

Laperouse

Friends of the Laperouse Museum



Members quarterly Newsletter

March/April/May, 1990 - Vol. One, Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We welcome you warmly as a Friend of the Museum and thank you for your support. This is our first newsletter, and we intend to publish it quarterly.

Your Committee is considering our first major project. It involves the restoration and addition of the centre room in the Cable Station to the Museum by means of a connecting door. This room could then be used separately for functions or as part of the Museum for travelling and other exhibitions, thus enhancing the variety of display in the Museum.

Thanks for joining us at the A.G.M. and our *pique-nique*, and more recently at the handing over of the "pierrier", a relic from *La Boussole*.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

John Holt, Q.C.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, 4th May 1990 - 6pm

Special Evening Guided Tour of the Museum, followed by surprise drinks and savouries on the veranda of Cable Station.

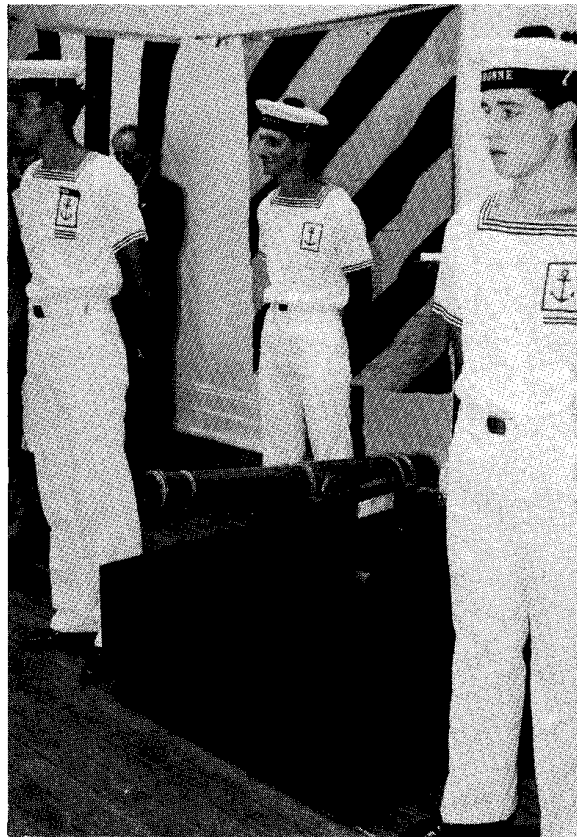
Book Now: Friends \$5 / Guests \$8

For reservations, please telephone:

Carole Roussel 389-8010 or
Michèle de Tarlé 969-4197

DATE TO LOOK FORWARD TO Tapestry Preview

John Winch, the artist who designed the tapestry, will give a short talk on the donors *Les Tapisseries de France*, their workshop and his own experience in Aubusson, France.



PIERRIER COMES BACK FOR GOOD

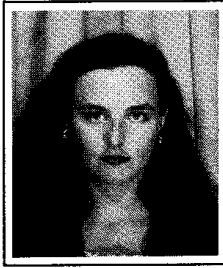
This bronze stone-firing cannon was one of 16 pierriers aboard La Boussole. A second pierrier was retrieved from the wreck-site and is among the relics in the possession of Reece Discombe.

It was a sparkling day at La Perouse, further enhanced by the presence of so many officers and sailors in their whiter than white uniforms, parading down the freshly-mown grass slopes.

The central instrument room of Cable Station, where the presentation took place, had been decorated for the occasion with naval banners and flags from the visiting French ships *Amiral Chamere* and *La Garonne*.

The pierrier has been placed upstairs in the Museum's "King's Instructions" Room 6A, near the large Monsiau painting.

MUSEUM STAFF



Jennifer Carter
Curator/Manager



Dolla Merrillees
Interpretive Assistant



Paul Chatenay
Interpretive Assistant

MUSEUM NEWS (*information compiled for the benefit of the Friends by the Staff of the Museum*)

The Museum has been the focus of attention for many activities and functions in the early part of this year. The number of visitors has been steadily increasing and, with various holiday and special programmes we are organising, this trend should continue.

In January, we conducted a four-week holiday programme for the whole of Botany Bay National Park at La Perouse. This programme was a great success - offering guided tours of the park, a children's day and talks on the Aboriginal culture and history of La Perouse. The tours were conducted by our very enthusiastic Seasonal Ranger Tina Costanzo.

January ended with the presentation of the "pierrier" by the French Ambassador Mr Roger Duzer, and the wreath laying ceremony by the Captains of two visiting naval vessels Amiral Charner and La Garonne. It was a very colourful ceremony which included the Royal Australian Navy, Guards of Honour from the two ships and the R.A.N. The presentation received wide media coverage. The Friends generously provided refreshments for the occasion, and this was much appreciated.

