

HASSALL FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

MAY 5-8 • REUNION • 2023

BUILD YOUR HISTORY. KNOW YOUR HASSALLS.

The **Hassalls** are one of the great representative families of Australia; they have been here almost since the beginning of white settlement, they have participated, often silently, in the momentous events that have shaped our national identity and their name has a permanent place in the annals of Australian achievement. Though not themselves foremost among the explorers, they have married into exploring families such as the Oxleys and Humes and like their colleagues and cousins the Shelleys they have pioneered in remote parts of the country being among the first to take up land beyond the original 19 Counties... In times of national danger they have made the supreme sacrifice, at least five Hassalls losing their lives in the First World War. Though they have not produced premiers and politicians the numerous Hassall descendants have given unstinted service to church and state: distinguished churchmen such as Thomas and James Hassall, Archdeacon Spencer Oakes, Archdeacon William Howell, Henry Hassall Lawry and Father John Hope to name but a few, and of the numerous scholars, scientists and other professional people it would not be invidious to single out Professor Lawry Waterhouse for his outstanding contribution to Australian agriculture by producing rust-resistant wheat, and Profes-

sor Manning Clark, the well-known historian of Australia, for his unique contribution to our intellectual life... A mere recital of the surnames of the wives and female line descendants reads like a *Who's Who* of Australian history and female descendants have earned a place in their own right. Rowland Hassall's daughter Mary Cover Lawry, a pioneer missionary to Tonga, is the subject of a best-selling popular biography by Margaret Reeson and Eliza Marsden Hassall, fourth daughter of the Reverend Thomas Hassall, was for many years the principal of the Marsden training school for women missionaries in Sydney. As wives they have shared a pastoral ministry with many clergymen and they have been helpmeets to men of distinction such as Sir Christopher (Mr Justice) Farwell, Dr E.H. Griffith of Fiji, Lieutenant Commander R.D. Handcock who lost his life in HMAS Sydney, and W.R.G. Mackay of the House of Commons..."

Niel Gunson

*Australian National University historian,
address to the 1998 Hassall Family Bicentenary celebration*

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We wish to acknowledge the significant contributions made to the evolution of the Hassall Family History Association over the years.

The Hassall Family Bicentenary Committee (Huon Hassall, David J. Hassall, David N.H. Hassall, Rowland J. Hassall, and Robert Wiles), established in 1992 to organize the 1998 celebration of 200 years in Australia.

Family researchers and writers, who have collectively laboured in archives, libraries, and family papers, in search of significant genealogical records, letters, memoirs, photos, and other historically significant items: Richard Clark, David J. Hassall, David N.H. Hassall, Merryll Hope, Peter Procter, Jean Stewart, Robert Wiles, amongst others.

Family Line Coordinators: who have worked at extending the reach of the Association: Alison Shaw (■ Thomas Hassall & Anne Marsden); Melissa Blanks & James Daniel (■ Samuel Hassall & Lucy Mileham); John Brooks (■ Jonathan Hassall & Mary Rouse); Barbara Scott (■ Mary Hassall & Rev Walter Lawry); Rowland J Hassall (■ James Hassall & Catherine Lloyd); Jennifer Walton-Smith (■ Eliza Hassall & Rev William Walker); Anne Dudzinski (■ Susannah Hassall & William Shelley Jr); and Ann Brockhurst (■ Ann Hassall & Robert Campbell).

The Thomas Hassall Anglican College: whose past and present principals Brian Cowling and Ross Whelan, together with past and present staff members (Christine Klomp, Carmen Pasapera, Trudie Wilson, and Michael Clisdell), have given continuous and generous support over the years.

The State Library of New South Wales: Geoff Barker, Senior Curator, who has assisted the Association with planning Research Meetings held at the Library.

Parramatta City Council staff: notably Jessica Wheat, Julie Lockhart, Bronwyn Pullen, Janelle Blucher, Christine Glasson, Keith Fong, Zana Lopez and Juan Perez, all of whom helped guide our planning of Reunion activities in Parramatta.

Denbigh: Ian and Susan McIntosh

Friends of St John's Cemetery: Judith Dunn, Jennifer Follers, Linda Bradley, Anne and Wayne Mathews

Graphics and Photography: Hyde Hassall

2023 Reunion Committee:

Melissa Blanks
 John Brookes – 0408 687 954
 Graham Hassall – 0409 711 773
 Rowland Hassall – 0409 947 971
 Margaret Hassall – 0434 959 485
 John Hassall - 0419 343 428
 Alison Shaw – 0431 227 777

How to stay in touch

The best way to stay in touch with the program organizers and other participants is to join the Reunion Whatsapp Group and get updates directly on your phone. You can leave the group at any time.

How to get started

Copy/paste this link or use the QR code. If you don't already have WHATSAPP you will be asked to install it.



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IrCOQ2NaaEe2UQqI6uHsmc>

	Friday 5th	Saturday 6th	Sunday 7th	Monday 8th	Monday 8th
	Optional Tour: Camden/ Cobbitty/ Denbigh	Thomas Hassall School, Middleton Grange	Parramatta	Optional Tour: O'Connell/ Bathurst	Optional Tour: Windsor
AM	Morning Tea at Denbigh (Homestead of Thomas & Anne Hassall)	Welcome Cere- mony Keynote Speaker Dr Anna Johnston	History walk or drive, retracing Rowland and Elizabeth's life in Parramatta, & St John's Cemetery	O'Connell/ Bathurst All day self-driv- ing (convoy)	St Mathews Windsor (Jona- than and Mary's gravesite) & other historic sites in the Hawkesbury region.
PM	Hassall family related sites in Camden/Cobbitty/ Narellan	Lunch Choice of Break- out sessions) Family line/proj- ects/youth sports) Afternoon Tea Conference Photos	St John's Cathedral Service		All day self-driv- ing (convoy)
PM	Opening Reception at Phive, Parra- matta	Keynote Speaker Dr Tanya Evans Triple Wedding Pageant			

PROGRAM

In Detail

FRIDAY 5TH MAY

10.00am – 03.00pm

Optional event: historical self-drive tour to Camden/Cobbity/Narellan, including morning tea at Denbigh

10am meet at entrance to Denbigh 531 Cobbity Road, Cobbity.
11.30am depart for St Paul's Anglican Church (330 Cobbitty Rd, Cobbitty); Hassall Cottage (101 Macquarie Grove Road Cobbity -Camden airport); Camden Museum (40 John Street Camden); and Old St Thomas Chapel (1A Wilson Crescent Narellan).

05.45pm -07.30pm

Opening Reception with Parramatta City Lord Mayor and Councilors
Welcome to Country: Uncle Bruce Gale, Darug Traditional Owner and Elder; Music Interlude - Matilda Hassall

Venue: Phive, 5 Parramatta Square.

SATURDAY 6TH MAY

08.30am - 06.30pm

Program at Thomas Hassall Anglican College, 125 Kingsford Smith Ave, Middleton Grange.

08.30am

Registration opens
Collect complimentary Hassall Reunion bag, name tag and purchased Memorabilia.

