



# Nurungi

Remembered

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CONCORD HERITAGE SOCIETY

email: [chs@concordheritage.asn.au](mailto:chs@concordheritage.asn.au)

[www.concordheritage.asn.au](http://www.concordheritage.asn.au)

EDITOR

PRESIDENT  
**TRISH HARRINGTON**  
9764-3296

PUBLIC RELATIONS  
**TRISH SKEHAN**  
9743-4172

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
**LOIS MICHEL**  
3 Flavelle Street  
(P.O. Box 152)  
Concord 2137  
Phone: 9744-8528  
Fax: 9744-7591

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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. 97**

**April 2004**

## Yaralla Fountain Flows

The morning of Sunday 7th March saw the skies open up with Sydney receiving one of its rare downpours in this drought stricken period. Our volunteers who were setting up for the official dedication ceremony for the Four Winds Fountain were thoroughly drenched and prospects for a successful ceremony were not looking good.

Perhaps Liane Poulton exercised her influ-

Guests included Federal Member John Murphy, councilors Neil Kenzler and Meagan Lavender and Mr. and Mrs. Brian Ferguson representing Central Sydney Area Health Service.

There were many people involved in this project and we won't attempt to list them all here. However, perhaps two deserve a special mention - Concord local Con



ence with The Master in Charge because, about an hour before commencement, the rain ceased and, although the afternoon was overcast, we were blessed with near perfect weather, and the sun came out for a brief moment at just the right time.

Readers will by now be well acquainted with this project and the bequest by the late Liane that made it possible for your Society to undertake this restoration. The dedication was performed by Councillor Peter Woods, O.A.M., who was introduced by Society President Trish Harrington. Approximately 120 guests attended the ceremony and they included relatives and friends of Liane and those who had been associated with her through her business career and her many community activities.

Ioannidis excelled himself in his efforts to ensure that all technical aspects of this work were done correctly and the intricacies of fountain hydraulics occupied days of his time. His efforts were rewarded by the sight of the fountain working superbly with the whole effect being beautifully enhanced by the landscaping carried out by



### Bulletin Board

**14th April - General Meeting -  
Michael Duffy speaking on his  
book "A Man of Honour"**

**12th May - to be advised**

our member Peter Jones and his willing band of assistants. The finishing touch of masses of frangipani flowers floating on the surface of the pond gave a fitting touch of beauty.



Councilor Peter, assisted by Liane's mother, drew the cover from the dedication plaque which is now an enduring testimony to the love that this woman had for Yaralla.

Following the dedication, the guests then moved to the stables complex where refreshments were served. Whilst this was a catered affair, our member Kate Skillman organized a number of her Girl Guides to serve the food and we owe a debt of gratitude to them for the wonderful way they carried out their role.

Thanks are extended to all our members who, as always, excel themselves whenever they are asked to put their shoulder to the wheel. We all work hard for the Society and it is rewarding to see a tangible result for all our efforts.

This project is now complete and we move on to other projects including the restoration of the squash court, which is progressing as visitors to the Estate can see.

Congratulations to all !

GrahamPackett

## Bully Beef in a Billy Can

We all regard "Bully Beef" as a regular part of the Australian soldiers' diet and *nothing* could be more Australian than the "Billy Can", the standard piece of equipment carried by our old time swaggies. So would you think "Bully" and "Billy" are two traditional Australian words? . . . Not so, they are French!

It all started with Napoleon III, who in 1848 became President of France. Like his uncle, Napoleon Bonaparte, he soon changed things so that he became Emperor, and he ruled France until 1870. In

the early part of his reign he funded a competition to stimulate development of the new scientific idea that food could be preserved by canning. Maybe this was part of the promotion for the great Paris Exposition of 1855 and French patriotic fervour, plus a nice prize for the winner, made the competition a success. France led the world into the canned food age with their marvellous cans of "Bouilli" (French for stewed or boiled meat).

At the same time as this new product hit the market, the richest goldfield in the world were opening up in Australia with the great Victorian gold rush well under way. The thousands of miners camping in the shanty towns that sprang up near every new strike were a perfect market for easily transportable, preserved food, and the French canned beef was ideal for the purpose. This new food became a stable part of the goldfields diet, whilst the French name "Bouilli" was rapidly Australianised into "Bully" and bully beef became part of our language.

In our rough and ready goldfields shanty towns empty Bouilli cans could be found in every digger's camp. It was not long before some bright spark attached a wire carrying handle and turned the discarded meat tin into a handy cooking utensil. This was a popular use for the empty Bouilli can, which went through a bit more conversion of its name to become "Billy" can. The billy can became an Australian symbol, finding its way into the equipment of virtually every "out-back" activity from the traditional swaggie through to a camping trip in our new four-wheel drive "holiday" vehicle. Up to only a few decades ago it even decorated many a front doorstep, waiting for the milkman's morning delivery.

