NSW Dickens Society vote to decide which book they will read the following year. We have six works by Charles Dickens that we have not studied in recent years. Geoffrey R. Usher has made the following notes to help us decide which book to vote for. There will be a voting form for these books at our next meeting, 14th October. If you are not able to make it to the meeting, please send in your vote to: louiseo@bigpond.net.au

1. *Sketches by Boz:* Illustrative of everyday life and everyday people. The first series of *Sketches by Boz* was published on 7 February 1836 – Dickens' 24th birthday. Its immediate success was almost immediately eclipsed because about six weeks later the first number of *The Pickwick Papers* appeared. By the time the second series of *Sketches* appeared, Boz and Pickwick were household words. Dickens/Boz was reflecting a completely new outlook, the outlook of the person in the street – settling down all the small events in the everyday life of common persons: bank clerks, shop assistants, omnibus drivers, laundresses, market women, and kidney-pie sellers. Dickens is a master of pictorial description. The *Sketches* reflects the tremendous social changes that were beginning to take place: on the one hand, the horrors of poverty, disease and crime; and on the other hand the prosperous vulgarity of the rapidly rising middle class. Years later, Dickens described his first book as 'often being extremely crude and ill-considered, and bearing obvious marks of haste and inexperience'. As an example of what is now called 'documentary', the *Sketches* deserve a unique place in literature. More than half the contents are facts, observed with an astonishing precision and wealth of detail. Some of the *Sketches* have a special fascination for the glimpses they afford of their author.

2. *The Christmas Books (5 short books)*: 'Nothing is more Dickensian than the Dickens Christmas. It has dominated the home-festival for well over a century and a half. Warm humanity pervades the Dickens Christmas (Eleanor Farjeon)'. In 1843 *Martin Chuzzlewit*, the serial of the moment, was failing to please. Dickens decided to throw off a complete Christmas book in the intervals of writing the monthly serial parts of *Chuzzlewit* – to relieve some disturbing financial complications he was suffering through an unsatisfactory arrangement with his publishers. Once started on its course, *A Christmas Carol* ran away with him. He wept at it, and laughed, and wept again. *A Christmas Carol* in 1843 was followed by *The Chimes* in 1844, *The Cricket on the Hearth* in 1845, *The Battle of Life* in 1846 and *The Haunted Man* in 1848. The last two are probably unfamiliar to most readers (even Dickens enthusiasts). *The Cricket on the Hearth* was probably the most popular for half a century, before being overtaken by *A Christmas Carol*. There would most certainly have been more than the five Christmas books, but for the birth in 1850 of *Household Words*, to which Dickens transferred his 'odd moments of leisure' from the demands of his major novels – *Bleak House, Little Dorrit* and *A Tale of Two Cities*. In his preface to the book, Dickens wrote that his 'chief purpose was, in a whimsical kind of masque which the

good humour of the season justified, to awaken some loving forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christian land'.

3. *American Notes* and *Pictures From Italy*: These are separate works, but they were written only a couple of years apart and belong together. Dickens was a champion of the downtrodden and the poor, but his sympathy for the under-dog was not confined to his fellow Englishman. *American Notes* was written in 1842, and *Pictures from Italy* in 1844. Both are reflective diaries of his experiences on the tours he made, and he paints the social conditions of those countries with an ample brush. He first visited America in 1842. As the doyen of English language, he was greeted everywhere with tremendous enthusiasm, but the trip was a bitter disappointment. He had believed that, in a free Republican state, he would see justice and equality. Instead, he found repelling crudity, and the barbarity of the slave system disturbed him. Nevertheless, the lavish detail in his writing reveals a kind of exhilaration, despite his distaste for the objectionable side of American democracy. Two years later, he toured Italy. The famous cities come alive not through buildings and objects, but through his portraits of the ordinary people. Sacheverell Sitwell wrote that these 'two lesser works ... show the sparks of his talent, and if they do not enhance, still less do they tarnish his great name.'