10.00am

Acknowledgement of Country
Welcome to Thomas Hassall Anglican College - Ross Whelan – Principal

10.30am

Reply and Introductory Remarks - Dr Graham Hassall, HFHA Chair
Musical Interlude - Matilda Hassall

11.00am

First keynote address: Origin Stories: Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and the emergence of Australian settler society - Professor Anna Johnston, University of Queensland

12.00pm - 01.45pm

LUNCH and Family Line Networking & Family Photos

■ Thomas & Anne – Alison Shaw	E1
■ Samuel & Lucy – Melissa Blanks & James Daniel	E2
■ Jonathan & Mary – John Brooks	D1
■ Mary & Walter Lawry –	E3
■ James & Catherine – Rowland J Hassall	D2
■ Eliza & William Walker – Jennifer Walton-Smith	E4
■ Susannah & William Shelley – Anne Dudzinski	D3
■ Ann & Robert Campbell – Ann Brockhurst	D4

01.45pm - 02.00pm

HASSALL REUNION Group photo

02.00pm - 03.00pm

Second keynote address: “The Benefits of Family History: some surprising suggestions for Hassall descendants.” - Professor Tanya Evans Macquarie University

03.00pm - 03.30pm

Afternoon tea

03.30pm - 04.45pm

Project sessions

Hassall Heritage – John Brooks

E1

Genealogy – Richard Clarke

D1

Research – Graham Hassall

D2

Transcription – Roselyn Vaughan

E2

Historical Perspectives: The Hassalls and First Nations people – Danielle, Mary and William Hassall

E3

05.00pm - 06.15pm

Hassall Family Pageant: The Triple Wedding

06.30pm

Dinner options

1. Il Piatto 9620 2166 (11 Minutesvery close to M7)
2. La Rumbla 9825 8900 (4 Minutes from THAC..... close to M7)
3. Liverpool Catholic Club 8784 4878 (7 Minutes from THAC)
4. Diamond Star Seafood and Yum Cha Chinese 9608 4783 – (5 Minutes across road from La Rumbla)

SUNDAY 7TH MAY

09.30AM - 01.00pm

Event: Historical Walking Tour (retracing Rowland and Elizabeth’s life) Starts at Queen’s Wharf Reserve; to Hassall Street; to George Street, to St John’s Cemetery; ends at Old Government House.

Venue: Parramatta

Group A departs at 9:30 am. and arrives at St John’s Cemetery at 10:45am.

Group B departs at 11.15am. and arrives at St John’s Cemetery at 12:30pm

02.00pm - 03.00pm

Event: Service at St John’s Cathedral

Venue: 195 Church Street, Parramatta

03.00pm - 04.00pm

Event: Refreshments

Venue: St John’s Hall

MONDAY 8TH MAY

Optional Event A- historical tour to O'Connell

Transport – self-drive in convoy

10am Meet at the Mt York lookout (Mount York Lookout, 151 Mount York Rd, Mount Victoria) and then proceed (one hour) to O'Connell /

12pm Self-catered lunch in Hassall Park, O'Connell / Visit Hassall-sites / Return to Sydney **OR** stay in O'Connell /Bathurst to continue your own tour of this area, e.g: Holy Trinity Kelso, Bishop's Court, and Mayfield Gardens.

Convoy leader: Alison Shaw – 0431 227 777.

Optional Event B - historical tour to St Mathews Windsor

Transport – self-drive in convoy

10am Meet at St Matthews Church (5 Moses St, Windsor) for a 10.30 tour led by a member of the Hawkesbury Historical Society. St Matthews Church is one of the earliest Anglican churches in Australia, consecrated by Samuel Marsden and with an extensive churchyard containing the graves of Jonathan and his wife Mary as well as many others of the Hassall family. We will proceed to historic Windsor Square and the District Museum. After lunch visit to other historic villages on the Hawkesbury such as Wilberforce and Ebenezer where Thomas Hassall preached.

Convoy leader: John Brooks – 0408 687 954.

Melissa BLANKS

HFHA Committee member.

Session: Samuel Otoo Hassall family-line Co-Facilitator (Saturday Afternoon).

Melissa is a Creative person, an Artist, Designer, Innovator and Writer. She has studied and worked In Business, Early Childhood Education, Fine and Contemporary Art & Digital Design, Community sectors and World Aid, Christian Ministries, with the outworking of these in varying capacities and service. Melissa has a particular interest in the Hassalls as Christian Missionaries and pioneers, in Church planting, building, and evangelical and benevolent works.



Ann BROCKHURST

Session: Anne Hassall family-line facilitator (Saturday Afternoon).

Ann is a direct descendant of Rowland Hassall and Elizabeth Hancox through their youngest daughter Ann Hassall. She is a Registered Nurse living on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Family history is among her hobbies and she is writing a book which includes descendants of the Hassall family. Surnames connected include McCallum, Campbell and Williams.



John BROOKS

HFHA Committee Treasurer and Jonathan Hassall family-line facilitator.

Sessions: Jonathan Hassall family-line Facilitator (Saturday Afternoon); HFHA Hassall Heritage Project (Saturday Afternoon); historical tour to St Mathews Windsor (Monday)

The family line session for Jonathan will be led by John Brooks, a great-great grandson of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall. John will make a short presentation of his family and seek advice from other descendants on where the Jonathan “tribe” has spread and how they can maintain contact and interest in later generations



Richard Clarke

Session: HFHA Genealogy Project (Saturday Afternoon)

Richard Clarke is a retired partner of Minter Ellison, Lawyers, and husband of Anne (nee Dodwell), a descendant of Rev. Thomas Hassall. Richard has been researching their families’ history for over twenty years.

Using the software “Family Tree Maker” Richard has assisted the Association bring together a genealogical table comprising thousands of descendants of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall. Participants in this session will learn how to benefit from this information, as well as contribute to it.



James DANIEL

HFHA Committee member.

Session: Samuel Otoo Hassall family-line Co-Facilitator (Saturday Afternoon).



Donna DAVIS

Session: Opening reception at Phive Parramatta (Friday Afternoon)

Donna Davis was first elected to City of Parramatta in 2017 elected Lord Mayor in January 2022, and in 2023 concurrently elected as Member for Parramatta in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly.



Anne DUDZINSKI

(Descendant of Susannah Hassall and William Shelley)

Anne is a retired Scientist and Anglican Minister at Tumbarumba, Berridale, Canberra. In this session she will show the family line and grave map, and also show the Family Bible of Rev Ralph Mansfield.



Tanya EVANS

Session: Plenary on Saturday afternoon.

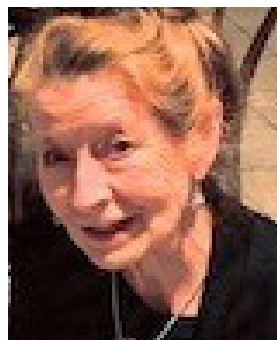
Professor Tanya Evans, of the Department of History and Archaeology at Macquarie University. Tanya is an acknowledged expert in the history of the family and has written extensively on family life in Australia - including reference to the Hassall family. Tanya will deliver a keynote address on “The Benefits of Family History: some surprising suggestions for Hassall descendants.”

Jennifer FOLLERS

Friends of St John Cemetery.

Session: Tour of Hassall graves at St John’s Cemetery (Sunday Morning).

Jennifer Follers has forebears buried at St Johns and is descended from three First Fleeters. As well as being Secretary for the Friends of St Johns Cemetery, she is also the Secretary for the Eastern Farms Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Jenny has organized for Friends of St Johns Cemetery to be present on Sunday 7th May to assist participants in the Parramatta history walk identify graves of interest to the Hassall Family. others assisting include Linda Bradley, whose forbear worked for the Hassall family, and Anne and Wayne Mathews, who are not only connected with St Johns but with the Female Factory.



