



# “Nurungi”

(Remembered)

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY  
email: [chs@concordheritage.asn.au](mailto:chs@concordheritage.asn.au) [www.concordheritage.asn.au](http://www.concordheritage.asn.au)

EDITOR

Mr. GRAHAM PACKETT  
9743-3007

PRESIDENT

Ms. TRISH HARRINGTON  
9764-3296

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mrs. TRISH SKEHAN  
9743-4172

SECRETARY

Mrs. 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  
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. 73

March 2002

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2002** at 7.30 pm. Des Milligan, will speak to us about **“Military Preparedness and the Lack of It”**. This talk was stimulated by events in East Timor. Des was due to speak at our last meeting but, unfortunately, he was unable to attend and Trish Skehan (who was to speak this month) filled in for him.

## Future Meetings:

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> April: Ken Hall** – ‘Queen’s Square and Surrounding Buildings’

## Walker Estates/Yaralla Committees

These committees now meet on the first Thursday of each month at Strathfield North Public School, commencing at 8:00 p.m. Would those interested members please note the date in their diaries so that we don’t need to remind you each month.

**Next meeting: Thursday, 4th April**

## Newspaper Cuttings

We have a large box of newspaper clipping that were being sorted into appropriate files but it seems to have gone missing. Has someone been given them to work on? If so, please contact the secretary ASAP to save her from pulling her house to bits looking for them!

## Yaralla Open Day - Sunday, 28th April

We are now getting ready for this major fund-raiser and we need your help. We particularly need help with the Devonshire Teas as this is very labour intensive, but a very good fund-raiser.

We could also use a few more tour guides (mansion and grounds) so if you think you would like to help with this but are not sure, come along on the day and do a couple of tours with our regular guides to learn the ropes. It’s not difficult and we have a book with all the information you will need.

If you will be able to help in any way on the day please telephone Lois on 9744-8528 as soon as possible so we can prepare rosters. (This includes the regulars, just so I know you'll be available.)

## The Anzac Legends

*Whatever happens, Australia is a part of the Empire to the full. Remember that when the Empire is at war, so is Australia at war.*

Joseph Cook, Prime Minister, 31st July, 1914

In 1915, fourteen years after Federation, Australia sent troops overseas to World War I. Australia had previously been involved in the Boer War of 1899-1902, the Boxer Uprising in China in 1900-1901 and the Anglo-Maori wars of the 1840s and 1860s. However, it was World War I that came to be seen as a defining moment in Australian history and identity.

## The beginning of World War I

When the war began in 1914, most Australians supported sending troops overseas to fight, and relished an opportunity to prove the strength of the new Commonwealth of Australia. Australians felt that they were an important part of the British Empire and many felt a dual loyalty to Britain and Australia. Most believed that it was the duty of Australia to go to war for the Empire. Thousands of men volunteered to join the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and there was great public enthusiasm and support for the volunteers. They believed that victory would come quickly. No one expected the number of casualties to be so high.

## Gallipoli

The majority of the men who joined the AIF in August 1914 were sent to Egypt, to prepare for battle against the Ottoman Empire (part of which is now Turkey). The plan was to send Australian and New Zealand troops to the Gallipoli peninsula. They would distract the Turkish army from a landing of British troops further down the peninsula and clear the way to the capital, Constantinople (now Istanbul).

## Anzacs at Gallipoli

A group of Australian soldiers landed on the shore just before dawn on 25th April, 1915. Steep cliffs surrounded the bay, since called Anzac Cove. The soldiers rushed up the steep slopes, using their bayonets rather than their rifles. The surprise nature of the attack meant that the Turkish soldiers initially retreated, and the allies gained some ground. But by the end of the day the Turkish army had strengthened and held the vantage points on the cliffs. The allied troops were ordered to stay where they were and dig trenches.

For the rest of the six month campaign neither side made much progress. On 19th May the Turks lost over 3,000 soldiers. On 6th August, 1915, at Lone Pine 2,200 Australians died, and another 375 died on 7th August. Little ground was gained or lost. Sometimes the dead would lie for days between the trenches until a brief truce was called to bury them. Poor sanitation, flies, lice and monotonous food added to the misery.

Eventually after almost six months, the British commanders realised that the campaign had been a failure. They orchestrated a well-planned retreat, in which few lives were lost. However, the overall toll of the campaign had been enormous. From 25th April to 20th December, 1915, 8,700 Australian lives had been lost and more than 18,000 AIF men had been wounded. The total allied dead numbered over 97,000. The Turkish army had lost 87,000 men, and 200,000 men had fallen sick or been wounded. Many more lives were to be lost before the war was over.

## The Anzac Legend

Almost immediately after the initial landing at Gallipoli, the legend of the Anzacs began. Newspaper reports were sent by C.E.W. Bean (later the official war historian and founder of the Australian War Memorial) and by the English journalist Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, telling the Australian public of the great feats and bravery of the AIF. The Anzacs were characterised as brave larrikins with an egalitarian temperament.

It soon became apparent, though, that a large sacrifice had been made by the young nation. Just one year after the landing, in 1916, the first Anzac Day commemorated the loss of so many lives. The Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, addressed troops in London at an Anzac Day gathering. He explained the sacrifice of the men by portraying them as sacred martyrs for the Australian Nation.

