



# “Nurungi” (Remembered)

Official Newsletter of the City of Canada Bay Heritage Society  
email: [heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au](mailto:heritage@canadabayheritage.asn.au)  
[www.canadabayheritage.asn.au](http://www.canadabayheritage.asn.au)

EDITOR  
**LOIS MICHEL**  
9744-8528

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PRESIDENT  
**MARK DURANCE**  
9743-0583

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

#### GENERAL MEETINGS and Guest Speakers

1st Saturday of month  
(except January)  
at 2:00 pm in the  
City of Canada Bay  
Museum  
1 Bent Street, Concord  
9743-3034

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**Museum Committee**  
Meets on 3rd Wednesday of  
month at 10:00 am at  
museum  
(everyone welcome)  
**Chairperson**  
Lorraine Holmes  
9743-2682

**Walker Estates Committee**  
Meets as required  
**Chairperson**  
(vacant)

#### CITY OF CANADA BAY MUSEUM

1 Bent Street, Concord

**Open Wed & Sat**  
**10am to 4pm**

**Guest Speaker**  
on 1st Saturday of each  
month at 2:00 pm

Phone: 9743-3034  
during museum hours  
or email

[museum@canadabayheritage.asn.au](mailto:museum@canadabayheritage.asn.au)

**No.211**

**APRIL 2014**

## A Farmhand Remembers Yaralla

I first travelled to Sydney in 1961 – a venture into the “Big Smoke” from Taree – as a 16-year-old. I found work in a couple of factories which was not to my liking having been born and raised on Dairy Farms.

By chance I saw an advertisement for a farm hand at Dame Eadith Walker Hospital, which seemed, at the time, very strange. So I applied and was employed.

I arrived at Yaralla as a live-in employee. We at first lived in the stable area – upstairs, from memory. We had two permanent staff and one part-timer, plus one person to feed the cows as they were all hand fed. More about that later.



So I began my employment. Work times are approximate from memory. The day began at 4:00 am to milk 300 cows, finishing about 9:00 to 9:30 am. Then off to breakfast, which was had in the main kitchen in the hospital. Then either have a nap or do your shopping or whatever. I usually slept for an hour or so. Then lunch, and rest again before starting the milking again at around 2:00 pm, finishing at 7:00 pm. Then to evening meal and off to bed.

This I did for about a year. Then the person who was doing the feeding was leaving or retiring. I was asked if I would take over that position, which I did. I also got an upgrade in accommodation as I moved into the hospital building behind the main kitchen. This was a great improvement.

The work was all very physical. We had to mix all the feed by hand. There was a large room at the end of the feeding stalls. All the grains came in large bags, probably 50 kg each. The process began by layering the grain - one on top of the other. From memory there were six or seven types.

Then repeat the process until the room was full. This was quite an effort considering I had to carry these bags up to the top. This was done so that as we shovelled the grain from the bottom it slid down and mixed together.

The feeding procedure was as follows. We had a trucking company, Baily Bros, who would go to the breweries and pick up the spent hop grains and deliver them to a large hopper outside the shed. (a bit of trivia) The hops were still steaming, which was great in winter when your feet got cold in your rubber boots. All you had to do was go and stand in the grains. A great foot warmer.

Now to feeding. We had a large 4-wheel trolley which we used to bring in the hops, which was the first course for the cows. They went absolutely crazy for the hops. Each cow received two shovel-fulls. Then repeat the same with the mixed grains.

Now, when you have 300 cows standing around, you tend to get a lot of what comes out the other end. Again we had a contractor to clean this up and, no, he didn't have a tractor of similar machine. Yep, he did it with a shovel and tip truck. Now the two yards are still visible and they are very large – the depth usually got to about 150-230 mm. This was a massive feat.

Dame Eadith also had a large log cabin which she imported with the tradesmen from Fiji (sic). The building did not have a single nail in it. The white ants invaded it badly.

To finish, I must say it was a great place to work and relax.

Brian Smith

(PS. We also have several nurses who were employed by RPA living in our village. I am trying to have them tell a few of their recollections of Yaralla.)