4. *A Child's History of England:* Dickens first mentioned his intention of 'writing a little history of England for my boy' in May 1843, but the idea did not take shape until 1850, when he began to edit *Household Words*. The 1000th birthday of King Alfred had been celebrated in 1849. Dickens undertook no original research, but seems to have relied largely on Thomas Keightley's 3-volume *History of England* (1839). *A Child's History of England* began to appear in *Household Words* in January 1851. It appeared regularly in *Household Words* throughout 1851, 1852 and 1853, forwarded by instalments to Dickens' sub-editor, W. H. Wills, as and when he found time to produce them, and was published in book form in three volumes in those years. Its composition was only a side-line, during a period which saw the conclusion of *David Copperfield* and the writing of *Bleak House*. Most of it was dedicated to his sister-in-law, Georgina Hogarth. As a Dickens manifesto, it is highly significant. It is a boy's book, founded on a strong sense of social justice. Dickens did not take it beyond 1688. In the autumn of 1853 he rapidly rounded it off, saluted Queen Victoria, and departed for a holiday in Italy with Wilkie Collins and Augustus Egg. The book was dedicated 'To My Own Dear Children whom I hope it may help, by and by, to read with interest larger and better books on the same subject.'

5. *The Uncommercial Traveller*: These essays appear over a decade, 1860–1869, in Dickens' weekly magazine *All Year Round*, which he had successfully launched in 1859 with the serial of *A Tale of Two Cities*. They are more mature reflections and observations than the light-hearted journalistic *Sketches By Boz* (1834–36). Considered to rank amongst the finest essays in the language, they offer a commentary on aspects of life during the 1860s, and reveal the wakefulness of Dickens' social conscience. They contain much of interest to his biographers, with many references to personal reminiscences and incidents.

By Geoffrey R. Usher

TROT – The David Copperfield Musical

Charles Dickens' novel *David Copperfield* is one of the best-loved novels in the English language. There have been numerous films, television mini-series and radio broadcasts based on it; in fact, the latest film adaptation, starring Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton and Hugh Laurie, is currently in production. Why, then, has there not been a musical?

It has been a mystery to me that no one has written a successful musical that captures Dickens' wonderful characters in an abridged but faithful story, so I decided to do it myself. I wrote a script based on *David Copperfield* that would translate into a musical adaption and started looking for a composer who would do Dickens justice. This proved difficult – until I heard a piece of music written for a fellow playwright by a talented young composer named Nicholas Buc. I knew at once that he would ***more*** than do it justice.

Nick does not just compose music – he is an accomplished pianist, violinist, arranger and conductor who travels the world conducting symphony orchestras including, of course, the SSO, MSO and others in Australia.

He is Tina Arena's musical director when in Australia and lives in New York. See www.nicholasbuc.com for more information and samples of his work.

Trot has received some excellent commentary from very prominent people in the London theatre scene, including a well-known writer, director and literary manager, and has been shortlisted twice in competitions (NAMT in America and Microfest in the UK).

It was challenging to condense the story without losing its quintessence or murdering the dialogue but I have used Dickens' words wherever possible, if with some inevitable diminution.

As far as the song lyrics are concerned, I hope that I have retained the essence of the moment and again have used Dickens' phrases where possible. Writing the lyrics to Nick's music was intensely rewarding. For inspiration for the Spenlow & Jorkins clerks' song – 'The Art of Law', I read *Bleak House*! Other song lyrics have been inspired by the music, adding a richness that would otherwise have been lacking.

Nick has managed to capture the period, the humour and the emotion of Dickens' words in a score that is full of colourful and melodic songs.

It is not easy to get a musical from page to stage. Perhaps the best advice we had when declaring our intention to do just that was 'Don't!' However, I am convinced there are legions of people out there longing for a show with tuneful music, an excellent plot, and an array of unforgettable characters.

If any of you would like to see the libretto, hear the music, or both, I can be reached on 0408 567 739.

