



# "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  
City of Canada Bay  
Museum  
1 Bent Street, Concord  
9743-3034

**Executive Meetings**  
4th Wednesday of  
August, October, January,  
March, May and July  
at 7:30 pm in the  
Museum

**Walker Estates Committee**  
4th Wednesday of  
September, November,  
February, April and June  
at 7:30 pm in the  
Museum  
Bob Jones, 8765-9347

**Tours Organiser**  
Sandra Elliott  
9797-1040

**Museum**  
Lorraine Holmes, 9743-2682

**Archives & Oral History**  
Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

**Heritage**  
Bob Jones, 8765-9347

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**CITY OF CANADA  
BAY MUSEUM**

1 Bent Street, Concord

**Watch this space  
for opening date**

**No.151**

**December 2008**

## Walker Chronicles (part 11)

### Bell-birds and Baambargan.

*"I have omitted to mention that, along the banks of the Hume, we found the bell-bird very numerous, making the woods ring again with their note 'tinkle-tinkle'. Their very presence is indicative of a warm, sheltered country, with water in it."*

*"We observed a good many emus and kangaroos today. Our black fellow, Baambargan, wounded a kangaroo with a shot in the foreleg, but it got off. The weather has been beautiful – clear, cool and bracing. Tonight is colder than I have felt it for some time past, but I sit comfortably in the open tent. Last night I did not wear a jacket from the time we encamped. The mornings and evenings are now delightful."*

Monday night 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Thomas described the site of their camp as being south west of some granite ranges, and thought them to be about a mile to the westward of where Major Mitchell had encamped on 17<sup>th</sup> October the previous year. He mentioned observing some of Major Mitchell's trigonometric survey hills, and of having Mitchell's own "Itinerary, with which he kindly furnished me". Walker regularly compared the state of the surrounding area in relation to Mitchell's comments. Sometimes the rivers had either more or less water in them, but was a general guide as to where to locate the nearest water source.

*"The Ovens, distant about fourteen miles, is the next water ahead of us that we know of. We brought with us water from the creek we were last at, but the bullocks would not drink out of a bucket, so they have had no water since morning, nor will have any till tomorrow evening."*

Thomas now realised that the bullocks were apt to wander during the night in search of water and better feed. Most of the nearby grass was brown, dry and brittle due to bushfire. He arranged a roster so that men guarded them during the night. His turn at watch spanned from ten-thirty till midnight. Lamenting that bullocks were troublesome animals, so slow compared to horses, he retired to bed to write up his journal and snatch some sleep before his watch.

*"To the south-east is a very extensive line of high hills belonging to the Australian Alps, though we could not distinguish any of them snow-capped; to the south and south-east, are moderately high hills. I am speaking of the most distant objects the eyesight could reach. We have today seen no game, nor met with adventure of any sort."*

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

The next journal entry covered several days and found them encamped on the banks of the Ovens River on Tuesday evening. They spied ducks, cod and perch in abundance, also crab-fish, but could not catch any with their fishing lines. The bullocks had drunk deeply of water and were now docile and content, unlike previous nights. *"We did not think it necessary to keep watch tonight."*

*"Just as we were about to set out yesterday (Wednesday) morning, we heard someone halloo from the opposite bank. On looking in the direction from whence the sound proceeded we perceived a small party of black natives. We desired our black to communicate with them, when he informed us they were afraid to come over. On our assuring them, through him, that we were friends, who would not injure them, and that we desired to have their company, two of them summoned courage to come over. We found that they had before seen white people, but had no intercourse with them. We were therefore to them objects of infinite curiosity."*

*"When we had become a little better acquainted, they examined and touched our clothes and skin, with wonder and admiration, and asked us to give them many articles they saw in our possession. They seemed to be quite aware of the power and use of our guns."*

After fording the river, the men regrouped



**Bulletin Board**

**December 10** - Annual Christmas BBQ at Rhodes/Rotary Park. Have you told us you are coming?

on the other side, although most of the natives had disappeared into the trees growing on the alluvial flats. Thomas describes ascending a firm high bank or berg of the river, about fifteen feet high.

