



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY
email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au www.concordheritage.asn.au

EDITOR
LOIS MICHEL
9744-8528

PRESIDENT
MARK DURANCE
9743-0583

PUBLIC RELATIONS
TRISH SKEHAN
4369-4172

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

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.153

February 2009

Walker Chronicles (part 13)

The Glorious Freedom of the Bush

Thomas enjoyed life on the open road, riding and setting up camp enabled him to get a good deal of exercise. After selecting a campsite, the bullocks were unyoked, some of them hobbled or a bell put around their necks to assist in locating if they strayed.

The cook collected dead firewood, while other men helped to secure the stock as dingoes and native dogs could be heard in the distance.

After supper was eaten, the traditional round of smokes and yarns occupied the weary travellers until they retired for the night.

Rain threatened, so rough bark shelters were hastily constructed. Thomas awoke during the night, shivering and covered in sodden blankets. He struggled to right his tent before returning to sleep. The storm continued during the night.

Early next morning, Thomas complained of a sore throat. He had not shaved for days, and observed: *'It was a rough, queer life in the open air. Not slept with clothes off since Yass'*. But the glorious freedom of the bush had its own drawbacks.

A candle on my hat and my inkstand in my left hand, I write. Others are asleep and snoring noisily before an enormous fire. My candle done, must haste to bed and endeavour to sleep, despite the noise and fleas, which are my greatest torment.

Onwards toward the Hume River, they crossed high ridges and *'ranges of white gum trees that gave way to tolerably better, undulating country'*. Thomas bemoaned that travelling with a bullock team slowed the pace, but they had little choice in that regard, their original plans going so badly awry.

Thomas estimated that they had travelled over three hundred and sixty miles from Sydney when they encountered two young gentlemen on their way back from Port Phillip. They expressed being *'very highly pleased with that township'* and gave valuable information on the best route to take, as the Hume River was high due to recent

rains. This beautiful stream, as they described it, was about 80 yards wide, having considerable depth and the fast moving current was deceptively clear though somewhat treacherous.

Thick foliage grew beside the banks, and numerous lagoons along the edge hampered progress. The men searched for a narrower section to cross safely. Here a decision was made to send some men back to Sydney with letters and surplus belongings.

After successfully crossing the Hume, Thomas expressed concern at not sighting Ebdon and his men, but later learned that they had moved location to better pastures.

The next day Thomas met a swaggie tramping along from Port Phillip, and heading towards Yass. Mr Walker took pity on the weary man and shared some provisions with him. The swaggie told them about two missing explorers named Gellibrand and Hasse, who had not been seen for some time. Despite wide searches, no trace of them had been found and they were presumed murdered by savage natives.

'Keep you guns handy and stay together', he cautioned them. Thomas thought this wise advice, yet strange, coming from a lone sojourner in this wild landscape, as most people travelled in larger groups for safety.

Thomas took his turn, with the rest of the party, in keeping watch during the long nights ahead. Due to the rough terrain, it was impossible to confine the animals securely, given the lack of suitable brush or small logs. The possibility of attack from unfriendly natives was now a real threat.

(to be continued)



Bulletin Board

February 11 - Don Fraser, presentation on "Sydney Harbour Bridge"

March 11 - Michael Clark, Engineering Heritage Australia, "Building Sydney - its history and heritage".

Lavatory, Toilet, W.C. or Crapper?

History, or more specifically, the English language has been decidedly unfair to Thomas Crapper (1837-1910)

Crapper, a Yorkshire-born plumber, is often erroneously credited with the invention of the flushing toilet. Not true. He did not invent it, he perfected it. The modern toilet is still, basically, Crapper's design.

But whereas other innovators, particularly of the Victorian era, like Chesterfield, Davenport, Wellington, are given credit in the dictionaries for the everyday items that carry their names, poor Crapper is dismissed as colloquial. Some even going as far as saying *crap* and *crapper* are American in origin.

His grand-niece, Edith Crapper, understands the name to be Dutch in origin and believes it was spelt originally Krapper. However the British Dictionary of Surnames has it as a variant of the old English name of Cropper. The name of trade or calling of someone who brings in crops.

Krapper, Cropper or Crapper, the good Thomas has still had a dud deal from history. If Crapper's Patented Valveless Water Waste Preventer had been invented today he would have received a major award from water conservationists. In his time, waste was either flushed by a continuous

rush of water or if the rush was checked at all, it was by an ill-fitting valve which, it appears, leaked as a matter of course.