Danielle HASSALL

(Descendant of James Hassall)

Session: Historical Perspectives: The Hassalls and First Nations people (Saturday Afternoon)

Danielle, Mary and William Hassall, three cousins from the James line will co-host this reflective session. We will look at being present with Indigenous history alongside early Hassall texts of their interactions with the First Nations people. There will be opportunity to discuss as a group our future commitment to ‘Truth Telling’ alongside Indigenous groups. We hope you will join us to connect and start the conversation for this project



Graham HASSALL

HFHA Committee member (Descendent of Samuel Otoo Hassall).

Session: Welcome (Saturday Morning); HFHA Hassall Research and Publication Project (Saturday Afternoon); Historical tour to Camden facilitator (Friday).

After obtaining his PhD at the Australian National University on the topic of church-state relations in Melanesia, Graham taught history, public policy, and public administration at universities in Australia, Switzerland, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and New Zealand, before settling in the city of Gold Coast. His research interests now include Hassall history.



John HASSALL

HFHA Committee member (Descendant of James Hassall)

Margaret HASSALL

HFHA Committee member (Descendant of James Hassall)

Margaret works in the IT industry as a technical writer/trainer and she spends her free time with an amateur theatre company either back stage or operating the sound and lights. Her community radio “Local Theatre” will soon transform itself into a podcast.

Margaret administers the association’s website <https://www.hassall.net.au/>





Matilda HASSALL

Matilda Hassall is a singer-songwriter & secondary school instrumental music teacher, performing under the surname ‘Hassall’ proudly since 2019. She is a descendant of James Hassall & Catherine Lloyd. Matilda is delighted to be performing at this year’s reunion.



Rowland J. HASSALL

HFHA Committee member

Session: James Hassall family-line Facilitator (Saturday Afternoon)

Rowland is sole Principal and Director of Melbourne-based Hassall’s Litigation Services. His major focus has been Building Dispute and Construction Law, and Family Law. He has chaired the Appeals Committee of the Housing Guarantee Fund Limited (HGFL) and the Legal Subcommittee of the Housing Industry Association in Victoria.



Uli HOLMES

Host and Guide | Community Services, Phive, City of Parramatta

Session: historical walking tour of Parramatta (Sunday Morning)

Uli holds a Diploma of Tourism, a Professional Tour Guide, and member of the Institute of Australia Tour Guides, Sydney. She provides guided tours of Parramatta, both heritage & modern, Art tours, PHIVE Building Tours (Parramatta’s new library, heritage library, Discovery Space, Civic Centre and Community hub), and organises local bus tours, educational activities and Aboriginal Cultural Activities.



Anna JOHNSON

Session: Plenary on Saturday morning.

Anna Johnson, who is a Professor in English Literature in the School of Communication and Arts at the University of Queensland, has published widely in the field of colonial and postcolonial studies, focussing on literary and cultural history. She has referred to the Hassall family in her books and papers and will deliver a keynote address “Origin Stories: Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and the emergence of Australian settler society”.

Ian & Susan McINTOSH

Session: historical tour of Denbigh at Cobbity (Friday Morning)

On Friday, 5th May, Ian and Susan McIntosh have opened their heritage listed property Denbigh for inspection by Reunion participants.



David OULD

Senior associate minister at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta.

Session: Service at St John's (Sunday Afternoon)



Alison SHAW

HFHA Committee member (descendant of Thomas Hassall)

Sessions: Thomas Hassall family-line facilitator (Saturday Afternoon); Historical Tour to O'Connell Plains facilitator (Monday)

Alison is a retired high school music teacher and head teacher for creative arts. A direct descendant of Samuel Marsden and Rowland Hassall, she is keenly interested in early colonial history. This enthusiasm was greatly influenced while reviewing publications by her mother, Merryll Hope, on the early Hassalls and Marsdens.

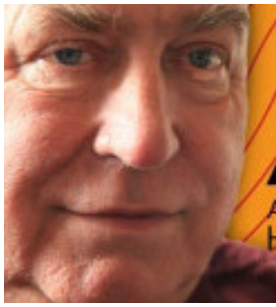


Roslyn VAUGHAN

Session: HFHA Transcription Project (Saturday Afternoon)

Over 20 years of researching her family history led Roslyn to enrol in an on-line Diploma of Family History through the University of Tasmania. She graduated in 2020, 55 years after leaving high school. In this session Ros will demonstrate how the digitized Hassall Family papers held at the State Library of New South Wales are being transcribed by volunteers.





Bruce GALE

Uncle Bruce Gale a Darug Traditional Owner and Elder, will provide a Welcome to Country at the Opening Reception in Parramatta on Friday 5th May. Bruce is Secretary of the Sydney Region Aboriginal Corporation, and also Chair of the RailCorp Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee and a board member of the (IDAS) Indigenous Disability Advocacy Service. He has previously served as Chair of Parramatta City Council and Secretary of the Sydney Region Aboriginal Legal service.



Jennifer WALTON SMITH

Eliza Cordelia Hassall family-line Facilitator (Saturday Afternoon)



Ross WHELAN

Principal of Thomas Hassall Anglican College

Session: Welcome (Saturday Morning)



Robert WILES

(Descendant of Samuel Otoo Hassall)

Session: The Triple Wedding Pageant

Robert has been a rural doctor in Cooma for over 30 years and a Senior Lecturer with the ANU Rural Clinical School since 2006. He is a descendant of Samuel Otoo Hassall and has been researching family history for 50 years. He is helping to digitise the Hassall Family tree and prepare the printouts for the Re-union. He is married to Dawn and they have four children who have now all flown the nest.

The Triple Wedding was a unique event in the life of the early colony of NSW and this pageant will bring our Hassall family story to life in a way that will enthuse all members of the family. It is an event not to be missed!

Reunion participants are expected to find their own way to venues. Unfortunately, only the Parramatta events are accessible by public transport. For events on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, you will require a vehicle or else arrange to rideshare.

FRIDAY VISIT TO DENBIGH AT COBBITY

531 Cobbity Road, Cobbity. Use your own vehicle or ride-share. Parking is onsite – no charge.

FRIDAY VISIT TO COBBITY/CAMDEN/NARELLAN

Use your own vehicle or ride-share.
Parking in Camden town according to city council regulations (metered parking)

FRIDAY LATE AFTERNOON RECEPTION AT PARRAMATTA

Use your own vehicle, ride-share, uber/taxi, or public transport.

- Best value car park is Wilson Parking, 1 Fitzwilliam Street (Entry: Fire Horse Lane).
- The train station is in the middle of Parramatta. Fast trains arrive and depart from Central Station on a regular basis.
- The ferry arrives/departs from Parramatta wharf to and from Circular Quay every half hour and takes 1½ hours.

SATURDAY – THOMAS HASSALL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

125 Kingsford Smith Ave, Middleton Grange.

- use your own vehicle, or ride-share, or uber/taxi. Parking is onsite – no charge. enter College oval parking through Gate 3, Flynn Avenue.

SUNDAY – PARRAMATTA

Use your own vehicle, ride-share, uber/taxi, or public transport.

- Best value car park is Wilson Parking, 1 Fitzwilliam Street (Entry: Fire Horse Lane)
- The train station is in the middle of Parramatta. Fast trains arrive and depart from Central Station on a regular basis.
- The ferry arrives/departs from Parramatta wharf to and from Circular Quay every half hour and takes 1½ hours.

