



# “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

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## MUSEUM

5 Wellbank Street

Open 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Wednesday & Saturday

No. 74

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## Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10th April – Ken Hall, “Queen’s Square and Surrounding Buildings”

## Future Meetings

Wednesday, 8th May – Bill Barlow, “Marco Polo and the Silk Road” and also his book “A Voyage of the City of Brisbane, 1862”. (*I'm sure he'll have copies for sale on the night it you want one.*)

Wednesday, 12th June – a representative from the local Lapidary Club (full details next time)

\*Sunday, 14th July – Robyn Hawes from The Friends of Rookwood, speaking on her favourite subject, “Rookwood Cemetery”.

\* **Please note change of date.** *This is our regular winter daytime meeting. A light afternoon tea will be served following the meeting and all members and any visitors are welcome.*

## Apology . . .

. . . to those who tried to access the Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of NSW on the web site printed last month – it should be [www.ccansw.org.au/ozcemindex/index.htm](http://www.ccansw.org.au/ozcemindex/index.htm).

## Convict ships in Australia

**The convict ship *Hive* (1820-1835)** *Ref: NSW Heritage Web Site*

The Heritage Office successfully located the wreck of the convict transport *Hive* in December 1994. It is the only wreck of a convict ship in New South Wales and one of only three lost in Australian waters whilst engaged in transporting convicts from England to Australia. The other two were *Neva* (wrecked on King Island Bass Strait with the loss of 224 lives), and the *George III* near Hobart, with 133 lives lost.

All three vessels were wrecked in 1835 - a bad year to be transported as a convict!

## History

During a colourful period of the colony's history, the loss of the *Hive* in the largely unsurveyed region south of Jervis Bay caused excitement in Sydney. The valuable cargo of £10 000 of gold coin for the Commissariat was successfully recovered by rescue vessels, although salvage operations led to the loss of the schooner *Blackbird* at the site in 1836. Local identities, including Aboriginal people from Wreck Bay and Alexander Berry (after whom Berry's Bay in Sydney is named), aided the rescue of over 300 people on board which included passengers, soldiers from the **28th Regiment**, crew and 250 male Irish convicts. The wreck event contributed to the naming of the bight Wreck Bay, a name that was to become well earned, as 14 other ships foundered there.

Built in the United Kingdom at Deptford Kent in 1820, the *Hive* was ship rigged and had two decks, a square stern and quarter galleries. The vessel was 120 feet (36.58 metres) in length, 480 tons gross, and decorated with a female bust figurehead. On the *Hive's* first voyage to Australia in 1834 there were 250 male prisoners.

## The shipwreck

After picking up convicts at Dublin then Cork in Ireland, the *Hive* departed for Australia on 24 August 1835. The vessel ran aground on a sandy beach just short of Sydney during the night of Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 1835. There appeared to be a dispute amongst the officers regarding sailing directions set for the night, the captain finally ending the debate by exclaiming, "One person is sufficient to navigate the ship!". Unfortunately he was soon to be proven wrong.

The only loss of life occurred when the boatswain was tragically drowned in the surf whilst trying to save a young crew member in difficulties. The young man himself washed ashore safely. Once word of the wreck reached Sydney, rescue ships were sent to pick up the remaining passengers, crew and convicts as well as the ship's cargo. The *Hive* soon became a total wreck.

The *Hive* ran aground on the central part of Bherwerre Beach, Wreck Bay. Located under approximately two metres of sand and three metres of water, the buried hull was detected by Heritage Office Maritime Archaeologists in 1994 using a magnetometer loaned from ADI Ltd.

## The importance of the *Hive*

The *Hive* wreck site is representative of the period of convict transportation to Australia, and the interaction between survivors of shipwrecks and Aborigines. The ship, its cargo, crew, military personnel and convicts were part of the later period of highly organised convict transportation. It survives as a rare example of a vessel engaged in this trade. The hull is the main surviving artefact and has the potential to provide information about the construction and fitting of one of His Majesty's prison ships during this period.

## Missing Newspaper Cuttings

These have now been located and we could do with some help in sorting and filing them into their categories so they can be easily located for research purposes.

## To all the Volunteers (present and future)

If you have already volunteered (or intend to) to help the secretary with photocopying, filing, etc. please ring when you have a little spare time to see if there is anything needing attention at the time.

Thanks are extended to those who have already given time (I won't mention names in case I miss one) but it has certainly accomplished much and lightened the load on the secretary. My sincere thanks to you all.

## Yaralla Open Day, 28/4/02

If you haven't contacted the secretary yet to offer help with Devonshire Teas or Display and Souvenirs, please do so now so that we can prepared rosters. Even if you can only give an hour or two on the day it will help share the load for everyone.

## Tour Guides for Yaralla

We need several more guides for both the mansion and grounds tours. This is not hard work, just needs a little knowledge and we have just the book to give you all the information you will need.

If you could offer to conduct a grounds tour on 28th April it would be appreciated as we are a few short this time. However, if you don't feel confident enough to tackle it now, why not come along and walk around with one of our regular guides to get the feel of it. It can be an enjoyable and rewarding time.

