



òNurungió

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

www.concordheritage.asn.au

EDITOR

PRESIDENT

TRISH HARRINGTON
9764-3296

PUBLIC RELATIONS
TRISH SKEHAN
9743-4172

SECRETARY/TREASURER

LOIS MICHEL
3 Flavelle Street
(P.O. Box 152)
Concord 2137
Phone: 9744-8528
Fax: 9744-7591

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MEETINGS

General Meetings

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

Executive Meetings

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

Walker Estates Committee

1st Thursday each month
(please contact to confirm)
Concord Bowling Club
Clermont Ave, North Strathfield
Graham Packett, 9743-3007

Other Committees

As arranged
Watch the newsletter

Museum

Fred Stansfield, 9743-1866

Archives/Local History

Kate Skillman, 9706-7479

Heritage

Bill Barlow, 9743-3662

Oral/Family History

Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

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**CONCORD
HERITAGE MUSEUM**
5 Wellbank Street

Open 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesday & Saturday

No. 99

June 2004

What if . . . ?

Although it has been firmly entrenched in our minds that Australia's European history began in Botany Bay, what might have happened if James Cook hadn't landed on the shores at Endeavour River on 17th June, 1770, where Cooktown now stands.

The Endeavour River was the focus of James Cook's first famous voyage of discovery. Here he found a desperately needed safe haven to beach his bark Endeavour for repairs after she was damaged on the Great Barrier Reef.

Naturalist Joseph Banks, botanist Daniel Solander and the crew spent 48 days exploring the area and collecting over 180 botanical specimens new to science.

It was here that the Kangaroo, Australia's national animal, was discovered and described. The natives called it "Kanguru". Their name for the harbour was "Charco", however, when Cook sailed from the river on 4th August, 1770, he named it Endeavour.

Cook may never have been able to return to England to report the finding of this great new land to the British Admiralty had it not been for the geographic location of the Endeavour River.

Those 97 souls were in dire straits and had to

sail frantically for almost 7 days after hitting the reef before finding this harbour. It took all their efforts to keep their ship afloat. When the harbour was finally sighted, relief flooded over them. They were spared.

Australia's history may have been very different had it not been for the strategic location of this small harbour.

It was over 100 years later, in 1873, when James Venture Mulligan discovered gold at the Palmer River, that any white settlement took place.

Miners flocked to the goldfields following Mulligan's overland track. Premier Palmer instructed G.E. Dalrymple to find a suitable port to service the goldfields, but events

outran them and, on the 25th October, 1873, the steamer Leichhardt anchored in the Endeavour River and miners swarmed ashore.

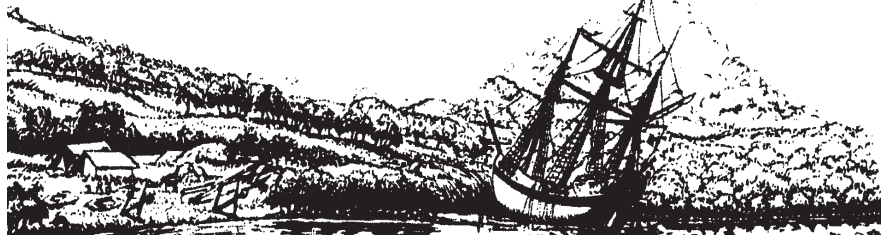
It was not long before a small community took shape with tents and shanties forming the nucleus of a new town then known as Cook's town. Within six months, the town's population was 4,000.

By 1876, 35,000 people had passed through the port on their way to the goldfields.

By the 1880's the gold was beginning to decline. There was a drift away from the area and the ports of Port Douglas and Cairns were now servicing the goldfields. However, tin, timber, sandalwood and produce such as maize, peanuts and cattle saw that the town still maintained a small population which fell to around 400.

Cooktown survived two devastating cyclones – one in 1907 and again in 1949 – and severe economic decline but now, with a population of around 1,600 is growing at a steady pace that allows the charm and historical atmosphere to prevail.

Printed with permission of the Heron Flyer, April 2002.



Bulletin Board

9th June - It is hoped that Bill Barlow will be able to come again to finish his interesting story. There will also be a surprise so make sure you book this date and come along.

