



“Nurungi”

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY
email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au 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. 75

May 2002

Next Meeting

Wed 8th May – Petty Officer Leon Nichols, HMAS Hobart (decommissioned, after 3 months patrolling in Antarctic Waters. Spectacular photographs of the history of the Hobart, Antarctica, Gulf War, Bi-Centenary and Olympics. This should be a most interesting talk so please come along and bring any friends.

Please note change of speaker. Because Petty Officer Nichols was only available during this time Bill Barlow has kindly agreed to postpone his talk until a future date.

Future Meetings

Wed. 12th June – a lady 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 and time for July meeting.*

Anzac History

Rising Sun – The Badge of Distinction

The design of the famous Rising Sun Badge worn by Australian soldiers was inspired by a brace of bayonets mounted on a plaque on the office wall of General Sir Edward Hutton. Simple enough but as with most Australian icons, the scenario is far more involved than it first seems.

The bayonet shield was the brainchild of Major Joseph Maria Gordon. Born in Spain, he served in the British Army until ill health terminated his career. However his condition improved and he gained a permanent position as Commander of Fort Glenville, a small defence installation assigned to guard the sea approaches to Adelaide.

It was there that he originated the trophy as ‘a meaningful symbol of defence’. He often referred to it as the ‘rising sun’ and took it with him on lecture tours. The trophy was actually con-

structed by Commander William Creswell, Commandant of the Naval Forces of South Australia which at that time comprised one vessel, a small cruiser called *Protector*.

In 1889 Gordon, by now a Colonel, went to the South African war and while there he renewed acquaintance with a Major General Hutton, a former ADC to Queen Victoria. The two had met about five years earlier, while Hutton was re-organising the military forces of NSW. Gordon gave the trophy to Hutton as a personal gift.

At the turn of the century Hutton was appointed Commander in Chief of Australian forces and was confronted with the problem of designing a badge for Australian forces in South Africa – part of the problem was that the British troops wore slouch hats also and something was needed to make it distinctively Australian.

While studying sketches submitted by a Melbourne die sinker, during the badge development, he refused to consider designs featuring Australian flora or fauna – wanting something with a look of martial purpose.

“Why not something like that?” he asked, pointing to the bayonet trophy of arms which was fastened to the wall over his office door – Room 52A, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. Thus it was that the digger got his now familiar Sun Badge which has gone through many evolutionary changes over the decades, albeit extremely subtle. The irony is that it is associated with the rising sun and not bayonets.

For many years the original trophy which inspired the Rising Sun badge was relegated to a remote corner of a drill hall at HMAS Cerberus, the naval training depot at Flinders, Victoria. It was put into store, but in 1967 it was refurbished and given pride of place on public view at the main entrance to Russell Hill Defence Headquarters in Canberra.

“Remember Traditions”

The Dawn Parade Began Out West

The Dawn Service on Anzac Day has become a solemn Australian tradition. Its story is buried, as it were, in a small cemetery carved

out of the bush some kilometres outside the northern Queensland town of Herberton.

One grave stands out by its simplicity. It is covered by a protective whitewashed concrete slab with a cement cross at its top end. No epitaph recalls even the name of the deceased. The inscription on the cross is a mere two words: *“A Priest”*.

No one could identify this grave as that of the dedicated clergyman who created the Dawn Service. A marker placed next to it in more recent times reads:

“Adjacent to, and on the right of this marker lies the grave of the late Rev. Arthur Ernest White, a Church of England clergyman and Padre, 44th Bn First AIF.”

At dawn on 25th April, 1923 on Mt. Clarence, overlooking King George Sound, Albany, WA, Rev. White, with some 20 men with him, silently watched a wreath floating out to sea. He then quietly recited the words, *“As the sun rises and goeth down we will remember them”*. All were deeply moved and the news of the ceremony soon spread.

“Albany”, Rev. White is quoted to have said, “was the last sight of land these Anzac troops saw after leaving Australian shores and some of them never returned. We should hold a service (here) at the first light of dawn each Anzac Day to commemorate them.”

And that is how, on Anzac Day 1923, he held the First Dawn Service.

“Remember Traditions”

The booklet from which these two items were taken . . . “is designed to explain some of the ceremonies and symbols Australia uses to honour those responsible for today’s peace and freedom and the unique way of life Australians call their own.” It is full of interesting information and can be purchased from Remember Publications, (02) 9642-6903.

Sydney by Ferry

Exhibition at the Museum of Sydney on the site of first Government House - 12th April to 4th August, 2002

“The Harbour creeps between the thousand inlets like a series of grand canals, and across

them glide the gondolas, the Sydney ferry-boats . . .”

Sydney by Ferry will trace the journeys and the destinations of Sydney's ferries in their heyday - from the 1890s to the 1930s. In the days before the Harbour Bridge and the motor car, commuters took their regular seats on boats such as the *Wallaby* and the *Lady Hampden*, and swarmed into Circular Quay; reversing the process at 5 pm. Schoolboys peered curiously into engine rooms, while ladies returning from an afternoon's shopping retired to the ladies' saloon. On weekends the 'great picnic trade' ferried Sydney's multitudes - not just to Manly, but to the 'pleasure resorts' at Cremorne, Taronga Zoo, Lane Cove and Cabarita.

