



# "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

Fred Stansfield, 9743-1866

#### Walker Estates

Errol Grace, 9743-4301

#### Heritage

Bill Barlow, 9743-3662

#### Oral History

Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

## MUSEUM

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

No. 72

January/February 2002

*Happy New Year to all members.*

*We are looking forward to another busy year and are currently planning for Heritage Week and our Annual Yaralla Open Day on 28th April.*

## February Meeting

The first general meeting for the year will be on **Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2002** at 7.30 pm at Concord Senior Citizens Centre. Our guest speaker will be **Des Milligan** and his subject "**Military Preparedness and the Lack of It**". This talk was stimulated by events in East Timor. Those of you who heard his last talk on "Growing up in India" will not want to miss this and those who missed him last time have something to look forward to.

## Future Meetings

**Wednesday, 13th March** - our own **Trish Skehan** will be filling us in on her recent overseas trip, which included further research on the Walker family. She will be playing Walker **research tapes from Lord Elgin and Joscelyne Verney-Walker**. Lord Elgin (connected with the Elgin Marbles) is the third highest Knight in the land (Order of the Thistle), who clears all visitors to the Queen Mother while in Scotland. His tape is an oral history of Robert the Bruce, prepared for Scotspeak, a project to record memories before they are lost.

**Wednesday, 10th April** - **Ken Hall**, "**Queens Square and Surrounding Buildings**". Ken is related to the Correys of Correy's Gardens and was helpful when Trish was researching her book.

## North Head Quarantine Station

The controversial proposals for a 45-year lease of the historic North Head Quarantine Station to a private hotel group aren't going to get through without a great deal of angst.

Not only have the Friends of the Quarantine Station expressed their opposition, other people are joining the fray, sending their objections to the National Parks Service, the NSW Heritage Council and

to the Planning Minister, Andrew Refshauge.

Dr. Richard Temple has also written to the Premier, Bob Carr, expressing "total dismay".

"These proposals are completely incompatible in all respects with the conservation of unique heritage buildings in an outstanding location . . . what has been proposed amounts to virtual destruction of buildings and their history, and of the fauna and flora of their surroundings.

"The proposals are solely aimed at meeting the imagined requirements of a relatively small number of rich people who would deny the peaceful use of the site to the great many ordinary people who wish to enjoy it peacefully as a public harbourside park . . ."

(Errol Grace)

## **Ways We're different this Christmas**

*Last Christmas we were thinking about all the things we didn't have; this Christmas we're thinking about all the things we do have.*

*Last Christmas we were placing wreaths on the doors of our homes; this Christmas we're placing wreaths on the graves of heroes.*

*Last Christmas we were counting our money; this Christmas we're counting our blessings.*

*Last Christmas we were lighting candles to decorate; this Christmas we are lighting candles to commemorate.*

*Last Christmas we were digging deep into our bank accounts to find the money to fly home for the holidays; this Christmas we are digging deep into our souls to find the courage to do so.*

*Last Christmas we thought a man who could rush down a football field was a hero; this Christmas we know that a man who rushes into a burning building is the real one.*

*Last Christmas we were getting on each other's nerves; this Christmas we are getting on our knees.*

*Last Christmas we were giving thanks for gifts from stores; this Christmas we are giving thanks for gifts from God.*

*Last Christmas we were thinking how good it would be to be affluent; this Christmas we are thinking how good it feels to be alive.*

*Last Christmas we thought angels were in heaven; this Christmas we know some are right here on earth.*

*Last Christmas we believed in the power of the pocket book; this Christmas we believe in the power of prayer.*

*Last Christmas we valued things that were costly; this Christmas we value things that are holy.*

*Last Christmas the people we idolised wore football, basketball and baseball uniforms; this Christmas the people we idolise wear police, fire-fighters and military uniforms.*

*Last Christmas "peace on earth" is something we prayed for on Sunday mornings; now it is something we pray for every day.*

*Last Christmas people around the world gathered to celebrate family and faith; this Christmas people around the world will gather to celebrate family and faith.*

*And this year, as we continue this age-old tradition we will understand, as never before, the meaning and magic of each.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** (Autor Unknown)

(This article was sent to us from one of the subscribers to our web site. He says: "my brother sent this to me - trust that you also enjoy it and get the significance." Thank you, Jim.)