By Gordon Lindsay

***Martin Chuzzlewit* Quiz D Volume 2, Chapters XXXVII-LIV**

1. Who was quite as mysterious a being to Tom Pinch as the Man in the Moon?
2. Who poked Tom in the back with a parcel?
3. What was Mr Moddle's given name?
4. What was written on the spring of the secret door in an odd nook of Mrs Todgers' breast?
5. Who happened to be in the minds of both Tom Pinch and Mr Nadgett when they passed in the street?
6. What did Tom do to give greater force to his declaration that there was nothing he should like so much as a beef-steak pudding?
7. How did the butcher tell Tom that meat should be treated?
8. With what did Ruth give Tom a tap on the head?
9. What was the annual salary for the position which John Westlock told Tom had been offered for him?
10. What name and address were on the card which Tom's prospective employer had given to John Westlock?
11. What did Mrs Gamp call the Antwerp packet that she was wanting at the wharf?
12. How did the contents of the letter which Tom Pinch gave Jonas Chuzzlewit strike him?
13. What did the doctor tell Jonas was advisable as being healthy in itself and as being the better preparation for dinner?
14. On the way to Salisbury after the coach crash in the early morning storm, what determination did Montague express?
15. What did his fears or evil conscience reproduce in all of Montague's dreams as he rested at the inn after the crash?
16. At the Blue Dragon, why did Mrs Lupin remove her candle to the chimney-piece?
17. What did Mrs Lupin tell Martin and Mark she had received from Tom Pinch the previous day?
18. What did Mr Pecknsiff do with the letter which Mark Tapley gave him, addressed to old Mr Chuzzlewit?
19. What position did Mr Pecksniff assume in the encounter of Martin with his grandfather?
20. What was the special quality, among the many admirable qualities possessed by Mr Pecksniff?
21. What playful little name for his elder daughter did Mr Pecksniff invent when Jonas came to the house?
22. What did Mr Pecksniff remark that he could leave for Mr Montague, by way of gentleman-usher to himself at dinner?
23. On their way to Mrs Todgers', whom did Tom and Ruth Pinch see outside the large Upholstery and Furniture Warehouse?
24. What was the price of the eight rosewood chairs and the loo table in the Warehouse window?
25. Although she told Tom Pinch that she was humble and contented, what was Charity Pecksniff assuredly not?
26. How did the coachman put an end to Jonas' dialogue with the guard who told him he would not be drowned?
27. Who was the mysterious stranger in the breakfast room when Tom Pinch, Martin Chuzzlewit and Mark Tapley called to see John Westlock?
28. How many elbow-chairs, of ancient mahogany, did Mrs Gamp have in her apartment?

29. What gave her chest of drawers a great advantage of security over her band-boxes?
30. Why did the sporting Gent, upon the Stock Exchange, want a few slow pigeons from Mr Sweedlepipe?
31. How had all the garden-stuff which Betsey Prig produced from her pocket in Mrs Gamp's room been publicly exhibited?
32. Who were waiting with Mr Sweedlepipe outside Mrs Gamp's room while she was arguing with Betsey Prig?
33. Who was "the chief officer of the party" who, with Mr Nadgett, apprehended Jonas Chuzzlewit?
34. How much money was in the purse which Jonas offered in exchange for "five minutes in the next room"?
35. What did old Martin Chuzzlewit and Tom Pinch purchase for both Ruth and Mary Graham?
36. With what was Mark Tapley furnished, relative to the ordering of dinner?
37. Who turned out to be "the jolliest old dog that ever did violence to his convivial sentiments"?
38. And which perfect American president did he show himself?
39. What words did the strong-minded kinswoman underline in her answer to Charity Pecksniff's invitation to her wedding to Mr Moddle?
40. How did Mr Moddle subscribe his letter to Charity?

By Geoffrey R Usher

***Martin Chuzzlewit* Quiz C Answers**

These are the answers to the quiz included in *Household Words* Issue 71.

1. Paul (Poll) Sweedlepipe
2. Rabbits
3. The smell of shaving soap
4. David Crimple, Esquire
5. Bullamy
6. That he was "full of anecdote"
7. A pound
8. There was money to be made from it
9. Mr Wolf and Mr Pip
10. Some Champagne Punch
11. Chops and strong ale
12. A tender and indulgent husband
13. An amusement of the vulgar
14. The caresses of a toad, an adder, or a serpent
15. Flabby
16. By the action of the musician's feet
17. Tom Pinch and Mary Graham
18. He sat down upon a hassock, and … smiled
19. Arrows in his heart
20. He got out through the vestry window
21. Jane
22. His double eye-glass

23. The fiddle
24. Salisbury
25. Tamaroo
26. Moddle
27. Toads
28. Hannibal Chollop
29. A violent vagabond
30. As a worshipper of Freedom
31. The Esau Slodge
32. A little roll of dollar notes
33. Like a clock-work figure that was just running down
34. Julius Washington Merryweather Bib
35. The three literary ladies: Mrs Hominy, Miss Toppit and Miss Codger
36. The Screw
37. A year
38. He added four windows
39. Seventy breezy miles a-day
40. John Westlock

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 The deadline for the last 2018 submissions is: 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. Please use Chicago-style referencing for footnotes in these articles.