*"We were joined by four other men, who made their appearances by twos at a time, as they could muster courage."*

*"Three of these simple people accompanied us all yesterday and remained with us last night. They were particularly struck with the facility with which we obtained fire, by means of the Lucifer matches, and were both surprised and frightened by the squibs and crackers which we let off. They were particularly cheerful and friendly and apparently without distrust of us. It was more than*

*our black fellow was, in respect of them, for he begged to have a musket, and that we would have our fire-arms at hand and keep together whilst they were with us. He was himself afraid of them, I believe, though he kept company and held friendly conversations with them during the day. They left us this morning after receiving a tomahawk and other presents."*

(to be continued)



## The Lonely Grave

***Two mates' lives took very different flight paths, one ending in fame, the other in tragedy, writes Peter Fitzsimons.***

That grave there? The huge one that stands out on its own at Georges Heights with no cemetery within miles? The one with the cross that has Flight Lieutenant Keith Vincent Anderson marked on it, like he was a prime minister.

What is that all about? Funny you should ask. I wouldn't have had any clue either, see, but in researching a biography I am writing on the pilot Charles Kingsford Smith I came

across the story, and it is an extraordinary one.

Anderson was a quietly spoken decent man and a pretty good pilot. But, well, if you are looking for the opposite to the phrase the "Midas touch", then the Anderson touch" might get close to it, if you get my drift.

He and Smithy were great mates in the early 1920s, flying together for Western Australian Airways - Smithy the live wire, Ando the backup - as they nurtured the dream of being the first men to fly across the Pacific. And they might have, but when a pilot with a canny business brain by the name of Charles Ulm entered the picture in April 1927, Smithy had a choice: keep talking about it with Anderson for years on end with nothing happening, or throw his lot in with Ulm. The situation was complicated further by the fact that Smithy's girlfriend switched her affections to Anderson and soon after the happy couple announced their engagement.

That notwithstanding, it all stayed together and Kingsford Smith, Ulm and Anderson boarded a ship to San Francisco together in July 1927 - with the intention of flying back.

A little over six months later, though, Anderson had had enough. He didn't like Ulm, and it seemed that the trans-Pacific flight was never going to take place. So he bailed.

Just a few months later, on June 9, 1928, when Kingsford Smith and Ulm landed at Mascot Airport after cross-

ing the Pacific, to be greeted by 300,000 delirious people cheering themselves hoarse, Anderson was little more than a face in the crowd. Seriously annoyed, not to mention broke, he sued Kingsford Smith and Ulm for lost earnings, saying he should have been a part of it. Nothing came of it. Smithy gave him £1000 anyway, with which he bought himself a small plane.

In late March 1929 Kingsford Smith and Ulm took off in the Southern Cross for England but disappeared on the West Australian coast. Anderson, with his mate Bobby Hitchcock, went to look for them in Ando's new plane and they crashed in the Tanami Desert with no radio, no supplies, no water, no nuttin'. On April 10, 1929, 11 days after the disappearance, the crew of the Southern Cross was found alive. Rejoice! Rejoice! On April 20, Anderson and Hitchcock were found dead.

Boo! Hiss! The nation turned on Kingsford Smith and Ulm, saying their crash was, in fact, nothing more than a publicity stunt, and Anderson was lionised as one who had given his life to save a mate who wasn't worthy of it. So great was the outcry, Prime Minister Stanley Bruce ordered an inquiry, while Keith's body was exhumed, transported to Sydney and given the equivalent of a state funeral, before being interred here.

Like I say, it's a hell of a story. And here lies Keith Anderson.

*(Printed in the SMH, September 2008. Reprinted with permission.)*

## Christmas Toys

*We brought him blocks and soldiers,  
an elephant, a cat,*

*A box of tiny motor cars,  
a gun that popped and spat.*

*We bought him all Noah's animals,  
some wickets and a bat,*

*A little cinematograph  
where dogs pursued a rat.*

*We bought our treasure everything  
'til we could buy no more*

*And then he played the whole day long  
With the wrappings on the floor.*



## Nurungi Deliveries

If you are still receiving your copy of our newsletter in the mail but would be happy to either receive it as an email attachment or by notification when it has been posted to our web site, please let us know.

