



"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

Walker Estates Committee

1st Thursday each month
(please contact to confirm)
Concord Bowling Club
Clermont Ave, North Strathfield
Graham Packett, 9743-3007

Other Committees

As arranged
Watch the newsletter

Museum

Fred Stansfield, 9743-1866

Archives/Local History

Kate Skillman, 9706-7479

Heritage

Bill Barlow, 9743-3662

Oral/Family History

Lola Sharp, 8753-0659

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**CONCORD
HERITAGE MUSEUM**
5 Wellbank Street

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

No. 92

November 2003

Legacy and its Founder - 80 years of service

In March 1923 General Sir John Gellibrand and a group of returned servicemen, concerned about the plight of some of their wartime comrades, formed the Remembrance Club in Hobart, Tasmania. It was an immediate success, offering a renewal of the comradeship they had known in war and the opportunity to assist those in need.

In September of that same year John Gellibrand persuaded a similar group to form a club in Melbourne, under the leadership of Captain Stan Savige, and it was this little club that quickly found a purpose beyond that of comradeship and mutual aid; the welfare of the widows and children of those who had given their lives in what was then called The Great War.

Accepting the obligation of service to those families as a legacy bequeathed to them by their comrades who had not survived, and therefore to be discharged as a sacred trust, they named their club **Legacy**. The story of the Legacy family in the 80 years since that first club was formed has been often told and is well known; but what of the man who founded it and devoted so many years of his life in its service?

Stanley George Savige was born to a far-from-affluent family at Morwell, Vic., in 1890. He attended Korumburrah State School but was forced to leave at the age of 12 to help support his family, continuing his education in evening classes. He became a youth leader at Sunday school and was an enthusiastic Boy Scout, quickly taking a leadership role.

In 1915 he enlisted in the AIF and served with distinction in the 24th Battalion at Gallipoli, gaining rapid promotion to commissioned rank. On the Western Front he was promoted to Captain, was Mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action. He returned to Australia as Captain S.G. Savige, DSO, MC with three Mentions in Dispatches.

Continuing his military service in the Citizen Forces, Stan Savige married in 1919, established a successful business and, in 1923, began his long and devoted service to



Stan Savige

Legacy.

By 1939 he had attained the rank of Brigadier and in World War II he served again with distinction as Commander of the 17th Brigade in Libya, Greece and Syria, then in the South West Pacific as Commander of the 3rd Division, New Guinea Force and II Australian Corps, completing his service as Lieutenant General Stanley Savige, CB, DSO, MC, ED.

Immediately after the war he was Co-ordinator of Demobilisation and Dispersal and resumed his active work for Legacy, in which his interest had never flagged. He became a Knight of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 1950.

Legacy's Founder died on 15th May, 1954, survived by one daughter, having lived by his philosophy that "*Life itself is useless without some form of service to the community*" and also having lived to see the Legacy of Service to which he had devoted so much of his own life, enthusiastically accepted by a new generation of Legatees.

(Reprinted from Legacy Torchlight, Spring 2003)

LOST, STOLEN OR STRAYED.

We seem to be missing 10 red check tea towels and a small stepladder from Yaralla.

Also some green lattice pattern tea towels from our meeting nights.

Have you taken them home and forgotten?



Bulletin Board

**November 12 - Joffe, well-known
Cartoonist**

**December 10 - Christmas Barbecue
at Rhodes Rotary Park, 6:00 pm**

No General Meeting in January

Eleanor Frazer (Redchester)

Eleanor was sentenced to seven years transportation with her husband William at Manchester for theft in January 1787. William arrived on Charlotte whilst Eleanor originally embarked on Prince of Wales. In the census it is recorded that she arrived on Charlotte. It is possible that she was the one female convict transferred whilst the Fleet was at Rio on 13th August, 1787.

William appears on the victualling lists as a blacksmith and appeared to be in trouble from the start. In 1789 he was sentenced to work for a month in irons. He died in 1791, quite possibly from alcoholic poisoning!

Eleanor in the meantime, having given birth to two sons John 1789 and Daniel 1791, received a grant of 20 acres at Concord in 1794, soon followed by a further grant in 1795. She appeared diligent in the management

of her land and was assigned up to six convicts as help.

