



"Nurungi"

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: chs@concordheritage.asn.au

www.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)
Concord Bowling Club
Clermont Ave, North Strathfield
Errol Grace, 9743-4301

Heritage

Bill Barlow, 9743-3662

Oral History

Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

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**CONCORD
HERITAGE MUSEUM**
5 Wellbank Street

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

Yaralla Update

Members know of our Society's ongoing interest in the preservation of this extraordinary Estate. There are several projects currently in progress within its grounds which the keen observer will be aware of. For those of you who have not had an opportunity to visit the Estate recently here is an update.

Four Winds Fountain

A once beautiful feature of the estate gardens, this structure fell victim to vandalism and neglect over many years. Thanks to a generous bequest by the late Liane Poulton your society is now overseeing a project to bring about its full restoration. All remaining pieces of the upper sections of the fountain have been removed and we are pleased to report that a full reconstruction of this superstructure has now been completed by Crawford's Castings in South Strathfield. This has been achieved by using the remains of the original fountain and recreating the missing or damaged pieces in plaster. They have also done an excellent job of recreating the upper missing dome section of the fountain as they only had one photograph to work from.



The next stage of the process involves the making of a rubber mould from this model. This will then, in turn, be used to create the final structure in a mixture of marble chips and white cement.

The current timetable for completion of the full project is approximately August 2003 and we look forward to seeing this fountain back to full operational condition.

Squash Court.

As reported at previous meetings, and on Yaralla Open Days, we are now directing our attention to the restoration of this, the oldest Squash Court in Australia. We are using money raised at our Open Days to fund the project and, whilst it may seem at first glance to be relatively straightforward, it will be a complex and daunting task for a society of our size to complete.



Nevertheless, work has commenced on Stage 1, which is the general waterproofing of the building. This includes repairs to roof tiles, ridge capping, flashing, timber gables, replacement of rotted eaves lining boards, guttering, bird proofing, re-glazing of the high-set windows and painting of gables, eaves and high windows.

It is a joy to observe the architectural detail and craftsmanship that has been used in its construction which is, of course, typical of every building on this Estate.

Magnolia Cottage.

This cottage, originally the residence of the estate engineer, has been derelict and boarded up for many years. It is presently



Bulletin Board

June 11 - Noel Cruzs, "Titanic"

July 13 - to be advised

August 13 - Annual General Meeting
& Election of Office Bearers

undergoing restoration and extending in order to accommodate "Kalparin", an aged and extended care unit which is to be relocated from its present site in the grounds of Concord General Hospital. This is a Department of Health project and has the approval of the Heritage Council of Australia. The Unit provides day programmes for the aged, including dementia patients, and will therefore be fenced to provide the necessary security for this type of facility.



As you can see, the Walker Estates Committee is very active in the restoration/preservation of the historic Yaralla Estate. If you'd like to take an active part in this sub-committee then come along to our regular meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month at the Concord Bowling Club, commencing 8:00 p.m. Everyone welcome

Memories of Concord

(A letter from an old Concord resident written in 2000)

Prior to moving to the country I lived in Concord from 1918 to 1999 having come from Victoria at the age of 2 to live in Frederick Street. In 1924 my parents built a home in Cormiston Avenue. In 1926 dad started a Real Estate business in Majors Bay Road Concord.

At the age of 16 I left school but continued my studies at business college and started with dad in real estate.

Concord was really busy in the building industry. The depression took a lot of the cream. Interesting times, war years.

Concord was, to me and my family, a great suburb. For quite a few years I played local cricket and soccer, both with Concord Moths. Later I played cricket with Burwood United.

When Massey Park was being started several local business folk started a social club, Riverside Social, which later became Massey Park Golf Club. Those days I was Vice Captain and Auditor.

Wasn't long before the clubhouse was built and the Social was fortunate in being selected to take on as Massey Park Golf club.

In 1960 I became President. Those early years were very successful and we found it necessary to add to the original building. I had some very happy times and still interested, being a life member for over 30 years, I later took on Bowls.

Alwyn (Ben) Jones

Mr. Jones also supplied information of Central Concord shopping centre in the early 1930s.

Grounds Maintenance.

The next six months will hopefully see a significant improvement in the appearance of the grounds as a twelve month contract has been let for general maintenance of lawns and gardens.

Security.

This remains a problem for the estate as continued public access also brings with it a considerable degree of vandalism.

