



“Nurungi” (Remembered)

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY
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MEETINGS

General Meetings

2nd Wednesday of month
at 7:30 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre

Executive Meetings

4th Wednesday of month
at 7:45 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre

Committee Meetings

Contact Chairpersons
Museum
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Lola Sharp, 8753-0659
*

MUSEUM

5 Wellbank Street
Open 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesday & Saturday

No. 69

August/September 2001

Next Meeting

Wednesday 10th October, 2001 at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Lorraine Hawkins, one of the Tivoli Kids, who will speak on her “Tivoli Days”. Lorraine is a most interesting speaker who will take us back to the days of “good old vaudeville” so come along and support her and our Society. Visitors welcome.

Future Meetings

Wednesday 14th November at 7.30 pm - Vann Cremer, “History of the Post Office”

Wednesday, 12th December - Christmas Barbecue at Rhodes/ Rotary Park, from 6:00 p.m. Arrangements as last year. All food will be supplied, BYO liquid refreshments. Cost \$10.00 per person.

January - No meeting

Open Day at Rivendell - Sunday, 7th October

PLEASE NOTE that the date has been changed to 7th October due to unforeseen circumstances. Otherwise everything else is the same.

We still have some tickets available if you know of anyone who would like to come, but bookings are still essential.

If you have not already volunteered to help on the day or if you were unable to help on the former date but are now available, please contact the secretary ASAP so that we can finalise details and rosters.

Haberfield Tour - Saturday, 24th November

Details for this outing have been finalised and we are now including a visit to Ashfield Infants' Home to make a full and interesting afternoon.

We will be travelling by bus, but there will be a small amount of walking during the Haberfield section. The bus will leave from the Museum at 12:45 pm sharp, so please make sure you get there early.

The tour around Haberfield will take about 2 hours and our guide will be Vincent Crow, who is an expert on the history of this delightful garden suburb.

At 3:00 pm we will be welcomed to Ashfield Infants Home for some light refreshments before being taken on a tour of this historic establishment.

We should return to the Museum at approximately 5:00 pm.

Cost for this outing is \$17.00, which will cover the whole trip. However, the Home has just launched their book, "Betrayed & Forsaken - The Official History of The Infants' Home, Ashfield" which will be for sale on the day at \$35.00 per copy.

We need to have a minimum of 40 people to cover the costs of this day so please support us by making your booking as soon as possible.

For those who had booked (and some paid for) the previous date, would you please contact the secretary to confirm that this still stands (and to pay the extra \$2).

Annual General Meeting

Our August meeting was the Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers. The following people were elected for 2001/2002:

President Trish Harrington
Vice President Graham Packett
Secretary/Treasurer Lois Michel
Assistant Secretary Lorraine Pendreigh
Public Relations Officer Trish Skehan
Editor of Newsletter Trish Harrington
Committee Chairpersons:

Museum Fred Stansfield
Archives **Vacant**
Walker Estates Errol Grace
Heritage Bill Barlow
Oral & Family History Lola Sharp
Members of Executive Frank Stansfield
..... Terry Robinson
..... Michael Douglas
..... Beryl Douglas

..... David Hayes
..... Jill Hodder

Appointments

Honorary Solicitor Michael Fisher
Honorary Auditor Mike Curtis

Our thanks are extended to David Hayes for the work he has done for the Heritage Committee since the beginning of our Society. However, he chose not to stand again as he felt it was time for new blood, but he is still taking an active interest as a member of the Executive. We congratulate Bill Barlow who has taken over this position and look forward to a continuation of the good work.

President's Report, 2000-01

The past 12 months have been both very challenging and rewarding ones for our Society.

The feather in our cap was the visit on February 11, by her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW, to Yaralla as the Guest of Honour at our Garden Party.

The Garden Party gave us the opportunity to thank our many willing workers for the hard, mostly unsung work they do for Concord and the Society.

It was also the opportunity to have the Governor officially open our restored timber shed in the presence of members, local dignitaries and members of parliament.