So reference to our famous "billy can" should be treated with caution. For instance, next time we hear suggestions that the old song "Waltzing Matilda" should be our National Anthem, there is yet another argument against the proposal. Not only is it pretty weird to have a National Anthem about a sheep stealer who commits suicide, but if we sing about "waiting till his billy boils" we are actually advertising French canned meat!



(P.S. Much of the above information can be found in the small print on packet of Billy Tea.)

(Submitted to the April 2004 issue of 1788-1820 Pioneer Gazette by Harry Morris and reprinted with the Society's permission)

## Yaralla Tours

These tours are becoming more and more popular, but with this popularity we need helpers who can give their time to act as Garden Tour Guides and Devonshire Teas servers.

The tours are being booked for both mid week and weekends - with no access to the house at all

Please consider volunteering as a guide or let us know if you are willing to help with the refreshments.

Here is a list of current tours being organised . . .

**Sunday, 4th April** - our own Open Day - which means "all hands on deck"

**Sunday, 2nd May** - The Walker Family Reunion (could be more than 200 people) - this will involve house tours, grounds tours and refreshments. This event warrants our best attention to let the families know more about their heritage and what we are doing to preserve the estate.

**Sunday, 16th May** - North Rocks Evening View Club (approximately 60 visitors) - grounds tours and refreshments

**Sunday, 23rd May** - our own Open Day at Rivendell - which again means "all hands on deck".

**Wednesday, 14th July** - Kurranulla Probus Club (42 people) for garden tour.

**Sunday, 17th October** - Australian Garden History Society (approximately 200 people) - for morning tea and garden tour.

These are a good way of raising money for our restoration work as well as making more and more people aware of this historic estate.

However, we need to have more people willing to do garden tours and devonshire teas so that we are not calling on the same ones all the time.

It's not hard work and only involves a couple of hours so why don't you mark the dates you can help in your diaries now and telephone Lois so she can put your name down on the roster.

We need to know ahead of time how many helpers are volunteering so we can make sure we have enough to cater for each group.

If you're not sure about taking on the job of a tour guide, come along to one of the outings and walk around with one of our regular guides to give you the feel of it. We'll supply the book with all the information you'll need.

## A friend sent me this email today and I'd like to share it with you all. Most appropriate for the just passed Seniors Week.



Hi aaa . . .

Hummm let me think . . . why did I send you this . . . don't tell me it's coming to me . . .

Oh ya . . .

Senior citizens are constantly being criticised for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know that we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

HOWEVER, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was NOT the senior citizens who took . . .

*The melody out of music,  
The pride out of appearance,  
The courtesy out of driving,  
The romance out of love,  
The commitment out of marriage,  
The responsibility out of parenthood,  
The togetherness out of the family,  
The learning out of education,  
The service out of patriotism,  
The Golden Rule from rulers,  
The nativity scene out of cities,  
The civility out of behavior,  
The refinement out of language,  
The dedication out of employment,  
The prudence out of spending,  
The ambition out of achievement,  
or,  
God out of government and school.*

And we certainly are NOT the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others!!

And, we do understand the meaning of patriotism, and remember those who have fought and died for our country.

Just look at the Seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention on ANZAC Day or other important celebrations.

## Yes, I'm a Senior Citizen!

*I'm the life of the party . . . even if it lasts until 8 p.m.*

*I'm very good at opening childproof caps . . . with a hammer.*

*I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going.*

*I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.*

*I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.*

*I'm very good at telling stories; over and over and over and over.*

*I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not nearly as cute as mine.*

*I'm so cared for — long term care, eye care, private care, dental care.*

## I'm not really grouchy,

I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, lawyers, loud music, unruly kids, Jenny Craig and Toyota commercials, barking dogs, politicians and a few other things I can't seem to remember right now.



*I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe secure place, somewhere.*

*I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.*

*I'm having trouble remembering simple words like . . .*

*I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.*

*I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days, and when did they let kids become policemen?*

*I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150?*

*And, how can my kids be older than I feel sometimes?*

*I'm a walking storeroom of facts . . . I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.*

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN and I think I am having the time of my life!

Now if I could only remember who sent this to me, I wouldn't send it back to them, but I would send it to many more.

Now - Have I already sent this to you?????????

If so, I'll try not to do it again (for a while.)