Patrols by Concord Hospital Security are clearly not sufficient and we will endeavour to address this issue in future discussions with Central Sydney Area Health Service

Graham Packett

Group Tours (Yaralla)

We are now receiving bookings from groups wanting to do weekday and week end tours of the grounds, some wanting morning or afternoon tea.

We need to draw up a list of people who can spare some time to help with these - grounds tours, Devonshire teas, or just talking to the people.

If you can help please telephone the secretary.

These all bring in money to help with our restoration work on the estate

Bondi Junction Probus - will be coming on Monday, 30th June from 2:30 pm - bus load of 45 - so we will need two tour guides and some helpers at the display.

Prime Timers will be visiting on Tuesday, 19th August from 12 noon. They will be bringing their own lunch. Only 15 so we'll need one tour guide and people to set up tables and chairs, as well as in the display area.

Fernons Jelly & Custard Manufacturer
Grocery Shop
Shop (later Mowers)
Vacant land (cnr Gallipoli Street)

Majors Bay Road - Western side

CORREY AVENUE
Leica Grocers (corner)
Butchery (Websters)
Vacant land (3)
DAVIDSON AVENUE
Memorial Hall
Houses (2)
TRAFALGAR PARADE
Parry Laundry
Confectionery
Shop
Lending Library
House (Dr McCarthy - Leo)
Sports Store (Endicott)
Liberty Library (Fred Thwaites)
Bike Shop (Dave Wallace) (2)
Cake Shop
Confectionery
Ham & Beef - Buckingham
Fruit & Vegetables - Griffin
Chemist - Simpson
WELLBANK STREET
Grocery Store
Butcher
Fruit & Vegetables - Salt
Fish Shop - Jim Leefat
Hairdresser
Grocer - Hodders
Bank - C.B.A.
Cottage
Doctor's residence
Concord & District Newspaper (Chas Greenlees)
Reay's Dentist - Leo
Mid Brown Tennis Courts - later Post Office
Four cottages
Clyde Flawelle, Plumber (cnr. Little Cormiston Avenue)

Majors Bay Road - Eastern side

Frank Horsefall (Grocer) (Cnr. Brewer Street)
BREWERS STREET
Harry Somers (Foundry), Blacksmith
Weatherboard cottage
Two storey stone houses (105 & 107)
Brick cottage (103)
Brick Cottage (101)
Confectionary Shop (Schroeder)
Bootmaker
Chilcott Butchers (1st generation)
Produce
Dry Cleaner
Baker
Confectionery (Jim)
Ladies' Hairdresser
Library (lending)
Ham & Beef
Jones' Estate Agent (13) (comm.1926)
Shades Shoe Shop
Fruit & Vegetable (Ginn)
Men's Hairdresser (Nick Brown)
Crawford Chemist (upstairs dance hall) (Sunday school)
WELLBANK STREET
Field & Simmons (Estate Agent) - upstairs
Dobson Dentist - back, Billiard Room
Milne Butcher Shop
Warman Grocery
Paper Shop (Gilbert)
Boot Repairs (Hewson)
Fruit & Vegetables (Neville)
Grocer
Hall & Wengate (Haberdashery) (2)
Buttels Grocer
Hassell Confectionery
Picture Theatre (later Ritz Theatre)
JELICOE STREET
Dry Cleaners
Saunders (Claude) Ironmongery
Purcell Car Parts
Purcell Car Repairs (Petrol Pumps)
Foresters Hall
Woodwork Shop

Wangal Tribe

Prior to European settlement the area now known as the City of Canada Bay was occupied by the Wangal clan whose name was derived from the word for their country, wanne meaning 'west'. The Wangal were a clan of the Darug (sometimes spelt Dharug) tribe or language group. They called themselves the Eora, meaning 'the people'.

The Wangal clan's territory is thought to have originally extended from Darling Harbour, around the Balmain Peninsula almost to Parramatta in the west, the Parramatta River formed the northern boundary although it is uncertain how far south their land extended. Goat Island (which they called Me-mel or Memill) opposite Balmain was also part of their land.

First contact was made with local Aboriginals of the Wangal Clan by Captain John Hunter who led an exploration of the Parramatta River. On the 5th of February 1788 while having breakfast he was met by Wangal at the location now referred to as Breakfast Point. The Wangal called the area Booridiow-o-gule.

One of the best known members of the Wangal was Woollarawarre Bennelong who was initially captured in November 1788 along with Colby, of the Cadigal clan, under the instructions of Governor Arthur Phillip so he could learn more about the local Aboriginal people. Although some sources give the impression that Bennelong was a willing collaborator, more recent sources suggest that Bennelong was a far more complex person in his dealings with the British. While he and Phillip formed cordial relations it is nevertheless thought that he probably instigated the spearing of Phillip in 1790 at Manly as a payback for his earlier abduction.