At Concord she formed a relationship with Second Fleeter William Morgan, a former New South Wales Corps soldier. They eventually had five children born of this union. Although living together their farms were kept separate, indeed, it is recorded that in November 1798 she sued Morgan for the wrongful detention of a number of her pigs!

Permanently separating by 1814 she was described as single and living near Sydney. In 1822 Eleanor was living at Concord with her eldest son John Frazer and one of her labourers on a conditional pardon. Thomas Humphries, according to the 1828 census became another man in her life. Quite some lady!

She died at Concord in 18th November, 1840, aged 76 and was buried at Saint Luke's, Liverpool. She is buried with her son John, and the *Australian* newspaper carried the following obituary November 1840.

"At her residence at Concord, on Wednesday the 18th instant Mrs. Eleanor Frazer aged 83 (sic) years. Mrs. Frazer was a First Fleeter, having arrived at the formation of the Colony. Her intellect was unimpaired and she had a perfect recollection of the First Deeds in New South Wales.

Her remains were interred with those of her eldest son, John, who was the second person born in the Colony, in Liverpool Churchyard to which plase(sic) the corpse was followed by a long train of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Eleanor was one of many of the success stories from the First Fleet. She was certainly one of the more independent women who arrived in the Colony.

The above was taken from our FF publication *Where First Fleeters Lie* written by members Joyce Cowell and Rod Best.

(Fellowship of First Fleeters newsletter.)

NOTE: Our member Betty Willison, who passed this article on, is a descendant of Eleanor Frazer)

Stained Glass Window

Ben Pettenon of Concord West is an amateur Stained Glass worker and in his renovated home there are many samples of his work – mostly of the standard style.

But there is one outstanding window which he calls his *Celebration of the Yaralla Estate*.

It took him 12 months to plan and construct this colourful leadlight display over the stairwell. It is composed of approximately 700 intricate pieces of textured glass, which he has painstakingly cut and assembled for over 100 laborious hours in his backyard garden shed.

In the distance the stained glass window depicts the turret of Yaralla mansion and in the foreground the sandstone balustrade, located near the former tennis court and baths on the estate, immersed in lush greenery including ferns, ivy and a variety of roses.

Everyone who visits Yaralla will have enjoyed all these images.

Ever since Ben and his family moved to Concord West seven years ago, they fell in love with the suburb's friendly atmosphere and open parkland space. *"Walking through the Yaralla estate is like walking back in time"*, Ben exclaims. *"Its undulating*

hills, pretty rose gardens, grazing horses and historic architecture gives people opportunities to leave reality behind and alleviate some of the tension today's city life tends to instil in us."

Ben's leadlight artwork represents a reminder that we need to cherish the Yaralla estate and maintain its natural historic beauty, not just to respect the area's history but respect the area's future.

(If you want to see it in colour go to our website and click on Newsletter.)



Hospital Museum

Sydney Hospital, the oldest hospital in Australia, has opened a museum of medical and nursing memorabilia and offers special guided historical tours of the hospital and museum for eight or more people.

The many items of historical interest include the original 1894 board room, the grand entrance, marble floor, gargoyles, wooden staircase, stained glass windows, the Chapel of St Luke the Physician, the memorial fountain in the scenic courtyard and the historic 1869 Nightingale Wing.

Guided tour participants learn much about the hospital's long history since the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788, and its links with some of the Colony's earliest notable figures, including Governor Macquarie, Lucy Osburn (who arrived with a brief from Florence Nightingale to begin the Colony's first school of nursing) and Sir Henry Parkes.

The new museum, located in the Nightingale Wing, contains an exciting collection of rare memorabilia date from 1860. Highlights include some of Florence Nightingale's letters, her sewing basket from the Crimean War, Lucy Osburn's original Register of Nurses containing details of her probationer-nurses (1868), historic photographs and artefacts of a bygone era in medical and nursing care.

To arrange a guided tour, \$6 per person, telephone 9382-7400.

Ethel (Stalky) Lane

At our September meeting Jan Bell told of the Ethel Lane Nurses Museum at Concord Hospital, but who is Ethel Lane.

Born in England, Miss Stalker arrived in Australia with her parents when she was only one year old. After completing schooling she trained at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Ethel enlisted in the Australian Nursing Service of the Imperial Forces in December 1942.