## Where Did April Fools Day Come From?

There are many possibilities, here are three of them:

1. Originally, New Year's Day was April 1. Later, when the Church changed the calendar, they also changed the date for the first of the year. However, some people continued using April 1 as the date of the new year. These people were referred to as "April Fools"
2. OR In the early Roman calendar, April 1 was the first day of spring, the spring equinox, and before 154 B.C. it was New Years Day. Many celebrations of many cultures observed this day as the coming of the renewal of the earth and life. There would be sacrifices and gifts given to the gods. When the Christians came into power in the Roman empire, they created a celebration we call Easter that replaced the spring rituals. The old celebrations were ridiculed and made fun of. And people who observed these celebrations were persecuted. This was a chance to make fun of those who do not follow the correct beliefs. This is where we get April Fools Day, where we can make anyone feel foolish.
3. OR in 1564 King Charles IX decreed that with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar, New Year's day be moved to January 1 from what was April 1 and those that celebrated the old New Year's Day on April 1 were Fools.

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*The first of April, some do say,  
Is set apart for All Fools' Day.  
But why the people call it so,  
Nor I, nor they themselves do know.  
But on this day are people sent  
On purpose for pure merriment.*

— Poor Robin's Almanac (1790)

## Coo-ee

*An utterance in London by bushranger Henry Garrett of a piercing coo-ee (S.M.4/8/34) recalls that it was from a woman that the great city first heard the familiar Australian cry. A Mrs. Wheeler was honeymooning there and became separated from her husband in a crowd near London Bridge. When a hurried search failed to locate him she, in desperation, made a trumpet with her hands and astonished Fogtown with a ringing, piercing "coo-ee!": A policeman at once strode up to her and she was on the point of being arrested for riotous behaviour, but the call brought her husband and explanations. Above all the rumble and clatter of London Bridge and its environs he had recognised the welcome hail of the bush.*

## The English Language

Let's face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is a pig.

Any why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groc and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend, that you comb through annals of history but not a single annal? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetable, what does a humanitarian eat? If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?

Sometime I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and wise guys are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are alike? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?

Have you ever seen a horseful carriage or a strapful gown? Met a sung hero or experienced requited love? Have you ever run into someone who was combobulated, grunted, ruly or peccable? An where are all those people who ARE spring chickens or would ACTUALLY hurt a fly?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm clock goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all). That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it?

## Old News

*Extracts from the "Sydney Herald" issue of 15th/17th September, 1834.*

**Numbering Houses:** A great improvement could be effected by numbering the houses throughout Sydeny with some regard to regularity. Much inconvenience has always arisen from this cause from the difficult of finding any place referred to by its number. It is not unusual to find No.40 succeeding No.2, and other irregularities.

**Theatre Royal:** For the benefit of Mr. Knowles, on Monday evening next will be performed for the first time the celebrated operatic romance (in two acts), "The Devil's Ducat". At the conclusion of the romance, Mr. Knowles will present his imitations of the leading actors of the Sydney Theatre; after which the interesting interlude called "The Benevolent Tar" then, for the first time, the celebrated song, "Awake, My Own Love" by Mr. Taylor, and a Highland Fling in character by a Gentleman of Scotland, who has kindly offered his services free for this night only. The evening's entertainment to conclude with the farce called "The Weathercock".

*(Note: Truly the theatre-goer got quantity for his money in those days. And what shall we say of the gentleman of Scotland who gave his services free!)*

Genteel Cottages and Building Allotments in a very healthy vicintiy and near the New Cattle Market.

*(Note: the advertiser seems to have distinctly original ideas to what constituted a healthy "vicinity".)*

## From the Secretary's Desk

### I'm Still Begging . . .

I am desperately in need of an assistant on a regular basis to help sort through papers and files here and other general work and to learn the ropes. Typing would also be a help.

I am concerned that if anything should happen to me there is no one who knows what has to be done and where things are, particularly with the Yaralla and Rivendell Tours.

Any offers??



### Reminder

Don't forget to ring me if you can help at any of the Yaralla or Rivendell tours. I need to know who's available so I can be sure we have enough helpers for the day.

Put the dates in your diaries NOW!

### Next Meeting

Come along and bring your friends on Wednesday, 14th April to hear Michael Duffy speak about his book, "A Man of Honour". This will be a most enjoyable evening and not to be missed.

### Walker Estate Meeting

These meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at Concord Bowling Club, commencing at 8:00 pm. If you are interested in the future of the Walker estates, Yaralla in particular, you should try to get along to these. Everyone is welcome

## Dates for your Diary . . .

- ☛ Thurs. 1st April - Walker Estates Meeting
- ☛ Sun. 4th April - Open Day at Yaralla
- ☛ Wed. 14th April - General Meeting - Michael Duffy
- ☛ Wed. 28th April - Executive Meeting
- ☛ Sun. 2nd May - Walker Family Reunion at Yaralla
- ☛ Thurs. 6th May - Walker Estates Meeting
- ☛ Wed. 12th May - General Meeting - speaker to be advised
- ☛ Sun. 23rd May - Open Day at Rivendell
- ☛ Wed. 26th May - Executive Meeting