## **Blue Moon**

In December 2001 we experienced a Blue Moon.

This doesn't mean the Moon changes colour . . .

. . . it refers to the fact that December had two Full Moons,

On the 1st December the Full Moon rose with the ringed planet Saturn.

The second Full Moon, on the 30th, was given the name Blue Moon.

Blue Moons are really not that rare - they usually occur every couple of years.

## **A Walk Around Sydney**

During the **Sydney Festival**, some buildings have been lit very creatively. This reminds us of some of the very interesting heritage buildings which we can visit via a walking tour around our city.

**Hyde Park Barracks** - Macquarie Street (opposite Queens Square)

Architects - 1817-19 Francis Greenway; 1990-92 Tonkin Zulaikha Harford (conversion to museum) and Clive Lucas (restoration)

One of Sydney's earliest examples of refined architecture, Hyde Park Barracks was built to house transported convicts in a self-contained, walled compound in a bid to solve night-time crime.

It was miraculously saved from demolition after it had been left to decay for a century. The three-storey main building is the centrepiece of the walled compound, which included a cookhouse, bakery, cells and soldiers' quarters. Its primary purpose was to house the large working convict population which, until this project, roamed the streets at night causing street crime.

Each floor has four large rooms divided by staircases, with rows of hammocks attached to wooden rails and upright posts fixed to the floor and roof. Seventy convicts were crammed into each large room and thirty-five into the smaller rooms, bringing the total to more than 800 inmates. In 1887, the interior was rebuilt to house the District Law Courts of NSW. Later, it became a project of the Historic Houses Trust, being carefully restored, conserved and converted into a museum in the early 1990s.

**The Mint Museum** - Macquarie Street

1811-14 architect unknown

The Mint Museum and the NSW Parliament House are the two surviving 'bookend wings' of the very early triple wing General Hospital commenced in 1811, barely 20 years after first settlement. Refused both funding and permission by London, Governor Macquarie accepted a proposition by three businessmen to provide a hospital in exchange for three

years' exclusive rights to the importation of rum.

The architect is unknown, but the design is typical of barracks designed by military engineers for warmer climates. Unfortunately, the buildings were badly built by the entrepreneurs, using stone-faced rubble rather than solid stone and faulty roof framing design, which was later rectified by Francis Greenway.

The entire centre wing, erected on poor foundations, was demolished in 1879. (As the result of an 1880 competition, a new building was erected in its place to accommodate the Sydney Hospital. The two veranda-faced wings, originally surgeons' barracks, are what remain today.

A branch of the Royal Mint was located in the southern building from 1852-1927, immediately after the New South Wales gold rush, making it the first British currency mint established outside Britain. After 1927, when the Mint moved to Canberra, a variety of taxation and judicial offices were haphazardly housed inside.

The building was repaired and conserved between 1975 and 1982, after which the Mint Museum was reopened as a branch of the Powerhouse Museum

**The Great Synagogue** Elizabeth Street, Sydney

Architects: 1878 Thomas Rowe. Partly supervised by Walter Liberty Vernon. 1973 Orwell Phillips and Kevin Gallagher (facade cleaned, gates restored)

The merging of two separate Jewish congregations was the catalyst for building a new and larger synagogue in Sydney. The elaborately decorated building is noted for its fine detail (particularly columns and capitals) and a high standard of craftsmanship in carved sandstone.

Clearly, the design was inspired by English synagogues in London and Liverpool, incorporating exotic architectural forms, in an attempt to find an appropriate eclectic style.

The ornate cast-iron gates and detailed sandstone craftsmanship are noteworthy.

## Australia. It's What we Make It.

At the end of November last year something extraordinary happened. In Canberra, the capital created by Federation, thousands of figures were assembled. On the lawns of Parliament House, home of our democratic system of government, The Peoplescape took shape. There were more than 4,000 figures, each one representing someone's hero - someone who had made a significant contribution to our nation. Some were famous, most were not. They had been nominated, and the figures created, by individuals and communities from every part of Australia.

