



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

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MEETINGS

General Meetings

2nd Wednesday of month
at 7:30 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre
(except July)

Executive Meetings

4th Wednesday of month
at 7:45 pm in the
Concord Citizens' Centre

Committee Meetings

As arranged
Contact Chairpersons
for details

Museum

Fred Stansfield, 9743-1866

Walker Estates

First Thursday each month
(please contact to confirm)
Errol Grace, 9743-4301

Heritage

Bill Barlow, 9743-3662

Oral History

Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

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**CONCORD
HERITAGEMUSEUM**
5 Wellbank Street

Open 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesday & Saturday

Rationing during World War II

During World War II, clothing, butter, tea, sugar and petrol were rationed in Australia.

Limits placed on newsprint, in May of 1940, heralded the start of World War II rationing. Newspaper had to bring out smaller papers and, for many, it meant the end of the evening paper.

By the end of 1940, petrol was also rationed. The rationing of petrol lasted until June 1949, when the Chifley government was defeated by the High Court. Chifley then appealed to the States to introduce their own system of petrol rationing.

In 1942, the Rationing Commission was established and ration books were issued to all Australians for clothing, tea and sugar.

Australians were given a number of coupons and each time they made a clothing purchase, they had to hand over a certain number of coupons. Expectant mothers, who had concerns over whether they would have enough coupons to clothe their new child, could apply for an additional 150 coupons on supply of a medical certificate. Fifteen prohibitions were placed on womens' clothing. No evening wear, evening cloaks or dinner gowns were allowed. Dry cleaning shops were prohibited from cleaning such garments.

John Dedman, the war organiser of industry, issues a special Dedman suit in 1942, which did away with vests, double-breasted fronts and buttons on sleeves and cuffs. He was photographed wearing the suit, but it did not have wide appeal.

Tea was rationing in July of 1942. Cafes faced the problem of only being able to give their patrons one cup of tea. Sugar joined the list of items in August. Initially, Australians were allowed 2 lbs of sugar, but by 1944 this was changed to 1 lb. Special arrangements were allowed for housewives that preserved jam. The reason given, by Prime Minister Curtin, for rationing sugar was that it was a "necessary insurance measure" enabling Australian to fulfil obligations to Empire countries dependant on Australia for sugar.

In June of 1943, butter was rationed to ½ lb per person. The reason was to increase butter supplies to Britain. Again, this was better than the rations for other countries. In Britain, people received 2 oz per person and in the United States, the ration was 4 oz.

Linen goods were include in the clothing rations at the same time. All Australians received 56 new coupons. The number of coupons required, varied for each item. Double bed sheets required 25 to 36 coupons. Bath towels required three.

There was much controversy between government and butchers in 1944, when



Bulletin Board

Sunday, 14th July at 2:00 p.m.:
Robyn Hawes, "The History & Heritage of Rookwood Cemetery."

Please note that this is our daytime meeting, still at the Concord Senior Citizens' Centre, which will start at 2:00 pm with a short business sessions, to be followed by our guest speaker and a light afternoon tea.

Robyn is a fascinating speaker so please let your friends and neighbours know and invite them along to hear her and join us for afternoon tea.

Visitors are always welcome.

If there is enough interest following Robyn's talk we will try to arrange a tour of Rookwood.

Wednesday, 14th August - Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.

At this meeting all positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called to fill them ALL. If you would like to become part of the Executive, please let the secretary have your nomination prior to the meeting.

Just a Reminder: Membership fees and due and payable prior to this meeting. Please assist by paying yours as soon as possible.

meat rationing was introduced. The Minister for Trade and Customs, Senator Keane, accused the Master Butchers' Association of engineering a plot against the meat rationing plan. The amount of meat allowed for each person, was about 1 ½ lbs of high quality meat or 4 lbs of lower quality meat. It did not include items like canned meat, cooked meat, small goods, poultry, rabbits, bacon or offal. Meat rationing continued until 1948.