Gaining the affectionate name of "Stalky", Ethel served as a Lieutenant in the 113th at Concord, 17th at Dubbo and 2/9th Army General Hospital at Tamworth. Here she met her future husband, Doctor Raymond Lane. He died in August 1948 when their only child, a son called Raymond, was only 6 months old.

Mrs. Lane, who also received the Centenary Medal and Life Membership of the RSL, is a long-time Concordian. Ethel is secretary to the Nurses' Memorial Club. Her name is commemorated by the E M Lane Chair of Surgical Nursing at Concord Hospital and by the museum that bears her name.

Next time you are in the vicinity, call in to the small building situated on the right hand side of the green, opposite the canteen. Opening hours are 9:00 to 3:00 Monday to Thursday. Ethel Lane, Jan Bell and Peggy Dickinson are three of the volunteers who will show you their wonderful collection and answer any questions.

School groups and service clubs often combine a visit to the Museum and a tour of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway.

(Trish Skehan)

News from Other Groups

Parramatta District Historical Society:

Invitation to attend the Official Opening of the Restoration Works on Hambledon Cottage on Saturday, 15th November, commencing 12:30 pm. RSVP by 12/11/03

Invitation to attend a Dinner to commemorate the 90th birthday of the Society on Thursday, 4th December, 7:00 for 7:30 p.m. Cost \$40.00 per person, drinks extra. RSVP by 26/11/03

Contact them on 9635-6924 or parramattahistry@hotmail.net.au

The Concord Coach

Cobb and Co's founder, Freeman Cobb, had gained experience with coaching firms operating during the Californian Gold Rush in 1849. With the news of the Victorian Gold rushes in the 1850s, he foresaw similar conditions and openings for an enterprising coaching business. Extensive coach services to Victorian country areas already existed, but the English-style coaches in use were unsuitable for the work. They were heavy, uncomfortable over rough ground, and their steel springs tended to break easily.



Museum's Concord coach outside the office of The Age in Melbourne, 1934

A similar demand for a sturdy frontier vehicle had arisen some years before in the United State. Abbott Downing and Co. of Concord, New Hampshire, developed the popular Concord or "Jack" coach, which was used throughout the American West.

The Concord's distinctive egg-shape design was an extension of the old stage coaching tradition established in America in the mid 18th century. Its curved forms provided greater durability and increased passenger comfort.

The body of the Concord was attached to the undercarriage not by steel springs but with long leather straps called "through braces". The flexibility of this system reduced road shocks and created a rather pleasant, regular rolling motion.

Coaches of Cobb and Co.

Concord coaches were largely responsible for Cobb and Co's early success. The first imported Concorde were used on the Melbourne-Ballarat coach service. They were painted golden yellow and upholstered in crimson plush. The standard model sat nine passengers inside and was led by five horses.

A box seat for the driver and two or three passengers was located in front. A roof seat behind the driver accommodated three more passengers. Luggage was stowed on the roof and

secured by an iron railing.

The Concord coach was considerably more comfortable than the Australian-made "Cobb" coach. The body of the Cobb was rectangular and had a simple construction with flat floors. This design made for a harder ride than did the curved features of the Concord.

Aisbett Coaches

In August 1879 the Victorian Government undertook a major extension of the Colony's mail routes. The Aisbett Royal Mail Line was established at Scarsdale, 24 kilometres south west of Ballarat in October that year.

Scarsdale had become a thriving civic and business centre since the discovery of gold in 1850s.

Aisbett Coaches ran in association with main line coach operator Vines and McPhee for Cobb and Co. until April 1916.

The service ran from Ballarat to Scarsdale and from Scarsdale to Pitfield, and also did the mail run to Happy Valley. Passengers included miners going to or coming from the diggings, government officials and gold-field police.

(Information Sheet from Museum Victoria, printed with permission.

The Technology Collection of Museum Victoria houses an original Concord coach used by Cobb and Co. on the mail and passenger service around Scarsdale, Victoria. The coach is believed to be one of the first Concorde imported into Australia from America in 1853. It is believed to have been built by Abbott Downing and Co. of Concord. It finished its professional life on the Pitfield-Berringa run in 1916.

After it was acquired by Museum Victoria it was painted red with floral designs and gold scrollwork, in accordance with Cobb & Co's revised colour scheme of the 1860s.