The completion of the restoration of the shed was a milestone for our society in our ongoing endeavour to have the estate valued for its heritage items and buildings, and to have them restored correctly. This project came in far over budget, and caused our treasurer, Lois Michel some angst. We have, however, now fully paid for the restoration and can concentrate on future projects.

It was pleasing to see the stables restored to their former glory in such a sympathetic manner, and to be given permission to have them as the focus for our Garden Party and future functions.

An excellent permanent photographic exhibition and display has been mounted in the sta-

bles, and was admired by the Governor and our guests as well as the many members of the public who have been on our Yaralla tours. The Governor was thrilled to see photos of the Queen's visit to Thomas Walker, when she was head of the family unit, displayed. Nursing staff at the dialysis unit were particularly interested in the display, and brought other staff to view it.

We are very close to having the legalities of our regular usage of the stables formalised, and great credit must go to the indefatigable Lois Michel, who has pursued this end with vim, vigour and extreme determination. It is to Lois' great credit that CSAHS feel happy about trusting her with the keys to the stables complex.

We have conducted several successful tour days at Yaralla, only possible through the hard work of our committee and 'regulars'. Our thanks particularly to the 'backroom workers, who check tickets, make tea, butter scones, and wash up for hours on end. Thank you Lorna and Alan Wright, Margaret Grace, Diana Mitchell, Laraine Pendraigh, Beryl and Michael Douglas.

The \$50,000 from the estate of Liane Poulton will hopefully be available soon, and the restoration of the Four Winds fountain should then be our next project.

We were very pleased to see the work completed on the rose garden, but are unsure as to what procedures have been put in place to ensure that the garden is fully maintained. There is still concern with the ongoing maintenance of the grotto.

The successful work of our society is dependent on the goodwill, hard work and vision of our members. Many, many hours of unpaid work is given by our volunteers, and in this celebratory year of the volunteer I would like to make mention of some of these members:

Lois Michel our treasured secretary and treasurer, we would not function without you, and we cannot fully express our sincere thanks for your continued efforts on the society's behalf.

Trish Skehan, who regularly manages to provide an interesting and informative guest

speaker.

Fred and Frank Stansfield, who quietly work in the background, managing the museum, being gate keepers, and whose unswerving support we value highly.

Other committee members and sub committee chairs: Vice-President Graham Packett; Walker Estates, Errol Grace; Oral History, Lola Sharp; Heritage, David Hayes; Bill Barlow and Terry Robinson. Thank you.

Museum roster workers –not previously mentioned - Mary Allison, Mary Anderson, Meg Bean, Mike Curtis, John Harding, Bob and Jennifer Jones and Tracey Walsh, who keep the spirit of the museum going, by giving their time regularly, for often not much tangible return. Thank you all very much.

We look forward to our open day at Rivendell and hope that it will be the forerunner of a more regular program. Thanks to Lois, Graham and Terry for their efforts so far, which have made this event possible.

We hope that our relationship with CSAHS will continue to grow, such that we will be able to see both estates benefit from the partnership.

Trish Harrington

Museum Committee

There has not been much activity within this committee other than regular manning of the Museum each Wednesday and Saturday.

However, we would like to see some more volunteers willing to take on this activity, particularly on the Wednesday afternoon.

During the year we have had several visits from school groups in the area and they have been a very rewarding experience for our members who have attended on the days. The enthusiasm and interest of the children makes our efforts very worthwhile and their questions reveal their interest in the items on display.

We still need to catalogue our artefacts and hope to receive some assistance in this regard in the coming year.

Fred Stansfield

Walker Estates Committee

2000-2001 has been a year of mixed outcomes for our committee.

Our committee has met on a regular basis, but mainly to deal with our Open Days at Yaralla and, recently, Rivendell.

We have had very successful Open Days at Yaralla, as well as the official opening of the Farm Shed by the NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir. All functions have been well attended and helped to raise much needed funds to pay for the restoration of the farm shed. A lot of hard work goes into these days and, thankfully, we have a very dedicated, but very small group of workers. More volunteers are needed for such days so please do not be afraid to come forward and put your name in the hat to help out - it is a very rewarding experience.