As Doug Tremlett, Creative Director of the project, wrote in the programme of the nationally televised concert that launched The Peoplescape:

"Fundamental to The Peoplescape project has been the celebration of the true spirit and meaning of Federation - we are one mob of people living in one special land. Our story is one of unity and diversity. It is the ability to be the same but different, it is a larrikin way of laughing-at and believing-in at the same time. We have created not only a work of art, but also a rich story about what makes Australia so special - it's people."



## The Federation Tapestry

Twenty-two artist-weavers have spent an estimated 20,000 hours at their looms creating a monumental tapestry - the **Federation Tapestry** - now on display at Melbourne Museum.

The tapestry is comprised of 10 panels and is almost 41 metres in length.

In terms of quality and national significance it ranks with the great tapestries of the world, such as the famous Bayeux and Angers.

Australia's **Federation Tapestry** encapsulates the flavour of a nation.

The tapestry was commissioned to mark the centenary of Australia's birth as a nation.

The images incorporated in the panels include Aboriginal dreamtime legends, a solitary shepherd in the bush with his sheep and dog, the clamour of Federation in 1901, and "Sorry" etched across the sky above the Sydney Opera House in 2000.

More than 20 artists - including school children - have contributed to this public art work.

The panels are based on art works by: cartoonist Bruce Petty; central desert artist Ginger Riley; Sydney artists Martin Sharp and Reg Mombassa; botanical artist Celia



Strathfield North Public School's contribution consisted of two figures - Thomas Walker and Dame Eadith Walker (above)

Rosser; Aboriginal artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries; Aboriginal schoolchildren from Echuca, Bathurst Island and the Cape Barren Islands; principal artist Murray Walker.

This number of artists involved highlight aspects of Australia's diverse identity.

Although the **Federation Tapestry** is housed at Melbourne Museum, it belongs to all Australians.



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## 25,000 Last Posts not enough to honour the fallen

The famous Menin Gate last November echoed to the strains of the Last Post for the 25,000th time as the people of Belgium carried on their pledge to never forget those who fought during World War I.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Astrid of Belgium and a number of Commonwealth dignitaries attended the nightly ceremony in the town of Ieper (Ypres), where thousands of Australian soldiers marched to the Western Front.

The Menin Gate carries the names of some 50,000 Commonwealth soldiers who fell in World War I and who have no known grave. At 8:00 pm every night since the memorial was dedicated on 1st November, 1928,

traffic has been stopped and buglers have sounded the Last Post. Only German occupation during World War II has halted the tradition.

Despite staging the ceremony 25,000 times, the Last Post committee has no intention of ending its tribute. Committee chair Guy Gruwez, who last year received an honorary Order of Australia for his commitment to honouring Australia's war dead, said the plan was to play once for each of the almost 400,000 Allied soldiers who died at Ieper and the surrounding battlefields.

If the people of Ieper succeed, the Last Post will continue to be heard in memory of the fallen every night through to the year 2400.

*("Vetaffairs", V.17, No.4, December 2001)*

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## Calling all Volunteers

To all those members who volunteered last year to help with work for the society, the Secretary is now back on deck and ready to organise.

Work needing to be done: going through old newspapers (at your home or the secretary's - there weren't enough volunteers to warrant trying to book the Senior Citizens' Centre for a Sunday); cataloguing books in the museum library; filing; photocopying; and entering data on the computer.

We're ready when you are - just contact the secretary. If you haven't already put your name down, we could still use more help!

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## Trish's Trivia

The first set of rules for modern tennis was published in North Wales in 1873.

However, the origins of the game can be traced to the 12th or 13th century.

The scoring in one game of tennis goes 15, 30, 40 (shortened from 45), game. This system of scoring is medieval in origin and dates from a time when 60 was used as the end point, such as with a clock face.

So the game was over when the score reached 60, and scores 15, 30, 40 (45) represented 1/4, 1/2 and 3/4 of the game.

## Our Calendar

The calendar we use is called the Gregorian Calendar, but this was not always the case.