Denbigh is a five hundred acre grazing property situated in Cobbitty on the south-western edge of Greater Sydney. Granted to Charles Hook in 1812 it is one of the oldest working farms in the country and has been described as ‘one of the finest early colonial farmhouses in Australia, with important historical associations and an evocative atmosphere’.¹

For over two hundred years the property has remained in the ownership of three families – the Hook (1812-1826), Hassall (1827-1868) and McIntosh (1868-present day) families. For thousands of years prior to European occupation the land held strong spiritual significance for the Aboriginal people. It was at the intersection of three language groups: the Dharug, Tharawal and Gundungarra and was referred to as “the Valley of Peace”. Denbigh’s homestead, garden and outbuildings stand today much as they have for over two hundred years. In itself, this nucleus of a settlement is quite extraordinary, both for its historical richness and its state of conservation. However it is the fact that Denbigh remains connected to its landscape that gives it such importance. Its buildings were constructed over time, evolving as the farm’s practices and ownership changed.

In 1812 Charles Hook, as a reward for his loyalty to Governor Bligh during the Rum Rebellion, was granted land in the newly discovered Cowpastures. Wary of Aboriginal attack, he constructed fortified stables with barred and turreted windows, from stone quarried on the property. The buildings were sited around a forest red gum which is now over 230 years old.

In 1817 Hook began work on the

¹ Macarthur Development Board: *Colonial buildings Macarthur Growth Centre Campbelltown, Camden, Appin, March 1977, pp.103-104.*

main bungalow which had a shingled, hipped roof and spacious verandah. The walls were lath and plaster, clad on the exterior with beaded weather boards. Having worked for the shipping merchants Campbell Hook & Co, Hook drew inspiration from the bungalows in India, the wide verandas of which were more an outdoor room. Hook’s defensive ‘siege style’ mentality was also reflected in the seven-foot-high paling fence he constructed around the perimeter of the dwelling.

Reverend Thomas Hassall, who purchased Denbigh in 1826, wrote “We, as British subjects and as Colonists, are indebted to the Aborigines - we have taken their lands by force, driven away their common sustenance and injured their fishing grounds.”²

He removed the fence around the bungalow and established friendly relations with the Aboriginal People. Thomas’s son, James Hassall, recalled Aboriginal people congregating at Denbigh to burn timber for his father, and described a corroboree in front of the house “in which over two hundred Aborigines took part”.³

With his growing family of eight children, Hassall constructed a two-storey addition to the bungalow in 1838 using bricks baked from red clay on the property. This addition formed a horse-shoe shaped courtyard at the rear of the bungalow. The west wing contained a bake house, kitchen, storeroom and meat-room. Hassall set about transforming Denbigh from a relatively isolated farm into a bustling self-contained village.

Living at Denbigh with the Hassalls

² *Hassall Papers Vol.2 p.1351, quoted in Roxburgh, R., Early Colonial Houses of New South Wales, Lansdowne Press, Sydney, 1974, p.95*

³ *Hassall, J.S., In Old Australia: Records and Reminiscences from 1974, Library of Austral History, Sydney, 1902, p.4*

DENBIGH

by Susie & Ian McIntosh

were a carpenter, blacksmith, shoemaker, dairyman, gardener, brickmaker and schoolmaster as well as housemaids, a nurserymaid, cook, waiter, cow boy, overseer, washerwoman, groom, shepherd, bullock driver and watchman. In addition to his employed workers Hassall had nine assigned convicts. He established a garden of five acres with an abundance of fruit trees, a vineyard and an orange-grove.

Hassall held divine services at Denbigh until Heber Chapel was built on a portion of his land in the village of Cobbitty. He was also held services at Narellan, Camden, Cabramatta, Mulgoa, South Creek, Fleurs, Wollongong, Sutton Forest, Goulburn, Picton and The Oaks. Due to the extraordinary distances he covered he was nicknamed 'the galloping parson'.

In 1868 Charles McIntosh moved to Denbigh and continued mixed use farming. He introduced dairy cattle and bred draught horses for Carlton Breweries and for his brother's horse-drawn bus service 'Bow Bells' which plied George Street from Broadway to Wynyard in Sydney.

For over 150 years five generations of the McIntosh family have continued farm-

ing Denbigh. The stables, hand milking bails, calf shed, storage silos, feed bins and hay sheds were established from 1868 to 1900, and Denbigh remained at the forefront of the dairy industry throughout the 20th century. These intact outbuildings with their tools and machinery provide a rare glimpse into the evolution of farming practices and technologies.

The original stables, coach house and dairy have been restored and adapted as artist and pottery studios in which clay from the farm is now used in the making of ceramics. Stone is still quarried on Denbigh and used in conservation work and for new projects around the buildings and garden.

The main house remains much as it was in the 1830s. Surrounding the house is an informal garden filled with plants representing the passing fashions in Australian gardening. Denbigh is still approached and located within a rural landscape - the enclosed valley retaining its serene pastoral character and evocative atmosphere.

This was all under threat in 2004 when the NSW State Government looked to rezone the entire property as part of the Western Sydney Growth corridor. The



McIntosh family engaged Alan Croker from Design 5 Architects who prepared a comprehensive Curtilage Study and Conservation Management Plan. When Denbigh was listed on the State Heritage register in 2006 a curtilage of five hundred acres was established to protect the homestead, outbuildings and landscape, as well as sacred Aboriginal sites within the valley.

*“Denbigh is sited in a very rare and intact early colonial landscape of great beauty and integrity and is of exceptional cultural significance to the state of NSW ... The physical evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the estate, both prior to and after European arrival, backed up by documented evidence of this including ceremonial use (Corroborees and tribal rites) strengthens the integrity and rarity of the continuous physical record of the place ... A major consideration of the aesthetic setting of Denbigh is that the properties to the north west and west play a crucial role in the open and undeveloped rural character of the place, and any development or change in these areas must consider their impact on Denbigh”.*⁴

The parts of the property that were in the rezoned growth corridor were eventually sold by McIntosh Brothers. With their portion of the proceeds Ian and Susie (the current custodians) bought Denbigh homestead and half the curtilage, and Angela Head (Ian’s cousin) purchased the other half to the east. With this unprecedented curtilage and protection in place it was hoped that Denbigh would remain an unchanged example of the eighteenth century Cowpastures for hundreds of years to come.

⁴ Design 5 Architects, *Denbigh Curtilage Study, Report prepared for McIntosh Bros Pty Ltd, July, 2006.*

In 2019, however, the NSW State Government released a proposal to build an Outer Sydney Orbital M9 (a two hundred metre wide eight-lane motorway and two freight train lines) just metres from the boundary of Denbigh, roaring through the ‘Valley of Peace’.

The construction of the M9 just west of the homestead cutting through the hills to the north would not only destroy the setting and serenity of Denbigh but would contradict the principles of the government’s own Heritage Office which recognises and endorses Denbigh’s significance.

Over the past hundred years Denbigh has opened its doors to history and gardening groups, local schools, choirs, international agricultural organisations, Ayrshire and Friesian cattle groups, churches, the Red Cross, Probis, The National Trust, The Historic Houses Association, Mount Annan Botanic Gardens, Vintage Car Associations and the Garden History Society. Fundraisers and Opera concerts for local charities are performed in the old hayshed. Much of Denbigh’s serenity and charm is enhanced by the encircling hills protecting it from the influences of modern living.

Many people have come to work on the farm, perform in the hayshed, potter, paint, draw, make furniture and films, or learn about our state’s early agriculture and cultural history. Some people come simply to sit in the garden and enjoy the sound of bell-birds carried in the clear air across the valley. No one leaves Denbigh without gleaning a sense of what has come before.