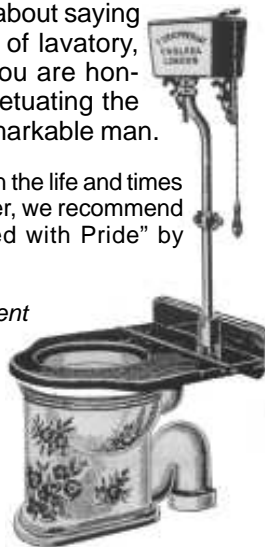
Crapper can also take credit for another vital piece of plumbing – the s-bend. The s-bend has the valuable purpose of forming a perfect seal against odours emanating back from your toilet or household plumbing.

In short, it is easy to be facetious about Crapper, but if, as medical historians believe, civilisation goes hand in hand with clean water and adequate sanitation, he ranks as one of the great inventors of the modern age.

So don't be coy about saying crapper instead of lavatory, toilet or W.C., you are honouring and perpetuating the memory of a remarkable man.

(Note: For more on the life and times of Thomas Crapper, we recommend the book "Flushed with Pride" by Wallace Reyburn.)

(This article was sent by a member without reference to the source. We have tried to find the actual source but with no success.)



Coral Boring Expeditions – Funafuti (Tuvalu)

DAVID, Tannatt William Edgeworth

Funafuti is an island in the Pacific Ocean at 8 degrees 30 minutes south latitude and 179 degrees 13 minutes east longitude, now in Tuvalu and formerly part of Britain's colony, Gilbert and Ellice Islands. Edgeworth David organised the second and third expeditions to Funafuti in 1897-98.

The first expedition to Funafuti, in 1896, was organised by the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Society of London with the purpose of examining the structure of a coral atoll by analysing the contents of a column bored to a depth of at least 600 feet. Charles Darwin had proposed a hypothesis to explain the origin of coral atolls. This hypothesis was challenged. It was hoped that the expedition to Funafuti would clarify the situation.

The first expedition to Funafuti was a failure owing to the use of inappropriate machinery for drilling. The Royal Society of London then contacted David and Professor Anderson Stuart with the aim of having the British colony of New South Wales organise another expedition to Funafuti.

Funds for the second expedition to Funafuti came initially from Miss Eadith Walker of "Yaralla" in Concord. They were supplemented by the NSW Government and other sources.

(Information from Edgeworth David letters in the custody of the Geology Department of Sydney University.)



Congratulation to Alan Wright on receiving the City of Canada Bay's Citizen of the Year Award. Couldn't have happened to a more deserving person. Thank you for all you've done for the community over the years. Well done!

Eastwood Patchwork Quilters 2009 Exhibition

May 1-3, 10am to 4pm

A chance to see a spectacular display of traditional quilts made by members of Eastwood Patchwork Quilters while visiting historic Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson Street Eastwood.

(Located on bus routes 545 and 550 - Chatswood/Macquarie/Eastwood/Parramatta.)

Brush Farm House was built around 1820 by Gregory Blaxland, one of the first Europeans to find a route across the Blue Mountains. It is one of Australia's oldest and substantial houses remaining from the Macquarie era. It has been recently restored and renovated as an exhibition space by Ryde City Council.

We will also use additional exhibition space in the adjacent Corrective Services Training facility.

Refreshments, light lunches and quilt and craft stores will be available.

Admission \$6.00

Email: eastwoodpg@hotmail.com

Museum Report

The carpet has now been chosen and should be laid within two weeks.

After we have moved things back in from their various storage spots we can start work in earnest on the display planning.

Our initial needs, as soon as the carpet is down, will be to move showcases and large objects into what, we hope, will be their final resting place. This will need brute strength as well as brains - and we can work week days or weekends, depending on volunteers. Can you help?

Once we start choosing items for display we could use help from people prepared to do some research for labels. Most of this could initially be carried out through the internet. If you have some time to spare and access to the internet we could certainly use your help.

If you want to become part of this venture, just call or send an email and we'll put you on the list to be notified of any meetings, working bees, etc.

A is for apple, and **B** is for boat,
That used to be right, but now it won't float!
Age before beauty is what we once said,
But let's be a bit more realistic instead

Now, the New Alphabet

A's for arthritis;

B's the bad back,

C's the chest pains,
Perhaps car-d-iac?

D is for dental decay and decline,



E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!

F is for fissures and fluid retention,

G is for gas, which we'd rather not mention.