Before today's Gregorian calendar was adopted, the older Julian calendar was used. It was admirably close to the actual length of the year, as it turns out, but the Julian calendar was not so perfect that it didn't slowly shift off track over the following centuries. But, hundreds of years later, monks were the only ones with any free time for scholarly pursuits — and they were discouraged from thinking about the matter of "secular time" for any reason beyond figuring out when to observe Easter. In the Middle Ages, the study of the measure of time was first viewed as prying too deeply into God's own affairs — and later thought of as a lowly, mechanical study, unworthy of serious contemplation.

As a result, it wasn't until 1582, by which time Caesar's calendar had drifted a full 10 days off course, that Pope Gregory finally reformed the Julian calendar. It was proposed by Aloysius Lilius, a physician from Naples, and adopted by Pope Gregory, in accordance with instructions from the Council of Trent (1545-1563). It was decreed by Pope Gregory XIII in a papal bull, *Inter Gravissimas*, on February 24, 1582.

Ironically, by the time the Catholic church buckled under the weight of the scientific reasoning that pointed out the error, it had lost much of its power to implement the fix. Protestant tract writers responded to Gregory's calendar by calling him the "Roman Antichrist" and claiming that its real purpose was to keep true Christians from worshiping on the correct days. The "new" calendar, as we know it today, was not adopted uniformly across Europe until well into the 18th century.

## The First Day of the Year

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> is when we celebrate the new year. When Julius Caesar introduced his calendar in 45 B.C.E., he made 1<sup>st</sup> January the start of the year, and it was always the date on which the Solar Number and the Golden Number were incremented.

However, the church didn't like the wild par-

ties that took place at the start of the new year, and in AD 567 the council of Tours declared that having the year start on 1<sup>st</sup> January was an ancient mistake that should be abolished.

Through the middle ages various New Year dates were used. The Byzantine Empire used a year starting on 1<sup>st</sup> Sep, but they didn't count years since the birth of Christ, instead they counted years since the creation of the world which they dated to 1<sup>st</sup> September 5509 B.C.

Since about 1600 most countries have used 1<sup>st</sup> January as the first day of the year. Italy and England, however, did not make 1<sup>st</sup> January official until around 1750.

In England (but not Scotland) three different years were used: The *historical year*, which started on 1 January, the *liturgical year*, which started on the first Sunday in advent and the *civil year*, which from the 7th to the 12th century started on 25<sup>th</sup> December; from the 12th century until 1751 started on 25<sup>th</sup> March, and from 1752 started on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

People in almost every country in the world celebrate this first day of the new year with special customs and traditions meant to bring good luck. People in Japan swallow a long noodle without breaking it while Austrians try to touch a pig. Dutch people eat something in the shape of a circle while Spanish people eat 12 grapes—one for each month of the year. Many people make resolutions for the coming year.

## Months of the Year

### January

Janus, a god in Roman religion, was the god of beginnings. He was one of the principal Roman gods, the custodian of the universe. The first hour of the day, the first day of the month, the first month of the year, were sacred to him. The first month of the year is named after him, as it opens the year.

His chief function was as guardian deity of gates and doors. The gates of his temple in the Roman Forum were closed in time of peace and opened in time of war. The Emperor Augustus closed the doors of the tem-

pie, since he brought peace to the Roman Empire.

Janus was usually represented with two bearded heads placed back to back so that he might look in two directions at the same time or have one looking forwards and one looking back. His principal festival was celebrated on the first day of the year. He was considered to be very important, because a house is only as strong as its doors.

## Just For Fun

Teacher: *Julie, please give me a sentence starting with "I".*

Julie: *I is...*

Teacher: *No, Julie. Always say, "I am."*

Julie: *All right . . . "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."*

One sunny day a rabbit came out of her hole in the ground to enjoy the fine weather. The day was so nice that she became careless and a fox sneaked up behind her and caught her.

"I am going to eat you for lunch!", said the fox.

"Wait!", replied the rabbit, "You should at least wait a few days."

"Oh yeah? Why should I wait?"

"Well, I am just finishing my thesis on 'The Superiority of Rabbits over Foxes and Wolves.'"

"Are you crazy? I should eat you right now! Everybody knows that a fox will always win over a rabbit."

