Saturday, 2nd February 2019

*A talk by Susannah Fullerton OAM, FRSN; Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens:*

2019 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria, so it is a suitable time to examine the relationship between the Queen and the most famous writer of her realm. What did the Queen think of the novels of Mr Dickens? What did Dickens think of her, and did they ever meet? Susannah Fullerton examines the relationships between two notable Victorians. The AGM will also be held at this meeting.

10.30am – 12noon in the Nangamay Room (formerly 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.

Thursday, 7th February 2019

*Charles Dickens’ Birthday Celebrations:*

Come and enjoy a drink and piece of birthday cake to celebrate Charles Dickens’ birthday.

10.30am: Corner of Dickens Drive and Loch Avenue, Centennial Parklands, Sydney. Free, but please RSVP by 1.02.18 for catering purposes: louiseo@bigpond.net.au

Saturday, 6th April 2019

*A talk by Louella Kerr; The Fun of Collecting Dickens:*

The field open to the would-be collector of Charles Dickens is enormous. The *New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* [1970] lists Dickens editions from 1833 to 1970 in over 70 columns. So the first consideration for the collector must be – what’s my goal? Am I a completist or am I interested mainly in the highlights? Pleasure or profit - to have fun or to collect with investment in mind? Whilst my talk is geared towards the former, there is no reason why a Dickens Collection should not be a sound investment. Budget considerations of course play a major part, with the two principal factors regarding cost being scarcity and condition, but trends and taste also dictate cost. In the current market, the major novels in their original cloth bindings, or the ‘parts’, i.e. the monthly serial issues, with all their original paper wrappers, and ‘inserts’, the advertisements and other slips of paper, are the most costly and sort after. But there is a wealth of treasure to be found by the adventurous collector – plays, speeches, magazine articles, Association copies, ephemera, sets, Australian editions, illustrated editions, fakes and forgeries, to name but a few directions a collection might take. Louella Kerr will discuss all these and more in her talk.

10.30am – 12noon in the Nangamay 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, 18th May and Sunday, 19th May 2019
NSW Dickens Society Weekend by the Seaside. Theme; Dickens and the Family.

A wonderful celebration of the works, life and times of Charles Dickens with the theme: Dickens and the Family. Fascinating talks by Dickens’ great, great, great granddaughter; Lucinda Hawksley, Anne Schofield, Professor Chris Browne, Walter Mason and Charmaine O’Brien.

Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific, 55 N Steyne, Manly NSW. Separate cos. For information, please email; louiseo@bigpond.net.au

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Saturday, 1st June 2019

A talk by Walter Mason; Nineteenth Century Journeys through America and Italy:

In 2019 The NSW Dickens Society has chosen Dickens two travel books, American Notes and Pictures from Italy as our Books of the Year. NSW Dickens Society Vice President and travel writer, Walter Mason, will examine what drove Dickens to travel, and the distinctively 19th century obsessions that shaped his itinerary while abroad. These books managed to infuriate and offend as much as they delighted readers, and we will spend some time looking at the assumptions and prejudices that Dickens took with him along with his wife, his family and his travel trunks. From phrenology and burning books to smouldering volcanoes and street carnivals, this will be a wonderful opportunity to visit two of Dickens’ less well-known texts and look at what it means for a writer to travel, to observe and to record things seen.

10.30am - 12noon in the Nangamay 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.

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Saturday, 3rd August 2019

A talk by Dr. Vasudha Chandra; Prescription for Mr. Dickens:

What ailed Charles Dickens? What about some of his sickly and invalid characters? This talk delves into such diagnostic dilemmas and explores some of the treatments used in Dickens’ time, including taking a holiday, which many Victorians believed to have health-giving benefits.

10.30am - 12noon in the Nangamay 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.

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Saturday, 5th October 2019

A talk by Isabel Deeble; Charles Dickens and his American Reading Tour:

Dickens is arguably the first international celebrity, attracting fame particularly though his paid readings in the later part of his life, and especially during his second trip to America (1867/68). There was a
rapturous public reception to the “British lion”, as well as to how these dramatic readings were conducted, staged and scripted. He made a “multitude of new friends”, some eminent personalities like himself, and he noted illuminating observations and experiences a second time around. We will explore this triumphal reading tour and the responses it drew from his audiences.

Isabel Deeble is a member of the NSW Dickens Society. She designs and delivers corporate learning and development in presentation skills, negotiation, influence, behavioural styles, interpersonal communication and high-level workplace communication. She has conducted programs in China, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand and throughout Australia. Away from clients, her interest is in the physical and social environments of literary luminaries, the sense of place and time which influenced and informed their writing. She has spent many months walking or following the literary trails of Charles Dickens and other writers in the UK and in the USA.

Saturday, 3rd August 2019

Christmas lunch

When: 12noon, Saturday, 7th December 2019
Where: Cello’s Restaurant, Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 4th Floor, 169 – 171 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Cost: $65 per head for members of NSW DS; $70 per head for non-members

Highlights include:

- To celebrate the highly anticipated BBC TV series, *A Christmas Carol*, effervescent Walter Mason will treat us to a series of brief clips from past adaptations, plus a brief talk on the history of this wonderful piece of Dickens’ work.
- Geoffrey Usher will give us some short readings of *A Christmas Carol*
- National Treasure, Tom Keneally AO, will propose a toast to Charles Dickens
- Wonderful raffle prizes including a hamper from Haigh’s Chocolates, a hamper from T2, a hotel accommodation voucher, a stack of books including one signed by four of Dickens’ relations and plenty more treats
- A fantastic lucky door prize
- Christmas carols to enjoy
- A pop-up shop to do some Christmas shopping