14th July - Red Cross Theatre. Jan Bell and Kevin from Concord Hospital will present an audio visual talk about the theatre

11th August - Annual General Meeting and Elections

Concord's Links with the US

Americans the world over last week (in July 1976) celebrated their country's 200th year of independence from Great Britain. Concord residents also celebrated the historic event because of the Revolutionary War links with the district.

Evidence suggests a British Army officer named Concord after the field of Concord in Massachusetts where the "shot heard around the world" was fired and the bitter war begun.

Concord Historical Society publicity officer, Miss Violet Plant, wrote the following article, and it was noted that photos were by courtesy of the Society.

Named by war's veteran

Evidence suggests Concord was named by a Major Grose, who fought with the British Army in the American War of Independence. He came to the colony of NSW after the Revolutionary War as Lieutenant Governor.

In 1973 Governor Gross made land grants to six non-commissioned officers in the NSW corps and four settlers.

He suggested part of Liberty Plains in Sydney, where the grants were located, should be known as Concord. It is now thought this area bordering the Parramatta River reminded Grose of Concord in Massachusetts, through which the lovely Sylvan Sudbury River flowed under the famous old North Bridge.

The bridge took its place in history on April 19th, 1775, when British Army regulars approached on their way to Lexington. A group of armed citizens barred the way. They did not want the British to advance any further. *The fuse that ignited the Revolutionary War was lit that day.*



When the British came towards the bridge, the citizens' leader, Captain John Parker, said:

"Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon. If there is to be a

war, let it begin here".

Someone fired. No one is certain who, but the shot 'heard round the world' began America's struggle. The Old North Bridge still stands as a proud reminder of that fateful day when citizens took on the might of Great Britain.

Near the bridge is the Minuteman monument with the following inscription by the poet, Emerson:

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood, their flag to April's breeze unfurled, there once the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard around the world".



It is believed Major Grose was among British Army regulars who took part in the short battle but this fact is not conclusive, yet.

The British were accustomed to sending their convicts to the American Colonies but now that door was closed. Consideration was given to other areas and Terra Australis became prominent in discussions. Finally, Captain Arthur Phillip led a small fleet to the new colony of NSW.

Several days after the Sydney Cove landing, Captain Hunter and Lieutenant Bradley made excursions around the Parramatta River foreshores to find farmland. The men and their party had breakfast at a place on the Parramatta River, which they called Breakfast Point, now the site of the Australian Gas Light Company at Mortlake.

The land explored was reported as very favourable for farming and became known officially as Liberty Plains.

Concord in Sydney and Concord in Massachusetts have been named sister towns for the American Bi-centennial year. Greetings have been exchanged between the two towns.

This article appeared in the "Aeroplane Press" 14th July, 1976.

Our Open Day at Rivendell was another outstanding success and has added over \$4,000 to our coffers to help with the renovation of the squash court. Central Sydney Area Health Service has now granted us a licence to use this building, when finished. This will then, hopefully, become another source of income for us.

Sincere thanks to all those who helped on the day and we welcome the two new members who joined us on the day.

Hen and Chicken Bay

Many people have wondered how "Hen & Chicken Bay" was named. Some have thought that it was because of the numbers of various Water Fowl that frequented the Bay, as a feeding area.

Others have suggested that the Bay itself was the Hen, and the number of small Bays around its foreshores were the Chickens.

Three of these Bays, namely, France, Exile and Canada, were so called to commemorate the memory of the Canadian Exiles who helped in the development of Concord and various installations around Sydney, two major developments of which were the construction of Victoria Barracks, and Circular Quay, under the supervision of Colonel George Barney, Engineer and Designer, who later became the second Managing Director of the Australian Gas Light Company.

In his researching, Mr. E. Younger, member of the Concord Historical Society, had this story to tell.

"Governor Phillip, after deciding on Port Jackson as the place for a settlement, set out on Friday, 17th February, 1788, on a survey of the foreshores of the upper Harbour. With him in the three boats was Captain John Hunter, First Lieutenant, who later became Governor of the Colony, and Master James Keltic and William Bradley, was probably responsible for the drawing of most of the Charts."

Mr. Younger says the report reads:-

"We were some distance up the Harbour before any natives were seen. The first party of them were sitting under a hollow rock around a fire. One of them stood up and spoke to us. The rest did not appear to be the least disturbed as they neither moved nor spoke to us.

We stopped at a long neck of land to breakfast". The Point is still known as Breakfast Point, as will be seen on a map of Concord.