We are still represented on the Yaralla Advisory Committee and this has not been a good year in some respects as the committee membership has dropped off dramatically and meetings are few and far between.

The notion of having part of Yaralla turned over to the National Parks & Wildlife Service to become part of a Parramatta River Park is well and truly dead - it would mean another change to the Walker Trust Act and that is very unlikely to happen.

The restoration of the stable complex has been completed. The work was of a very high standard and the complex looks quite magnificent. We are in the process of negotiating a licence to have use of the coach house in the stables. In this area we will set up a permanent display, which can be locked off and saves bringing in items and then taking them out again for each open day. The CSAHS allow us the use of the kitchen in the larger flat to sell Devonshire teas on open days and this has been of great help to the catering crew. To the best of my knowledge the flats have not been used by any dialysis patients for overnight stays, so let us hope that they will not be let deteriorate and end up as they were before restoration.

The restoration of the rose gardens has been

nearly finished and they look a lot better than they did twelve months ago, but I still think that a lot more work can be done in that area to bring it back to its former glory. I understand that contracts were renewed for the upkeep of the grotto and sunken garden. Pity the contracts did not cover the rest of the grounds as they are a complete disgrace with "lawns" and "gardens" overgrown with weeds and seedling trees.

Those of you who were tour guides in the mansion on our last open day would have been quite horrified at the state of the interior, seeing paint peeling off walls and ceilings and rotting timbers in the window frames. Sadly it still seem that the CSAHS give only token efforts to maintaining the estate - buildings and grounds - and really do not care about the historical significance of Yaralla.

The ABC Gardening Show have been approached to do a segment on Yaralla so, hopefully, they will agree to this and the state of Yaralla will get some sort of national exposure.

We must keep up our efforts to get more of the Estate looked after in a proper manner, so all must keep vigilant and report any discretions to any of the executive so that they can be raised at the few Advisory Committee meetings that we have.

In the meantime we will continue to host open days and plough the monies raised back into the estate.

Errol Grace

Oral & Family History Committee

In reporting on my activities in this committee I would like to thank the four people who gave of their time for this project, namely Margaret Grundy, Ian Gordon, Dianna Mitchell and Ted Connors. Margaret Grundy will be remembered as the first Librarian of Concord Library and was able to give an excellent account of the commencement of the library and its development and consequent social role as meeting place for all the community.

Ian Gordon has been a citizen of Mortlake all his life and recounted days of the depression,

the role of the AGL in the history of the area, along with some rather telling social aspects of sectarianism, Masonry and football, along with the Scottish influence in the area.

Dianna Mitchell, who is well known to you all, was the daughter of a Mayor of Concord who died during the influenza outbreak of 1919, when she was a tiny baby. Dianna painted an interesting picture of Concord in her early years and the activities of both herself and her brothers. She also stressed the importance of family helping one another and the influence her widowed mother had upon them all, especially at a time when there was no widow's pension, and the world was experiencing a depression and then a war.

Ted Connors is a 91 year old gentleman who has lived in Battersea Street, Abbotsford, for 50 years and had much to tell of the growth of Abbotsford which, like Mortlake, was originally a low income, factory area, which has now become gentrified!

Whilst I have been a little disappointed that some people with a story to tell have chosen not to, I respect their sensibilities. A few more names are in the pipeline but, like everything, it is a time factor.

For my part I have enjoyed being an eavesdropper during the interviews. I hope at some stage, when there is no guest speaker, I can perhaps fill you all in with some of the bits and pieces of what I have learned about the area, especially after WW1, the depression and WW2. There are a couple of local boys in my sights for the next year if I am re-elected.

Lola Sharp

Public Relations Officer

Another successful year for our society, and for sales of the Walker book. Various guest speakers have given their time and expertise to share with us many wonderful stories, memories and experiences. My special thanks to Vince Scerri for filling in when one speaker could not attend.

Our most memorable speaker was Des Milligan, Spike's brother, who is speaking again in February 2002. Other speakers for

the coming year are Lorraine Hawkins, who will speak of her childhood and Tivoli days; Mr. Venn Cremer, who will talk about early Postal History; Bill Barlow, who will be talking about his research and book on that colourful character, Bea Miles; and I will be speaking about aviator Ross Smith.