Bennelong was quick to learn English and adopted many British ways. A brick hut was built for him at Tubowgule (believed to mean 'white-clay headland') now known as Bennelong Point, the site of the Sydney Opera House. In 1792 he travelled with Phillip to England where he met King George III, returning to his country in 1795. Bennelong however found himself at variance both with his own people and the British settlers. In 1813 he died as a result of a tribal fight.

Few traces of Aboriginal occupation survive in the Canada Bay area. The Wangal today are remembered by the Wangal Bushland Reserve (Mortlake) and Wangal Place (Five Dock).

Bennelong's name has been perpetuated in numerous street names throughout Sydney and is also the name of a Federal Electorate.

Further information:

The Australian Encyclopaedia Sydney : Australian Geographic, 1996.

Entry for Bennelong vol. 2 pp. 440-441.

Coupe, Sheena *Concord, a centenary history*. Concord, NSW: Council of the Municipality of Concord, 1983. Contains useful information although it incorrectly identifies the local Aboriginals as being part of the Kuringai tribe instead of the Darug.

Guider, Michael *Aboriginal history of Concord Municipality* Author, 1997.

Includes details of surviving remnants of Aboriginal occupation in the Canada Bay area and a short list of Darug words.

Smith, Keith Vincent *Bennelong* Sydney : Kangaroo Press, 2001.

The most recent of several publications on the life of Bennelong.

Turbet, Peter *The Aborigines of the Sydney district before 1788* Sydney : Kangaroo Press, 2001.

Details Aboriginal life and customs in the Sydney region.

Willey, Keith *When the sky fell down* Sydney : Collins, 1979.

Source: www.siwvl.nsw.gov.au/libraries/canadabay/local.html.

This is a quite interesting site which leads off to more interesting sites.

SIWVL (pronounced swivel) stands for Sydney Inner West Virtual Library, a co-operative venture between the libraries of Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Leichhardt and Strathfield Councils. It will extend the services available from these libraries to provide a co-operative virtual branch library, which will never be closed.

While there, check out "Community Information". This gives you a link to the many groups and organisations operating in Concord and surrounding areas. Once in the LINC'S data base you can find information on groups all around Australia.

Convict Records in Australia - new title April 2003

This book is designed to help researchers find and use convict records in Australia. It is arranged alphabetically by category and is fully indexed with diary, place, ship and subject indexes. It has over 70 categories which highlight new records, indexes, re-releases, CD-ROMs and Internet sites along with the standard convict classics. (A4, 97 pages. \$18.00 + \$4 post and pack Australia)

Other titles available: Web sites for Genealogists and How to Find Shipping and Immigration Records in Australia. Contact through www.coraweb.com.au.

The Old Kero Tin

*There was a tin we used to have, in the days of long ago,
And it contained home kerosene to keep our lights aglow,
But when that tin was empty it wasn't thrown away,
We cut the square top out of it and used it every day.*

*With a wire handle on it (and lots of muscle too),
We'd carry water from the well, the weekly wash to do.
Our humble home was kept supplied with water day by day,
With two of these resourceful tins - we had no other way.*

*Dad kept a couple in the shed to hold his tools and gear,
And also in the stables too, to carry stock feed here.
With chopped up cane to feed the stock, we carried them along;
Molasses in another one to feed the milling throng.*

*Then mum would keep one on the stove, with water hot and steaming,
To bath us in the old tin tub and keep us clean and gleaming.
At times she'd boil dad's dirty clothes, there on the kitchen stove.
We kids had one to hold our gear, a regular treasure trove.*

*We cooked our yearly leg of ham in that old 'kero' tin.
We had one on our gatepost to serve as our mail bin.
There was another use we had (and quite essential too),
That tin became a dunny can in our old outback 'loo'.*

*Then finally, all full of holes, when it had had its day
It landed on the rubbish heap and rusted clean away.
And so the humble 'kero' tin was never once abused,
You could say we recycled it (though that word was never used)!*

Did You Know That --

In feudal times a peasant was permitted to collect wood from his master's estate as long as he used only a farming hook or shepherd's crook to gather suitable branches. This was a tiresome job but it did eventually secure a supply of kindling for his fire. Hence the well known expression, "By hook or by crook".