(Ed: Thank you Brian for this most informative article and we look forward to hearing more.)

### DIARY DATES

APRIL 5 - Almis Simankevicus, “Macquarie's Kingdom”

MAY 3 - Stephen Browne, “The Early Post Office in NSW”

## The Australian Women's Land Army

The Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA) was formed during the Second World War to combat rising labour shortages in the farming sector. From December 1941, when Japan entered the war, the nation's need to build up its armed forces was placed above the needs of other industries. Agricultural labour was steadily diverted to the armed services and war industry.

### Land Army - Take a Bow

They left the vine-wreathed cottage and the mansion on the hill,  
The bright lights and the dances where their feet were never still;  
The offices and factories, the friends that they loved best,  
Then the women of the Land Army went North, South, East and West.

You find them in the dairies, where they learned to milk the cows,  
And how to manage horses and manipulate the ploughs;  
They ride upon the harvesters, know how to reap and bind,  
Thus, soldiers' jobs are carried on by the girls they left behind.

They start off in the morning and they muster up the herd,  
They feed the chooks and gather eggs from each obliging bird.  
How all the farmers in the land rose up and cheered with zest  
When the women of the Land Army went North, South, East and West.

They bottle-feed the orphan lambs, and tend the garden plot;  
They work in stormy weather and they work when it is hot.  
They tilt their hats back on their heads and heave a mighty sigh,  
Then totter off with tucker to the piggies in the sty.

Let's put it on the records how they turned to with a will,  
To do a job with little pay and mighty little thrill.  
But still they do their duty. Yes, the day was surely blest  
When the women of the Land Army went North, South, East and West.

(by Lorna Moore)

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## Centenary of the First World War

Do you have a special someone in your family tree who served with the armed forces during the First World War?

Maybe they served with the AIF and landed at Gallipoli together with troops from New Zealand, Britain and France

Perhaps they were decorated and their medals are still in your family today or maybe they were an unsung hero. Did their letters home survive and are now a special part of your family archives? Did they pay the ultimate sacrifice or did they return home to their loved ones?

Whatever their story we would like to tell it in our History Week display next September.

You can write a short story or prepare a display of precious items or photographs to honour your loved ones.

We particularly would like to honour those who enlisted from our area or returned to live in the area.

Please let us know if you will be contributing to this display.

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## Clean up Yaralla Day

**Sunday, 6th April from 10:00 am**

At last we are able to resume our Open Days at Yaralla.



As our buildings haven't been used for many, many months they will need a good clean out - mostly leaves and dust - and we will have to do a stocktake to make sure that we have everything we need.

We have arranged to work on this at Yaralla on **Sunday, 6th April from 10:00 am.**

**Please come if you can - many hands make light work.**

## Australian National Anthem

The Australian National Anthem, proclaimed in 1984, identifies Australia at home and overseas. It unites the nation and is a public expression of joy and pride in being Australian.

The Anthem is used at important public ceremonies, sporting and community events.

The words of the Australian National Anthem are:

*Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts;  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.*

In 1973 a competition was held for a distinctively Australian national anthem. The Quest was run in two stages by the Australian Council for the Arts.

The first stage for lyrics attracted more than 1400 entries. The second stage for music received 1200 entries. A prize of \$5,000 was offered for each stage.

The judges decided the entries did not meet the high standards of Australia's traditional songs – "Advance Australia Fair", "Waltzing Matilda" and "Song of Australia".

The Australian Council for the Arts recommended the final choice for the national anthem should be made from these three songs. The Bureau of Statistics ran a national poll of 60,000 people. "Advance Australia Fair" was favoured by 51.4 per cent of the people, followed by "Waltzing Matilda" (19.6 per cent).

The original composition of "Advance Australia Fair" was written by Peter Dodds McCormack in 1878 and consisted of four verses.

In 1974 "Advance Australia Fair" was adopted as the Australian National Anthem; however in 1976 "God Save the Queen" was reinstated.

In 1977 the Australian Electoral Office conducted a poll for the national anthem tune in conjunction with a referendum. The tune "Advance Australia Fair" was the preferred option. In 1981 the National Australia Day Council recommended that the Australian National Anthem consist of two verses of "Advance Australia Fair" with some modification.