A lot of interest has been shown by schools and community groups for tours of the museum and our reputation as an educational resource centre is growing. We hope to attract similar interest during Senior Citizens week from 6th - 13th May. We will be offering tours of the Museum to help make it more accessible and enjoyable to the elderly members of our community. Between 18th - 24th May, we hope to organise something special for Museum's Week, and on the 18th May we will take part in International Museum's Day. If this is an indication of how 1990 will progress, it looks like being a good year. We look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The Origins of the Bastille Day Commemoration
in Australia - 1887-1890
by Peter Orlovich
Cable Station Centre Room Project
by Guy de Compiègne

A SPECIAL OFFER TO FRIENDS !

The Original Etching signed by Pamela Griffith
"Monument to French Navigators"

Edition of 300 - Platemark 28 x 22 cm

AS DISPLAYED UPSTAIRS IN THE MUSEUM

One of three etchings commissioned by the Laperouse Association for the Australian Bicentenary to mark the opening of the Laperouse Museum on 23rd Feb 1988.

Normal Price: \$ 180 unframed or \$ 240 framed

Special Price for Friends:

\$ 140 unframed or \$ 185 framed

To order, please send a cheque for the appropriate amount to:

The Friends of the Laperouse Museum Limited
PO Box 230, Paddington, NSW, Australia 2021

Please allow 3 weeks for processing of order.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I wish to join Friends of the Lapérouse Museum Limited and agree to be bound by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Tel: (home)(bus.)

Membership Category - please tick

- Family \$20
- Single \$12
- Student \$6
- Pensioner \$6
- Life Member \$500

I enclose my cheque/money order of \$..... payable to Friends of the Lapérouse Museum Limited for my/our annual subscription. I understand membership is valid from 1 July to 30 June each year upon renewal.

BEING A MUSEUM FRIEND: WHAT IT MEANS

by Jim Mackaness

Everywhere, museums of all kinds, from the smallest village folk museum to the great museums in Capital cities, enjoy the support of "Friends". There is a world wide "Association of Friends" and a Congress every four years which is attended by delegates from around the world. "Friends" have an important role to play. Let us understand what that role is.

"Friends" are one of the five groups vitally concerned with museums. The others are the owners, the employees, the benefactors, and the public.

In the case of the Laperouse Museum, the **Ownership** of the Museum building and contents, the preservation and display of items, and the general administration are in the hands of the N.S.W. National Parks & Wildlife Service. Australia is indeed fortunate this heritage of ours is secure, safe and sound.

The **Museum Staff** are employed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Benefactors have been very generous and their support has resulted in a wonderful collection. Not only was money donated, but time and effort were freely given and the N.S.W. Department of Public Works carried out a restoration on the old Cable Station, which houses the Collection, that must be described as superb.

There is a companion booklet available at the Museum which outlines its historical background.

Some museums, particularly technical ones like the Power House, never finish collecting. New versions of types already in the museum must be acquired, to keep up-to-date, and sometimes an earlier version of a series of artifacts turns up and falls into the hands of the museum curators.

Other museums relate to specific items or periods. This type includes, for instance, American Civil War Museums and the Museum at Waterloo! The Laperouse Museum belongs to this group.

So, what of the **Friends of the Laperouse Museum**? First of all, we have an Official Charter, and this is lodged with the N.S.W. Department of Business & Consumer Affairs. The documents are called the "Memorandum" and "Articles of Association".

The "Friends" is a "Corporation limited by guarantee of \$100 by each member" and has been established to help the Museum. The "Articles of Association" control the way the organization is run, such as the conduct of Annual meetings and the election of Officers.

To help the museum, the "Friends" can do all manner of things of interest to the members. Any profits generated from our efforts go directly or indirectly to the

Museum; they cannot be distributed to the members. All donations, not the cost of functions or entertainment, are Tax deductible.

Now that the Museum is established, it is vital that the "Friends of the Laperouse Museum" play their role in building upon the work of the predecessor organization, "The Laperouse Association for the Australian Bicentenary" which made the Museum possible.

The Committee of the Friends plans to develop a calendar of events. The best way to have a worthwhile calendar is for each and every member to make suggestions and volunteer to help. First of all take a minute to write to the President or a member of the Committee to pass on ideas. Remember, "Friends of the Laperouse Museum" have a special window that opens to a view of all that is best in France, the people, the culture,

the history, and access to other Museums and Institutions such as the great Musee de la Marine in Paris, and the Laperouse Museum in Albi, near Toulouse.

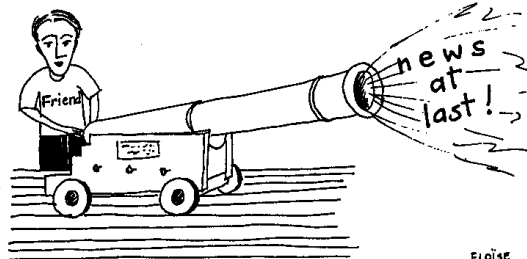
The Laperouse Museum is very special. It encapsulates a coincidence as strange, at the time, as if the Russians were to meet accidentally the Americans in space.