With postage now up to 55c per letter, this adds up to a considerable amount over the year. Just send me an email with a note as to how you would like to receive it ([chs@concordheritage.asn.au](mailto:chs@concordheritage.asn.au))

**YOU'RE  
Invited**

Our members are invited to attend the Concord Garden Club's Christmas Party, to be held on Friday, 12th December at 2:00 pm in the Concord Community Centre, 1 Gipps Street, Concord. Speaker will be Peta Trehan, Convenor of the very successful Collectors Plant Fair.

RSVP to Marjorie Hogan, 9744-8302

## Congratulations all Volunteers.

Sunday, October 26th was another successful Open Day in spite of setbacks regarding the condition of the Mansion following the departure of the dialysis unit.

Our twofold objectives of informing the community of the importance (indeed the very existence) of the Yaralla heritage precinct as well as raising funds for its restoration were achieved.

Well done volunteers acting as guides for the first time, also those who undertook a new members' drive (very fruitfull) and every other volunteer without whom the day would not have been the success it was.

However we still need additional helpers if these days are to continue to inform and entertain, encouraging return visits. If you could assist in any way contact me.

Feel free to email me any comments or suggestions you might have which could improve the organisation or enhance the experience of a Yaralla Open Day.

Sandra Elliott, Tours Organiser

## First Australian Christmas Card

The first Australian Christmas card was published in 1881 by Robert Sands, son of the founder of the well-known print company John Sands.

The card, "Little girl offering a Christmas pudding to a swagman", was the first, and the most popular, of a series of 38, printed at Sands' Chromo Lithographic Works in Sydney.

The cards cost one shilling and three pence (13 cents) each - six pence more if the illustration was to be mounted on card.

They were advertised in the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, where Sands mentioned that the genuine article bore his trade mark, the "Hour Glass", and that his cards were obtainable from many booksellers or stationers in the colonies.

To attract maximum publicity, Sands held a competition for both the drawings and the verses inside the card which attracted great attention.

*The card reproduction and the information come from an article contributed by Maurice Cadsky to Australasian Printer of August 1961.*

## Pre-Christmas Forecast

In the pre-Christmas rush we have received an early weather report from our in-house weather reporter.

Turkey will thaw overnight; then warm in the oven to an afternoon high near 180°F. The kitchen will turn hot and humid, and if you bother the cook, be ready for a severe squall or cold shoulder.

During the later afternoon and evening the cold front of a knife will slice through the turkey, causing an accumulation of one to two inches on plates.

Mashed potatoes will drift across one side while cranberry sauce creates slippery spots on the other. Please pass the gravy.

A weight watch and indigestion warning have been issued for the entire area, with increased stuffiness around the beltway.

During the evening the turkey will diminish and taper off to leftovers, dropping to a low of 34°F in the refrigerator.

Looking ahead to the following days, high pressure to eat sandwiches will be established. Flurries of leftover can be expected both days with a 50 percent chance of scattered soup late in the day.

We expect a warming trend where soup develops. By early next week, eating pressure will be low as the only wish left will be the bone.

### Meetings

Other than our Christmas Barbecue, we will not be meeting again this year.

**Next Executive Meeting** will be Wednesday, January 28, 2009

**Next General Meeting** will be Wednesday February 11, 2009.



## Christmas Barbecue

Just a reminder that our Christmas Barbecue will be held at Rhodes/Rotary Park, Concord West on **Wednesday evening, 10th December**. Come as early as you like from (say) 5:30 - the barbecue will be served about 6:30 pm.

Members, friends and others are invited to come along for a pleasant evening of fellowship.

We particularly invite our new members to come along and get to know us in a friendly, social atmosphere..

Cost is \$10 per head, all food supplied, but it's BYO liquid refreshments.

Please phone Lois on 9744-8528 to let her know you will be coming so we can organise the food.