From the northern and southern shores of the harbour, to the upper reaches of the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, *Sydney by Ferry* will highlight Sydney's forgotten pleasure destinations - such as Athol Gardens, Correy's Gardens, the Avenue Pleasure Grounds and Fairyland. The exhibition will also take visitors on a visual journey of harbour landmarks (past and present). Through beautiful photography and painting, ferry models and ephemera, *Sydney by Ferry* will tell a wonderful story of the ferries and harbour journeys that have inspired painters, poets and Sydneysiders alike.

This is a fantastic exhibition to which our society has contributed photographs and is well worth a visit.

Roseanna Abrahams . . .

was born in Newgate Gaol on 18 March 1787 some eight months after her mother Esther Abrahams, committed the felony for which she was transported, with Roseanna, to NSW. Roseanna must have been a sturdy baby for in those days of high infant mortality, Newgate Gaol provided one of the least sanitary environments for childbirth in London.

After Roseanna's arrival with her mother on board the *Lady Penhryn* under the protection of Lieutenant George Johnston, she was rationed from the public store as 'Esther Abrahams convict child' from February to

November 1788. After that nothing is known of her existence until her marriage in 1805 to Isaac Nichols. It is clear, however, that by this time, she was fully accepted by her mother's family.

Roseanna had three sons by the widower Isaac Nichols, the emancipist licensee of The Jolly Roger, overseer of convicts under both Governor Hunter and George Johnston (her stepfather), and a landowner of considerable holdings. An entrepreneur as well, Nichols engaged in ship-building and coastal trading, and in 1809 was appointed superintendent of public works and assistant to the Naval officer. This led, in 1810, to his appointment as first postmaster.

By then, the Nichols were living in their new house in High Street, The Rocks, scene in July 1811 of the annual Bachelor's Ball. The *Sydney Gazette* reported that 'His Excellency the Governor was pleased to express much satisfaction at the conveniences the house afforded, and as the proprietor had declared a willingness to devote it to the public accommodation, His Excellency was himself pleased to honour it with the appellation of the *Sydney Hotel*'.

In November 1814, Roseanna and her husband were witnesses at the wedding of her mother, Esther, to George Johnston. After Nichols died, five years later, Roseanna married James Stewart on 13 August 1820, with Blanche Johnston, her half-sister, as a witness. Roseanna's children of her first marriage subsequently lived for varying periods with the Johnstons at Annandale.

Roseanna died on 11 April 1837, aged 49, and was buried with Isaac Nichols in the family vault at Rookwood.

Yaralla Open Day

As always, this was an outstanding success. It seems to be getting bigger each year. This time we had to turn away over 100 callers looking for bookings as we were completely booked out. In fact, 3 days after the event the secretary had a call from someone wanting to book in for the next one so she wouldn't

miss out.

However, **we need more guide to take the tours through the mansion and the grounds.** This isn't difficult and we have a book which gives you all the information you will need. Why not contact the secretary now and put your name down so you'll be ready for the next open day. We'll even give you a private run-through with one of our regular guides just to build your confidence if this will help you.

Calling our Volunteers

If you put your name down to help with newspaper cuttings, filing, etc. now is the time to come forward. Newspapers are ready and waiting for you - and the filing never seems to go away. So, give us a call now, please!!

Membership Fees

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 into some small increase.

Two major costs we are faced with are insurance for Public Risk (which is compulsory) and Personal Accident (Voluntary Workers) as well as postage for our monthly newsletter.

Insurance costs (for both) for the forthcoming year are \$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, per year.

The fees proposed at our last general meeting are:

Single Membership	16.50
Single Membership for Students & Pensioners	8.80
Family Membership	27.50
Family Membership, Pensioner ...	13.20
Group Membership	27.50
(all GST inclusive)	

This matter will be discussed at our meeting on 8th May and a decision made affecting fees for 2002-2003. If you have any com-

ments on this please come along to the meeting or contact the secretary beforehand.

Nurungi Postage

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

Please contact the secretary as soon as possible and let her know the area you can cover

*"If at first you don't succeed -
skydiving is not for you."*

Diary dates:

- ☛ *Wednesday, 8th May – Petty Officer Leon Nichols, HMAS Hobart (decommissioned) - after 3 months patrolling in Antarctic waters. Bringing photographs of the history of the Hobart, Antarctica, Gulf War, Bi-Centenary and the Olympics.*
- ☛ *Wednesday, 22nd May –Executive Meeting (combined with Walker Estates/Yaralla Committees.*
- ☛ *Wednesday, 12th June - a representative from the local Lapidary Club (full details later)*
- ☛ *Wednesday, 26th June -Executive Meeting*
- ☛ *Sunday, 14th July, at 2:00 pm - Robyn Hawes from The Friends of Rookwood, speaking on her favourite subject, Rookwood Cemetery.*
- ☛ *Wednesday, 24th July, Executive Meeting.*
- ☛ *Wednesday, 14th August - Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers.*