



Rananim

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OUR 16TH ANNIVERSARY BOTANIC GARDENS PICNIC



Laura Forrester and Frieda Lawrence walking in the Sydney Botanic Gardens in 1922

Photo: Denis Forrester

JANUARY 3, 2009, dawned grey and cool - thank goodness! For that was the day of our annual DH Lawrence Society picnic in the Sydney Botanic Gardens - and we still had memories of a previous picnic day there when the temperature was in the 40s.

We had planned to hold the picnic in the Rose Garden Pavilion, the site of the founding of our Society 16 years ago. The

Needless to say, on this occasion too, much wine was imbibed.

One wonders what Lawrence might have brought to such a picnic. Possibly a paper bag of pears - like the ones he and Frieda ate by the side of Narrabeen Lagoon in 1922 when they got off the tram at Narrabeen on their second day in Sydney. Lawrence didn't mention food very often

Rose Garden is close to the Palace Garden Gates in Macquarie Street, opposite the site of Mrs Scott's guesthouse where Lawrence and Frieda spent their first night in Sydney, and which features in the opening chapter of *Kangaroo*.

However, the Rose Garden Pavilion had been booked for a wedding on January 3, so we held our picnic in the Maiden Pavilion at the Mrs Macquarie's Chair end of the Gardens, looking down towards the ponds with the city a silent dentinel in the background.

This end of the Gardens also has a Lawrence connection: Frieda Lawrence went on a picnic at Mrs Macquarie's Chair and a walk in the Botanic Gardens with her shipboard friend, Laura Forrester. Denis Forrester took a photograph of them (see photograph at top of page).

When we arrived at the Gardens Rob (Darroch) and I set up our picnic food - smoked salmon, dolmades and salad - and were soon joined by Beverley Firth and Andrew Moore, who laid out their picnic fare in an imaginary "dining room" which Beverley indicated was in the corner of the sandstone pavilion (see photograph below).

Greg Baran and two of his children, Tiffany and Sam, then arrived, followed by Peter Jones and Kerie and Roger Hooke who had all met on the ferry from Mosman. Our DHL Society President, John Lacey, came bringing delicious nibbles and sandwiches, and Kerie passed around her tasty roast meat sandwiches.

in his writing, although we do know he described one Australian feast. Fictionally, it was at Jack Callcott's place in North Sydney, but in reality it was almost certainly at Wyewurk in Thirroul. Lawrence wrote in *Kangaroo*:

"For tea there was cold roast pork with first-class brown crackling on it, and potato salad, beetroot, and lettuce, and apple chutney; then a dressed lobster - or crayfish - very good, pink and white; and then apple-pie and custard-tarts and cakes and a dish of apples and passion fruits and organges, a pineapple and some bananas: and of course big cups of tea, breakfast-cups."

We also held our AGM at the picnic, which, like all DH Lawrence Society AGMs, was mercifully brief. (Please see the President's report, Secretary's Minutes and Treasurer's report over page.)

The Society, the Treasurer reported, is in good financial health, due to the decision last year to cancel the hard copy production of our journal, *Rananim*, and replace it with a "virtual", online, edition. This saves considerable amounts of money in printing and postage and will free up the Society to hold more talks and other activities in future months.

Finally, Vice-President, Rob Darroch gave a talk about Lawrence's source of inspiration and his curious affinity with trees (see text highlighted on our Home Page (www.cybersydney.com.au/dhl) under **NEW ARTICLES**).

It was a fitting topic for a talk in the Botanic Gardens.

- Sandra Jobson



*Beverley Firth welcomes us
to her "dining room"*

Photo: Sandra Jobson



*Society Treasurer,
Greg Baran, flanked
by son, Sam, and
daughter, Tiffany*

Photo: Sandra
Jobson

Click [HERE](#) to see more photos of
the PICNIC

Click [HERE](#) to see reports of AGM

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MINUTES OF AGM 2009

(The AGM followed lunch in the Maiden Pavilion in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens).

Minutes of the DH Lawrence Society of Australia held at the Maiden Pavilion, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, at 2.30 pm on 3.1.09

PRESENT: John Lacey (President), Rob Darroch (Vice-President), Sandra Darroch (Secretary and Acting Treasurer), Kerie Hooke, Roger Hooke, Peter Jones, Greg Baran, Tiffany Baran, Sam Baran, Beverley Firth, Andrew Moore.

MEETING COMMENCED: The meeting opened at 3 pm and the Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The President reported on the previous year's successful Lady Hopetoun harbour cruise and proceeded to events planned for 2009. He then outlined an event to be held at the Tramways Museum, (details to be provided later), and a lunch in the upstairs room at Minh's Vietnamese restaurant in Dulwich Hill, the date, subject of a talk and the speaker to be decided.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (see below). The Treasurer's report was delivered by the Acting Treasurer.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: The Vice-President next addressed the group on D.H. Lawrence's bodily sources of inspiration and evidence for this in Physics. The Secretary also addressed the group on the subject of creative matters relating to Lawrence's main themes.

The President thanked the previous committee for their hard work.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2009: An election for the new committee members was held. Their nomination was approved and seconded.

The following office bearers were elected; John Lacey (President): Robert Darroch (Vice-President): Sandra Darroch (Secretary): Kerie Hooke (Minutes Secretary): Greg Baran (Treasurer)

MEETING CLOSED: The meeting and talk concluded at 4 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President of the DH Lawrence Society of Australia, John Lacey, gave his report on the Society's progress and future plans. He mentioned in particular the successful Jacaranda Cruise on the steam yacht, *Lady Hopetoun*, on November 8, 2008, when Sydney put on a spectacular sunset for us.

The *Lady Hopetoun* cruise is an annual event of the Society and is its main fund raiser. John said

TREASURER'S REPORT

The acting Treasurer, Sandra Jobson, reported that in 2008 we decided to make some big changes.

We scrapped subscription fees for membership and made it free. This increased the number of people coming to our events and saved a lot of money in printing and postage of reminder notices.

We also decided to end the printing of our journal, *Rananim*, in hard copy and mailing it out - our

another cruise will be scheduled for Autumn 2009.

Other forthcoming events for 2009 will include a visit to the Sydney Tramway Museum which will be holding its 19th Vintage Tram Festival on Sunday, February 22, 2009. The tram Lawrence took to Narrabeen in 1922 may still survive.

Another event for the diary will be a lunch at Minh's Vietnamese restaurant in Dulwich Hill where a speaker will give a talk on Lawrence. Minh's food is truly delicious. More details soon.

Summing up, John Lacey said the Society was in robust shape and other events would also be planned.

greatest annual expenditure over the years.

We have now produced our first "virtual" *Rananim* (see www.cybersydney.com.au/dhl) and have subsequently posted updates on Society activities and some new articles.

Making *Rananim* "virtual" has not only saved the Society a lot of money, it has also allowed us to be more immediate and relevant in our communications.

We now aim to raise funds by holding events such as picnics, trips and lectures, as outlined by the President, John Lacey.

The annual *Lady Hopetoun* harbour cruise - this time held in Spring, 2008 -our Jacaranda Cruise - produced a profit. After paying \$1870 for the cruise, we made a profit of \$580.00.

The bank balance of the Society currently stands at \$4205.39.

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Photos by John Lacey



Rob Darroch chats with Peter Jones



*Newly-appointed
Minutes
Secretary, Kerie
Hooke*



The Society holds its AGM

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