The Black Market was one way of getting around the rations. Another way was swapping rations. For instance, a family who lived in the city may swap their clothing ration for the butter ration of a family that lived in the country.

The effects of rationing were more of inconvenience than anything else. By today's health standards, the rations of butter and sugar were more than adequate. None of the items rationed would have had any negative effect on people's health. The rationed amounts were also quite generous compared to other countries.

Timeline

- 28 May 1940 - rationing of newsprint introduced
- 1 October 1940 - petrol rationing introduced
- 13 June 1942 - rationing books introduced – clothing, tea and sugar
- 6 June 1943 - butter and household linen rationed
- 17 June 1944 - meat rationing introduced

We would like to thank the author, Liz Palmer for allowing us to print this article and look forward to more in the future. Ed.

Positions Vacant

Now that we have received the licence agreement for use of the carriagehouse at Yaralla for our permanent display we need some carpenter/handyman (or woman)/painter help to do work building shelves, sanding and painting tables, etc. for the display.

Can you assist us with this? If so the secretary would like to hear from you ASAP on 9744-8528.

A little further down the track we would possibly be looking at erecting some part of the old Indian Room in the carriagehouse as well.

Our Annie's Magnificent Milestone

On 20th June Anne celebrated her 100th birthday in the presence of over 70 family and friends at the Peninsular Village where she lives. The staff had decorated the recreation room with masses of coloured balloons and presented her with a beautiful bowl of 100 carnations as well as arranging a magnificent buffet luncheon.



When the General Manager of the facility spoke on behalf of the residents and staff she commented that although they have had other residents celebrate their 100th birthday, this is the first occasion when the resident was still living independently in the hostel section and not as a patient in the nursing home.

Among the many cards and messages from family and friends there were also congratulatory wishes from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor General of Australia, The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Robertson, the NSW State Governor, the NSW Premier, the Leaders of the Opposition in the NSW Upper and Lower Houses and the Member for Peats



Anne has sent a letter to thank all her friends for their messages of congratulation and continuing good health. She says . . .

"I had a wonderful day and I feel very humble that I have achieved this landmark. The day was an exciting one and I have been very touched by the concerns of all who made the day so memorable. Thank you everyone for the friendship and care that you have extended to me.

The wonderful flowers that now decorate my room and the beautiful cards that I have received will remain in my thoughts and remind me of your love and friendship.

The thrill of receiving the special message and photograph from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, was something I had always hoped would occur and now it will be one of my treasures.

Love and affection to everyone,, Annie E. Leggett

For those who didn't have the privilege of knowing Annie -

Anne had been a florist for most of her life and only withdrew from active work with her beloved flowers about two years ago. She was born in Mortlake in Sydney in 1902 and with her twin brother, Edward, was the last of seven children of Samuel and Jessie Lee. Her father was a nurseryman and florist and she was his constant companion from childhood.

Samuel was a member of Concord Municipal Council and served as Mayor for two terms in 1923-1924. During this period she acted as the Mayoress as her mother was too shy to accompany Samuel to official engagements.

She married Ernest Henry Leggett in 1927 in her much loved Concord. Their two sons, Donald and Eric, were small children when the despair of the Great Depression occurred.

It was not until WWII was commencing that Anne and Ern were able to build next to her parents in Wellbank Street, Concord. She was still undertaking floral work and "her brides" as they were collectively known, were dominant in the congratulatory messages that have poured in for her birthday. She lost Ern in 1967, but stayed on in her home at Concord until 1994 when she decided, at the age of 92, that she would like to be closer to her sons. She has been a resident of the Hostel section of the Peninsular Village since that time.



DID YOU KNOW . . .

While the spoon dates back some 20,000 years, the fork wasn't regarded as civil until less than 200 years ago.