As a state and a nation do we wish to keep such places as Denbigh and its landscape conserved? It is impossible to recreate, and once lost can never be replaced. If you have enjoyed your visit today and feel Denbigh is worth preserving, we would

DENBIGH

by Susie & Ian McIntosh

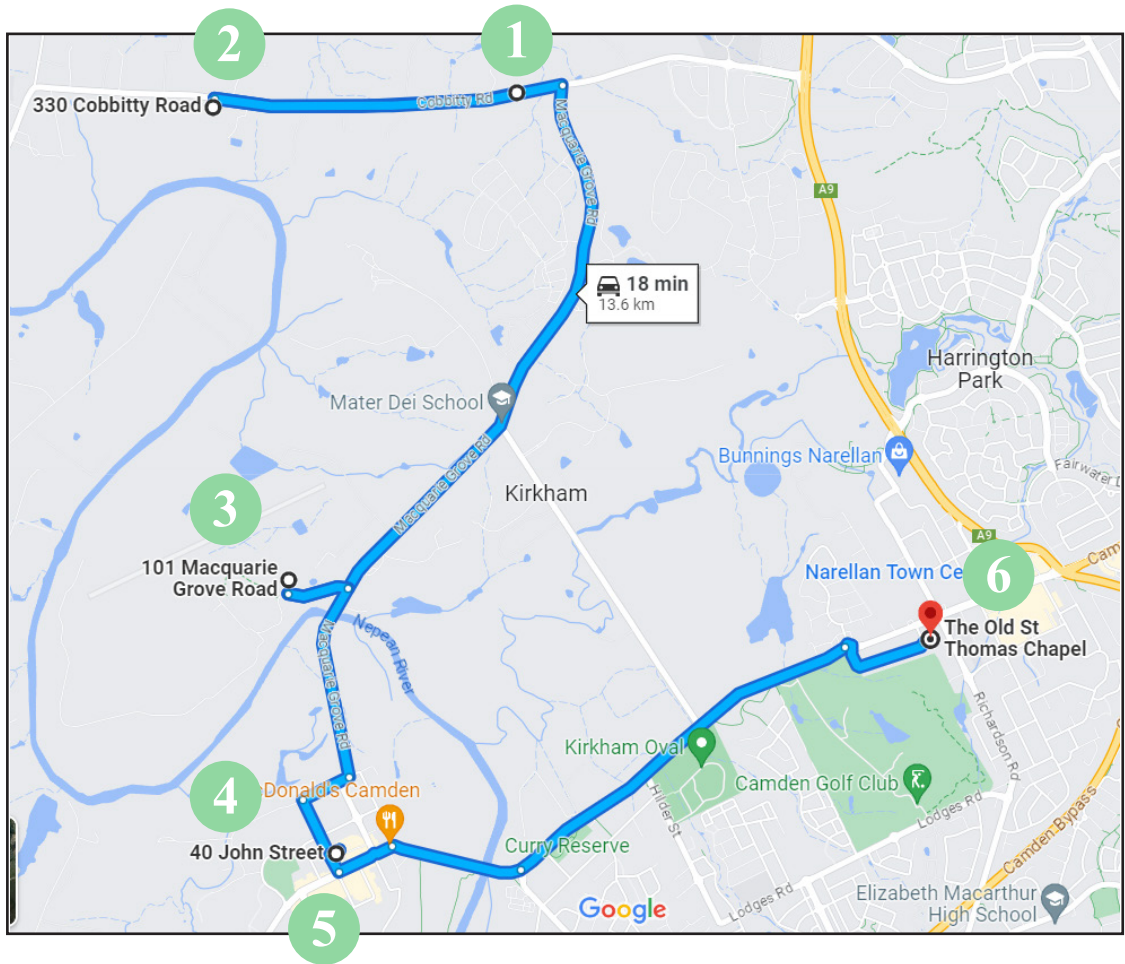
greatly appreciate you writing to Mr. Rob Sharp (Secretary, Transport for NSW, PO Box K659 Haymarket NSW 1240) urging Transport NSW to reconsider the route of the proposed M9.

Denbigh forms only a small part of the beautiful “Cowpastures” of Camden which is under threat. If endorsed along its current alignment the M9 will destroy Cobbitty village, hundreds of homes and beautiful historic landscapes, along with the endangered Cumberland Woodland which previous Governments have spent tens of thousands of dollars restoring and preserving. Elizabeth Farrelly articulates beautifully the importance of saving places such as Denbigh -

“Heritage is distilled story, just as honey is distilled sunlight. And like honey, heritage feeds us, enriching our lives with vividness and purpose, giving meaning and identity. At a very real level, heritage is who we are ...Our developers and especially our governments need to grasp this, immediately, while there’s still something left to save”.