The Australian coastline's French connection

began even before the Laperouse Expedition visit and many places bear French names given by subsequent explorers and intrepid voyagers. Much in evidence to every air traveller arriving at Mascot airport, Sydney's red roofs are the legacy of all the Marseilles tiles that came to Sydney as ballast aboard the wool clippers, just as the cast iron lace came as ballast on board British ships.

France is a major trading partner with Australia, to the great benefit of both countries, and there is a long tradition of friendly cooperation between our Governments and our citizens. The Laperouse Museum is destined to become a focus that will foster and encourage knowledge, friendship, understanding and cooperation.

Come to our next event, bring your friends, play a part in making the "Friends of the Laperouse Museum" a most delightful, interesting, happy and prosperous group.



ELOISE

**WE ARE NOW 120 FRIENDS
AND WE NEED
MORE FRIENDS TO HELP THE MUSEUM**
Enrol "your friends" on the Membership Application Form
on the opposite page.

LAPEROUSE

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Friends of the Laperouse Museum

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Friends of the Laperouse Museum Limited was established in 1989.

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Pierre Roussel
Michèle de Tarlé

NPWS: Malin Blazejowski
Curator: Jennifer Carter

RECENT EVENTS

Tuesday, 30th January 1990

"Pierrier" presentation by French ambassador on behalf of Admiral Louzeau (Chief of Staff - French Navy) and the French Fleet in the Pacific.

Saturday, 17th February 1990

1990 Commemoration at grave of Pere Receveur with prayers led by priest, centred on the Rosary.
Organised by Frank Carleton, convenor of Pere Receveur Committee.

Friday, 23rd February 1990

Second Anniversary of the Official Opening of the Laperouse Museum.

CURATORIAL NOTES

The past three months have seen the arrival of two important acquisitions at the museum. The presentations have attracted attention, and through such events public awareness of the museum has increased.

The first of our recent acquisitions, a bronze sculpture of Laperouse, made in 1989 by Canberra artist **Ante Dabro**, was unveiled on 12th December last year. Presented by Mr Gough Whitlam on behalf of the National Council for the Celebration of the Bicentenary of the French Revolution, the maquette or small bust stands 30cm high and was modelled from 17th and 18th century images of Laperouse. Its contemporary style contrasts with the large formal bust from the original by *Rude* already on display.

The second item received at the museum recently is a small cannon, or "pierrier", from the flagship of the Laperouse expedition *La Boussole*. The pierrier was given to the museum as a permanent loan by the French Navy based in New Caledonia on the occasion of the visit of two naval vessels in Sydney on 30th January this year. The pierrier weighing approximately 68 kilos and measuring one metre long was retrieved from the wreck site at Vanikoro in 1964 by the French Navy. In addition, three 20th Century charts of Vanikoro were presented to the Museum by Captain Laudet of *La Garonne*.

In the next few months, I am planning to replace the ten maps from the Australian Bank map collection and the long awaited tapestry should arrive and be prepared for display. It is very pleasing to be able to develop the collection with both contemporary and historical material of specific relevance to the story of Laperouse and French exploration in the Pacific, and to provide even regular visitors with something new and interesting to illuminate this forgotten aspect of Australian history.

Jennifer Carter
Curator/Manager
LAPEROUSE MUSEUM

WE MADE IT!

It took three years of discussions and promotion by the Friends, and in particular **Pierre Roussel**, to obtain from the French Navy the "return" of the pierrier (small cannon) to Botany Bay.

Many people have to be thanked for this generous contribution. The very first one is **Amiral Louzeau**, Chief of Staff of the French Navy. He knew of our hopes when he came to visit the Museum over Christmas 1988, being aware that **Amiral Bergot**, commander of the Pacific Fleet, had already approached the Naval Base in Noumea on our behalf.

Our staunchest supporter and 'godfather' **Commandant Bellec**, Director of the Musée de la Mer in Paris, had also brought up the subject with him at every opportunity. So when Pierre Roussel took the Admiral on a conducted tour of the Museum, it was enough ...! Admiral Louzeau was more than pleased with what he saw.

Early in 1989, a telex arrived at the French Embassy in Canberra advising the Defence Attache, Jean-Jacques Then, that the "pierrier" was to be offered to the Museum, on permanent loan, and taken there on Laperouse Day, i.e. 23rd February, 1990.

The ceremony had to take place on 30th January to fit in with the schedule of the French Ambassador who officially handed over the small cannon to the National Parks & Wildlife Services, custodian of the Museum's treasures.

Le Petit Coin Francais

*Trois oiseaux libres
traversent nos pensées.
Trois oiseaux aux couleurs
de l'aube s'envolent
dans l'espace.
Trois mots aux couleurs
du temps sont liés
pour toujours.
Liberté, égalité, fraternité.
Mémoire de la
Révolution Française.*

Folon