H . . high blood pressure - we'd rather it low;



I . . for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joint, out of socket, won't mend,

K is for knees that crack when they bend.

L's for libido, what happened to sex?

M is for memory, forget what comes next.

N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low;

O is for osteo, bones that don't grow!

P for prescriptions, we have quite a few,



Just give us a pill and we'll be good as new!

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?

R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.

S is for sleepless nights, counting our fears,



T is for Tinnitus; bells in our ears!

U is for urinary; troubles with flow;

V for vertigo, that's "dizzy", you know.

W for worry, now that's going 'round?



X is for X-ray, and what might be found.

Y for another year we are left here behind,

Z is for zest we still have . . in our minds.

*We've survived all the symptoms
our body's deployed,
And we're keeping twenty-six doctors
fully employed!!!*



*If you are getting old, have a great day;
if not, your turn will come!.*

The Lamplighter

*"And at the corner of the street
A lonely cab horse steams and stamps
And then the lighting of the lamps."*

Throughout history man has tried to increase the length of day by the use of artificial light, but generally his efforts met with limited success until the advent of gas lighting.

If we look back to our pioneering days before the turn of the century, when our streets were no more than dark muddy by-ways, where the splash of light from a lantern was the only advance of day into night, we can see the giant step forward that gas lighting brought into man's war with night.

The character who brought this daily flow into the lives of the townsfolk was the lamplighter, but like the lights he extinguished in the morn his occupation has slipped into oblivion to be remembered only by poets, artists and musicians who seem to have found a certain charm in his twilight activities.

Among the writers on this subject Robert Louis Stevenson in particular was fascinated by the gas lamp and its attendant, the lamplighter.

In **Virginibus Puerisque and Familiar Studies of Men and Books**, he wrote: "When gas first spread along a city, mapping it forth about evenfall for the eye of observant birds, a new age had begun for sociality and corporate pleasure seeking . . . But the lamplighters took to their heels every evening, and ran with good heart.

"It was pretty to see man thus emulating the punctuality of heaven's orbs; and though perfection was not absolutely reached, and now and then an individual may have been knocked on the head by the ladder of the flying functionary, yet people commended his zeal in a proverb, and taught their children to say, 'God bless the lamplighter' ". . . The Greeks would have made a noble myth of such an one; how he distributed starlight, and as soon as the need was over re-collected it."

The New South Wales Census of 1891 revealed that 122 people were engaged as lamplighters. They were to be found in any town or city whose streets were lit by gas.

On the local scene a familiar sight in the streets as the shadows of evening deepened was the lamplighter and his horse and sulky doing the rounds of the lamp posts. With him he carried a stepladder to reach the lamp.

Early models of the gas lamp were lit by hand from a lighted taper. The lamplighter climbed his steps, turned on the gas and ignited it. When improvements came in the lamp the lighter stood on the ground and by means of a hook on a long rod turned on the gas by pulling a chain and a pilot light in the lamp ignited it.

And so the lamplighter continued his rounds of the streets. As night fell the mellow glow of the lamp lit up the pools in the streets and illuminated the shops and snug shingled cottages nestling into the light from the primitive darkness. At daybreak the lamplighter retraced his steps and put out the lights.

Today a flick of a switch by an unseen hand somewhere in a sub-station accomplishes what the lamplighter and his lamps did long ago.

I wonder if we agree with Stevenson: ". . . but where soft joys prevail, where people are con-voked to pleasure and the philosopher looks on smiling and silent, where love and laughter and deifying wine about, there at least, let the old mild lustre shine upon the ways of man."

Written by M Ryan, by courtesy Casino and District Historical Society. Published in the June-July 1976 newsletter of the Royal Australian Historical Society. Reprinted with permission.)

Some Quotes worth repeating:

The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook. (Julia Child)

A fruit is a vegetable with looks and money. Plus, if you let fruit rot, it turns into wine, something Brussels sprouts never do. (P.J. O'Rourke)

Red meat is not bad for you. Now, blue-green meat - that's bad for you. (Tom Smothers)

The Murder of Robert Wardell

Few murders in Australian history have been more callous or pointless than that of Robert Wardell, barrister and newspaper owner, in the grounds of his estate in what is now known as Petersham on September 7, 1843.

Wardell was a man of rare brilliance who, for 10 years, played a leading part in the fight to win for the colonists of NSW the rights of free men.