Forks were invented in the 11th century, but for centuries the clergy condemned their use, arguing that only human fingers, created by God, were worthy to touch His bounty. Also, use of the fork - especially by a man - was considered effeminate.

Finally, in the 18th century the aristocracy started eating with forks on separate place settings to distinguish themselves from the lower classes, who would still share bowls and glasses.

Horizontal Sundial - Bicentennial Park, Homebush

A large sundial in Sydney which can be seen at close quarters by many people is located in the Bicentennial Park at Homebush, set up to commemorate the 200th anniversary of British settlement in Australia.

The top end of the 8m long, square cross-section steel gnomon of this sundial is used as a nodus point to indicate the date, with solstice and equinox date lines marked out on the terrazzo horizontal dial plate which is 30 metres across.

This sundial is on the site of one of the sportsfields used during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

The playwright and poet Titus Maccius Plautus (250-185 BC) produced the following verse which demonstrates just how common sundials had become in Rome during his lifetime (The English translation given here is taken from Mayal and Mayal 1973):

"The gods confound the man who first found out

*How to distinguish hours! Confound him, too,
Who in this place set up a sun-dial,
To cut and hack my days so wretchedly
Into small portions. When I was a boy
My belly was my sun-dial; one more sure,
Truer, and more exact than any of them.
This dial told me when 'twas proper time
To go to dinner, when I had aught to eat.
But now-a-days, why, even when I have,
I can't fall-to, unless the sun give leave.
The town's so full of these confounded dials,
The greatest part of its inhabitants,
Shrunk up with hunger, creep along the
streets."*

(This item is taken from the book "Sundials in Australia" by John Ward & Margaret Folkard and reprinted with permission.)

If you would like to see more interesting facts about sundials, visit the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulturist site at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/sundial2.htm. Or you can purchase the book from the authors (details on site) for \$20.00 + \$3 postage)



Fig. 9. Horizontal sundial in Bicentennial Park, Homebush, NSW

Back to Basics at the LPI

Are you researching the history of your house or your locality? Do you know the kind of information held at the Land and Property Information offices, better known to many as the LTO?

Do you want to learn how to research at the LPI? Then the Royal Australian Historical Society is holding a workshop to show you how.

Historical Officers Peter Chadwick and Stephen Barlow will run this workshop and participants will be invited to go on a tour of the LPI in the week following the workshop.

Information on this tour will be available at the workshop.

Date: Saturday, 13th July, 2002 Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Venue: History House Auditorium, Ground Floor, 133 Macquarie Street

Cost: \$16.50 members or \$33.00 for 3 members of an affiliated Society (if you are interested phone the secretary she will let you know if we can get a group of 3 together)

Lunch: \$5.50 per person

Bookings: Essential by phone 9247-8001 or email to history@rahs.org.au.

On This Day – 14th July

1789 — Citizens of Paris storm and capture the Bastille prison and release prisoners, marking start of the French Revolution.

1792 — The Home Secretary authorises Phillip to make land grants to civil and military officers.

1814 — Macquarie authorises William Cox to build a road across the Blue Mountains along the Blaxland-Evans track.

1850 — The first public demonstration of ice made by refrigeration.

1867 — Explosives manufacturer Alfred Nobel first demonstrates his invention, dynamite, at Merstham Quarry in Redhill, Surrey.

1954 — **Women's Weekly Girls Team drive in the Redex Round Australia Reliability Trial.**

1972 — **A National Aboriginal Day is established.**

1982 — US: Maryland Poison Control Center reports 79 people have mistaken their free mailbox samples of the lemon-scented dishwashing liquid Sunlight for lemon juice. Says a Lever Brothers spokesman, "Any kind of cleaning product we introduce has a certain amount of ingestion."

1992 — **Navy helicopters and volunteers rescue 44 beached whales in Sydney.**

1997 — Four Australian athletes die and more than 70 are injured after a temporary bridge collapses during opening ceremonies for the Maccabiah Games near Tel Aviv, Israel, pitching them into the heavily-polluted Yarkon River.