There was a time when the best way to make sure that someone was not carrying a weapon was to take his hands in yours. This action eventually led to the practice of shaking hands as a sign of friendship. Also, when a man takes off his hat on entering a house he is showing that he trusts the inhabitants not to attack him. This custom dates from the days when it was safer to wear tough head-gear in the presence of strangers.

A city dweller was once supposed to have had an easy time compared with the hard life of a countryman. The comfort and amenities of the town "cockered" or cosseted its inhabitants who, for this reason, were known as "cockneys". This term was applied mostly to the citizens of London.

When remedies and cures were sold in great quantities at country fairs, the vendor proclaimed their supposed value in a loud voice. This strident form of advertising was known as "quacking", the term becoming associated with medicine generally. Hence the word "quack" to describe a false medical man, but sometimes used jestingly for a real one.

(Family Tree Magazine)

Some Gems of Wisdom, or Thoughts to Ponder

The greatest cause of accidents is being physically present and mentally absent.

To my deafness I'm accustomed, to my dentures I'm resigned. I can cope with my bifocals, but, my God, I miss my mind.

It is sometimes difficult to be cheerful, but what is the practical use of the alternative.

Conscience is the small, inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking.

Enthusiasm is one of the most precious jewels in the crown of life.

If the middle-aged people could only sell their experience for half what it has cost, they could retire in luxury.

What we learn with pleasure we never forget

Duelling in Sydney

Duelling was far from being uncommon in the old days. There is a record of one of these affairs of honour between Paterson and Macarthur, and the "Herald" of February 18, 1833, reports a duel between a gentleman from the Hunter River district - Hunter's River they always called it in those times - and a member of the legal profession, fought on "The Surry Hills" - at that time always "The Surry Hills".

Robert Lowe (afterwards Lord Sherbrooke), who figured very largely in the public life of Sydney in the 1840s was challenged on different occasions by both Dr. Bland and Alderman Macdermott, but declined to meet either of these fire-eating antagonists, as did Mr. Cowper (afterwards Sir Charles Cowper), who was challenged to a duel by Benjamin Boyd.

The "Herald" on April 8, 1841, reported rumours of duels conducted in the strictest privacy and deplored "these anti-Christian exhibitions".

One of the last that took place in Sydney was that which occurred on September 27, 1851, between Stuart Donaldson (afterwards the first Premier of New South Wales) and the Surveyor-General at the time, Sir Thomas Mitchell. The cause was purely political, and the effect, as usual, harmless.

By a coincidence, the last duel reported as having occurred in the United Kingdom occurred in this year. It took place in Ireland between the Mayor of Sligo and a local lawyer, and "honour was satisfied" without any bloodshed.

From the Secretary's Desk

Rookwood Open Day

If you haven't put your name down to help Rookwood with their big event on Sunday, 19th Oct. please contact me as soon as possible.

Rivendell Open Day - 24/8/03

If you will be available to help on this day please let me know as soon as you can. Time is running out and we need to prepare the rosters.

Help Wanted

We still need volunteers to go through newspapers collecting clippings on Concord, photocopying and then filing them for future reference. It's easy, why not give it a try?

Assistant Secretary

We still desperately need an assistant who can spare some time on a regular basis to learn how the society operates. Preferably someone who knows, or is willing to learn, how to enter information onto the computer.

(Don't let the word "computer" frighten you - it's easy.)

Annual Subscriptions

These are now due - have you paid yours?

Election of Executive

Have you given any thought to nominating to serve on this committee? We meet once a month on the 4th Wednesday and can always use new blood and new ideas.

Dates for your Diary . . .

- ☛ **Thurs. 5th June** - Walker Estates Meeting (usual arrangements)
- ☛ **Wed. 11th June** - General Meeting - Noel Cruzs, "Titanic"
- ☛ **Wed. 25th June** - Executive Meeting
- ☛ **Mon. 30th June** - Bondi Junction Probus visiting Yaralla
- ☛ **Thurs. 3rd July** - Walker Estates Meeting
- ☛ **Sun. 13th July** - Daytime General Meeting - speaker to be advised
- ☛ **Wed. 23rd July** - Executive Meeting
- ☛ **Thurs. 7th August** - Walker Estates Meeting
- ☛ **Wed. 13th August** - Annual General Meeting & Election of Officers
- ☛ **Tues. 19th August** - Prime Timers tour of Yaralla
- ☛ **Sun. 24th August** - Open Day at Rivendell
- ☛ **Wed. 27th August** - Executive Meeting

Please mark these dates on your calendar now so you won't forget.