I am now leaving in mid-September for a trip down the Nile with my sister, so will not be about to attend the Thomas Walker Open Day, but Leo Schofield will be attending. Good luck to all for a successful day.

I apologise for not being able to attend so many meetings due to work commitments. However, I enjoy being in the society immensely and look forward to a long association.

Patricia Skehan

REMEMBER WHEN

The Lament of The Man on the Land

"It all started back in '66 when they changed from pounds to dollar - me bloody overdraft doubled.

Then they brought in kilograms instead of pounds - now I find I'm only producing half of what I used to.

Then they changed rain to millimeters and we haven't had an inch of rain since.

They bring in Celsius and it never gets over 40 degrees. No wonder me bloody wheat won't grow.

They changed acres to hectares and I end up with half of the bloody area I had before.

By this time I'd had it and decided to sell out.

I just get the place in agents hands when they change miles to kilometres. Now I'm too far out of town for anyone to buy the bloody place.

Anon

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 2001

CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

INCOME

Archives - Research Fees	76.55
Donations: Museum	1,006.30
Sundry	4,480.05
Transfer from Yaralla Committee	2,000.00
Events: Bus Trip	484.00
Grants: Slaughterhouse	21,150.00
Concord Council	800.00
Membership: New	182.00
Renewals	1,732.91
Museum Admissions	132.32
Souvenirs	2053.07
Bank Interest	64.51
Sundry	83.48

\$34,245.19

EXPENDITURE

Archives: Books (Library)	39.18
Photocopies	94.40
Photographs	99.23
Equipment	295.35
Events: Bus Trip	507.27
Insurance: Public Risk	267.55
Voluntary Workers	97.00
Museum: Display Equipment	801.90
Electricity	216.27
Nurungi	739.27
Slaughterhouse Restoration	49,410.25
"Walkers of Yaralla" Books	1,285.00
Subscriptions/Membership	175.00
Yaralla Open Days - Sundry	62.73
Bank Charges	98.88
Incorporation Fees	34.50
Post Office Box Rental	45.00
Postage and Stationery	668.94

\$54,937.72

CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY - YARALLA COMMITTEE

INCOME

Donations	10.00
Yaralla Tours	305.95
Christmas Party	280.00
Haberfield Tour	135.00
Garden Party	1,095.00
Hawkebury River Trip	176.00
Yaralla Open Days:	
Tickets	7,133.00
Devonshire Teas	1,149.88
Donations	26.40
Bank Interest	11.39

\$10,322.62

EXPENDITURE

Yaralla Open Days:	
Printing	159.06
Hire Toilets	319.00
Advertising	535.00
Devonshire Teas	131.13
Sundries	472.14
Christmas Party	229.49
Garden Party	1,253.49
Maintenance	258.43
Postage	45.00
Bank Charges	46.00
Donation to General Funds	4,900.00

\$8,348.74

News From Other Groups

Are you looking for an interesting afternoon out? Here are some suggestions:

Saturday, 27th October - 2:00 to 4:00 pm. “**Keeping those old photographs for the future**”. Are you interested in holding on to your memories? Museum curator Graham Hinton will explain how to look after your photographs.

Sponsored by Fairfield City Museum and Gallery, Cnr. The Horsley Drive & Oxford Street, Smithfield. Phone: 9609-3993.

13th September to 11th October - Too Dark for the Light Horse. An Australian War Memorial travelling exhibition.

Open Tuesday - Thursday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, first Saturday of the month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Centennial Bakery Museum, 319-321 Forest Road, Hurstville.

The Peoplescape

This will be the finale event for the year-long celebrations of the Centenary of Federation. What better conclusion to the year than to see our heroes on top of Parliament House, reminding us of the people who really did help make Australia what it is today.

The Peoplescape is one of the largest community art installations undertaken in this country. Thousands of Australians will have the opportunity, using a life-size person-shaped “canvas” to create a representation of the person they feel has significantly affected their life, their community or their country.