*It was a feat of arms almost unparalleled in the history of war; yet it was but the beginning of a campaign in which such feats were daily done . . . Since it has evoked this pure and noble spirit, who shall say that this dreadful war is wholly an evil? . . . Soldiers, your deeds have won you a place in the Temple of Immortals. The world has hailed you as heroes. Your comrades of the British Army have claimed you as brothers in arms, and the citizens of the Empire are proud to call you kinsmen.*

Gallipoli began to be seen by Australians as a rite of passage and the sacrifice made by the men as a national initiation. Although they had been fighting under the command of the British Empire, Australians had defined themselves in the Anzac legend as separate and different from the British. They regarded the Anzacs as better soldiers than the British, and particularly as a more equal and less hierarchical army. Bean and other writers felt that the Australian nation and the toughness of life in the bush had fostered these characteristics in the soldiers.

## After the War

It was almost another three years after Gallipoli before the war ended. The majority of Australian troops went to France, to fight on the Western Front. By the end of the war in November 1918, 59,342 Australian men had died and 152,171 had been wounded. One in 10 of all Australian men aged between 18 and 45 had died. The men who returned to Australia were often emotionally and psychologically wounded. Communities were devastated by their loss. War memorials were erected in towns and cities around Australia. By 1927 Anzac Day had become a public

holiday in every state and was celebrated as a day of national significance.

The Anzac legend continues to evolve in contemporary Australia. Although its meaning and history are debated, it remains central to the story of Australian nationhood and the development of national identity. On Anzac Day, thousands of Australians come to dawn services and veterans' parades, which commemorate the sacrifice of all Australian servicemen and women who have died in war.

Emma Willoughby,  
Curator - Federation, Museum Victoria

To find out more visit [www.federation.vic.gov.au](http://www.federation.vic.gov.au)

## Help! Help! Help!

To those members who filled in the forms sent out in Nurungi last year, offering assistance in various ways . . . we need to hear from you NOW!

To save money we are now printing most of our needs - including the Yaralla Tour Guide Book (200 needed by 28/4) - on our new photocopier. It's not hard to use, but we do need help to get the work done - urgently! If you can give an hour or two, here and there, ring the secretary now.

We also desperately need help to get our files into some semblance of order so that we can retrieve information when called upon. Another hour or two here would also be most helpful.

**CAN YOU HELP? RING 9744-8528 NOW!!**

## While we're begging . . .

Can anyone spare a couple of hours once every couple of months to help with the Museum Duty Roster on a Wednesday afternoon? It doesn't involve any special skills or knowledge, just a desire to help YOUR society.

*Middle age is when Father Time catches up with Mother Nature.*

## Trish's Educational Trivia

In 1497 in Scotland, the Declaration of the Education Act was passed, introducing compulsory schooling for all Scottish children.

Residential, economic, or educational qualification gave half a million Englishmen more than one vote in England in 1885. A university graduate, who also owned a business in the City of London, voted three times - once at his home, once for his university, and once in the City !!!!

The New York Board of Education barred the whipping of children in its schools on March 4, 1908.

More education means longer life. Research shows that college graduates live longer than people who did not complete high school.

Andrew Johnson is the only president not to have any type of schooling. He was 17 before his wife, Eliza McCardle, taught him how to read. She was known for her commitment to his education.

The word encyclopaedia is derived from the Greek *enkuklios paideia*, meaning "general education."

## Some Celebrity Graduates

**John Cleese:** Law degree from Downing College, Cambridge University.

**Michael Douglas:** B.A. in pre-law from Uni of California at Santa Barbara

**Peter Falk:** B.S. in political science from New School for Social Research in New York; M.B.A. at Syracuse University.

**Roberta Flack:** B.A. in music education from Howard University.

**Tracy Chapman:** B.A. in anthropology from Tufts University.

**Gloria Estefan:** Psychology degree from University of Miami.

**Denzel Washington:** B.A. in journalism and drama from Fordham University in NY.

**Art Garfunkle:** B.S. in mathematics and music from Columbia University.

**Hugh Grant:** Graduate of English Literature from Oxford University.

## Just For Fun

Make it idiot proof, and someone will make a better idiot.

He who laughs last thinks slowest!

Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.

When there's a will, I want to be in it.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error...

There cannot be a crisis today; my schedule is already full.

Car service: If it ain't broke, we'll break it.

The Definition of an Upgrade: Take old bugs out, put new ones in

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

Hard work has a future payoff. Laziness pays off now.

Better to understand a little than to misunderstand a lot.

All generalisations are false.

Don't use a big word where a diminutive one will suffice.

Mental Floss prevents Moral Decay.

Diplomacy - the art of letting someone have your way.

Do witches run spell checkers?

Computers make very fast, very accurate mistakes.

A computer's attention span is as long as it's power cord.

## Are you into Family History?

The Cemeteries & Crematoria Association of NSW, in November 2001, made a commitment to collate, index and make available on line the name, location, status and contact details of every cemetery, grave yard, memorial gardens and crematorium in NSW, Australia. The database can be searched at [www.ccanse.org.au/ozcemindex/index.htm](http://www.ccanse.org.au/ozcemindex/index.htm)

### Diary dates:

**Thurs 4th April** - 8.00 pm - Walker Estates/Yaralla Committee Meeting

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> March** - 7.30 pm - General Meeting

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

***Please mark your diaries now.***