"Not really, not according to my research. If you like, you can come into my hole and read it for yourself. If you are not convinced, you can go ahead and have me for lunch."

"You really are crazy!" But since the fox was curious and had nothing to lose, it went with the rabbit. The fox never came out. A few days later the rabbit was again taking a break from writing and sure enough, a wolf came out of the bushes and was ready to set upon her.

"Wait!" yelled the rabbit, "you can't eat me right

now."

"And why might that be, my furry appetizer?"

"I am almost finished writing my thesis on 'The Superiority of Rabbits over Foxes and Wolves.'"

The wolf laughed so hard that it almost lost its grip on the rabbit. "Maybe I shouldn't eat you. You really are sick . . . in the head. You might have something contagious."

"Come and read it for yourself. You can eat me afterward if you disagree with my conclusions."

So the wolf went down into the rabbit's hole . . . and never came out. The rabbit finished her thesis and was out celebrating in the local lettuce patch. Another rabbit came along and asked, "What's up? You seem very happy."

"Yup, I just finished my thesis."

"Congratulations. What's it about?"

"The Superiority of Rabbits over Foxes and Wolves."

"Are you sure? That doesn't sound right."

"Oh yes. Come and read it for yourself."

So together they went down into the rabbit's hole. As they entered, the friend saw the typical graduate student abode, albeit a rather messy one after writing a thesis. The computer with the controversial work was in one corner. To the right there was a pile of fox bones, to the left a pile of wolf bones. And in the middle was a large, well fed lion.

The moral of the story: The title of your thesis doesn't matter. The subject doesn't matter. The research doesn't matter. *All that matters is who your advisor is.*

**[www.museum.vic.gov.au](http://www.museum.vic.gov.au)**

If you're on the net with a little time to spare look up the Museum Victoria site. It's full of interesting articles, etc.

The articles "Blue Moon" and "Federation Tapestry" were both found on this site.

## Yaralla Open Day

**Sunday, 28th April**

It's time again for this annual fund raiser and we need to start organising now.

If you will be able to help on the day - mansion tours, grounds tours, gatekeepers, devonshire teas, souvenirs and display area - then please contact the secretary as soon as possible.

This is a very labour-intensive day, but is our major fund-raiser for the Yaralla estate, and the more people we have to help the easier the burden.

If you haven't been able to volunteer in the past, please make the effort to help this time - you'll find it very rewarding.

## Diary Dates

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Feb** 7.30 pm - General Meeting - Des Milligan, "Military Preparedness and the Lack of It"

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Feb** 7.45 pm - Executive Meeting

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March** 8:00 pm - Walker Estates/Yaralla Committee

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Mar** 7:30 pm - General Meeting - Trish Skehan, "Research in England"

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Mar** 7:45 pm - Executive Meeting

**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April** 8:00 pm - Walker Estates/Yaralla Committee

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> April** - Yaralla Open Day

## WANTED!!

Members with some spare time to help out on the Museum roster. It's only 2 hours at a time and you will either have a very interesting afternoon chatting to visitors or will be able to catch up with some reading - or something.

We are only open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

If you can spare time on Saturday it will only be about once every 12 weeks. However, we are desperately in need of Wednesday volunteers as we only have 4 willing workers at the moment and we'd like to be able to give them a longer break between rosters.

Can you help? Phone the secretary NOW!

## More Trivia

British wartime Prime Minister, **Sir Winston Churchill**, was born in a ladies' cloakroom at Blenheim Palace in England. His mother was attending a dance there when she gave birth prematurely.

**Games of Chance** are as old as human beings. Standard dice have been found dating from 2000 BC. Irregular dice, made from the heel bones of sheep and deer, date back to 3600 BC. There is evidence of playing cards from the 10th century in China and the 14th century in Europe. First-century Rome had lotteries, although bingo is relatively modern (1880-1900 in English travelling carnivals.)

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| It's better to be 70 and hopeful |  
| than 35 and hopeless |  
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## Regular meetings:

**General Meetings** - 2nd Wednesday in the month

**Executive Meetings** - 4th Wednesday in the month

**Walker Estates/Yaralla Committee** - 1st Thursday in the month

*Why not mark your diary/calendar now so you won't forget!*