These figures will be brought together in the nation’s capital to form a “Peoplescape”. Thousands of “people” will be installed in Canberra, standing in rows that will stretch from Old Parliament House, up the lawns of Federation Mall, to spill over the grassy banks of Parliament House.

Bringing together stories from the city, the country and the outback; from the past and the present; from the celebrated, the infamous and the unknown, the Peoplescape will represent and applaud the diversity and in-

dividual contribution of ordinary Australians.

The Peoplescape is not only an important national event, but an event for the community.

Strathfield North Public School has had their nomination of two figures - Thomas and Dame Eadith Walker - accepted to be part of this display.

If you want more information visit www.peoplescape.com.au.

The Infants’ Home, Ashfield

The Infants’ Home is a multi Purpose Family Support Service for families with children from birth to school age. They are located in an old historic home in the inner west of Sydney within spacious and beautiful grounds, and offer four programmes to families and their young children.

They have offered services to families and children since 1874.

Over the years the services provided have changed, largely reflecting the change in community needs and thinking on what best meets the needs of children and families experiencing difficulties and/or in crisis.

Museum Visits

Recently we were honoured to have the children from Mortlake Primary School pay a visit to our Museum. We have received some delightful letters from them and would like to share a few of their comments.

“I never knew that calculators were the same shapes as the typewriters . . . I was interested in the 3D glasses, I liked that the most . . . I enjoyed seeing the medals because I never seen a medal in a museum. I think the 3D binoculars are interesting because you can really see it in 3D and I want to know how did they make it . . . When I was going in, why was the museum so small but had so much interesting things . . . I think my favourite item was the school desk. I found it interesting because it is so different now than what it used to be . . . My favourite was the mosaic table and the family tree - it was terrific. But that

does not mean the others were not wonderful . . . Although it is not the biggest it is sure the best . . . I liked the bike that you move by the handles but I think I liked too many things to tell you . . . What I found most interesting was how they washed and ironed the clothes. I would hate to do that now . . . what I also find interesting is the dresses and suits used to belong to real people . . . My favourite thing was the moustache cup and the bed pans that were used as toilets . . . I think my dad would like the moustache cup . . . I learned a lot about heritage."

But one serious comment: "I learned that heritage doesn't have to be something old, it has to be something that is precious to you and means a lot to you." Out of the mouths of babes!!

The children certainly enjoyed their visit - and so did those who volunteered to be there to answer their questions. We look forward to more of these visits.

To those on the Internet . . .

For an interesting hour to two, visit - <http://localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au> - what a wonderful collection of articles.

Genealogy

I, like many others, have a keen interest in genealogy and researching the family tree.

Back in 1986 I bought a genealogy computer program – up to date at the time, but now of course very outdated. Not wishing to be outdated again, I looked for a program which would be upgradeable and easy to use.

Since the Church of the Latter Day Saints (or Mormons) are very keen on family history, I first checked out their site <http://www.familysearch.org/> and was able to download for my own personal use for free a great program. (I have absolutely NO connection to the Mormon Church and this is not in any way an endorsement of any of their beliefs.)

It is very easy to use, and you are able to insert family records from the Internet into it very

easily. On the site it states that the following services are available: searches can be made of their vast record collections, research assistance, viewing of maps, and finding other web sites with family history information.

If you're into family history, give it a try.

Know your Suburb?

What is the name of the Centre incorporating Central Concord Post Office?

(If we remember, we'll tell you all next month)

Dates for the Diary

Sunday, 7th October - Open Day
at Rivendell - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Wednesday, 10th October -
Lorraine Hawkins, "Tivoli Days"

Wednesday, 24th October -
Executive Meeting - 7:45 pm

Thursday, 1st November - Walker
Estates/Yaralla Committee - 7:30
pm. at Strathfield North Public
School

Wednesday, 14th November -
Vann Cremer, "History of the
Post Office"

Saturday, 24th November -
Haberfield Tour and visit to The
Infants' Home, Ashfield

Wednesday, 28th November -
Executive Meeting

Wednesday, 12th December -
Christmas Barbecue at Rhodes
Rotary Park - from 6:00 p.m.

December - No Executive Meeting

January - No General Meeting