In 1819, when he was 26 and was editing *The Statesman*, a London evening newspaper, Wardell met William Charles Wentworth. The close friendship which grew between them eventually induced Wardell to seek his fortune in the colony. He and Wentworth sailed together in 1824 in the *Alfred*. Soon after arrival Wardell demonstrated his formidable legal skill by suing the captain for being given a "wet and comfortless cabin" and for underfeeding him on the voyage, winning damages of £200 with costs.

Wardell and Wentworth had bought a printing press and equipment from England, and on October 14, 1824 they launched a weekly, *The Australian*, the first newspaper in the colony not subject to censorship. In the first edition Wardell wrote that the newspaper's aim was "to annihilate influence, frustrate the designs of tyranny, and restrain the arm of oppression".

With his partner, Wardell aligned himself on the side of the emancipists and against the privileged exclusives. He campaigned actively for such things as trial by jury and an elected parliament and against what he regarded as the illegal acts of Governor Darling. As a result of one outspoken article the Governor prosecuted him for criminal libel, but after two juries had failed to

agree Wardell was discharged. His constant attacks on the Governor also involved him in two duels, one with the Attorney-General and one with Darling's brother-in-law, Col. Henry Dumaresq.

In 1828 Wardell gave up his editorship to devote more time to his increasingly profitable legal business. He speculated wisely, and by 1834 was a wealthy man with assets that included 2,500 acres.

During the afternoon of September 7, 1834, Wardell rode off alone to inspect his property at Petersham. Near the southern boundary he came across a recently built shack, and as he pulled up three armed men emerged. He guessed correctly that they were escaped convicts and urged them to give themselves up. Angry words followed; then one of the men fired and hit Wardell in the chest, fatally wounding him. An attempt was made to hide his body, but it was soon discovered.

A reward was offered for the apprehension of the murderers, and four days later the three men were arrested on the information of William Stapleton, a convict who received a free pardon. The youngest of the three, Emmanuel Brace, turned King's Evidence, and the others – John Jenkins (the shooter) and Thomas Tattersdale – were hanged.

(Printed in Jan/Feb 2009 issue of the Heron Flyer. Reproduced with permission.)

(NOTE: In the late 1830's George Nichols, second son of Isaac Nichols and Rosanna Abrahams, purchased The Australian and became its Editor. See Aust. Dictionary of Biography - <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A050383b.htm> for more information)

A Raw Deal

Following the problems in the sub-prime lending market in America and the run on Northern Rock in the UK, uncertainty has now hit Japan.

In the last seven days Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches.

Yesterday, it was announced that Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will likely go for a song, while today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived.

While Samurai Bank is soldiering on following sharp cutbacks, Ninja Bank is reported to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black.

Furthermore, 500 staff at Karate bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

Did You Know?

Elephants are the only animals that can be taught to stand on their heads.

Lewis Carroll, famed author of Alice in Wonderland, sought recognition as a mathematician, not as an author.

From the Secretary's Desk

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

Concord Library Events: Don't miss meeting Peter FitzSimons on the 9th February at 2:00 pm. Cost of \$5 includes refreshments. Bookings essential on 9911-6210. These talks are always interesting so come along and join us.

Museum Needs for planned displays: concrete laundry tub; terrazzo kitchen sink/draining board; gas copper; old fashioned wire soap holder, 1930's wall calendar (have you looked behind the door of the shed?), Arnotts tins (or other memorabilia). Look around the house, ask your friends and neighbours, keep an eye on the Council cleanups, please.

Oral Histories: Do you know anyone who worked at Arnotts - or any of the other industries around the area? We'd like to talk to them about their time there and their memories of the job and fellow workers.

Cabarita Speedboat Club: Do any of our readers have any information about this Club, any photographs, or anything else? We'd love to hear from you.

Articles for Nurungi: Thanks to those readers who have sent articles - they're greatly appreciated! However, don't stop now, we can still use more if you come across something you find interesting.

Open Days at Yaralla: We have still not heard anything about whether the house will be available for our usual April event. Area Health is still waiting on information about renovation work, etc., so we still can't make any plans.

Meeting attendance: If you haven't been a regular attender at meetings in the past, why not make a New Year Resolution to try to come along on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Trish Skehan goes to a lot of trouble to source interesting and varied speakers and it is disappointing, for them and us, if we only have a small number present to hear what they have to say. Visitors are always welcome so have a chat to friends and neighbours.

For Your Diary

Wed. Feb. 11 - General Meeting

Wed. Feb. 25 - Walker Estates

Wed. Mar. 11 - General Meeting