### Proclamation

*The Australian National Anthem, consisting of the tune of "Advance Australia Fair" and the verses as drafted by the National Australia Day Council, was proclaimed on 19 April 1984 by the then Governor-General, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian M Stephen KG AK GCMG GCVO KBE.*

## What's in a Name



Five Dock takes its name from an unusual sandstone formation along the Parramatta River, which was thought to resemble small docks. Two of the "docks" were later covered by the construction of the first Gladesville Bridge in 1881.

In 1922 there was a campaign, led by local real estate agents, to change the name of Five Dock as it was considered *"unattractive, misleading and savours of a dock and shipping centre"* and a better name would *"enhance property values"*. One suggestion for a new name was Wareemba, the Aboriginal name for Drummoyne Bay or Drummoyne Peninsula, which means "where sweet (or fresh) water meets salt water".

There was an equally strong campaign to retain the name. A concert to keep the name was organised and a song "Five Dock Will Be There" was composed for the occasion.

At a Council poll on 22 December 1922 the vote was in favour of keeping the name Five Dock. Wareemba was later used as the name for the subdivision between Five Dock and Abbotsford.

The photograph shows the remaining rock formation at Howley Park, Drummoyne.

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## A Great Amount of Traffic



The *Concord Council Annual Report* of 1918 noted that £764 had been spent on upgrading Concord Road and as a result it . . .

*"is now in such a good state of repair that a great amount of traffic to Parramatta is diverted from the Parramatta Road along the Concord Road, via the Punt, to Parramatta: and this is particularly noticeable in respect of motor traffic, for which the bad state of the Parramatta Road between Homebush and Parramatta is mainly responsible."*

To reinforce the point, the above photograph of the improved Concord Road was included in the report.

Another "improvement" to streets in 1918 was changing the name of Mangrove Street to Empire Avenue and Swamp Street to Ian Parade.

*(Reprinted, with permission, from the Canada Bay Blog)*



Concord Library invites you to their two special events for Heritage Week:

**Tuesday, 15 April at 1:00 pm**

**Greg Maunsell will speak on the Breakfast Point War Memorial.**

He has been researching the names of those listed on this memorial (formerly the AGL War Memorial) to create a web page in their honour. Greg will share the colourful and often moving stories of the men associated with the Mortlake Gasworks who perished in the First World War.

**Thursday, 24 April at 2:00 pm**

**Patricia Skehan, "The Canadian Exiles"**

Find out how Canada Bay got its name. Trish will tell the fascinating story of the French Canadian Exiles who were transported to NSW in 1840, following uprising in Lower Canada (Quebec). They were imprisoned at Longbottom Stockade, how the site of Concord Oval.

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## There's Always Someone

If all the seas were made of beer,  
and all the land were cheese;

And crayfish grew already cooked,  
like leaves upon the trees;

If bank notes fell instead of rain, and  
all the grass was gold;

And summer days were not too hot,  
nor winter days too cold.

If houses grew up over night and  
motor cars cost nil;

And everyone was full of rum that  
never made one ill;

If fowls laid ninety eggs a day, and  
work was just a crime.

To live to be a thousand years the  
cost would be a dime;

If every man had thirty wives and  
each of them were dumb;

And diamonds grew like hazel nuts,  
and cows provided rum.

If cigarettes were two feet long, and  
politics were barred;

And loaves of bread were thick as  
logs, each measuring a yard.

Ah, well, t'would be a merry world,  
yet some perverted owl;

Some pessimistic stupid cow would  
find some cause to growl.

# April Fool's Day - April 1

The day is marked by the commission of hoaxes and other practical jokes of varying sophistication on friends, enemies and neighbours, or sending them on fools' errands, the aim of which is to embarrass the gullible. In some countries, April Fools' jokes (also called April Fools) are only made before noon on 1 April.

The origins of this custom are complex and a matter of much debate. It is likely a relic of the once common festivities held on the autumn equinox, which began on the 25th of March, old New Year's Day, and ended on the 2nd of April.