Sydney Morning Herald, April 28-29, 2018

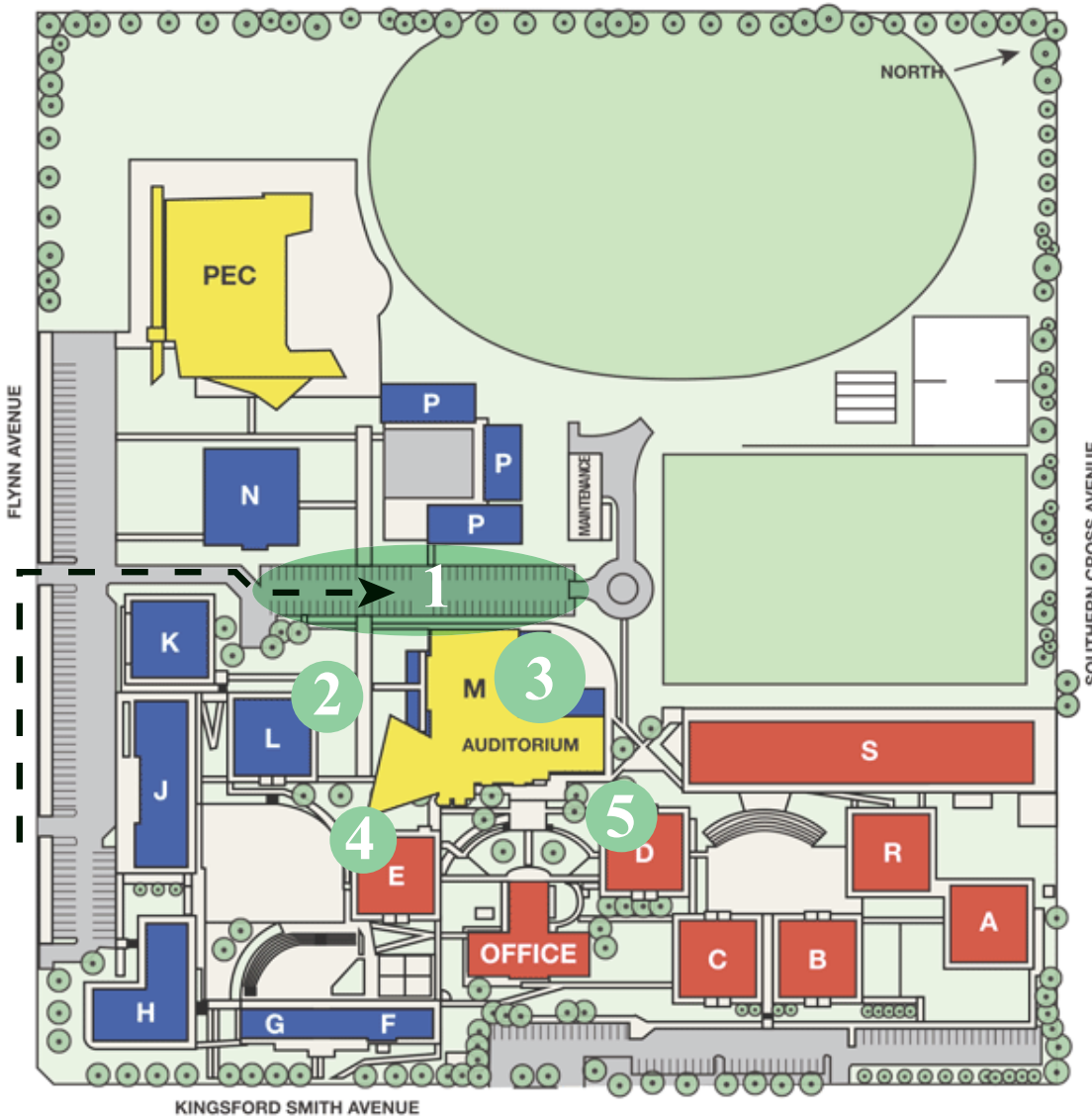
MAP Camden/Cobbitty



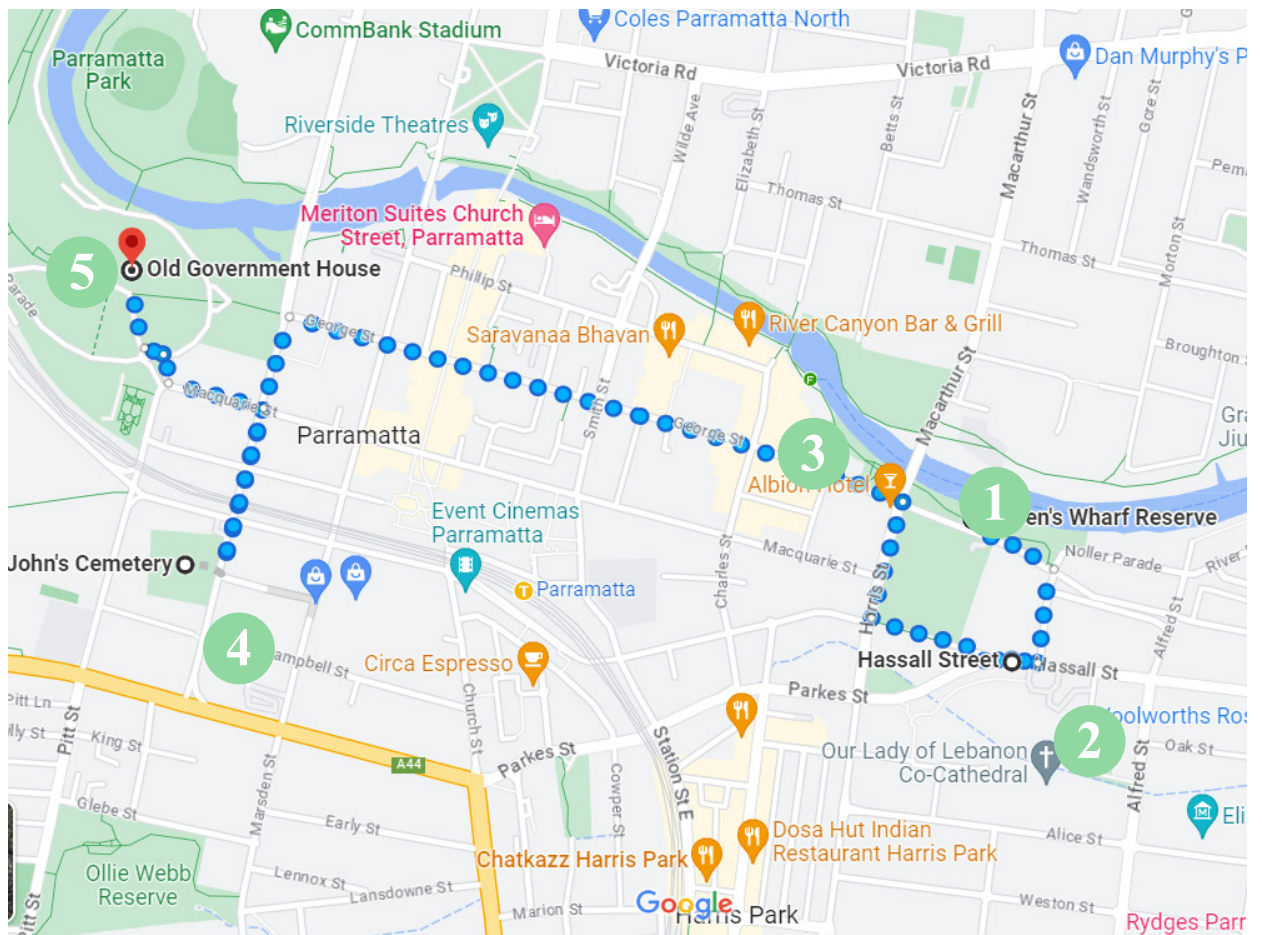
1. 10.00am meet at entrance to Denbigh: 531 Cobbitty Road
- ↳ 2. 11.45am depart for St Paul's Anglican Church: 330 Cobbitty Road
- ↳ 3. 12.30pm depart for Hassall Cottage: 101 Macquarie Grove, Cobbitty (Camden Airport) (7.3kms/8 mins)
- ↳ 4. 01.00pm lunch in Camden (3.6kms, 8 mins)
- ↳ 5. 02.00pm visit Camden Museum: 40 John Street
- ↳ 6. 03.00pm depart for Old St Thomas Chapel: 1A Wilson Crescent Narellan (4.1km/6 mins)
- ↳ 7. 03.30pm head towards Parramatta for 6pm reception at Phive: 5 Parramatta Square (58 kms/1 hour)

MAP

Thomas Hassall Anglican College



1. Main carpark. Access from Flynn Avenue.
2. Registration & Food Trucks
3. Main Auditorium
4. Breakout Sessions
5. Breakout Sessions



1. 9.30am –depart queens wharf reserve for Hassall street (5 minutes, 400 metres)
- ↳ 2. 9.40 – walk down Hassall street to George Street (10 minutes, 450 metres)
- ↳ 3. 10.15am – walk down George street to St. John’s cemetery (40 mins 1.6 kms)
- ↳ 4. 11.30am – walk to Old Government House (15 mins, 700 meters)

Hassall Street - runs from near the railway station to the east. The middle section is a lane through a built-up area. Research is ongoing about which member of the family it is officially named after

Marsden Street, Parramatta is named after Reverend Samuel Marsden who is buried in St John’s Cemetery.

Rowland and Elizabeth’s House was at 109 George Street. A complete archaeological report was prepared prior to construction of high-rise accommodation. On the wall at 109 is a display approximately 5 metres in length explaining the site’s previous occupants, including Aboriginal occupation, and from the 1800s, the Hassall house (which was demolished in 1880).

Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall’s Grave is in the southeast corner of St John’s Anglican Cemetery and accessed by a gate in O’Connell Street. St John’s is Australia’s oldest European burial ground. Rowland died in Parramatta on 28 August 2020. Elizabeth died at her son James’ property, Matavai on 10 February 1834 and was buried in the same grave as Rowland. The grave is a sandstone alter on a sandstone plinth. A brass plaque as installed at the foot at the southern end of the grave following the 1998 Bicentenary event. Other family members are also buried in St. John’s Cemetery.

Plan - Day tour to O'Connell / Bathurst area (private cars).