The report continues:

"We were soon met by an armed native, who laid down his spear as soon as he joined us, and showed more curiosity than any other natives we

had met before. He examined everything very intently, and went into our boats from one to the other.

As the party approached Cabarita Point, Captain John Hunter, seeing the rock formation there, likened it to an Emu Hen and her Chic"

After that date, all land grants around Mortlake and Cabarita were recorded as being "South of the Harbour and West of Hen and Chickens Rock". The waters of the Bay at that time were so narrowed by the dense growth of the mangroves, that it was thought to be a Creek.

A Copy of Joseph Cross' Chart, drawn up in London in 1827 shows that part of New South Wales, as Stone Quarry Creek, probably because of the Quarry once near the Great North Road, Five Dock.

Mr. Younger said it can be assumed that the Bay was named Hen and Chicken Bay after that date.

An old map at the Registrar General's Office shows the name as Hen and Chickens Bay but an official of that office states the Concord Council insisted on the name being Hen and Chicken Bay.

These Rocks were disturbed during the installation of the old Cabarita Wharf, at the early part of the Century.

Mr. Younger points out that now that the Wharf has been demolished, some of the smaller Rocks, representing the Chickens, are quite visible at low tide.

Cabarita Park, a most delightful and peaceful part of Concord, with many points of Historical interest, could be further enhanced by the erection of a plaque or obelisk near the site to mark this Historical feature.

(The article concluded with an invitation for readers to come along to the Concord Historical Society Meetings!)

This article was printed in Western Suburbs Courier on 31st July, 1974:



HELP!
We have had an enquiry from the owner of 22 Excelsior Street asking for any information on the property.

She has been told that the house was the first bakery in Concord and the street was one of the first in the estate.

Can you help?

Yaralla Tours

Are we taking on too much and working beyond our capabilities by taking on these additional Group Visits?

We need manpower to conduct the tours and prepare and serve the Devonshire teas, but if we can't get this assistance then we can't accept the bookings.

How do you feel about this? Do we have the resources to carry on with these groups?

Enclosed with this newsletter is a form asking if you would be willing to help us cater for these visits. If you can help, please tick the appropriate boxes and return it to the secretary as soon as possible.



At present the load is falling on the same old group and we would like to be able to share the work a little more.

We have the following bookings and need your help. Please give us a call.

Wednesday, 14th July - Kurranulla Probus Club for garden tour.

Friday, 1st October - Pennant Hills Ladies' Probus Club - tour and morning tea

Sunday, 17th October - Australian Garden History Society - for morning tea and garden tour.

Sunday, 7th November - our own Open Day at Yaralla

We rely on these functions to supply the money we need to continue with restoration/renovation work at Yaralla - but we can't do it without your help.

Senate Enquiry into Children in Institutional Care

CLAN (Care Leavers of Australia) is co-ordinating responses to this enquiry. They would like any information on institutions which have operated in our local area, contacts with former occupants and any histories (oral histories) which may have been recorded.

Information on the Senate Enquiry can be found at www.clan.org.au/pages/senate/senate.html. The enquiry has been extended to 21st June, 2004.

As far as we know Our Children's Home was the only place of this kind in our area. Do you know of anyone involved with it?

If you have any information you can contact Leonie Sheedy from CLAN on 9702-4520 or email to careleavers@hotmail.com.



Walker Estate Committee Meeting

This is not a formally elected committee, but consists of all members who are interested in the future of the Walker estates - both Yaralla and Rivendell.

You are welcome to come along to any or all of these meetings, which are held at the Concord Bowling Club, Clermont Avenue, North Strathfield on the first Thursday of each month, commencing at 7:30 p.m. and usually ending no later than 9:00-9:30 pm.

If you are interested in the continued preservation of these estates, we need your help and input.

Of particular importance is the meeting to be held on **1st July** when Derek Williams (from Rookwood) and Steven Davies (ex National Trust) will be discussing with us how to go about preparing a strategic plan for the estate and the possibility of obtaining registration as a charitable group for tax deductible donations.

Make a note in your diary NOW and please try to come along. We look forward to seeing you there.

The NSW Toy and Railway Museum

have issued an invitation to our members to visit this museum which is housed in an original 1912 Art Deco Mountains mansion set in 5 hectares of glorious cool-climate gardens.

The museum showcases an important world-class collection of pre and post war toys, dolls, teddy bears, books and comics, lead figures, tinplate trains, aeroplanes and automobiles.