If you would like to assist with a salad please let Lois know as well.

We need to know by the 5th December for catering purposes.

For those who haven't been to the area before, it's a good chance to wander along the Kokoda Track to look at the magnificent memorial and view the various "stations" showing incidents along the original Track.



The Officers & Committee

wish all our members

and all our friends

a

Happy & Joyous  
Christmas

## Museum Update

For those who have not caught up with the latest - two weeks ago our museum was flooded due to a hot water unit blowing its relief valve.

When we went to the museum to do some more work on the new display units we were greeted with the sight of about 2 to 3 mm of water all over the carpet - except for about 2 metres at the rear of the building where, luckily, most of our important items were stored).

Plumbers and electricians called in to make the area safe - then came the heartbreaking work of salvage. Timber units needed to be lifted onto blocks to get them out of the water. Other objects to be moved to better spots. The boxes containing items set aside for our garage sale were sitting in water. The dry ones from the top of the pile had to be moved out to the storeroom while the ones at the bottom needed to be unpacked. Luckily, these mostly contained china, kitchenware, etc. so only needed to be dried and re-packed.

Council's insurers were quick off the mark and brought in water vacuum cleaners to try to soak up as much water as possible - although for our meeting on that night we all had to squelch across the still very wet carpet.

Next day, considering the amount of water still in the carpet and underlay, it was decided to remove all of this and then bring in heaters and dehumidifiers to dry out the concrete. This also helped to dry out the bases of showcases, etc. so preventing any major damage to them.

We are now waiting on the insurers to organise the re-laying of carpet. Once this is done we can get on with planning for the museum displays.



Terry in the kitchen with a paint roller

In the meantime we've taken advantage of all the furniture and large items being moved to undertake painting over the very unimpressive colour of the office walls. The interior now looks much nicer and fresher.



Terry and Ray with our newly acquired showcases

Before the disaster some of our members had been very busy making some alterations to the new display units we were very lucky to acquire from Windsor Galleries at a very, very good price. This will give us a little more display area and will mean we can dispose of several of our old showcases. They have also been undertaking other carpentry work making bases for two of our other showcases.



Terry and Ray making boxes

Our sincere thanks to Terry Robinson, Ray Lane, Harry Kimble and John Walmsley. Thanks also to Betty Robertson and Lorraine Holmes who helped with the cleaning up and other jobs.

Once the carpet is down, comes the work of deciding where the various display cases and other objects will be displayed - then the planning of the various displays.

If you would like to become involved in this important and interesting part of the museum work please telephone the secretary to have your name put on the list.

To those who have been doing research, how is it going. We need to know what information you've been able to unearth so we can begin looking through our artefacts for anything that can be used to support the information.

## From the Secretary's Desk

**New Members:** We welcome the following new members: Pam Kibyk, Robin Timp, John Pulis, Annette & Michael Ellison, Robyn Farley, Melinda Edstein, Graeme & Cathie Fraser and son Patrick, Monica Fraser, Ivan Ploskonka, Cheryl Lomas, Nelly Zautsen and Karen Young.

We hope to meet you soon. *Why not come to our Xmas Barbecue?*

**Special thanks** to Pat Corbitt and Marta Karsay, our two members who set up a table at our recent Open Day and managed to persuade these new members to become part of our Society. Well done!

**Articles or Items for Nurungi:** Many thanks to those members who responded with several interesting items. These will appear over the next few issues. Please keep them coming.

**Christmas Barbecue:** Have you phoned yet to let us know you are coming? Why not do it now! Only \$10 a head, all food supplied, BYO liquid refreshments.

**Walker Chronicles:** To any of our newer members - if you are enjoying this story of Thomas Walker's overland journey to Port Phillip in the 1800s, paraphrased by our own Trish Skehan, and would like to read the previous articles, back copies of "Nurungi" can be found on our web site: [www.concordheritage.asn.au](http://www.concordheritage.asn.au).

**Change of Name:** Have you given this matter any thought. We'd like to hear from you.



Sadie - er, sorry - Lorraine giving one of our artefacts some TLC