The museum acquired the coach by donation from the Aisbett family in 1935. It can be accessed through the Collections Management Department of Museum Victoria.



Museum Victoria's Concord coach

Remembrance

Rosemary is a small perennial shrub of the mint family. This compact evergreen, with clusters of small light blue flowers and leaves that yield a fragrant essential oil used in making perfume and to flavour food, is native to the Mediterranean region.

Legend says that the Virgin Mary, while resting, spread her cloak over a white flowering rosemary bush. The flowers turned the blue of her cloak, and from then on the bush was referred to as the "Rose of Mary".

The plant was, in ancient times, supposed to strengthen memory. Greek scholars wore rosemary in their hair to help remember their studies, and the association with remembrance has carried through to modern times. In literature and folklore it is an emblem of remembrance.

On ANZAC Day, the wearing of small springs of rosemary in the coat lapel, pinned to the breast or held in place by medals is thus synonymous with remembrance and commemoration.

The Ode

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.*

The Ode comes from *For the Fallen*, a poem by the English poet and writer Laurence Binyon and was published in London in *The Winnowing Fan: Poems of the Great War* in 1914. This verse, which became the Ode for the Returned and Services League, has been used in association with commemoration services in Australia since 1921.

Dates for your Diary . . .

- ☛ **Thurs. 6th November** - Walker Estates/Yaralla Committee (last for the year - next meeting February)
- ☛ **Wed. 12th November** - Well known cartoonist, Joffe (last meeting for the year - next meeting February)
- ☛ **Sat. 22nd November** - Visit to Camden area and their Museum
- ☛ **Wed. 26th November** - Executive Meeting (last meeting for the year - next meeting January)
- ☛ **Wed. 10th December** - CHRISTMAS BARBECUE PARTY

This takes us up to the end of the current year. Please mark these dates on your calendar now so you won't forget.

We look forward to seeing you there!


Visit to Camden Museum

Members are reminded of this visit on Saturday, 22nd November. As we don't have enough to warrant hiring a bus we will be travelling by car and meeting at their museum at 10:45. Cost: Donation to their museum. We will also be having a look around the historic sites at Camden before the home journey.

If you need transport on the day please contact the secretary as soon as possible so this can be arranged.

For those who are driving, please contact the secretary if you are able to take passengers on the day.

No plans have been made for lunch, you can bring your picnic or visit one of the local cafes. Details and directions can be obtained from the secretary.



Christmas Barbecue

The end of the year is fast approaching and so is our annual Christmas Get-Together.

Wednesday, 10th December is the date – 6:00 to 8:00 pm is the time – Rhodes Rotary Park is the venue – cost \$10.00 per head, children free. Make a note in your diaries NOW!!

So that we can arrange catering we need to have the names of those joining us by 1st December.



From the Secretary's Desk

ROOKWOOD OPEN DAY: Thank you to all those members who turned up on the day, they couldn't have managed without us. The Friends of Rookwood are holding a "Thank You" BBQ dinner on Thursday, 27th November, 4:30 to 7:30, for all those who helped. Contact me for details.

OPEN DAYS AT YARALLA AND RIVENDELL: We need more people to volunteer as guides for these days, and also for weekday group visits to Yaralla. It's not difficult and all the information you need is in our "Guide Books". Please give it some thought and raise your hands.

We could also do with some more helpers for Devonshire Teas so that people need not be in the kitchen for the whole day but could get a break.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS: We're almost at the end of our store of newspapers, but there is still an opportunity to do a bit more. Give me a call!

MEETING TIMES AND DATES: These are all on the front of "Nurungi" so there's no excuse – see you there!

Also watch the Bulletin Board and Dates for Your Diary for extra outings.

YOU MISSED IT! If you weren't at our October meeting you missed a wonderful opportunity to view some magnificent 3D photographs our member Patricio Parrague and a friend took at our Rivendell Open Day. The only drawback was the fact that we could only view them individually but it was well worth it. Thank you Patricio and pass this on to your friend.

Some Special Dates to Remember . . .

- Yaralla Open Day** - Sunday, 4th April
- Walker Family Reunion** – Sunday, 2nd May
- Rivendell Open Day** – Sunday, 23rd May

Put them in your diary or calendar now so you won't double book the dates.

And please give some thought to becoming a tour guide - we need you.