From the Secretary's Desk

NEWSLETTER: Now that we have our own photocopying machine and can produce our own newsletter we have decided to change the format. This will allow us a little more space to bring you interesting articles and photographs.

Please let us have your comments or suggestions.

ARTICLES WANTED: We always need articles and would welcome your contributions - anything you think may be of interest, or an interesting web site you have visited.

Articles can be about someone on your family tree, letters from the past, an historical building, research, etc. There are endless possibilities for future articles.

If you don't feel confident enough to write the article just give us the details and one of our members would be willing to put it into order.

Remember, this is YOUR magazine!

LIBRARY: Did you know that we have quite an extensive library at the museum with books covering a multitude of subjects, historical and otherwise.

Members are welcome to borrow these books.

The latest addition is *The Rockdale & Enfield Lines of the Sydney Tramway System*. This has quite extensive covering of the Concord line and is most interesting.

MUSEUM ROSTERS: We desperately need volunteers to go on the Wednesday roster at the museum. It only involves a couple of yours (2 to 4) on the Wednesday and more people we can get on the roster the less call there would be on your time.

Currently we only have four volunteers for this day and we would like to have at least four more.

It's not hard work and you don't need to have any great knowledge - in fact it can be a quite peaceful way to spend a couple of hours.

Worth Quoting!

In the latest issue of Readers Digest a lady wrote to "You Said It", commenting on a previous article about a burns victim in Concord Hospital. She wrote . . .

"I identified closely with the article, having been admitted to the Concord Burns Unit in Sydney in August 1994 with burns to 30 per cent of my body. I know that Donna Carson was right to bring thoughts of the outside world to Gabriella. I will never forget how wonderful I felt when, from a window in the patients' hostel, I spotted two horses in a far-off paddock."

Walker Estates Committee - 1/8/02

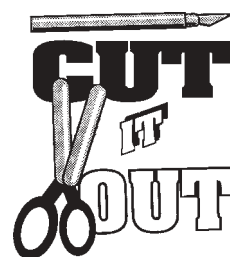
There will be NO MEETING in July but the next one on 1st August will be a most important one.

We want to look at ways the estate can become self supporting, particularly in restoration and preservation of the gardens and this will be a "think tank" meeting to look at any and all options, no matter how way out or different they may be.

So, if you are interested in the preservation of the Yaralla Estate you are welcome to attend this meeting to add your comments and suggestions.

Please make a note in your diary **NOW** as this will be a very important meeting and we want your help. We meet in the staff room at North Strathfield Primary School, Cnr. Concord Road and Correys Avenue (entrance through gate in Correy's Avenue) at 8:00 p.m.

See you there!!



Calling all volunteers who offered to help organising cuttings from old newspapers. **Now is the time for all good people to come to the**

aid of the Society.

Work can be done in your home or with a small group at the secretary's home, or while you are on duty at the museum.

Just call and make arrangements.

This can be quite an interesting exercise as you never know what snippets you come across while perusing the old newspapers.

Before you hear our July guest speaker, why not check out www.goth.org.au/5/rookwood/html

Got a couple of hours to spare once a month . . . ?

then why not nominate yourself to become part of our Executive Committee. We have several vacancies, particularly for someone to take care of our archives and the secretary could do with one or two assistants to ease the work load, or just become a member. We need some new blood and new ideas, and we need you to supply it. **Won't you offer?**



"There are two kinds of statistics, the kind you look up and the kind you make up." — Rex Stout, American author (1886-1975).

Diary dates:

- ☛ Thursday, 4th July - NO WALKER ESTATES 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.
- ☛ Thursday, 1st August - Walker Estates Committee - 8:00 pm at Strathfield North Public School
- ☛ Wednesday, 14th August - Annual General Meeting and Election of Office Bearers.
- ☛ Wednesday, 28th August - Executive Meeting