The house features original fittings, finishes and furnishings. The rooms capture the mood and domestic history of the 1920s and 30s.

They offer groups a discounted admission fee and free introductory talk.

If you would like to recapture your childhood and would like to take a bus trip to visit Leura (if we can get the Council bus and the help of our Terry Robinson) let me know. It would probably be early next year.

State Heritage Icon Project

The NSW Heritage Office is currently accepting nominations from local communities of heritage items to be included on the State Heritage Register.

Nominations are open at the moment and can be lodged online. The nomination form is available from www.heritage.nsw.gov.au.

We invite you to submit your nominations to us and we will do the necessary work.

The nomination process is very simple to encourage non-heritage professionals to nominate items of value to the community.

It is obvious that many important properties are missing from this list which should be included.

The one-off project provides our community with the opportunity to directly participate in the management of our heritage in Concord.

The scope of items on the State Heritage Register is very broad, ranging from Aboriginal and archaeological sites, natural and moveable items, or built environment.

The Heritage Office will present a list of the most popular heritage icons to the Heritage Council later this year. The Heritage Council will then review the list and make its recommendations to the Minister for Planning.

State Heritage Register Criteria

To be assessed for listing on the State Heritage Register an item will, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, meet one or more of the following criteria.

Important to NSW cultural or natural history.

Strong or special historical association with the life or works of a person or persons.

Important aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.

Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history.

Uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history.

Demonstration of the principal char-

acteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environment.

Items currently on the State Heritage Register are . . .

- Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital - Main Building
- Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital precincts
- Federation Pavilion, Cabarita Park
- Joanna Walker Memorial Children's Hospital
- Meadowbank Rail bridge over the Parramatta River
- Rhodes Railway Station Group

It makes you think!

Do you ever wonder . . .

- . . . why doctors call what they do "practice"?
- . . . why you never see the headline "Psychic wins lottery"?
- . . . why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- . . . why you have to click "start" to stop Microsoft Windows?
- . . . why the man who invests your money is called a broker?
- . . . why there isn't a mouse-flavoured cat food?
- . . . who tastes dog food when it has a "new and improved" flavour?
- . . . why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?
- . . . why they don't make a whole plane out of the material they use for the indestructible black box?
- . . . why sheep don't shrink when it rains?
- . . . why they are called apartments when they are stuck together?
- . . . why do inflammable and flammable both mean the same thing?
- . . . why sour cream has a use-by date?
- . . . if peanut oil is made from peanuts and olive oil is made from olives, what's the deal with baby oil?

Dates for your Diary . . .

- ☛ **Thurs. 3rd June - Walker Estates Committee Meeting**
- ☛ **Wed. 9th June - Member Bill Barlow continuing his fascinating story - plus a special surprise.**
- ☛ **Wed. 23rd June - Executive Meeting**
- ☛ **Thurs. 1st July - Special Walker Estates Meeting**
- ☛ **Wed. 14th July - General Meeting = Red Cross Theatre. Jan Bell and Kevin from Concord Hospital will present an audio visual talk about the theatre**
- ☛ **Wed. 14th July - Kurranulla Probus Club visit to Yaralla**

From the Secretary's Desk

General Meetings

Lately we have had poor attendance at our regular monthly meetings. Trish Skehan goes to a great deal of trouble to see that we always have very interesting speakers and it reflects on us when there is only a small number in attendance.

This is your society, please take the opportunity of hearing good speakers, and socialising over supper following the meeting. You will always be made most welcome.

If transport is your problem, then our members would be only too happy to pick you up and drive you home.

Won't you come and join us for a pleasant evening?

Walker Family Reunion

This event on the 2nd May was a great success with over 80 descendants in attendance. We had the opportunity to take them through the house and around the grounds and show them our wonderful collection of photographs.

Some of those in attendance could remember visiting Cousin Eadith, as they called her, and seeing the home in all its glory - others were delighted to be able to get a glimpse of their ancestor's past.

Everyone had a wonderful day out.

Tour Guides

We are desperately in need of tour guides, particularly for the grounds when we have the visit from Australian Garden History Society who will have up to 200 people in attendance. To handle this number we will need 8 guides.

It's not difficult and we have all the information in book form for you and we would be happy to have one of our regular guides take you on a training walk around the estate. **Won't you give it a try?**