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 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
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 their make their way in Australia? Booker Prize winner and prolific writer Tom Keneally 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 Dyer, Kate Forsyth and David Hunt

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 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.

<u>Extra Bonuses include:</u>
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. Raffle
With prizes donated by our donors Audible, Bloomsbury Publishing, *Good Reading* magazine, Harper Collins Publishing, Hay House, Hip Hampers, NewSouth Books, Scribe Publishing and *The Dickens* magazine and various generous individuals and couples.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

Saturday, 1st December: Christmas Lunch:
At Cello's, The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney. Booking forms will be available soon. Separate cost.

Sunday, 2nd December: Public Reading by Geoff Usher of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*:
2pm at Concord Library, 60 Flavelle Street, Concord NSW
A Unitarian minister who was at Sydney Unitarian Church 1976 – 1991, Geoff Usher is a former teacher and a professional actor. He served as Minister of Upper Chapel, Sheffield, England, 1991 – 2010. In 1993, to mark the 150th anniversary of its publication, he gave his first public reading of the story. It became a much acclaimed annual part of Sheffield's Christmas celebrations until he retired in 2010 and returned to his native Australia. 2018 marks the 175th anniversary of the publication, and the 25th anniversary of Geoff's first public

reading of the story. A member of the international Dickens Fellowship since 1970, Geoff is now a member of the NSW Dickens Society.
Admission to his readings is free, but he is happy for there to be collections for local charities. The reading takes about two hours including an interval. It is suitable for children of ten and over who enjoy hearing a good story.
For further information please contact Geoff Usher: P. (02) 9357 4336

Wednesday, 5th December: Public Reading by Geoff Usher of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*:
10.30am at Katoomba Library, Blue Mountains Community Centre, 30 Parke Street, Katoomba NSW
A Unitarian minister who was at Sydney Unitarian Church 1976 – 1991, Geoff Usher is a former teacher and a professional actor. He served as Minister of Upper Chapel, Sheffield, England, 1991 – 2010. In 1993, to mark the 150th anniversary of its publication, he gave his first public reading of the story. It became a much acclaimed annual part of Sheffield's Christmas celebrations until he retired in 2010 and returned to his native Australia. 2018 marks the 175th anniversary of the publication, and the 25th anniversary of Geoff's first public reading of the story. A member of the international Dickens Fellowship since 1970, Geoff is now a member of the NSW Dickens Society.
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For further information please contact Geoff Usher: P. (02) 9357 4336

Thursday, 20th December: Public Reading by Geoff Usher of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*:
5.30pm at Leichhardt Library, Piazza Level, Italian Forum, 23 Norton Street, Leichhardt NSW
A Unitarian minister who was at Sydney Unitarian Church 1976 – 1991, Geoff Usher is a former teacher and a professional actor. He served as Minister of Upper Chapel, Sheffield, England, 1991 – 2010. In 1993, to mark the 150th anniversary of its publication, he gave his first public reading of the story. It became a much acclaimed annual part of Sheffield's Christmas celebrations until he retired in 2010 and returned to his native Australia. 2018 marks the 175th anniversary of the publication, and the 25th anniversary of Geoff's first public reading of the story. A member of the international Dickens Fellowship since 1970, Geoff is now a member of the NSW Dickens Society.
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2019

We are very close to finalizing a wonderful programme for next year. Meanwhile, please mark these dates in your diary for our Saturday talks at the City Tattersalls Club:
Saturday, 2nd February
Saturday, 6th April
Saturday, 1st June
Saturday, 3rd August
Saturday, 5th October

Saturday, 18th May and Sunday 19th May: NSW Dickens Society Weekend Away; *'Dickens and the Family'.* This weekend filled with wonderful talks, will be held at the Novotel, Manly. Saturday or Sunday or weekend packages are available. Accommodation is also available, if desired. More information to follow soon.

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. Louise Owens will be leading this tour.

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