Though the 1st of April appears to have been observed as a general festival in Great Britain in antiquity, it was apparently not until the beginning of the 18th century that the making of April-fools was a common custom. In Scotland the custom was known as "hunting the gowk," i.e. the cuckoo, and April-fools were "April-gowks," the cuckoo being a term of contempt, as it is in many countries.

## April Fool's Day History

**Ancient Rome** - The custom of playing practical jokes on friends was part of the celebrations in ancient Rome on March 25 (Hilaria). The timing seems related to the vernal equinox and the coming of spring a time when nature fools us with sudden changes between showers and sunshine.

**England** - In England, tricks can be played only in the morning. If a trick is played on you, you are a "noodle". Widespread observance in England

began in the 18th century.

**Scotland** - In Scotland, April Fools Day is 48 hours long and you are called an "April Gowk", which is another name for a cuckoo bird. In Scotland, April Fools Day is 48 hours long. The second day is called Taily Day and is dedicated to pranks involving the buttocks. Taily Day's gift to posterior posterity is the still-hilarious "Kick Me" sign.

**France** - In France, the April Fool is called "April Fish" (Poisson d'Avril). The French fool their friends by taping a paper fish to their friends' backs and when someone discovers this trick, they yell "Poisson d'Avril!"

**Spain** - Dia de los Santos Inocentes is held in Spain on December 28th. This is The Feast of the Holy Innocents. It is celebrated similarly to April Fool's Day, with practical jokes.

**America** - The English, Scotch and French introduced the custom to their colonies in America.

One of the forefathers' favourite jokes was to send someone on a "fool's errand." For example, one might have been asked to go out and obtain a copy of "The History of Adam's Grandfather," or bring back some "sweet vinegar."

**Mexico** - The "foolish" tradition is celebrated in Mexico, too, but on a different day and for different reasons. "El Dia de los Inocentes," which is December 28, was set aside as a day for Christians to mourn Herod's slaughter of innocent children. Over time, the tone of that "unluckiest of days" has evolved from sadness to good-natured trickery.

## Some Things to Ponder in Life

- \* Do vegetarians eat animal crackers?
- \* If olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?
- \* If buttered toast always lands buttered side down, and cats always land on their feet, what would happen if you tied a piece of buttered toast to the back of a cat?
- \* If the 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, why do they have locks on the doors?
- \* Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- \* Why are there floatation devices under plane seats instead of parachutes?
- \* If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they make Teflon stick to the pan?
- \* If you're driving at the speed of light and you turn on your headlights, what happens?
- \* You know how most packages say "open here"? What should you do if the package says "open somewhere else"?
- \* Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
- \* Why is it that when you transport something by car it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo?
- \* You know that little indestructible black box that's used on aeroplanes? Why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?
- \* Why don't sheep shrink in the rain?
- \* Why are they called apartments when they're all stuck together?
- \* If fire fighters fight fire, and crime fighters fight crime, what do freedom fighters fight?
- \* Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

## From the Secretary's Desk

**SIGNWRITER WANTED:** When Yaralla was being renovated at one time the writing above the fireplace was inadvertently painted over. We would very much like to have this restored and we need a signwriter who can do the job. Do you know anyone.

**MUSEUM ROSTERS:** We are in need of some new people willing to be put onto the museum roster - particularly for Wednesdays. You would probably only need to be on roster approximately every 6 weeks.

**MUSEUM COMMITTEE:** To all members of this committee, as well as anyone wanting to join us, the regular meeting date has now been changed to the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the Museum. Everyone welcome even if you only want to see what we do.

## What's Next at the Museum

In mid-April we will be packing away our current display of "Fun and Games for Young and Old". If you haven't yet visited there is still a little time.

Our new display will be . . .

## Postage & Currency in early Colonial Days.

## Raffle Reminder

The drawing of the raffle has had to be postponed to the 5th April as several books have not been returned. As a registered charity we have to account for all books and monies.

**If you are one of these people could you please return book and money, or unsold tickets to PO Box 152, Concord or drop in the green mailbox outside the museum door (not the one on the street) immediately.**

We thank you for your support. This money is needed to help the museum with future displays.