- TOUR – from Mt York to O'Connell Plains
- Mt Victoria turn right into Mt York Road (at Ampol Service Station) go to Mt York Lookout.....6 minutes, 4.8 kilometres
- Return to Great Western Hwy
- Turn right in Great Western Highway (at Ampol station), go to Magpie Hollow Road, South Bowenfels (just before Lithgow)15 minutes, 17.5 kilometres
- Turn left into Magpipe Hollow Road (drive from Lithgow to O'Connell)
- Go 10.8 kms, 9 minutes and turn right into Hampton Road (at T junction)
- Turn **IMMEDIATELY** left into Sodwalls Road then travel 14.2 kms for 15 minutes
- Go through Tarana.. very small town.. (**do not** turn right into Diamond Swamp Road)
- Then turn left into Mutton Falls Road
- Travel 18.4 kms for 15 minutes (Llambeta gates near end of this road on the right)
- Turn right into O'Connell Road at O'Connell and go 2.2 kms for 2 minutes and
- Turn right into **Hassall Park**. *"You have arrived at your destination"* If you go over the bridge you have gone too far!

Time	Activity	Purpose
08.00am	Drive to Mt Victoria	To meet at Mt York lookout
10.00am	Arrive at Mt York	Dramatic view to the west of the mountains
10.30am	Depart Mt York	To drive to O'Connell
Midday	Arrive Hassall Park	Lunch and chat with the locals
01.00pm	Tour around O'Connell	Tread in the Hassall footsteps
Depart	Depart O'Connell	Depart to your evenings destination

MEET - Midday in Hassall Park O'Connell Rd (on right before crossing bridge over Fish River)

Picnic lunch in Hassall Park, O'Connell. Purchase lunch from the café opposite the O'Connell Hotel if you wish and lunch with locals who have been invited to join us and chat with us. A councillor from Oberon Council is also going to join us.

Information board in Hassall Park has First Nation's story on one side and European history on the other which has been compiled by Oberon Council.

Local drives are encouraged and will take you above the village giving you wonderful views across O'Connell Plains, the same views that the Hassall's would have seen 200 years ago. I will hand out details of these drives so you will not get lost. A mud map has been provided to give you an idea.

Some HISTORIC SITES:

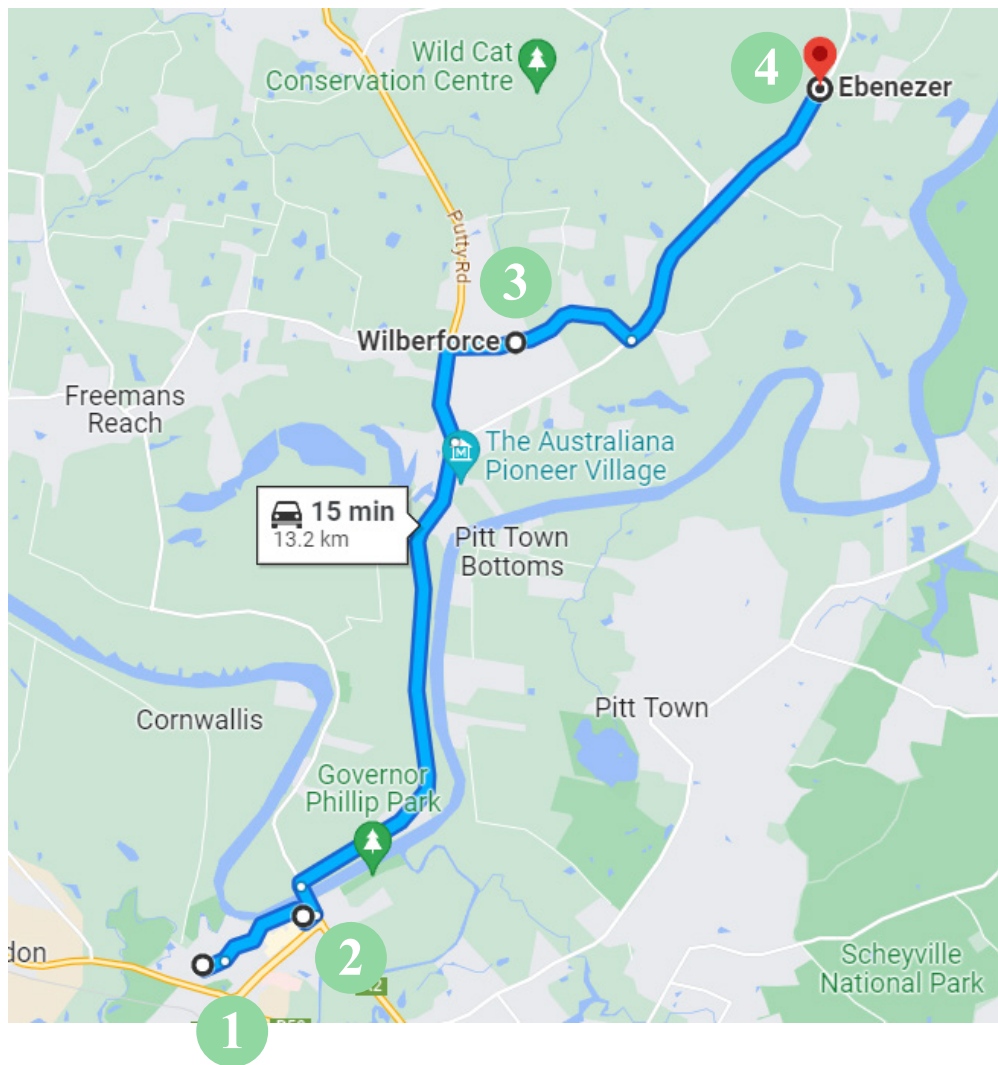
O'Connell:

Thomas Hassall barns at Lindlegreen - view from Beaconsfield Road O'Connell, read council plaque.

St Thomas Church Beaconsfield Road, O'Connell – the church was funded by the Hassall for the local community and will be opened for us by a local. St Thomas Cemetery – Eliza Cordelia's grave.

ADVICE – *Wear warm clothes and drive to the road conditions. Please follow the road Advisory signs. (It will not be snowing yet in O'Connell but it could be cool).*

WINDSOR



1. 10.00am Meet at St Matthews Church (5 Moses St, Windsor)
2. To Windsor Square and Museum (1.2km/5 mins)
3. To Wilberforce (10km/15 mins)
4. To Ebenezer (15km/20mins)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Two photographers are at the Reunion. The Official Group Photos will be taken at the Thomas Hassall Anglican College on Saturday 6th May. Photos of individual family lines will be taken from 1pm, and the Reunion Group photo at 1.45pm.

These photos will be available for viewing on the website www.donwoodphotography.com.au and available for ordering after the event. Costs per photo are:

11' x 14' (28cm x 35cm) @ \$35.00

8" x 10" (20cm x 25cm) @ \$25.00

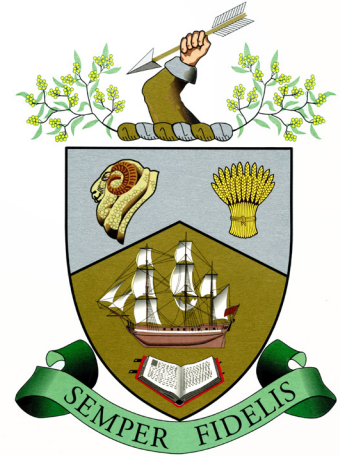
5" x 7" (13cm x 18cm) @ \$20.00

Photographs of other reunion activities, presentations, family groups, and socializing, will be taken by Hyde Hassall and made available on the Association's website for free: <https://www.hassall.net.au/photos-and-recordings>

The Hassall Family History Association fosters close cooperation and exchange between Hassall family members, descendants, historians, and others interested in Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and their descendants, and the family's activities in the Australasian / Pacific region from the eighteenth century to the present. Its main objectives are:

1. To foster and disseminate research on the life and heritage of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and other members of the Hassall family.
2. To encourage research on other early settler families – particularly those to whom the Hassalls are related or with whom they share historical experience;
3. To draw from Hassall family history, insights into their contributions to culture and innovation.