## Membership Fees

Our costs have increased over the years, but our membership fees have remained the same (except for the GST) since we began in April 1994 and we feel it is time to look towards some small increase.

Two major costs we are faced with are insurance for Public Risk and Personal Accident (Voluntary Workers) and the postage for our monthly newsletter.

Insurance costs (for both) for the forthcoming year come to \$566.50 and postage for "Nurungi" can be up to \$700.00 for the year – all this to be shared amongst 180 members. This works out to be about \$7.00 per member.

Please give the matter of a fee increase some thought and let us have your opinions – email, telephone, short note, or come to a meeting.

## Nurungi Postage

One way we can cut down on our postage costs is to have members hand deliver copies. Would you be prepared to deliver about 10 newsletters a month around your home area to help us out?

## Invitation

Parramatta and District Historical Society invites our members to attend the **15th Annual James Jervis Memorial Lecture** on Saturday, 11th May at 2:00 p.m.

tect and author, Mr. Clive Lucas, OBE, and his subject "*The Restoration of Old Government House*".

Clive Lucas has been involved in numerous organisations concerned with building conservation. He instigated the idea of an Historic Houses Trust in NSW and was Chairman 1988-92. He has been Councillor, Vice-President and member of the board of National Trust (NSW).

He has been awarded the National RAI A Lachlan Macquarie Award for restoration six times and his firm has received six Greenway Awards and 24 merit awards for restoration work carried out in NSW and Tasmania. Clive Lucas was awarded the OBE for services to architecture in 1977.

The lecture is free and will be followed by afternoon tea. Bookings essential for catering purposes, 9686-6861.

If you are attending please ring secretary for details and map showing location.

## Yaralla Committee

**There will be NO MEETING on 4th April.**

## Calendars *(continued)*

### The Month of February

Originally, the year started on 1<sup>st</sup> March and consisted of only 304 days or 10 months (Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December). These 304 days were followed by an unnamed and unnumbered winter period. The Roman King Numa Pompilius (c. 715-673 B.C.E., although his historicity is disputed) allegedly introduced February and January (in that order) between December and March, increasing the length of the year to 354 or 355 days. In 450 B.C.

### The Islamic Calendar

The Islamic calendar is a purely lunar calendar in which months correspond to the lunar phase cycle. As a result, the cycle of twelve lunar months regresses through the

seasons over a period of about 33 years. For religious purposes, Muslims begin the months with the first visibility of the lunar crescent after conjunction. For civil purposes a tabulated calendar that approximates the lunar phase cycle is often used.

The seven-day week is observed with each day beginning at sunset. Weekdays are specified by number, with day 1 beginning at sunset on Saturday and ending at sunset on Sunday. Day 6, which is called Jum'a, is the day for congregational prayers. Unlike the Sabbath days of the Christians and Jews, however, Jum'a is not a day of rest. Jum'a begins at sunset on Thursday and ends at sunset on Friday.

### **The Hebrew Calendar**

As it exists today, the Hebrew calendar is a lunisolar calendar that is based on calculation rather than observation. This calendar is the official calendar of Israel and is the liturgical calendar of the Jewish faith.

In principle the beginning of each month is determined by a tabular New Moon (*molad*) that is based on an adopted mean value of the lunation cycle. To ensure that religious festivals occur in appropriate seasons, months are intercalated according to the Metonic cycle, in which 235 lunations occur in nineteen years.

By tradition, days of the week are designated by number, with only the seventh day, Sabbath, having a specific name. Days are reckoned from sunset to sunset, so that day 1 begins at sunset on Saturday and ends at sunset on Sunday. The Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday.

### **The Chinese Calendar**

The Chinese calendar is a lunisolar calendar based on calculations of the positions of the Sun and Moon. Months of 29 or 30 days begin on days of astronomical New Moons, with an intercalary month being added every two or three years. Since the calendar is based on the true positions of the Sun and Moon, the accuracy of the calendar depends on the ac-

curacy of the astronomical theories and calculations.

Although the Gregorian calendar is used in the Peoples' Republic of China for administrative purposes, the traditional Chinese calendar is used for setting traditional festivals and for timing agricultural activities in the countryside. The Chinese calendar is also used by Chinese communities around the world.

### **Diary dates:**

*Thursday, 4th April – NO Yaralla Committee Meeting*

*Wednesday, 10th April – Ken Hall, "Queens Square and Surrounding Buildings"*

*Wednesday, 24th April – Executive Meeting*

*Sunday, 28th April – Yaralla Open Day*

*Thursday, 2nd May – Yaralla Committee*

*Wednesday, 8th May - Bill Barlow, "Marco Polo & The Silk Road"*

*Wednesday, 22nd May - Executive Meeting*

*Thursday, 6th June - Yaralla Committee*

*Wednesday, 12th June - representative from the local Lapidary Club*

*Wednesday, 26th June - Executive Meeting*

*Thursday, 4th July - Yaralla Committee*

*Sunday, 14th July - DAYTIME MEETING, 2:00 pm - Robyn Hawes, "Rookwood"*

***Please note the dates on your calendar or diary NOW so you won't forget. Members welcome at all meetings.***