The Association commenced as the Hassall Family History Group, established in 1993 to plan for the 1998 bicentenary. In addition to organizing that event, which attracted 700 participants; the Group produced ten Newsletters between 1993 and 2000; published the book *The Hassall family: celebrating 200 years in Australia 1798–1998* written by David J. Hassall and Jean Stewart; supported activities of the Thomas Hassall School; donated papers to the Hassall Family Collection at the State Library of New South Wales; contributed funds to the library to promote the collection's development; and produced an additional 33 newsletters between 2002 and 2011.



Hassall of Australia

In 2013 Ross Whelan, Principal at Thomas Hassall Anglican College, offered the School's support for the Group's continuation. Research meetings were held at the NSW State Library in 2016, 2017, and 2018, and the newsletter re-established. The New South Wales State Library added the Hassall Family Papers to its transcription projects. In 2019 the Group registered as an Association in New South Wales and published Jean Stewart's book *Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall: The History of their family in Australia 1798 to earl 1900s* was published. Coordinators were identified for eight "family-lines" to bring together descendants of Rowland and Elizabeth's eight children.

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1. Thomas Hassall & Anne Marsden ■ 2. Samuel Hassall & Lucy Mileham ■ 3. Jonathan Hassall & Mary Rouse ■ 4. Mary Hassall & Rev Walter Lawry ■ 5. James Hassall & Catherine Lloyd ■ 6. Eliza Hassall & Rev William Walker ■ 7. Susannah Hassall & William Shelley Jr ■ 8. Ann Hassall & Robert Campbell | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alison Shaw alison.shaw@optusnet.com.au 2. Melissa Blanks and James Daniel melissajb3@outlook.com.au; jmtdaniel10@gmail.com 3. John Brooks brooksjno@gmail.com 4. Barbara Scott bmsbarb@icloud.com 5. Rowland J Hassall rowlandjhassall@gmail.com 6. Jennifer Walton-Smith jennywaltonsmith@icloud.com 7. Anne Dudzinski annedudzinski@optusnet.com.au 8. Ann Brockhurst brockhurst1@live.com.au |
|---|--|

In 2023 the Association comprises members from across Australia and internationally, and has projects focused on Hassall heritage, transcription, genealogy, and research and publication. This Hassall family reunion is taking place 25 years after the bicentenary event of 1998, which marked two-hundred years since the arrival of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall in New South Wales in May 1798.

The life-stories of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall are filled with adventure, chance, faith, despair, and achievement. They had travelled from England in 1796 aboard the *Duff* as part of the London Missionary Society's first expedition to the South Pacific. After a tumultuous year in Tahiti, in which the missionaries became entangled in conflict between rival groups on the island, the couple fled on the first available boat, together with three infant sons. This boat was the *Nautilus*, a leaky vessel bound for the penal settlement of Port Jackson. After enduring perturbation about their inglorious departure from Tahiti, uncertainty about their prospects, and Rowland's severe bashing at the hands of thugs who stole their remaining valuables, the Hassalls' circumstances gradually improved. About 1801 they settled in Parramatta, at what became 103-109 George Street. Over the next two decades they operated a trade store and other businesses - and raised eight children. Renowned for his honesty, Rowland was appointed government storekeeper under Governor Philip Gidley King, and managed properties for others, including Samuel Marsden and Mrs King. In 1814, under Governor Macquarie, he became the superintendent of government stock. Rowland certainly also had dealings with the notorious Governor Bligh. We can presume that Rowland regularly travelled along George Street to conduct business at Government House.

Although apprenticed as a silk weaver as a youth in Coventry, Rowland acquired agricultural, equestrian, and pastoral skills in New South Wales. He bred sheep, cattle, and horses. His land holdings multiplied in both Paramatta and Camden, and later across

the Blue Mountains - some through government grants and some through purchase. His interests extended to preaching the Gospel, trading with Tahitian and missionary connections in the Pacific, and participating in philanthropic and community life in Sydney. He participated in projects that promoted education, protected orphans, and sought to advance Aboriginal welfare. Elizabeth Hassall partnered Rowland in all these endeavours.

In 1820 Rowland succumbed to fever at the early age of 52 and lies buried in St. John's Cemetery; Elizabeth survived him by fourteen years. She passed away in 1834 and is interred together with her late husband. A plaque was unveiled in 1913 to commemorate the establishment of the nation's first Sunday school in the family home on the corner of George and Charles Streets, and to this day a street in Parramatta bears the family name.

Rowland and Elizabeth ensured that all their children - daughters as much as sons - received adequate education and were well-provided for. Each married into a prominent family of the day - although the fortunes of subsequent generations fluctuated with the changes and chances of drought, flood, and the vagaries of economic upturns and downturns.

The firstborn, Thomas, married Ann, a daughter of the Rev Samuel and Elizabeth Marsden; Samuel married Lucy, daughter of surgeon James Mileham and Elizabeth Price; Jonathan married Mary, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Rouse; Mary, who married Rev. Walter Lawry; James, who married Catherine, daughter of John Payne Lloyd; Eliza Cordelia, who married Rev. William Walker; Susannah, who married William

Shelley Jr.; and Ann, who married Robert Mackay Campbell.

Three of these marriages were solemnized on the same day, 22nd December 1819, in what became known as the “triple wedding” at St John’s Parramatta (Samuel married Lucy, Jonathan married Mary Rouse, and Mary married the Rev Walter Lawrie).

Rowland Elizabeth’s eight children produced no less than 62 grandchildren, who in turn produced approximately 300 great-grandchildren. By some estimates Hassall family descendants alive today number between 20,000 and 30,000. At the 1998 Bicentenary celebration ANU historian Niel Gunson described the Hassall family as...

“... one of the great representative families of Australia; they have been here almost since the beginning of white settlement, they have participated, often silently, in the momentous events that have shaped our national identity and their name has a permanent place in the annals of Australian achievement.”

The Hassall Family History Association was formed principally to encourage research on the life and heritage of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall and their descendants and to draw insights from Hassall family history about contributions to culture and innovation in contemporary Australian society. Without seeking public attention, Rowland and Elizabeth’s lives – as well as those of their children – were relatively well-documented. Their nine-month journey from England to Tahiti aboard the Duff is the focus of Gunson’s book *Messengers of Grace*; Rowland’s reports to LMS headquarters in England gained the attention of linguists, ethnographers, and cross-cultural specialists, through being amongst the first

eye-witness accounts of Tahitian society at the time of European contact; their business records have been examined in the study of early NSW commerce; their household garbage is studied by archaeologists and health researchers; their interactions with Aboriginals are studied in contemporary indigenous studies; their clothes and business interests are studied in gender studies; their horse-breeding is commented on in histories of Australia’s first horsemen; their homes and properties are included in studies of early colonial architecture. Rowland’s businesses are analysed in the “all time Australian 200 rich list”; his transactions with government are noted in both Historical Records of Australia and Historical Records of New South Wales; and his religious beliefs and practice are examined in studies of early Australian Christianity. Family portraits are included in studies of early Australian portraiture; their resting places are recorded in an expanding number of online heritage projects. 8000 pages of family correspondence held by the State Library of New South Wales are being transcribed by a host of volunteers.

Descendants of Rowland and Elizabeth take pride in being associated with this pioneering family and come together in the Hassall Family History Association to ensure their legacy endures in the minds and hearts of subsequent generations.

